

Our York:

275 Years and Counting....

On All of Us

Mayor C. Kim Bracey

April 27, 2016

Hannah Penn Middle School

York, Pennsylvania

Thank you. Good evening!

As I look at your beaming faces, this is a great evening!

Congressman Perry, Governor Wolf,
Representative Schreiber, County
Commissioners, members of City Council, all
elected officials, City directors, family – hi mom!,
friends, citizens, believers, and doers, **GREAT
evening** to you!

Thank you to our event host, **Hannah Penn
Middle School and the York County
Economic Alliance and this evening's
sponsors: Presenting Sponsor The**

Glatfelter Agency; Gold Sponsors WellSpan Health and York College of Pennsylvania; Silver Sponsors C.S. Davidson; Community Courier/Engle Printing & Publishing Company and Penn National Insurance.

Thank you to all sponsors and all of you for your commitments to and pride in our York, your county seat.

One night a year, we pause to celebrate and honor our York and recommit ourselves to what she yet might be – a thriving urban community with equality, justice and opportunity for all, a shining city of work, learning, creating, and recreating.

We sometimes forget how many friendships we have forged and how many milestones we have reached. So tonight, we take a step back to celebrate you, and to ponder our city of hope and dreams.

Now, the following are not just pretty words. Civilized dialogue is oxygen for the great

American dialogue that spurs democracy to action. Bold, public, vetted visions are the trade winds of progress. They make the improbable possible, and we are the city that could, can, and will.

Public words not only matter, they are the essence for galvanizing communities to greater heights. They are civic poetry in motion. If we do not strive for greatness, we fail our people and ourselves.

As Babe Ruth said, “Don’t let the fear of striking out hold you back.” Another bambino, **York High graduate and Arizona Cardinals Coach Bruce Arians** says, “No risk it, no biscuit!”

No risk it, no biscuit, indeed! It took eight years from President Kennedy’s public vision of going to the moon until the moon landing during the Nixon administration.

It took about ten years from when Mayor Robertson announced his dream of bringing professional baseball to York until opening day

in 2007 during Mayor Brenner's tenure when Brooks Robinson tossed the first pitch.

Now, the going-to-the-moon and York baseball comparison may seem like an out-of-space stretch.

But planning for and building a baseball stadium seemed like going to the moon at times!

At times, it seemed like we might be going in the opposite direction to a much warmer destination!

Let's stick with the moon imagery, shall we?!

Ten years in, baseball has been a big step for York County, 225 new jobs, 343 breadstick giveaways, and one giant leap for our county seat!

Constructed debt-free with no cost to county or city taxpayers, our stadium might be the only one-of-its-kind in the nation. And this is HUUUUUUUGE!, baseball brings in nearly

\$180,000 in city, city school district, and county revenues each year.¹

The Revolution has raised over a million dollars for non-profits, and its turnstiles welcome over 300,000 fans each season. Attractive, family-friendly, and well-lit, our stadium is an integrated partner in a neighborhood where new citizens have moved in to enjoy the amenities and fireworks. In fact, as you walk in Brooks Robinson Plaza for opening day tomorrow, take note of the intersection of North and North George and the considerable amount of investment in just that intersection alone. In fact, since the York Revolution's first season, we have experienced over \$200 million in economic development throughout our City. \$200 million in the past ten years for a 5 square mile city, that's not too shabby.

Oh, did I mention the REVS are two-time Atlantic League Champions!

¹ \$100,000 in payment-in-lieu-of-taxes or "PILOT" distributed to city school district, city, and county each year; \$45,000 in parking revenues to city school district, \$22,000 in city admissions tax revenues; and \$12,000 in city mercantile/business privilege tax revenues.

Friends, I have a confession to make. Although I'm a Hillary Clinton delegate, sometimes I feel the berm!

No, not the **BURN**, but the Revolution's **BERM** at **PeoplesBank stadium** – the fan-friendly sloped grass that wraps around the outfield where families can picnic and play while watching games?!!

Do you feel the **BERM**?!!!

