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SEVERNA PARK, MD

DECEMBER 11, 2019

A1

STATE CHAMPIONS

Severna Park High School Boys Cross Country, Field Hockey Teams Win 4A Titles



Left: The Severna Park boys cross country team claimed their third consecutive state championship on November 9. Right: With a 1-0 victory over Dulaney in the 4A state final at Washington College on November 9, the Falcons claimed the program's 24th title and first since 2015. Read the full stories on page B1.

Double The Fun: Severna Park Enjoys Two Tree Lightings



Photos by Zach Sparks

Above: Mr. and Mrs. Claus greeted kids at Honey Baked Ham in Park Plaza. Below: The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce got the evening started with a tree lighting, followed by music and treats.



Severna Park rang in the holiday season on December 6. The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a tree lighting at its office, celebrating with music, cookies and hot chocolate. Following the first tree lighting, the Merchants of Park Plaza held one of its own. Attendees were treated to music and dance performances, photos with Santa at Honey Baked Ham, and a scavenger hunt involving businesses within the shopping center. See more photos on page A2.

Holiday Light Hot Spots Around Town

By Haley Weisgerber

While it may not be easy to string up lights, decorating is a special part of the holidays for many people, and driving around Severna Park and Pasadena to look at lights has become a local tradition.

Consider stopping by these local favorites this holiday season.

SEVERNA PARK

519 WHITE OAK DRIVE

Located off of Robinson Road and across from Severna Park High School, this house has a beautiful display every year.

FORDHAM COURT

Located off of West Pasadena Road and Fordham Drive in Millersville, a house in this court is sure to impress.

ARMSTRONG LANE

There is a house on Armstrong Lane with an



interactive light display. Community members have been invited to walk down the driveway in years past.

PASADENA

1126 MOUNT DRIVE

Located off of Stoney Creek Drive, this display is a byproduct of the hard work of a family that works hard to bring together decorations.

ULLMAN ROAD

The lighted tree on Ullman Road has been a local favorite for years. Holiday light enthusiasts come from all over Anne Arundel County to witness this famous tree.

1532 MARCO DRIVE

This house off of Forest Glen Drive in Cedarwood Cove combines old and new decorating trends for the ultimate fes-

tive display.

207TH STREET

Perpendicular to Outing and Catherine avenues, one home on 207th Street goes all out.

703 PASADENA ROAD

The Sterling family decorates their home every year after Halloween. This year, the decorations will stay in place » Continued on A5

RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF THE YEAR

From new Severna Park and Arnold businesses to the academic and athletic accomplishments of local youth, 2019 had plenty of great moments. This is some of the news that stood out during the last year. See the rest on page A13.



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Margueritte Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

**SPAN Volunteer Proud
To Serve Community**



Ted Florenz (left) received the Volunteer of the Month certificate from Severna Park Voice Editor Zach Sparks.

By Chris Fincham
chris@severnaparkvoice.com

After retiring in 2013, Severna Park resident Ted Florenz wasn't content to just relax.

"When I retired, I wanted to keep busy," said Florenz. "I like to do a lot of different things outdoors. I kayak, bike, play golf, but I wanted to do something to give back to the community."

He knew about SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) through his church, Woods Memorial, and started by volunteering to help with the food pantry. Impressed and inspired, Florenz jumped in with both feet.

"Once I got involved, I saw what a good organization it was and how much good they were doing, so I wanted to get even more involved," explained Florenz, who is wrapping up his second two-year term as president of SPAN.

A faith-based, nondenominational ministry, SPAN provides food and/or financial assistance to qualified individuals and families to help them through critical or emergency situations.

don't have needs. But 17.5% of the 1,400 families we served last year were from Severna Park."

Florenz is quick to point out that it's not simply enabling people. The max amount that someone can receive from SPAN is \$225, which may be enough to help, but certainly not a significant amount of money.

"Sometimes people just need that little bit to get over something," he said.

"We try to understand what the needs are of each individual, and how SPAN can best support them, whether that be financially, the food pantry, or even things like financial planning."

Throughout the holidays, SPAN manages its Holiday Caring program to help neighbors in need by providing assistance with food baskets and gifts for children. Last year, more than 100 sponsors and donors ensured that hundreds of families and children were able to enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas with dinner and presents.

"It's just terrific how the community has supported us," Florenz said. "We're excited because next year will be our 30th year. We're all looking forward to having a big year and a lot of things going on."

SPAN depends on donations from generous churches, businesses and individuals to keep it running. If you'd like to help, there are different ways to donate money, food and toiletries, baby goods for the diaper pantry, or on SPAN's Amazon wish list. Visit www.spanhelps.org/donate for more information.

"Most people think of us as a food pantry, but in reality, most of our efforts are financial. We have a budget that's just under \$300,000 per year, but 200,000 of it is for emergency assistance, helping with everything from utilities to prescriptions," he said.

With only two full-time employees managing a variety of day-to-day operations, to be successful SPAN relies on people like Florenz who are willing to volunteer, take on leadership roles, and fundraise.

"We are very fortunate in Severna Park to have not only a lot of people who are willing to put in the time but also donate," Florenz said.

While SPAN does support families across Anne Arundel County, the primary service areas are Severna Park, Millersville, Arnold, Broadneck and Glen Burnie.

"Looking at the areas that we have served, one of the things that really surprised me the most was Severna Park," Florenz said. "People have this impression that Severna Park is just all [affluent] and people

**Severna Park Enjoys
Two Tree Lightings**



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Community Provides Winter Home For Oysters



By Chris Fincham
chris@severnaparkvoice.com

When Jason Port and his family moved to Severna Park about seven years ago, his son loved jumping in the waters of the Magothy River near their new home. Every time he went in the water, though, he would get a skin infection or irritation.

"I started doing a bunch of research on the river, the water quality and all that," Port said.

Which is how he discovered the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's oyster gardening program. No, they're not growing oyster flowers. The program is designed to help establish a short-term habitat for oysters to hibernate over the winter and go from infancy to mature healthy oysters — kind of like an incubator — in a protected area.

"We started out with 40 pounds. Then the next year, we got a little bit more. And about two years later, he moved into Boy Scouting as an 11-year-old — Troop 450

in Severna Park here at St. Johns," explained Port. "We brought the idea to these guys and said, 'Look, if we were to scale this up, what would you think? Would you want to do this for a service project?' It was a pretty resounding yes."

A few years later, their effort has grown into the largest single emplacement by volunteers along the Chesapeake Bay, according to Port.

"Right now, we run about a ton to a ton and a half of oysters a year," said Port.

To provide a winter home for thousands of pounds of young oysters, the team pieces together floats using PVC piping with cages that hang underneath where the oysters essentially hibernate until spring. Once the weather starts to warm up, the CBF takes the oysters to one of the designated reefs on the Magothy.

"In the spring, they bring a boat out and they take the boys and girls out to the reef and they dump [the oysters] out into the reef out there," Port said. "It's become a real production at the Cape Arthur beach every year."

While the process requires a fair amount of work, the benefits to the bay and the Magothy are immeasurable, and Port encourages others to reach out to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to learn about starting their own oyster garden.

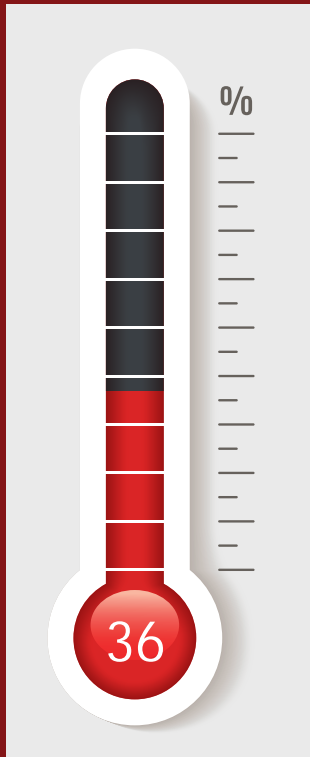
"CBF has a great outreach program, and the education that they provide is really exceptional," said Port. "It's literally just small steps. Starting out with two small cages and 40 pounds of oysters and a willingness to participate. Even just that small amount can have a huge impact."

"The reality is if everyone who had a pier did this — even on a small scale — the impact would be significant."

Oyster Fact!

Oysters purify the Chesapeake Bay as they filter the water for their food. An adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.

Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony Honors Severna Park Heroes



Photos by Zach Sparks

A new gazebo on the B&A Trail will be dedicated to Gold Star families and will include memorials to Severna Park heroes Eric Kavanagh, Taylor Wild, Eric Herzberg and Nathaniel McDavitt. To celebrate, the community gathered on Veterans Day, November 11, for a groundbreaking ceremony that included veterans, the heroes' families, local legislators and more. The memorial and the monuments will be funded through private donations. To make a contribution, visit www.heroesofsevernapark.com.

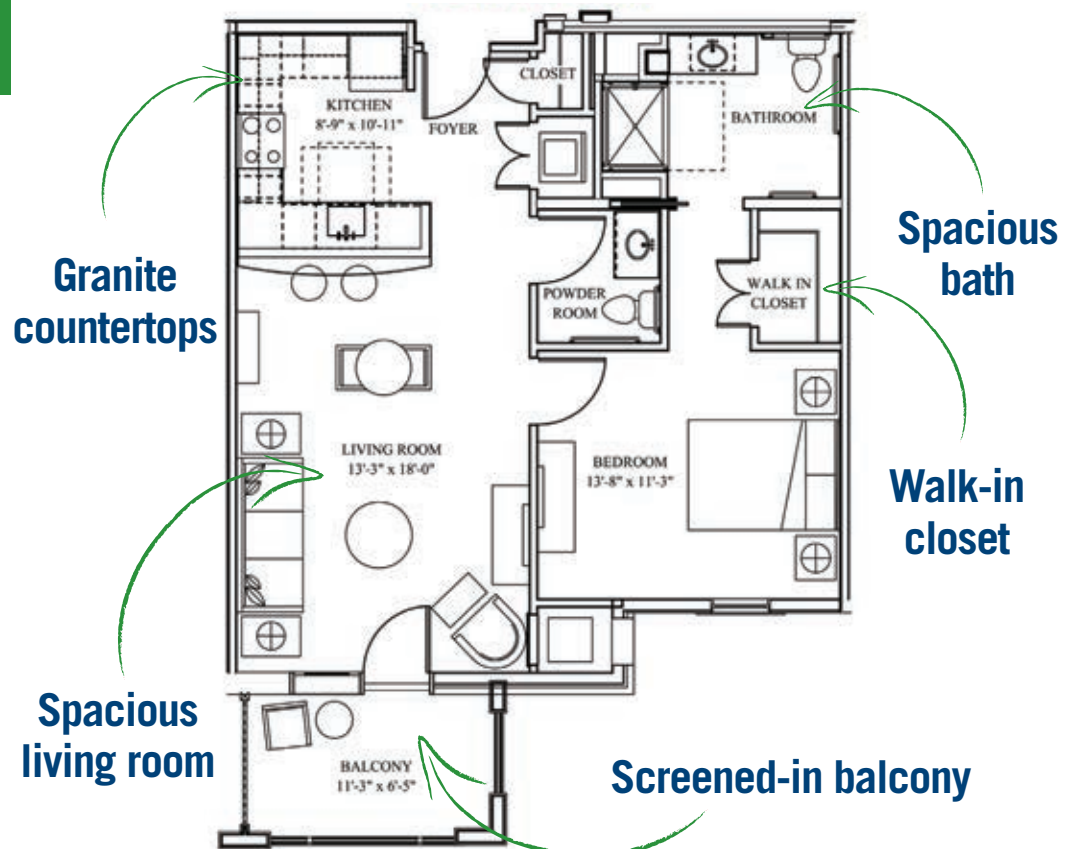


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Stan Davis Remembered For Building Bridges



Left: Mark Davis spoke about his father, Stan Davis, while a crowd gathered at the new plaque at Jonas and Anne Catharine Green Park, located in the shadow of the United States Naval Academy Bridge. **Right:** Loretta Davis cut the ribbon on November 21 to celebrate the new plaque honoring her husband.

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

As family and friends told it, Stan Davis wasn't a man to burn bridges. Instead, he built bridges and dedicated his life to helping people.

The Arnold resident is now memorialized with a plaque at Jonas and Anne Catharine Green Park, located in the shadow of the United States Naval Academy Bridge just outside Annapolis. A crowd gathered at the site on November 21 to mark the occasion and honor Stan, who died in March 2018.

"My father spent his lifetime ensuring that bridges we would cross every day were designed and built safely and securely, but in addition to being a bridge engineer, he was a man of many talents," said Mark Davis. "He was an active outdoorsman, a father, a grandfather, a husband and he was also a sailor, not only in the Naval Academy, but [he] enjoyed plying the waters of Maryland in a sailboat."

Stan's service to the country began in 1955 when he was an officer in the Navy.

He served aboard naval destroyers as a damage control and engineering officer. Stan then worked for the Federal Highway Administration and became known as an expert in fluid dynamics and a pioneer in the field of bridge scour (erosion of the soil around bridge foundations).

When scour caused the Interstate 90 Schoharie Creek/New York Thruway Bridge to collapse in 1987, killing 10 people, Stan made it his professional mission to prevent bridge scour failures and make bridges safer.

He authored documents and programs that are still used today, explained Andrzej "Andy" Kosicki, Stan's friend from the Maryland State Highway Administration. He was also generous.

"Stan was a great hydraulics engineer and a true professional, but

first and foremost, he was an extraordinary human being," Kosicki said. "He was always warm, always smiling, always ready to help. Always offering a good word to everyone and never really saying a bad word, even though sometimes he had pretty good reasons to silence his opponents."

After retiring from the federal service in 1988, Stan served as a consultant in the hydraulic design of bridges for the Maryland State Highway Administration until his retirement in 2017. He was on the 1994 team

that replaced a deteriorating drawbridge now known as the United States Naval Academy Bridge.

While Stan is credited with leading teams that ensured the safety of roughly 6,000 bridges statewide and 600,000 throughout the country, he was most

proud of the Naval Academy Bridge, which his wife, Loretta, and seven grandsons affectionately called "Pa's Bridge."

After stating that thought about "Pa's Bridge," Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler shared what the ceremony meant to her as someone who grew up nearby.

"I hope when we leave here today and we drive by this bridge, we remember that it's more than a bridge to so many," she said. "It signifies safety, it signifies family, and it signifies dedication and service to the community."

Mark hopes the sign will remind people of his father's contributions to bridge design and hydraulics, and also the time Stan spent giving back to the community.

"As I think about his life and his contributions and his legacy, I just think of my father as a man that spent his lifetime building bridges, but not just the ones you see, but also the ones that connect us as a community and a family and as a neighborhood," Mark said.

"I just think of my father as a man that spent his lifetime building bridges, but not just the ones you see, but also the ones that connect us as a community and a family and as a neighborhood."

— MARK DAVIS

Indoor Pools Provide Important Aquatic Rehabilitation

By Sydney Perry
Aquatic Rehabilitation Specialist, Severna Park Community Center

Are your joints feeling achy with the change in seasons? Are you recovering from an injury, or interested in working out in a more comfortable, unique environment? Indoor pools offer countless health and wellness benefits of aquatic rehabilitation.

So, what is aquatic rehabilitation? Aquatic rehabilitation uses properties of water such as buoyancy, hydrostatic pressure, and viscosity to reduce stress on joints, increase strength, improve balance and assist in regaining independence.

In the water, buoyancy reduces the force of gravity, allowing individuals to perform activities that they could not tolerate on land. Hydrostatic pressure is the inward force the body experiences from the water surrounding it. This inward force causes increased circulation, which allows the body to better perform exercises.

Also, you naturally experience resistance while

moving in water because of its viscosity. Viscosity is the resistance felt from the water when moving. This resistance allows the body to increase in strength without the use of weights. Combined, these pool properties give aquatic rehabilitation its ability to help countless people improve their quality of life.

Aquatic rehabilitation can help with many diagnoses, including back pain, joint replacements, fibromyalgia, stroke, sports injury, and deconditioning. The water allows people experiencing these conditions to gain strength, while also being in a non-weight-bearing atmosphere.

Although the water is helpful, there are some conditions that aquatic therapy may not be a good fit. Please be sure to consult your physicians before engaging in any new exercise regime.

If you think you could benefit from aquatic rehabilitation, the Severna Park Community Center offers a warm therapy pool and staff to help you create a personalized program. Contact the SPCC at 410-647-5843 to learn more.



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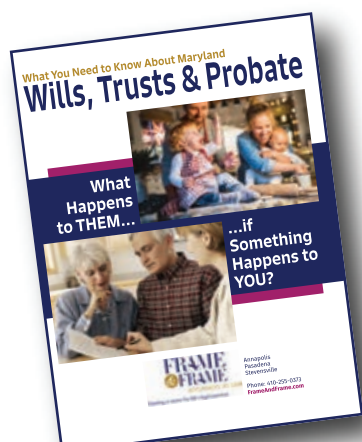


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Holiday Light Hot Spots Around Town



» Continued from A1 until the week after the New Year.

HOUSE OF CHRISTMAS AT 1121 SLEDGE COURT

Located in Green Haven, off of Tick Neck Road, the House of Christmas is a local favorite. The display will be up through January 2 from 5:00pm to 11:00pm.

FARMINGTON VILLAGE

Many houses in Farmington Village have beautiful light displays. This is the perfect drive-through neighborhood with access to both Waterford Road and Catherine Avenue.

LAKE SHORE DRIVE

Driving down Lake Shore Drive is beautiful during the holidays.



