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SEVERNA PARK, MD

**JULY 1, 2019** 

# Visioning Anne Arundel Completes Small Area Meetings

By Maya Pottiger

nortly after taking office, County Executive Steuart Pittman implemented Visioning Anne Arundel, a series of small area meetings to get public input for the upcoming General Development Plan.

There were 17 small area meetings from April through June. The meetings allowed community members to prioritize remaining recommendations from the Small Area Plan and 2009 GDP looking toward 2040.

In Severna Park, the overwhelming priorities of citizens were density of growth, traffic and maintaining open space.

Doug Nichols, a 64-year resident of Severna Park who attended the Severna Park small area meeting, said a top priority for him is maintaining low-density housing. In Nichols' words, this "allowed Severna Park to be a pleasant home to its residents, while keeping commercial development to supporting [areas] and providing required services and products to its residents."

"Preserving Severna Park as a number of commuter communities has allowed for privacy and those with common interests to share with each other the benefits of a small town," Nichols said.

However, Pittman said a goal moving forward is to provide housing for employees of new jobs coming to the county, as well as affordable housing for young people starting their careers and seniors who want to age in place. He highlighted allowing a higher density around transportation networks trains stations, the airport to allow them to be mixeduse areas.

"By having these mixed use, smart growth and transitoriented developments, we maintain open space, we get cars off the road and we continue to have a tax base that helps to pay for the needs that we have in our community," Pittman said.

Pittman plans to submit the GDP in the spring of 2020. The Citizens Advisory Committee is currently reviewing information gathered from » Continued on A9

# Annual Severna Park Fourth Of July Parade **Celebrates The Importance Of Community**



By Zach Sparks zach@pasadenavoice.com

enerosity can make all the difference between a good day and a bad day, a good neighborhood or a bad neighborhood. One need look no further than Severna Park, where in June, an anonymous volunteer built and installed a bus-stop bench for Moose, a local man experiencing homelessness. Also during June, Girl Scout



traumatic brain injuries. Deeds like these are the reason the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) chose the following 2019 Fourth of July Parade theme: "Let

Foundation and people with



Community's Generosity." As GSPACC CEO Liz League explained, the chamber wanted to remind people how philanthropic neighbors and businesses are in the Greater Severna Park community.

"There are fundraisers for charities on a daily basis," League said. "It's the small businesses who donate big checks, their products and services for every school

Dianna Lancione Honored As Grand Marshal Alongside Her Husband, Lonnie  $\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond$ 

fundraiser under the sun, and support causes in our neighborhoods. We are so fortunate to live in a community and country that has

a heart for those struggling and in need."

This year's parade will commence at 10:00am on July 4 at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal and Our Shepherd Lutheran Churches. More than 80 parade entries community floats, antique cars, fire trucks and more will traverse the route along Benfield Road, Evergreen » Continued on A7



# Dogwood Residents Remain In Uncertainty A bout The Future Of Their Homes

By Dylan Roche

dylan@severnaparkvoice.com

oger Kauffman has had to move his mobile home three times in Lhis life, but he was hoping that his relocation to Dogwood Senior Mobile Home Park in Arnold would be his last. "To move that sucker is \$20,000," he said. "The last move really hurt me."

Moreover, he's happy living at Dogwood. "The peace and quiet is just unreal," he said. "I had planned on dying here. This is the best park I ever lived in." Living out the rest of his life in his cur-

rent location, however, is now an uncertainty for Kauffman, just as it is for his neighbors. Over the course of the past year, the

residents of Dogwood have been waiting on official word that they need to move. When that time comes, many of them don't know where they're going to go.

The property, tucked away in the woods at 1277-1279 Ritchie Highway, has been under contract to be bought by Elm Street Development since March 2018 with plans to build 40 single-family detached



Residents of Dogwood Senior Mobile Home Park enjoy their quiet community tucked in the woods just off Ritchie Highway. Although the property is under contract and they expect they will have to move soon, many of them do not have plans where they will go.

For the 25 seniors leasing lots at the park, this brings much uncertainty. "My biggest concern right now," said resident

Kathy Ortega, who emphasized that she respects the current property owner's right to sell the property, "is it puts us in a conun- >> Continued on A5

# **It's Summer!** Students Say Goodbye To The Classroom And Hello To Vacation

When schools dismissed on Friday, June 14, students said goodbye to their teachers and headed home for two and a half months of outdoor play, camp activities, beach days and other opportunities for growth that can only happen outside the classroom.



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# FY2020 Budget Sets "A New Normal

**County Council Approves Plan Raising Taxes** While Adding **Teachers And Public Safety Personnel** 

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By Zach Sparks zach@pasadenavoice.com

ince Anne Arundel County started keeping logs in 1998, only once have two councilmembers voted against

On Friday, June 14, three members voted against it.

The Fiscal Year 2020 budget passed 4-3 along party lines with Democrats approving a \$1.7 billion spending plan almost identical to the one Pittman proposed on May 1.

The budget pushed the property tax rate from 90.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 93.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. County residents will now pay 2.81% in income taxes instead of 2.5%. Water and sewer rates, along with stormwater remediation fees, will also cost taxpayers more in 2020.

The council's Democratic majority argued that the tax increases were necessary.

"My colleagues have mentioned this budget is transforming the county, and yes, it's transforming the county, a county that has spent two » Continued on A8

Margueritte Mills Volunteer Of The Month

### Gile Family Continues Patriotic Olde Severna Park Tradition



Dawn and DJ Gile receive their Volunteer of the Month award from Brian Lancione, vice president of operations at the Voice.

### By Maya Pottiger

On July 5, the day after winning Best Overall for their Fourth of July Parade float, Dawn and DJ Gile started planning for the following year.

This is the third year that the Gile family is organizing the parade float for Olde Severna Park. They got involved after someone else was unable to do it.

"Coming to Severna Park, we heard there was [a parade] and it's a big deal, and had heard about some of the past floats, and we [thought] it would be cool to do something big, like a boat," DJ said.

Since taking over, the Gile family has earned Olde Severna Park the Best Overall in 2017 and Best Community in 2018, and their float for this year is top secret.

Dawn and DJ share responsibilities for the float. DJ does the physical construction, while Dawn or-

ders materials, paints and decorates. DJ has a long history of working with his hands, dating back to his first job in a hardware store. Afterward, DJ was a repairs and utility sergeant in Korea on his first assignment with the Army, and now, as a homeowner, he does do-it-yourself projects

around the house. "When the opportunity came to build a float for the community, I was happy to be able to give back and demonstrate our appreciation for our great neighborhood, as well as contribute to the uniqueness of the Severna Park Fourth of July Parade," DJ said.

The community meets at the beach on July 3 to decorate the float. Over the last few years, the Gile family has tweaked their parade day schedule to make sure everything runs smoothly. But the best part of the parade is when the float

reaches Olde Severna Park. "It's like coming to your home court or your home turf. Everyone's cheering and we see all these familiar faces from our neighborhood," Dawn said. "It's a really nice sense of community. Everyone goes nuts because they can cheer for the Olde Severna Park float."

Outside of building the float, the Gile family is active in the Olde Severna Park community: DJ is the vice president of maintenance; they organize the spring and fall campouts where community members sleep in tents on the beach; and Dawn coordinates monthly ladies nights.

'We love our community," Dawn said. "The reason it's great is because there's so many great volunteers who help make an amazing childhood for our kids. It's such a nice lifestyle."

Away from the community, Dawn is involved with a local PTA, serves as the president-elect of the Military Spouse JD Network and is the leader of DJ's military unit's family support network.

"One thing I try to impart on the kids is to be a good citizen, it's more than just living your life," DJ said. "Being in the military, I know it's contributing to the greater good, but I also say let's contribute on the smaller scale, too, and make our neighborhood better."

# **Editor's Voice**

Dylan Roche Editor



Happy summertime, Severna Park!

The kids are out of school, the sun is shining and the temperatures are staggering. Even if many of us are slipping into vacation mode for the next couple of months, our team at the *Voice* knows there's still plenty that's happening around town.

One of the highlights of summer in Severna Park is the annual Fourth of July parade, and we were thrilled to hear that our owners, Dianna and Lonnie Lancione, would be the grand marshals this year. What a well-deserved honor for them! It will also

be an interesting change of pace for them to be *in* the parade this year instead of on the sidelines taking photos or serving as judges. Be sure to catch the details on A1 and keep an eye out for our special Fourth of July Edition arriving in mailboxes on July 9.

Remember that we have a little bit of extra time until our next regular edition is released on August 15, so if you need to stay current on the latest news around town, be sure to visit us online at www.sever*naparkvoice.com* or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

And if you have a great news tip to share about something happening around town this summer, shoot me an email at dylan@severnaparkvoice.com.

# **Our Minds Matter To Hold Wellness** Festival On August 3

The student-organized advocacy group Our Minds Matter, which was launched in spring 2019 to promote mental health and destigmatize mental illness, will hold its firstever wellness festival on Saturday, August 3, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Church, located at 375 Benfield Road in Severna Park. The event will offer

informational booths, as well as raffles, puppies, food trucks, live music, games, a silent auction, prizes and much more. Funds raised by the event will benefit Our Minds Matter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and National Alliance on Mental Illness. For more information. email ourmindsmatterstudents@gmail.com.

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SEVERNA PARK VOICE

JULY 1, 2019

A3



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# Katherine Mueller Decides To Fight Back Against NET Cancer

Severna Park Native Shares Her Story Ahead Of Fundraising Event Set For August 24

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In the six months since she was diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumor, Katherine Mueller has made a resolution to live life more fully and to help others who share her diagnosis. Now the resilient Severna Park native is sharing her story with Voice readers while she gears up for Fight NET Cancer With Katherine, a fundraising event set for August 24 at Severna Park Taphouse to benefit the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation. (See details for the event at the end of the article.)

Here's what Katherine had to share with us.

Severna Park Voice: I understand this is a very rare condition. What have you learned about it throughout your experience?

**Katherine:** The most interesting thing that I have learned is that while historically considered rare, the incidence of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) has increased exponentially over the last 20 years or so. I suspect the reasons for this include more awareness, better detection techniques and probably more accurate reporting systems.

The tricky thing about NETs is they can appear in various parts of the body and the symptoms often imitate other conditions. Subsequently, 58% of NET patients have metastases (meaning the cancer has spread to other parts of the

Katherine's Story...

body) by the time they are properly diagnosed.

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute estimates that there are more than 200,000 undiagnosed cases in the United States.

### SPV: What is a neuroendocrine tumor (NET)?

**K:** A neuroendocrine tumor (NET) is a form of cancer that begins in the specialized cells of the body's neuroendocrine system. These cells release hormones into the blood in response to signals from the nervous system. Neuroendocrine cells are scattered throughout the body, performing different roles based on location. For example, neuroendocrine cells in the digestive system regulate intestinal movements and the release of digestive enzymes.

When NETs develop in these cells, they not only can then spread to other locations but also can secrete excess amounts of hormones and substances that can cause an adverse effect on the body's natural rhythm. Signs and symptoms depend on the tumor's type, size and location; whether it produces hormones; and whether it has spread to other parts of the body (metastasized).

While there currently is no cure, neuroendocrine tumors are typically slow-growing and therefore can be managed for many years with the right treatment and surveillance.

# SPV: What inspired or motivated you to start raising funds and awareness?

**K:** Since my diagnosis six months ago, it's really all been about me. Facing an uncertain future with regular scans, tests and treatments has made me the center of atten-

tion, whether I like it or not. The way my family, friends and community as a whole have come together to support me is truly amazing. I want to take this momentum and make it about something bigger than *me*. I am doing this for the 200,000-plus people that have yet to be diagnosed. My hope is that greater awareness will lead to earlier diagnosis, better treatments and eventually a cure.

SPV: Tell me
a little bit about what
people can expect from
this upcoming fundraiser
in August?

**K:** This fundraiser is going to be a whole lot of fun and I couldn't imagine a better venue to hold it at than the



Severna Park Taphouse. It will be a day filled with live music from a variety of talented artists, great food and beer, silent and live auction items, raffles and more. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation (NETRF). NETRF is a 501(c)(3) organization and the leading private funder of research into causes and treatments of NETs. Thanks to the NETRF Spark Hope Campaign, all of the funds that we raise will be matched dollar for dollar and put toward the search for a cure.

# SPV: Is there anything else you want our readers to know?

**K:** I want people to know that I don't see myself as a sick person. Yes, the treatments are rough and I have some bad days, but "sick" is only ever a temporary label. When I feel stronger, I work a normal 40-hour week, I go out and do fun things with my family and friends, and I lead a relatively normal life. I think the one thing that has changed is my appreciation for that normal life. I make more time for the people I love, I don't waste my energy worrying about small, petty

things, and I try to be a better person every day. My message to everyone out there reading this is you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. Try not to take the beautiful, simple things in life for granted. Put down your phones and be present. Live.

To support Katherine in her mission, community members can sponsor or buy tickets to Fight NET Cancer With Katherine, happening August 24 from 11:00am to 8:00pm at Severna Park Taphouse. All money raised through the event will be matched dollar for dollar through the NETRF Spark Hope Campaign. Attendees will enjoy live music by Nashville country artist Chad Bearden, as well as the Moondogs, Case & Barley, George Evans and Johnny Wilson. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit https:// fight-cancer-with-katherine. eventbrite.com or find the event "Fight NET Cancer With Katherine" on Facebook.



Come one, come all to Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company's annual carnival. For more than 70 years, the carnival has been a community staple.

This year's carnival runs from July 3 through July 13, and it will be open on July 4. This year, there will be a variety of rides. Avalanche, Gondola Wheel, Rock N Cars, Zipper and Scrambler are some of the larger rides. Kiddie rides include Candyland Swings, Dragon Wagon, Merry Go Round, Tea Cups and Super Slide. Game

concessions include Break the Bottle, Duck Pond, Hoop Shoot and Water Race.

All-you-can-ride wristbands are \$27 Monday through Thursday and \$30 Friday through Sunday. Coupons are available at local businesses to save \$2 on wristbands or \$5 on a sheet of 50 ride tickets.

The carnival is open 6:00pm-11:00pm every night. For the Fourth of July, it will have special hours of 3:00pm-11:00pm. Read the full story online at www. severnaparkvoice.com.

# FIGHT NET With Katherine

August 24, 2019 — 11am - 8pm

TAPHOUSE

58 W. Earleigh Heights Rd. Severna Park, MD | 410-793-5759

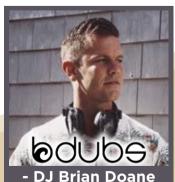
In November 2018, Katherine Mueller, daughter of Robin & Larry Sells was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Neuroendocrine Tumors (NETs) and she decided to do something about it. Join us as we Fight Net Cancer with Katherine to raise funds for awareness, education and clinical trials in the search for a cure. All event proceeds will be donated to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation.



# <u>Entertainment</u>

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  - George Evans
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To purchase tickets or for more information visit https://fight-cancer-with-katherine.eventbrite.com

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  - ... and much more.

SEVERNA PARK VOICE

JULY 1, 2019

# Dogwood Residents Remain In Uncertainty

### » Continued from A1

drum because I'm 60, and we're all in later stages of life. We don't want to buy something and have house payments for who knows how long."

Although the seller was unavailable for comment, Elm Street Development indicated that it plans to help the residents with the transition. "Should we move forward with the project, we will be providing the tenants monetary relocation assistance to help them relocate their mobile homes to new locations," said Vice President Michael Burlbaugh. Compensation to residents is required by law only if a park has more than 40 units; in this case, Elm Street Development does not have to provide any relocation assistance. "This monetary assistance is a voluntary offer by the development team and is not required by state or county code," Burlbaugh indicated.

Additionally, Arnold Preservation Council has tried to facilitate a beneficial outcome for all involved parties. "APC has worked very hard with exploring all opportunities," said President Elizabeth Rosborg. "We've talked with the county, Habitat for Humanity, the residents, the developers. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer."

Rosborg explained that Dogwood has been leased as a mobile home park for about 50 years, and that other options in Anne Arundel County are limited. As each of the Dogwood residents goes about trying to find options, they run into trouble. Resident Fred Greim received a list of potential parks from the county, but his 14-by-70-foot home keeps getting rejected. "They tell me it's too big for

Taco Bell

The Breakfast Shoppe

their spot," he said. "They want the smaller ones."

Dogwood is also unusual among mobile home parks because the lots are spacious, allowing the tenants to maintain yards and gardens between them. Resident Chuck Manto describes it as one of the rare situations in which affordable housing is done at a low density, thus preserving the quality of the land.

"What's interesting in this situation is this becomes a model for low-density affordable housing as opposed to high-density affordable housing," he said. "The reason that's important is there are places where it might not be environmentally prudent to have high-density housing. We are one of those cases where — because of the location at headwaters of one or two creeks — having raw land with tall trees is a good thing because the ground manages itself much better for stormwater."

State law requires that if land use of a mobile home park changes, the landowner must provide a relocation plan for residents who will be displaced as a result of that change, according to Kathy Koch, executive director of Arundel Community

Development Services, which works to ensure that the relocation plan is being met.

"We provide one-on-one counseling to the residents and figure out what they can and can't afford and what their options might be," she said. "The developer has not submitted the plan, so we have not officially started our work, but we have been out there talking to people about what's coming up and what options they may have."

Elm Street Development does not have plans to begin development any time soon. The property is still under contract, not purchased, and Burlbaugh estimates it will be at least two years before construction begins. 'The county subdivision process includes a substantial amount of community input," he said. "Anyone is free to attend the public meetings that are part of the subdivision process, as well as contacting Planning and Zoning directly with any questions, concerns or suggestions."

Information for upcoming meetings as they are announced will be available through the county at www. aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning.

# Golf Tournament Raises More Than \$20,000 For Chesapeake Arts Center

Tournament host
Arundel Federal Savings
Bank (AFSB) recently
presented a check for
\$21,650 to The Chesapeake
Arts Center from proceeds
of its seventh annual
Chip in for the Arts Golf
Tournament held on April
17 at Compass Pointe Golf
Courses in Pasadena.

More than 90 players and 50 sponsors from the Anne Arundel County community and beyond participated in a day of fun and sun with old and new friends to help extend the educational outreach programs the center provides.

"We are so thankful to the sponsors, golfers and employees who helped to make it such a great success," stated Tom Herpel, AFSB executive vice president and chief operating officer. "The center is such a vital part of our community and the proceeds raised will help extend its programs to local school children and families. Arundel Federal is proud to be a part of it."



(L-R) Tom Herpel, ASFB executive vice president and chief operating officer; Belinda Fraley Huesman, CAC executive director and CEO; Brenda Fraley Garver, CAC board of directors president; and Dave Costello, AFSB president and CEO, all made Chip in for the Arts a success.

# Jing Ying Donates \$3,500 To Orphan Grain Train



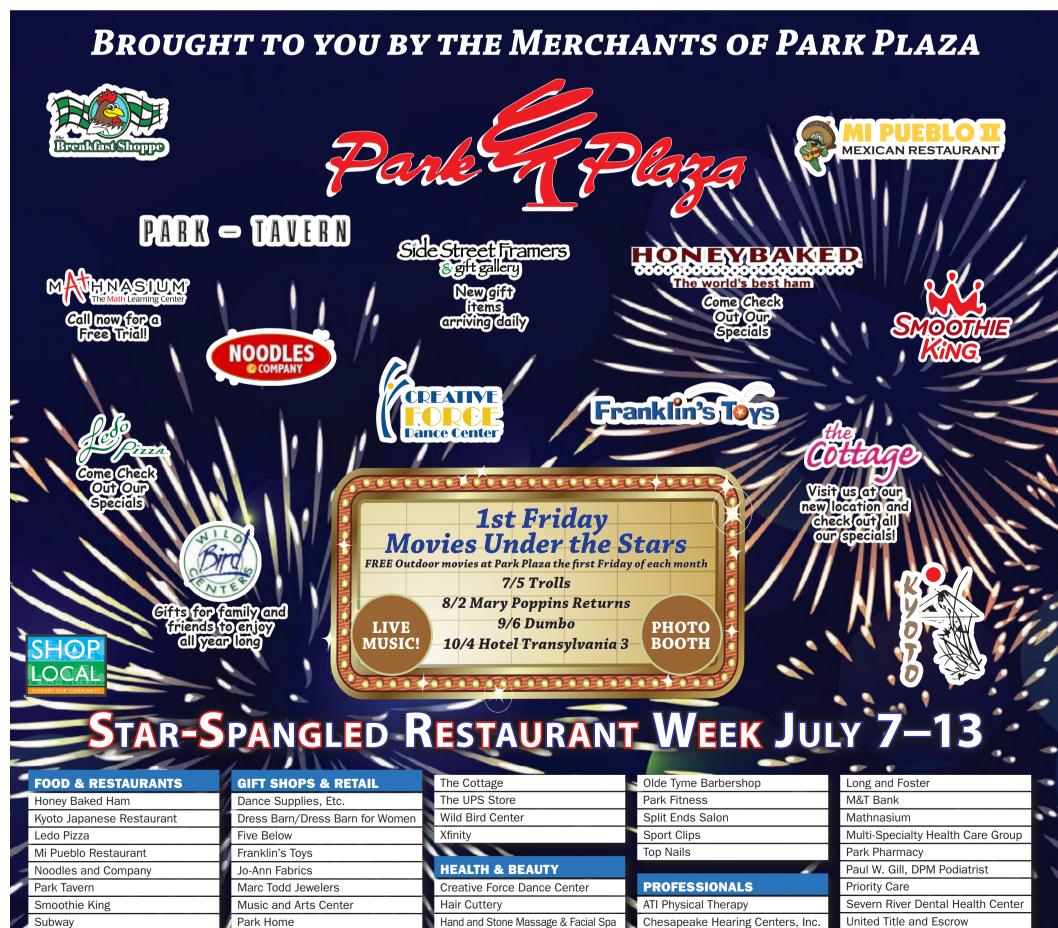
Side Street Framers & gift gallery

T- Mobile

Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi owners Billy Greer (far left) and Nancy Greer (far right) presented a check to Orphan Grain Train branch manager Elfie Eberle (middle left) and communications coordinator Linda Zahn.