Building a baseball stadium was never just about baseball. It's always been about families, community, and fellowship.

It's also about faith, just as the game of baseball is.

Building our stadium clicked something different inside us: It sparked a belief that we are the little city that could, can, and will.

As a result, after the umpire first yelled, "Play Ball!" moonshots (or cannon fire from Cannonball Charlie) from the stadium bounce to the following inevitable wins:

- . We've developed the **Northwest Triangle** boasting the new home of **LSC Design** and its 80 employees and the 500 student **York Academy International Baccalaureate School**.
- . Featuring 29 luxury units, construction at **Keystone Colorworks** is now underway with 50% pre-leased! Promises made, promises kept.
- . To round out the Triangle, our redevelopment authority is vetting four exciting proposals for the remaining land. For two administrations, we've stuck to our vision of market-rate housing in the triangle. Hats off to **Interim Economic Development Director Shilvosky Buffaloe** and our volunteer member board led by **Chairman David Cross** for persisting on that vision.
- . We've revitalized **Central Market**, which 128 years and counting, is thriving with over 67 vendors. We secured funding for the roof and other improvements to **Penn Farmers Market**, York County's oldest market, which

celebrates its 150th birthday this year, now we put our collective heads together to improve and assist the operations of our neighborhood market to ensure it remains successful for another 150 years.

- . We can and will re-develop the **Yorktowne Hotel**. A shout out to the good folks of the alliance and to hotel manager **Rick Cunningham** for sprucing up downtown's grand dame so she delights and entertains new generations.
- . Spearheaded by the **Royal Square Development group**, the redevelopment of the first block of West Market will feature 124 market-rate apartments and a football field of first floor commercial space. Stay tuned: **CEO Josh Hankey** is hankering for a prominent deli to locate there too.
- . Connecting our **downtown to Olde Towne East, Royal Square proper** continues to grow and paint a mosaic of vintage wares and clothes; mind-bending art, music, and poetry; and art supplies and classes. As promised last

year, new streetscaping and vintage lights now complement Royal Square's bohemian charm. Also, a former bar is being revitalized next to **Glazin'** – a hip craft beer and donut shop (that's right you heard that combination), offering my favorite, a maple glaze with bacon; and as advertised, the old Bond building now hosts weddings, receptions, and art exhibits.

- . We can and will make **Salem Square** a state designated **Elm Street neighborhood** to build on the momentum of converting a former West Princess Street bar into a satellite library. A shout-out to **Ray Holas, owner of Bev's Grocery**. Each day, Ray sweeps outside his bodega, a neighborhood anchor. Every neighborhood deserves "third places" like bodegas, gyms, and libraries away from family – "the first place" -- and work/school – "the second place."
- . Also emphasizing our neighborhoods, the **York Rescue Mission**, led by their **Executive Director, Matthew Carey**, has

taken my **Take Ten on Tuesdays** litter clean-up effort to the nth degree. Mission parishioners don't just take ten minutes on Tuesdays. They take two, as in **TWO HOURS EACH DAY** cleaning up the **WECO** neighborhood. That's cause for applause.

- . Also emphasizing neighborhoods, after ten years of your city government begging and following up, we are proud to announce our **Corner Stores Are Corner Stones Initiative**, an exciting **NEW** program funded by the Department of Health's Preventive Health Services. Young people access food where convenient. Our corner stores can be convenient corner stones of nutrition. And healthy bodies make engaged young minds. As a pilot program, **Corner Store/Corner Stone** will partner with neighborhood corner stores to provide micro-grants to enhance fresh food offerings. All of our people deserve access to fresh foods. From eight urban gardens, to securing capital

grants for Central Market and Farmers Market, to our novel Fresh Foods Loan Fund, to Corner Store, we've grown bumper crops of support and access for all.

