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NEIGHBORS OF

HANOVER

SEPTEMBER 2025

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PASSION

**Dr. Rita
Tempel**

INSIDE

**Is It Time for New Hearing Aids? — from
Darrell M. Sipe Opticians & Hearing Aids**

**What the Tech? — with Gettysburg
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Crafting beauty from the ground up**

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Dear Neighbors of Hanover,

Happy September! This month conjures the excitement of a new school year, the sound of a crisp apple at first bite, and a subtle shift in the air that makes the world feel suddenly fresher.

As you may know, each month we feature a local resident or family. Our mission is to help you get to know who's living down your block, up the street, or around the corner. We believe featuring the personalities and events that make up this community is incredibly important, and we hope you do, too.

This month, you'll meet Dr. Rita Tempel. I truly enjoyed getting to know more about her, so be sure to check out her article and find out why she says, "I'm having the time of my life!" You'll also be able to find articles introducing you to a local writer, Stathis El Greco, whose career is skyrocketing, meet Servants and their outreach programs and much more throughout this month's edition.

Our team loves providing you, our readers, with stories of local community members. If you know of a family or individual who might be interested in being featured in future issues, feel free to send our team an email. I can't wait to get to know more of the families that make up this community, and your help is greatly appreciated in continuing to make Neighbors of Hanover succeed!

Welcome to our new sponsors - Schmuck Lumber Co. and Sisters in Christ Group. As always, thank you to our amazing expert contributors and sponsors who help bring the stories, events, and connections to our readers' doorsteps each month! We're so grateful for their continued support.

Enjoy this month's edition of *Neighbors of Hanover*!

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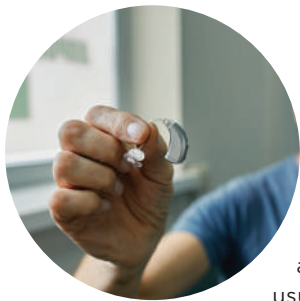
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Opticians and Hearing Aids

BY RYAN OBERHOLTZER, HEARING
INSTRUMENT SPECIALIST

When Is It Time To Purchase New Hearing Aids?



A question that gets asked by hearing aid wearers a lot is how often they should get new aids. There are several factors that play into this decision. The decision to purchase new aids isn't always driven by a wearer's current aids malfunctioning. Broken hearing aids can always be repaired and this is usually the most cost efficient option a person chooses. There are several all-make repair labs across the country that keep parts on hand for years and years.

One reason a person would get new hearing aids is if they have a significant change in their hearing. If their current aids can no longer meet the wearer's needs they may need to be fit with a more powerful device or perhaps even a different hearing aid style. For instance, if someone is wearing the aid behind the ear and they require something more powerful, then they may be fit with a custom mold or in-the-ear device.



The other reason a person would purchase new hearing aids is the desire to have the latest technology. The technology in hearing aids is changing rapidly and the advancements can make big improvements to a person's hearing.

From background noise reduction to cell phone compatibility, these tools can reduce a person's listening effort. Newest technology even integrates Artificial Intelligence into the hearing aid's ability to manage background noise, and motion sensors allow the hearing aid to know the direction a wearer's head is turned.

Different answers are going to come from different sources. Manufacturers say that technology changes so much every year that new hearing aids should be fit every 3 years. Some hearing care professionals will follow that same time frame, but most will say that hearing patients should consider updating their hearing aids every 5 to 7 years. In that span of time, the wearer should certainly see improvements over previously worn technology. ●



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From Dentistry to Driving Dreams:

HOW DR. RITA
TEMPEL IS
EMBRACING LIFE,
SMILES, AND THE
OPEN ROAD



BY JILL RICKLE
PHOTOS BY CARLA B. LONG

Dr. Rita Tempel has always had a talent for changing lives—one smile at a time. As the founder of Gettysburg Smiles, she's built a reputation for meticulous artistry in dentistry, a deep sense of patient care, and a career grounded in excellence. But if you think that's where the story ends, think again.

These days, Rita isn't just transforming smiles—she's stepping into a whole new chapter of life that includes horsepower, sunsets on the water, and a much-anticipated new role: grandparent.

"I'm entering a season that's all about joy, fun, and welcoming the next generation," Rita says, her smile radiating the same confidence and contentment she inspires in others every day. "I'm going to be a Nonna—that's Italian for grandmother!" she beams. "I can't wait!"

After building her practice from scratch, raising two sons, and achieving impressive professional milestones many only dream of, Rita is intentionally carving out space for fun and adventure. She's living proof that it's never too late to start fresh—or go fast.

These days, if you don't catch her at her beautiful dental office on York Road, you might find her out on the water, behind the wheel of her 2024 Corvette C8 Z51 (affectionately known as "Stetson"), or on the road to her next fishing spot.

Rita's story begins in the suburbs of Reading, Pennsylvania, where she grew up as the daughter of immigrants who came to America with very little and worked hard for every opportunity. Her mother came from Germany and her father from Italy. They met while attending night school to learn English.

"They came here with almost nothing, but they worked hard, saved, and built a life," Rita says. Her father worked as an electrician at Dana Corporation, while her mother was a waitress. From them, she inherited her strong work ethic and deep appreciation for resilience—qualities that would carry her far.

She earned her Bachelor of Science from Albright College and went on to receive her Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Maryland's Dental School in 1993. From there, she served in the U.S. Army, first at Fort Meade in Maryland and later at Fort Carson in Colorado, treating soldiers and developing her clinical skills.

After her military service, she balanced part-time private practice work while raising her two sons. In 2005, she took a leap of faith. Renting one operatory in another dentist's building in



Dr. Tempel receiving American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry accreditation.

Gettysburg, she launched her own practice from scratch.

"It was just me and my assistant, Megan," Rita recalls. "We did it all ourselves and slowly added more team members as the practice grew. She's still with me today, and I feel incredibly lucky to have had someone so loyal and talented by my side from the very beginning."

"That one room quickly turned into two, and as we continued to grow, I realized I needed a space of my own," Rita says. Within a year, she purchased and completely renovated a property at 2018 York Road, transforming it into a modern dental office known for its beautiful cosmetic work and comprehensive care.

Over the years, Rita has cultivated a practice defined by excellence, integrity, and a personal touch. Her approach is simple: treat patients the way she would want to be treated. "I offer my patients what I'd want in my own mouth," she explains. "I use the best materials, work with master ceramists, and take time to explain options so they can make informed decisions."

Rita's commitment to excellence is evident in her accomplishments. In 2020, she became one of just over 400 dentists worldwide to earn accreditation from the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry—a prestigious distinction that involves a rigorous, multi-year process including clinical case submissions, a four-hour written exam, and a challenging oral board. She remains the first and only dentist in both Adams and York counties to currently hold this title. She also earned Diplomate status with the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine, further expanding her skill set to include treating patients with obstructive sleep apnea with custom dental appliances. ➔



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a motorboat, but girls didn't drive back then," she says. "Then when I got married, my husband drove the boat. Later, when my sons were old enough, they took the wheel. Now, it's my turn." Rita joined the Freedom Boat Club, completed beginner through advanced boating courses, and now confidently navigates waterways in Maryland, Delaware, the Carolinas, Florida, and even California.

Along with boating, Rita has embraced another longtime passion: fishing. "I've been fishing for as long as I can remember," she says. Whether it's on the bay, a quiet river, or out in open water, casting a line has become one of her favorite pastimes. "I absolutely love fishing," she says. "It's relaxing and exciting all at once. You never know what's on the other end of the line until you reel it in."

Her other new thrill? Driving fast cars—especially her own. Earlier this year, Rita attended the renowned Ron Fellows Corvette Driving School near Las Vegas, where she learned advanced performance techniques while tracking high-speed vehicles through the desert. Now, she puts that training to use behind the wheel of Stetson, her 2024 Corvette C8 Z51. With its powerful engine, sleek design, and track-ready handling, Stetson isn't just a car—it's a symbol of freedom, confidence, and the excitement Rita is embracing in this new chapter of her life. "I'm having the time of my life," she laughs. "It's empowering."