Recreation And Parks Team Works To Maintain B&A Trail



The Department of Recreation and Parks routinely monitors and maintains the 13-mile B&A Trail, which runs through numerous communities stretching from Annapolis to Glen Burnie.

Following an inspection in early September, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) determined that the Joyce Lane Bridge on the B&A Trail would need to be closed until repairs could be made.

The team from DRP met with an engineer and quickly made repairs to the wooden bridge, enabling it to be opened for the annual Lifeline 100 event in October. More than 800 bike riders participated in the ride, which collected more than \$30,000 for local nonprofits.

While the event was another huge success, the repairs to the bridge were only temporary, according to park superintendent Adam Smith.

"That was a temporary fix for the bike event," Smith said. "The bridge is now closed again until the permanent fix can be completed later this winter."

Smith and his team are routinely monitoring and maintaining portions of the 13-mile trail. Throughout October, along with the work

on Joyce Lane Bridge, his team worked on the trail from the crossing at Jones Station Road in Severna Park to Boulders Way in Arnold; a section between Whites Road and Robinson Station Road; and the ranger station at Earleigh Heights.

Rehabilitation on the Earleigh Heights Rangers Station began in April and is ongoing. The project is still scheduled to conclude by the end of 2019. According to the Anne Arundel County website, "The current rehabilitation efforts will provide structural stabilization to the main hall and tower.

Repairs and or replacements will follow the plan approved by Maryland Historic Trust, which holds an easement. The work will address the condition of the roof and shingles, add gutters, storm panels for windows, repair/replace doors, replace bathroom fixtures and water fountain, add bottle filling station, replace lighting, and furnish the ranger offices and exhibit area."

For updated information about the Joyce Lane Bridge or the Earleigh Heights Park Ranger Station, the community can check the DRP website or Facebook page.

Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks is primarily responsible for the provision of a comprehensive system of recreational programs for county residents and the preservation of valuable land in the form of more than 140 parks and sanctuaries. Specialized recreational facilities, including two swim centers, two golf courses, baseball stadium and softball complex, programs such as school-age child care and adaptive recreation, and more than thousands of acres of land fall under the department's jurisdiction. The department's open space includes community parks; greenways; archaeological, environmental and historical preserves; and large regional facilities occupying several hundred acres of land.

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SPAN Turkey Trot Raises Over \$26,000



Photos by Zach Sparks

Serving People Across Neighborhoods (SPAN) held its ninth Turkey Trot on November 16, raising more than \$26,000 before expenses, netting SPAN about \$22,000. SPAN volunteers accounted for more than \$3,000, with runners and walkers bringing in more than \$4,500 and corporate sponsors totaling about \$18,000.

Prizes were donated by 22 local businesses. Food donations were made by six local businesses.

"All money raised will go into SPAN's general fund to be used for utility shutoffs, court-ordered evictions, and medical/prescription co-pays for local families in need, meaning this event is truly neighbors helping neighbors," said Ellen Kinsella, executive director of SPAN.



What's A Mother To Do?

Ellen Kinsella
Director of Development
SPAN Inc.



"Karen" came to SPAN as a last resort to keep her electricity from being turned off. It was right before the Thanksgiving holiday, and she had promised her two young children a home-cooked turkey dinner, followed by game night in front of the fireplace. Karen told us she hated seeking assistance, but since she had been undergoing chemotherapy treatments, she had to cut back her hours at work and wasn't able to make her whole BG&E payment. She explained that her mother had recently died, and she had no other family members to help her.

All of our clients have unique stories, but they have one thing in common: an emergency left them with no other choice but to seek assistance. Even through her tears, Karen expressed gratitude for the help we gave her. She was particularly appreciative of the respect and kindness she was shown by SPAN's volunteers, and vowed that one day when she got back on her feet, she would "pay it forward" to pay us back.

This time of year is particularly stressful for families who are having trouble making ends meet, because finding extra money for holiday meals and Christmas gifts seems almost impossible. That is why SPAN's Holiday Caring program has been a blessing for local families in need. We have matched all of our client children with

donors to provide Christmas gifts, but we are still in need of a few more meal baskets. If you're interested in donating a holiday meal, please email us at spanhelps@yahoo.com for more information.

SPAN's biggest fundraiser, the Turkey Trot 5K/1M at Kinder Park on November 16, was our most successful race yet, netting over \$22,000! To see photos, visit our website at www.spanhelps.org. A huge thanks to all the generous local businesses and families who participated in the race, sponsored, donated food and donated prizes (see the full listing on our website at www.spanhelps.org). Thanks to the following sponsors: **SPAN volunteers (over \$3,000); Alexander Animal Hospital; Moscker Insurance Agency - Assured Partners of Maryland; Severna Park United Methodist Church; Severn Bank; Severna Park Automotive; Honeybaked Ham of Severna Park; Chick-fil-A of Severna Park; Marathon Real Estate; Long & Foster Severna Park - Tim Blanchfield; RockWell Fitness; The Matt Wyble Team - Century 21 New Millennium; First County Mortgage SOMD; Julie Antinucci and family; Edward Jones-Financial Advisor Alexis P. Lecouras; Chesapeake Hearing Centers; Fence &**

Deck Connection Inc.; The Bank of Glen Burnie; Savvy Consignment; Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi; Dr. Brian Valle, DDS; Severna Park McDonald's; Russell, Deasey, Wright & Zitofsky, DDS; Wright Orthodontics; Dr. Paul Kinsey, DDS; Café Mezzanotte; Victor and Kathleen Simon; Squisito Pizza and Pasta; Environmental Automotive; Broadneck Pharmacy; Millersville Auto Body; Lighthouse Car Wash; Clement Hardware; Charter Title; McCarl Dentistry; and Side Street Framers & Gift Gallery.

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is a faith-based nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, prescription needs and food since 1990. SPAN serves Severna Park, Millersville, Arnold, Broadneck and other surrounding areas. SPAN is located behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Road. Hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00am-1:30pm. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com, follow SPAN on Facebook, or visit www.spanhelps.org. Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off 24/7 using the storage bin behind the building.

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The Anne Arundel Home Services Company invites the community to its inaugural holiday open house on Friday, December 20. Come out to meet the company's staff and enjoy food, sweet treats, drinks and fun. The party will start at 2:00pm at The Anne Arundel Home Services Company office, located at 8371 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Pasadena. The party will be at the office until 6:00pm, and will then move to Twain's Tavern next door. Please park at Twain's Tavern since parking is limited. The Anne Arundel Home Services Company team would love to show its appreciation to Anne Arundel County, and the staff looks forward to seeing everyone.

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Parts Of A Divorce Judgment Are Never Final

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Most of my divorce clients are patient and cooperative. They work hard with me to bring difficult chapters of their lives to close. Just as they are finalizing their divorce, I have the unenviable task of reminding them that parts of their divorce judgment are subject to court modification (I have also mentioned this previously, but it bears repeating at the conclusion of the case).

Maryland law gives our circuit courts or trial courts the continuing power to "from time to time, set aside or modify its decree or order concerning the child." Accordingly, custody, child support and related awards are never final. All cases involving children, whether the issues concern day-to-day scheduling and/or legal decision-making, are subject to modification by the court and upon a showing of "changes in circumstances." In these cases, the court may modify its prior order to reflect new terms designed to ensure "the best interest of the children."

Perhaps some of the most difficult modifica-

"All cases involving children ... are subject to modification by the court and upon a showing of 'changes in circumstances.'"

tion cases involve relocation. One parent may be required to move cross-country due to job considerations. A parenting schedule, painstakingly negotiated and providing for shared parenting time, may no longer be viable in light of these changes. The courts may thereby modify these terms, providing for the children's best interests.

Also, child support is always subject to review. Child support may be reviewed if a parent becomes unemployed, changes jobs, or experiences a significant change in income. Maryland law includes child support guidelines: a formula that provides predictability of child support awards and is based upon the parents' respective incomes. Some agreements even provide for periodic adjustments to child support, although these are in the distinct minority.

Maryland law also provides that a child who is over the age of 16 may file his or her own com-

plaint to change custody. In such cases, the court is required to hold a hearing and may amend the original divorce judgment to change custody to the parent requested by the child.

Courts may modify the terms of an agreement that relate to children. Likewise, a court may modify spousal support, unless an agreement provides that the provisions with respect to alimony are not subject to any court modification. Again, changes in employment and/or income are among the reasons to ask a court to reconsider a prior alimony award.

Whether the custody and/or support provisions of a judgment of divorce or separation agreement should be changed may present complicated legal issues. If you have questions concerning the modifiability of the terms of your decree, you should consult with an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is experienced in all facets of family law. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1171 or emailing david@diggsllc.com.

Mark Teixeira Enters MD Athletics HOF

By Judy Tacyn

Nearly 20 years before he made his Major League Baseball debut, Mark Teixeira dreamed of Green Hornets Opening Day and one day hearing his name announced over the loud speaker as he trotted onto the field before playing in the World Series. Teixeira, a Severna Park native and an alumnus of the Greater Severna Park Athletic Association, was already a standout during his days as a Hornet, where he was coached by his father, John Teixeira.

By the time he attended Mount St. Joseph High School, Teixeira was well on his way to perfecting his signature powerhouse left- or right-handed batting swing and was on the radar of professional MLB scouts. He played college baseball for Georgia Institute of Technology and made his MLB debut as a Texas Ranger in 2003. Teixeira retired as a New York Yankee in 2016 after a prolific career that will surely propel his name to the top of the Hall of Fame ballot when he becomes eligible in 2021.

On November 7, Teixeira, now an ESPN baseball analyst, was inducted into the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame (MDSAHO) during the organization's 60th Hall of Fame induction ceremony held at Martin's West in Baltimore. Other new members of the Hall of Fame included Ali Andrzejewski (soccer), Rob Shek (lacrosse), Steve Krulvitz (tennis), Walt Williams (basketball), and lifetime achievement inductees Tom



Mark Teixeira (left) was congratulated by Pat O'Malley, MDSAHO board member and former sportswriter.

- Won the World Series as a New York Yankee in 2009, the same year he led the American League in home runs and runs batted in, and finished second in MVP balloting
- Three-time All-Star
- Three-time Silver Slugger Award
- Five-time Golden Glove Award
- Dick Howser Award as college baseball's best player in 2001

Davis (sportscaster) and Jim Margraff (football coach). Pete Gilbert from WBAL and Pat O'Malley, MDSAHO board member and former Baltimore Sun sportswriter, served as masters of ceremonies.

"I first saw Mark as a 9- or 10-year-old in the Green Hornets youth program," O'Malley recalls. "I was coaching my youngest son in the Green Hornets and Mark stood out hitting and pitching. I saw him through his younger years as he became more polished and I was thrilled he chose my alma mater, Mount St. Joseph, for high school."

O'Malley introduced Teixeira by rattling off impressive career statistics and accomplishments as if the audience was in Cooperstown, New York, for an MLB induction.

- One of only five major league switch-hitters with more than 400 home runs, joining Carlos Beltran, Chipper Jones, Eddie Murray and Mickey Mantle
- Holds the all-time major league record for most games with a home run from both sides of the plate with 14

As he took the podium among a packed ballroom of friends, family and Maryland sports royalty such as Oriole pitching great Scott McGregor and former University of Maryland basketball coach Gary Williams, just to name a few, Teixeira was quick to mention where his love of baseball came from and developed — Severna Park, Maryland.

"I am so proud of growing up in Severna Park and the type of athletes that we produce," said Teixeira. "Just the fact that Gavin Floyd and I were drafted four and five in the Major League Baseball draft in 2001 just shows how competitive Severna Park athletics is," Teixeira said, referencing Floyd, his schoolmate and fellow Severna Park native, a 13-year pitcher in the major leagues.

Though Teixeira lives in Connecticut now in the same home he lived in when he played for the Yankees, he still has many friends and family members in and around Severna Park.

"It was a great place to grow up," said Teixeira, "and I am proud to say I am from Severna Park."

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Wishing you all Happy Holidays

Sledding Spots Around Anne Arundel County And Across The State



Depending on who you ask, Maryland may (or may not) be in store for an eventful winter. Just in case, we've compiled a list of some of the best sledding spots around the area to help you be prepared to enjoy the snow.

ARNOLD AND SEVERNA PARK

Folger McKinsey Elementary School

175 Arundel Beach Road, Severna Park
 Rated as a "medium"-size hill by various members of the community.

Anne Arundel Community College

101 College Parkway, Arnold
 Though the main entrance to AACC is closed when the college is closed for weather, prospective sledders can enter the

school via College Drive (near the white farmhouse). From there, they can make their way to parking lots B and C, which make for fun sledding.

Kinder Park

1001 Kinder Farm Park Road, Millersville
 Next to Kinder Road; watch out for the fence at the bottom!

Chartwell Golf & Country Club

1 Chartwell Drive, Severna Park
 A short but steep hill on the driving range

Severna Park Middle School

450 Jumpers Hole Road, Severna Park
 A nice and small hill for the little ones.

Elvaton Park

311 Dogwood Road, Millersville

PASADENA

Tick Neck Park
 7750 Edwin Raynor Boulevard, Pasadena

If the roads are safe and you're up for a drive:

ANNAPOLIS

Quiet Waters Park
 600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis
 Sledding and ice skating.

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

801 Chase Street, Annapolis
 The hill behind Maryland Hall in Annapolis is a regular gathering spot for young sledders. There is plenty of open space, but this spot can also attract a crowd.

BALTIMORE

Federal Hill
 300 Warren Avenue, Baltimore

Sledding on this steep hill also provides iconic views of the city.

COCKEYSVILLE

Oregon Ridge State Park
 13401 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville

This state park is filled with opportunities to hike, cross-country ski and sled. Years ago, it was home to a ski resort; the hill is still a popular spot for sledding.

ELLICOTT CITY

Centennial High School
 4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City

With lots of open space and a large hill that starts steep, has a midpoint drop, then eases to a gradual decline, this sledding spot is popular with

sledders of all ages.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

UM Laurel Medical Center
 7300 Van Dusen Road, Laurel

TIMONIUM

Ridgely Middle School
 121 East Ridgely Road, Lutherville-Timonium

This is a go-to Baltimore County spot and boasts a large hill that wraps in a horseshoe.

TOWSON

Baltimore County Board of Education, Greenwood Campus
 6901 Charles Street, Towson

Known simply as "The Hill" to some, this slope is a family-friendly hotspot on cold days. Clearly visible from Charles Street, the steep hill, which ends in a ditch, is



Safety Tips To Practice When Sledding

When looking for spots to sled, safety should be a priority. Make sure it's well-lit and don't sled at night where it's dark and you can't see obstacles. Also, ponds or water might look frozen, but, especially in Baltimore, it's typically never cold long enough to fully freeze. Lastly, be sure to check your gear and equipment, and take appropriate safety measures. The Anne Arundel County Fire Department has shared some sledding safety reminders:

GETTING READY

- Always wear a helmet to prevent head injuries. Multi-sport and bicycle helmets are good options.
- Sleds that can be steered may be safer than flat sheets, snow discs, toboggans, and tubes.
- Make sure children are dressed warmly and that they are wearing gloves and boots.

SLEDDING TIPS

- Avoid sledding in areas with trees, fences,

- and light poles or on rocky hills.
- Always go down the hill feet first.
- Learn how to stop and turn the sled by using your feet.
- Do not sled in the street or on a highway.
- Never ride a sled being pulled by a car, ATV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle.
- Avoid sledding on driveways, hills or slopes that end in a street, drop-off, parking lot, river or pond.

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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

WWII Vet Recalls Time On The USS Alabama

By Haley Weisgerber

William Hahn, a 96-year-old veteran and Arnold resident, served in the United States Navy as a turret gunner during World War II.

Growing up during the Great Depression was difficult for Hahn, who lost both of his parents at a young age. His three brothers all went to work, and his older sister raised him. Hahn played high school football, and he thought about trying to get a college scholarship offer before realizing his calling.

"I wasn't interested in college, except to play football, but I had always been pro-military," said Hahn. "That's what I wanted to do, but I didn't know how to go about it."

Hahn went to Fort Meade Army Base for Citizens' Military Training Camp, a month-long program that afforded citizens an opportunity to obtain basic military training without enlisting. When the training was completed, he was set on joining the Army, but his neighbor talked him out of it. Hahn was in a theater during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The movie never stopped rolling, but he heard the news from outside. This was the push he needed.

"I knew as soon as Pearl Harbor I was bound to go. I wasn't going to wait to get drafted," said Hahn. At 17 years old, Hahn left school and joined the Navy. "I had to have my sister sign," said Hahn. "But she didn't want to do it, of course. This is terrible, but I told her, 'If you don't sign, I'm going to Canada to join.' I meant it, and they would have taken me."

After a 10-week basic training, Hahn was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, to guard ships.

"That's the last thing in the world I wanted to do," said Hahn. With a desire to "see some action," he took matters into his own hands.

"I said, 'I'm not going to take this sitting down. I'm going to do something about it,'" said Hahn. "I had two other fellows from Baltimore with me, so we went to see the commanding officer. He could have put all three of us in the brig for going over our chief's head, but he said, of all things, 'I wish we had more people like you.' And boy, that made me feel good."

The commanding officer stationed Hahn on the USS Alabama, where he stayed until the end of the war.

"I had no idea where that was, and they were still building it. I had to live in barracks until it was ready to go out," said Hahn.

After about a month, the crew was allowed to board. They made one trial voyage to Portland, Maine, before they shipped out on their first mission.

"No one knew where we were going and we left Norfolk about midday and, I'll never forget, the band played 'California, Here I Come' [by Al Jolson]," said Hahn. "They knew more than we did. We went right to the Pacific."



William Hahn, 96, reflected on his time aboard the USS Alabama in World War II.