- . Also emphasizing neighborhoods, in the months ahead, we will host a **City Hall for a Day** in varied neighborhoods so my directors and I can meet with our employers – our citizens – where they live, work, and play.
- . We can and will bring a **Noodles & Company**, along with a **Chipotle** to our City.
- . Through state grants, we can and shall develop an **inviting heritage rail trail corridor** between York College and downtown, from Grantley to Market Street. We also will extend the rail trail from Philadelphia Street to George. This ambitious project will include vintage LED streetlamps, greenways, and upgrades to Lafayette Plaza. A **huuuuuuge** thank you to our our Rail Trail

Authority, our **Public Works Director Jim Gross**, and **Downtown Inc.’s Interim Director Tim Miller**. They exemplify collaboration. Partnerships like theirs and persistence make the impossible possible. Thanks also to Jim for his 16 years of dedicated service to our City as the best dressed Public Works Director! He has worked for 3 very different mayors y’all!
(APPLAUSE)

- . We continue to develop the buzzing York Street campus of **Think Loud Development and United Fiber and Data or UFD**, a moon shot away from our stadium.

After \$20 million of work, this 50,000 square feet high nerve center will add 150 jobs and blitz bandwidth throughout the northeast and cut Grammy caliber records in its state-of-the art **Think Loud Studios**.

TWO-TIME Emmy Award winning violinist Damien Escobar recently recharged his creative batteries there, saying: “Think Loud

Studios is pretty much one of the greatest places I've been in the world and I've been all over the world, in some pretty cool places...This is like Disney World for musicians.”

By 2017, look for robust bandwidth linking York, the political center of Pennsylvania, to the financial center of the world – New York. While adding jobs and creating a culture of high-tech prowess, this future proof technology will enable all peoples to have high-speed WiFi to link to information, jobs, iphones and the future.

For the record, your city government was the first to endorse these hometown boys and their promise of high speed. Our native sons make good on their promise by the nano-second! **No risk it, no biscuit!**

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Police Chief Kahley, Fire Chief Michaels and our dedicated officers and firefighters are ready as ever to keep our people and property safe. Last year, our Fire Department in

partnership with the Red Cross installed 627 new smoke detectors in one day in Salem Square.

When I announced our goal of getting below 2,000 Part I. crimes, some thought I was crazy. Crazy indeed, crazy like a fox! Today, with our neighborhood enforcement units and concerned citizens, we've proved the critics wrong.

Once again, we recorded a decrease in Part I crimes remaining below our ongoing goal threshold of 2,000 crimes with a total of 1,744. These crimes are the most serious crimes recorded by the FBI. In 2015, we saw a 5.75% reduction from 2014. That's cause for applause!

In both 2015 and 2016, **WellSpan** has pledged a contribution of \$500,000 annually for public safety. Fifty thousand dollars of this goes to South George Street Community policing.

We announced last year that, at a cost of \$100,000, **WellSpan** will pay for body cameras for **ALL** City police officers.

Promises made, promises kept. After the current 90-day pilot program, all city police officers will

utilize body cameras this summer. That's cause for applause!

Body cameras are good for our officers and our people. They record accurate evidence and encourage all of us to be on our best behavior.

Hot off the I-Pads, our police department is connecting our people to **raidsonline.com** so crimes are reported up-to-the-minute by type and location. When technology weds with informed citizenship, we are more aware and more vigilant in fighting crime.

We also continue to offer a **No-questions Gun Retrieval Program**. If you know of a suspicious gun on your premises, bring it in to police headquarters. No questions asked, we'll take it off the streets for good.

Many of our families have suffered the terrible consequences of addiction. Unfortunately, not new to the streets of cities, our Commonwealth faces a crisis of heroin and prescription drugs. Our County Heroin Task Force has diligently brought our community together to combat

abuse and overdose. Our City boasts free prescription drug drop offs. We support Narcan and the prescription drug database. I scarcely think anyone here tonight has not been affected somehow by drug abuse and overdose. As such, I encourage all of you this evening to clean out those medicine cabinets. Prescription drugs are a pathway to heroin and we are all on the front lines of enforcement and this is a simple but effective step.

Further, we support state legislation to bring about statewide standards, regulations and licensing of recovery homes. These homes provide an important service and there are many impeccable and altruistic operators that join with me in calling for a statewide standard that all recovery homes be held to.