Rita lives in a peaceful Gettysburg neighborhood, where she enjoys breathtaking views from her back porch, visits from deer, cardinals, and blue jays, and quiet evenings surrounded by nature. Though she's currently without a dog—something that's rare for her—she's loved several over the years, from mixed breeds of rottweiler and goldens to a hound mix from the pound to her cherished Italian Greyhound. "I travel so much now that it's not the right time for a dog," she says. "But one day, I'll have another."

Family and friends remain at the heart of Rita's life. Her eldest son, Matthew Antonini Tempel, works as an Aviation Maintenance Technician with Helicopter Applicators in Gettysburg. His wife, Emily, is an Intervention Specialist at Fairfield Area Elementary School. Her younger son, Michael, is currently pursuing a career in baseball. She treasures the friendships that continue to fill her days with laughter, good stories, and simple joys.

Whether she's crafting smile makeovers, exploring new waters, racing along country roads, or preparing for her first grandbaby's arrival, Dr. Rita Tempel is a woman on a mission to enjoy life! ●



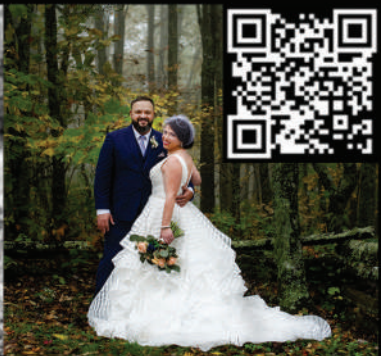
"I love what I do," she says. "There's nothing like seeing a patient look in the mirror and truly love their smile after a transformation. There are tears of joy, hugs, and so much gratitude. Smile makeovers are my favorite and most rewarding procedures."

Rita also gives back to the profession. She currently serves on the AACD's Accreditation Written Exam Committee and has coached fellow dentists through the process of becoming accredited themselves. Her leadership and mentorship continue to inspire others in the field.

With her sons now grown and her professional accomplishments firmly in place, Rita is making time to explore personal passions that had long taken a backseat.

For starters, she's discovered a love for boating—something she grew up around but never fully experienced. "I grew up on






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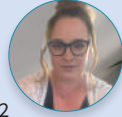
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Perfect Peace Women's Conference

Hosted by St. David's United Church of Christ
142 Hobart Road, Hanover, PA 17331

SEP 27, 2025 from 9am - 3pm

This event will feature the Christian author and speaker, **Micah Maddox** and is **FREE** to the public. A light lunch will be served

He will keep you in Perfect Peace whose mind is stayed on Him. Isaiah 26:3

Call the church office at **717.637.2299** to register.
The deadline for registration is 9/12/25.



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What the Tech? How the Latest Dental Technology Benefits You



SUBMITTED BY ABBEY RHODES

The dentistry field has remarkably transformed thanks to newer, cutting-edge technology. Gone are the days of uncomfortable impressions, lengthy procedures, and uncertain treatment outcomes. Dental technology has ushered in a new era of precision, convenience, and patient-centric care. Learn how the latest dental technology, including digital scanners, 3D printing, intraoral cameras, and digital dentures, is revolutionizing the dental industry and benefiting patients in unprecedented ways.

Digital Scanners

Digital scanners have replaced traditional dental impressions, allowing for quick, painless, and highly accurate results. These scanners create 3D models of teeth used for various dental procedures, including veneers, crowns, bridges, Invisalign treatments, and even dentures. At Gettysburg Dental Associates, we use the iTero digital scanning device for more precise and comfortable treatments, resulting in a better, more comfortable experience.

3D Printing

With 3D printing technology, dentists can design and fabricate custom dental appliances, like crowns, bridges, and aligners, with unparalleled precision. This technology reduces turnaround times and ensures a perfect fit, enhancing patient comfort and treatment effectiveness. Additionally, 3D printing has made it possible to create dental models and surgical guides, improving the accuracy and efficiency of procedures like dental implants.

Intraoral Cameras

Intraoral cameras are small, handheld devices that provide real-time images inside the mouth. These cameras allow dentists and patients to see the condition of the teeth and gums up close, including areas of decay, cracks, breaks, fractures, and other intra-oral problems. They also promote transparency and trust between dentists and patients, as treatment recommendations stem from clear, visible evidence.

Digital Dentures Digital dentures are a game-changer for patients in need of denture replacements. Traditional dentures often require multiple appointments and adjustments. With digital dentures, we streamline the process. Digital impressions and 3D printing technologies enable us to create custom-fit dentures that are more comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. Patients experience improved speech, chewing function, and overall satisfaction with their dentures.

Teledentistry

Advancements in digital technology have also given rise to teledentistry, allowing patients to consult with their dentists remotely. These virtual check-ups are especially beneficial for individuals with busy schedules or limited access to dental care and/or transportation. Teledentistry allows dentists to assess oral health concerns, advise, and prescribe medications through secure video consultations. Patients can receive timely guidance and support for their dental issues without needing in-person visits.

Enhanced Diagnostics

Modern dental technology has significantly improved diagnostic capabilities. Digital X-rays, for instance, reduce radiation exposure while providing high-resolution images for accurate diagnoses. Cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) scans offer detailed 3D views of oral structures, aiding in treatment planning for complex cases. Early detection of dental issues through these technologies can lead to more conservative and effective treatment options, ultimately benefiting patients' oral health.

These latest dental technologies have ushered in an era of patient-centric care, where comfort, precision, and efficiency are paramount. Patients can now enjoy quicker, more accurate treatments and greater involvement in their oral health journey. As technology advances, Gettysburg Dental Associates and the future of dentistry promise even more innovations to enhance patient care and overall dental well-being. Embracing these advancements is not just a step forward; it's a leap toward a brighter, healthier smile. ●



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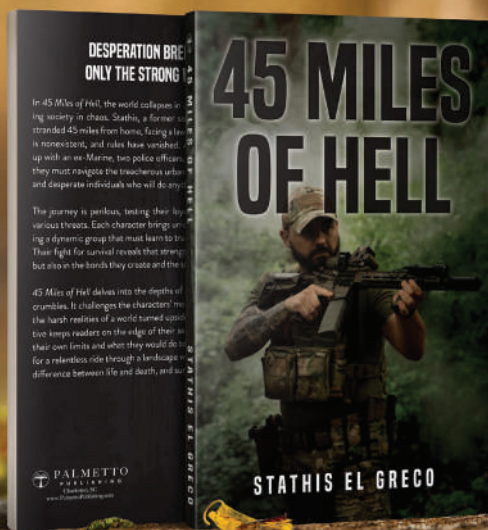
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From Hanover to the Apocalypse:

Stathis El Greco Turns a Daily Commute into a Gripping Survival Tale BY JILL RICKLE



cultures—Greek resilience and small-town grit—that shaped both him personally and as a storyteller.

“Growing up in Greece, I saw people overcome a lot with very little,” Stathis shares. “That shaped how I see strength, loyalty, and what it means to survive.” English isn’t even his first language—he started writing the book in Greek, then switched to English halfway through. That bold move didn’t just improve his writing; it made his voice sharper and more honest. You can feel that in every page.

The idea for 45 Miles of Hell came during the early days of COVID. While most of us were figuring out sourdough starters or bingeing Netflix, Stathis started writing a survival story that wouldn’t let go of him.

He imagined a man stuck in a dark, crumbling city after an electromagnetic pulse wipes out the power grid—and the long, dangerous road back home to his family. That story, inspired by Stathis’ own daily commute, became his obsession.

“I finished the first chapter and thought, ‘Damn... this might actually be something,’” he recalls.

For five years, he wrote quietly—treating the story more like a personal journal than a public project. It wasn’t until this spring that he finally shared the finished manuscript with his wife, Tina, whose excitement helped turn his private passion into a published novel.

