



insideNewberry

To honor the past...inform the present...envision the future, *insideNewberry* is published quarterly by Newberry Community Partnership (NCP) as a service to the neighborhood to promote community pride and facilitate communication between residents, schools, civic organizations and businesses. NCP is a non-profit community-based organization established in 2006. Please support our sponsors who made this issue possible!

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insideNewberry

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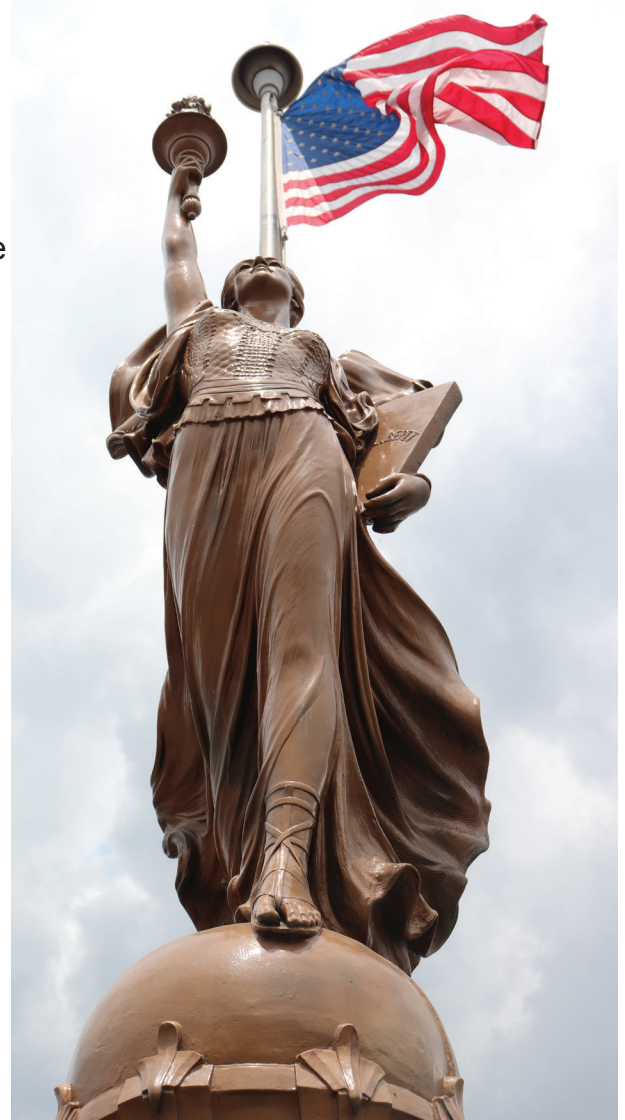
How Jaysburg/Newberry Lost the County Seat

The residents of Newberry/Jaysburg have often felt like their West End neighborhood plays the orphan stepchild to the central importance of the City of Williamsport, but this was not always so. The signs that welcome travelers to Newberry as the "first settled site of Williamsport" point to the West End's early importance, but history often turns on moments of opportunity lost.

The competition and the West End's feeling of being denied its rights goes back to the very infancy of Lycoming County and the City of Williamsport, when the Newberry/Jaysburg area lost the honor of becoming the county seat of fledgling Lycoming County in 1795.

According to John Meginness's monumental 1892 *History of Lycoming County*, when the county was established in 1795, three localities vied for the honor of having the county seat. Obtaining the county seat would mean growth, development, and importance for the winning locality, and their leading citizens knew it.

The three localities were Dunnsburg, located near the Great Island in what is now Clinton County, what was known as Jaysburg, and the new village of Williamsport.



Newberry's Lady Liberty celebrates 100 years as reminder of soldier, sailors, and nurses who served in WWI. See the Jan-March 2022 edition at insidenewberry.org for story.

How Jaysburg/Newberry Lost the County Seat

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Dunnsburg was dismissed quickly as the county seat because it was believed to be located too far west of the eastern boundary of the county. That left Jaysburg and Williamsport.