All of the technology, laws and programs in the world cannot replace responsible citizenship.

Community Policing is more than a two-way street. Citizens, parents, and youth are essential for success.

Responsibility starts at within and at home.

Responsibility starts at the kitchen table.

Responsibility grows in places of worship.

Responsibility multiplies in school.

Any democratic civilization of nobility and achievement requires responsibility.

Yes, I know. I know. Skeptics will say, “Well, that’s all nice, but you’re speaking to the choir.

Well, maybe I am!

But never, ever, ever under-estimate the vocal range of a good choir!

Choirs belt it out to parishioners.

Parishioners talk to neighbors.

Neighbors talk to neighbors.

Neighborhoods create a community.

Our community can raise our
children.

So we speak loudly and broadly to all.

Poverty and challenges are not excuses for apathy and destruction.

No government, no council can legislate self-responsibility and self-respect.

Our parents and young people, your lives have purpose. Your lives have meaning. I believe in you, and we need you.

Great communities and civilizations summon goodness from within each of us --- as citizens, businesses, associations, institutions, and non-profits.

We are the white rose city, but not all of our flowers are white.

May thousands of flowers radiate in perennial freedom and dignity!

Black, brown, orange, yellow, gay, straight, white, we all shine when we unite in freedom's light.

And, at times like these, we all are princes and princesses bathing in purple rain.

Our belief in America, contents of our character, and work ethics of strength transcend colors of skin and history's sins.

Speaking of diversity and homegrown talent, when we search for executives for our businesses and associations, we Yorkers have a penchant for **NATIONAL** searches. I'm guilty, too, and I've learned the hard way.

More often than not, the **RATIONAL search** is right before our eyes!

Tonight, we congratulate **City Controller Robert Lambert**, for being named President and CEO of the York County Library System. After 27 years of dedicated service to the library and to our York, Mr. Lambert is a worthy successor to long-time **President Bill Schell**, who served for 35 years. Apparently, you can only work at the library if you commit for at least three decades! Mr. Lambert will be only the

third director in the library's storied history. Congratulations, my dear friend!

We have several other community organizations and government agencies evaluating leadership decisions and I say we have the leaders here among us in York County! So let's spare the talent searches when we have the talent here within!

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Chief Recovery Officer **Dr. Carol Saylor** and **Superintendent Dr. Eric Holmes**, thank **you** for your continued leadership. To all teachers, staff, students, and school district families, we got your back, and we believe in you. Keep the faith. Never, ever stop reading, striving, learning, and believing. We all exude Bearcat Pride!

Here are a few encouraging updates.

Student enrollment district-wide is up. College acceptance letters are up. School days have been expanded by 40 minutes. Credit rating has upgraded. Free Pre-K is available to 50% of

District three-and-four-year-olds with a goal of 100% access. Auditor **General DePasquale's** just announced audit of the school district is a welcome step to integrate best practices.

To our three post-secondary schools, you are appreciated, and we love you!

Through College in the Classroom, HACC-York takes 35 William Penn High School seniors under its wings each year to earn ten college credits and one free semester.

HACC-York and York College now offer dual enrollment, which makes it much easier for HACC students to transfer to York College with credits intact. Collaborations like these make us much stronger as a community and keep our homegrown talent on the right path to turning tassels on graduation stages!

A shout out for **Penn State York's** 90 years in our city and its \$13.5 expansion of the **Ruhl Community Center**.

Kudos to York College for its contagious energy at the **Center for Community Engagement and Marketview Arts.**

I have a standing invitation to all three: Come on down! We have the space, amenities, and momentum, and we welcome youthful vitality.

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An old Native American saying is, “Do not judge until you walk a mile in his moccasins.”

When we get off our high horses and walk a mile in his or her shoes our optics are forever changed for the better.

When we appreciate the “otherness” of others and respect them for who they are, we stretch our capacities for empathy, imagination, and collaboration.

Indeed, our people are our greatest assets, and, when we work together, diversity is a major strength.