What makes 45 Miles of Hell so gripping isn’t just the drama—it’s the realism. Stathis has spent years studying survival guides, preparedness strategies, and real-world crisis scenarios. Every decision his characters make is grounded in real tactics, not Hollywood fluff.

Even better, much of the book’s setting is drawn directly from our own backyards. Hanover-area readers will recognize familiar roads,

What if the world as you knew it shut down—no phones, no power, no help—and all that stood between you and your family was 45 miles of danger? For Hanover resident Stathis El Greco, that chilling “what if” turned into 45 Miles of Hell, a heart-pounding debut novel that’s gaining fans far beyond our local area.

But this isn’t just a story about the end of the world—it’s also the beginning of an unexpected journey for the local resident.

Though he was born in York and spent part of his childhood in Greece, Stathis has called Hanover home since 2013. He says it’s the mix of

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towns, and landscapes throughout the journey. “I didn’t want this to feel like just another survival story,” Stathis says. “I wanted it to feel like it could happen right here. Because honestly, it could.”

Part of what gives Stathis’ writing its edge is his own lifestyle. He trains in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Muay Thai, and mixed martial arts—often hitting the gym in the middle of the night. He also hikes regularly and recently launched a YouTube channel where he shares preparedness tips and survival insights.

That hands-on experience shines through in the action scenes. You’re not just reading about survival—you feel it.

Reader response to *45 Miles of Hell* has been powerful—and surprisingly emotional. “I’ve had people message me saying it made them hug their family tighter,” Stathis says. “That’s the best compliment I could get.” More than just thrilling fiction, the book taps into something deeply human: the will to fight for the people we love, even when the world falls apart.



The story’s not over yet. Stathis is deep into the sequel, promising even more intensity and emotional depth. He envisions a series spanning three or four books—and he’s already outlining a separate, darker project with a psychological twist (and maybe even zombies).

But no matter how far his stories stretch, Stathis remains grounded here in Hanover. “I’d love to connect more with the local community,” he says. “If anyone wants to set up a reading, signing, or event—I’m all in.”

Want to Support a Hometown Author?

45 Miles of Hell is available now on Amazon, with plans to hit local shelves soon. You can also follow Stathis on YouTube and social media by searching “Stathis El Greco.”

As we cheer on a neighbor who’s turning his daily drive into an unforgettable literary ride, Stathis reminds us that even in the darkest stories, there’s always a spark of hope—and that sometimes the next great author is just a few streets away. ●

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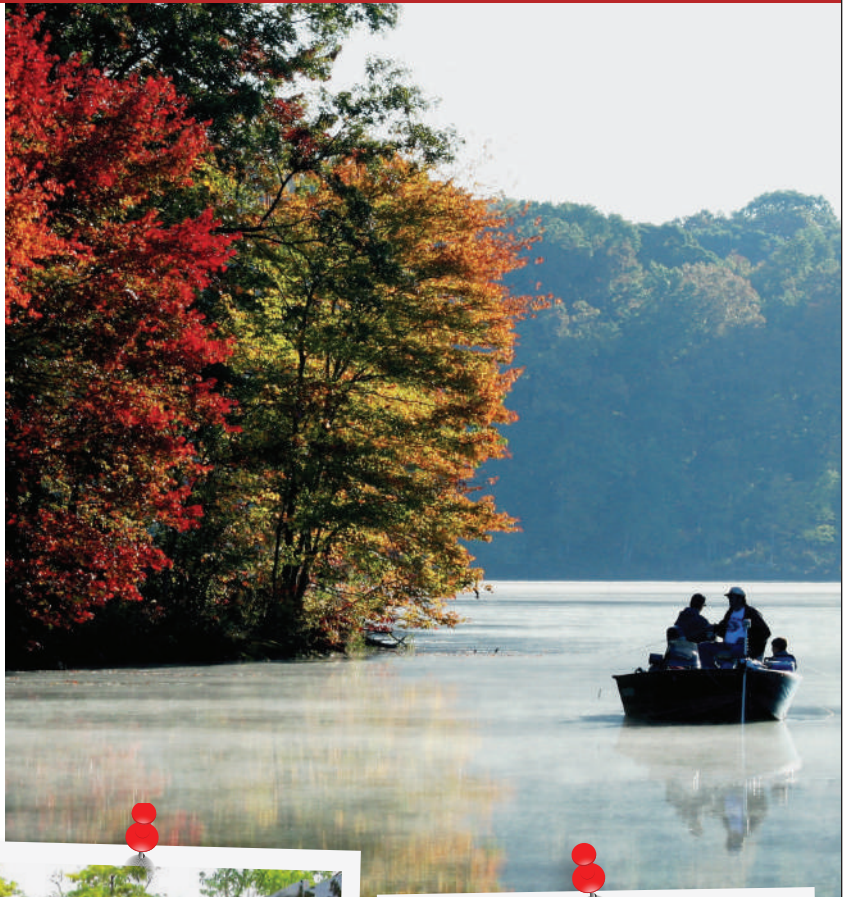
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Navigating the End of Windows 10 Support

BY AYSË STENABAUGH

As Windows 10 reaches its tenth anniversary, Microsoft is ushering in the end of its support lifecycle, prompting users to consider their next move in a rapidly shifting digital environment. For some, Microsoft's Extended Security Updates (ESU) may offer a temporary safety net; for others, upgrading hardware to meet Windows 11 requirements or investing in a new device could be the more practical path forward. Whether your priorities lie in performance, security, or long-term compatibility, this article will help guide you through the available options and equip you to make a decision that fits your unique needs.

Why is support for Windows 10 ending?

Microsoft is ending support for Windows 10 because it has reached the end of its planned life—10 years after its release. This means it will no longer get updates that fix bugs or protect against security threats, making continued use risky. Microsoft is focusing on newer systems like Windows 11, which

are built to handle today's technology and offer stronger security features. If you're still using Windows 10, now's the time to look at your options and decide what works best for you.

Extended Security Updates (ESU)

give users a paid way to continue receiving critical security updates for up to three years after Windows 10 support ends. Users can opt in when attempting to run Windows Update—if eligible, a prompt will appear offering extended updates. However, if your device is behind on updates or struggling to complete them, you may not see this option. It's important to note that ESU pricing for individual users increases each year: starting at \$30 in the first year, doubling annually, and ending after three years. After that, users will need to upgrade to Windows 11 or move to another supported operating system to stay protected.

Upgrading hardware is only a viable option if your device can support the minimum system requirements for Windows 11. This includes a compatible CPU, at least 4 GB of RAM, and 64 GB of storage—though more is recommended for better performance. Most systems built in the last five years already meet these standards, but older devices may require hardware upgrades or full replacement to qualify.

Before upgrading hardware, it's important to assess the current condition of your device. If components are already showing signs of failure—such as frequent crashes, overheating, or slow performance—attempting an upgrade may not be worth the risk. Installing new parts into a failing system can lead to compatibility issues, wasted costs, or even complete system failure. In some cases, aging hardware may not support newer components reliably, and the effort to upgrade could result in more downtime and frustration than simply replacing the device. A thorough evaluation of your system's health can help you decide whether an

upgrade is feasible or if replacement is the safer, more cost-effective path.

Replacing your device is often the most straightforward path forward when it comes to transitioning from Windows 10—especially if your current system is aging, incompatible with Windows 11, or already showing signs of wear. But it's not a decision to make lightly. While it may be tempting to grab whatever gets you back online quickly, short-term fixes can lead to long-term frustrations if the device doesn't support your future workflow, performance expectations, or security needs.

When choosing a new device, think beyond the basics: consider what kind of tasks you do, how much storage and processing power you'll need over the next few years, and whether portability, battery life, or upgrade potential matters to your lifestyle or business. Investing in a device that aligns with your long-term goals can save you money and reduce tech stress down the road.

If you're unsure what specs or features are right for you, consulting with a trusted IT professional or retailer can help you make sense of the options. They can help identify your priorities and steer you toward a solution that fits—not just today, but well into the future.