Orphan Grain Train helps people locally and throughout the world. With a Charity Navigator rating of four, the highest possible, Orphan Grain Train operates from a 6,300-square-foot warehouse in Millersville. In times of disaster, Orphan Grain Train answers the call by providing needed supplies and assistance. In April, the nonprofit packed a truck loaded with medical items, sheets and towels, and other items requested by folks in

rural North Carolina. In the recent hurricane, many homes in this area were badly damaged, and poor people without insurance are still struggling to recover. Funding for this trip was provided by proceeds from a silent auction held by Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi. Owners Billy and Nancy Greer chose Orphan Grain Train as the beneficiary of the auction, which was held recently at Jing Ying Institute's studio in Arnold.



Coldwell Banker Edward Jones

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Kwon's Taekwondo

# Grandparents, De Facto Parents And Their Rights

**David Diggs** The Law Office of David V. Diggs



Since 1991, Maryland has had a simple and concise law addressing grandparent's rights and permitting them to petition for visitation. An equity court may do the following:

- **1.** Consider a petition for reasonable visitation of a grandchild by a grandparent.
- **2.** If the court finds it to be in the best interest of the child, grant visitation rights to the grandparent.

Many years ago, I represented grandparents seeking visitation with their 7-yearold grandson. Sadly, the dad,

my clients' son, was addicted to drugs and absent. The parents had never married. Mom had allowed the grandparents to have visitation until she met a new boyfriend. Suddenly, visitation stopped without explanation. Calls went unreturned. Letters were unanswered. Months went by without any word from their grandson.

We filed suit. A trial was conducted in Baltimore City. After a couple of days of testimony, the judge determined that it was in the grandson's best interests to spend a Saturday afternoon with his grandparent every month. My clients were pleased.

Unfortunately, these same grandparents may not have succeeded today. The U.S.

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Supreme Court's decision in Troxel v. Granville in 2000 proclaimed that parents have a constitutional right to direct the upbringing of their children. It struck down a Washington state law that permitted third parties to petition visitation rights over a parent's objection.

The Supreme Court held that state courts considering nonparent visitation petitions (including those by grandparents) must apply "the presumption that fit parents act in the best interest of their children." Troxel also required that state courts give "special weight" to a parent's decision relating to nonparent visitation.

In Koshko v. Haining, a 2006 case, Maryland's grandparent visitation statute was attacked as unconstitutional because it lacked language stating that the parents' decisions with respect to visitation were presumed to be in

The case started in Baltimore County where maternal grandparents sought visitation with their three minor grandchildren. Following a two-day trial in April 2004, the trial judge concluded that the grandparents had "rebutted the presumption in favor

their children's best interests.

of the parents' determination of what is in their child's best interests." The court constructed an extensive access schedule.

The Koshkos appealed, and Maryland's highest appellate court found that the grandparents visitation statute was valid and that it carried an implied "presumption favoring a parental decision, which first must be rebutted before any inquiry into the child's best interests." The court essentially rewrote the grandparents visitation law and adopted a parental unfitness or exceptional circumstances test for grandparent access, whether a

A more recent case involving lesbian parents in Washington County, gives grandparents hope of a partial restoration of rights surrendered in Troxel. In Conover v. Conover, the Court of Special Appeals addressed issues concerning same-sex mar-

riage and non-biological/nonadoptive spouses' custody and visitation rights. Brittany and Michelle Conover married after living together for many years. They jointly decided to have a child and Brittany was the biological mother. They separated after the child was 18 months old. Brittany eventually denied visitation

custody or visitation case.

The trial court in Hagerstown ruled that Michelle, as a third-party, had not shown that Brittany was unfit or that exceptional circumstances had been met, as required by a 2008 case. Michelle's relationship with the child meant

and Michelle sued.

little. She appealed. The appellate court recognized that de facto parents have standing to contest custody or visitation and need not show parental unfitness or exceptional circumstances

before a trial court may apply a best-interests-of-the-child analysis. Ultimately, this means de facto parents, which could include grandparents, may petition for access to a child, provided they show:

**1.** That the parent consented to, and fostered, a parent-like relationship with the child.

**2.** That the de facto parent and the child lived together.

**3.** That the de facto parent assumed a parental role; took responsibility for the child's care, education and development; and contributed toward the child's support, without expectation of repayment.

**4.** That the de facto parent has been in a parental role long enough to establish a bonded and dependent relationship with the child.

David Diggs is experienced in family law and representing grandparents and de facto parents. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1171 or emailing david@diggslaw.com.





### **Call today for an appointment!**

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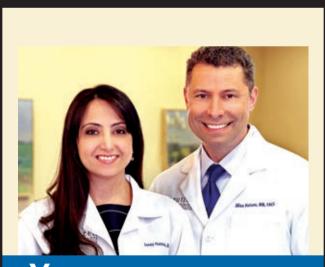
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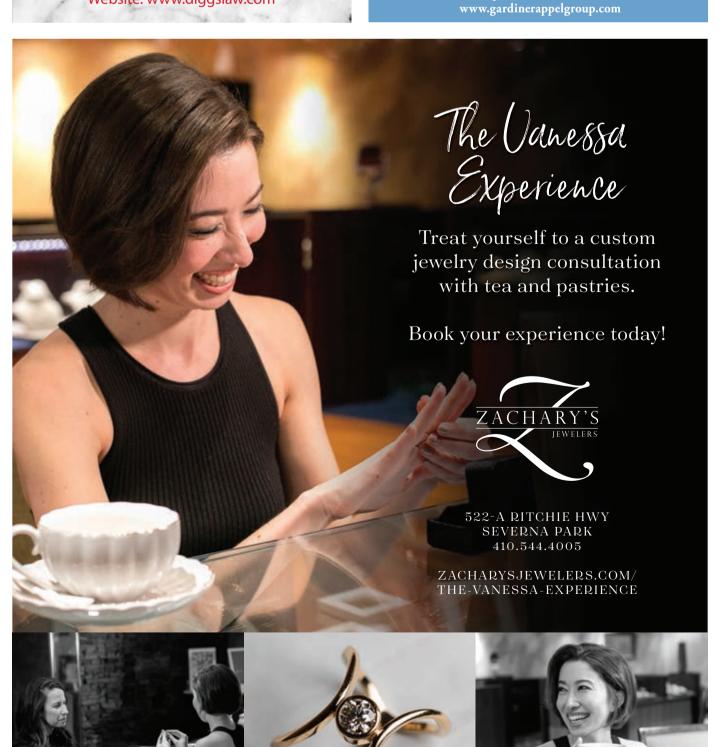
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# Annual Fourth Of July Parade Celebrates Community

» Continued from A1

Road, Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard and Cypress Creek Road, many of them a shining example of the generosity League mentioned.

Leading the procession will be this year's grand marshal, Dianna Lancione, and her husband, Lonnie, publishers of the Severna Park Voice. Dianna's grandmother, Margueritte Mills, was not only the founder of the Severna Park Voice but, along with Skip Carr and Lou Heck, she was one of the creative minds behind the parade, which started in 1975.

Mills served as chair of the parade in 1983 and 1984, and she was named grand marshal for the 1985 festivities.

"I'm honored to be grand marshal because it carries on the tradition in my family," Dianna said. "My grandmother was grand marshal because she was one of the founders of the parade, so to be involved in the biggest event in our community and be honored for all the good things we've done for the community is fantastic."

Lonnie had a different perspective of the grand marshal distinction. "I think the honor is more about being recognized for what we do, not for who we are or for the fact that Margueritte helped start the parade," Lonnie said. "I think it's a way recognize people who really care about

the community and show it through their actions."

The Lanciones have shown their support of the community by highlighting feel-good news and offering advertising opportunities to small businesses since taking over publishing the Severna Park Voice in 1996 following the death of Mills. The husband-and-wife duo handled the whole operation in the beginning, from "soup to nuts" as Lonnie explained. The business would eventually expand and thrive in a market where other newspapers were shrinking.

"When it first started out, it was really just the two of us and we had to do everything, from the graphic design work to taking pictures, all the layout, writing stories, selling ads — you name it," Dianna said. "It helped us become entrenched in the community because we were involved in every facet of the paper."

By bringing local news to the community, League said, the Lanciones have kept the community spirit alive.

"Who doesn't love reading about a neighbor who volunteers, a local sports team, or what's going on in our backyards?" League said. 'The *Voice* Media is a treasure and reinforces all of the great things in our neighborhoods that we can be proud of while including news to keep us informed.

The Lanciones have been involved with the parade for more than 20 years. "I've done everything from serve cotton candy when I was a kid and build floats to take care of the judging for 10 years," Dianna said.

She developed that passion for the parade while watching her grandmother plan the parade, whether Mills was dressing kids as clowns or building floats. Pat Troy remembers her first parade in 1978, when she was recruited by Mills, who was her business partner with Severna Park Magazine.

"Before I knew it, I was festooning an old flatbed truck with red, white and blue," said Troy, who recalled her secondplace float in 1980, runner-up only to Carr's real estate float with the Severna Park Bums playing patriotic tunes.

"Basically, the float combined everything that Margueritte loved," Troy said. "It was Severna Park Publishers, represented by a large banner across the back of the truck; a friend of Margueritte's who was over 100; the March of Dimes posterchild; some kids from Chesapeake Academy; Mattie Harris with Stanley Home Products; and an artificial Christmas tree with vellow ribbons tied to it and a sign that said 'free the Iranian hostages.' Not sure why we won, but it might have been because nobody could figure

it out, but they liked the tree with yellow ribbons."

Since then, Dianna, Lonnie and Voice COO Larry Sells have served as parade judges many times, with the newspaper adding exclusive coverage for the event. "We decided to put out a special edition for the Fourth of July in honor of something that brings the community together," Dianna said.

Asked what makes the parade so special, the Lanciones cited the hard work of volunteers like Heck and former GSPACC CEO Linda Zahn, who had help from her husband, Steve.

"My favorite aspect is really the organizations or the people who go all out for the patriotic theme," Dianna said, "just to see the amount of time and effort to making it something the community can really enjoy and is really a tribute to their country."

The parade is especially fitting for a community like Severna Park, which is full of generous neighbors who truly enjoy giving back and helping their friends in need.

"I love the fact that it's Americana," Lonnie said. "It's like down-home Midwest America — hot dogs, apple pie, Chevrolet — that's what our parade is and that's what I love about it. It gets you back in touch with something bigger than your everyday life.'

# Severna Park Chick-Fil-A Joins Annual Serve Tour



During this year's Serve Tour, volunteers stopped at the Arundel House of Hope, the USNA, Walk the Walk Foundation and ended at Orphan Grain Train.

### By Maya Pottiger

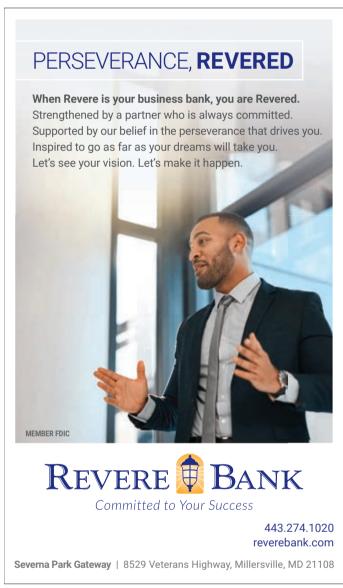
On Friday, June 7, roughly 100 people spent six hours volunteering around Anne Arundel County as part of Chickfil-A's Serve Tour.

The Serve Tour invites approximately 30 people from the Severna Park, Annapolis and Waugh Chapel-Crofton Chickfil-A locations on a first-come-first-served basis. At the end of the day, the volunteers were awarded with a party and a year of free Chickfil-A. This was the first year that Severna Park participated in the tour.

"As a whole, we wanted

to help our community to give back to make them feel like they're part of the big picture," said Teresa Bennett, marketing director for the Severna Park location, "but also wanted to open everyone's eyes about Orphan Grain Train and see that it's important to serve."

While at Orphan Grain Train, volunteers watched a video to learn about the organization, toured the warehouse, sorted donations, weeded the property and packed feminine hygiene kits that will be sent to Liberia and South Sudan.





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# St. John Pastor Takes New Assignment

By Judy Tacyn

As he sat stoically in the parlor of the St. John the Evangelist parish center, the Rev. Jim Proffitt settled into the comfortable highback chair he's used for the last 10 years as pastor of the Severna Park Catholic church. As he prepared to leave the St. John community, Proffitt reflected on the flood of memories he'll take with him on July 1, as he begins a new assignment as director of clergy personnel for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

"There are so many wonderful memories; many are connected to worship, such as celebrating baptisms of little ones, receiving adults into the Catholic church, our beautiful liturgies at Christmas and Holy Week," said Proffitt. "But there are also days visiting classrooms in the school and receiving questions from the children, the fun we shared as a community at our annual galas, welcoming the kids back to school on the first day as part of the lineup with the faculty. The list is endless.'

A recent memory that Proffitt will forever cherish took place on June 9, during the Pentecost Sunday masses when he invited anyone who recognized a transformative experience of God in their lives in the past year. Approximately 300 people stood and stepped forward, a moment Proffitt called "truly grace-filled."

Earlier this year, the archbishop of Baltimore, the Rev. William E. Lori, assigned Proffitt to his new role. Proffitt will work closely with



Archbishop Lori, a leader he respects on many levels.

"The archbishop put himself out there in introducing and strengthening reforms and doesn't hesitate to own any mistakes he's made along the way," Proffitt said. "I really believe he is trying so hard, and as I find myself interacting with him more frequently, my respect for him continues to grow."

Proffitt will serve as liaison between Lori and the priests and deacons of the greater Baltimore area.

"I will be working to match the gifts of our priests and deacons with the needs of our parishes, promoting the health and wellness of our clergy," added Proffitt, "offering them opportunities for ongoing formation and spiritual growth, and being a support for them when they face challenges in their

Stacy Golden, director of evangelization, is one of the lay people Proffitt has relied on most in recent years.

"Father Proffitt invited me to join the staff three years ago to join him in creating an invitational community," Golden said. "It has been a blessing to watch the

community grow in faith. Beyond being my boss, Father Proffitt has coached and pastored me along the way.'

The cleric almost tearfully added that he will miss the day-to-day encounters with parishioners and the connection with the community in celebrating life moments such as baptisms, funerals and weddings.

"Pastoring energizes me in ways I can't put into words," Proffitt said. "I hope to have at least some of that as I help out at St. Joseph Parish in Cockeysville, where I will be in residence, and in other parishes that need some assistance on weekends."

Proffitt hopes that his St. John legacy is nothing other than he was a priest and pastor who proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ and pointed others to God.

"If that isn't the case, then I've failed miserably," he said. "If this community continues along the path toward being mission-focused and reaching into the community, that is success in my mind."

As for the St. John community he's loved so deeply over the past 10 years, Proffitt added, "Saying farewell has always been difficult, but there has also always been grace and blessing to follow, so I have no reason to believe this will be any different."

Rubeling summed up Proffitt's departure perfectly, saying, "He will be sorely missed, but he has his mission from Jesus Christ to serve the priests of Baltimore in a new way, and he will do amazing at it."

# FY2020 Budget Sets "A New Normal"

» Continued from A1

decades underfunding itself, and we can no longer wait for someone else to rescue us," said Allison Pickard from District 2. "It's time. It's time we take care of ourselves and invest in our children, in our public safety, in our communities."

Both Democrats and Republicans presented the budget as "a new normal." For Democrats, that new normal meant supporting county agencies and programs left underfunded since the recession of 2008 and 2009. Republicans pegged the "new normal" as an era marked by waves of impending tax increases.

District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler and the council's other two Republicans, Nathan Volke of District 3 and Jessica Haire of District 7, suggested \$20 million in cuts to the operating budget without removing a single teacher, police or firefighter position. Their amendments failed along party lines.

"This budget is essentially unchanged from what the county executive proposed on May 1 despite my best efforts and the efforts of my colleagues to address those concerns," Fiedler said. "It is my opinion that this budget is just simply too large."

Even though the county council didn't cut much, the budget wasn't entirely unchanged. The council worked with the county auditor to add eight behavioral health positions to the Board of Education budget, and also added a new planner position in the Office of Planning and Zoning, and a new deputy sheriff for courtroom security. Fifteen firefighter positions were added to Pittman's recommendation of 35 for a

total of 50.

Overall, the budget included funding for 10 new police officers and for 13 detention officers to staff the new central booking facility in Annapolis. Four new environmental inspectors, six new planners and one park ranger will be hired.

Anne Arundel County is earmarking an extra \$46 million for education in 2020, providing raises for educators and adding 140 new classroom teachers, 50 special education positions and 35 mental health positions.

Other investments included a county-stat program to increase efficiency and accountability, support for community development housing programs and rental assistance, \$1 million for maintenance and renovations at county parks, and funds to make the library branch at the Annapolis Mall permanent.

Councilman Nathan Volke, a Republican from District 3 in Pasadena, said he was proud to support more teachers, police officers and firefighters, but that upgrades should be incremental improvements, without all upgrades coming in one budget. The Spending Affordability Committee, he said, unanimously recommended a 3.75% increase in spending.

"There can be no doubt that increasing government spending by 7% in one fiscal year is new territory for Anne Arundel County," Volke said. "There can be no doubt that increasing taxes for the average family by over \$550 a year in one budget is a turning point for this county. And there can be no doubt that increasing the budget by \$106 million in a single year creates a new normal of government spending for Anne

Arundel County."

In explaining their votes, the council's Democrats shared stories of failing infrastructure and services.

"In 2009, we had a \$158 million backlog of road and infrastructure needs," Pickard said. "Guess what? Today we still have that backlog."

Council chairman Andrew Pruski of District 4 relayed tales of fire departments left unstaffed.

"That's embarrassing," Pruski said. "I mean especially if somebody is having a heart attack and it's going to take a half an hour to get there."

District 6 Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien doesn't expect the tax rates to hinder Anne Arundel County, which will have the fourth-lowest income tax rate in Maryland and the fifth-lowest property tax rate out of 24 jurisdictions.

"We are not moving to the tax capital of the state," Rodvien said. "We are still very modest with respect to our taxes and I think that leaves us in a very good positon to be proud of this budget. We're making very well-needed, very important investments without having to break the bank."

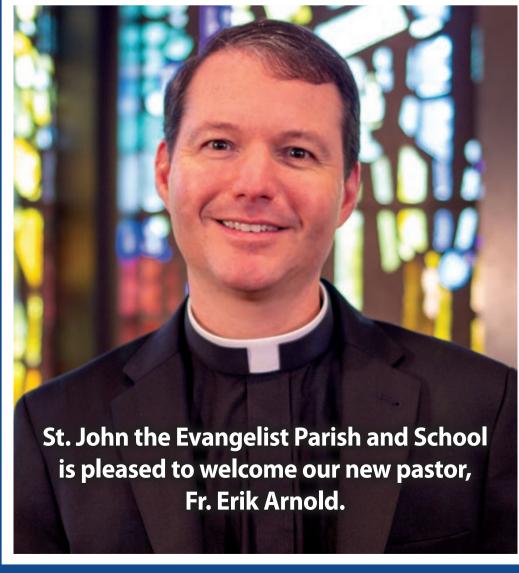
The county council made history with its divisive 4-3 vote on the budget, but Pittman sees only the positive work its members did. He looks forward to the budget taking effect on July 1.

"This budget is a much needed correction to years of kicking the can down the road," Pittman said in a statement. "We have done what our county charter directs us to do — determine the needs of our county and set tax rates that balance the budget – and we have done it in a fiscally responsible way."

