



THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

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Distinguished Citizen biography for:

Daniel Mark Roe

b. 1951

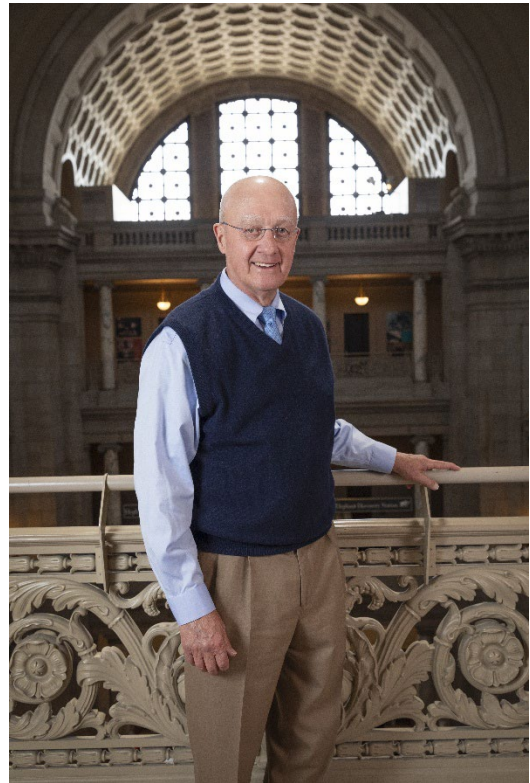
Honored as a Distinguished Citizen in 2026

Dan Roe was born in New Jersey and spent his early childhood in West Virginia, but, as he says it, his “heart lies in Colorado,” his home during his formative years. Yet he still has a lot of heart left for Brunswick, where he settled in 2013 after a career spent crisscrossing the country. In his retirement, he stepped up to fill arguably the community’s toughest volunteer role—the chairmanship of the Planning Commission—among other valuable contributions to Brunswick’s civic life. In taking on those responsibilities with grace and good humor, Dan serves as a role model for other citizen-volunteers.

In Golden, Colorado, where Dan attended high school, he walked eight miles uphill in the snow—literally. Golden lies west of Denver, and Dan’s home was in the foothills of the Front Range, while the school was down in the plain. One day a snowstorm came in, and Dan missed the announcement that the buses were leaving early to take home the kids who lived in the hills. Once he realized his mistake, it was too late: he had to hike home through a foot of snow. And if Colorado built his character in the old-school way, it also gave Dan an appreciation for nature that would later lead him to the Blue Ridge and Brunswick in his retirement. He remembers going on hikes in the mountains together with his dad, who, in Dan’s words, “gave me a love for it.”

But before life would bring him here, Dan had a full career and some personal trials ahead of him. He spent 30 years working in marketing, sales, and business development for General Electric and a few different software companies. In 2000, his first wife tragically passed away from cancer. He remarried in 2002 to his wife Rosanne, whom he met while both were participating in a support group for people who had lost their spouses to cancer.

In 2012, in his own words, Dan “decided that I’d had enough with sales quotas” and determined to retire. By then, he had been living in Maryland for twenty-five years. By his own admission, he “scarcely knew of Brunswick,” but was looking for a home near the mountains and saw that there





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was a new development being built called Brunswick Crossing. He and Rosanne moved there, and before long he happened to meet then-Mayor Karin Tome, who encouraged him to get involved in some green initiatives that were then taking place in town.

The early initiatives that Dan volunteered on did not amount to much, in his telling, but that soon changed. In 2014, he noticed that Kim Weddle Park next to the library appeared abandoned and unmaintained. Dan soon organized a group of Brunswick Crossing residents to “adopt” the park and garden, landscape, and maintain it until, by 2017, it became the park we know and enjoy today.

Restoring Kim Weddle Park was not Dan’s only call to service, however. Mayor Tome appointed him to the Planning Commission in 2015, and when the then-chairman of the commission passed away in 2022, Mayor Brown asked Dan if he could step up to lead it. Dan accepted, and in so doing took on perhaps the most thankless volunteer job in town. But he finds the work fulfilling. Dan says that Planning Commission decisions unfold over the long term and are very consequential, so he believes he is doing a good service to the community. The role sometimes requires him to give people answers they don’t want to hear, but he strives to treat everyone with courtesy. It may take patience, but, he says, “I don’t want to be disrespectful to my fellow citizens.”

A more consistently enjoyable community pastime for Dan was Brunswick’s chapter of Great Decisions, a discussion group about foreign policy, which he started participating in in 2015 and chaired from 2020 to 2024. He found the group to be an opportunity to get more insight into world affairs than he could be just watching the news. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic forced the group’s meeting online for two years during his chairmanship.

Dan’s real passion during his retirement, though, is volunteering at the Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, which he and Rosanne do together. He studied geology and meteorology at Montgomery College in 2012-2014, which gave him some background on the museum’s subject matter. “Going down there [to DC] and basically educating people on evolution, geology, how the oceans work... it’s the most gratifying thing,” he says. His favorite thing is when “people’s eyes light up and they start asking questions.” Dan can also claim some credit for prodding the museum into rebuilding its volunteer program after the pandemic, when it had withered.

In his remaining free time, Dan likes to go for walks around Brunswick Crossing and on the C&O Canal towpath, and he hikes on the Appalachian Trail nearby. He has four daughters, nine grandkids, and one great-grandkid who live all around the country, from Lovettsville to Durham, Houston, and Denver.

Dan, for his part, is content with the town he chose to retire to. “I wasn’t sure about Brunswick when I came,” he said. “It’s grown on me. It’s such an attractive place to live. I’ve come to love Brunswick. When people ask me where I’m from, I say it proudly.”

The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Dan Roe as a Distinguished Citizen of Brunswick, Maryland.