The crew knew this was more than a trial run, and they knew once they left the dock, they wouldn't return for a long time. After a stop in California, the ship continued west and joined the Pacific Third Fleet in the South Pacific at Efate, New Hebrides, in September 1943.

Weighing nearly 100 million pounds and stretching more than two football fields, the USS Alabama earned nine battle stars. The ship, as a part of Task Force 58, endured regular air attacks, enduring one for 13 hours in February 1944.

"I was a turret gunner on a 20-millimeter machine gun. I had a crew of two other people: a loader who loaded the gun and a trainer who turned the wheel to elevate it," said Hahn.

According to the USS Alabama website, the ship and its group downed nine enemy planes during the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944. After two years of fighting and riding out typhoons, the Alabama and crew returned to the West Coast for a much-deserved dry-dock period at the beginning of 1945, before heading back to the fighting soon after.

The ship eventually led the American fleet into Tokyo Bay September 5, 1945, after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"We didn't know. All we knew was that we bombarded Japan twice and once at night. We didn't have any idea it was an atomic bomb," said Hahn. "We didn't know what an atomic bomb was. Actually, they just told us it was a super bomb."

Hahn estimates the ship was 20 miles away from Tokyo, which put him about 500 miles away from the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

When the war ended in 1945, Hahn was ready to go home. He finished his obligation with the military and went home to his family.

"I signed up, my rank was seaman first class, and I had a V6, and what that meant I didn't know until way after," said Hahn. "It meant I was obligated for six months after the war. Well, it took that long to get back from Japan. We stayed out there for a while to patrol."

Even though his Navy days are in the past, Hahn never strayed from the water. He worked on a charter boat in Florida for two winters and had a family home on the Magothy River.

Hahn has also been canoeing competitively for 50 years. He has traveled to Milton, Delaware, for the Broadkill River Canoe & Kayak Race every year since its beginning, and in 2019, for the 20th anniversary, the race was named for him.

Today, the USS Alabama is decommissioned and housed in Mobile, Alabama. For 40 years, the crew has been invited back for re-enactments. They are allowed to shoot blanks from their stations as old planes fly ahead. Hahn said he remembers exactly how to use the machine guns.

"A reporter asked me how it felt. I said, 'Well it was fun, but it wasn't like the real thing. We didn't use blanks,'" joked Hahn.

Many of the remaining crew members are unable to attend due to disabilities or age, but Hahn said he will go as long as he can.

"I try and go back," said Hahn. "I mean, that ship was my home for four years."

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Addressing Traffic Along Our Main Corridors

Stuart Pittman
County Executive



I ask the community for fresh ideas and practical solutions every chance I get. And just about everything we've accomplished during the first year of our administration has been backed by large numbers of engaged county residents.

I believe that communities in Anne Arundel County are probably among the strongest and most engaged anywhere in the state. People really care about what is happening here, and they want to see positive change. A couple weeks back, during my first transportation town hall meeting, the community had many concerns, ideas and thoughts to share — so much so that the meeting went into overtime!

That evening, I asked for community feedback on a broad range of the county's toughest transportation challenges. Boy, did I get an earful, especially when it came to Route 2 and Route 3 congestion and whether we should impose a moratorium on development along the two corridors. When asked how many folks would support a moratorium, the vast majority of hands in the room shot up.

I've asked the Anne Arundel County Office of Law to explore the legal issues around a moratorium while we look at all our options to address traffic congestion and failing intersections along these routes. Another potential action would be revising our ordinance on adequate public facilities as a way to responsibly control growth.

To impose a moratorium would involve a three-part justification process: 1) producing the data that demonstrates failing intersections, etc. 2) limiting the time period to a period of two years or less, and perhaps most importantly 3) having a game plan to solve the problem once the moratorium ends.

Last year, there were more than 300 accidents on Route 3. On average, that's an accident almost every day. According to the state's latest highway mobility report, Route 2 is in the top 10 of congested roadways anywhere in the state during the evening rush hour.

Traffic congestion is a huge quality of life problem in Anne Arundel County. It's among the most important issues in the county, and yet it's the hardest to fix. I wish there was a magic bullet.

We're all frustrated that there is barely a dribble of money coming to our county's state road improvements from state funding anymore. The governor's staff has made clear that even though revenues from the gas tax are declining with increased fuel efficiency, we should not expect the governor's administration to put forth a new funding formula that addresses transportation infrastructure needs.

So what do we do? Most folks who attended the town hall told me they want more investment in public transit and bike and pedestrian trails. They want a greater input into state studies that they say don't reflect what's actually happening on the ground. And they also support legislation that would give our county the same veto power over new road and bridge tolls that Eastern

Shore counties enjoy.

It's time for a central Maryland campaign for accountability in transportation planning that puts all these pieces on the table plus a few more. Last month, the county council unanimously passed Move Anne Arundel! - the county's first multi-modal comprehensive transportation plan. The plan will be a critical part of a new approach to the county's General Development Plan, known as Anne Arundel 2040.

On December 3, exactly one year after I was sworn into office, I stood with our planning department, our Citizens Advisory Committee, and state Smart Growth experts to outline our process for the upcoming General Development Plan. To return to Small Area planning, we will split the county into nine regional areas and form stakeholder advisory groups for each one. This process will truly return us to community driven planning — like residents want and expect.

A draft is expected to be ready by the spring of 2020, with a more complete version going before the county council in fall 2020.

More than just plans, Move Anne Arundel! and Anne Arundel 2040 will arguably have more impact on our environmental policy, climate change, and our quality of life in the years to come than practically anything we do. They will be Anne Arundel's living documents.

Plans are not scintillating reads necessarily, but a well-conceived plan that is chock full of smart priorities and buoyed by surging community engagement will be the high-water mark of public policy during the Pittman administration years, but also for many years to come.

Holiday Hacks: Take The Stress Out Of The Holidays



Try these tips and tricks to make the most out of this holiday season.

DECORATING HACKS

Having trouble hanging Christmas lights on brick? Hot glue won't damage the lights or the brick, and it peels off when taking down the lights at the end of the season.

If a Christmas tree looks like something from a Charlie Brown cartoon, pick up a pack of green tinsel. Once the tree is wrapped, it will automatically look fuller. The tinsel can be sturdy enough to hold a few small ornaments.

Reuse egg cartons to store small ornaments without taking up space. For larger ornaments, try placing them in plastic cups to keep them safe and organized in storage.

Tired of untangling Christmas lights every year? Wrap the lights around a clothes hanger to keep them

from getting mixed together in storage. They can be hung in a closet for the season, or laid neatly in a box. Christmas lights can also be wrapped around cardboard or an empty paper towel holder.

TRAVEL HACKS

When flying this holiday season, hold off on wrapping gifts. Airport security will have to unwrap them. Try folding wrapping paper neatly in a suitcase for when you arrive at your destination.

Bringing a small box of activities for children on long car rides. Crayons, books, stickers and small toys will keep their minds off of the drive. Snacks are also a great distraction.

Being limited to one carry-on isn't easy, but it can make a difference, especially during the holidays. It eliminates the risk of losing the suitcase, makes security quicker, and you won't

be stuck waiting for luggage when you reach your destination.

Make sure all electronics are fully charged, and bring portable chargers to avoid being stuck on a car ride without navigation. Besides, cellphones make the time go by faster on road trips and plane rides.

GIFT WRAPPING HACKS

There is nothing worse than having to find the end of a roll of tape. Attach a paper clip to the end of every roll to avoid losing it.

Having trouble wrapping an awkward box? Turning the paper diagonally creates more room to fold the sides.

Wrapping paper is one of the hardest things to organize. Try cutting an old toilet paper roll down the center to keep the paper from unrolling. Wrapping paper can also be stored in a garment bag to keep it out of the way and prevent damage.

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Lauren's Law: How Cars Are Like Stocks



Lauren Burke Meyer

Lauren's Law is officially contagious. It's latest victim? My poor husband, Scott. It began with exciting news of a company car. Even better timing that Scott's Nissan Rogue was paid off. Upon calling CarMax, my husband was quoted \$2,000 for the car. Not the biggest payout but decent considering the car was used and not in the greatest shape. Soon, the first hiccup on the road to selling the car came. The title of the car was needed before we could sell it, and it was sent to the wrong address. This delayed selling the car a few weeks. The Nissan Rogue continued to sit in the guest parking area of our townhome community until the title finally arrived. My father-in-law kindly drove my husband to the dealer, so I didn't have to take our active toddler, Charlotte. You're welcome CarMax. My daughter and I met up with Scott and my in-laws to celebrate our nephew's birthday following the errand. The parked Nissan was the first thing I noticed upon arrival. "I have good news and bad news," said Scott. "Bad news is CarMax only offered me \$1,000. Good news is I talked to someone when I was leaving who would consider offering me the original quote of \$2,000." And so the next day, Scott offered the prospective buyer a test drive. He'd been upfront about the car's rattling sound, and thankfully, it didn't spook the buyer. What did ruin the potential sale? Something that came loose during the half-mile test drive. Needless

to say the Nissan did not get sold that day. It got worse. Scott left the car parked in a regular parking spot in our community after the test drive. He didn't do the best parking job. The Nissan was slightly over our cranky neighbor's unspoken parking spot. That night, Scott noticed a warning that the car would be towed soon if it wasn't moved from the parking lot. "Good," I said. Let it become the tow yard's problem. Scott pointed out that we'd still have to pay if it were towed. It was decided that Scott would take the car to the Nissan dealer the next day and take whatever deal they offered. Another wrench in the plan. Two car puns so far (paragraph three has the first). The car died while Scott was 50 yards from our home and in the middle of the street. It took three different AAA visitors and four hours to finally tow the car 2.5 miles to the Nissan dealer of Annapolis. Two days later, Nissan called with an offer. Drumroll please ... The car was sold for \$50. Almost as bad as the 97 Ford Taurus my dad had to donate by the time the third kid and yours truly drove it. It's a surreal experience seeing my calm and collected husband go through something so uncharacteristic for him and something that has Lauren's Law written all over it. We learned an important lesson from this experience. Cars are like stocks: It's important to know when to sell.

Lauren Burke Meyer is a Severna Park native who was inspired to write Lauren's Law as a humorous play on the well-known Murphy's Law adage: "anything that can go wrong, will go wrong."

New Pastor At St. John The Evangelist Church Is Making An Impact

By Judy Tacyn

"Twelve years is a long time to get settled in and make roots," said the Rev. Erik Arnold of his tenure as pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ellicott City, "which made it all the harder to leave." Six months ago, Arnold was appointed the sixth pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church after more than a decade as pastor in Howard County.

But Arnold was familiar with St. John the Evangelist on Ritchie Highway, and his predecessor, the Rev. Jim Proffitt. In his first summer assignment as a young seminarian, Arnold was placed in a parish where Proffitt was an associate pastor. Arnold also spent time at Church of the Crucifixion in Glen Burnie and has learned to navigate the unpredictable Route 2 corridor.

Arnold says he's happy to be back in Anne Arundel County. "I love being here; I really do," he said.

St. John the Evangelist is,



Six months ago, the Rev. Erik Arnold was appointed the sixth pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church after more than a decade as pastor in Howard County.

historically, one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Arnold already knew of its deep history in Severna Park and the exceptional reputation of the nationally recognized St. John the Evangelist School, under the strong leadership of Principal Casey Buckstaff. When he learned of the assignment from Archbishop William E. Lori, Arnold was excited. "I had absolutely no reservations," said Arnold. "I, however, was very aware of how difficult it would be to leave a parish I loved very much, so that was hard. The Lord is guiding all of this, I know that. I just need to keep trusting Him in this."

Arnold has spent his first few months getting to know parishioners, staff and ministries of his new parish home, all of which he describes as "sincerely welcoming and loving." Of the many aspects of St. John the Evangelist, Arnold was immediately impressed by the Sacristan and Altar Servers program.

"It's beautiful to see the commitment of our high school teens; how much they give to the Lord in really good ways, and their sense of ownership in teaching and guiding the younger servers," said Arnold.

"Our parishioner-led Walking With Purpose women's group is also a vibrant ministry," added Arnold. "Time and time again, women ask, 'Can we be a part of this again.' It's just a beautiful thing to see women of the parish leading other women to the Lord."

In October, Arnold joined 13 missionaries for the parish's annual Jamaica outreach mission to the Mandeville Diocese and St. John the Evangelist's sister parishes of St. Margaret Mary in Lionel Town, Jamaica, and St. Philomena in Portland Cottage, Jamaica. There, he and the St. John's crew visited Mustard Seed International in Mandeville; St. John Bosco Boys School in Dunisinaie, Manchester; Mary Help of Christian Home, run by Missionaries of Charity, in

Balaclava; and built a home for a young family in Portland Cottage.

At St. John, Arnold has brought back the traditional midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and expanded Eucharistic Adoration to include 24-hour exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Friday to Sunday mornings in what he calls, "a beautiful first step in offering parishioners more time with the Lord." In the New Year, he will oversee some much-needed and long-overdue improvements in the church and sanctuary.

Arnold said that he and the St. John community will be focused on meeting people where they are and bringing them to Jesus.

"The Lord made it clear, and especially reiterated by popes John Paul II, Benedict and Francis, that we need to be serious in our mission of the church and do a good job of sharing the good news of Jesus," said Arnold. "If we really believe that Jesus makes a difference in our own lives, we have to be serious about sharing with others; that's not up for grabs."

"The church is missionary. We have to be missionaries," he added. "The experiences I bring will certainly add my own personality and style to the mission of the church and to St. John and will make that a unique experience for the years that I am at the parish."

Ordained to the priesthood in 1999, Arnold is a speaker for the Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ courses, and co-author of "Following Christ: Developing the Practices of an Intentional Disciple and Share Christ: Inviting Others into Friendship with Jesus."

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

Severn View

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!



Neighbors Make Severn View A Special Place

By Judy Tacyn

The quiet neighborhood of Severn View in Arnold, just over the Severna Park line, is uniquely situated on both sides of Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard with easy access to all the best that Arnold and Severna Park have to offer.

The home lots are expansive, and the topography varies greatly from home to home. Some of the homes on the southwest side of B&A are Severn River waterfront. The community has fewer than 40 homes, built in the late 1960s through the mid-1990s, and giant oak and pine trees soar atop the wooded lots.

Although Severn View has an Arnold zip code, children attend historic Jones Elementary School, and Severna Park middle and high schools. The community comes together for a July 3 party, spring and fall picnics at their marina, occasional ladies nights out, and several other events throughout the year. The annual homeowners association meeting is held nearby at Café Mezzanotte. The bike trail is right next door. The gated and private marina, on Asquith Creek, boasts a boat ramp, fire pit and kayak rack, built by the son of a neighbor as an Eagle Scout project.

**JIM AND MARILYN HIMES
RESIDENTS FOR 14 YEARS**

Jim and Marilyn Himes moved to Arnold in 1978, living on the Magothy side of Ritchie Highway. They stumbled upon Severn View by accident thanks to a real estate agent friend. They loved the open floor plan of the house they visited, and really liked the

heavily wooded community. Jim said Severn View's uniqueness comes from excellent neighbors.

"They are friendly, engaging and super interesting," he added. "A number of fami-



lies with young children have moved in and the community has become lively as a result.

"Physically, we really appreciate access to the Severn, he added. "We love to sit on our marina pier in the evening, watch the sunset on the Severn and sip some wine or coffee, and spend some time together after long days."

Though the children were in high school by the time Jim and Marilyn moved into Severn View, the family had an excellent experience with Jones Elementary School.

"We had a family from Europe live with us for nearly two years," explained Jim. "One of their sons went to Jones and loved the experience. He also improved his English and played in the band. We've only heard and seen good things about Jones over the years."

Jim and Marilyn highly recommend Severn View. "The homes and people are beautiful, caring and friendly," Jim said. "Also, we largely leave behind politics and culture wars in favor of building a community where our families and friends can be just that."

Jim easily recalls times when neighbors became like family.

"One of our neighbors was diagnosed with breast cancer, undergoing treatment for a number of months. Neighbors provided a meal chain for the family for months," he said. "She is doing great. Another time was when the original owner in the community tragically died in a boating accident while out of the country. It was devastating. People reached out to the widow and her three sons, helping however they could."

James has served as president of the homeowners association board for eight years, during which time he interacted with the county on water and runoff into the marina, dredging the marina and boat slips. He also coordinated complex land title and related development issues for every home in the community.

**RON ELFENBEIN
RESIDENT FOR SIX YEARS**

In 2013, Ron Elfenbein and his family learned just how coveted the Arnold and Severna Park communities are when his current home, on the market for only 24 hours, immediately had three offers.

"We had looked at one house in our community numerous times over the course of a few years (it was on and off the market), but it just wasn't the right one for us, but we knew the neighborhood and community," explained Ron. "Then this house came available and our

agent literally called us and said, "You need to come see this house now. It just came available."

The Elfenbeins host the annual July 3 party and the Halloween fall party at their home. Their children attend Jones Elementary School and they love it.

As for neighbors, Ron, a physician, calls them, "Just a lot of high-quality, good, caring, family-oriented people. They come from all walks of life. A few work at the hospital with me, so I have professional relationships with them. We are always there for each other, always help with whatever is needed."

Ron is on the homeowner's association board.

**CAROLYN PRODEHL
RESIDENT FOR 11 YEARS**

"We decided the Annapolis area was where we wanted to be because we were interested in becoming boaters," said Carolyn Prodehl. "We lived in Shore Acres for 12 years and started our family there. We moved to Severn View 11 years ago because we wanted more of a neighborhood feel, a deeded boat slip with our home and the Severna Park schools."

The Prodehl children all attended Jones Elementary School, and Severna Park middle and high schools, and were pleased with the education and experience.