With Windows 10 support officially ending in October 2025, every user, whether casual, professional, or enterprise—will need to begin planning their next steps. There's no one-size-fits-all solution; whether you extend support temporarily, upgrade compatible hardware, or invest in a new device, the key is making a decision that supports your long-term needs—not just what gets you by today. Waiting too long could leave your system vulnerable, or force rushed choices later. If you're unsure what path is best, consulting a trusted tech professional can help you navigate your options and ensure your next move is secure, cost-effective, and future-ready. ●



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Kindness Worldwide Inc. Launches “Sports ScEnEs” Initiative with “Pack the Park for Kindness”

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN SMITH, FOUNDER

Collaboration with White Rose Leadership Institute and York Revolution Professional Baseball to be a model for kindness-themed sports events

See the Good. Be the Good. Go the Extra Mile!

Kindness Worldwide Inc, formed as a grassroots collaboration to unify communities and ecosystems globally around the worthy and nurturing aspects of kindness, and White Rose Leadership Institute, known for initiatives that drive lasting local change including Give Local York, York County's biggest day of giving, are joining forces yet again in an exciting alliance with the York Revolution, an American professional baseball team that is a member of the Atlantic League, an independent “partner league” of Major League Baseball. “Pack the Park for Kindness” will mark the August 7th inaugural launch of Kindness Worldwide's “Sports ScEnEs” initiative consistent with its vision “to create a culture of kindness in communities throughout the world.”

All are invited to join their ecosystem peers to amplify the growing Revolution of Kindness Worldwide! A portion of the ticket price will be applied to a new innovative Kindness Prize to reward the

kindness of participating organizations in Give Local York's vast nonprofit ecosystem and those that best embrace the spirit of Kindness Worldwide's signature initiative, Kindness Week Worldwide, during its annual celebration November 8 – 15, 2025. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.KindnessWorldwide.org

“As I approach everything in life, I incorporate a collaborative spirit in leveraging impact through a 10x stance and a legacy perspective,” stated Kindness Worldwide founder Kevin Smith. “Given its unifying properties, sports is a wonderful means to bring people and communities together through an ethos of kindness. I know the heart of York, PA and know in my heart they'll show up in large numbers to make a powerful statement to the world that a ‘culture of kindness’ is possible and long overdue. If something so magical can happen here, it can happen anywhere and everywhere.”

Custom game-worn caps adorned by members of the York Revolution baseball team will be auctioned in

support of the initiative, and the first 1,000 fans in attendance will receive commemorative t-shirts. Kindness will be infused throughout the fan experience with multiple surprises, including uplifting messages of kindness by prominent community members and York-area police departments issuing Kindness Citations to fans “caught in the act” of being kind. The magic of the evening will also be captured for the feature film For Such a Time as This that will uplift the hearts of all and showcase true stories of the powerful impact simple acts of kindness and their vast ripple effects can have.

“We're excited to be an early pioneer of the Kindness Worldwide movement by showcasing the best of Atlantic League baseball and the best of our community to the world,” stated Nate Tile, York Revolution's Vice President of Business Development. “We intend to create a one-of-a-kind game experience that has people talking long after the final out and empowered to ‘go the extra mile’ to be kind and lead by their example.”

“At Give Local York, we've witnessed York's vibrant culture of kindness and seen the benefits of leading with kindness firsthand,” stated Lisa Barshinger, White Rose Leadership Institute's Executive Director. “The power of kindness combined with a collaborative community spirit are a superpower that brings out the best in ourselves and each other for the betterment of all. We're thrilled to be a part of such a special community celebration. Regardless of the final score, with kindness everybody wins.”

ABOUT KINDNESS WORLDWIDE INC. Following an act of kindness between two strangers on Good Friday morning 2023, Kindness Worldwide Inc. formed as a designated tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization with a vision “to create a culture of kindness in communities throughout the world.” Kindness Worldwide is engaging with like-minded brands eager to be visible in supporting this meaningful vision. ●

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Calendar of Events

If you have any events you want to be featured in the future, please send them to jrickle@bestversionmedia.com.

Please note: Event details may change after publication. We recommend confirming times, locations and details directly with event organizers.

Sat. Sept 13

Fall Glass Pumpkin Floral Design Class

@Butterfly Blooms Flower Shop, 7 S. Queen St., Littlestown, PA 17340

Learn the art of floral design in this Fall Glass Pumpkin Floral Design Class, where you will create a unique centerpiece using a glass pumpkin vase and fall flowers. All materials and step-by-step instruction are provided as well as light snacks & drinks.

Time: 1:00 PM

Cost: \$40.00

More Info: butterflybloomsflowershop.com

Wed., Sept. 17

Tastes of the Garden: Re-Think Your Salad

@Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325

Discover how easy it is to grow cool-season greens and root crops, extend your harvest, and create fresh meals—perfect for gardeners, cooks, and anyone who loves homegrown flavor.

Time: 6:00 PM

Cost: \$15.00

More Info: extension.psu.edu

Fri., Sept 19 & Sat., Sept. 20

PA Tea Festival

@The Rosemary House, 120 S. Market St., and Sweet Remembrances Tea Room, 118 S. Market St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Festival features 24 tea vendors, tea tastings, lectures on tea, live music, garden tours and more. This two day event is Pennsylvania's only beverage festival dedicated exclusively to tea.

Time: 9:00 AM

Cost: \$15.00 in advance & \$18.00 day of event

More Info: teafestpa.com

Fri., Sept. 19

Sweater Mugs : Cozy Texture Meets Clay

@Hanover Area Arts Guild, 32 Carlisle St., Hanover, PA 17331

Beginner-friendly. Using a unique pattern tool, make a mug with a cozy, sweater-like texture. Roll the texture into your slab, cut the body and base from a template, and assemble a mug that feels like your favorite fall cardigan. This is a perfect project for the hot cocoa season! Registration required.

Time: 10:00 AM

Cost: \$60.00 member / \$75.00 nonmember

More Info: hanoverareaarts.com

Sat., Sept. 20

Snack Town Fall Fest

@Moul Field, 151 Moul Ave., Hanover, PA 17331

One-day festival featuring food trucks, drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), craft vendors, kid and family activities, and live music.

Time: 1:00 PM

More Info: snacktownfallfest.com

Sat., Sept. 20

Night Climb

@Warehouse Rocks, 301 Pleasant St., Abbottstown, PA 17301

Take your Saturday night to new heights with Night Climbing. Bring your own headlamp or rent one. Either way, it's going to be a party. Event is held the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Time: 7:00 PM

More Info: warehouserockspa.com

Sun., Sept. 21

2nd Annual Dakota Dixon Ride

@John Wright Restaurant, 234 N. Front St., Wrightsville, PA 17368

Benefiting a local 'kiddo' and their family who is fighting pediatric cancer. There will be food trucks, vendors, and raffles.

Time: Registration starts at 10:00AM.

Kickstands up at 11:30 AM

Cost: \$20.00 per rider/driver & \$10.00 per passenger

More Info: Facebook page - Dakota's Army

Thurs., Sept. 25 through Sun., Sept. 28

46th Annual Westminster Fallfest

@Westminster City Park, 14 Longwell Ave., Westminster, MD 21157

Fallfest is a four-day community event with the mile run kicking off the festivities Thursday at 6:55pm right down Main Street with the Westminster Fallfest Parade marching right behind at 7pm.

The festival offers rides, games, foods, live entertainment, and on Saturday and Sunday only, an assortment of craft, commercial, and nonprofit vendors.

Time & Cost: varies by day and event

More Info: carrollcountytourism.org or westminsterfallfest.com

Sat., Sept 27

Perfect Peace - Women's Conference

@St. David's United Church of Christ, 142 Hobart Rd., Hanover, PA 17331

Presented by Author Micah Maddox, a Christian author, speaker, pastor's wife and mother of five who is passionate about helping women find peace through the power of God's Word. A light lunch will be



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Time: 9:00 AM

Cost: Free

More Info: stdavidsucc.com

Wed., Oct. 1

Summer Lawn Concert

@Warehime-Myers Mansion, 305
Baltimore St., Hanover, PA 17331

Get ready for a Country Western Hoe Down & Line Dancing with Front Row Country.