In the words of Meginness, “Jaysburg aspired to become the capital of the now county.” The area had its streets and lots organized and was further along in its development than any settlement west of Muncy. “Temporary quarters had already been secured for the county officers,” Meginness writes. “Prothonotary and Register and Recorder Kidd had opened his office, administered oaths, and commenced the work of recording official records; the associate judges had met, organized, and taken the preliminary steps towards [creating] a county organization.” With a couple of regular lawyers in the settlement, a type of jail ready and

already inhabited, and some law officers, the people of Jaysburg felt “secure” that they had the best case for being appointed the county seat.

What would become Williamsport, on the other hand, was not as developed, but it had the energies and political influence of two men who owned good sized portions on the land that would become Williamsport—William Hepburn and Michael Ross. Hepburn owned land just east of Lycoming Creek and Ross owned a tract of land in the area that is now downtown Williamsport.

The Jaysburgers were not idle, though, and didn’t leave their claim to stand on its mere merits. As Meginness records, they made their claim to eligibility public, saying that “their town ... was on higher and dryer ground, and was, in every respect, better fitted for the county seat.” The question of drainage was central, which is understandable given the location of both settlements on the river. The Jaysburg faction wanted to make sure the deciding commissioners knew that the Williamsport site was “swampy and subject to inundation.” In the “fierce and acrimonious” dispute, the Jaysburg group sent a man to Northumberland to get some embarrassing testimony about the unsuitability of the Williamsport site. A Northumberland man signed an affidavit that he had “at one time brought a barrel of whiskey to Williamsport in a canoe, and ‘tied up’ at a point on what is now East Third ‘not far from the corner at what is now East Third and Mulberry Streets.’” The Jaysburg faction’s point was that if you can deliver goods into the village of Williamsport by canoe, the area is too swampy for county government.

It was when this messenger was supposed to take an affidavit about the unsuitability of Williamsport to the commissioners at a meeting in what is now Sunbury that the Hepburn-Ross faction brewed up some political chicanery.

Instead of getting to that important meeting in Sunbury, the messenger was plied with liquor by partisans of the Hepburn-Ross group and got quite

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Flowers and freedom in Newberry.

How Jaysburg/Newberry Lost the County Seat

(Continued from page 2)

intoxicated. The saddle bag containing the affidavit citing the unsuitability of Williamsport was never seen by the men making the decision. The rest, as they say, is history.

Not only did Jaysburg not become the county seat but it also became known as just a section of Newberry south of the railroad tracks from the Bro-Dart area to the Susquehanna River and the Abram Howard Memorial Bridge. Though Newberry and Jaysburg had to take the lower position while Williamsport's star rose – depending on their former rivals for internal improvements like streets, sewer lines, recreation facilities and police and fire protection – the West End has never forgotten its important heritage as the original leading settlement. But beware political factions that offer a round on the house! ~ *Lou Hunsinger, Jr.*



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Picnic Fundraiser Held for Local Infant August 12

The Newberry Church of Christ invites the community to a fundraising picnic to help defray medical costs for the infant son of the Umstead family. The boy is named Will, and we have named the fundraiser the “God’s Will” picnic because that is how the Umsteads themselves think of their sweet son.

Will was born with many medical issues. He has already had open heart surgery, and he will need several medical procedures in the months to come.

The “God’s Will” picnic will be held at the Newberry Church of Christ at 2100 Linn St on Saturday, August 12th from 4 to 6 PM. Advanced tickets for the picnic meal will be available through the church office by calling 326-0731. Adult admission will be \$10, and children under twelve, \$6.

Basket raffles and a T-shirt sale will also be held that day as part of the fundraiser. Please consider breaking bread with us to support this family on August 12th. ~ *Liz Ward*

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www.insidenewberry.org

We're on the World Wide Web! You can now find *insideNewberry* on the internet. Read current and past issues of the newsletter.