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# NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

# **Crain West**

Neighborhood of the Month takes an in-depth look at the unique communities that make up Severna Park as a whole. Each has its own history, its own special amenities and its own people who are happy to call that place home. Want to share with our readers all about your neighborhood and what sets it apart from others? Email spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com and let us know!







# West Benfield Neighborhood Offers Best Of Millersville And Severna Park

By Judy Tacyn

If you don't know about the tiny community of approximately 100 homes tucked away between Veterans Highway to the west, West Benfield Road to the south, Shipley's Choice Medical Park to the north and the Severn River to the east, Crain West residents are perfectly happy to keep you in the dark.

West of the West Benfield Road bridge closure (on the Veterans Highway side) is an unassuming Dale Road sign. Immediately behind the street sign is an ominous "no outlet" sign. Passersby might think it's a quiet cul-de-sac, if they notice the road at all. Dale Road holds a secret; there are six more streets hidden behind its signs.

Homes in Crain West are primarily ranchers and split-level homes, with a few traditional structures sprinkled in, but the neighborhood is far from cookie-cutter, due in part to the gentle rolling hills that make each yard perfectly unique. The single family homes were built between 1968 and 1973. Many of the properties feature the gardening skills of residents, as blooms of all kinds are on display in

early summer.

The community features a 2-acre recreation area, a garden, a small park and even a quaint library. Children attend Benfield Elementary School.

The community holds several events for residents and their children, including a monthly "court in session" where neighbors gather in various courts of the community. There are bonfire nights in the recreation area, seasonal Easter egg hunts and Halloween parades, outdoor movie nights, and recently, a neighborhood campout.

### **KIM BOX**

RESIDENT FOR 47 YEARS

Kim Box has lived in Crain West since she was 3 years old. When her parents sold her childhood home, Box and her husband bought it in 2002.

"I chose to purchase the home from my parents because I like the area, the community and our neighbors," Box said. "It's a very unique community in that it's just one way in and one way out. Plus, everyone is friendly. It's a very quiet community with a smalltown feel."

Box loves the easy access to Severna Park, Millersville and Route 97, and doesn't hesitate to recommend Crain West to anyone who isn't familiar with the community. She's particularly fond of her neighbors. "My neighbors can be counted on to help out," Box said. "If you're trying to get something heavy into your home, a neighbor will always run over to assist. Our neighbors are friendly. Being a small community, you get to meet just about everyone."

### **KIM STERN**

RESIDENT FOR TWO YEARS

Kim Stern and her husband both grew up in different parts of Millersville, but her childhood best friend lived and still lives in Crain West, so she was familiar with the area. When a home became available, Stern and her husband moved to Crain West. The best friends now have daughters who are less than two weeks apart in age.

"Traffic in Severna Park can be rough, but we knew we wanted to send our kids to [Severna Park] schools but still have quick access to Route 97," Stern said. "We love that it's a one way in, one way out

neighborhood and, as mentioned, knowing someone that already lived there, we learned a lot before we made the leap.'

Stern also loves that Crain West is a tight-knit community loaded with young children, 50 or 60 children by her count. She said neighbors go out of their way to make new families feel welcome, rely on each other to cover gaps in child care, and deliver meals to families with new babies.

### SUSAN O'BRIEN RESIDENT FOR 10 YEARS

Susan O'Brien moved into Crain West in 2009 after living in Chartwell, and Admiral Heights in Annapolis near the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

"As a newly single mom of two elementary-school-aged children, I was looking for something more affordable than our large home in Chartwell," O'Brien said. "I was thrilled to find a more affordable and smaller home for our new situation that didn't move the kids from Benfield Elementary. The fact that a single mom moved to a street named Cougar Drive was just icing on the cake, and made for a great

change of address card!"

O'Brien's children loved attending Benfield Elementary, and they are at Severna Park High School now. "My absolute favorite thing about Severna Park are the trees and connection to the Severn and Magothy rivers," O'Brien said. "Yes, our schools are outstanding, but our communities are wooded and beautiful."

O'Brien is also quick to praise her neighbors. "I have amazing neighbors, with original homeowners behind me, young families on each side, Naval Academy family across the way, and Ken Motiran, the most resourceful man you can ever find, just down the cul-de-sac."

She was part of a group of neighbors that successfully fought the rezoning of a Veteran's Highway property in 2009. The rezoning would have allowed an office building and parking lot with overhead lighting to be built "literally just a few feet from our neighbor's back door."

"I believe our neighborhood is the best value in the Severna Park school system, and not just home value, but quality-of-life value," O'Brien said.



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### » Continued from A1

the Visioning Anne Arundel meetings, and the representative from each small area will be responsible for knowing what those communities are saying to represent it in the process, Pittman said.

"We will have input and

make suggestions for changes before it is officially introduced as the GDP," said District 5 councilwoman Amanda Fiedler. "There will be a collaborative effort between the Office of Planning and Zoning, the council members

districts and trying to get it as right as possible before it's introduced."

The new plan will be in a phase of drafts and revisions through the end of the year, according to a timeline on the county's website. The public forum and online comment

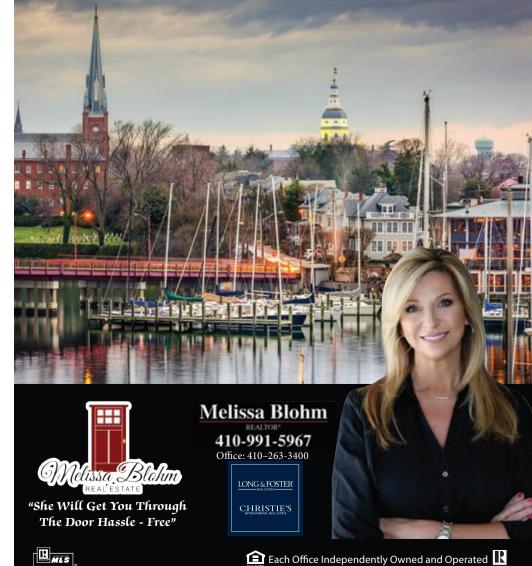
period will open up in December, and after going through more revisions, the county council will hold public hearings in April and May of 2020.

The public input collected at the Visioning Anne Arundel meetings will serve as one of the many factors when deciding on county-wide priorities. There are community

interests that can be parochial

sometimes, and then there are county-wide interests. That's why these representatives get together," Pittman said. "They have to decide as a group what the county wide interests are, as well. I hope they buy into smart growth principles, transit-oriented principles, and acknowledge that we have a looming crisis in workforce housing that our chamber of commerce and others have been warning us about for years."





# **POLITICS & OPINION**

# A Look At Anne Arundel County's Budget

Fiedler Councilwoman District 5



n June 14, the Anne Arundel County Council passed the Fiscal Year 2020 budget by a vote of 4-3. The county council consists of four Democrats and three Republicans. Votes fell along party lines. This marked the conclusion of 45 days of deliberation, hours of analysis and discussion.

The county executive's proposed budget remained essentially intact with minimal reductions. There were many areas of the budget that were necessary and that I supported. However, the budget also included expenses that, in my opinion, are not necessary. In a budget with tax increases our county hasn't experienced since the early '70s, it was essential to identify the "needs"

I cosponsored over 45

from the "wants."

amendments that would have cut \$20 million in the operating budget without eliminating a single teacher, firefighter, police officer or merit step. In the capital budget, I cosponsored over \$142 million in reductions without eliminating a single school construction project, library project or defunding any reoccurring capital projects like sidewalks and park renovations. All amendments failed down party lines, with Republicans favoring the amendments and Democrats voting them down. There were areas where the council found common ground, though the votes didn't always reflect it.

To rein in the overall budget, one that has historic levels of spending, I also cosponsored an amendment that would have reduced the cost of living increase (COLA) by .45% for all county employees. A 1.5% cola would have

remained, as would have all proposed merit increases of 3%. While this amendment "in theory" was supported by the councilwoman for District 6, the amendment failed along party lines. With bipartisan support, an amendment that reduced funding for new textbooks and increased funding for additional music teachers, mental health professionals and an internal audit of the school system passed unanimously. It was a net zero or shifting of dollars from one area to another. I was happy to give my support to this amendment. My commitment to addressing the mental health needs in our community remains a priority, and so do the commitments I made when I knocked on over 4,000

doors in our district. On every piece of literature and in all my conversations at doors, I have supported the property tax cap. This budget exceeds that cap. The

county budget comes before the council as one expense bill and doesn't allow for cherrypicking of areas a council member may support. Hard decisions had to be made. The budget and supplemental budget, which reallocated \$1.3 million in reductions, were simply too much.

July 1 is the new fiscal year for our county and the revenue and expense allocation for the new budget. July also brings new legislation before the council recesses for August. Two of County Executive Steuart Pittman's recent bills will be up for public hearing and potential amendments in July. The fair housing bill and workforce housing bill will have public hearings on July 1.

My second bill, Bill 59-19, was introduced at our June 17 meeting. This bill would require a developer to send notice to certain parties when a subdivision is granted approval. Notification would be sent via first-class mail within 10 days of project approval.

Currently, residents and communities track approvals by logging on our county website and then searching for approved projects. My bill is an effort to add transpar-» Continued on A11

# Banning Styrofoam

Michael Malone Councilman District 5



ong before plogging (picking up litter while Jiogging) was coined in Sweden, my family and I picked up trash on our hikes, strolls and runs. Often, we focused on picking up cans and bottles for recycling, but this session, the General Assembly made the efforts of ploggers and people like us easier. On July 1, Maryland will become the first state to enact a ban on foam food containers, the first step in eliminating our reliance on single-use plastics.

The bill, which passed both the House of Delegates and Senate handily with bipartisan support, prevents food service businesses and schools from providing or selling foam food containers, plates, cups, bowls, trays or egg cartons beginning July 2020. Similar bans were already in effect or passed in Baltimore City and Annapolis, as well as Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Montgomery counties, so about half of Maryland's population was already covered by a ban. Foam packaging for raw meat, food products packaged outside Maryland, or not used for food is exempt.

Proponents of the bill, like Trash Free Maryland, point out that polystyrene is more harmful to marine life than plastic. Since polystyrene is 95% air, it floats and breaks into smaller pieces rather than decomposing, so aquatic creatures mistake it for food and eat it, usually either killing the creature or introducing the foam into the food chain. The ban is also supported by the three R's: reducing is unlikely as takeout sales are soaring thanks to third-party delivery services, reusing is difficult to implement, and recycling is difficult and costly given the cleaning and processing involved.

Opponents note that foam packaging is inexpensive, durable and waterproof. Alternatives cost more, usually aren't recyclable and cost more at the landfill because they are heavier. Also, much "compostable" packaging isn't compostable in backyard bins but instead requires high heat industrial composting to break down. There is also the irony that large businesses can package foodstuffs in foam and send » Continued on A11

# **Empowering Our Teachers**

Sid Saab Delegate District 33



**T**oo often, parents relay stories to me about what is happening in their children's classroom. Sometimes, these stories are hard to believe. Students, both verbally and physically, intimidate their teachers and fellow students, and nothing visibly is being done to solve the problem. As we've heard during both parent and student testimonies at school boards, in the news and through social media, this behavior has escalated to the point that the status quo isn't working. School systems need to find a different approach.

As the son of a teacher, I was raised to always respect my teachers. They were the authority in the classroom and were empowered to enforce discipline to keep the class in line so that the teacher could do what they were hired to do, teach. That is becoming less and less of the case these days, and we are asking our teachers to do their job with their hands tied behind their back. Teachers shouldn't have to take disrespect and abuse from their students. Their job is not, and never should be, to

raise these students. Their job is to provide their students the tools necessary to succeed at the next level. Teachers need our support.

Financial support is one avenue, but it is not the only solution. We've watched the Democrats in Baltimore City dump millions and millions into their schools without positive results. The Kirwan Commission has already given us a preview of its upcoming findings and it largely comes down to "investing more money." That is taxpayer money. Money you've worked hard for. Democrats are good people and their hearts are in the right place, but as elected leaders, we have a fiduciary responsibility to spend your money wisely and in ways that produce results.

Teacher empowerment and parental support should be a much stronger push than it is now. Disciplinary actions in the classroom take time away from teaching and hurt those students who are there to learn. Teachers need the support of the administration and the knowledge that the administration has their backs. Teachers need support from parents as well. As a society, we have cut our teachers off at the knees by consistently siding with our students over the teachers or administration. If a

teacher does something wrong, oftentimes they are disciplined or lose their job. If a student does something wrong, they are given second, third, fourth or fifth chances before finally being transferred to a different school or expelled. Parents, it isn't always the teacher's fault.

The lack of discipline at home or parental involvement in a student's life is often a key factor. Children need to be held accountable for their actions. They need positive reinforcement when they do something good. With most parents working to support their families, often it is the children that take the brunt of that ambition and hard work. Children don't always get the attention they both need and deserve, and it results in negative behavior and disrespect in the classroom. The negative behavior is often reinforced by attention, although not positive, focused on them.

Focusing our finite resources on guidance counselors and school psychologists who can identify those students needing increased attention is a strong first step. Finding mentors for these students and/or alternative education paths, such as Centers for Applied Technology, might solve these problems early. Not all students are college bound.

# **Emphasizing Intersectionality**

Heather Bagnall Delegate District 33



recently returned to the summer camp, which has ■been my home for the last two decades. This is always a time of transition from the excitement of spring to the end of the school year, extended hours of daylight, planning and preparing for vacations, trips to the pool and the beach. As an artist, I work in a field that embraces change; my art form changes with the seasons, a parallel to politics, which I did not anticipate but which made my run for office all the more reasonable.

Change is not an easy thing for most adults, yet our children, the ones we so often feel we must protect, are used to change; they are seasonal, their schedule, their schools, their friends and landscape change year after year, and they are constantly learning to accept and adapt.

Having written this column at the end of Pride month, I am reflecting on how this county has undergone so much change in such a brief amount of time, and I am

reflecting on my small role in this moment. Change in itself is neither good nor bad, but how we cope and adapt to change is often what defines it. As a theater maker, I grew up in the LGBTQ community during the AIDS crisis, so I had a front-row seat as to why visibility was so essential as I watched friends, colleagues and mentors die a horrible death, often coupled with ostracism and trauma that resulted from their desire to simply live out of the shadows. I was a child and didn't concern myself so much with the why and the how but instead focused on the who.

Over the past few months, we have had a reckoning in Anne Arundel County as we adjust to a more inclusive community, and there has been an abundance of fear-mongering and misinformation proliferated from people in positions of authority regarding our LGTBQ community, our immigrant community, our impoverished communities, our addiction community, our mentally ill community and our communities of color. It is why we need to not just look forward but continually reach back and make space for others, to call out bigotry in

others and to understand our own biases. Intersectionality is some-

thing that our young people navigate far better than many of us. It is something I wrestle with as a legislator and an educator to try to ensure that I understand the impact of every decision and lesson on a wide range of communities. I was struck last week as our community struggled with the senseless killing of a rising star and young man of color who was shot in his car on the eve of National Gun Violence Weekend and just as our county executive launched a gun violence taskforce. As this young man's brother sought to honor him, announcing a balloon launch, the anonymity of social media reared up and he was attacked for his willing ness to disregard the environmental impact. Even as you read this, some may think me insensitive as a green legislator, but what was lost in the moment was that this man was mourning the loss of his brother and that the message to him was clear, that a man of color was expendable. I know that was not the intention of the authors, but that is a narrative that stretches well back >> Continued on A11

# BOE Budget Includes Audit Funding

Dana Schallheim Board of Education District 5



The Fiscal Year 2020 Board of Education budget, appropriated by the Anne Arundel County Council on June 14 and adopted by the AACPS Board of Education on June 19, provides funding for 140 new classroom teachers, 50 new special education positions, and 35 new schoolbased mental health positions. The budget also set to include roughly \$306,000 to fund an

Spurred by the new hybrid elected/appointed board, but championed predominantly by elected members, Board of Education District 7 representative Michelle Corkadel authored two amendments to establish an audit as part of our budget process back in February. The first seeks to establish a scope of work and request for proposal (RFP) and was unanimously passed by the board. The second earmarks \$250,000 to complete the audit and was passed by a vote of 6-2.

The topic of an audit began when we were candidates.

Almost daily, constituents shared concerns about the sheer size of the AACPS central offices. With that observation, combined with the feeling that available resources should be directed to meet school needs at the school level, the idea of an audit resonated with voters.

One concern I heard often from voters was the rate of growth within the central offices compared to classroom teaching positions. According to the AACPS FY18 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, also known as the CAFR, 'other professional staff" and "central office administrators" grew 27.1% and 23.8% respectively between the 2008-2009 school year to the 2017-2018 school year, compared with student enrollment and "teaching staff," which grew 7.1% and 12.4% respectively over the period. The May 2018 Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Staff Reporting System Specifications and Procedures Manual defines "other professional staff" as "other non-instructional, non-managerial professional personnel," which includes accountants, engineers, lawyers

and various HR staff. Now that funding has been appropriated, the next step will be to hire one temporary staff person to work collaboratively with the board's internal auditor and the board to establish the audit's scope and develop an RFP to solicit bids from outside entities to carry out the work.

My vision is for a thorough desk audit of all central office departments and staff with a goal of identifying redundancies and waste. Inevitably, every superintendent develops departments and programs to accomplish his or her vision and goals for the school system. These programs are often vital to the ongoing success of our schools; however, I believe that there may be some overlap between departments.

In addition to the hiring of a transportation consultant to make sure we are efficiently using our available resources, a central office desk audit will hopefully answer voters' longstanding questions about central office bloat and inefficiency, allowing the board to make more informed and fiscally responsible budget decisions going forward.

As always, your feedback is appreciated. I can be reached via dschallheim@aacps.org.

circumvent the court system they are made to embrace it and allow a team of counselors, paralegals, prosecutors and judges to monitor just about every aspect of their lives closely. They must commit to sobriety and treatment to avoid a jail sentence. A missed counseling appointment risks a stay in our local detention center. This is tough love at its finest, and drug court is really the best chance for a person to turn his or her life around before jail becomes their ultimate fate. Our District Court Drug Court has graduated 1,879 clients in the 22 years of the program, and in our Circuit Court, more than 270 citizens have gradu-

> The most important reason my office staffs our drug courts is to help individuals trade the label of "criminal" and "addict" for "parent," "employee" and "neighbor." My goal is to help our citizens work, care for their families,

ated since it began in 2005.

and become productive members of the community rather than addicted to drugs and committing crimes to support their habit.

National statistics show that 75% of drug court graduates remain arrest-free over a 10-year period compared to the 30% of people who are released from prison but receive no treatment. The recidivism rate for drug court participants is reduced by 45% overall. A more practical benefit is that sending someone to drug court rather than state prison can save states up to \$13,000 per participant.

The success of the drug court is rooted in two essential components: an individualized blueprint and a collaborative approach.

Each participant adheres to a tailored service plan to address his or her specific addiction, mental health, physical health, employment, educational, legal and family needs. The program consists of four » Continued on A11

# **Drug Cases And Treatment**

Participants don't get to

Anne Colt Leitess State's Attorney



ince 1997, the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office has remained dedicated to changing the lives of our county's citizens who battle substance abuse by participating in both a District Court and Circuit Court Adult Drug Treatment Court. Both provide a comprehensive and judicially supervised rehabilitation program that emphasizes restorative practices for those who have committed non-violent crimes. My office provides three paralegals and two prosecutors who work almost exclusively in determining which cases and defendants are most appropriate for these treatment courts and then supporting their journey

throughout. Adult Drug Treatment Court isn't a walk in the park.

# **Drug Cases And Treatment**

» Continued from A10 phases designed to last 12 to 18 months, and if successful, culminates in graduation.

**Phase I - Foundation:** The client and case manager create an individualized service plan with clear expectations.

Phase II - Engagement: The client's progress and objectives are assessed and targeted counseling begins.

**Phase III - Maintenance:** Progress, treatment goals and objectives are fine-tuned. Counseling focuses on coping and relapse prevention. Family involvement is encouraged for the recovery journey.

Phase IV - Aftercare: The main focus is relapse prevention and the client is encouraged to maintain an independent lifestyle during recovery.

The partnership between our office, the county courts, the public defender, the Division of Parole and Probation, the Anne Arundel Department of Health and detention center, and local treatment providers is crucial for our drug courts' success. These dynamic groups of professionals use their expertise to provide each client with the resources they need to reclaim their lives and remain drug free.

Now, do some of the participants face challenges while in the program? Absolutely! But, that's part of the process.

The ability to make a mistake, be held accountable and positively respond is the true measure of success in the program.

I'm proud of our Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office's commitment to helping our county's citizens turn their lives around through Adult Drug Treatment Court all year long.

# Intersectionality

» Continued from A10 into our history.

Sometimes there is value in taking a breath, in reflecting in the silence and in carefully crafting our words, because intersectionality is work, but as we change to a more inclusive Anne Arundel County, the value of that reflection will become apparent. I understand my role as legislator is to consider the needs of a wide array of constituents and to never forget the people impacted on the other side of a bill and to be prepared to defend not only my vote but my

line of thinking that brought me to that conclusion. If I have learned anything this session, it is that sometimes there is great value in returning to a problem with fresh eyes and a new perspective.