Time: 6:00 PM refreshments with concert starting at 6:30 PM

Cost: Free

More Info: hanoverpahistory.org

Sat., Oct. 4

2nd Annual Fall Marketplace

@Carroll County Ag Center - Shipley
Arena, 706 Agricultural Center Dr.,
Westminster, MD 21157

Shop over 150 carefully selected vendors featuring handmade crafts and items from your favorite direct sale companies. From home décor to holiday decorations, paper crafts to jewelry, ceramics to wood crafts, candles to glassware, children's items to specialty foods & drinks, there is something for everyone!

Time: 9:00 AM

Cost: Free entrance

More Info: carrollcountytourism.org

Sat., Oct. 4

Buddy Walk

@Gettysburg Rec Park, 545 Long Ln.,
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Join the Arc of York & Adams Counties for a fun day celebrating and supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community.

Time: 2:30 PM

More Info: Facebook event, email jgray@theatcyorkadams.org or call 717.846.6589

Sat., Oct. 4th

Fall Real Pumpkin Floral Design Class

@Butterfly Blooms Flower Shop,
7 S. Queen St., Littlestown, PA 17340

Enjoy a hands-on floral design class where you'll create a stunning Fall arrangement using a real, uncut pumpkin as the base. All materials and instruction as well as light snacks and drinks are included.

Time: 1:00 PM

Cost: \$50 per person

More Info: butterflybloomsflowershop.com

Sat., Oct. 4

Ladies Climbing Night

@Warehouse Rocks, 301 Pleasant St.,
Abbottstown, PA 17301

Join other ladies for a fun filled night of community and climbing. Work through boulders and/or top climbs together. share tricks, tips, and insights in a fun and positive environment.

Time: 5:00pm

Cost: \$12.00 Day pass

More Info: warehouserockspa.com

Wed., Oct. 8, 15 & 29

Beginning Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom

@Quarry Critters Alpaca Learning Studio,
580 Basehoar Rd., Littlestown, PA 17340

You will learn step by step how to weave while feeling comfortable about asking questions. Class size is 4. Small and cozy. It will be a very safe learning environment.

Time: 1:00 PM

Cost: \$185.00

More Info: quarrycrittersalpacas.com

Thurs., Oct 9, 16, 23 & 30

Writers & Illustrators Workshop

@Hanover Area Arts Guild, 32 Carlisle St.,
Hanover, PA 17331

4-week program aimed at authors of all levels to enhance their skills in story writing and illustration. It provides a platform for

participants to share experiences and gain insights into the publishing process. Each week focuses on different topics. Registration required.

Time: 5:00 PM

Cost: \$30.00 member / \$40.00 nonmember

More Info: hanoverareaarts.com

Fri., Oct. 10

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School Golf Tournament

@The Bridges Golf Club, 6729 York Rd.,
Abbottstown, PA 17301

Enjoy green fees, cart, snacks and lunch with proceeds supporting the school.

Time: 8:30 AM shotgun start

Cost: \$90.00 per player

More Info: stck8school.org

Sat., Oct. 11

Downtown Hanover Trick or Treat

@downtown Hanover, Hanover, PA 17331

Main Street Hanover's 2nd Saturday event is offering a spooktacular time. Stop by the Main Street Hanover tent in Center Square to check in and receive your Trick or Treat Card. This special card will guide you to participating businesses throughout downtown where you can collect candy and Halloween surprises! Costumes are highly encouraged! This event is open to families and individuals of all ages—so gather your goblins, witches, and pumpkins and join the fun!

Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: Free

More Info: mainstreethanover.org

Sat., Oct. 11

Hanover Pride Fest

@Moul Field, 151 Moul Ave., Hanover,
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Cost: Free

More Info: Facebook- Hanover Pride

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Therapy Tails:

How Sage & Meeks Are Spreading Community Joy One Snuggle at a Time

SUBMITTED BY JULIE WHEATLEY & KAREN REESE

Spreading Joy One Tail Wag at a Time

In a world that sometimes feels hurried and stressed, there's something magical about the unconditional love and comfort that comes from a furry friend. Right here in our Hanover community, two very special pups are making waves as certified therapy dogs, bringing smiles, comfort, and pure joy to everyone they meet.

Meet Sage and Meeks, our featured therapy dog duo, along with their dedicated owners Julie Wherley and Karen Reese. These remarkable canines are proof that heroes truly do come in all shapes and sizes – and sometimes with wagging tails!

Sage: The Natural-Born Comforter

At just six months into her therapy dog career, Sage has already proven she's a natural at this heart-warming work. Her owner Karen beams with pride when talking about Sage's incredible instincts for knowing exactly what each person needs. Whether it's a gentle nuzzle for someone feeling lonely or a playful interaction to lift spirits, Sage seems to have an innate understanding of human emotions.

"Julie and I often joke that if the pups come out smelling like Estée Lauder from all the hugs, pets, and kisses they received while visiting, they did a good job!" Karen shares with a laugh.

When Sage isn't busy being everyone's favorite four-legged therapist, you'll find her living her best life poolside. Picture this: Sage lounging under an umbrella by the pool, one of her beloved lambchop stuffies by her side, probably dreaming about her most treasured treat – animal cookies! It's hard to imagine a more perfect way to unwind after a day of spreading joy.

Share your pet's story with us!

Want your pet featured in an upcoming edition of *Neighbors of Hanover*? Please email Jill Rickle at: jrickle@bestversionmedia.com, and include:

- Your name
- Your pet's name
- Your pet's favorite activities, treats, toys
- A photo of your pet



Left to right: Sage & Meeks

Meeks: The Veteran with a Big Red Heart

With nearly seven years of therapy dog experience under her collar, Meeks is truly a seasoned professional. This sweet pup has mastered the art of bringing comfort to those who need it most, and her favorite fuel for all that tail-wagging work? Cheerios! There's something endearing about such a sophisticated therapy dog having such a simple, wholesome favorite snack.

When Meeks clocks out from her volunteer duties, she transforms into a playful pup who absolutely loves a good game of fetch with her big red kickball. It's wonderful to see how these therapy dogs maintain that perfect balance between their serious, caring work and their playful, dog-loving spirits.

Making a Difference Across Our Community

Both Sage and Meeks dedicate their time to visiting retirement homes and local libraries, where they've become beloved fixtures in our community. At the retirement homes, they provide comfort, companionship, and often become the highlight of residents' days. The healing power of their presence is unmistakable – you can literally see faces light up when these furry ambassadors walk through the door.

At the library, they participate in reading programs where children can practice their reading skills with the most patient, non-judgmental audience imaginable. There's something beautiful about watching a child's confidence grow as they read aloud to a gentle, attentive dog who hangs on every word.

The Ripple Effect of Kindness

Julie and Karen's dedication to this meaningful volunteer work, along with Sage and Meeks' natural talents, creates ripples of positivity throughout our community. These therapy dog visits often become the bright spot in someone's week, proving that sometimes the simplest acts of kindness – a gentle paw placed on a hand, a soft furry head to pet, or just the comfortable presence of a caring companion – can make an enormous difference.

The next time you see these wonderful volunteers and their four-legged partners around town, be sure to give them a wave. They're living proof that heroes walk among us every day – some just happen to have wet noses and wagging tails! ●



DO YOU FOLLOW?

5 LOCAL INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS WORTH A LOOK

COMPILED BY JILL RICKLE

Like to stay in the know? Check out these Hanover-area Instagram accounts for cool inspiration or just plain fun!

@garrickjewelershanover Adding style and sparkle since 1993! This locally-owned and operated jewelry store shares gorgeous shots of their custom diamond creations, engagement rings, and beautiful pieces that celebrate life's special moments. From Hearts on Fire collections to custom designs, their feed is pure eye candy for anyone who loves beautiful jewelry. Whether you're shopping for an engagement, anniversary, or just treating yourself, their Instagram showcases the craftsmanship and personal service that has made them a trusted Hanover destination for over 30 years.

