

## Debates set in 19th District race

▶ **STARTS TUESDAY:** The candidates square off this week in Gettysburg and next week in York.

By **CARL LINDQUIST**  
*The York Dispatch*

The three candidates for Pennsylvania's 19th U.S. House District will debate at least twice more in the weeks leading up to the November general election. The only scheduled York County debate featuring Democrat Ryan Sanders, Independent Josh Monighan and incumbent U.S. Rep. Todd Platts will take place on Monday, Oct. 11, when the three candidates meet at Dallastown Area Intermediate School. The other debate is slated for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Gettysburg

College's College Union Building. The debate in York County will feature more than just congressional candidates.

It will also include candidates for the 93rd and 94th state House District, who will debate separately, said Demi Fair, lead organizer of the event and director of the Paul Smith Library of Southern York County.

The event is co-sponsored by the York County Library System and the YMCA of York and York County.

"I find it important for the public to have an idea of the issues rather than just a name on a sign," Fair said. "It gives



### About the districts

The 93rd state House District consists of Codorus, Manheim, Shrewsbury, Springfield, West Manheim townships, along with part of York Township. It also includes the boroughs of Dallastown, Glen Rock, Jacobus, Jefferson, Loganville, New Freedom, Railroad, Seven Valleys, Shrewsbury and Yoe.

The 94th state House District is composed of Chanceford, East Hopewell, Fawn, Hopewell, Lower

Chanceford, Lower Windsor, North Hopewell, Peach Bottom and Windsor townships, part of York Township and the boroughs of Cross Roads, Delta, East Prospect, Fawn Grove, Felton, Red Lion, Stewartstown, Windsor, Winterstown and Yorkana.

Pennsylvania's 19th U.S. House District consists York County, Adams County and part of Cumberland County

them (voters) a chance to get know who they're voting for."

**The schedule:** Fair said candidates for the 93rd and 94th House seats will debate between

6:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.

The 93rd House race features incumbent Rep. Ron Miller, R-Jacobus, versus Democrat Linda Small, a U.S. Navy veteran and

▶ Local candidates address the issues Tuesdays and Thursdays on our Opinion page and at [yorkdispatch.com](http://yorkdispatch.com)

office manager for the county Democratic Party. Miller has held the seat since 1999.

In the 94th, nine-term incumbent Rep. Stan Saylor, R-Windsor Township, is trying to fend off a challenge from Democrat Metta Barbour, an attorney from Red Lion.

Platts, Monighan and Sanders will serve as the main event of the night. They will face each other in the auditorium after the other debates conclude. They first debated at Dickinson College last month.

—*Reach Carl Lindquist at 505-5432 or [clindquist@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:clindquist@yorkdispatch.com).*

## York City games secure

▶ **BEARCATS:** New safety measures at football games successful.

By **ANDREW SHAW**  
*The York Dispatch*

The York City school board's decision to bring in city police to help monitor York High football games is paying dividends, officials said.

The Bearcats' most recent home game versus Northeastern on Sept. 24 went well both on the field — the team won by 20 points — and off the field with no incidents, according to Mike Muldrow, director of security, safety and emergency preparedness.

That's a stark contrast to earlier in the season, when Muldrow had fans, staff and even himself questioning safety at the games because of some fights and threats of violence.

**The cost:** Five city police officers will work the rest of the season, costing about \$930 a game.

The cost is being paid for by the district for now, although school board president Samuel Beard

See **SECURITY/C3**

## Utility raises its rates

▶ **HEATING:** Columbia Gas raised natural gas charges this month, blames commodities market.

By **CHRISTINA KAUFFMAN**  
*The York Dispatch*

Rates are increasing by about \$10 for Columbia Gas customers effective Oct. 1, as the utility adjusts to reflect the higher cost of natural gas.

The average residential customer purchasing 72 Ccf (7,200 cubic feet) of natural gas monthly from Columbia will have a total monthly bill of \$95.55, up from \$85.08 during the same period in 2009.

Most of the increase is due to the rising cost of natural gas in the commodities market. The utility cannot make a profit from the sale of natural gas, so

See **GAS/C3**

## CELEBRATING MOTHER EARTH



JOHN A. PAVONCELLO — *The York Dispatch*

Orissa Landau of Frederick, Md., checks out a dragonfly made by artist Catherine Vallo of the Enchanted Loft during the Mother Earth Harvest Fair at Sproutwood Farms on Sunday.

## Pastor celebrates 30 years

▶ **BETHLEHEM:** Pastor sets example through community involvement.

By **EYANA ADAH MCMILLAN**  
*The York Dispatch*

The Rev. Aaron Willford didn't think he would stay in York 30 years.

"But I have developed a love for York and the people of York," said Willford, 58, of York City. "With all of its challenges, York has been and still remains a good place to raise your family and a good place to live."

Sunday marked the 30th year that Willford has been pastor of city-based Bethlehem Baptist Church, which held a celebration banquet for him last month.

Willford is married to Jean Willford and has four children and eight grandchildren.

Willford said he was 27 years old when he came to York in 1980 from Steelton, Dauphin County, to pastor Bethlehem.