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rhil0615@gmail.com

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SETBACK TOURNAMENTFirst Thursday of the Month
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BINGOMondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 12:30 PM

HEALTHY STEPS IN MOTION EXERCISE
FOR MATURE ADULTS Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 AM
Bible Study w/Local ClergyWednesdays 12:15 PM

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Performed by Penn College Student Nurses
2nd Wednesday of the Month – call for details.

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Level 1 5 PM Tuesdays & 10:30 AM Thursdays

KNITTING GROUP Tuesdays 11 AM

ZUMBA GOLDWednesdays 4:30 to 5:30 PM

DAILY SPECIALS

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TUES - TACO CHEESE STEAK OR TACO SALAD

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Entrepreneurial Mom on Mission to Enrich Newberry Youth

For almost two years now, Loniqua Howell has been providing services and a safe, fun space for Newberry youth through her non-profit, “**Boy Mom Marathon**,” and her education-focused arcade, The Cencade, in one of the downstairs spaces of the West End Christian Community Center.

As discussed in the April edition of *insideNewberry*, local youth need more resources and support from the community. Howell offers those resources, but has had difficulty in getting the word out on the street.

What keeps her going is the vision with which she started **Boy Mom Marathon**, a vision of engaging young people in building their skills and developing their interests to help steer them away from the activities that land so many of them in the juvenile justice system. She said, “I am a single Black mom of five kids, four of them being young Black men. I want to [remove] hurdles for them ... in life,” as well as other youth like them. Her heroes and role models in giving back to the community in this way are Kobe Bryant, who started the “Girl Dad” movement, and Nipsey Hussle, who fought through challenges growing up in Los Angeles to not only become a respected rap artist but also return to his community to build up its people with his own money.

Through the non-profit **Boy Mom Marathon**, Howell runs a number of youth-focused programs. The list includes distributing hygiene bags and food bags, providing mentoring and tutoring, and coaching youth in job prep readiness and referrals. The non-profit also offers a bike incentive program that provides bike-less children with gently used bicycles for a good report card or evidence of three good test grades.



Howell gives tour of The Cencade at meeting with social worker, parole officers, and YWCA rep.

Howell has kept a close watch on the needs in the youth community. Her organization has donated clothes, food, toys, and baby items to the YWCA, has run a PSSA tutoring program for 5th graders, and has held a Fitness and Sports program at the YWCA gym every Saturday for a month, which turned out to be a great success! Last year, the non-profit also created a hair referral program for girls, helping cut the cost for young ladies who couldn’t otherwise afford to get their hair done appropriately.

On May 31, Howell met with school social worker Christie Peck, Lycoming Parole Officers Sierra Spencer, Matt Stanzione, and Nate Hill, and YWCA Medical Advocacy and Prevention Educator Shantay Hall to introduce them to **Boy Mom Marathon** and brainstorm on how to work together to help local youth. All agreed that over the summer, young people need safe places to go and constructive activities to do, and they discussed possible community service projects, reward programs, boxing programs, and community sports events that could not just keep youth out of trouble over the summer but also help them integrate better with the larger community.

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Entrepreneurial Mom on Mission to Enrich Newberry Youth

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The Cencade is one of the main programs run within **Boy Mom Marathon**, whether summer or school year, but it is also registered as a business. It is the combination learning center and arcade that is located in the WECCC basement (Cen[ter] + [Arc]ade = Cencade). A dream of Howell's from the time she was 14 in Queens, New York, The Cencade provides youth a safe space to hang out, learn, create, and play video games. Children under 11 need to be accompanied by an adult, but older ones can come any time the doors are open, and the center is especially helpful for K-12 online students and students who are trying to keep up while suspended from school. For access, youth or their sponsors pay \$15/month or \$1/day, though access to the arcade games requires a young person to "pay" 20 minutes in an educational activity first, a motivational method known as a "token economy."