@boardandbrushgettysburg Get ready for some serious DIY inspiration! This creative studio in nearby Gettysburg shares amazing before-and-after shots of their wood sign workshops where you can "distress, sand, stain, paint, and customize your personalized piece of art." Their feed is packed with gorgeous finished projects, behind-the-scenes workshop fun, and happy customers showing off their handcrafted masterpieces. It's the perfect place to get ideas for your next girls' night out or creative date night!

@redbarnboutiquellc Your one-stop destination for all things handcrafted and beautiful! This charming Hanover gift shop showcases an incredible collection from 30+ local artisans, featuring everything from Dixie Belle paint supplies to specialty foods, natural body products, and stunning home décor. Their Instagram feed is a treasure trove of unique finds, local maker spotlights, and seasonal inspiration. Perfect for anyone who loves supporting local artists and finding one-of-a-kind gifts that tell a story.

Carroll County Tourism (Facebook: @CarrollTourism) Just a short drive from Hanover, Carroll County, Maryland offers amazing day trip inspiration! Their social media showcases beautiful rural landscapes, historic sites, charming Main Streets, and over 150 annual events. From wine trails to Civil War tours, barn quilt trails to antique shopping, this neighboring county provides endless weekend adventure ideas. Follow them for gorgeous photography and ideas for exploring the beautiful countryside just 35 minutes from Hanover.

@hanoverareachambercommerce Your go-to source for all things happening in Hanover's bustling business community!

This membership-based organization partners with area schools, businesses and organizations for the betterment of our community, and their Instagram feed is packed with updates on local events, business spotlights, and community celebrations. From ribbon cuttings to the popular Snack Town Street Fair, you'll always be in the loop about what's brewing in downtown Hanover. Perfect for supporting local businesses and discovering new spots around town!

Make sure to give these accounts a follow for a daily dose of local charm! Have a favorite account we missed? Let us know, and we may include them in our next roundup! ●

Where's Hershey?

BY JENNIFER SCHULTZ



Congratulations to Stephanie Snyder!!

Hershey was on page 27 of July's issue.

Each month Hershey will be hidden somewhere in *Neighbors of Hanover* magazine. You need to find him!

Who is Hershey? Hershey is the four-legged member of the Alexander family. Renee Alexander is the owner of The Village Pet Shoppe.

The randomly chosen winner will receive a \$25 Gift Card to one of our local participating business sponsors.

Good luck!!

Email your answer to Jennifer at jenniferschultz@bestversionmedia.com

*We will only be accepting answers until **September 27th**.



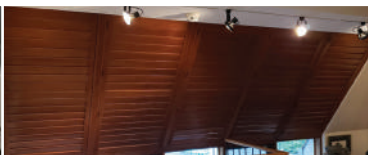
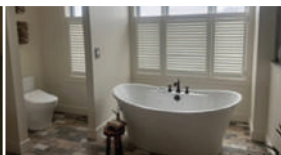
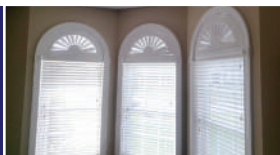
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Breaking Barriers and Building Community: Stephanie Moore Brings Adaptive Sports to the Forefront in Hanover

BY JILL RICKLE



When Stephanie Moore moved to Hanover in 2022, she brought a bold vision for change. A lifelong athlete with an unstoppable spirit, Stephanie is on a mission to ignite the adaptive sports movement here in our community.

Originally from Maryland, Stephanie's athletic journey began in childhood, where she played alongside able-bodied peers. But by high school, her opportunities to compete were taken away—"out of fear of injury," she explains. So she stepped back from sports entirely. It wasn't until decades later, at the age of 40, that she decided to reclaim her athletic identity. What started as a quest for better health quickly turned into something bigger.

"I attended an adaptive sports fair and found out about all kinds of adaptive sports," she recalls. "I tried many—cycling, basketball,



tennis, field hockey, rowing, and boxing." While boxing quickly became her passion, it was wheelchair tennis that she ultimately stuck with. "I love playing tennis and teaching others how to play," Stephanie says. And she's not just talking about playing casually—this year, she's participating in a wheelchair tennis demonstration at none other than the U.S. Open.

But perhaps the most groundbreaking part of her journey so far came in the boxing ring. Stephanie made history in 2023 with the



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first-ever adaptive boxing exhibition match in the United States, followed by a second one in 2024. The sport is now on its way toward becoming a Paralympic event, thanks in part to the work of Stephanie's coach and community.

Still, her heart is set on sparking change right here in Hanover. "There are no adaptive sports in Hanover," she states bluntly. The nearest programs are hours away—in Chester County or Philadelphia. But rather than see this as a barrier, Stephanie sees opportunity. "We need coaches—those who already know the sports and how to teach them. I'm more than willing to meet with anyone interested in learning how to coach adaptively."

Stephanie currently trains at the Junior Tennis Champions Center in College Park, Maryland, where she puts in rigorous weekly sessions. At home, she supplements her training with cardio, strength training, and hand-eye coordination drills. It's a disciplined lifestyle that's brought confidence, purpose, and a deep connection with a network of adaptive athletes across the country. "They are the community I never knew I needed," she says.

But that community could, and should, exist here too. Stephanie dreams of launching adaptive tennis and boxing programs in Hanover—two sports that are already equipped with potential facilities and coaches in the area. "Boxing is one of the oldest Olympic sports. There's no reason it shouldn't be a Paralympic sport too. And I believe Hanover could help lead the charge."

Stephanie has a clear message for anyone hesitant to try adaptive sports: "If I can start over at 40, anyone can. Development takes time. Just get in there and do your best."

Her ultimate hope? That the Hanover community will step up and embrace adaptive athletics—not just as a feel-good initiative, but as an essential, inclusive part of our local sports culture. "Get behind this endeavor," she urges. "There are athletes here who would benefit. We just need to get it started."

To follow or connect with Stephanie, visit her on Facebook at Stephanie Moore. She welcomes conversations with anyone interested in learning more or getting involved in adaptive sports in Hanover. ●

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DIY Back-to-School Pennant Sign

CELEBRATE THE FIRST DAY WITH
A CUSTOM HANDMADE SIGN!

Submitted by Lexi Breunig

Get ready for those memorable “first day” photos with a fun, easy, and creative DIY back-to-school sign! These pennant-style signs are perfect for students to hold as they head into a new grade, and they make adorable keepsakes. Customize with your child's grade, favorite colors, and some flair with ribbons!

MATERIALS

- Printable pennant template (you can make your own in Word/Canva or find free ones online)
- Color printer
- Cardstock or thick paper
- Wooden ruler(s)
- Hot glue gun or strong craft glue
- Hole punch
- Ribbons, yarn, or string (choose colors and textures you love!)
- Scissors or paper trimmer
- Optional: markers or stickers to personalize

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Print the Pennant:** Download or design a triangular pennant template that says something like “First Day of 5th Grade!” Print it out on cardstock for sturdiness.
- 2. Cut it Out:** Trim along the edges of the pennant using scissors or a paper trimmer for clean lines.
- 3. Attach to Ruler:** Using a hot glue gun or craft glue, secure the flat edge of the pennant to one side of the ruler. This creates a flag-like effect and acts as a handle.
- 4. Add Ribbons:** Add fun ribbons to your sign by tying the ribbons just below the pennant. Mix and match ribbons, yarn, or string—braid them, curl them, or add glitter for extra fun!
- 5. Personalize (Optional):** Add your child's name, the school year, or a few stickers to make it one-of-a-kind.
- 6. Pose & Snap:** Your student is now ready to strike a pose with their personalized sign for a cute and crafty back-to-school photo!