This summer, as I returned to camp set up, I added a word to our goal statement: kindness. As we transition into the summer, and have a bit of relaxation time for reflection, I ask that we all find a way to incorporation kindness into our world and try to make kindness the qualifier for change.

# Budget

 $\gg$  Continued from A10

ency to the approval process of subdivisions and reduce human error in notification by requiring this additional safeguard. Bill 59-19 will be heard at the July 15 meeting. Council meetings are in council chambers at 44 Calvert Street in Annapolis at 7:00pm. Those wishing to speak on any legislation are encouraged to arrive before 7:00pm to sign up. Any bills not amended will be voted on the same evening as the public hearing.

You can always reach me to share your thoughts on any legislation or community concerns by emailing amanda. fiedler@aacounty.org.

# The Role Of The Clerk's Office

Scott Poyer Clerk of the Circuit Court

s the recently elected clerk of the Circuit **▲**Court for Anne Arundel County, I am often asked, "What does the clerk's office do?" I am happy to answer this question because the clerk's office does a lot of work that affects people's lives in the county.

The clerk of the circuit court is one of the oldest public offices in Maryland and dates back as far as

bay. Case in point: Mr. Trash

Wheel, the floating device that

collects garbage and flotsam in

the Inner Harbor, has scooped

more than 1 million bits of

polystyrene since its launch

in 2014. That's second only to

cigarettes. While I would prefer

that people police themselves

and not litter, that's pie in the

sky, and pie that now won't, at

least in Maryland, be served on

a foam plate.

1658 to the first Maryland settlement. The office was originally established to be an independent keeper of the records, and we still perform that function today. The clerk's office has about 125 dedicated, hardworking people performing a variety of recordkeeping functions at our office at the Circuit Courthouse in Annapolis.

Among the functions we perform are recording all the land transactions in the county. Each year, we process about 100,000 real estate transactions. They are the underpinning of the entire real estate market, as well as an important resource for people researching genealogy and local history.

Each year, we also process approximately 75,000 documents related to the legal cases moving through the Circuit Court, including pleadings, summonses, subpoenas and warrants. Making a mistake on one of these documents could be detrimental to a person's professional and personal life, so we are careful to process them timely and accurately.

The business licenses in

Anne Arundel County are also issued by the clerk's office. Every April when the licenses expire, we process about 8,000 business licenses within the span of a few weeks.

We also issue between 4,000 and 5,000 marriage licenses per year for everyone getting married in the county. And not only do we issue the licenses, we also perform half of all those marriages at our wedding chapel. It is an honor to host the thousands of people and their guests who come to the courthouse to get married each year, and to be a part of one of the most important days in their lives.

This is just a partial list of everything we do in the clerk's office for the people of Anne Arundel County. I am honored that the voters have given me the opportunity to serve as clerk, and I am excited by the many initiatives we are undertaking to make our office more efficient and effective. I look forward to reporting the results in future articles, but I hope this article has at least answered many people's general questions about the role of the clerk's office.

# Banning Styrofoam

 $\gg$  Continued from A10

them into Maryland, but local small businesses, like your neighborhood snoball stand, can't use foam packaging.

Seattle has been foam-free since 2009, and cities like New York, Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., have also banned foam packaging. Both California and Hawaii have tried to pass statewide bans, and California alone has some 65 local laws banning foam. Consumer pressure akin to last year's concern about plastic straws has led some businesses like Dunkin' Donuts and Trader Joe's to eliminate foam cups and trays.

Food wrappers, cups, cans, bottles and other detritus often line our roads and highways, where it can wash into local waterways and then into the

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# **GOING TO THE SEVERNA PARK FOURTH OF JULY PARADE?**

**OR WILL YOU MISS OUT THIS YEAR?** 

EITHER WAY, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR MAILBOX ON JULY 9!

The Voice's Severna Park Fourth of July Parade Guide will feature complete coverage of the community's signature event — photos, stories, the list of winning entries and more!

Visit www.severnaparkvoice.com to enjoy even more coverage of this year's festivities!



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# **HEALTH & FITNESS**

# **Tech Talk With** Dr. Cranska



'n upcoming months, I will answer questions on **L** high-technology dentistry. Please direct inquiries to my website at www.cranska. com or email me at familylaserdentistry@outlook.com.

### **NINE SYMPTOMS THAT YOU HAVE XEROSTOMIA**

Dry mouth, also known as xerostomia, is not a disease.

This medical condition is simply the decrease in flow or a change in the quality of salīva — a change that occurs when there is a failure to keep vour mouth wet.

Causes of xerostomia include radiation during cancer therapy; autoimmune diseases such as Sjogren's syndrome, scleroderma, lupus and diabetes; aging; and the top cause, taking multiple medications.

These are some com-

- mon symptoms: •Dry feeling in mouth
- and throat Need to continually sip beverages, with only temporary relief from thirst
- Burning sensation in the mouth
- Tongue is dry and sore ·Lips and corners of
- the mouth are dry and cracked
- Difficulty swallowing, chewing or talking
- Bad breath
- Problems wearing your dentures
- Getting more cavities Without saliva to help fight oral bacteria, there

cay. You need to maximize salivary flow, keep your mouth wet to increase function and comfort, and prevent tooth decay.

### Q: How can I prevent dry mouth?

**A:** Here is a list of ways to prevent and treat the effects of dry mouth:

- •Use sugar-free gum and candies to stimulate saliva, but no sugar products, because they lead to tooth decay.
- Lifestyle changes: limit alcohol and caffeine consumption, and eliminate tobacco use. Drink more water.
- ·Don't use alcohol-based mouthwashes. Alcohol in mouthwashes kills bacteria but dries out the mouth.
- •When possible, change or limit medicines that have the side effect of dry mouth. These include antihistamines, decongestants and diuretics.
- •Use over-the-counter rinses and saliva substitute products to lubricate and moisturize.
- New prescriptiononly relief sprays have been introduced to help relieve symptoms and are available from your dentist.

Dry mouth is not completely preventable or treatable. Treatment depends on the cause. Discuss treatment solutions with your dentist and dental hygienist. The best treatments

only address the symptoms. Utilize the new dental products for maximum comfort, maintain good nutrition with proper chewing and swallowing, and limit destruction of your teeth from decay can be extensive tooth dewith early treatment.

# Independence From Negative Self-Talk



was sitting with my notepad, meticulously working on our Fourth of July Parade agenda. Writing down ideas and making some sketches, it was quite the task to find a way to merge fitness and the Fourth of July.

It was then that an overt similarity surfaced: declaring independence from false beliefs and negative self-talk.

Obviously we are well beyond the time when our founding fathers set out to declare independence from tyranny and the corruption of a monarch. But an everyday oppression can easily exist more prevalently than we may realize.

In many ways, we are constantly bound and limited by the things we tell ourselves as well as how we think about ourselves.

For example, if we happen to be tracking and writing down the things we eat, we can be too hard on ourselves if we deviate from the course.

It's even common for many people to say things to themselves like, "Wow. I really screwed up." Or, "Man, I'm terrible at this."

And where we might think we are just being desperately honest with ourselves, negative self-talk can become self-fulfilling prophecies. Now, instead of a slip-up just being a slipup, we start to let it define who we are. And that is not the case at all.

Another example of this is if you miss a workout or a month of workouts, it can be easy to tell yourself that you should just give up or say to yourself something like, "I'm just not an exerciser.'

There really isn't anything sillier than that last statement. I have a secret for you: Everyone is an exerciser. Whether you go

to the gym, follow along with videos at home or even if you have run from someone wearing a mask on Halloween, you exercised. Congratulations, you are an

Let's dive deeper into this. In exercise psychology, researchers find that people usually put themselves in one of three categories.

In one category, they may see themselves as an exerciser who is currently exercising. In another, they could see themselves as an exerciser who isn't currently exercising. Or lastly, they could see themselves as a non-exerciser who isn't currently exercising.

The amazing thing here is that those who view themselves as non-exercisers have the hardest time reaching their fitness goals. And it's all really up to each person and what they decide to believe about themselves.

Quite simply, if you want to have a better chance at reaching your health and fitness goals, view yourself

as an exerciser.

Our founding fathers believed that all people are created equal with the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

And similar to our Declaration of Independence, we could say that when selftalk and false beliefs become destructive to our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, then it is the right of the people to abolish it.

Now, progress can be assisted by joining a workout group or working with a fitness professional, but it all starts with freeing yourself of these limiting thoughts or, rather, declaring your independence from false beliefs and negative self-talk.

So this year, as we celebrate our nation's freedom and independence, let's celebrate our own and begin thinking about our positives and what we can do rather than our negatives and what we cannot.

It may even help you reach your health goals.

# Wine Is Good For Your Health: Corks For A Cause **Fundraiser Benefits UM BWMC Foundation**



Marketplace teamed up on June 12 to hold Corks For A Cause, a fundraiser to benefit the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation. Attendees were able to sample wine from Fishpaws, as well as food from an array of local caterers and restaurants, all while enjoying the atmosphere of Homestead's outdoor garden center.



# **Lyme Disease And Ticks:** What You Should Know

### Submitted by the **Anne Arundel County** Department of Health

yme disease is the most common tickborne disease in Anne Arundel County, as well as in Maryland and the United States. Cases of Lyme disease are found throughout the county and are not concentrated in any particular area. The county had 91 newly reported cases of Lyme disease in 2018, 121 cases in 2017, 174 cases in 2016 and 107 cases in 2015.

### **How Is It Spread?**

Lyme disease is spread to people from a tiny tick the size of a pinhead known as a blacklegged or deer tick. The tick is hard to see because it is so small. Only about 65% of people in confirmed cases noticed a tick before they became ill. In most cases, the tick needs to be on a person for at least 24 hours before the person becomes infected.

These ticks are most often found from May through October in tall grass, brush and wooded areas. But they can be present, in smaller numbers, throughout the year. Pets can bring ticks into the house. Mice also carry ticks.

### WHAT ARE THE **SYMPTOMS?**

Symptoms usually start within a month of being infected. About 75% of patients with early Lyme disease will have a skin lesion in the first one to four weeks of infection. Some get a "bull's eye rash" that has a red center. Other early symptoms may

include fever, joint and muscle pains, headache or fatigue. Lyme disease is hard to diagnose because the symptoms often mimic other diseases. Special laboratory tests may be needed to make a diagnosis.

If left untreated, the infection can lead to serious illnesses of the heart, joints and nervous system.

Lyme disease may cause birth defects or miscarriages.

### How Can It Be PREVENTED?

Wear light-colored, longsleeved shirts and pants that you can tuck into your socks when working or walking in areas likely to have ticks.

Spray arms and legs with an insect repellent containing DEET (up to 30% for adults, 10% for children) or picaridin. For occasional exposure, adults can spray clothing with an insecticide, permethrin, for more protection. Use repellents and insecticides

as directed by the manufacturer. Follow your doctor's advice for extended use or for use on children, during pregnancy or if you have skin problems.

It is important that parents conduct a thorough inspection of children. Look along the hairline, in the hair and ears, and where clothing fits snugly. Because ticks can spread other serious illnesses, a whole body inspection every three to four hours is safest when in grassy or wooded areas.

After coming indoors, wash and dry clothes as soon as possible, preferably at a hot temperature. Wash off insect repellent remaining on the skin.

Remove leaves, brush and tall grass around houses, pathways and gardens.

Treat and discourage infestations of mice in or near houses.

### IF YOU FIND A TICK

Remove the tick right away, but do not touch it with your bare hands. Use tweezers to grip the tick behind its head and as close to the skin as you can. Gently pull it off. If tweezers are not available, use your fingers wearing gloves or a tissue. Do not smash or burn the tick.

### TICK REMOVAL

After removing the tick, wash your hands with soap and water or waterless alcohol-based hand rub. Clean the tick bite with an antiseptic such as iodine scrub, rubbing alcohol, or soap and water.

Mark a calendar on the date you found the tick and watch for symptoms for at least a month.

If a rash develops or you experience other symptoms within three to 32 days, call your physician immediately.

For more information on Lyme disease, call the Anne Arundel County Department of Health at 410-222-7256.

### How To Remove A Tick The Right Way

If you find a tick attached to your skin, there's no need to panic — the key is to remove the tick as soon as possible. Several tick removal devices are on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers work well.

Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pres-

sure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.

After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.

### FOLLOW-UP

If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Tell the doctor about your recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.

# **Cleaning Up The Beach And Other Outdoor Debris** After Heavy Rainfall

Submitted by the **Anne Arundel County Department of Health** 

fter a severe storm, there is often debris along the shore that will need to be removed. Cleanup efforts are important for the environment and to restore the beach to an enjoyable place for healthy and recreational activities for you and your family.

When cleaning up debris from the beach and other outdoor locations, here are some safety tips:

Keep small children and pets away from debrisstrewn areas. People with immune system problems should not attempt to

clear debris. It is best to avoid cleanup activities if you have open cuts or scrapes on your skin. However, if that is not possible, clean and cover up cuts, scrapes and sores before starting the activity.

Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, heavy tear-resistant gloves, sturdy closed-toe waterproof shoes or boots, and insect repellent. Goggles or eye protection may also be necessary.

Do not touch dead or injured marine animals with your bare hands.

Maintain proper hygiene by washing hands frequently with soap and warm, clean water. If soap and clean water are unavailable, use hand sanitizer. Always wash your hands before handling food or eating.

Shower your body immediately after exposure to floodwaters.

Thoroughly wash clothing when coming in from a debris cleanup. Wash the soiled clothes separately from the other laundry.

Tetanus bacteria can infect humans by entering the body through cuts or puncture wounds. If you attempt clearing heavy debris, consider when you were last vaccinated against tetanus. Tetanus vaccination needs to be renewed every 10 years. For wound management, the vaccine is given if more than five years have passed since the last tetanus shot.

If you get a wound, first wash your hands. Next stop the bleeding and thoroughly clean the wound. Then apply an antibiotic ointment or petroleum jelly. Cover the wound.

If there is unusual redness, swelling or drainage, seek medical attention immediately.

### Chamber Update

Liz League **GSPACC** 



**T**e are excited to announce our newest members of the chamber: Thinking Tree Psychology, Three Wild Sheep, The Williams **Home Team of Taylor** Properties, 3rd Gen Painting and Remodeling, Chesapeake Smart Energy Solutions and Heartspace Acupuncture.

A huge thank you goes out to **Bulldog Bikes** and Floats for its fun bull roast and seafood feast at its location on Ritchie Highway. Owner Mike Prager opened his doors to all members of the chamber and gave a 20% discount on purchases.

On June 6, several chambers gathered at Magothy Payments to celebrate its new location in Severna Park with a multi-chamber ribbon cutting. Close to 100 people attended as testament to the moneysaving services on credit card processing and to the dynamic personality of owner Jaron Rice.

Our chamber was a proud sponsor of Chickfil-A's Serve Tour 2019. Close to 100 volunteers, transported by bus, visited charitable organizations all day and performed services. The tour ended at **Orphan Grain Train** with more volunteerism and a party.

Wild Bird Center in Severna Park was host to the Successful Women in Business' First Cup Club. Owner Kim Stagi served fragrant teas and scones, and we enjoyed hearing her vision for the store while browsing the amazing selection of products.

PARADE, PARADE, **PARADE!** The theme of this year's Independence Day parade is "Let Freedom (B)Ring -Celebrating our Country's and Community's Generosity." We have more than 80 entries this year and fun will be had by all. The parade begins at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church on Benfield Road, and culminates on Cypress Creek Road.

Our grand marshal is Dianna Lancione, owner of The Voice Media Inc.

Star-Spangled Restaurant Week will be held from July 7-13. Visit our Facebook page, "GSPACC Restaurant Week," for regular updates and specials.

We would love to have you as a member of our chamber. Call us at 410-647-3900 or info@ gspacc.com or visit www. gspacc.com.

### **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

# **Quality Product And Keen Customer** Service Make Design Tops A Top Pick

**By Dylan Roche** 

ust like a piece of granite, every homeowner is unique – unique needs, unique tastes, a unique budget. It's one of the reasons Lisa and George Wendling at Design Tops are focused on providing one-on-one customer service. "Every countertop going out of here is unique and different," Lisa said.

It was back in 1985 that the Wendlings founded Design Tops because they saw a need in the area. With George's construction background, they knew they could be successful in helping people increase the value and beauty of their homes and offices.

Nearly 35 years later, they have built a highly regarded business that serves all of Maryland as well as parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Design Tops designs, manufactures and installs an array of kitchen countertops, vanity tops, desktops, file cabinets, desk units, tabletops and much more, all from a selection of materials like granite, quartz, marble, engineered products, Corian and laminates.

It's the customer service,



The team at Design Tops, led by Lisa and George Wendling (seen here with dog Marlin), can design, manufacture and install an array of kitchen countertops from one-of-a-kind material they carry onsite.

however, that really sets Design Tops apart from other places in the industry. "Our customers love the one-on-one with each one of us, the personal attention we give them as they go through the kitchen process," Lisa said. "It can be a little difficult and overwhelming."

The whole process begins with a visit to their Glen Burnie site where customers can discuss their needs and wants. Lisa always starts by considering the customer's budget, then will segue into discussing material, color and edges, as well as whether the customer wants a backsplash or tile.

Meanwhile, in the back, Design Tops has a workshop where George and his team create the countertops from one-of-a-kind slabs. "We keep a couple hundred slabs of granite in stock for quick turnaround," Lisa explained. "Customers can pick out their own slabs, and we have remnants for small jobs like bathrooms, so the customer doesn't have to buy the whole slab.'

And because of their location's proximity to I-695 and I-95, they can reach a large number of customers. "We love it here because it's centrally located and has

easy access to everything," Lisa said.

Customers who want to learn more — or who want to see everything that Design Tops has to offer — don't even need to worry about making an appointment. Design Tops is available by phone at 410-761-6336 or by email at designtops@aol.com, but the best interaction, Lisa said, is always in person. Stop by their location at 435 East Stiemly Avenue in Glen Burnie anytime between 7:30am and 5:00pm Monday through Thursday or 7:30am and 2:00pm Friday. "We take walk-ins every single day," Lisa said.

# **Will You Need PLAYchecks** In Retirement?

Jason LaBarge Managing Partner Premier Planning Group



ummer's finally here, and it's beautiful in Maryland. There are so many things you can add to your summer bucket list, such as sailing on the Chesapeake Bay or eating crab cakes at Chick and Ruth's Delly before strolling down to the docks in downtown Annapolis. You've waited through the cold winter months for the nice weather and freedom that summer has to offer, and the possibilities seem

This is just like when you retire; you've worked hard through the years, diligently saving and investing your money to provide you with the retirement you've

always dreamed of. I like to think of your retirement in three stages. You've already experienced the joys of childhood, the awkwardness of adolescence and the fun of adulthood, with your ability to care for yourself being different in each stage. Your retirement will have similar stages too, where your capabilities and expenses will depend on the stage you're currently in. I

like to call them the go-go, slow-go and no-go years.

The go-go years are the years right after retirement. You're healthy, active and ready to do everything you've been putting off while raising a family, accumulating wealth and going to work every day. This is the part of retirement you dream about and are most looking forward to and, much like in the early summer months, the possibilities will seem limitless! The key is to plan for the go-go years and set assets aside to pay for your vacation, boat or second home. Directly after retirement » Continued on A14

Posta's private

wine label: Pi-

not Grigio and

a red blend.

Part of

HobbleJog's

mission is

providing

grants. Since

its inception,

awarded five

which was a

grant that

went to TBI

Scheineerg

survivor Evan

grants, one of

college support

HobbleJog has

# SERVPRO Of Annapolis/Severna Park Welcomes Marketing Intern

arketing intern Claire Mc-**▲** Cabe will join SERVPRO of Annapolis/ Severna Park this summer. McCabe grew up around the company, with her father being a franchise business consultant for 12 years.

McCabe is a rising junior at Lynn University located in Boca Raton, Florida, with a major of advertising and public relations and a minor in journalism. At her university, she is the junior account executive the student-run Pulse Agency. She created and collaborated with the HabCenter

of Boca Raton, building social media campaigns, and filming and editing a promotional video that has garnered thousands of online viewers. One class also provided event opportunities working with Above & Beyond Advertising Agency.

McCabe's previous experience with SERVPRO includes working for the franchise of Easton. She was a web video liaison intern for the summer of 2016. McCabe created training videos for five franchises stores, focusing on operations in different locations for implementation of best practices. Along with videos, she also promoted the brand as representative for Maryland and Northern Virginia trade shows.

This past summer,



Claire McCabe

McCabe was a marketing assistant intern for Treebranch Group LLC., located in Millersville. She created original content and designed images to accompany content for social media campaigns.

### COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

# La Posta Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen Teams Up With New Nonprofit HobbleJog For Fundraiser

By Maya Pottiger

**¬**ood and fundraising **d** came together on the evening of June 9, when La Posta Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen opened its doors for the first-ever Taste of Italy, a fundraiser to benefit the newly founded HobbleJog Foundation, which supports individuals recovering from traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

For Charlie Priola, owner of La Posta, hosting the fundraiser was an easy choice. "I opened up this local restaurant here a couple years ago," Priola said. "When [HobbleJog founder Susan Hahn] asked me about this, I was all for it to help raise money for people that are in need of help."

But this foundation is personal for him. Not only is Hahn his neighbor of nearly 15 years, but Priola's sister suffered from a TBI about a



HobbleJog founder Susan Hahn and La Posta owner Charlie Priola were happy to see community members come out to support a good cause at the Taste of Italy fundraiser.

year before Hahn.

"These people that have these horrible accidents, they have a second chance at life,' Priola said. "I hold this close to my heart because of what happened to my sister."

At the fundraiser, attendees had the chance to taste two selections from La

ahead of his going to college. Scheineerg spoke at Taste of Italy about his TBI and his experience with HobbleJog.

The grant given to Scheineerg helped him pay for costs related to his TBI while he was away at college.

"With the help of my family, support system, and new

friend Susan Hahn and the HobbleJog Foundation, I've been able to maintain the attitude of not letting my TBI define who I am and hold me back in life," Scheineerg said.

HobbleJog's next big event will be in collaboration with Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County's third annual Lifeline 100 Ride on Sunday, October 6. For more information on the ride, visit www. lifeline100.com.

For Hahn, the foundation has helped her find her purpose after her TBI.

"Basically I was saying, 'Why was I resuscitated? Why am I here?' Truly, it said to me, 'There is something you're supposed to be doing," Hahn said. "I now know what that is, and it does have to do with brain injury, and it does have to do with supporting services and support to people beyond the acute medical crisis intervention."

### Ribbon Cutting



# **Magothy Payments Opens In New Location**



A multi-chamber event, the grand reopening of Magothy Payments drew supporters from the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce — as well as the Pasadena Business Association and the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce — for a ribbon cutting performed by owner Jaron Rice. Magothy Payments is now located at 517 Benfield Road, Suite 101A, in Severna Park.

# Will You Need PLAYchecks In Retirement?

### » Continued from A13

is the time when you are most likely to be healthy and able to enjoy doing the things you've been dreaming of for years, and we can build these expenses into your portfolio.

Have you always wanted to tour Europe? Let's plan for that!

Have you always wanted to learn how to scuba dive? Let's plan for that!

Have you always wanted to take an RV around the United States, visiting the grandkids along the way? Let's plan for that!

Have you always wanted to buy a boat? We can plan for that too.

Many of the possibilities in retirement can become a reality with the proper planning, but one of the biggest mistakes I see people make when preparing to retire is not accounting for how they will pay for their dreams.

I tell my clients that we need to plan for them to

Many of the possibilities in retirement can become a reality with the proper planning."

have retirement income sources to provide for paychecks and "playchecks." The paycheck pays for all of their necessary bills and living expenses. They should be funded with dependable and consistent sources of income, such as your savings account, CDs, fixed annuities and money market accounts. The "playcheck" pays to fund their dreams during their go-go years and carry some risk by being tied to the market, but also have the potential to grow. You could use mutual funds and variable funds for this.

Just as it's inevitable that fall will come and some items on your sum-

mer bucket list will be left undone, your slow-go and no-go years will come too. We want you to make the most of your go-go years and building "playchecks" into your retirement portfolio is the way to do it.

For more information about the author, Jason LaBarge, visit www.jasonlabarge.com.

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# Join Our Editorial Team!

### **STAFF WRITER**

If you love to write and keep your finger to the pulse of what's happening in the community, then we have the job for you! The Severna Park Voice, along with its sister publication Pasadena Voice, is currently seeking a full-time member of its editorial staff. This dynamic, self-motivated individual would be part of the team responsible for all the stories and photographs that you see in these pages every month. Responsibilities of this job include:

- Writing stories and taking photographs Routinely developing and pitching ideas based on what's happening in
- the community Attending and covering local events (business openings/ribbon cuttings, community award banquets, council/town hall meetings, press conferences, chamber of commerce functions, etc.)
- Uploading content to the

website and maintaining a presence on social media

### The ideal candidate should have: **Excellent writing skills:**

We're looking for someone who can be informative and creative in telling the stories of what's happening in Pasadena. Good grammar, punctuation and style skills are also necessary.

- Knowledge of the Greater Severna Park and Pasadena communities: We want someone who knows what's happening around town and can establish connections to stay informed.
- •Enthusiastic "can do" attitude: We want someone who works well both individually and in a team environment.
- Ability to multitask under deadlines: We want someone who feels comfortable balancing these many responsibilities in a fast-paced office environment.

### To Apply

Please submit cover letter, resume and 2-3 writing samples to Dylan Roche at dylan@severnaparkvoice.com.

### FREELANCE WRITERS/ **PHOTOGRAPHERS**

The *Voice* is always looking to add to our group of talented community writers and photographers. If you have the skill to write a news story, love the local community and want to be a part of it in a way you've never been before — send us an email with your resume. Be sure to also include at least two writing samples.

We're also on the lookout for talented shutterbugs with a digital SLR to attend local events on assignment. Send an email with some sample images or a link to images online. Email us today at spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.

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**Hornets All-Stars Battle** It Out



**B1** 

>> www.severnaparkvoice.com

# SEVERNA I RK SPORTS

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# Green Hornets 10U's Excel In CBA, Tournament Play



The 10U Green Hornets travel baseball team is 32-14-1 overall through late June.

**By Colin Murphy** colin@severnaparkvoice.com

t's another strong ongoing season for the Green Hornets 10U club baseball team.

Severna Park finished the Elite Chesapeake Baseball Association regular season in first place

with a 15-2 league record. Despite falling to the Prince George's Select Blue Sox in the CBA tournament's championship game, the team went 3-1 in the league postseason and have achieved a 32-14-1 record through 47 games.

The team of **Andy** Blanck, Logan Clarke, Jonah Downey, Conner Hall, Brett Hudson, Silas Lane, Conrad Maillard, Cooper Mengel, Logan Moran, Caden Morris, Easton O'Brien and Charles **Warner** began the year somewhat slowly but has since improved

with each week and has achieved multiple distinct accomplishments along the way.

The Green Hornets went 3-6 in March, 9-3-1 in April, 5-1 in May and 15-4 through late-June.

All 12 of the team's players have pitched, with nine players piling up substantial innings on the mound. Severna Park is likewise balanced offensively one through 12, with a team batting average of .406.

At the Upper Chesapeake Baseball Festival in late June, the team went 3-2 and reached the championship game before falling to Howard County. The team put up 80 runs in five games, including a 30-5 win over the BCCC Warriors in the quarterfinals and a 14-8 victory over Joppatowne in the semifinals. The team batted a collective .416 in the tournament,

# **Elvaton Junior Lax Girls Cap Youth Careers With County Title**



 $The \ Elvaton \ Icebreakers \ went \ 9-2 \ overall \ and \ defeated \ South \ River \ and \ Broadneck \ in \ the \ playoffs, \ winning \ the \ Anne \ Arundel$ County Junior A Division championship game 9-8 in overtime against Broadneck at Chesapeake High School on May 18.

**By Colin Murphy** colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Elvaton girls closed their youth careers with a county championship.

Evlaton's junior girls lacrosse team, the Icebreakers, defeated Broadneck 9-8 in overtime in the Junior A Division championship game at Chesapeake High School on May 18.

The Icebreakers clinched the title on **Charlotte** Diez's winning goal following a crucial draw control by Sophia Miller at the start of overtime.

The Icebreakers were all eighth-graders, now rising ninth-graders, who primarily attended Severna Park Middle School. The team is made up of Diez, Miller, **Stella Bordone**, Sophia Bordone, Olivia

Tramontana, Isabel Baselga, Izzy Ubriaco, Emma Boyle, Madi Holden, Molly Goeller, Meghan DeFeo, Lola Blumenberg, Isabella Joyce, Colleen Berardino, Maddie Evans, Karli Kirchenheiter, Lily Spilker, Abby Kavanaugh, Rachael Zabko, Charlotte Astle and Sam Koppe, all of whom live in Severna Park and Millersville.

Miller was named playoff MVP by the Broadneck coaches. Broadneck's Lexi **Dupcak** was named BAYS MVP by Elvaton head coach Paul Joyce.

Joyce, who coached the Icebreakers with **Karen** Boyle, Bob Berardino and **Catina Bordone**, said the core of the team has been together since they were second-, third- and fourthgraders in 2012-2014. As

the players developed their skills and branched out to play for various club teams, they committed to still play rec ball with Elvaton through eighth grade with a specific goal in mind.

We have always put our

teams in the older league or best level available and encouraged our players to be loyal to the team all the way through eighth grade," said Joyce. "Our goal was always to be the best county team in eighth grade and send our players to high school on a positive note. The team represented Elvaton Rec and the Severna Park/Millersville communities in an exemplary sportsmanlike manner and has left many families and players with great memories of youth girls lacrosse."

Closing the Icebreakers' middle school careers on

a high note required wins against rivals Broadneck and South River; Elvaton won two of three contests against South River during the season and two of three against Broadneck, including the championship. They avenged a 10-8 regularseason loss to South River by defeating the Seahawks 8-7 in the playoff semifinals. The championship win over Broadneck avenged an 8-7 loss to BAYS earlier in the year.

They did it on the strength of standout play from all points on the field. Goalies Berardino and Zabko took up playing goalie in fifth grade and, as multi-sport athletes, excelled in the position to help lead the team. The defense was a super-» Continued on B2

# Green Hornets Swarm Win **U11 County, State Crowns**

» Continued on B5



The Severna Park Green Hornets Swarm fifth-grade boys lacrosse team secured a statetournament championship with wins over Silver Spring and Cockeysville to go with a county-championship victory over the Pasadena Bay Dogs.

**By Colin Murphy** 

colin@severnaparkvoice.com The Severna Park varsity lacrosse teams

aren't the only state

champs in town. The Green Hornets Swarm fifth-grade/ U11 boys lacrosse team achieved its own state title on June 12, defeating Cockeysville 8-4 at Cedar Lane Park in Columbia to close an outstanding allaround season with a state championship.

The team of **Hayden** Fox, James Sullivan, Ben Taylor, Jack Clark, Ben Dryer, Owen Lyons, Dash Havens, Landon Williams, Brady Holden, Bodie Isenberg, Lane

August, Sawyer Grant, **Garrett Wise, Beckett** Dickson, Tyler Lawhorne, Ben Ruppert, Zachary Cielewich and Zachary **Simpkins** qualified for the state tournament by first becoming county champions out of the Anne Arundel County Youth Lacrosse League AA » Continued on B4

# Cubs Are Rookie 8 Champs With 18-17 Win In Extras



The Cubs battled from several runs down to tie the championship game with the Orioles on June 9 at Cypress Creek Park before ultimately winning in extra innings, 18-17.

The Cubs are champions of the Green Hornets Rookie

8's club baseball league. In classic 8-year-old titlegame fashion, the Cubs won a wild seesaw battle against the Orioles at Cypress Creek Park on June 9, coming from several runs down to force extra innings and claim the club championship by defeating the Orioles 18-17 in seven innings.

The Cubs team of **JT** Strawbridge, Asher Ball, Calvin Cheatheam, Wyatt Duncan, Liam Sipe,

Connor Hance, Jayden Cobbs, William Abboud, Will Butler, Liam Holley, Lincoln Latchaw, Lucas Sepp and Chris Gramil

took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning only to see their lead slip away after the Orioles battled back to regain the advantage. The teams traded offensive bursts before the Cubs rallied to tie the game in the sixth and push the winning run across in the seventh.

The Cubs had to "play their best defense all season to

stay alive," said coach **John Strawbridge**, who coached the Cubs with David Law, Jared Duncan and Bruce Sipe.

'Spectators [saw] some of the best pitching, hitting and defensive plays these two teams put up all season," Strawbridge said of both the Cubs and Orioles. "Both teams brought their best as they knew win or lose the season would come to a close at the completion of the game. An amazing game played by all."

# Severna Park 10U Fireballs Build Foundation For Softball Success

**By Colin Murphy** colin@severnaparkvoice.com

From its youth teams on up to the high school teams, Severna Park softball is on strong footing, and this year's 10U Green Hornets Fireballs are the latest area softball team to produce a solid season.

The team of **Madison** Cassady, Mimi Castaneda, Kate Edwards, Austyn Lundfelt, Alivia O'Meara, Layla Perry, Andrea Rom, Lauren Schuller, Zoey Sharp, Zoey Stafford, Anna Stauder, Katelyn Webster, Megan Young and Jaiden Zaniker, coached by Mick Young, Chris Rom and Brandon **Cassady**, went 10-5 in

Along the way, the Fireballs achieved several

tournament.

North County Community

Girls Softball League play

and won a playoff game in

the NCCGSL championship

The Green Hornets 10U Fireballs went 10-5 in North County Community Girls Softball League play and won an extra-innings playoff game in the NCCGSL championship tournament.

standout victories. Severna Park held on for a onerun win over Linthicum-Ferndale Battitude in an away game in which starting pitcher Megan Young reentered the game late to preserve Severna Park's one-run lead by striking out the side in the fifth inning. In another victory away at South River, starting pitcher

Andrea Rom re-entered the game and secured a two-run victory by closing out the side in the final inning.

Coach Mick Young said of those outcomes, "A couple of tough situations for young pitchers, but like our team as a whole, they showed no signs of giving up.

The team also claimed an exciting win against

a strong opponent in the NCCGSL tournament, defeating the Havenwood Lime Green Machines 13-12 in extra innings.

About half of the team will move up to 12U play next season, while the other half will play another year of 10U ball, giving Severna Park a strong base in both age groups.

"As coaches, we were all proud of how all the girls developed over the season," said Young. "You could see marked improvement in every one of our players. We hit the ball real well

all season, but I think the biggest factor in our success was our pitching. It seemed to get stronger as the season went on. The same goes for our fielding, we really started making some plays in the second half of the season, which helped in the tournament. We are very excited to watch those trends continue on."

Elvaton Jr. Girls Cap Youth Careers With County Title

» Continued from B1

athletic and team-oriented group featuring Spilker, Tramontana, Astle, Boyle, Bordone and DeFeo, and the outfit held its final three opponents (Andover, South River and Broadneck) to under nine goals each.

The team's fast-paced, freewheeling offense was led by middies Miller, Kirchenheiter, Koppe, Diez, Blumenberg and Bordone. The attack included Baselga, Joyce, Ubriaco, Evans, Holden, Kavanaugh and Goeller.

As a team, the Icebreakers outscored the opposition 117-73, scoring an average of 10.6 goals per game and allowing an average of 6.6 in going 9-2 overall.

"An amazing and fun team to coach and be around," said coach Joyce. "All of these players also were playing two club games per week and attending two to three club practices. All of the players had to be able to play two positions in a game. Every player had a great 'moment' in our playoff run, whether it was a key assist, ground ball, save or solid dodge or pass to keep the ball moving."

Joyce also noted the contributions of coaches Bordon, Berardino and Boyle.

"Coach Bordone did a fantastic job running the box and keeping

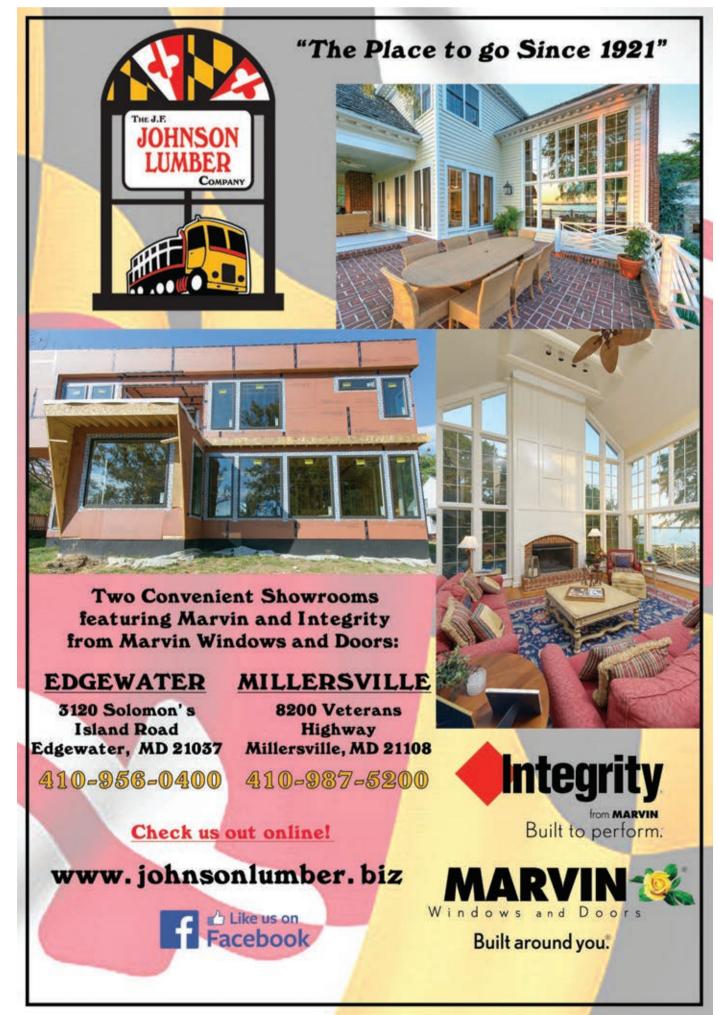
opponents strong," he said. "Coach Berardino took both of our goalies under his wings and had them ready for anything that our opponent could throw at us. Coach Boyle provided a great insight to the team's defense and a great even-keel feel for all of the coaches and players, no matter what the score was at the time. All three played college lacrosse and were great enthusiastic role models for all of our players."

He likewise said the progression of the girls from Scoopers as secondgraders to now has been immense, as the players have all branched out to play super competitive club lacrosse with noted clubs Maryland United, Bay Area, Integrity, and M&D.

Throughout, they kept their Elvaton roots thriving.

"By 2019, we were able to put a team on the field that consisted of all club players that wanted to continue playing rec lacrosse with their good friends and classmates," said Joyce, who said he knows many of the players from teaching at Severna Park Middle School and sees continued success for them. "I was lucky enough to also teach many of these players in class at Severna Park Middle and I will say that the future for all of these young ladies is going to be















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varsity softball program

opportunities for softball

players of all ages in Anne

to maximize beneficial

Arundel County, said

Falcons varsity coach

Meredith McAlister.

player development,"

'Our interest is in

said McAlister. "We focus

on growing our athletes

players, progressively, by

introducing them to the

higher levels of play each

while guiding them through

season and year, all the

the college recruiting

process. We believe the

Anne Arundel County

foundation of softball in

developing players from

the ground up. We began

at the 14U level and have

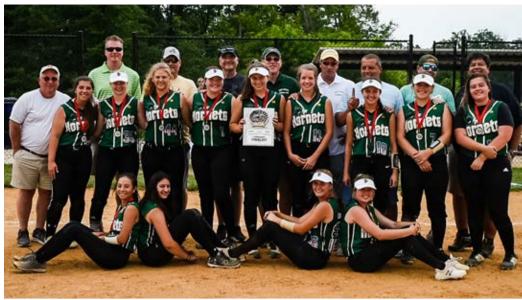
progressed well with our

athletes into this season, producing varsity- and JV-

 $needed \ more \ organizations$ 

into elite-level softball

# 16U's Lead Expanded Hornets Softball Efforts



The Green Hornets 16U travel softball team made the final of the Charm City Challenge and posed with their dads following the championship game. Severna Park will play in multiple showcase tournaments on the East Coast throughout June and July.

### **By Colin Murphy** colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Green Hornets 16U travel softball team is enjoying its active summer with an array of competitions and experiences.

Severna Park will play in multiple tournaments through the end of July, and they've already notched a few successes through the season's first few months.

Most recently, the team made the final of the Charm City Challenge tournament and finished as the tournament's runnersup on Father's Day.

Coached by **Kelly** Burke, the team of Lily Becker, Makayla Blake, Madison Bonnett, Chelsea Coleman, Livi Driver, Kerri Kazmarek, Sophia Martinez, Grace Mozloom, Jasmine Parks, Mackenzie Rice, Ella Ryan, Peyton

### Sullivan, Holly Taylor and Ruthie Williams

is one of two Severna Park 16U tournament/ travel teams that bring together players from Severna Park, Broadneck, Northeast, Glen Burnie, McDonogh, Arundel, South River and Mount de Sales, with a focus on player development.

Burke's 16U group played at the Triple Crown Sports Xtreme Dimension June Summer Showcase in New Jersey in late June, an opportunity for all of them to play in front of over 50 college coaches from Northeast and mid-Atlantic schools. The team will play at a similar showcase tournament in Virginia Beach in late June; in Fort Walton, Florida, in July; and back in Howard County in late July.