"We've grown together, spiritually and numerically," he said. "I've matured over the years. I'm grateful for them putting up with me for 30

years." Jeriesha Gilbert, the church's administrative assistant, said she has grown tremendously through Willford's preaching and teaching.

"He has inspired members to get involved in various ministries of the church," said Gilbert, an 18-year Bethlehem member. "He's an example for us to also be involved in the community at large."

**Service:** In 1982, Willford helped found the Black Ministers Association, consisting of more than a dozen congregations that come together for worship services and community activities.

Willford said that he has served on several mayoral transition committees. The pastor is a former York High wrestling coach. He now is a member of the York City school board.

**Renovation:** Willford was not able to observe his 30th pastoral anniversary in Beth-

lehem's church building, which is being repaired and renovated as a result of weather-related structural damage.

He said the building is expected to be ready for occupancy by late October. For now, the church meets in the auditorium of York Learning Center, 300 E. Sixth Ave. in North York. While he has been able to lead the church through various struggles, Willford said, there is one challenge he yet struggles with — the death of church members.

"I've watched a number of strong pillars of the church (die), and that is tough," he said. "People don't understand the emptiness that pastors feel when members die. We know that they're present with the Lord, but we still miss them."

Willford said there is a valuable love lesson he learned as he grew older.

"We don't always have to agree with people, but we have to love them," he said. "If we don't, then we're not who we say we are in God."

—*Reach Eyana Adah McMillan at 505-5438 or [emcmillan@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:emcmillan@yorkdispatch.com).*



Willford

## Council looks for input on city hall proposal

▶ **YORK:** Committee meeting begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

By **JOHN WALK**  
*The York Dispatch*

The York City Council is accepting public comment on a \$2.7 million proposal to purchase the Sovereign Bank property at 101 S. George St.

Council's Business Administration Committee is expected to air the plans before a vote that decides whether to forward the proposal to the entire council for further discussion or hold it in committee for more review, said Carol Hill-Evans, a member of the committee. Council isn't expected to vote

on the purchase on Tuesday, but is hoping for more information and public comment, said council president Genevieve Ray.

"I think council and the public need a chance to understand what's being proposed and what the financial impact would be on the city," she said.

**The building:** Built as a bank in the 1970s, the building on the corner of King and George is being used by Sovereign Bank, she said.

The proposal calls for the city to buy the building and lease a portion of the space back to the bank, which has a surplus of room, she said.

Under the proposal, the current city hall at 50 W. King St. would be used by the police

department and "renovated to the tune of up to \$5 million," Ray said.

The council will hold a committee meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday to discuss the potential purchase. The full council could discuss it at its 7 p.m. meeting. Both meetings are open to the public and will be held on the third floor of One Market Way West.

**Purchase:** The purchase is being considered because it would bring the city administration under one roof.

Currently, the city administration splits offices at City Hall and at One Market Way West.

City Hall, at 50 W. King St., houses offices for the mayor, treasurer and the business administrator, as well as staff to handle sewer and parking payments.

The remaining city administration employees have offices on the third floor of One Market Way West.

**Cost:** The city rents its current offices at One Market Way West for about \$109,000 annually. It would cost the city about \$116,000 each year on a 30-year loan to pay for the property at 101 S. George St., city business administrator Michael O'Rourke has said.

The purchase would likely mean "about a \$7,000 difference between what the city is paying now and what the city might have to pay in the future," O'Rourke has said.

**Also at the meeting:** The city council will also consider the fol-

See **CITY HALL/C3**

## Chief against closing

▶ **VIGILANT:** Buffington says closing fire station would do more harm than good.

By **JOHN WALK**  
*The York Dispatch*

York City Fire Chief Steven Buffington says he opposes a recommendation in a recent study suggesting the York City Department of Fire/Rescue Services close one of its four fire stations.

Buffington and Deputy Chief Dave Michaels have been reviewing the 300-plus page study since it was released to the city Sept. 21.

The purpose of the report, conducted by Maryland-based Public Safety Solutions Inc., was to examine the overall fire and emergency services operations in the city, suggest improvements and measures to save money.

**Fire station:** The study recommends the department adopt a three-station format by closing a fire station, probably Vigilant Union Fire Department, Station No. 2 at 267 W. Market St.

But the study seems to be contradicting itself, Buffington said, because "it also says we should continue to improve our response times."

"But if we're reducing fire stations and fire engines, it's obviously going to take longer to get there."

Buffington said he is not in favor of closing a fire station, especially station No. 2 because the department uses the station for vehicle maintenance.

"By closing that fire station, our maintenance costs would likely double because we would have to send the vehicles outside of the department to be repaired," he said.

**Concerns:** The recommendation to close a fire station is just one of a few items Buffington is concerned about in the study.

The department currently has 55 firefighters in fire suppression. The study said the department needs 58.5 firefighters to operate adequately.

But Buffington said by his calculations the department should actually be operating with about 61 firefighters in fire suppression.

Additionally, Buffington is concerned about another recommendation saying the department should merge with York Area United Fire and Rescue by 2012.

"The study only takes into account one surrounding department and not any

See **CLOSING/C3**