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Faith DIRECTORY

If you would like your faith organization included in our directory please email Jennifer at jenniferschultz@bestversionmedia.com

Hanover Fellowship Church

200 South Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-637-5230, www.hanoverfellowship.org

Calvary Bible Church

603 Wilson Ave., Hanover PA 17331
717-632-3954, www.cbchanover.org

First Church of Hanover

200 Frederick Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-637-1574, www.firstumchanover.org

Destiny Church Hanover

585 McAllister Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-698-0765
www.destinychurchhanover.com

Emerge Church

518 Wilson Ave, Hanover PA 17331
717-632-2924, www.emergehanover.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

127 York Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-637-5941, www.stpaulsyorkst.org

Trinity United Church-Christ

116 York Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-637-2233, www.trinityucchanover.org

Hanover Believers in Christ Church

301 Maple Avenue, Hanover PA 17331
717-632-7472, www.hanoverbic.org

New Life Christian Center Ministries Non-denominational church

Square Commercial Center 1 Center Square
Hanover PA 17331
717-478-1077, www.newlifeccm.org

Hanover Valley Presbyterian Church

133 Carlisle Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-630-9510, www.hanovervalley.org

Annunciation Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

26 N 3rd Street, McSherrystown PA 17344
717-637-1191, www.abvmchurch.org

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

124 Broadway, Hanover PA 17331
717-632-8281, www.emmanuelucc.org

First Baptist Church

217 Fulton Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-632-6962, www.firstbaptisthanover.org

Life Discovery Church

414 Main Street, McSherrystown PA 17344
717-398-9033, www.lifediscovery.org

All Saints Episcopal Church

890 McCosh Street, Hanover PA 17331
717-637-5772
www.allsaintshanover.org

Grace Church of Hanover A Global Methodist Church

55 Albright Drive, Hanover PA 17331
717-637-3100, www.mygracechurch.org

Cross Keys Fellowship Church

785 Berlin Road, New Oxford PA 17350
717-624-8660, www.ckfchurch.org

Hanover First Church of God

600 Fairview Dr., Hanover PA 17331
717-637-1100, www.hanoverbeacon.org

St. Joseph Catholic Church

5125 Grandview Road, Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-5236
www.stjosephparishhanover.org

St. David's United Church of Christ

142 Hobart Road, Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-2299, www.stdavidsucc.com

Hope Baptist Church

6450 Hope Way, Hanover, PA. 17331
717-633-1479, www.hopebaptistchurch.org

Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

30 Basilica Drive, Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-2721, www.sacredheartbasilica.com

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

30 W. Chestnut Street, Hanover, Pa 17331
717-637-7101, www.stmattlutheran.org

Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street, Hanover, PA 17331
717-632-1146, www.graceucchanover.org

The Chapel-Hanover

1181 Westminster Road, Hanover, PA 17331
717-345-9888, www.hanover.thechapel.info

Missionary Bible Baptist Church

920 Beck Mill Road, Hanover, PA 17331
717-632-3590, www.mbbchanover.com

Hanover Seventh-Day Adventist Church

865 Gitts Run Rd, Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-5884, www.hanoversdachurch.com

Captivate Community Church

95 Pumping Station Rd, Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-9706, www.captivate.church

Hanover Church of the Brethren

601 Wilson Ave., Hanover, PA 17331
717.632.2267, www.hanovercob.org

Community Evangelical Free Church

580 Roth's Church Road
Spring Grove PA 17362
(717) 451-4763, www.communityefc.com

St. Bartholomew's United Church (ELCA)

1204 Grand Valley Road, Hanover, PA 17331
717-632-1952, stbartchurch@comcast.net

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

220 3rd Street, Hanover, PA 17331
717-637-4625, www.svparish.org

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church

3444 Sticks Road, Glen Rock, PA 17327
717-235-7313, www.stjacobsllutheran.org

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

1170 Kohler Mill Road
New Oxford, PA 17350
717-688-4297, www.churchofjesuschrist.org

West Side Baptist Church

4960 Lincoln Hwy, Thomasville, PA 17364
717-792-9903, www.wsbcyork.com

Wellspring Wesleyan Church

127 Hickory Lane, Hanover, PA 17331
717-797-3868, www.wellspringwesleyan.com

New Hope Faith Community

33 Sunday Drive, Hanover, PA 17331
717-632-4008, www.newhopefaith.org

Covenant Life MIC Church

117 Ruth Ave., Hanover, PA 17331
717-630-2177, www.covenantlifemicc.com



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Four Actors, 100 Characters, Pure Theatrical Magic!

BY SHARON A. DORN

Continuing in its 75th Anniversary Year, the Totem Pole Playhouse located in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania once again delivered an outstanding performance this summer. With a cast of only four extremely talented actors, their performances included 100 different characters! The 39 Steps continued the Playhouse's tradition of excellence for a total of 12 performances that ran through July 27.

Based on a novel by John Buchan and a classic film by Alfred Hitchcock, the original The 39 Steps film was released in 1915. Later, Hitchcock's film of the same title was released in 1935. Today, there is even a fictional, digital adaptation called The 21 Steps as well as a TV adaptation — each demonstrating the timelessness of this infamous story.

The background set was simple. However, amazingly quick and oftentimes humorous set enhancements, leveraged by the actors on stage, seamlessly transformed the mood. Over 22 local crew, designers and technicians brought visual magic to life. Razor sharp innuendos, sarcasm, and rapid-fire costume changes, ala Hitchcock, punctuated the dialogue and could have been easily missed if you weren't paying close attention.

Masterfully directed by Broadway veteran, Clayton Phillips (5 Broadway Shows, 4 national tours) along with Ryan B. Gibbs, Totem Pole Playhouse's Producing Artistic Director, this play kept

audiences guessing throughout its satirical, thrilling plot. The four extremely talented actors included Damon Bonetti, Mallory Hawks, J.B. McLendon and Nicholas Wilder - all members of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States. The set included train stations, moors, and manors — often changing in a matter of seconds.

So, you ask, what did The 39 Steps have to do with the wacky exploits of the cast? And what did the missing part of a finger mean? We're still trying to figure that out — perhaps you had better luck if you caught the show. If you love satire, this live masterpiece kept audiences in stitches throughout the performance.

The 39 Steps was a classic, sarcastic, spy spoof which has received multiple awards including two Tony Awards and has been performed in live theatres worldwide. If you loved Hitchcock and his uncanny use of innuendos, you would have loved this play!

Don't worry if you missed this summer's spectacular production - Totem Pole Playhouse continues to bring world-class entertainment to our community throughout their season. Be sure to check their upcoming performances and mark your calendars for more theatrical magic ahead!

For information about future shows and tickets, visit www.totempoleplayhouse.org or call the Box Office at 717-352-2164. ●



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S A B R I N A ' S

Easy Lentil Soup

By Lucinda Hahn



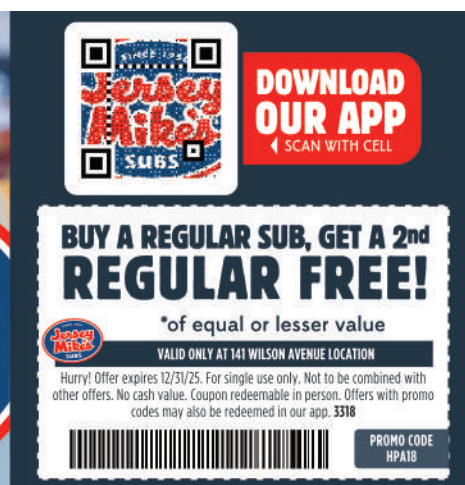
This healthy, filling soup is oh-so-simple to make. You can even double the recipe for double the goodness—because it gets better as it sits. You can also freeze it!

INGREDIENTS

- 6 cups low sodium, fat-free chicken broth
- 1 14-oz can fire-roasted tomatoes
- 1½ cups red lentils
- ½ cup chopped onion (add more if you like onion!)
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp crushed garlic (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place all the ingredients in a soup pot and bring to a boil.
2. Reduce the heat, cover and simmer for about 25 more minutes, until you see that the lentils are soft and falling apart.
3. Let the mixture cool and, if you like food on the spicier side, add some crushed red pepper flakes.
4. Use a handheld immersion blender to puree it as much as you like. More for a smooth-and-creamy soup, less if you like texture.
5. Enjoy!