Our similarities are stronger than our differences and all people are precious.

Together, we are **ONE York**, revolutionary and invincible!

I am proud to have recruited **CASA**, which is Spanish for “HOME”, to open an office in our City Hall. Almost 30% of our population is Hispanic or Latino. In a nation of immigrant dreamers, castigation and alienation are not effective.

Mi America es su America, my friends.

We must engage and integrate our law-abiding immigrant peoples already here through job placement; English literacy training; and citizenship and legal services so they can become productive American citizens.

Thanks to **Mayor Bill Althaus** and other pioneers, our York is proud to have one of the first and most progressive human rights ordinances in the state.

I applaud Governor Tom Wolf’s Executive Order protecting all lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender state employees from discrimination from contractors.

I also call on our General Assembly to pass the Pennsylvania Fairness Act, which would outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.

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Let's give credit where credit is due. I applaud the General Assembly for passing legislation enabling York County to boost its hotel tax to 5% for much needed tourism dollars that remain here in York County for promotion and development of this important and strong industry.

There is every reason that our county seat, smack-dab in the middle of a growing county, can become a mid-Atlantic cultural heritage and recreation tourist epi-center.

Cheers to the **York Fair Board** for transferring the old grain silo on Richland Avenue to our Redevelopment Authority, which actively seeks funds to demolish that blighted structure so that it can be developed.

As we gaze into the future, please indulge me from my **Nudge Pulpit**. I never liked the phrase “Bully Pulpit” because who likes bullies, anyway, right?! (Christian Bucks and our Buddy Benches sure don’t) But Nudge Pulpits enable us to dream big and dare to be special. Every vision is ridiculous until it is realized.

So, instead of a parking lot where the grains silo sits, why not develop that area into **a state-of-the-art hotel and convention complex and garage as part of a master plan to bring the entire York Fairgrounds into the 21st century? No risk it, no biscuit!**

All members of the York County legislative delegation voted for this tourism legislation, and I applaud them and Anne Druck and our county **visitors bureau** for never giving up.

A shout out to York’s **State Representative Kevin Schreiber**. From education reform, to fighting for economic and workforce development, to helping our most vulnerable citizens, Kevin has been a stalwart in Harrisburg.

Kevin and I recently met with **Governor Wolf** to present our York's priority list. I have a hunch that we will have some exciting announcements to make in the months ahead.

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Friends, through painful cuts, renegotiating union contracts, and disciplined spending, we not only held the line on municipal property taxes in 2013, in 2014, in 2015, **and** in 2016, we began our plan to incrementally decrease property taxes. **That's a three year tax freeze and a fourth year REDUCTION and I know that deserves your APPLAUSE!**

The work to stabilize and reform our city's finances is full-time and year-round. It's not limited to a budget season. We work annually to make more out of less, to educate all through our **Fiscal Freedom Campaign**, and to provide quality services. When 37% of the value of property is tax exempt, nothing is easy.

Since I've taken office, we've reduced our city workforce by one-third, reduced officer overtime, aggressively sought payments in lieu of taxes or "PILOTS" from non-profits, established payment plans for those who owe on their sewer bills, restructured and lowered retirement benefits, and, finally, now receive our city's fair share of the realty transfer tax.

That's a mouthful and cause for applause!

I thank those members of **City Council** who've worked with us to leave no stone unturned.

Tonight, I reaffirm my goal announced during the last two budget cycles to reduce our municipal property taxes by 15% over five years.

On my watch, led by our **Business Administrator Michael Doweary**, we are on our way, and we will get there.

If our state would only meet us half way to help even the playing field with other municipalities, our York will flourish with a flood of new homeownership, investment, job creation, and confidence.

We need meaningful reform from Harrisburg so Pennsylvania's 54 **other**, underdog cities can lift ourselves up.

Time and time again, we have asked for pension reform through House Bill 1581, which would be a long-term fiscal game-changer by reining in pension costs for new hires.

We also plead for arbitration reform so arbitrators can take into account a struggling municipality's ability to pay and taxpayers are given access to closed door hearings with bargaining units.