Howell and Hall showcase the back door of W.E.C.C.C. where youth enter and follow stairs down and to the left to The Cencade.

What can kids do at the Cencade? Besides the video games, they are provided materials, space, and help with a number of artistic and educational activities. The Art Area allows kids who love art to experiment, learn new techniques through different art programs, and develop a portfolio of their own. The science and experiment section invites kids to try science experiments, grow their own plants, or create things like potpourri. An array of books is available for not just young children but also teenagers. It offers tutoring Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30. See the sidebar for a listing of programs and activities, or keep tabs on the announcements on their FaceBook page (@**TheCencade&BoyMomMarathon**).

What can other Newberry residents do to help out? Like most non-profits, **Boy Mom Marathon** would welcome donations, but really needs people to volunteer their time and talents. Volunteers would be helpful to monitor any youth who come into The Cencade in the mornings, and tutors in basic school subjects would help expand the tutoring capacity of the center. Community members with specific skills to teach might be able to offer short courses or programs through the center, such as specific art programs, music programs, and possibly cooking classes in the WECCC's industrial kitchen. Volunteers would need to complete the standard set of clearances for working with youth (see https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Documents/KKS-VolunteerFAQ_2021.pdf).

Donations can be made through the official website: <https://boymommarathon.com/program-sign-up-sponsor-a-child>. You can also pass the word about the center to youth in your part of Newberry who might be interested – send them to the back door of the WECCC.

The children and youth you see playing at the park or walking the summer streets in Newberry,

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Entrepreneurial Mom on Mission to Enrich Newberry Youth

(Continued from page 6)

like all children, need a network of positive relationships with people who care, education in essential skills, and opportunities to try good things. Loniqua Howell is providing an organized way to try to meet those needs through **Boy Mom Marathon**, but her non-profit also provides us older residents of Newberry with a challenge and opportunity to lend a hand to our youth. ~ *Loniqua Howell and Joshua Hill*



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Boy Mom Marathon Programs

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Art – Both specific projects/techniques and free style. Building art portfolio, public galas, and marketing help. Includes music, drawing, painting, writing, poetry, and more.

Boxing – Training in the fundamentals, skills, psychology, education, discipline, fitness, and patience needed for the art of boxing. Help with fees and equipment available if needed.

Bike Incentive – Used bikes collected and donated them to children who participate in an educational program. Training in fixing and maintaining bike also provided.

Science Exploration – Materials provided for science experiments, which count toward educational currency to earn other privileges.

Mentoring – With W.E.C.C.C, matching young people with Veterans as mentors.

Self-Recognition – Leading children to explore self-concept and goals with 5 W's and How method. Helping youth escape negative self-talk and negative social influences.

First Aid, CPR & AED Classes – Separate fee. Cooking Training – in development with W.E.C.C.C.

Resources – Food and hygiene bags provided for children in need. Haircuts and hair styling for youth in need.

The Cencade

Arcade and entertainment resources “earned” by youth who utilize educational programs and resources (“token economy”). Membership \$15/ month inclusive of boxing. Nonmembers, \$1/ day. Contact Loniqua Howell for other rates and options through

<https://www.boymommarathon.com/>

Raising Awareness of ‘Raise the Region’

“Let’s **Raise the Region!**” The cry rings out every year for two days in March, but many people don’t know what it’s really about or why they should participate. If you are one of those people, this explanation is for you!

Raise the Region is a focused fundraiser benefiting non-profit community organizations of all sorts. The “Region” covers six area counties, including Lycoming. The event provides a chance for anyone to support the nonprofits of their choice by helping them raise as much money as possible not only by donating yourself but also by spreading the word through social media to accelerate the campaign through everyone’s social networks. Your donations can even help your chosen non-profit win an extra “monetary prize” donated by a business sponsor (see <https://www.raisetheregion.org/prizes> to read about the types of extra prizes available for nonprofits).