"We really appreciate having both the Severn and Magothy rivers in our backyard. Annapolis is a short trip by boat, car or B&A Trail," said Carolyn, also noting a good commute to Baltimore or Washington, D.C. and even the Eastern Shore.

Carolyn is the treasurer of the HOA, and her husband is the harbormaster of the community marina.

**JEFF LABRIER
RESIDENT FOR FIVE YEARS**

Jeff LaBrier and his family moved to Severn View after living in Olney, Maryland, for 10 years, because the family wanted to be close to the water and in the Severna Park school system.

"We loved the unique homes, large lots and community marina," said Jeff. Another interesting aspect of the neighborhood, said Jeff, is its landscape.

"We have a large (really steep and challenging) hill on the water side of the neighborhood that many runners, bikers, midshipmen and athletes take advantage of by endlessly running or walking up and down," added Jeff. "We occasionally even witness men carrying each other up and down the hill on their backs."

The family loves Jones Elementary School. "All three of our children have attended Jones," explained Jeff. "It is a fantastic school. It has great community support and a very active PTA."

The LaBriers are thrilled with their move to the area.

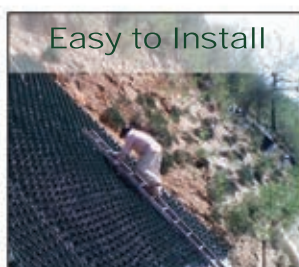
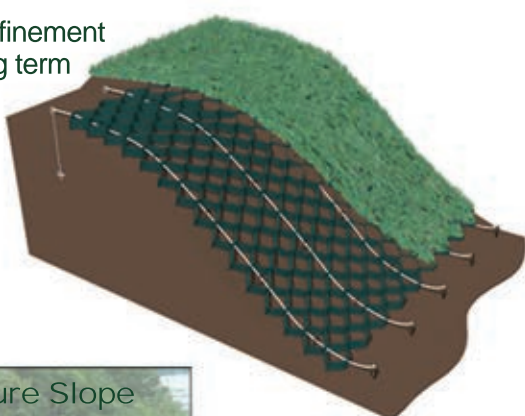
"Severna Park is a very family-friendly place to live and offers excellent schools and competitive sports leagues. Living in Severna Park allows you take advantage of all the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding rivers have to offer," said Jeff.

Jeff has been the HOA president of Severn View for the past three years. His wife is active in the Jones Elementary School PTA, and their children are involved in many of the great things Severna Park has to offer, such as sports, drama and academics, all while making lifelong friends. Their family supports the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to better the Severna and Magothy rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

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Year in Review

2019



RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF THE YEAR

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

WINTER

While the federal government was in the midst of the longest partial shutdown in U.S. history, the newly elected Anne Arundel County leadership was hard at work on another issue: immigration. County Executive Steuart Pittman held two town hall meetings in January to solicit input from citizens after he suspended the 287(g) immigration screening program.

Bill Martin, acting superintendent for the Department of Detention Facilities, was happy to see the program end.

"We have now returned to what has been successful for 14 years, the criminal alien program, and the work is again being done by the right people: federal ICE agents," Martin said.

For the first time, Anne Arundel County welcomed elected members to the Board of Education. Dana Schallheim was the first elected representative for District 5.

"Class size, wages and equity were all huge topics during the campaign trail," Schallheim said in January when asked by the Voice about her goals. "We need to get back to meeting school need at the school level."

Severna Park's championship reign over indoor track and field continued on January 22 when the Falcon girls totaled 123 points to win the Anne Arundel County championship for a third consecutive year. At the elementary school level, 9-year-old Benfield Elementary student Regan Graves was one of 12 kids selected to film a Chick-fil-A kids



fan of the Severna Park High School Falcons. An alumnus of SPHS, an employee of Giant Food, and a Special Olympics bowler and softball player, Elgert was often seen around Severna Park High, where he was an ardent supporter of the sports teams and drama department, and at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, where he loved to be part of the annual carnival and Santa runs.

On March 27, the Association for Severna Park Improvement, Renewal and Enhancement (ASPIRE) honored seven community members and organizations: Ann Brennan of Burgers

The Bruins boys basketball team came up one win shy of the ultimate prize on March 16, falling to Eleanor Roosevelt High School in the 4A state championship game at the Xfinity Center on the University of



Berrywood Community Association, Celine Wachter of Severna Park Elks Lodge 2482, Asbury Church Assistance Network (ACAN), The Cisco Center, and Lieutenant Wilbur Wells (awarded posthumously).

For their lifetime of philanthropy, Lee and Sylvia Marston were honored at the annual Severna Park Community Center fundraising gala on April 13 at Chartwell Golf & Country Club.

Elsewhere in the area, two new businesses opened: Lisa's Cakepops and Vital Fitness Holistic Center. While those entrepreneurs celebrated their new ventures, Severna Park High School alumnus Teddy Giard, Broadneck High School alumnus Austin Maxwell and their Clemson University (CU) classmate Logan LeMance spread the word about their appearance on an April 7 "Shark Tank" episode. Their product was Kase Mate, an iceless cooler designed to fit around an entire case of beverages. The show ended with the trio scoring a \$100,000 deal from Shark investor Mark Cuban.

Just as ferocious were the Falcon girls lacrosse players who dominated gameplay from

the outset in defeating Dulaney 10-5 to become 4A state champions on May 22 at Paint Branch High School Burtonsville. The Severna Park boys lacrosse team captured its fourth consecutive state title on the same day, defeating Howard High School for a 9-6 win at the same venue. One week later, Severna Park's Emily Knight and Sarah Adams, Broadneck's Mollie Fenn and the Falcon 4x800 relay teams won track and field state championships.



On June 6, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recognized Artie Hendricks and Rob Calhan of Landmark Roofing for Maryland Entrepreneurial Success of the Year; Lonnie and Dianna Lancione of The Voice Media Inc., publisher of the Severna Park Voice, were named the Maryland Family-Owned Business of the Year. Severna Park High graduate Erica Szymanski was acknowledged with the Rising Star Student Entrepreneur Award.

» Continued on A14



correspondent public service announcement that aired on Fox45.

The winter was also a time of recognition. The Department of Recreation and Parks named the Friends of Kinder Farm Park as an Organization of the Year, along with Pasadena Soccer Club, on January 23. Erik Michelsen, the Anne Arundel County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP) administrator, earned the inaugural Ron Bowen Environmental Legacy Award on February 23.

To show students they are valued, a grassroots group of parents organized an event they dubbed "One Severna Park" in early March, when hundreds of parents lined Benfield Road and Robinson Road with signs bearing messages of affirmation.

For Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXX in early March, Severna Park High School opted to choose artists inducted into the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame. Among the musical giants were Bon Jovi, Elton John, Cream, Blondie, The Supremes, Queen and more.



Maryland campus, 77-48.

A new business, Vintage Vinyl, was welcomed to Arnold near the end of winter.

SPRING

Severna Park lost a beloved icon in March with the passing of Kenny Elgert, commonly known around town as the No. 1



& Bands for Suicide Prevention, Randy Bruns of the Magothy River Association, Linda Curry of the Greater Severna Park Council, Alden Gross of Severna Park Kiwanis, Diana Pechous of Partners In Care, Bob Royer of



Year in Review

RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF THE YEAR



» Continued from A13



As the school year came to a close, students said goodbye to retiring principals Debi Short (Benfield Elementary), Pat Keffer (Jones Elementary) and Sharon Hansen (Severna Park Middle). The Fiscal Year 2020 budget passed 4-3 along party lines on June 14, with Democrats approving a \$1.7 billion spending plan almost identical to the one County Executive Stuart 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 now pay 2.81% in income taxes instead of 2.5%. "My colleagues have mentioned this budget is transforming the county, and yes, it's transforming the county, a county that has spent two decades underfunding itself, and we can no longer wait for someone else to rescue us," said Councilwoman 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."

SUMMER

For many families, summer was made official with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's Fourth of July parade. Waypoint Wellness and The Blended Essentials welcomed summer by opening businesses. Longtime Annapolis resident Steve Kaii-Ziegler started his new position as the county's director of the Office of Planning and Zoning on July 31.

"A major goal of mine is to determine what we protect versus what we allow and be respectful of the laws to achieve the best balanced position for county land use," he said. The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announced three potential options for a new Bay Bridge crossing in late August. All three would run through Anne Arundel County, and there is also a no-build option. Arnold Elementary School students and staff were joined by AACPS officials and politicians during a ribbon cutting for the

new school on August 29. Student members of Our Minds Matter from Severna Park High School were awarded the inaugural Governor's Youth Service Award for their work advocating for mental health awareness and reform in schools. Lauren Carlson, Parker Cross, Sabina Khan, Megan Mouldsdales and Katrina Schultz formed Our Minds Matter as juniors.

FALL

As the leaves changed colors, several schools changed principals. Sue Myers became the

ed its 2019 Tribute to Women and Industry Awards ceremony at Hotel Annapolis. Severna Park resident and Urban Walls Brazil founder Roberta Pardo was honored, as was Severna School senior Mackenzie Boughey. Former baseball player Matt Griswold earned another type of distinction when he was inducted into the Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame. A few months later, another former Green Hornet, Mark Teixeira, was inducted into the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame. Current students from Griswold's former school, Severna Park High, ran in wet conditions



at South River High School on October 22. The Falcon boys totaled 26 points to defeat Broadneck (78), South River (83) and the rest of the field in winning the county championship for the 12th time in the last 13 years. The Broadneck marching band became Group 3A MMBA Maryland state champions in late October.

Anne Arundel Dermatology and Your Daily Finances opened new businesses in the area. The Falcons girls softball team finished 15-3-2 with 12 shutouts in 2019 and the program's first appearance in the state final since 2011. The Broadneck volleyball squad advanced to the 4A state championship at Ritchie Coliseum on the University of Maryland campus before falling to Arundel on November 15. Katherine Esposito's first-half stroke was the winning score in a 1-0 Severna Park field hockey victory over Dulaney in the 4A state final at Washington College, where the Falcons claimed the program's 24th title and first since 2015. The Severna Park High School cross country program dominated in the state championship at Hereford High School on November 9. The boys team claimed their third consecutive state championship with a score of 43 points, and the girls took second with 110 points.



principal at Benfield Elementary, Jim Whisman joined Jones Elementary and Dennis Kelly took over as principal at Severna Park Middle School. "My short-term goal is to continue the success that's occurred in this middle school long before I got here. Everybody in this community knows that this is a great school," Kelly said. The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company was not granted approval for its rezoning request on September 11. The issue is a complicated one, but basically, volunteers want to lease part of the current property as commercial space to raise \$6 million for the replacement building. Two Severna Park residents were honored in September when the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County host-

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Behind The Scenes Of The Forest Conservation Bill

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



I have lived in our county my entire life. I recall the days when there was no east-west highway, "Arnold Station" was the original small train station, and there were more trees along Route 2.

Our county has changed, but the trajectory has now shifted.

In September of this year, the county executive introduced Bill 68-19 to the council. This bill quickly became known as the "forest conservation bill." It was the largest bill that this council has considered.

If we review the legislative history of the council, we would have to go back to 2011 and the introduction of the stormwater management bill to find a bill similar in size and scope. When the stormwater management bill was first introduced, it was retracted and put to a work group consisting of stakeholders, which included economists, environmentalists, land developers, community organizations, business leaders and council representatives. From initial introduction of that bill, it took nearly two years for it to cross the finish line with favorable passage.

Land use is complicated and complex. It is one of the reasons the General Development Plan takes a year or more to craft. The administration met with each member of the council prior to introduction. This meeting was a concept overview and an opportunity to digest the initial data and ask questions. The bill was introduced with small adjustments to address concerns

raised by council members, but it fell short of the four required votes to pass.

Bills have a lifespan of 95 days from the date of introduction to be amended and voted on. If a bill does not reach a favorable form to receive four votes, it dies. If a bill is amended but receives only three votes, it fails. The importance of the forest conservation bill was never lost on me.

Members of the council, myself included, requested that the bill be held so that it may be put to a work group, similar to the stormwater management bill. It was important to me that the bill be given the attention and expertise I felt it required. The administration desired for the council to move forward under the 95-day time clock, so we did. This was no easy task. I recognized it was going to take an enormous bipartisan effort to accomplish what we all wanted, increased forest conservation, and a minimum of four votes.

Within a week of introduction, Bill 68-19 became my full-time job as I devoted hours a day to research, data study, jurisdiction review and application of the bill. I soon realized my colleague from District 2, Councilwoman Allison Pickard, was taking the same approach. We combined our efforts, and quickly we began dissecting the bill, section by section. I devoted hours to multiple meetings with the admin-

istration, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, engineers, the League of Conservation Voters, builders, community organizations and individuals. The data provided was extensive, conflicting, and covered years to a decade of forest conservation. One could easily have gotten lost in the data for 95 days.

By October, a significant amount of work had been done but was not yet completed when the first public hearing was held. The council heard three hours of compelling testimony for and opposed to the bill, some of which compelled amendments.

For example, there was opposition to the potential removal of protections for greenways (mapped contiguous forest identified by the county). A majority of the council felt if we are to use greenways as a land use mechanism, we should treat it similarly to critical area. This would mean a greenways commission and notification to landowners. The county is not yet at that point, and hasn't approved a greenways map since the early 2000s. However, having protections of contiguous forest was important to me.

After hearing the compelling testimony, I sponsored an amendment that ultimately protects forest of 75 acres or more and that have the potential for forest interior dwelling species (FIDS), like native birds and wildlife. I devoted hours to multiple meetings with the admin-

istration, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, engineers, the League of Conservation Voters, builders, community organizations and individuals. The data provided was extensive, conflicting, and covered years to a decade of forest conservation. One could easily have gotten lost in the data for 95 days.

ful rounds of amendments. The third round of amendments was defeated, which is not abnormal for a bill of this size. It is a process, and I asked for your patience and trust along the way.

On November 18, the Anne Arundel County Council passed the bill unanimously, 7-0. This was an incredible shift in support from where the bill was just two months prior. It was also a historic moment for Anne Arundel County.

No other jurisdiction in Maryland has increased the amount of forest that is required under state law to be conserved during the construction of residential, industrial, or commercial development. We are the first to increase those thresholds. Where we once had the lowest fee in lieu (fee paid instead of planting the required reforestation amount), we now have one of the highest fees. Also, we now have the highest fee in the state for clearing of trees in violation, and we have incentivized areas for revitalization.

The forest conservation bill is an example of good government, bipartisanship and community engagement. Without any one of these factors, I do not believe this bill would have been successful.

As we approach the new year, I will continue to dig deep on legislation large and small. The details are vital.

On December 16, the council will review the school utilization chart (Bill- 84-19), short-term rentals (Bills 87, 88 and 89-19) and residential wastewater connection charges and assessments (Bill 90-19).

I encourage you to remain engaged on local legislation and wish you and yours a happy holiday and New Year.

Bay Bridge Update

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



Nine months ago, here in the *Severna Park Voice*, I discussed the challenges surrounding Chesapeake Bay Bridge traffic and state efforts to resolve it. Here is a status update.

Undoubtedly, you are aware of the ongoing two-year \$27 million bridge redecking project to repair significant deterioration and patching of the right lane of the westbound span. Delay in repairing the lane is not an option — projections estimate that delay would result in more deterioration, which could take up to five years to repair, to the tune of \$200 million.

The lane under repair will remain closed 24/7 until April 2020, as the existing top layer of concrete must be removed down to the steel bars and new concrete laid and cured, and wastewater vacuumed to avoid contaminating the bay.

Each lane of the bridge can accommodate only 1,500 vehicles per hour, so the lane closure can cause major delays. To help alleviate the delays, construction crews are now working around the clock; cashless tolling remains in effect on Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 8:00pm; and the Maryland Transportation Authority has pledged to move toward all electronic tolling and work with local law enforcement and community groups to improve traffic flow. EZ pass usage not only incurs a lower toll, it reduces traffic delays.

An environmental impact study under the National Environmental Policy Act, a study required by the Federal Highway Administration, will commit federal funds to a major project for another bridge across the Chesapeake Bay, and is also moving forward. The Maryland Transportation Authority has narrowed 14 proposed alternative corridors across the bay to just three. Projected improvement to traffic flow as well as other factors like environmental impacts, cost, commuter times, and growth were considered.

All three corridors begin in Anne Arundel County: corridor 6

would utilize Route 100 to Route 301 connecting Pasadena to Rock Hall in Kent County and Centerville in Queen Anne's County. Corridor 7 is the existing Bay Bridge corridor utilizing Route 50/301 between Crofton and Queenstown in Queen Anne's County. Corridor 8 would also use the Route 50/301 beginning in Crofton, but would end in Easton in Talbot County. No-build also remains an option.

I recently met with the Maryland Transportation Secretary, Pete Rahn, to strongly encourage that options outside of Anne Arundel County be considered. Further information about the study can be found at www.baycrossingstudy.com; comments can be sent to info@baycrossingstudy.com; and further open houses regarding the study are planned for fall 2020. I encourage you to join me in demanding that options outside of Anne Arundel County be considered.

Given that all of the proposed corridors originate in Anne Arundel County and that much bridge congestion occurs here, one would hope that Anne Arundel County would have a significant say in whether and where another Bay Bridge span would be located. Sadly, however, that is not the case.

Since the early 1970s, no toll bridge, highway or road that affects the Eastern Shore can be constructed without the consent of a majority of the nine Eastern Shore counties (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester). Therefore, no new Bay Bridge span can be built without the consent of the majority of the Eastern Shore counties, regardless of what Anne Arundel County residents want.