Finally, a consistent state budget that takes a large chunk out of school property taxes is needed. Governor Wolf's presented budget unfortunately was not approved by the legislature. It would have been a **huuuuuge** shot in the arm for small cities like ours. It would have nearly wiped out school property taxes, which account for nearly 65% of a city taxpayer's total bill.

* * * *

For 275 years, from the American Revolution to the Industrial Revolution to the blitzing bandwidth Revolution, our York has persevered. As we celebrate our birthday, let us commit to not just survive, but to thrive, to go from decent to excellent, from good to great.

As long as we preserve our history, history lives. As long as we immerse ourselves in history and engage in civil, thoughtful dialogue, history thrives. Thriving, living history enlightens, ennobles, and empowers lives.

Time stops for no one and no city. Birthdays and anniversaries come and go. Administrations and tenures come and go. But our moral foundations, a diehard mix of decency, dignity, work ethic and love -- stay strong. From those foundations, we must build lasting, living tributes that inspire new, noble quests.

We applaud the **Heritage Trust** consolidating its facilities at the Steamplant in the Northwest Triangle. Ideally located off the rail trail, adjacent to parking, and near the **Colonial Complex**, this project can be a catalytic game-

changer --- a visible locus worthy of York's unique past.

Heritage Trust President and CEO Joan Mummert, Trust staff, and all board members, we salute you for your commitment to preserving our past.

This Sunday, May 1st, we celebrate 40 years of the Colonial Courthouse, a bold vision of the late **Judge John Rauhauser, Jr.** I can't believe that the courthouse is as young as I am!

Back to reality, as we celebrate its birthday and York's 275th birthday, let us commit to a world-class facility that compellingly tells our indelible and undeniable role in the **Creation of our Nation.**

We are the home of the nation's first working constitution – the Articles of Confederation. We are the home of the Treaty of Paris – a pivotal pact needed to win the American Revolution.

With dignity, technology and flare, let us tell our full, fascinating story of the **Creation of a Nation** to new generations that yearn for

discovery. Our forbearers, children, grandchildren, and nation deserve nothing less.

Also, let's envision a wing of the **Creation of the Nation Center** as a **Stevens-Leader-Wolf School for Public Policy**, a place where students of politics and governance can hone their skill sets while absorbing leadership lessons of Civil War legislator Thaddeus Stevens and Governors George Leader and Tom Wolf among countless others.

After all, York College roots trace to Beaver Street, where a young Thaddeus Stevens taught classics before becoming one of the most influential legislators in the General Assembly and Congress, fighting for public education and freedom.

Let's view the heritage rail trail corridor, especially between King and Market, as an inviting, illuminated **Freedom Way** that welcomes bicyclists, walkers, college students, and tourists to our consolidated heritage exhibits at Steamplant.

As we think about natural our natural assets that greet bicyclists and hikers outside the **Steamplant** Center, let's **Steam into History** by linking the late Bill Simpson's passenger rail vision into downtown York.

I recently spoke at the B&O Railroad Museum to honor the acquisition of a replica of "The York" – the pioneering, award-winning 1831 locomotive invented and built by Yorker Phinneas Davis.

As we steam into history and salvage history, let's honor the intrepid Phinneas with shiny, year-round outdoor replicas of "the York," our nation's first locomotive, and "The Codorus," America's first iron steamboat.

Let's show new generations of designers, tech-heads, and dreamers, that, for 275 years, we've unleashed creativity!

A couple blocks from the Steamplant sits a stately brick home of pioneering entrepreneur **William C. Goodridge**, who shuttled slaves on the Underground Railroad. To the best of our

knowledge, this is the only authenticated Underground Railroad structure in Pennsylvania still standing that was owned by an African-American.

Carol Kauffman and **Crispus Attucks**, partnering with attorney and York-O-Phile **Frank Countess**, have spearheaded efforts to open the **Goodridge Freedom House**. To all those involved in this noble and overdue effort, thank you! Let's get 'er done!