What Rising Interest Rates Really Mean For Buyers and Sellers

BY LOREE FOSTER



Interest rates. They're in the headlines, they're in your inbox, and if you're thinking about buying or selling a home right now — they're definitely on your mind.

But what do rising mortgage rates really mean for the real estate market? How do they affect buyers, sellers, and the overall pace of a transaction?

Whether you're ready to make a move or just trying to make sense of the news, here's what you need to know — in plain English.

First, What's Going On With Rates?

Mortgage rates had been climbing due to inflation concerns and broader economic shifts. Currently they are fairly steady. The Federal Reserve doesn't set mortgage rates directly, but when they raise the federal funds rate (which influences borrowing costs across the board), mortgage rates tend to follow. In short? It's now more expensive to borrow money than it was several years ago — and that has ripple effects on real estate across the board.

IF YOU'RE A BUYER...

Rising rates mean your monthly mortgage payment could be higher for the same priced home compared to last year — even if home prices haven't changed.

Let's say:

You were eyeing a \$500,000 home when rates were around 4%. At 7%, your monthly principal and interest jumps by several hundred dollars.

That said, it's not all bad news:

More inventory: As the market cools slightly, there may be less competition — meaning fewer bidding wars and more room to negotiate. Negotiating home sale contingencies and inspections are definitely possible using win-win terms.

More time: Gone are the days when homes flew off the market in 24 hours. You'll likely have more breathing room to make smart decisions.

Creative financing: Many lenders are offering rate buydowns, adjustable-rate mortgages, or seller-paid incentives to offset today's rates.

Bottom line for buyers: Focus less on the rate, and more on the monthly payment that fits your lifestyle. If the right home comes along and the numbers work, don't let fear of rates keep you from your next chapter.

IF YOU'RE A SELLER...

You might be wondering, "Will rising rates hurt my home's value?"

Not necessarily — but they may affect your **buyer pool** and **days on market**. Here's why:

Affordability has shifted: Buyers' purchasing power drops as rates rise, meaning someone who could afford your price point last year may now be looking lower. According to the Realtor Association of York and Adams County (RAYAC) our MLS statistics show, for example, that the price of homes has increased by 6% in the Gettysburg School District from the first half (January- June)

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of 2024 to the first half of 2025. Yet, the amount of sales has decreased between the same two time periods by 12%. For Hanover/South Western School districts, prices have increased 11% (2024-2025), yet the amount of sales has not decrease.

Longer listing times: Homes aren't selling quite as fast — and pricing strategy matters more than ever. Today's buyers are more cautious and expect value. The average days on market (DOM) for York and Adams County over the past 3 months are approximately 22 days for homes listed between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

Motivated buyers are still out there: People still move for jobs, family, lifestyle, and life changes. A well-priced, well-presented home will still sell — just maybe not with 10 offers over asking. All homes sell, if the pricing is accurate!

Bottom line for sellers: Be realistic, flexible, and prepared to negotiate. Price strategically from the start, highlight your home's unique features, and lean on your agent to guide the process with up-to-date market insights.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE MARKET OVERALL

We're moving away from the ultra-fast, ultra-competitive market of the past few years into something more balanced. And that's not necessarily a bad thing.

Yes, rising rates create headwinds. But they also bring opportunity:

- More stability in pricing
- More negotiation power for buyers
- More realistic expectations on both sides

This is a market for informed, intentional buyers and sellers — and with the right strategy, there's still plenty of success to be found.

FINAL THOUGHT

Whether you're upsizing, downsizing, or just watching the market, remember this: real estate is personal. It's about timing, goals, and what makes the most sense for you — not just headlines.

So if you're feeling uncertain about what rising rates mean for your situation, reach out. I'm here to help you navigate it all with clarity, confidence, and a steady hand. ●

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Servants: Improving Lives One Home at a Time

BY SHARON A. DORN



Tucked away in Red Lion, Pennsylvania is an incredible community resource serving York, Lancaster, and Adams Counties – Servants. A simple name with an astonishing outreach, Servants serves residents in three contiguous counties: York, Lancaster, and Adams with services designed to provide residents with Healthy Homes, Safer Homes, and as a result, Healthier Lives.

Now celebrating its 25th Anniversary, Servants CEO, Trent Davis, says “Together we’ve seen the joy of older adults who can move freely in their homes after years of confinement, the relief of parents knowing their children are safe, and the renewed pride of families in their homes.”

Servants is more than a home repair organization—it is a crusade of compassion, faith, and transformation. Through their work in providing critical home repairs, staff along with volunteers change lives through emotional and spiritual support to those in crisis as well.

My tour of the massive 16,000 square foot warehouse, adjacent to their offices, included lumber storage, painting supplies, flooring, and so much more at the ready to not only change homes but more importantly, to build relationships, transform lives, provide hope, and build stronger communities!

Mary’s Story

Living with and caring for her aging mother, Mary’s home had become unsafe. A steep and crumbling wheelchair ramp made it difficult for her mother to get outside, the floors sagged dangerously, plumbing



issues piled on stress, and she could barely manage.

That is when a team from Servants stepped in. Their mission is not just about fixing houses – it is about restoring hope. The team rebuilt the wheelchair ramp,

repaired plumbing issues, and secured weakened floors. More than that, they brought care, compassion, and dignity.

“They didn’t just fix things, said Mary – they saw me and ensured that I would not have to carry this situation alone anymore.” Her story is one of many unfolding across York, Lancaster, and Adams Counties where aging homes and limited incomes leave too many neighbors stuck in unsafe living conditions.

The Power of Partnerships

With trusted and growing referral partnerships—including Penn Medicine, WellSpan, and UPMC—Servants also collaborates with



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Veterans Affairs and advocacy organizations, “lifting the dignity of homeowners,” according to Todd Spahr, Director of Operations and Impact with Servants. Further, these vital relationships go a long way in keeping people out of Emergency Centers. “Volunteers and Project Managers take great pride in the work they do”, according to Todd. For them, it is not just a matter of replacing stairs or a deck...it is about changing and empowering people's lives.



Process for Projects

In 2024 alone, and with a staff of only 11 and 550 volunteers, Servants made a staggering 500 repairs in 189 homes. Here is how the process works. A simple phone call from a homeowner results in a conversation with a staff member at Servants who conducts a brief phone assessment. Following this, a member of the staff visits the home to assess the need

(oftentimes there are more needs than originally requested). A work plan is then developed which includes a budget for materials, staffing/volunteer requirements, and a schedule for the homeowner's approval. Currently, requests focus on the needs of homeowners in York, Lancaster, and Adams Counties. And speaking of volunteers, the youngest is 8 years old and the eldest is 83 years young!

Project managers are experienced professionals in their respective fields and oversee projects from start to finish. They rely on an algorithm to prioritize projects. Safety concerns, not only for the residents but also for the staff and volunteers, are of the utmost importance. To learn more, please visit servants.org or call 717-378-0336. ●

Quick Tips

for a Safer Home During Fire Prevention Week

October 5-11, 2025

COMPILED BY JILL RICKLE

Each year during Fire Prevention Week, we're reminded that simple habits can make a big difference in keeping our homes and families safe. Use this checklist to reduce fire risks—especially with today's common devices powered by lithium-ion batteries. Keep these easy reminders handy all year long!

Home Safety Checklist

- Test smoke alarms monthly
- Replace smoke alarm batteries yearly
- Plan and practice two escape routes from every room
- Charge lithium-ion batteries only with manufacturer-approved chargers
- Keep batteries away from flammable items when charging
- Dispose of damaged or swollen batteries safely
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Keep flammable items away from stovetops and heaters
- Maintain a 3-foot “safe zone” around heaters and fireplaces
- Use sturdy candle holders and extinguish candles before leaving room



For more tips, visit www.nfpa.org or contact your local fire department. ●

Disclaimer: This checklist provides general fire safety tips and is not a substitute for professional advice. Always follow local fire codes and consult your fire department for specific guidance.

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