To remedy this, last year I introduced House Bill 212 to include Anne Arundel County on said list of those counties. It died in committee, but I intend to file it again.

In the meantime, please share your views and comments at www.baycrossingstudy.com under "Public Involvement/Submit Comments" and keep checking the MDTA's Facebook, Twitter, and website posts for traffic advisories, or call 1-877-BAYSPAN.

Thanksgiving And Thanksgiving Everyday

Sid Saab
Delegate
District 33



As we just celebrated the national holiday of Thanksgiving, that features family and food, I thought of what we call in Lebanon "Thanksgiving" when you are happy just to be safe.

I am very thankful to be here, but am concerned about the lack of respect for one another, starting with our children.

Since family is the bedrock of our community, our state and our nation, we need to build strong foundations. Family is devoted to one another's growth, maturity and development to become an engaged citizen. Family members serve and sacrifice for each other, and challenge us to be better, to work harder and to be our best.

I am concerned about our teenagers' behavior in school. As many of you know, parenting is hard work. We have to be courageous and have the difficult discussions with our kids. We now need to talk about school safety, diversity, the potential dangers of the internet, bullying, the importance of good grades and good sportsmanship, gun safety, abstinence and the extreme dangers of addiction. And we need those conversations to be

effective.

Our kids need to be reminded that our freedom isn't free; it was fought for and it's still being fought for. And they need to be reminded that the freedoms we enjoy come with responsibility. As parents, we must lead and not be intimidated by pushback from our adolescents. Because there will be pushback.

It's a tough time to be a teenager. Our job as parents is also to listen, to sift through the jargon and hear what our kids are truly struggling with. Everyone has struggles. Mostly, people want to be heard, understood, accepted and loved.

This holiday season of peace and joy can turn into haste and waste. Let's try to listen more, accept more and judge less.

Thanksgiving, or developing a habit of gratitude, is a practice that can reap both emotional and physiological benefits. The results of a 10-week study on gratitude was published in 2015 by psychologists Dr. Robert Emmons of the University of California at Davis and Dr. Michael McCullough of the University of Miami. The researchers separated the participants into three groups, which journaled daily.

The first group wrote on experiences for which they were thankful; the second on experiences that displeased or irritated them; and the last group wrote

daily of events with no emphasis on either positive or negative emotional attachment. The results showed that if people spent time daily thinking of things they were thankful for and even writing these items down, they typically felt more positive about their lives, were more physically active, and reported fewer visits to a doctor than people in the group who wrote only about the negative aspects of their experiences. As parents, we try to model thankfulness and teach its value, so it's good to find that science backs this up.

I trust you had a great Thanksgiving day with family and friends. Historians tell us this tradition harkens back to the first Thanksgiv-

ing celebrated in the New World at harvest time in 1621. Edward Winslow, who was there, recounted that there were 90 Native Americans and 53 pilgrims dining together. I suspect that at that first thankful feast, instead of celebrating their differences, the men and women laid these aside and appreciated the bounty from above and the goodness of friendship, peace and family.

Once again, thank you for giving me the honor of representing you in the General Assembly. I am energized as I anticipate the 2020 session and the issues we will tackle. I assure you that I will continue to look for common ground while upholding conservative values.

Remember Your Local Businesses This Season

Peter Franchot
Comptroller of
Maryland



It's never been easier to do your holiday shopping from the comfort of your home. Major retailers make it easy to buy online, offering deep discounts and the ability to avoid long checkout lines. Amazon and other web-based platforms have a seemingly endless supply of gifts to choose from for anyone on your list.

That's why it's more important than ever to shop local this holiday season. In recent weeks, I have visited local retailers across Maryland — a bike shop in Cumberland, a gourmet popcorn vendor in Ellicott City, and an outdoors store on Kent Island, to name a few. Each of these businesses depends on strong holiday

sales to survive.

The National Retail Federation projects holiday sales will increase around 4% from 2018, a slight uptick over the previous five-year average. That's largely a reflection of an improving economy and greater consumer spending.

That's great news, indeed. But within that data, online sales are expected to increase between 11% and 14%, meaning brick-and-mortar stores face growing competition. Shopping local keeps your money circulating within our local towns and communities.

These stores also employ thousands of Marylanders and represent the lifeblood of Maryland's small business community. The owners care deeply about their customers and neighborhoods, because they are invested in

“Yes, online is easy, but the personal in-store experience and customer service of your local retailer cannot be matched.”

their success.

Earlier this year, I presented the Cornerstone Award for Local Business Excellence in all 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. This award recognized small and family-owned businesses that are part of the fabric of their community.

These honorees have stood the test of time, overcoming economic challenges, prioritizing customer service and showing a commitment to the community through sponsorships, service, charitable giving and civic engagement.

Put another way, they are the "Cheers" of their county — everybody knows their name.

I'm talking about busi-

nesses like Homestead Gardens in Anne Arundel County, the iconic Benjamins Drive-In

in Baltimore County and Clark's Elioak Farm in Howard County.

They are deeply rooted in their communities. They sponsor Little League teams, they support local law enforcement, and they generate tax revenue that helps fund schools, roads and more.

Yes, online is easy, but the personal in-store experience and customer service of your local retailer cannot be matched.

That's why I urge you once more to shop local when crossing off your gift lists.

I wish all Marylanders a restful and joyous holiday season spent with family and friends.

PITTMAN WEIGHS IN ON TRAFFIC

All politics and opinion stories usually appear together in this section. We received a submission from County Executive Stuart Pittman as the paper was being prepared for print. We found space for his column in the community section. **Find his article on page A10.**

Students Must Be Held Accountable For Their Actions

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



Thank you, Anne Arundel County NAACP, for your advocacy and for demanding changes in our schools to help erase hate. Your frequent testimony during our Board of Education meetings, but especially during the November 20 meeting, made a difference.

I am particularly impressed by Drake Smith, president of the Anne Arundel County NAACP Youth and College Division and Meade High School student, who called for students who participate in bias-motivated behavior to write a letter of apology. This letter will become part of the consequences for bias-motivated behavior, which includes completion of the Bias Motivated Behavior Program, a restorative program both students and their parent must attend for committing biased acts. An apology, he stated, goes beyond passive consequences, such as suspension, and helps to demand accountability and responsibility from students for biased acts.

I couldn't agree more. I am proud of my colleagues for mandating that students who commit biased-motivated acts write a

letter of apology. Had I not been home nursing a broken shoulder, the vote would have been 9-0 instead of 8-0. I am grateful for the members of Anne Arundel County NAACP and others who demanded this simple but important change.

If we don't demand that students are held accountable for their actions, how will they grow into responsible adults? The lessons they learn now will stay with them into adulthood. If we don't require students to craft an apology and directly address those who were harmed, we squander an important teaching moment. A letter of apology enhances existing procedures under the Student Code of Conduct and Bias Behavior and Language policy and will hopefully help stem bias-motivated behavior.

Mr. Smith also asked for comment from board members in response to the recent bias-motivated acts. I am heartbroken that countless students, parents, and staff that have been impacted by any biased act that has occurred in our schools or on social media by our students. Students over decades have borne repeated, possibly permanent, mental scars as a result of bias incidents in our schools. It is infuriating that at the end of

2019, we are still battling heinous, hate-filled behavior in our schools.

It is crucial to report every instance of bias-motivated behavior to school staff members who will complete and submit an electronic bias-motivated incident report form, which is automatically sent to the Office of Safe and Orderly Schools, Office of Equity and Accelerated Student Achievement, and the appropriate regional assistant superintendent. In some cases, a bullying, harassment, or intimidation report should also be filled out.

Words are meaningless unless followed by action. We, as a community, need to continue to address racism in our schools and communities head on. Let's continue to work together to ensure our schools are safe places to learn for all students. Keep showing up and work with me and my board colleagues to ensure that all students feel welcomed, safe and supported at our schools.

Eradicating bias-motivate behavior in our schools is a community effort.

Thank you to the Anne Arundel County NAACP and others for working with us so that all students feel safe. As always, I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org.

A Message From Sheriff Jim Fredericks

Jim Fredericks
County Sheriff



It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I was sworn in as your sheriff, but I can assure you that the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office is moving

forward to become more modern and efficient than ever before.

I am excited to enter 2020 with more ideas to improve services and to make our communities safer.

I hope your holiday season is filled with family, friends and good times.

Remember to practice

good safety habits while driving and shopping for the holidays. Most importantly, let us all remember to practice being good to others.

Have a wonderful December, and, from the hardworking women and men of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office, we wish you happy holidays!



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

Officers from the Eastern District saluted the flag during the Pasadena Business Association's Veterans Day ceremony.



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Coming January 15!

The Severna Park Voice will publish a Health, Beauty & Fitness Guide in the January issue. This glossy special edition will feature insight from local experts on the latest in health, wellness, fitness and beauty.



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Guests Share Toasts And Laughs At Taste And Sip

Photos by Larry Sells

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Holiday Taste and Sip event on December 5 at Chartwell Golf & Country Club.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Franklin's Toys Offers Fun And Happy Shopping Experience

Story and Photos by Chris Fincham

chris@severnaparkvoice.com

As Toys "R" Us begins its attempt at a comeback, Franklin's Toys remains an ever-present part of the local community.

For more than 30 years, the local toy store, with locations in Severna Park and Annapolis, has provided an experience focused on a belief that healthy play is an important part of childhood.

"I think the biggest thing that we can do is offer an experience that you're just not going to get online or in larger chain stores," said Anne Barnes, co-owner of the store.

With decades of experience between them, Barnes and her partner, Stephen Kaufmann, took over Franklin's Toys in 2017 and continue to build on the legacy



Along with encouraging folks to come in and play, Anne Barnes also encourages everyone to check out Franklin's Toys' holiday catalog, which includes a variety of coupons for different items.

established by Jeff and Lee Franklin. The stores offer great toys in a warm, family-friendly

environment where kids are encouraged to come in and play.

"It's a fun place for your kids," Barnes said. "All sorts of research shows that kids don't play anymore. The advantages of just taking the time to play are huge, and we're here to support that."

With her store being a member of The Good Toy Group, which is made up of 100 independent toy stores around the country, Barnes takes pride in running a local small business.

"I think the most passionate thing for me is that we don't lose these mom-and-pops," she said. "We're trying to do our best to ensure that we — and others — continue to stay around."

Being a small business also helps them establish relationships with vendors and other companies, enabling them to offer unique items for customers.

"There are vendors who are not going to sell to the big guys online," explained Barnes. "They're going to keep it exclusive to mom-and-pops, small businesses, so we can have that

uniqueness. Having a play area and staff who are very knowledgeable, and we wrap for free — you're not going to get that anywhere."

They also take pride in being actively involved in the communities around their stores. Franklin's supports fundraisers for schools and local organizations, as well as toy drives and other events, throughout the year.

"There's no denying the convenience of certain things online," Barnes said. "But I'd like to hope that when it comes to your kid and making sure that you get quality, good, unique stuff that you will make the trip in [to the store]."

Along with encouraging folks to come in and play, Barnes also encourages everyone to check out their holiday catalog, which includes a variety of coupons for different items.

Franklin's Toys is also running sales throughout the holiday season.

If you can't make it in to visit, the website offers a broad selection of what's carried in the stores. For more information, visit www.franklinstore.com.



Two of the biggest categories Franklin's Toys has right now are baby and tween — especially girls — bath bombs, and clean natural play makeup.

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



We are excited to announce our newest members of the chamber: Fairway Independent Mortgage, Marshall Feldman of First Home Mortgage, Pink Posey Photography, WildFlower Stem + Sun-

dry, Debbie's NRG Balancing, Green Home Solutions, Total View Home Inspections, Passanante's Home Food Service, and Neil Schwartz of Long and Foster Real Estate.

We held four ribbon cutting celebrations in November. Dr. Brian Valle, DDS celebrated 30 years in practice with a well-attended ribbon cutting including his first patient. Long and Foster Real Estate cut the rib-

bon on a new location in Severna Park, followed by a fun cocktail party. Club Pilates in Severna Park held a weeklong celebration culminating in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate four years of success. And a ribbon cutting was held at the newest floral shop, Wild-Flower Stem + Sundry in Arnold. We congratulate all these businesses and thank them for supporting our community.

Our general membership and new board elections meeting was held at the Blackwall Barn and Lodge mid-November. We are excited to announce our new board of directors: President Dana Eckert, Bank of Glen Burnie; First Vice President Dianna Lancione, The Voice Media; Second Vice President Crystal Wiley, Severn Bank; Treasurer Valerie McLaughlin, Emerald Financial; Secretary

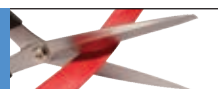
Tammie Neall, Anne Arundel Community College; Director Sherri Norton, Live! Casino and Hotel; Director Patrick Lee, Chesapeake Think Tank; Director Melanie Ferragut, PNC Bank; Director Kristine Pennington, The Y of Central Maryland; and Director Jaron Rice, Magothy Payments. The new board members will be sworn in at our January general membership meeting, and they look forward to meeting chamber and community members.

We were so honored to participate in the Veterans Day groundbreaking ceremony of the Heroes of Severna Park gazebo. The gazebo will be built right behind our chamber building and will be dedicated to Gold Star families in Severna Park to remember Private First Class Eric Kavanagh, Lance Corporal Eric Herzberg, Lance Corporal Taylor Wild and Airman First Class Nathaniel McDavitt. The project will be funded by private donations that can be made by visiting www.heroesofsevernapark.com.

Our new Health and Wellness Coalition, hosted by Spring Arbor of Severna Park, was again well-attended and well-received. James Scott, owner of Chesapeake Bay Hypnosis, delivered a fascinating speech breaking down common misconceptions about hypnosis, and the valuable uses today to treat anxiety, PTSD, and other ailments. Jennie Slack of Spring Arbor spoke about the new Alzheimer's Unit, and Shelly Beigel of the Severna Park Community Center told us about all the great things going on there for health and wellness.

We are an active and vibrant chamber promoting the Shop Local, Eat Local and Give Local mantra. Join us and connect with other businesses and the community. Call us at 410-647-3900 or info@gspacc.com or visit www.gspacc.com. And, in this holiday season, please remember to shop local and support all the small businesses that bring us desired goods and services, employment, charitable contributions, and tax dollars that keep our local economy strong!

Ribbon Cutting

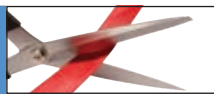


Long & Foster Finds A Home In Severna Park



The staff at Long & Foster welcomed guests to their new location at 541-B Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park.

Ribbon Cuttings



Capitol Title Settles In Severna Park



Providing settlement services since 1973, Capitol Title celebrated its new Severna Park location with a ribbon cutting on October 28. The business is located at 565 Benfield Road, Suite 201.

WildFlower Blooms In Arnold



Arnold's newest floral business, WildFlower Stem + Sundry, had a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 23. The business is located at 1460 Ritchie Highway, Suite 107.

EscapeTime Begins New Venture



Most Severna Park residents are familiar with EscapeTime, the local venue that challenges groups to solve various puzzles, riddles and crack codes within 60 minutes. On December 1, the team celebrated its newest location at 167 Jennifer Road in Annapolis.

Club Pilates Celebrates Four Years



Club Pilates Severna Park marked its four-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting on November 16.

Thinking Tree Psychology Commemorates Third Anniversary



Thinking Tree marked three years of providing assessment and psychotherapy services for children, adolescents and young adults with a ribbon cutting. The business is located at 877 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Suite 313, in Severna Park.

Dr. Valle Marks Big Milestone



Dr. Brian Valle had much to be thankful for this November. Along with his staff and members of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, he recognized his 30 years of dentistry on November 6. Dr. Brian Valle, PA is located at 251 Najoles Road, Suite J, in Millersville.

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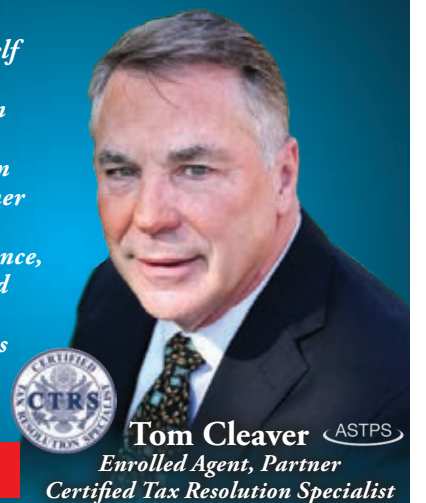
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Retired Teacher Creates A Whimsical Animal Book For Children



Can You Put Diapers on a Goose features full-color illustrations and simple rhymes for young children to enjoy.

By Alyson Kay

The idea for Bill Sharkey's new children's book came to him while chasing some geese with his granddaughter in the California desert.

"On our way to find the geese, there was goose poop all over the sand and the ground and the driveways," said Sharkey. "And we had to step around it, or step over it or step on it to get to the geese. I said to my granddaughter, 'You know, if there were diapers on the geese, we wouldn't have to worry about this. I wonder if you could put diapers on a goose,' and she laughed and laughed."

Inspired by that event, "Can You Put Diapers on a Goose" includes full-color illustrations of a variety of animals and rhyming questions for young children to enjoy, including "Can you put a diaper on a fish, and watch him swim around in a dish?"

The book ends with the little girl the narrator is speaking to answering the question, "Can you put diapers on a goose?"

Although this will be Sharkey's first children's book, he has a lot of experience working with children of all ages as a music teacher. He also worked for 15 years as an entertainer at children's birthday parties doing magic tricks,

songs and games.

"I've worked with a lot of children over the years, so I kind of have an idea of how they think, and what they like, and what's humorous to them," said Sharkey.