Traveling for college showcases reflects one arm of a coordinated effort

level contributors, some of whom made All-County or were members of state championship teams in their freshman and sophomore campaigns.

'We also begun working to build a feeder system that will serve to provide a foundation for the future as well," McAlister said. "It begins with finding coaches who are willing to take on the same goals we have of player development to a higher level of competition, season after season. We asked **Greg Jimeno** to take his [14U] club team and move them to select. They were a top-level club 12U team and took on the transition to select 14U about a year ago.

"Then, we also asked Mick Young and Lauryn **Bary** to consider taking their club players and fielding a tournament team at the 10U level to begin to introduce select play gradually into their club softball schedules, allowing for players to play club on their respective teams and the more dedicated players to try out for the next level, and also continuing to participate in multiple sports, which we know is so

important at that age. 'Green Hornets, former softball commissioner **Judy** Tacyn, new commissioner Christina Young, Louise Gilmore, Josh Banks and the board have all been phenomenal in helping us navigate the club and select platforms in a unified fashion so that they feed each other and benefit the players most importantly, so there is a level of

play for all."

# Hornets Represent At Camden Yards



(L-R) Clara Wilson, Megan Young, Jodi Deaton, Sara Antinucci, Brett Boeskin and Vince Nguyen represented Severna Park in the Pitch, Hit & Run state competition at Camden Yards on June 1.

Six Green Hornets baseball and softball players competed at the Pitch, Hit & Run state-wide competition at Camden Yards on June 1.

Jodi Deaton (8U), Megan Young (10U), Clara Wilson (12U) and Sara Antinucci (14U) all represented Green Hornets softball, while Vince

Nguyen (12U) and Brett **Boeskin** (14U) represented Green Hornets baseball.

Deaton and Nguyen both finished in first place at the competition, earning them entry into a larger pool eligible for possible selection to compete at the national Pitch, Hit & Run competition held at the MLB All Star weekend in Cleveland on July 9.

All seven placed first in sectional competitions to qualify for the state event at Camden Yards.

Would you like your kids' sports and events covered by the Severna Park Voice? Call Colin Murphy at 336-408-9475 or email colin@severnaparkvoice.com.



### **Congratulations to our Smile of the Month!**



Caleb Rassofsky is our July "Smile of the Month". Caleb is a rising 8th grader at Severna Park Middle School where he is a Percussionist in the band and is a member of the Tech Crew. He also plays rugby and soccer for The Green Hornets.

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# OF THE MONTH

......................



Photo courtesy of Tony Bellotte Joey Killpatrick inspired cheers from his Severna Park lacrosse teammates for his speed and playmaking in the midfield combined with his workmanlike approach to winning.

> **By Colin Murphy** colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Anyone who saw the Severna Park boys lacrosse team this year bore witness to a spontaneous chant of 30 young men that was liable to erupt anytime anyone did anything worthy

*"Jo-ey! Jo-ey! Jo-ey!"* the chant went. It was the collective cheer of a team thrilled by the contributions of teammate Joey Killpatrick.

Joey, a rising senior, brought a diligent ethos and an industrious team-first mentality to Severna Park's state-championship season. As a midfielder, Joey was charged with the dirty work of ground balls, clearances nd defense, a role well suited to his humble personality.

He isn't the type to puff out his chest and celebrate, so his teammates did it for him, resurrecting a cheer they first started during Shipley's Choice swim meets years ago and bringing it to the lacrosse field.

"I'm not really sure what started [the chant] during the season, but it caught on pretty quickly," said Joey. "It was definitely cool to hear that during the game and hear the student section chanting it.'

It had a way of capturing the joy the team was experiencing as they played; the Falcons even began chanting it shortly after the final horn of the team's state final victory over Howard. Coach Dave Earl said seeing the Falcons celebrate in such a way showed how much everyone valued Joey's team-first approach to the game.

"I think it just speaks to his personality," said Earl. "It goes to show what a great teammate he is. Everybody loves him, and when he makes a play, everyone goes nuts on the sidelines. As a kid, Joey's just an amazing person. He's always positive, always has a smile on his face, will do anything we ask of him on or off the field. Everybody loves and respects Joey."

Undersized at 5-foot-7 and just 145 lbs, Joey plays the unglamorous position of a short-stick defensive midfielder, a position in which sacrifice for the team is bound up in the essence of the role.

Joey plays it with outsized tenacity. "A lot of times I get matched up with bigger guys, so I have to be aggressive," said Joey. "I just try to do the small things well, win my matchups on defense, clear the ball well, get ground balls, and do all those small things."

He was critical in the trenches for Severna Park, totaling 43 ground balls, adding eight goals and nine assists and leaving countless players in his wake in the midfield, using blinding foot speed and precise angles to successfully clear time and again.

'On the field, he's just tough as nails," said Earl of Joey. "A hard-nosed competitor, great ground ball guy between the lines. Plays great defense but also can play some offense too. Excellent stick work. The clearing game is huge for us, and we wouldn't have been as successful in that without Joey, for sure. He's got speed and knows the right angles to take, picks the ball off the ground and goes. All you can say is positive about Joey."

Doing the work to be successful is something Joey has always carried both on the lacrosse field and in the classroom. He has maintained a 4.4 cumulative GPA through high school and is ranked 38th in his class at Severna Park.

Joey's father, Patrick Killpatrick, described him as "reserved, humble, hard-working" and intrinsically motivated to do his best.

"He's always been the kind of kid where we didn't really have to do anything. We just feed him, basically," said Patrick with a laugh. "We're very proud of him."

Joey's humble nature even extended to his selection as the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month. When Patrick first informed him of the recognition, Joey's first instinct was to defer to a teammate.

"It should be Akshay Shah," Joey said, naming a classmate and teammate. "Akshay is a good defenseman and good student, a good locker-room guy and a good person."

Joey is playing club lacrosse this summer and hopes to strengthen his game enough to potentially play in college. In the meantime, he plans to continue to do well in school, play scrub basketball in the winter and be ready to contribute to the Severna Park varsity team again next spring, like he did this spring in helping the team achieve its goals.

"It was definitely awesome to win the state championship," Joey said. "We had a great season with some adversity when [goalie] **Shane** [Carr] got hurt and **Casey** [Fox] stepped in and played really well. We held off Broadneck at the end of that game in a close game [in the region final]. It's just cool to be part of the program when there are alumni coming to every game supporting you. My brother [Matthew Killpatrick] was on the 2016 state championship team, and I remember thinking that was really cool, and to get to do that this vear was awesome.

In partnership with The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21, the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month series seeks to recognize the many student-athletes in our area who make an impact not necessarily by way of statistics or stardom, but by their unique contributions. The quiet leader, the solid role player, the glue guy or gal, the community voice on or off the field — those are the kids we seek to recognize. Do you know a young person in our community making a positive impact through sports? Nominate them by contacting **Colin Murphy** at colin@severnaparkvoice.com.

### Student-Athlete Of The Month

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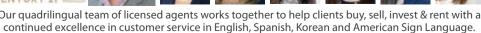




























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# Swarm Win U11 County, State Crowns

» Continued from B1

Division. There, the Swarm went 7-1 during the regular season, suffering only one loss, a 6-5 defeat to the Pasadena Bay Dogs.

Facing the Bay Dogs in the county title game at Annapolis High School on May 11, the Swarm won, 8-3, to claim the county crown and earn entry to a fourteam state tournament.

In the state semifinals, the Swarm defeated Silver

Spring, 11-3. In the state final, a solid defensive effort by Wise, Fox, Cielewich and Grant held Cockeysville to just four goals as the Green Hornets secured the 8-4 win.

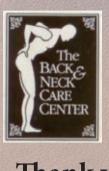
The team played throughout the season in the ultra-competitive Howard County League concurrently with its play in Anne Arundel County. Severna Park went 7-1 overall in Anne Arundel

County regular season play and 13-6 overall across both leagues and playoffs.

Severna Park was coached by Mike Ruppert, Tom

Dryer and Jay Lawhorne. Ruppert touted the goalie play of Clark, faceoffs by Havens and offense by Williams as standout contributions.

"These kids just got better and better as the season progressed," said Ruppert. "Fun to watch them play.'





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## Hornets 10U's Excel In League, Tournaments

» Continued from B1
with Blanck and Mengel
both hitting home runs;
Blanck's home run was a
grand-slam, and he had 10
RBI's in the tournament.
Hudson (.667 average for
the tournament), Mengel
(.643) and Morris (.625) led
the team in batting for the

Chad Moran coaches the Green Hornets with assistant coaches Jeff Menel, Chad Morris, Bob Hall and Eric Clarke.

tournament.

"Overall a great group of kids who are coachable, love the game and are fun to be around," said Moran. "They've done a fantastic job representing their families and Severna Park."

# SP Post 175 American Legion Baseball Team Wins Appalachian Classic

**By Colin Murphy** colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Summer after summer, the Severna Park Post 175 American Legion baseball team displays the depth of baseball in this area, and the summer of 2019 is shaping up to be another statewide show of strength.

The team made a statement in June by going 5-0 and winning the Appalachian Classic Legion Tournament in Frostburg and Cumberland over the weekend of June 15-16.

SPHS 2018 graduate and pitcher **Cam Clark** was named tournament MVP with two wins. **Nick Gatton** (Broadneck '19), **Dylan Young** (Chesapeake '19) and **George Lesher** (SPHS '18) also recorded wins.

Severna Park is 2-0 in Legion league play and 7-0 overall. The team comprises former or current Severna
Park players with the
exception of Gatton and
Young. The squad of Clark,
Gatton, Young, Lesher,
Luke Guy, Garrett Weiss,
Jordan Hallet, Logan
Harris, Logan Hamer,
Mark Sasse, Wesley
Adams, Craig Johnson,
Ben Litkowski, Caleb
Robinson, Brendan
Simonds and Jacob Way is
coached by Bob Hallet.

The team plays American Legion league games through late July with a wood-bat tournament in Frederick also in July.

Severna Park will defend its state championship from last tournament in late July in Cumberland with hopes to advance to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament in Asheboro, North Carolina, and the World Series in Shelby, North Carolina, in August.



The Severna Park Post 175 American Legion baseball team is off to a hot start to the summer season; Severna Park is 7-0 overall and won the Appalachian Classic Legion Tournament in Frostburg in June with a 5-0 performance.





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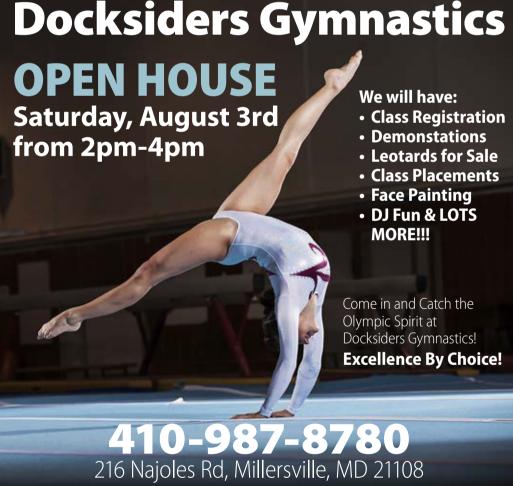
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# **SCHOOL & YOUTH**

# SPHS And BHS Valedictorians And Salutatorians Empart Their Wisdom

By Maya Pottiger

VALEDICTORIAN SEVERNA PARK

From Falcon To Terrapin: Reese Barrett Is Off To College Park

When Reese Barrett was growing up, her parents always pushed her to do her best. For Barrett, doing her best translated into becoming valedictorian for the Severna Park High School class of 2019.



Reese Barrett

"I'm a very self-motivated person, so when I set a goal, I do what I need to do to accomplish it," Barrett said. "That being my goal in and of itself was a good motivator for me."

Barrett has many accomplishments outside of academics. She was class treasurer for three years, part of her school's "It's Academic" team and a camp counselor at the Anne Arundel County 4-H Camp, which is held annually at the Western Maryland 4-H Center in Garrett County.

Growing up, the 4-H camp really helped shape Barrett.

"It's one of my favorite places in the world," Barrett said. "It's such a safe and happy place. It's an awesome place for kids to be themselves and learn self-confidence and how to advocate for themselves."

Competitive dance has been another key activity in Barrett's life. She has been on a competitive dance team at Edna Lee Dance Studio in Glen Burnie since middle school, and she trains six days a week.

"Dance taught me how to work hard. Grades are a lot easier for me than dancing is, so I had the experience where I wasn't as good at something and had to push myself to become who I wanted to be," Barrett said. "Being a dancer definitely taught me about being part of » Continued on B10

Valedictorian Broadneck

# Meghan Figueras Heads To Notre Dame

Whenever Meghan Figueras started to struggle, her mom scheduled a college tour. In all,

22 colleges. This is how she ended up at the University of Notre Dame. Figueras, who graduated as

Figueras visited



Meghan Figueras

the valedictorian of Broadneck High School's class of 2019, always thought she wanted to go to a city school. While visiting schools in Chicago, her father persuaded her to visit Notre Dame.

"I went, and I fell in love with it," Figueras said. "We went to the Grotto [of Our Lady of Lourdes], which is a prayer space there, and it was just like a feeling, and I knew I wanted to be there."

Faith is important to Figueras, so the school's being a Catholic university helped her decision. While at Broadneck, Figueras taught a religious education class at St. Andrew

"I really love working with kids, and it was really impactful for me to see them growing in their faith," Figueras said. "When I was teaching the younger kids, it really took me back to the foundations of my faith and the foundation of who I am, so that really solidified my character and who I want to be as a person."

Figueras also volunteered at Anne Arundel Medical Center, where she helped check patients into the labor and delivery unit, directed families to the right room and served as a helping hand. As president of Broadneck's National Honor Society and treasurer of the Interact Club, » Continued on B10

SALUTATORIAN BROADNECK

Emma Snead Sails To

Coast Guard Academy

Growing up, Emma Snead's friends

"It's you, your boat, and the wind

and waves and being in the elements.

It taught you self-reliance," Snead said.

"It's freeing, the feeling of having ev-

erything in control. I really love that."

While at Broadneck High School,

team. In the offseasons - winter and

summer — she continued sailing with

a club team. In her junior year, Snead

Broadneck Robotics. The SailBot team

built robotic sailboats and competed in

ing her achieve her status as the BHS

aspect of it really pushes you to excel

and succeed and be the best you can,"

In the fall, Snead will start at the

United States Coast Guard Academy

where she plans to study naval archi-

tecture and marine engineering. Snead

said she wants to learn more about how

"I'm really excited for the future,"

Snead said. "I don't know exactly what

my end goal will be, but it's definitely

going to be with boats and the water.

And it's either going to be on ships or

helping to build ships and design ships."

Snead credits these activities to help-

"I'm super competitive, so the racing

started a SailBot team as a subset of

Snead was on the school's sailing

Emma Snead

stantly changing

aspirations. But

Snead's compass

has always pointed

due north toward naval architect and

marine engineer. While in second

grade and living on

a boat, Snead fell in

love with the water.

college competitions.

Snead said.

class of 2019 salutatorian.

SALUTATORIAN SEVERNA PARK

# Kate Bray Leads The Way To Michigan

Kate Bray loves to stay busy. She is three-sport athlete, Gold

Award-earning Girl Scout, and an active member of her church and community.

When she found

out she was the salutatorian of the Severna Park High School class of 2019, it was all the more exciting.

"It just showed that all my hard work paid off in the end," Bray said. "I know that I'm going to have to continue to work hard in college, so starting these habits now was really important to me so that I can continue to do well in college.'

While at Severna Park, Bray played field hockey and lacrosse, and ran indoor track. She is a state champion in lacrosse, and earned spots on the first and second all-county teams in field hockey and lacrosse.

Off the field, Bray is involved with the Rise for Autism organization. She organized monthly teen nights and ran a bike camp last summer to teach people how to ride bikes.

As a Girl Scout, Bray earned her Gold Award by organizing a STEM night for elementary and middle school girls. She had 18 organizations in attendance, and more than 250 girls showed up for the event. At SPHS, Bray is part of Project Lead The Way, a four-year engineering program.

'What I've started to notice is that, over the years, the number of girls in the class decreases drastically because engineering is mainly a male-dominated field," Bray said. "I wanted to encourage girls to continue studying that."

Bray is leading by example. In the fall, » Continued on B10

Snead feels lucky to have gone » Continued on B8

# Ellie Ochalek Embodies Possibility, Positivity And Power

Local Girl Featured On "Good Morning America"

 $\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond$ 

By Jane Seiss

🕇 even-year-old Ellie Ochalek loves school, Girl Scouts, and waves and sandcastles at the beach. She just finished first grade at Folger McKinsey Elementary School and is an avid reader who did well on all of her spelling tests this year. Ellie likes practicing "fast math" on the iPads at school and enjoys weekly visits to Folger's media center to check out books — among her favorites, "Pinkalicious," the "Amelia Bedelia" series and

"Isadora" books. "I like school because it's really cool, and it rocks," Ellie explained.

Recently, Ellie received national and local attention for a video in which she talked about her qualities as a young girl with Down syndrome. The short video was featured on social media accounts for "Good Morning America" and People Magazine. Ellie's mom, Lauren, made the recording one morning at breakfast and posted it to her Instagram account, thinking it would be appreciated by family and friends. She used her iPhone to film Ellie talking about the fact that she has an extra 21st chromosome and how this makes her "powerful," kind, extra loving, and filled with "gratitude." The video » Continued on B10



A Folger McKinsey student, Ellie Ochalek received national and local attention for a video in which she talked about her positive traits as a girl with Down

# Magothy River Middle School Students Send Project To Space



MRMS sixth-graders Caleb Young, Ethan Shellem, Gavin Wildberger and Gabby Munoz created a project that will be sent into space in July.

### By Maya Pottiger

'n July, a project created by four Magothy River Middle **▲**School sixth-graders will be sent into space and tested by astronauts.

Caleb Young, Ethan Shellem, Gavin Wildberger and Gabby Munoz designed an experiment that tests the effects of microgravity on concrete.

"It is important to explore the different materials that we could use to colonize or build on moons or planets," Gabby said.

As part of the sixth-grade curriculum, students participated in Mission 13 during the unit on space. Mission 13 is run by the Student Spaceflight Experiments program through the National Center

for Earth and Space Science Education.

Students broke into groups to create proposals of projects they wanted to test in space, and after a series of stages, one proposal was chosen. MRMS students beat five schools in the county.

"I thought it would be a very cool opportunity for our » Continued on B8

# **Alliana Snead Looks Forward To Clean Future**

By Maya Pottiger

ne of Alliana Snead's first memories is living on a boat when she was in second grade. Her family sailed up to Philadelphia and then down to the Bahamas. It was during this trip that she found a passion for the water.

After finishing top three in her class at Indian Creek School, Snead will attend the University of Connecticut in the fall to study chemical engineering. She wants to help clean up the environment.

"We're always on the water or living next to it," Snead said. "I see all the debris wash up or I see the brown water and I'm like, 'Ugh, that's gross."

Ultimately, Snead wants to work for the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

"I really like chemistry, working in a lab," Snead said. "I want to figure out a way to turn chemical engineering to focus on the water quality and environment and help clean up the world around us because it's a mess."

Snead spends a lot of time



three in her class at Indian Creek School.

on the water. She was captain of her school's sailing team and completed a twoyear thesis on the Marylanders Grow Oysters program. Snead earned her school's STEM Award after presenting her thesis.

At the University of Connecticut, Snead will be a STEM Scholar, which is part of the Honors Program. She also received scholarships from the Anne Arundel Watermen's Association and Federal Water Quality Association.

Outside of STEM activi-

ties, Snead also sang in Indian Creek's Solo Choir, sang in the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis and was part of Art Honor Society at Indian Creek.

'The school community, they really encourage people to do everything. They make it easy to explore what you like," Snead said. "It was really helpful to figure out my values and interests and hobbies."

Snead is not alone in her love of school. Her twin sister, Emma, graduated as the salutatorian of Broadneck High School.

"I didn't have a doubt that she would be top of her class, but it was really nice to know that we both were," Snead said. "We're always going to be close to each other and do the same things."

Snead said she is happy to have gone to a school that fostered an environment of inquiry and passion.

"Because everyone was so interested in what they're doing, it helped me continue to be interested in what I was doing," Snead said. "When you're passionate about something surrounded by other passionate people, it helps."

# Severna Park Wunderkind Wins Entrepreneurship Award

By Ava Stanski **Student Intern** 

Graduating high school is the only concern for many teenagers before going off to college. For recent Severna Park High graduate Erica Szymanski, however, her high school career is only the tip of the iceberg.

In addition to excelling on her schoolwork, Szymanski manages two businesses. River Beads, her first business, sells handmade bead jewelry, with the majority of the profits going toward the

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). Her second business, Erica Morgan Designs, specializes in magnets and decals with area-specific designs.