The event is organized by the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP) and often sponsored by Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships. The trick, however, is to get the word out ahead of time because the event goes quickly! Donations are accepted only through a secure online site that is available for only 30 hours. You select which organization gets your donation, so you know your money gets to the organizations and causes that are important to you! The event ends on the second day at the stroke of midnight – like a classic fairy tale – and does not reappear for whole year.

For many nonprofit organizations, **Raise the Region** serves as their primary fundraiser. The money that comes in during those few hours has to stretch to cover their budget for the year. In Williamsport, like most municipalities, a significant number of public needs are met through private donations and nonprofit organizations rather than tax-funded programs. Volunteer workers and volunteer donors make our community what it is. The more that people are aware of **Raise the Region**, therefore, the stronger our community can be.



Since it began in 2013, **Raise the Region** has generated over \$16 million dollars, in total, for nonprofits. In 2023, 333 non-profits, large and small, participated. Nonprofits with strong social media



networks do well, as do those with strong name recognition, but with over 300 organizations participating, you can find a cause to donate to and promote. The Spring 2023 leaderboard can show you which organizations were most funded this past event, but you can use the search feature on their website to search for causes you would like to support (or put “organizations” in the search box and then filter by the drop-down menu of causes).

A tiny sample of participants includes the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Uptown Music Collective, St. Joseph School, the Soap Box Derby, Lycoming Audubon Society, Original League, Family Promise, and our own Newberry Community Partnership (NCP). NCP has participated in six **Raise the Region** events, receiving about \$3,800 in donations over those six to support our mission to make Newberry, the West End, a better place to live.

What can you do next March when you see signs like the one above or hear about **Raise the Region** on local media outlets? If you are willing and able, search for the causes you want to support and make a donation. Beyond that, share the **Raise the Region** information for your causes on your social media feeds – spread the word.

Raising Awareness of 'Raise the Region'

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Money is necessary for the year's budget, but awareness is necessary for long-term sustainability of these important nonprofits.

The NCP would like to take this opportunity to thank the First Community Foundation, its business sponsors, and all the donors who support all the non-profits that collectively make our region thrive. See you, we hope, in March 2024, when you will again hear "Let's Raise the Region!" ~
Mary Rucinski

We welcome your tax deductible donations to support the continued efforts of the Newberry Community Partnership to bring quality of life improvements and community events to our neighborhood. Send contributions to Newberry Community Partnership (NCP) 913 Diamond Street • Williamsport, PA 17701 For information, message us on Facebook.

Newberry Community Partnership would like to thank the Polish Club for their continued support of our organization and all the good things they do for the residents of Newberry, Jaysburg, and the City of Williamsport.



Polish Club

Jaysburg, PA
1933 - 2023

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For additional information, call the WECCC office at the number listed above.

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Every Monday • 6:30 to 7:00 pm
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Open to boys in Grades 1-5 or ages 7-11

NEWBERRY COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIP 570-651-0634
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A Christ centered support for individuals and families struggling to maintain mental and emotional stability.

NOTE: These are active groups that welcome new members, let them know you'd like to attend. To be listed, contact the Editor, insideNewberry@yahoo.com, 913 Diamond Street, Newberry, PA 17701 or insideNewberry@yahoo.com.

Feist Files: Stories of Newberry Buildings Past

In Newberry, many buildings have come and gone over the years, but a few were just put on a truck and moved. Alan Feist, owner of AAA Motors, has been “on the block” his whole life, so when he travels around Newberry, he sees the dim outlines of the buildings of Newberry past superimposed on the structures there now. Several of those buildings have been part of his own history.

Where Feist now sits in his office at AAA Motors, he can look left and see where the old Mosser Mansion used to sit, a space that now features an elevated plateau to show his car inventory to 3rd Street travelers. The Mosser mansion was an elegant building, heated by steam that came through pipes from the the Armor Leather Tannery across the street, the location now occupied by Brodart.