Sharkey has also written and published his own music, which he says requires skills similar to what he uses as an author.

"They both require imagination," said Sharkey.

Sharkey also had a lot of support while writing his book.

"I'm with my friends who are elementary school teachers or retired elementary school teachers and family members who had children," said Sharkey. "I let them preview the book before I published it and printed it, and they made some suggestions about changing this or adding that. They were very helpful."

Two of Sharkey's cousins also spoke with him about writing and publishing books. Writing under the pen name Liv Constantine, they have published several books including "The Last Mrs. Parrish."

For more information, visit Sharkey's website at www.sharkeybooks.com. His next book, "George the Giraffe Goes on Vacation," will be available in late spring or early summer 2020.

Newly Formed Band From Severna Park To Perform In January

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Bring together a group of longtime friends, a love of music and talent on various instruments, and a new band is formed.

Black Litmus is nearing a year old, having started practicing in early 2019. The band has already released a single and a six-track extended play (EP) record, and they are preparing for their first show on January 4.

Members of Black Litmus are all in college now; however, they met when they were students at Severna Park Middle School. Though they all had backgrounds on different instruments, it was their friendship that cultivated the formation of Black Litmus. Nowadays, band members are scattered around Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states attending college, so they record and rehearse during summers and on other school breaks.

Jack Yearwood plays the keyboard and synthesizer, and is also involved in production. Jack Benedict, who writes some songs, is a vocalist and plays the keyboard and rhythm guitar. Warren Louie plays the bass. Josh Ohler is the drummer. Joe Matthews is lead guitarist.

Black Litmus released their first single, "#5," in July. Soon after, they released the album "Stages Demos," which includes six songs, each with a distinct style, including punk rock, psychedelic rock,

sleeper rock and heavy metal. As the band is still young, they are also still working to carve out their identity and uniqueness.

"It is one thing to play what is popular and another to take what you know to create a new style," Ohler said. "We want to play our own music."

Both Yearwood and Louie attend college in New York City and are studying jazz.

Yearwood said, "There are lots of diverse musical tastes in NYC and with different bands there. I take what I learn there and bring it back [to Black Litmus]."

Louie echoed Yearwood's sentiments.

"New York is a central hub for most genres of music, and there is always something happening," Louie said. "I am exposed to more, and I take what I learn to Black Litmus."

All band members expect to continue to perform for the foreseeable future.

"We're all really good friends," Ohler said. "We'll see each other in the summers and winters. As long as we're always in Severna Park, we can put together gigs for at least a couple more years."

Black Litmus songs can be found on Spotify, iTunes, Apple Music and on YouTube.

Black Litmus will perform their first live show on Saturday, January 4, at 7:00pm at the Metropolitan Kitchen and Lounge in Annapolis. Tickets can be found at www.mt.cm/events?search=blacklitmus.

Holiday Events Worth The Drive

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

With Anne Arundel County's close proximity to Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and beyond, families have the opportunity to enjoy unique holiday festivities within a relatively short distance from home. These events are open for several weeks during the holiday season and are worth the drive.

BALTIMORE

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET, HAMPDEN

Be dazzled by a city block full of bright lights, holiday music and over-the-top displays in a charming, kitschy Baltimore kind of way. Now in its 73rd year, the event now known as Miracle on 34th Street began when a teenager put a string of lights on a tree in front of his family home on 34th Street, and it grew to include the whole block of neighbors. Some of the unique attractions on the block include a hubcap Christmas tree, bike-rim snowmen, overhead trains and a lighted crab.

When

Through December 31
Evenings, beginning
around 5:45pm

Where

720 34th Street, Baltimore, Maryland
Info
www.christmasstreet.com

GERMAN MARKET, INNER HARBOR

An authentic German Christmas market sets up annually in West Shore Park at the Inner Harbor. The market includes around 50 vendors who sell authentic European food, Christmas decorations, crafts and more from all over the globe.

When

Through December 24
Sundays - Thursdays:
11:00am - 7:00pm
Fridays - Saturdays:
11:00am - 8:00pm
Thanksgiving Day
and Christmas Eve:
11:00am - 5:00pm
Closed Days: December 16-17

Where

West Shore Park
501 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland
Info
www.baltimore-christmas.com



Visit Nationals Park for a maze and market called *Enchant Christmas*. The outfield will be transformed into a giant lighted maze, the infield will turn into an ice rink, and the concourse will become a Christmas market.



Over 1 million holiday lights, hundreds of animated light displays and a 50-foot Christmas tree are part of *Winterfest of Lights* in Ocean City.

B&O MUSEUM MAGICAL HOLIDAY EXPRESS

The B&O Railroad Museum celebrates the season through train rides with Santa, Frosty and other characters. The museum also showcases a special holiday model train display and a 30-foot Christmas tree.

When

Through December 31
Mondays - Saturdays:
10:00am - 4:00pm
Sundays:
11:00am - 4:00pm
Closed Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day and New Year's Day
Where
901 West Pratt Street,
Baltimore, Maryland
Info
www.borail.org/holiday

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ENCHANT CHRISTMAS AT NATIONALS PARK

Visit Nationals Park, home of the World Series champion Washington Nationals, for its first-ever Christmas maze and market. The outfield will be transformed into a giant lighted maze, the infield will turn into an ice rink, and the concourse will become a Christmas market.

When

Through December 19
Where
1500 S Capitol St SE,
Washington, D.C.

Info

www.enchant-christmas.com

ZOOLIGHTS AT SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO

During this free annual event, more than 500,000 environmentally friendly LED lights transform the zoo into a holiday spectacular. Features of the event include laser light shows, train rides for a fee, a field of swaying lights, and lanterns crafted in China.

When

Through January 1
5:00pm - 9:00pm
Where
3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW,
Washington, D.C.
Info
www.nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights

U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN CONSERVATORY

The 2019 theme of "Season's Greenings: America's Gardens!" will highlight botanic gardens from across the county. In addition, visitors will find a room dedicated to model train displays, a conservatory filled with thousands of flowers including poinsettias, and D.C. landmarks made of plant materials. Concerts are offered on select evenings.

When

Through January 5
10:00am - 5:00pm
Where
100 Maryland Avenue,

SW, Washington, D.C.

Info

www.usbg.gov/plan-your-holiday-visit

WASHINGTON, D.C. SUBURBS

Christmas on the Potomac at Gaylord National offers many family-friendly activities and events throughout the holiday season. Decorated in over 2 million lights, the hotel offers concerts, light shows, a Christmas village, ice skating, train rides, ice tubing, scavenger hunts, gingerbread decorating and the ice sculpture attraction, ICE! This year's ICE! theme is "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

When

Through December 30

Where

201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Maryland

Info

www.marriott.com/gaylord-hotels/gaylord-national-harbor-christmas-on-the-potomac.mi

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA

Christmas past meets Christmas present at George Washington's estate. Activities throughout the holiday season at Mount Vernon include candlelight tours, wreath-making workshops, musical demonstrations and chocolate-making demonstrations.

When

Through December 31

Where

3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Mount Vernon, Virginia

Info

www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/tours-activities/christmas-at-mount-vernon

WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS, NORTHSIDE PARK, OCEAN CITY

Over 1 million holiday lights, hundreds of animated light displays and a 50-foot Christmas tree are part of this annual event. A 1-mile train ride goes through 58 acres of lights.

When

Through December 31
Sundays - Thursdays:
5:30pm - 9:30pm
Fridays - Saturdays:
5:30pm - 10:30pm

Where

200 125th Street, Ocean City, Maryland

Info

www.oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/special-events/winterfest

"Last Christmas" Is Not A Gift Worth Celebrating

By Audrey Ruppert

"Last Christmas," a supposed seasonal from-com, has all the trappings of a touching film but is unfortunately a bit of a scattered mess. The lead, Kate (Emilia Clarke), is also a scattered mess.

Kate is the child of Yugoslavian immigrants living in London, and is currently working as an elf in a year-round Christmas shop during the day, while auditioning for the West End (English Broadway) at night.

She is perpetually getting kicked out of flats and the houses of her friends, uses one-night stands to find nightly lodging, and is avoiding her dysfunctional family. Eventually, she meets a somewhat mysterious bicycle courier named Tom (Henry Golding) who pops in and out of her life. Over time, Tom teaches Kate to care more for herself and others, and become a better and happier person.

"Last Christmas" was not marketed correctly. It was neither romantic nor that comedic, although it did have some funny moments (if cringe-



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

Fraught with loose ends and ham-handed subplots, "Last Christmas" is neither romantic nor that comedic, although it did have some funny moments.

worthy interactions between a Chinese woman obsessed with Christmas and a German guy who loves sauerkraut is your sense of humor). Then again, who would you market this to? Its messages are so scattered and its tone inconsistent — I laughed for some of it but left the theater feeling depressed and moody.

We seem to be told to practice self-care, to value family, and to take personal responsibility for what we have done wrong. These themes could have meshed well together, but they didn't. The twist at the end of the film was

evidently guessed by many who saw the trailer (so don't watch the trailer if you plan on seeing the movie). This twist is not well explained and leaves you feeling rather sad, but for what effect?

The randomness goes beyond the main themes. Emma Thompson as a Yugoslav? What? The George Michael music that the plot was unnaturally forced to fit into and work around? A shoehorned Brexit subplot, which could have made powerful points about the alienation of immigrants in the post-Brexit era, but instead came off as ham-handed? When the film ends, there are so many questions left unanswered. Why did Kate even try out for the West End? Did she have theater aspirations in childhood? Why did Tom always tell her to "look up" when walking through London? What did Kate end up doing with her life?

Once you get past the bizarre, there's the problematic to contend with. I'm very tired of male romantic leads pressuring the female until she gives in and talks to them — no means no. As Kate says in the film, "I'm busy, you're

weird, goodbye."

The family theme was also troubling — Kate's family is downright terrible in some aspects. Her sister is condescending and not empathetic, her father no longer loves her mother and avoids home, and her mother "needs to be needed," and thrives on Kate's illness. All these issues are mysteriously forgotten by the end of the film without ever being truly resolved. If family is toxic, there is no obligation to forget their sins, especially if they don't take any responsibility or attempt to make amends. Kate is presented as trying to fix her mistakes with her friends and her employer, whom she has let down in the past, but she ignores her family's sins because they are family. Is this healthy?

Perhaps the only saving grace is an Asian male lead, without any discussion of the fact he is Asian — normalization of other races as attractive is important. It would just be great if Golding's character wasn't made of cardboard and actually had a personality.

Ultimately, I'm not sure who this film was for, but it certainly did not fill me with Christmas cheer.

Dining Out

Ming's Café Offers Excellent Food And Service With A Smile

By Mary Cobbler

Ming's Café is a cozy little eatery with a big selection of Szechuan, Hunan, and Cantonese offerings.

The cafe offers takeout, delivery and dine-in options. It's a hidden casual retreat for meeting a friend for a bite to eat and catching up. With soothing mauve and dark green walls, wood floors and tables, some Asian pictures and other collectibles, the atmosphere is peaceful.

After perusing the "customers' favorites" list, I ordered my food at the counter — steamed dumplings for an appetizer, and shrimp with cashews for my entrée, along with some hot tea. Yes, my friends, I dined alone. My trusty "dining companion" was otherwise engaged.

My waitress arrived quickly with a pot of steaming hot tea, a welcome comfort on a damp, chilly day. The dumplings came shortly afterward. I have to admit, steamed dumplings don't look as appealing as fried dumplings. Not at all. But these plump babies tasted delightful. Stuffed with fresh pork and savory seasoning, dipped in soy sauce, they were both filling and satisfying.

The cashew shrimp boasted a generous number of perfectly cooked plump shrimp atop a bed of carrots and green peppers, sprinkled with cashews and served with fluffy (not sticky) white rice. Both the carrots and



The cashew shrimp boasted a generous number of perfectly cooked plump shrimp atop a bed of carrots and green peppers, sprinkled with cashews and served with fluffy (not sticky) white rice.



Stuffed with fresh pork and savory seasoning, and dipped in soy sauce, the steamed dumplings were both filling and satisfying.

Photos by Mary Cobbler

peppers were cooked crisp-tender, sealing in their natural flavors. The sauce hit just the right note — spicy enough to make it delicious, and the cashews provided a pleasant contrast of taste and texture. I read ahead and discovered that the restaurant uses fresh vegetables, and I could definitely see and taste the difference.

For the record, they also use only white meat chicken and make their fried rice from scratch.

My dessert choice was a slice of key lime pie, added to the "customers' favorites." The pie was possibly frozen and thawed, but that's OK; it was creamy, sweet and scratched an itch.

The meal was reasonable at under \$25, so I went back to the counter and ordered carry-out for

my missing companion. When asked for a recommendation for a beef lover, the server, a friendly gentleman, said he likes Szechuan beef. I queried if it was spicy hot, and he offered to take the heat up a notch for me.

The dish featured tender (I did taste it) tangy beef, with julienned carrots and green beans in a spicy sauce, served with rice. My companion, grateful for the surprise meal, said his veggies were, his actual words, "not soggy."

With a menu boasting more than 70 selections, Ming's Café has something for everyone. The staff is also accommodating, offering vegetarian options for favorite meat dishes.

The restaurant is expanding its delivery area. Currently, Ming's delivers to Severna Park, parts of Arnold, and will soon expand into Pasadena.

Ming's Café is a no-frills Asian café that's a nice step up from carryout only. The service was great. You can't beat good food, a comfortable environment, and smiles.

Where To Find Ming's Café

Robinson Crossing shopping center
480-D Ritchie Highway
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B1

SPXC Boys Win State Championship



The state championship is the third in a row and sixth all-time for the Severna Park boys cross country program.

By Haley Weisgerber

The Severna Park High School cross country program dominated in the state championship at Hereford High School on November 9.

The boys team claimed their third consecutive state championship with a score of 43 points, and the girls took second with 110 points.

Though the course at Hereford High School, commonly known as Bull Run, is one of the toughest in the nation, Severna Park was not intimidated. The Falcons were a force to be reckoned with.

Apart from being the defending state champions, the stakes were high after winning the county championship. The boys team also won regionals, and the girls team placed second.

"They're just doing it for each other and to carry on tradition," said head coach **Josh Alcombright** before the race. "I just want them to have a good race and defend our state title."

In the boys race, **Sam Keeny** of South River High

School claimed first place with a time of 15:34.98, followed by **Tanner Piotrowski** of Arundel High School with 15:42.44.

Severna Park juniors **Jake Gelfand** and **Carson Sloat** took third and fourth, respectively. Senior **Nick Engleman** finished seventh, followed by **Nick Benedict** (14th), **James Dennison** (15th), **James Glebocki** (20th) and **Philip Bansemer** (72nd).

The team's average time of 16:11 set a program record at Hereford.

"The success of the boys team came down to a culture of selflessness. "We have a lot of chemistry," said Sloat. "We run for each other. No one is trying to stand out. We want to succeed together."

Alcombright challenges the runners to "do it for the other six," because "it is easier to give up on yourself than your team."

The team extended its decade-long reign as the top cross country program in Maryland. The Falcon boys have finished first or second in

>> Continued on B3

Falcons Reach Peak Of Maryland With 4A Field Hockey Title

By Colin Murphy
 @c.murphy.photo

The state championship won by Severna Park field hockey on November 9 wasn't just the final outcome of a successful season.

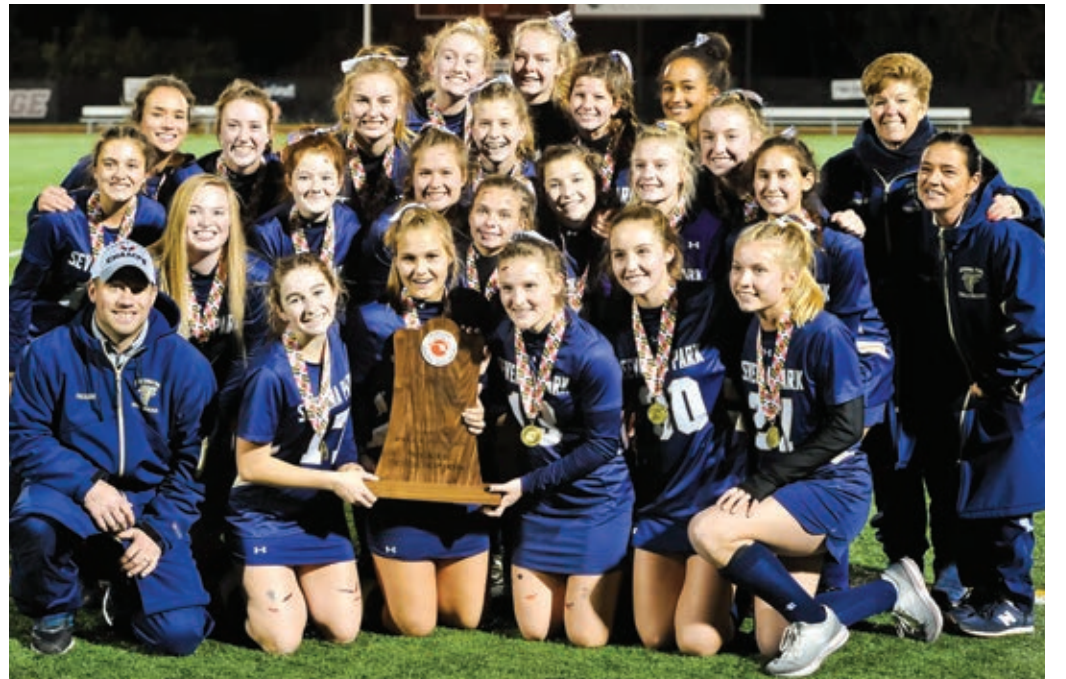
It was the return of the Falcons to the culture and tradition that has long made Severna Park field hockey a model of high school athletic excellence in Maryland and the country.