It's not just her customers who are taking notice. Szymanski was acknowledged with the Rising Star Student Entrepreneur Award during the Small Business Association Maryland awards ceremony on June 6.

"It was a huge honor that I wasn't expecting," Szymanski said, "But, as surprising as it was, it was also incredibly

rewarding."

Szymanski has made great strides in the development and expansion of her companies.

"My main goal for River Beads is to maintain our products and our presence through craft fairs and other avenues. I'll even make a few pieces of my own if I have time," she explained. "But most of my time is focused on expanding and improving Erica Morgan Designs."

Whereas Erica Morgan Designs previously stocked two designs of stickers and magnets, the website now displays six designs for decals and magnets, all of which Szymanski designed herself, in addition to T-shirt options for her Bethany Beach design.

Szymanski also plans to expand her products to include prints, textiles, and even a children's book. "I first wrote the words to it in elementary school, but I recently designed the illustrations with watercolors, then sent them off to a professional illustrator to recreate them digitally," Szymanski explained. She attained the funding for her new book from a pitch competition at Anne Arundel Community College, where she also received a certificate in business through the Ratcliffe Scholarship Program. 'Technically, I graduated college before I graduated high school," she said.

Szymanski's flourishing businesses aren't her only concerns, "I'm attending the University of Virginia in the fall, so I'll have to take some of my focus away from the businesses," she

Erica Szymanski (center, left) was acknowledged with the Rising Star Student Entrepreneur Award during the Small Business Association Maryland awards ceremony on June 6.

said, "but summer is when most of our business come in, so it works out pretty well." Szymanski has also made sure that she is able to give back to the community. Most recently, I designed an Annapolis Strong decal that I collaborated on with Whimsicality Boutique; \$5 of every purchase went to the Capital Gazette Families Fund," she said.

In addition, Szymanski

has created a Maryland decal to raise money for those displaced by the flooding of Ellicott City, and she has given 75% percent of her sales on Redbubble to benefit to victims of the Virginia Beach shooting.

Learn more about Erica Morgan Designs at www.ericamorgandesigns.com or find more designs by searching for Erica Morgan on www. redbubble.com.

# Girl Scouts Leave Messages Of Kindness

On Monday, June 3, for the fourth consecutive year, Severna Park High School ninth-graders from Girl Scout Troop 2000 spent an afternoon drawing sidewalk chalk messages of kindness and acceptance at Severna Park Middle School. On Tuesday morning, students stepped off school buses and were greeted with messages like "U. R. AWESOME, U. R. ENOUGH, U. R. WORTH IT," "Love More," and "Believe in

The girls first came up with this idea while completing their Girl Scout journey, Amaze! The Twists and Turns of Getting Along. A journey is a series of lessons with discussions that aim to instill a sense of empowerment, community connectedness, teamwork and leadership in



buses and were greeted with messages like "U. R. AWESOME, U. R. ENOUGH, U. R. WORTH IT," "Love More," and "Believe in Yourself!"

> scouts. The culmination of a journey involves the Take Action Project. Here, the scouts put their teamwork skills to use by creating a plan to make a positive change in their community. SPMS Principal Sharon Hansen was thrilled with Troop 2000's sidewalk chalk project proposal, and she im-

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mediately gave her approval.

When asked what Troop 2000 is hoping to convey with this annual chalking event, troop member Abby said, "We want the students, staff and visitors of SPMS to know that people care about you. We want to make you happy, if even for a second."



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# BHS Says Goodbye To The Class Of 2019







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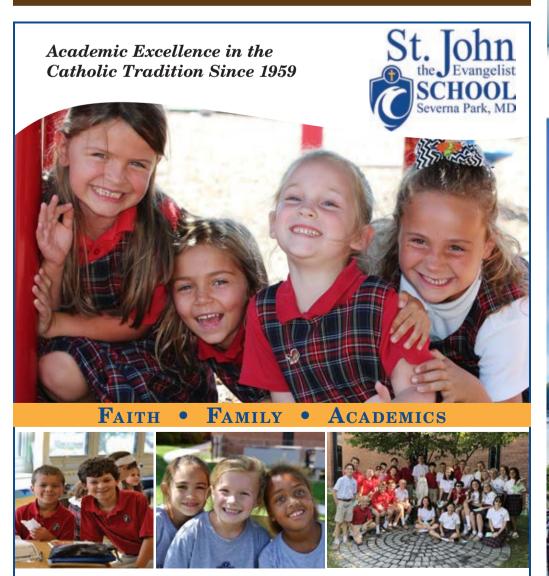
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# MRMS Students Send Project To Space

» Continued from B6

students. Very real-world," said Lauren Ebersberger, a sixth-grade teacher at MRMS. "I was really impressed with a lot of the projects that were submitted."

This was the first year that MRMS participated in the competition, and Ebersberger said she wanted to provide the opportunity to students to open their eyes to different careers.

"It opens up their eyes that, 'Oh, we're just students, but we're going to be a part of something much, much bigger," Ebersberger said. "It definitely taps into the STEM. We are not a STEM school, but it helps promote that."

The four students have been working on this project on a weekly basis all school year. After school let out for the summer, they returned to MRMS for a video conference to learn how to pack their project to prepare it for the space launch.

"They all have different personalities, and I think that helped when they had to come up with ideas and designing," Ebersberger said. "They were very positive throughout the entire experience."

A conference on July 1 and July 2 will bring together all of the winners from around the world to showcase their projects. Gabby will represent MRMS at the conference. The launch is tentatively set for July 18, and it will be streamed online for people to watch.

### Hear From The Students Involved

"This topic is important to me because if the concrete does harden, it will help us recognize that we are able to build things in space. When I grow up, I would like to do something with engineering, and this project has helped me communicate with others and brainstorm ideas and designs." – Caleb Young, 12

"It's important because maybe in the future we could have a city or houses on the moon made of concrete. I have always loved space and wanted to go into space, so knowing that our group's project is going into space is exciting." – Ethan Shellem, 12

"It felt great to win, and I am humbled by it all. Space has always interested me. I am not interested in a job in space, but it will help prepare me for working in groups with unfamiliar people to solve a problem." – **Gavin Wildberger, 12** 

"It was great to know that I accomplished something that might help future scientists. I would like to get a career in being an astrophysicist. This project has taught me a lot about the workings in space and how there is little gravity and how everything links together in our solar system." – **Gabby Munoz, 12** 

# Emma Snead Sails To Coast Guard Academy

» Continued from B6

to Broadneck because the school and surrounding community are full of good people.

"The school has really challenging courses and gives you the ability to challenge yourself to be able to get into a good college and succeed," Snead said. "I'm really excited

that I got to go to Broadneck High School and take all of these hard courses and grow as a person through all the friends I made and all the things I did."

However, finishing top in the class is in her family's blood. On Snead's dad's side of the family, "everyone" was either valedictorian or salutatorian. This didn't stop with Snead. Her twin sister, Alliana, graduated from Indian Creek High School in the top three in her class.

"I was so proud of her. She's so smart," Snead said. "It's so cool that she goes to a private school and I go to a public school. I love that a lot. It's totally different."







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# Shipley's Kriewald, Nash Retire

By Maya Pottiger

For the first time in their lives, Shipley's Elementary School teachers Carol Kriewald and Lucy Nash won't have a first day of school.

Both teachers retired at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. Kriewald taught art at Shipley's Choice for 30 years and worked at 10 other schools in the county, and Nash taught fifth grade at Shipley's Choice since 2006 but has been a teacher for 44 years.

"I thought it would be easy. It's not as easy as you think," Nash said. "It's starting something new, and it's hard to start over when you've been at something so long.'

During her time at Shipley's, Nash started the Karen Jauschnegg Award to honor a colleague who died from breast cancer. The award recognizes two fifth-graders every year who demonstrated a passion for learning and perseverance. Each year, the new names are added to a plaque at the front of the school.

Both Kriewald and Nash were very involved in school activities, whether it was doing face painting at the annual fall festival, participating in the Tech Trot or dancing in the Mini Rock 'N' Roll Revival.

"Carol combined her two



Lucy Nash (left) and Carol Kriewald both retired from Shipley's Choice Elementary at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

great loves - young children and art - into every part of her life. In addition to raising four children. she spent her work days expanding the creative vision of thousands of Shipley's kids," said Mark Hopkins, a close friend of Kriewald. "More than anyone I know, Carol leads a creatively meaningful life of love and thoughtfulness."

Nash taught both children of Carolyn Campion, a fifth-grade parent. Campion said Nash did "an amazing job" sharing her love of reading and writing.

"I firmly believe that teachers, especially those who have dedicated 44 years of their lives to this job, are truly gifted, special people," Campion said. "And she has shared her gifts with countless

students over the years and made an impact on all of them."

Kriewald, who lives in the Shipley's Choice community, told students that she still cares about them and wants to hear about their accomplishments. She is most proud of "encouraging the most talented students to be their best while also enabling less talented students to be successful."

"I've always loved children. It hasn't been a hard job as far as going every day. I've enjoyed every day," Kriewald said. "It's a bittersweet end. I'm sad to stop."

Nash said she's sad to go and hopes that her students came away with a love of learning.

"I will miss the children," Nash said. "You leave feeling truly loved."

# Debi Short To Retire As Principal Of Benfield Elementary

### **By Alyson Kay**

Benfield Elementary Principal Debi Short will retire this summer after seven years as head of the school.

Short started her career as a special education teacher in Michigan. Because of her husband's career in the military, she moved several times from Florida to Virginia and finally to Maryland. During her 31-year career in education, she worked as a reading specialist and an administrator.

Short credits her own teachers for her lifelong desire to be an educator. "I had teachers who were very impactful in my life," Short said. "It was something that I wanted to do and hopefully impact the lives of children, and later on, the careers of teachers."

In 2007, Short took a job as a principal at Shady Side Elementary School. She used her career as a teacher to guide her in those new roles as principal of Shady Side Elementary and Benfield Elementary.

"She is a strong instructional leader," said firstgrade teacher Jennifer Meushaw, who worked with Short for 11 years. "Mrs. Short was a former reading and special education teacher. She brought her



**Debi Short** 

expertise in these areas to her principalship. She has helped teachers refine and develop their craft. She loves watching teachers flourish and grow. She will be missed and I wish her the best in her retirement!"

Short considers her role as a reading specialist as especially important in helping her lead her staff as principal. "Being a reading specialist and reading really well enabled me to help teachers become better teachers of reading," Short said.

During her time at Benfield, Short and her staff accomplished a lot. Benfield's gifted and talented program was recognized by Maryland's Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (E-GATE) awards program. The school was also recognized as a Green School and a Wellness School of Distinction. Short will miss her

She has helped teachers refine and develop their craft. She loves watching teachers flourish and grow."

FIRST-GRADE TEACHER JENNIFER MEUSHAW

staff as much as the staff members miss her. "We've become a family," Short said. "You spend years together and you truly become a family. I think that camaraderie is going to be missed the most."

Short's fondest memories of her time at Benfield always involve the kids. "You walk into a room and, especially the little ones, will run up and give you hugs and hellos and things," Short said. "Those are always the things that are near and dear to your heart. It's the children and how happy and excited for learning they are."

After she retires, Short hopes to spend more time traveling with her husband, discovering new hobbies and working on her garden. She also wants to spend more time with family.

"We have six grandchildren, so we'll be spending more time with them," Short said.

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# **Sharon Hansen Says Goodbye To SPMS**



After seven years at Severna Park Middle School, Principal Sharon Hansen (center) is calling it a career. Her retirement comes after a successful stint at SPMS and after serving as principal of Crofton Middle School, and assistant principal of Marley Middle School, Kent Island High School and Meade High School.

# Ellie Ochalek Embodies Possibility

### » Continued from B6

the video and sent it to "Good Morning America." Within weeks, the video was shared by People, and Baltimore television station WMAR, an ABC affiliate, visited Ellie's classroom to meet the first-grader and interview her friends. The piece, "Ellie the Enchanted," aired on local news.

Ellie is an enthusiastic student. At an early age, she learned sign language and began talking, and before age 2, she was reading sight words. After preschool, she attended prekindergarten at before heading to Folger McKinsey on the school bus for kindergarten.

"She's always done well academically," Lauren said. "She loves to learn, and she's a really hard worker. She loves the positive feedback she gets when she blows through an outdated stereotype."

Ellie has lots of friends at school. "The inclusion piece is so important," Lauren said, noting that everyone benefits. Ellie fits in well, making lots of friends and opening minds to possibilities. Fittingly, Folger runs a positivity project, encouraging students to recognize

"She keeps up because she

room experience.

Outside school, Ellie participates in Girl Scouts and ballet and tap classes. She loves to play with her younger brother and sister. A highlight of her year was the daddy-daughter dance she attended with her dad, Aaron. She donned a purple dress to

This summer, Ellie has joined Anne Arundel County Public Library's summer reading program, and she will maintain her academic skills with tutoring sessions up to three times a week. Over the school break, she is looking forward to hopping in the family hot tub, visiting the pool, and traveling to California for a family coastal

# Meghan Figueras Heads To Notre Dame

### » Continued from B6

Figueras frequently participated in community service. She was also on the school's unified bocce team, which is a group composed of special needs students and their peers.

'That was probably my favorite extracurricular that I did. The kids got so excited and treated every game like it was the Olympics," Figueras said. "All of the special needs kids were so happy all the time, and it's just a reminder not to take whatever's going on in your life so seriously and to enjoy yourself and be happy.

In the fall, Figueras plans

» Continued from B6

a team and working hard."

rett will intern at the Johns

Lab. Now viewed as a college

intern, Barrett will be "given

I'm getting to do more what

a real engineering job is like,

more advanced work, and

so that's a really awesome

In the fall, Barrett will

attend the University of Mary-

land as part of the Banneker/ Key Scholars Program. She

plans to major in electrical

engineering with a minor in

has a positive impact on the

"I really want a career that

experience."

sustainability.

Hopkins Applied Physics

For the third summer, Bar-

Reese Barrett Is

Off To College Park

to major in biochemistry on the pre-med track at Notre Dame. She also wants to earn a minor in Spanish. Looking toward the future, Figueras wants to be a neonatologist and work with babies in the newborn intensive care unit.

"After my volunteering at the hospital, I think that it's a good fit," Figueras said. "They were so able to see the impact that they were making in people's lives every day. I think that is really special."

Figueras thanks the teachers at Broadneck for providing a support group, especially her calculus teacher, Brianna Bostic.

world," Barrett said. "As I've

learned through my experi-

ences with the camp, doing

Though she is looking

forward to the next chapter,

have gotten to go to a school

"All of them have taught

me how important it is to be

kind and to be genuine, and

how important it is to support

each other," Barrett said. "The

taught me so much about what

it means to be a good person,

so that will definitely help me

people at Severna Park have

where there are so many

Barrett said she feels "lucky to

fulfilling to me."

good people."

with my future."

good is something that's really

# Leads The Way To Michigan

"So many of the teach-

actually care about you as a

person instead of just you

doing well in their class or

passing their class," Figuer-

as said. "That support group

Kate Bray

was really helpful."

ers there are so great and

» Continued from B6

she will attend the University of Michigan, where she plans to study biomedical engineering. She earned two scholarships from SPHS: one from the athletics boosters and one from Principal's Prestigious Honor Roll.

"I would love to work side by side with doctors to improve medical equipment and their processes to make the world a safer place," Bray said.

In college, Bray plans to play club lacrosse, and she looks forward to meeting new people and trying different things. However, she thanks Severna Park for the competitive environment that helped build her drive and for helping her get involved in the community.

"These different things have given me the opportunity to meet different people and be involved in different things," Bray said. "I think that will really help me in college just to branch out."

ends with Lauren stating, "I'm very thankful that you have Down syndrome. I love your extra 21st chromosome."

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that "other people matter."

wants to keep up," Lauren said of her daughter's class-

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calls unique. "They're not

boats that you see locally,"

she said with an infectious

laugh. "They're not intend-

The paintings are big and

ed to match the couch."

bold. "I think there is a

certain amount of bravery

in throwing together

something that you

the standard crabs and sail-

# Broadneck Library Hosts Bestselling Author Peggy Rowe

**By Desirae Martins** 

ew York Times bestselling author Peggy Rowe is scheduled to visit Broadneck Community Library on July 1 for a book



ing and reading of her debut novel, "About My Mother: True Stories of

About My Mother

TRUE STORIES

a Horse-**Johny Deerg** Crazy Daughter and Her Baseball-Obsessed Mother." Rowe, born and raised in Baltimore, admittedly loves writing, horses and family, and she managed

to weave all of those topics into a witty, heartwarming memoir highlighting the importance of love and acceptance.

According to Rowe, when she was a child, she and her mother were polar opposites. Her mother, Thelma Knobel, was a refined lady

who enjoyed watching ballet, opera and symphonies while moonlighting as a die-hard Baltimore Orioles fan. On the other hand, Rowe was a horseriding tomboy, uninterested in refinement or professional baseball. Naturally, their personalities clashed and Rowe resisted her mother's efforts to raise her as a proper lady, which resulted in endless amusing accounts of their mismatched personalities.

Years later, when Rowe began writing for newspapers and magazines, including the Baltimore Sun, she sometimes shared short stories or anecdotes about her mother. According to the author, stories about her relationship with her mother always turned out to be fan favorites. Further, Rowe garnered even more attention when she unwittingly became a contributor to her son, Mike Rowe's, Facebook

> known for the hit TV series "Dirty Jobs," Rowe's son frequently shared her texts, conversations or short stories with his social media followers. From there, her work began getting a lot attention, so much so that she eventually gained

page. Best

her own following on social media. Then, one day, she decided if she could finish » Continued on B12

# Artist Jen Sterling's Abstract Art Is Bold, Beautiful And "Out Of The Box"

**By Sharon Mager** 

rnold resident Jen Sterling loves **C**color, not just in her paintings, but also in her life. "I've always been inspired by color," she said. "It totally impacts my mood and how I approach the day."

As an abstract painter, Sterling has a compulsion to help others feel that same excitement through her paintings, which she

think might not go together or to offer something more intense than someone may expect to find," she said. Sterling

plained that buying preframed or ready-to-frame art is "safe," neutral, and it goes with everything. That's not what she offers.

"I'm going to give you something that's not safe," she said. "It's not 'in the box' or even in the same zip code as 'the box.' I want to do something to get your attention.

"I like a lot of contrast - bright and bold, with action and shape so that each time I look at a picture, I see something new," she added. "I may only use a small number of colors, but they move or interact and create energy."

Sterling's natural passion for color ignited when she and her sister, Robin, traveled to the American Southwest almost 20 years ago. "The colors out there were incredible," she said. "That was the first time I consciously realized how they affected my mood. I realized I need that bright intensity and color."

Upon coming home, she wanted to find a way to express the way she was impacted. "I bought paint and canvasses and tried to let

"Big Fish" is a musical th<mark>at</mark> has both happy

and heartbreaking moments brought to life

by an ensemble of 41 children ages 7 to 14

it flow out of me," Sterling said. "I was feeling emotion while painting. That is my mission with art: to have other people feel that too. It had such a positive impact on me.'

Sterling was born in

Madison, Wisconsin, and her family often relocated. A retired college professor, her father taught at various universities. The family moved to the northern Virginia area when Sterling was in fourth grade, and that's where she stayed until five years ago when she moved to Anne Arundel County. "I fell in love with a man who worked on the water," she said with a smile, referring to her husband, John Norton.

Sterling went to college with plans to be a genetic engineer or a lawyer, but after taking a required art class, she fell in love with typography and design. She changed her major and graduated with a degree in visual communication. "I found a whole business side I didn't know existed," she said.

She started a branding >> Continued on B12

# TMC Set To Reel In Audiences With "Big Fish"

By Judy Tacyn

The Talent Machine Company, based in Millersville, is poised to enchant audiences with its spirited summer production. "Big Fish" is a two-act musical by John August, based on Daniel Wallace's 1998 novel, "Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions." A film adaptation of the same name was released in 2003. It's a story of family lore and secrets. Add a witch, a mermaid, a giant, and a dose of time travel all bundled up in hilarity, and there's proof that "fish" tales do grow

taller on down the line. Katie Peacock, "Big Fish" director, said audiences will be thrilled with the young thespians' adaption of the musical. "Big Fish' is a roller coaster ride of emotions as it journeys through the happy, heartbreaking and the laughable moments of a family," Peacock said. "Overall, expect

the unexpected - the story is

full of twists and turns that

audiences are bound to be

surprised." This show will have more dancing and scenic elements than the Broadway version. "Some people may know the story from the book or the Tim Burton movie. The musical is a little different than either one,"

Peacock said. "Although all

three are similar, the musical is a bit more comedic and strays from the story when it comes to the details."

Peacock wanted to choose a challenging production for her young, large ensemble of 41 children ages 7 to 14, who hail from all over the region.