The mansion burned down in the early 60s, leaving behind only a retaining wall.

Feist recalls a building on 4th Street that escaped the bulldozer because his father, Sherwood Feist, asked the right question at the

right time. This is his story of a small restaurant building that was kept on the move.

Originally at the location where Maple Motors now sits, the small restaurant was moved across the street, the current location of the Nittany Mini Mart. The little building was moved because a gentleman by the name of Gus Brungard put in a top-of-the-line Atlantic Gasoline station at that location on the south side of 4th street, complete with glass-sphere-topped gas pumps. Brungard pumped gas there at his full-service station in a white shirt and bow tie for several years before Maple Motors settled into that corner lot.

But the little restaurant wasn't done moving yet. When Esso (later, Exxon) corporation contracted with Ted Heverly and his brother to put in a competing service station across the street from Brungard's Atlantic Gasoline, the restaurant building was in the way again. Sherwood Feist knew the Heverly brothers from their work together in the Newberry Lions Club, and Feist heard that they were slated to tear the restaurant building down. Stepping into the little building in

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Sherwood Feist moved his free building, one half at a time, to this location.

Feist Files: Stories of Newberry Buildings Past

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1956, Feist recognized its value and asked how much they wanted for it. "If you can take it off the property in a month, you can have it," they said.

Feist contracted with a man from New York who cut the building in half and moved it by flatbed truck, one half at a time, to a spot on Moore Avenue, across from the former West Branch School. There, it housed his former auto parts store and the original building still stands as the west wall of Alan Feist's current building there..

Moved to make way for an Atlantic gas station and then moved again to make way for an Exxon, the little restaurant finally found itself a permanent home because of the initiative and inventiveness of some Newberry community members.

The saying goes, "if these walls could talk, what tales they would tell." Who knows what other stories of community character could be told by the walls and streets of the Newberry community?

~ Joshua Hill, with Alan Feist

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Alan L. Feist	1898 West Third Street	Ph: 570-326-1769
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The wooded area north of Triple A Motors has been cleared by Hutchinson Companies, LLC, to make way for over 100 Townhomes, though Hutchinson's application for a zoning variance has not yet been accepted. Deer fleeing the clearing were seen wandering through Newberry neighborhoods.

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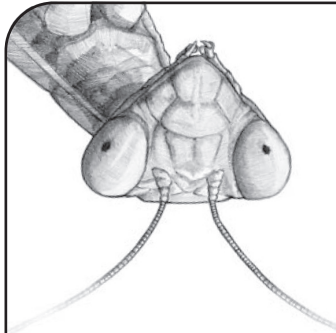
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Health Services
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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2023

- TUESDAY, JULY 4** – Independence Day
(Federal & State Holiday - Banks Closed)
- FRIDAY, JULY 14** – Bastille Day (Observance)
- SUNDAY, JULY 23** – Parent's Day (Observance)
- THURSDAY, JULY 27** – Tisha B'Av (Jewish Holiday)
- THURSDAY, JULY 27** – National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (Observance)

AUGUST 2023

- MONDAY, AUGUST 7** – Purple Heart Day (Observance)
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 15** – Assumption of Mary (Christian)
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 19** – National Aviation Day (Observance)
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 20** – National Senior Citizens Day (Observance)
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 26** – Women's Equality Day (Observance)

SEPTEMBER 2023

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4** – Labor Day (Federal & State Holiday - Banks Closed)
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10** – National Grandparents Day (Observance)
- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11** – Patriot Day (Observance)
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15** – First Day of National Hispanic Heritage (Monthly Observance)
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16** – Rosh Hashana (Jewish Holiday)
- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18** – Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (Observance)
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23** – September Equinox
- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25** – Yom Kippur (Jewish Holiday)
- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27** – The Prophet's Birthday (Muslim)
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30** – First Day of Sukkot (Jewish Holiday)