Katherine Esposito's first-half stroke was the winning score in a 1-0 victory over Dulaney in the 4A state final at Washington College, where the Falcons claimed the program's 24th title and first since 2015.

Severna Park's current seniors were eighth-graders when the Falcons last claimed the state crown, and they've lived through an eventful era of Severna Park field hockey to leave the program with one final victory on the biggest stage of their careers.

"We worked so hard this year to get here. We really wanted it for them," said Falcons' second-year head coach **Shannon Garden**. "Incredible group of seniors. My senior leadership has just been amazing. I've been coaching for a long, long time, and this is the best group of seniors I've ever had."

Those seniors — captains **Lila Slattery**, **Anna Marcoon** and **Sarah Adams** and classmates **Lauren Aguilar**, **Jenna King**, **Erin Schaner**, **Sophie Grazioli**, **Anna Grace Keller**, **Kate Rott** and **Quincy Laughlin**



Photos by Colin Murphy

The Falcons' championship was the program's first since 2015. Severna Park senior **Lila Slattery** (below left) earned a penalty stroke that was converted by **Kat Esposito** (10) for the winning score.



— brought the Falcons (16-2) to the precipice of a title at Washington College via one of the most competitive seasons of county and region field hockey ever. Severna Park entered the final having notched an opening-round playoff win over Annapolis and hard-fought playoff wins over Arundel, Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Old Mill preceding its matchup with the Dulaney Lions (16-2), and the Falcons needed another well-executed 60 minutes to come away with a win.

They gave every indication that they were up to the

task, controlling play with characteristically stout defense, aggressive midfield pursuit, crisp passing, and an unrelenting tide of attacks and buildups.

The teams traded jobs in the midfield through much of the first half until a corner play with 10:17 left in the half gave Slattery the opportunity to fire a shot on goal. The ball hit a Lions defender behind the goal line, awarding a stroke to the Falcons.

If Dulaney had scouted Esposito's stroke history, they might have learned that she went low and left

when converting the decisive stroke in Severna Park's county-championship win over Arundel in October. Since that victory, the stroke is Esposito's team-given responsibility, and Slattery said the Falcons have full confidence in their teammate.

"As soon as we got the stroke I knew, we still celebrated, because we know Kat can score on strokes," said Slattery. "We knew she had the capability."

Esposito said she kept an empty mind when stepping up to take the shot that

>> Continued on B7

Park Girls Fall In State Final, Reflect On Proud Season



Photos by Colin Murphy

Toni Fiocco-Mizer (10), **Maddie Altman** (13) and the Severna Park girls soccer team fell via penalty kicks to reigning champion **Perry Hall** in the 4A state final on November 15.

By Colin Murphy
 @c.murphy.photo

BALTIMORE—Entering the Class 4A state final against Perry Hall on November 15, the Severna Park girls soccer team had recent experience with a penalty shootout, having defeated Winston Churchill on penalty kicks in the state semifinals just a week earlier.

The thrill of the Falcons' semifinal victory found its agonizing counterpart in the final against Perry Hall, as the Falcons played the Gators to a 0-0 tie only to fall on penalties, 0-0 (4-3), at Loyola University's Ridley Athletic Complex.

The Falcons, making their

first appearance in the state final since 2011, delivered 100 minutes of exacting soccer execution worthy of a victory.

They just couldn't avoid the heartbreak that always awaits one side in a state championship game.

"It's been an unbelievable season for us," said Severna Park head coach **Rick Stimpson**. "The girls have played incredibly well throughout every game, even tonight. One thing I said, we talked about it in the locker room: At the end of the season, you've got to have a bit of luck. We were good, we just didn't have the bit of luck we needed. I couldn't be more proud

of the team and them all. They've been great all year."

With students and families from both schools packing the stadium and creating an electric Friday-night atmosphere, the game offered a display of complete teamwork and sheer skill that only a season of competing and a lifetime of training can yield. Severna Park (15-2-3) showed why it has been one of the state's most fearsome collections of talent this fall.

It began on defense, where the Falcons notched their 12th shutout of the season.

Leah Myers and **Olivia Altman** made critical interventions to disrupt a

>> Continued on B8

Broadneck Falls To Arundel In Classic Five-Set State Final



Photo by Colin Murphy

Broadneck volleyball finished the season 21-4 with a county championship, a region-championship win over Severna Park and the program's first appearance in a state final since 2009.

By Colin Murphy
 @c.murphy.photo

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—It was a matchup of Maryland's high school volleyball titans, and it all came down to an Anne Arundel County rivalry.

Arundel's volleyball players seized the final upper hand in their battle for supremacy with Broadneck defeating the Bruins in five sets (25-21, 23-25, 25-14, 21-25, 15-10), to win

the 4A state championship at Ritchie Coliseum on the University of Maryland campus on November 15.

The Wildcats finished the season 21-1 and won the program's first state title after previous appearances in the final in 2011, 2012 and 2015.

"I'm so happy and so proud," said Arundel 13th-year head coach **Ashley Yuscavage**. "We said on day one this is where we wanted to be at the end,

and we made it happen. I could not be more proud of these girls."

The game provided a stage and atmosphere unlike any in recent memory. The revamped playoff format this season, in which eight region champions are re-seeded into a state quarterfinal tournament, allowed for the No. 1 Wildcats and No. 6 Bruins to square up on opposite sides of the bracket. With both

>> Continued on B4

Premier U11 Boys Win Southampton Cup



The Severna Park Green Hornets U11 Premier boys soccer team scored a momentous come-from-behind 3-2 win in the championship game of the Southampton Cup on November 24 to cap a successful fall season.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severna Park Green Hornets U11 Premier boys soccer team went 15-5-3 in the fall season, which culminated in a momentous win in the championship game of the Southampton Cup.

The Premier twice rallied from deficits in the final of the Southampton Cup, sponsored by the famous English Premier League club, to notch a 3-2 win over Soccer Association of Columbia on November 24 and claim the title with a 4-0 record at the competition.

A closing-minutes goal by **Ben Montgomery** off a cross by **Christian D'Amico** was the game-winner for the Green Hornets, who received equalizing scores from **Carter Moden** and **Collin Denton** to rally from deficits of 1-0 and 2-1. Goalkeeper **Brody Feldmaier** made critical

saves throughout the second half, and Severna Park closed out the win to secure the championship.

The victory over SAC was impressive, as SAC had dominated its first three games of the tournament by a combined 16-3 score. Severna Park's win also avenged a prior 4-1 loss to SAC by the Green Hornets and shuffled the state and national rankings calculated by gotsoccer.com, as the Green Hornets ascended to become the No. 4 '09 team in the state and the No. 14 '09 team in the country.

Severna Park's win in the tournament final came after wins over two top-10 teams and another top-15 team, as the Green Hornets beat No. 8 Baltimore Union 2-1 and No. 6 BRAUSA 2-1 on the first day of the tournament and No. 15 FC USA by a 1-0 score on the Sunday of the tournament.

In addition to the Southampton win, Severna

Park's season included several notable successes. The team was champion of the Virginia Beach Columbus Day Tournament and semifinalists of the OBGC Capital Cup over Labor Day weekend. The Green Hornets went 1-1-1 at the Bethesda Premier Cup and finished in fourth place in the competitive Eastern Development Program '08 Division I.

The team comprises Ben Montgomery, Christian D'Amico, Carter Moden, Collin Denton, Brody Feldmaier, **Colin McDonald, Alvaro Dominguez-Calix, Liam Kinslow, Harrison Tindall, Caden Morris, Gavin Cliffe, Conner Hall, Cole Owen, Tyler Baker, Jonah Downey and Griffin Grotheer**. They are coached by **Andy Moden**.

"This is an extraordinary group of talented boys that really love the game of soccer and enjoy being around each other," said coach Moden. "With continued hard work and dedication, I am excited to see what they are capable of achieving."

SP Fire Girls Light It Up For Tournament Title



The SP Fire U15 girls soccer team pulled out three straight victories, including two by penalty shootout, to win the Columbia Fall Classic tournament in mid-November. It was the second tournament championship of the season for the Fire, which also won the Arundel Cup and went undefeated in AAYSA play.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severna Park U15 Fire girls soccer team notched a memorable victory when it defeated FC Europa in a penalty shootout in the championship game of the Soccer Association of Columbia Fall Classic on November 17.

The Fire went 3-1 in the tournament, falling 2-1 to FC Europa in their opening game before winning their next three, including the rematch with Europa in the final.

The team included **Samantha Wallace, Nadia Abdolahi, Clara Wilson, Kenzy Kamani, Ary Ventura, Olivia Vidrine, Layla Washington, Lorelei Jakubik, Joslynn**

Rogers, Abigail Blair, Kristin Falk, Cebrina Bobbick, Ireland Paddy, Meghan West, Logan Clevenger, Ella Molinari and Avery Durm. They are coached by **Stan Abler and Megan Paddy**.

Falk scored in the team's 2-1 loss in the tournament's opener to FC Europa. In Severna Park's second game, Falk and Jakubik scored and Washington had two goals as the Fire defeated the Laurel FC Gators 4-0. In the team's third game, a goal by Washington powered the team into overtime tied 1-1 against LTSC Purple, and Severna Park prevailed in a penalty shootout. In the championship, regulation and overtime ended with the teams knotted at 0-0, and the game went to a penalty

shootout. Washington, Falk, Vidrine and Abdolahi all sank their chances, and Paddy, the goalkeeper, sealed the championship with a penalty save.

Despite not having much competitive experience, the team won the championship of the Columbia Fall Classic in addition to winning the Arundel Cup back in October and going undefeated in its Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association division this fall.

"They are a great bunch of girls," said coach Abler. "They've worked really hard to get to where they are. I started with most of them about a year ago, and none of them had really ever played competitive soccer. And in a year's time with their amazing hard work, they've come extremely far."

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10U Hornets Start Hoops Season Strong



The Severna Park Green Hornets 10U fifth-grade boys basketball team kicked off its season with a second-place showing in the HCYP Mid-Atlantic Fall Hoops Classic. The team started the weekend strong with four straight convincing wins before ultimately falling in the championship game to Team Vito of Montgomery County. The Green Hornets are John Batty, Charlie Cavanaugh, Easton O'Brien, Connor Hill, Noah Cerny, Nate Sanders, Myles Goger and Jack Corkin. They are coached by Todd Batty, Kurt Cerny and Casey Corkin.

SPXC Boys Win State Title

» Continued from B1 every 4A state championship since 2011, winning three consecutive titles twice, from 2013 to 2015 and 2017 to this year.

"You just think of your friends as you run and you're doing it for them and not yourself. I think that's what makes this team so successful," said Engleman.

In the girls race, Severna Park's **Alyssa Combs** took fifth, followed by teammates **Grace Combon** (20th), **Cara Vandemeulebroecke** (22nd), **Caroline Gage** (25), **Neela Baker** (50), **Kelsie O'Neill** (51) and **Sohpia Zell** (142).

"They did what we asked them to do and fought for each other the whole way," said Alcombright of the girls team."

O'Neill, a junior, credits Alcombright and the coaching staff for creating an environment that allows the

runners to succeed. "The program is amazing and none of us would be the team or the runners that we are without the coaching staff or teammates," said O'Neill. "It's such an amazing thing to be a part of and I'm so grateful."

The girls' team was second only to Howard High School with 69 points.

Meanwhile, Broadneck High School's boys team came in eighth, and the girls came in fourth.

For the Bruin girls, **Grace Denius** (11th), **Anna Janke** (14th) and **Madison Palmer** (23rd) placed in the top 25 to medal. For the boys, **Aidan Rand** medaled in 24th place.

"I'm very proud," said head coach **Brianna Kelly**. "They've really put in the work and changed the attitude of the team. I owe most of that to the captain and seniors."

Green Hornets 8U's Rally For 2OT Win Over Old Mill, AAYFA Championship



The Green Hornets 8U football team came from behind in two straight playoff games to win the AAYFA Central Division championship. Severna Park defeated Old Mill 35-25 in double overtime in the championship game on November 10 at Glen Burnie.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severna Park 8U Green Hornets football team saved its biggest victory of the season for the final game of the year as they came from behind to beat previously undefeated Old Mill 35-25 in double overtime of the Anne Arundel Youth Football Association Central Division championship game at Glen Burnie High School on November 10.

The team of **Berk Acikgoz, Marshall Brocketts, Liam Brown, Matt Bruffey, Jayden Cobbs, Isaiah Cooley, Axel Cornett, Christian DeLuca, Cash Donaldson, Corbin Fockler, Griffin Fowler, Parker Housel, Mason Jones, Gunnir Listman, Matthew McKee, Tyler Morgan, Wyatt Priem, Derek Rogers, Harrison Rumney, Raymond**

Schummer, Maxwell Stimson, Zayden Tasker and Blake Youngs finished the season 11-1 overall and averaged its only loss of the year by beating Old Mill in the final.

Severna Park's road to the championship was challenging. After a first-round victory over Harundale, the Green Hornets faced Cape St. Claire in the semifinal, a team they had beaten twice in the regular season. The Cougars put up a stiff fight and led Severna Park by a touchdown with less than one minute left, but Fowler, the quarterback, hit Morgan in stride with a perfectly-executed 60-yard bootleg pass for a game-tying touchdown with 34 seconds remaining. In overtime, Schummer scored a rushing touchdown to lift Severna Park to the win.

In the championship game, the Hornets again trailed late in the game

against Old Mill, the only team that had beaten them in the regular season. Morgan broke free on a 35-yard sweep for a touchdown with two minutes left to send the game into overtime, and Schummer secured the championship with a rushing score in double overtime.

The core group of the team, which also played together as 7-year-olds last season, has a 21-3 record over two seasons together, including 5-1 in the playoffs.

The team lost in the championship game in 2018 and saw 2019 as their redemption season.

"The boys set a goal in the summer of 2019 to do whatever it takes to get back to the dance, and they came through," said head coach **Matt Bruffey**, who coached the team with **Brad Fowler, Ryan Priem, Derek Cobbs and Chris Deluca**. "They are extremely tough, hard hitters, and winning is in

their DNA. Never ever gave up and played every down like it was their last."

Bruffey cited the standout play and leadership of Fowler, Schummer, Morgan and Bruffey Jr. and the addition of Cobbs to the team as key factors in the group's success, as part of the team from 2018 moved up to the 9U level this season and left behind several players to take their turn leading the squad.

"They were actually rooting for Old Mill to win their semifinals game so they could play the team that beat them in the championship," said coach Bruffey. "That's a unique quality. Without a doubt I am most proud of their ability to lead the new players and never give up and play until the last whistle. Continuing to play when you're down late in a game at this age is extremely tough, but they never quit."

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Broadneck Volleyball Falls To Arundel In Classic Five-Set 4A State Final

» **Continued from B1**
teams winning their way into the final, the Wildcats and Bruins had a rubber-match — Arundel won the regular-season matchup while Broadneck claimed the county championship — to decide the state's champion.

Both school communities showed up in force to witness the winner-take-all match, packing the house at Ritchie Coliseum and bringing positively insane amounts of school spirit and energy for three hours of electric cheering.

The stage set and the atmosphere buzzing, the teams delivered an epic back-and-forth battle. Arundel's superior serving, blocking, digs and hitting gave the Wildcats an edge when they clinched the first set on a **Brooke Watts** kill, but it wasn't until after holding off a Broadneck rally from 8-2 down.

In the second set, the Bruins again rallied from an early deficit to take a lead midway through. Arundel rallied for a 23-22 lead, but the Bruins reeled off three straight points to close the set and keep the match within reach.

Students from both schools rattled the stands and sang "Sweet Caroline" in unison while jumping up and down. The student sections traded jabs and spirited jeers until, during the stoppage between sets, Arundel's cheerleaders jumped onto the court and unleashed back handsprings and backflips. Not backing down, a Broadneck student ran onto the court and responded with a backflip of his own — both crowds exploding in cheers and laughs and applause.

Arundel hit back in the third set, winning in the most convincing set of the day, 25-14. More backflip battles and cheer eruptions



Photos by Colin Murphy

Arundel and Broadneck split their matchups this season entering the 4A final on November 16, and the Wildcats seized the final upper hand to win the program's first state title.

preceded the fourth set, which Broadneck controlled and won on a kill by **Emma Quandt** to force a decisive fifth set.

Broadneck senior libero **Reiland Brown** was proud the Bruins fought back and responded with victories each time they fell behind by a set.

"I'm really happy that we had the opportunity to fight for the win in the fifth set," Brown said. "I'm glad that we worked so hard in every set, win or lose. The momentum can shift really quickly from side to side. It all comes down to who can make their serves. Unfortunately, we didn't really execute that well. But when we did start getting momentum, we used it to our advantage, and you could see that in the second and fourth sets."

With their goal at their fingertips, the Wildcats seized the opportunity. They jumped ahead in the truncated fifth set and held on to win, clinching the state title on a serve by **Fiona Gonzalez Medina**.

"We fought for it. We wanted it since the start, and we did it. We got it," said Gonzalez Medina. "We

had each other's backs. The connection and the communication was amazing in this game and really helped us. We were really scrappy, covering our hitters, blocking, hitting it up, and we had this mentality where if we didn't get it, it was OK, we'll get the next one."

Arundel's players spoke confidently about the team, saying they knew they could avenge their one loss this season and bring the program its first state crown. "There was never a moment when anyone felt alone," said outside hitter **Aaliyah Griffin**. "We knew everyone had each other."

Senior middle blocker **Abrielle Scrivner** said the team had full confidence it could defeat the Bruins. "We knew that they did not match our athletic skills and that we would be able to really show out, and that's what we did tonight," said Scrivner.