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In ancient Athens, Greece, the birthplace of democracy, visionaries developed the Athenian Pledge, which recognized that good citizenship and responsibility are at the root of effective governance.

Ladies and gentlemen, you all have a first-of-its kind York Pledge Card, inspired by the Athenian Pledge. In honor of **York Rotary Club**, **Martin Library**, and **Penn Park's** 100 years, the pledge is exactly 100 words.

Please join me in the reading of its ten points.
Are we ready?

- On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty, to the United States of America, Pennsylvania, and our York.
- I ask not what York can do for me. I ask what I can do for York.
- I strive to treat others as I wish to be treated.
- I work toward civility, peace, responsibility, truth, goodwill, civic virtue, justice, and equality.
- I summon goodness from within myself and greatness from partnerships.
- Education is our future.
- When we work together, diversity is a strength.
- **YORK Yields Opportunity with Revolutionary Know-how.**
- York unleashes creativity.
- York's best is yet to come.

Thank you!

Our York, 275 years, and counting...counting on all of us.

We have birthdays to celebrate!

Happy 250th birthday to **Friends Meeting House on West Philadelphia Street** – one of our most beautiful, sacred places that continues to inspire, heal, and awe.

Happy 250th birthday to **York Water Company**. As we've learned from Flint, Michigan, nothing happens without quality water, sustenance of the mother earth.

Happy 150th birthday to **Penn Street Farmers Market**, the oldest market in York County!

Happy 100th birthday **York Rotary Club, and Penn Park**.

Happy 40th birthday to the **Colonial Courthouse!**

And, happy birthday to Lady York on the Codorus, 275 years young!

Misty years ago, the General Marquis de Lafayette offered a famous toast of loyalty to the then embattled General George Washington in the Gates House here in our York.

If you are able to do so, will you join me in raising your commemorative champagne glass? Are you ready?

A toast

To Lady York on the Codorus,
Our hostess, the most
Disarming instigator of hope,
Little city and big town all the same,
Quick-to-know our names,
Charmer of many shades,
Pulsing northern and southern veins.

You're retro chic unique,
Quick on your feet,

Replete with firsts and feats,
Unleashing creativity on storied streets.

O Grand dame of what stirs us!,
O seductress of fresh starts,
Our Revolutionary sparks,
Freedom's lantern through the dark,
Ignite our yearning hearts
To torchlight sparkling tomorrows.

Cheers!

Toast number two!

Our native son, **Governor Tom Wolf**, battles prostate cancer. Here's one for the fighters, survivors, and veterans of all stripes. To all who suffer, but who answer the call of life and service, here's to you!

And a final toast. Here's one for all the quiet, stoic ones who are the heart of our York. They avoid the limelight or who never get the proper recognition.

They include a city workforce of 315 dedicated employees.

They include over 100 volunteer members of city boards, authorities and commissions, neighborhood associations.

They include pioneering citizens like **Louis J. Appell, Jr., Ray Crenshaw and Voni Grimes**, whose graceful fingerprints of compassion and generosity shine all over our York.

They include teachers, mentors, counsellors, and caregivers and citizens like you who consistently give, care, and share when no one is looking. That is the definition of character!

Friends, this LOVE, this LOVE – straight from my heart – this LOVE IS FOR YOU!!!!

Cheers!!!!

Friends, now I know that these glasses seem to be empty.

But that's only because our cups runneth over with goodness and mercy.

And for 275 years and for forever and tomorrow, our cups runneth over with goodwill and inspiration!

May God bless you, the United States of America, Pennsylvania, and our York!

Thank you!

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It gives me great pleasure to present the Mayor's White Rose Hall of Fame Awards. As a York native, and a proud graduate of William Penn Senior High School...or Bill Penn, or York High, or 'da High...I know of many gifted graduates who also call York High their alma mater. Over the years we have taken

time out of our State of the City address to recognize a few of these fellow accomplished bearcats.

Dr. Deborah M. McMillian

Detective First Class Jeffrey Spence

Mr. Jeff Stabley