"Our selection processes always differs depending on directors, but specifically, I wanted a show that would be exciting for adults and children alike," Peacock said. "We were searching and looking at different shows when I landed on 'Big Fish,' and we all loved the story and knew that was going to be our top choice."

The director added that the kids have been working hard, including Saturday and Sunday rehearsals since April to

learn the dialogue, lyrics, and dance steps.

"I don't want to jinx anything, but I am happy where we are at and we are excited and ready to open on July 12," Peacock added.

Severna Park Middle School student **Kate Roberts** has been acting for three years. "Big Fish" is her second show with the Talent Machine Company. Roberts plays the

Bearded Lady. "I like playing the Bearded Lady because I get to make people laugh with my character, and I love making people laugh and be happy," the rising seventh-grader said.

Roberts is just one member of a talented cast, which the director said is a big reason >> Continued on B12

# "Toy Story 4" Offers **Something For Everyone**



Photo courtesy of Pixar Animation Studios

By following the adventures of Woody and Forkie, "Toy Story 4" explores the theme of what remains after we have served the purpose society set out for us.

### **By Audrey Ruppert**

walked into the fourth installment of "Toy **▲**Story" wondering why the creators couldn't leave well enough alone. The franchise stood so perfectly as it was, and with every sequel, there is a possibility its legacy could be tarnished, but once again, the team at Pixar managed to pull through and create a delightful, touching, profound and utterly hilarious film for the whole family.

In this installment, we follow up with Woody and the gang, who have left the now adult Andy behind and been given to a new kid, Bonnie. Woody finds himself the favorite toy no longer but tries to keep his chin up - until Bonnie "makes" a new friend at school, and by that, I mean literally makes a friend. On her first day of kindergarten, Bonnie makes her own toy, dubbed "Forkie," out of a spork and some pipe cleaners from the garbage. Forkie, however, has little in-» Continued on B12

# Fantastic Foods: The Most Unusual Menu Items Around Severna Park

By Zach Sparks zach@pasadenavoice.com

ave you ever slurped a milkshake with a slice of cake sitting on the surface? Have you ever devoured an authentic Mexican dish with chicken, sausage

We scoured the menus of area restaurants and spoke to their owners to find the most unique food and



Severna Park and Arnold. The Voice staff sought unique dishes that can't be found anywhere else nearby — entrees, desserts and drinks with a twist.

Know of something we missed? Send a description of your favorite unique menu item to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com to be considered for a future story.

**HEART ATTACK ON A PLATE BURGER** Mother's Peninsula Grille in Arnold

**How it started:** A fan of New Orleans culture and food, Mother's co-owner Dave

Rather was inspired by an item he saw at Jacques-Imo's Café. "They had a fried roast beef po' boy that is called Heart Attack on a Plate," Rather said. "This is our version of it.'

What makes it unique: Heart Attack on a Plate is a beer-battered burger, stuffed with cheddar cheese, then deep-fried and served medium with lettuce, tomatoes, onions and chipotle mayo. "I like cutting it down the middle and seeing the cheese ooze

The Heart Attack On A Plate Burger at Mother's Peninsula Grille

out," Rather said.

In 2009, the Food Network Magazine picked its top 50 burgers across the country, and after a taste test, the magazine declared Heart Attack on a Plate to be among the country's top 50 burgers. It was also featured on the "Today" show with

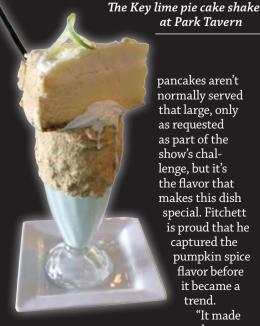
"It's heavy duty," Rather said. "It's not for the faint of heart.'

**FALL HARVEST PANCAKES** THE BREAKFAST SHOPPE in Severna Park

How it started: Jeff Fitchett took ownership of The Breakfast Shoppe more than 10 years ago. The restaurant was started in the 1980s when "all you needed was to smile and serve some good food," Fitchett said, but he wanted to add innovative menu items to satisfy people's changing palates. "We had banana nut and apple cinnamon pancakes and that was it," Fitchett said.

What makes it unique: The harvest pan-

cakes appeared on the Food Network show "Ginormous Foods," as The Breakfast Shoppe whipped up three pancakes that together weighed 30 pounds and were 1.5 feet tall. The



pancakes aren't normally served that large, only as requested as part of the show's challenge, but it's the flavor that makes this dish special. Fitchett is proud that he captured the pumpkin spice flavor before it became a

sense to take

trend.

'It made

pumpkin pie elements and put them in a pancake," Fitchett said. "We sprinkle roasted pumpkin seeds on top and add whipped cream. Every place is going to have pumpkin-» Continued on B14

# "Toy Story 4" Offers Something

» Continued from B11 terest in being a toy and longs to return to the trash from which he came, and Woody finds himself caught up in an

adventure. He is on a mission to reunite Forkie with Bonnie after Forkie gets lost. Along the way, he meets up with Bo Peep, an old toy he lost touch with years ago when she was donated.

While it is a family film, I

would note that, like its other Pixar predecessors, "Toy Story 4" sometimes feels like a movie designed for adults, hiding under the veneer of a children's film, not because it sneaks in crass "adult" jokes as Dreamworks films often do ("Shrek" comes to mind) but because it teaches life lessons, ones that can be learned only

after we have left child-

hood behind.

In this case, through Woody's eyes, we are asked to reflect on what there is after a "career," after we have served the purpose society has set out for us. Are we useless? Is there nothing left to enjoy in life? Or are there other ways we can find meaning and move beyond perhaps painful memories of when we were young and "of use" to those

who meant something to us? And do we necessarily have to do what we are "supposed to do" in our lives? For the toys, this means finding a kid and being that kid's toy; for us, it might mean getting a respectable job or a respectable family. But is that the only option out there? Or are there alternative ways to live life? Bo Peep has found her way in the world without a "set" kid, and seems happy to live an independent life as her own toy, but Woody initially struggles to see her as a fulfilled toy and instead labels her as "lost."

It's not all painful existential questions, though. This might have been the funniest film of the series, with all new character editions bringing on the laughs. The creators certainly know how to keep up with the now adults who would have watched the original "Toy Story" as children; this is evidenced by Forkie's rather millennial, nihilistic humor ("Why am I even alive? I want the trash" says Forkie, before jumping out of a moving vehicle). Key and Peele make an appearance as Bunny and Ducky, two hilarious stuffed animals

on a mission to find a kid of their own. Of course, it was Key and Peele's characters who finally challenged the status quo and asked why on earth the toys have to pretend to be inanimate, and leave minimal physical impact on the human world. This unspoken rule is broken by all the toys and stretched to its limit with some hilarious results (largely involving a rogue RV in a theme park). This film is definitely worth a watch for the adults who grew up with the story, as well as their children and younger siblings.

We are finally left with a product that feels like a true ending — though, you never know when Pixar sequels will arise — where Woody has found a purpose and the toys are in their proper places; perhaps now Pixar can leave well enough alone.

# Jen Sterling's Abstract Art

» Continued from B11 and marketing company, Red Thinking LLC, and has been managing it for 28 years. The painting she did

on the side "for sanity."

"I never thought I could make a career out of fine art, but a few years ago, that changed," she said. "I shifted in my thinking. Up to that point, I painted for myself. I never felt confident enough to take my painting out and show the world. It's crazy, but I need to do that."

Following her passion, Sterling concentrated more time on her painting, and then began not only showing but also selling her work. Thrilled with her success, she rented a studio in Eastport in February and now spends several days a week doing what she loves.

"I'm so much happier," said Sterling, emphasizing the support she has received from her mom, sister, husband and 15-yearold daughter, Rachel.

After discovering there are many other local artists, Sterling started the group The Artists of Eastport as a way to encourage and support one another.

Sterling's art has been on display in a variety of venues in and around Annapolis, including a recent showing at Maryland Hall for Creative Arts. From July 8 to August 30, her work will be on display at City Hall in Annapolis. Those interested may also view her work or commission a painting by appointment. Contact her through email at jensterlingart@ gmail.com or visit www. jensterling.com.

# Peggy Rowe

 $\gg$  Continued from B11

a manuscript that pieced together memories about her relationship with her mother and laced it with lighthearted humor, people would read it. That is where it all began, and at 80 years old, Rowe published her first novel.

When referring to "About My Mother," Rowe playfully said "there is no sex, no violence and no [bad] language in the book, but you will enjoy it anyway!" According to the author and her thousands of social media followers, the novel is a humorous, feel-good book that focuses on family relationships and loving people for who they are. "Anyone who is a family person, or shares a love of family, will like this book," Rowe said.

Broadneck Community Library will host Rowe on Monday, July 1, at 6:30pm. Seating for the event is limited, so registration is required and will begin June 17. Attendees may register by visiting the branch or calling 410-222-1905. Readers can connect with Rowe on Facebook through her page titled "About My Mother" where she entertains more than 102,000 followers.

# TMC Set To Reel In Audiences

» Continued from B11

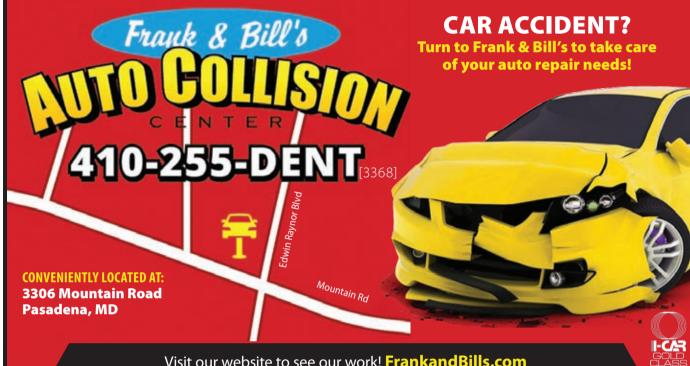
why audiences will love this production. "For me, it's definitely working with the kids, as they are

all so kind and talented. It is

really enjoyable to work with them," she added. "For the audience, I would think that all of the fantastical characters is

surely going to be a lot of fun." The show will run July 12–21

at the Key Auditorium at St. John's College in Annapolis. Evening and matinee showtimes are scheduled. Tickets are \$15 and are available online at www.talentmachine.com.





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 $\boldsymbol{July~14,\,2019:}$  Open for tours of the historic house and grounds. Honeybees—Up Close 1:30pm to 3:30pm

July 21, 2019: Open for tours of the historic house and grounds.

July 28, 2019: Open for tours of the historic house and grounds. August 4, 2019: Open for tours of the historic house and grounds.

August 11, 2019: Open for tours of the historic house and grounds.

**August 18, 2019:** (\$) 10:00am to 4:00pm - War of 1812 Remembrance: Militia muster with cannon. American Schooner "Lion of Baltimore" burned in Bodkin Creek on August 24, 1814, three weeks before the Battle of Baltimore. Honeybees—Up Close 11:00am to 2:00pm

August 25, 2019: Open for tours of the historic house and grounds.

**September 1, 2019:** Labor Day - Open for tours of the historic house and grounds.

September 8, 2019: Forgotten Farm Tasks - Fence mending; crosscut

sawing; spinning; basket making; musket firing; and Butter Churning. Honeybees—Up Close 1:30pm to 3:30pm September 15, 2019: Extended Hancock Family and Friends Day -

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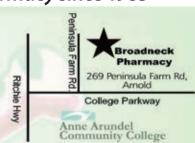
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# **Dining Out**

# Dine South Of The Border This Summer At Mi Pueblo II

**By Mary Cobbler** 

It was late on a Tuesday afternoon when I visited Mi Pueblo II at 554 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. The sister of Mi Pueblo in Glen Burnie, the restaurant is described as "folksy" on its website, and I agree. It has a fun, festive feel, with vibrant, earthy colors throughout and Mexican art on the walls. There are tables, with engravings throughout the restaurant, and high-backed booths lining the walls, giving diners a cozy, private space. Mexican music and the continuous stream of waiters waltzing by with margaritas added to the authentic atmosphere.

My waiter arrived with a bowl of warm tortilla chips and a carafe of fresh salsa. I nearly finished the fresh and lightly spicy salsa before my mango margarita arrived. Perfect for an 85-degree day, the frozen concoction didn't disappoint. It was wonderfully refreshing — with the rim coated in sugar, the sweet and tangy mango flavor, and mid-level potency.

I chose the botana mixta for an appetizer, to get the

chance to sample a lot of different goodies. The large plate of delicacies included a cheese quesadilla, taquitos, chicken fingers and jalapeno poppers served over a bed of lettuce, guacamole and sour cream. The generous servings could have easily satisfied a party of four. The quesadilla was filled with light and mild Mexican cheese, the tachitos were crunchy and flavorful, and the chicken tenders and the poppers crisp and spicy. There were no complaints from anyone at the table (that would be me). I must pay homage to the guacamole. It is the best I've ever tasted. I was never a guacamole lover, but I guess I just hadn't met the right guacamole yet.

For my entree, I asked my server for a recommendation, and he suggested the chimichanga or the El Molcajete, which the menu says serves two. I chose the El Molcajete since I planned to take food home to my hubby.



The botana mixta includes a quesadilla, taquitos, chicken fingers and jalapeno poppers served over a bed of lettuce, guacamole and sour cream.

My eyes bulged as I saw the waiter with my dish. It was huge and sizzling hot, with the meat literally spilling over the sides of a large black stone bowl (called a

molcajete). It was filled with grilled rib-eye steak, shrimp, chicken and Mexican sausage, with cactus and jalapeno poppers on top of melted cheese and chipotle sauce, all served

with a side of rice, beans, lettuce, that delightful guacamole, and generous portions of sour cream, and tortillas.

Honestly, I was stuffed from the appetizer and chips and salsa, but I forced myself to taste the dish, piling some meat, shrimp, the cactus, and other goodies onto a tortilla. The grilled chicken and steak were tender and perfectly seasoned, as was the shrimp. The cactus was unique. I had to ask my waiter if it was edible, and he assured me it was. It had the texture of zucchini, with a milder taste. Altogether it was a satisfying mix, and my husband was impressed when I brought him the stuffed leftover containers. In fact, his exact words were,

food I've ever eaten." I topped off my meal with tres leches, beautifully pre-

"That's the best Mexican

sented with a cherry on top — a sweet ending, though maybe a little too sweet for my taste. The filling was light and airy but lacked a richness I prefer in that particular dessert. Other choices also looked good — cheesecake xango, charros, fried ice cream, and other yummy offerings.

**B13** 

The food was reasonable and the wait staff was pleasant. For the large appetizer, margarita, entree and dessert, the check came to \$44. I had plenty to take home for dinner for one night and lunch for the next day.

There are lots of items to choose from — traditional Mexican fare, meat and seafood entrees, a large selection of vegetarian dishes, children's meals, and lunch specials as well as a full bar.

Make time this summer to dine south of the border, at least in spirit, at Mi Pueblo II. For the full menu, go to www. mipueblo2.com.

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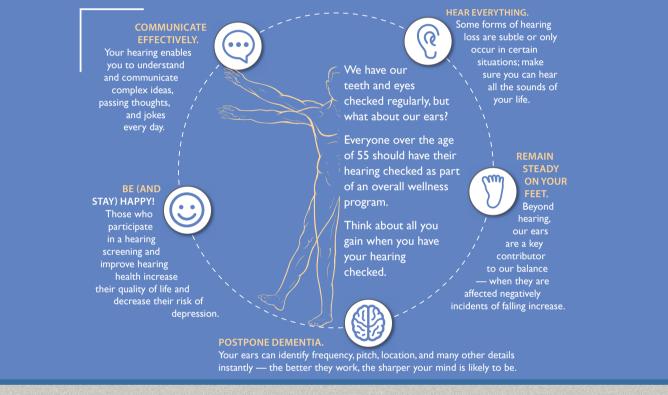
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# Fantastic Foods: The Most Unusual Menu Items Around Severna Park

» Continued from B11 flavored food now, but few places are going to have something like this.

**Also Try:** The backpacker's pie was also featured on "Ginormous Foods." Served in a cast-iron skillet, the omelet contains eggs, ham, bacon, sausage, peppers, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, mushrooms, spinach, broccoli, and cheddar jack cheese. "That's basically breakfast, lunch and dinner all in one," Fitchett said.

**CAKE SHAKE** PARK TAVERN IN Severna Park

What makes it unique: When Park Tavern was looking for a way to get guests excited about dessert, the management team sought something over the top and delicious. "What followed was a flavored milkshake and a shareable dessert component on top, all served in a buttercream-coated glass with special toppings to enjoy with the shake," said Chris "CJ" Johnston, director of operations for

206 Restaurant Group. Flavors and presentations change throughout the year. Park Tavern served a peppermint cake shake during the winter, a St. Patrick's Day shake, and for National S'mores Day in August 2018, the restaurant offered a campfire cake shake. Picture a chocolate milkshake inside the glass with toasted marshmallow fluff coating the outside. Top that with a s'more lava and graham cracker cake filled with warm chocolate ganache and topped with marshmallow and you have the campfire cake shake.

For summer 2019, Park Tavern currently has a cake shake that blends vanilla ice cream



Cheesesteak fries at CRAFT American Eatery

and key lime juice, topped with key lime pie and whipped cream. The glass is rimmed with a graham cracker crust.

**SUMMER SCALLOPS** Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park

A unique blend of ingredients and textures can be found in the summer scallops at Cafe Mezzanote. The dry pack scallops are served with sweet corn puree, charred corn garbanzo bean red pepper succotash, crispy zucchini ribbons and a spicy tomato vinaigrette.

**EL MOLCAJETE** Mi Pueblo II in SEVERNA PARK

What makes it unique:

This dish combines grilled ribeye, chicken, shrimp, Mexican sausage and jalapeño poppers on top of melted cheese and chipotle sauce — served with a side of rice, beans, lettuce, guacamole and sour cream. What sets it apart? Two things. It includes cactus and it has a unique presentation.

"It's served on a molcajete, which is kind of like a bowl,

but it's a lava rock," said Mi Pueblo II coowner Sergio Meza. "It's very famous in Mexico."

APPLE PIE **FLOAT** AND PAPA **SMURF FLOAT** CRAFT American Eatery in Severna PARK

What makes them

unique: At CRAFT American Eatery, patrons can order strawberry shortcake shakes, Berger cookie shakes, root beer floats and other treats, so selecting one item for this list was no easy decision. Among the most unique are the apple pie shake and the papa smurf float. The apple pie shake is a blend of candied apple, cinnamon, vanilla ice cream and caramel, with graham crackers wedged on the sides. With blueberry soda, marshmallow fluff, vanilla ice cream and graham crackers, the papa smurf float is also a de-

**BEST OF THE REST** flavorful. CAKES AND Café in Severna Park lightful treat.



The Breakfast Bomb at Garry's Grill

Also try: CRAFT features the NOLA burger, with blackened beef, tasso ham, pimento cheese, creole sauce and pepper slaw on a bun. For an especially rare meal, pair the burger with the cheesesteak fries, made of pulled beef short rib and smothered in carmelized onion and cheese sauce.

**BBQ CHICKEN JALAPENOS** Garry's Grill in SEVERNA PARK

A staple of Garry's, the BBQ chicken jalapenos are served with the restaurant's southwest sour cream. "They have a cream cheese base with barbecue sauce and shredded chicken stuffed in a fresh jalapeno, beer-battered and fried to golden brown," said Garry's Grill owner Eddie Conway.

These menu items are more traditional but equally

**SMITH ISLAND CAKE** 

Confections Bakery

This Smith Island Cake has homemade chocolate ganache icing spread between



Smith Island cake at Cakes and Confections Bakery Café

10 layers of golden vanilla cake. That's not what makes it unique, though. It's the process. "Instead of baking our layers in 10 different pans, we hand-slice the 10 layers out of a single tall cake," explained Julianne Brown, who owns Cakes and Confections with her husband, Michael. "It takes a little more skill, but we think that results in a more moist cake."

**ROAST BEEF ON** "WECK"

O'Loughlin's RESTAURANT AND Pub in Arnold

This sandwich boats slowroasted beef shaved thin and served on the restaurant's famous kimmelweck roll, with au jus for dipping.

THE BREAKFAST Вомв

GARRY'S GRILL IN Severna Park

Made to cure those weekend hangovers, the breakfast bomb at Garry's is a house-made biscuit stuffed with scrambled eggs, cheese, a sausage patty and Applewood smoked bacon. The biscuit is beer-battered, fried and topped with country gravy.

### **PEACH SORBET** SUNDAE

Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park

This dessert is a vanilla sponge cake with Eastern Shore peach sorbet, candied peaches, aged balsamic and fresh mint.

### CONFIT DUCK LEG

Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park

This Pekin duck is simmered in gravy, finished in an oven with peach aperol glaze and paired with crispy pancetta risotto.

### **FLAVORED CRUSHES** Severna Park **TAPHOUSE**

Taphouse's specialty is handmade crushes, made to order with flavored vodka, triple sec, fresh-squeezed juice and Sprite. Flavors include orange, grapefruit and peach.



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