Griffin, a junior, likewise spoke with confidence. "We came in not nervous but excited for I guess what you could call a challenge, I guess," Griffin said.

Watts, also a junior, appreciated the energetic support of Arundel's

students and families. "The day before, we went around to every class and told them to come to our game," Watts said. "Just for them to show out the way they did, it was a big impact on the game for sure."

Yuscavage said she knew this year would be a special year.

"Since our juniors were freshman, I knew this would be our season. It was about bidding our time and getting ready. I texted Brooke this morning and said, 'This is it. Let's go, baby girl.' This has been the biggest gift this group of girls could give me and give us, and I'm glad we were able to give them what they needed to do this. They are redefining what it means to be strong women. I could not be more proud that I get to be a part of what strong, smart, hardworking, beautiful women that my kids and so many kids can look up to. I'm just excited to be a part of this ride."

With the majority of the team being juniors, Arundel may be in year one of a golden age.

"It's really exciting," said Yuscavage. "We've talked this whole season about taking one more

step. Every game has to be a step forward. Our story isn't over."

Broadneck coach **Tracy Regalbuto** spoke with pride about her Bruins, who returned the program to contention this season. Broadneck won all six of the program's state championships between 2000 and 2009 and was in the final or semifinal every year in that decade; this was the Bruins' first trip to the final since winning it all in 2009. They finished 21-4, defeated rival Severna Park in the region final and came within a handful of points of a state crown.

"I have a very bittersweet feeling right now," said Regalbuto. "I feel like I'm really proud of them for taking on that team and going to five [sets] and getting to this point. Obviously I'm a little disappointed we lost. We did not serve well and that was like a game-changer for them. If you can't serve, you can't win. So that was a little bit disappointing. But, I feel like I'm super proud of them for just fighting the entire time and never quitting. They fought every set. I'm just very

proud of them." She added that the current seniors — Brown, Quandt, **Neely Winter**, **Jill Carly**, **Grace Phelan** and **Brianna Demoy** — instilled a culture of excellence at Broadneck.

"This year I've had the best group of seniors," Regalbuto said. I haven't had to teach much as far as expectation, dedication, commitment, all of that, work ethic, because they've demonstrated it, and there's six of them. It's hard to look around the gym and not see a senior that's doing all of that. It's been great having them. I feel like I have six other coaches in practice every day. They're just good leaders and good people and good teammates. I never have to go into practice and say, 'Today we work hard.' It's every day. It's the standard. I feel like they've set that for the younger kids for years to come, and I'm proud of them for that, and thankful."

Brown and Quandt said they relished their time playing Broadneck volleyball and seeing the community rally around them as they went on a deep playoff run.

"Honestly it's such a good opportunity," said Brown. "I got to meet some of my best friends. Just seeing our whole community out there supporting and us playing very hard, it's just an amazing opportunity."

Said Quandt, "It feels really good to have a lot of people come out and support you."

Junior **Makena Smith** agreed and praised those around her for the experience.

"The team is a family for sure. We're going to miss each other a lot. But, we fight for each other. Being part of the Broadneck nation is amazing," Smith said.

"I wouldn't want it any other way."

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U14 Galaxy Girls Have Success In League, Tournaments



The Galaxy topped the table in their division of the Fallston Cup to conclude a successful fall season.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severna Park Galaxy U14 girls soccer team capped its fall season with a run to the top of the table in their division of the Fallston Cup in November. It was the fourth strong tournament finish for the Galaxy, which played well at the Harford FC United Kick-Off and the August Cup at the beginning of the season and the Virginia Beach FC tournament over Columbus

Day weekend. The team of **Ellie Ballard, Natalie Boera, Jocelyn DeHenzel, Audrey Denton, Taylor Denton, Arianna Eggleston, Kaylee Gerber, CJ Kelliher, Hannah McLaughlin, Natalie Pace, Riley Panuska, Christina Price, Kendall Scalley, Rowan Schneider, Jordan Shriner, Lena Slade and Annabelle Wellschlager** also finished in third place in Division 3 of the National Capital Soccer League to

earn promotion to Division 2 for the spring season. "The commitment put forth each and every day by these young women to better themselves is amazing," said head coach **Larry Denton**, who coached the team with assistants **Brad Schneider, Corey Shriner, Rob Panuska and John DeHenzel**. "I am so proud of them and very excited to follow their incredible successes on and off the pitch in the years ahead."

Creek Boys Win MIAA Crown



Photos by Colin Murphy

Top: The Indian Creek boys soccer team came from 1-0 down in the second half of the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association C Conference championship game at CCBC-Essex on November 2 to defeat Key School on penalties, 1-1 (6-5). **Bottom left:** Rex Flanagan scored the equalizing goal with a brilliant free kick. **Bottom right:** Danny Swope was mobbed by teammates after converting the championship-clinching penalty kick.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Severna Park senior Rachel Reed is an excellent student, a valued role player for the Falcons' state-finalist girls soccer team and someone who engages in a variety of volunteer efforts in the community.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severna Park girls soccer team had many talented players that powered the Falcons to a 15-3-2 season and an appearance in the state final this fall.

One of the valued contributors to the Falcons' culture of excellence and positivity was senior **Rachel Reed**.

A reserve forward for the Falcons, Reed was not the team's superstar, but she made an impact with her game minutes and by her approach to being a teammate.

"Rachel is the kind of player every coach wants on the team," said Severna Park assistant coach **Johan de Vicq**. "Even though she didn't get as much playing time as she would have liked, she worked hard every day, supported her teammates and did what was asked of her with a smile on her face. Over the last four years, she has grown to be a very impressive young woman, whose contagious laugh, attitude and dedication have made her one of the most loved and respected members of the SPS team."

Reed's positive nature was something all her teammates gravitated toward and fed off of.

"Rachel Reed is the happiest person I know, but also the happiest soccer player I know," said Severna Park senior teammate **Chase Campbell**. "Her laughter is infectious, and there's a running joke on the team that whenever she has the ball at her feet, a huge smile is on her face. She

brings positivity to everyone, no matter the playing time, age or skill level. She truly inspires people on and off the field."

As Campbell noted, Reed's positive contributions are not limited to the soccer field. With a 4.02 GPA, Reed is a mainstay on the honor roll, and this year she also joined with friends **Alex Jones** and **Caroline Smith** in August to start a local chapter of 100 Teens Who Care modeled after the Annapolis group. The local chapter continued the work of the school community in de-stigmatizing mental health issues by raising funds and awareness. In their first event, the chapter raised \$1,000 for Ellie's Bus.

"It is our goal to encourage teens to donate to nonprofit charities," said Reed. "We wanted to inspire people our age to help others and show how small donations make huge impacts. We were ecstatic about what we did the first few months and are excited to hold future meetings and impact the community more."

Prior to Reed's efforts with 100 Teens Who Care, her volunteer pursuits have been numerous throughout high school. She works with the Maryland Animal Sanctuary in fundraising, events and dog fostering. She went on the popular WoodsWork mission trip this past summer to build a home for a needy family, and the Reed family makes food for My Sister's Place homeless shelter. Around the holidays, Reed and her family volunteer for Backpack Buddies, and every Christmas her family wraps presents for homeless people in Baltimore.

Reed currently is an intern at NASA in the communications and outreach department, and for now she plans to pursue communications when she goes to college, possibly at the University of Maryland, her top choice.

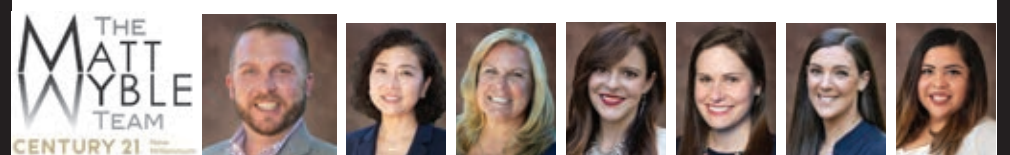
As a longtime soccer player who also played lacrosse growing up and continues to play club soccer and scrub basketball, she said the experience of playing as been formative in how she views all aspects of her life.

"Being a teammate and playing sports so many years has definitely made me the person I am today," Reed said. "It has showed me the importance of teamwork and leadership on and off the field, no matter your position on the team. And definitely — a little cliché but very true — having fun and just enjoying the opportunity. Also to be grateful for the amazing people I get to play with and be coached by. All of that has helped me be a better student, friend, sister and member of my community, by teaching me to always think of others and important leadership qualities like dedication, positivity and hard work."

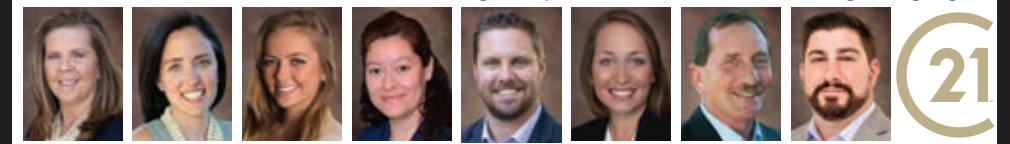
In partnership with The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21, the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month series seeks to recognize the many student-athletes in our area who make an impact not necessarily by way of statistics or stardom, but by their unique contributions. The quiet leader, the solid role player, 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.

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SP Unified Tennis Caps Year With Win At States



The Severna Park unified tennis program represented at the state championships with a win in their division following another successful season.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The unified sports programs in Anne Arundel County have been a huge success since unified tennis, bowling and bocce were implemented a handful of years ago.

This fall, the unified tennis team at Severna Park High School had perhaps its biggest and best season ever.

Not only did the Falcons win gold in their division at the state championship event at Loyola University in November, the team also put forth a season of accomplishing goals, developing tennis skills, building lasting friendships, advancing causes important to them and enjoying the experience.

"Unified sports gives students the opportunity to work together and create friendships with students who they normally would not have the opportunity to meet," said SPHS unified

sports coach and health education teacher **Nadine Hendler**. "They are very supportive of each other, from teaching each other the skills of the game to cheering each other on and off the court to taking an interest in the things they learn about their new friends as the season progresses."

In addition to success on the court, the team pursued an initiative together. The Falcons dedicated the season to cancer awareness, holding multiple fundraisers and donating all funds to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in the name of **Gabriella Pellicani**, the late granddaughter of Severna Park boys basketball coach **Paul Pellicani**. The team held a Think Pink match against North County in October, with both teams wearing pink and grey T-shirts that read, "Two Teams One Cause." Falcon unified tennis continued fundraising efforts at area

restaurants and altogether raised \$1,800 to donate.

Beyond fundraising, the day-to-day enjoyment of the program, which comprised about 35 total athletes both with and without disabilities, was naturally felt the biggest impacts.

"Being a member of the unified tennis team this year was super fun and rewarding," said senior **Julia Putzi**. "The dynamic of the team is very welcoming, and the main goal is to make sure everyone enjoys themselves. Winning states this year was an added bonus."

Junior **Lauren Atcheson** was a first-time member of the team and enjoyed the experience.

"I had never played a unified sport for the school but heard great things about the program from my older sister, Macey," Atcheson said. "Being a part of this special team was a really rewarding experience. I got partnered

with one of my really close friends and it was exciting to win states when we both had never played before. I also got to branch out and make new friends in the process, which I think was my favorite part about the season."

Senior **Lauren Brannen** said the camaraderie of everyone rooting for each other made playing and improving a fun process.

"I think what was enjoyable about the team this year was not only that everyone played really well, but as a team, everyone got along and we all cheered each other on during every practice and every match," Brannen said. "It makes everyone and the coaches really proud to see everyone succeed during the season, especially during states this year."

Hendler said the program and the students who come out to play are a model of the collegial and supportive environment at Severna Park High School and within the county's school system.

"This program is very special to me," said Hendler. "I am honored to work with such wonderful and caring students at Severna Park High School. As I walk down the hallways of the school or just watch from a distance during practice or a match, it gives me a sense of pride to know that these kids are representing our school. They are what unified sports are all about. They are a welcoming group that includes everyone, not only in our school but the entire AACPS community."

SP Golf Represents At State Championships



By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Five Severna Park golfers qualified for and competed at the state championship tournament at the University of Maryland in late October and early November.

Pictured from left to right, **DA Regala**, **Liam Mahoney**, **Pete Regala**, **Ingrid Wells** and **Campbell Haney** all represented the Falcons at states.

The Regala brothers played well enough on Day 1 of the tournament on October 30 to qualify for the final round on November 4. Pete Regala, a senior, shot 84-83 to finish 41st overall.

DA Regala shot 81-78, which would have been good enough for 32nd if not for an unusual situation that led to his disqualification but for which he was applauded for his integrity and honesty. At the conclusion of his final round, Regala noticed a scorekeeping

error on the second hole, on which he shot a 4 but had incorrectly been given a 5. He advocated for the correction of that error, and separately the official scorer ended up mistakenly giving him a 5 for the final hole, which he had in fact double-bogeyed for a 7. Regala did not catch this latter error when signing his scorecard and only noticed it when the official scores were posted and he saw a 76 instead of 78, his actual score.

"He looked at me right away and said, 'Coach, that's not right. I've got to go tell them,'" said Severna Park golf coach **Pete Buck**. "I said, 'You understand the consequences, right?' He knew he'd get DQ'd. He would have finished 32nd, but I was more proud of him for doing that."

Lesson learned and a nonetheless bright future for Regala, a freshman. He was one of only four freshmen to qualify for the second day of the state tournament.



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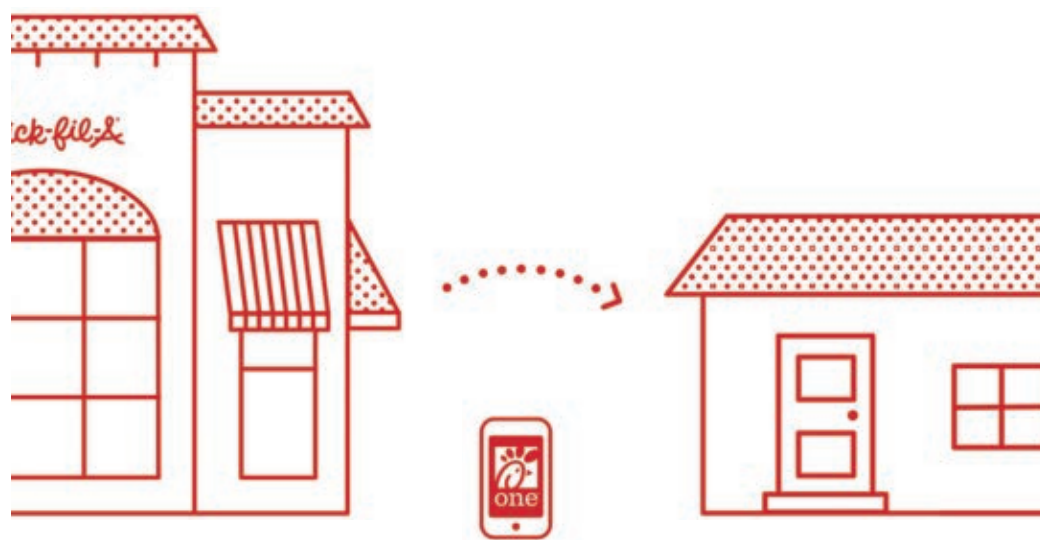


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Falcons Reach Peak Of Maryland With 4A State Title

» Continued from B1 might carry with it a state championship.

"I don't think at all," said Esposito. "It's easiest to just hit the ball. If I think too much, I get nervous, so it's better to just not think at all."

The junior went low and left again, scoring and giving the Falcons all the lead they needed. The back line of Aguilar, sophomore **Zoe Day** and junior **Carson Smith**, as well as freshman goalkeeper **Charlotte Kramer**, displayed the poise they've shown while navigating close victories all year. Aguilar, Day and Smith repeatedly thwarted Dulaney's advances, and Kramer made a kick save early in the first half and a flurry of saves in the second half to finish with four for the game.

Severna Park closed with its 10th shutout of the season against a Dulaney team that entered the game with 64 goals and hadn't been kept off the scoreboard in any game this year.

Garden became animated when asked about the team's defense.

"My defense! You know what I say, defense wins championships, and here we are in a 1-0 game, so my defense held. Defense was so key," said Garden, noting the team honed in on fundamentals in practice since surviving its 2-1 win over Old Mill in the semifinals. "You can see how well they practiced because of how well they played today. They came up big."

Garden praised the cool play of Kramer, the freshman wunderkind who took over the goalie role from Keller, a senior who embraced the role of backup and mentor.

"Tonight I think is the best I've ever seen [Kramer] play, and I am so happy for her," said Garden. "She's not nervous. She's just not. She is well beyond her years in that kind of maturity. If you spoke with her, you would never think she's a freshman."

A subsequent goal by Marcoon in the closing minutes of the game was waived off after it was determined the ball initially ricocheted off the top of the net, but it didn't matter. With demonstrably superb conditioning and endurance, the midfield and attacking unit of Slattery, Adams, King, Marcoon, **Emma Marsh**, **Meredith Schepens**, **Ava Drexler-Amey** and **Bekah Mayron** had spent the afternoon wearing Dulaney down, and the Falcons kept the ball pressed into their attacking end until the final horn sounded and the title was theirs.

In taking the crown,



Photo by Colin Murphy

(L-R) Zoe Day, Lauren Aguilar, Charlotte Kramer, Sarah Adams, Carson Smith and the Severna Park defense held strong in the state final against Dulaney, posting the team's 10th shutout of the season.

Severna Park achieved the goal it missed out on last year, when Garden and assistant coaches **Kelly Shanahan** and **Ben Pardew** took over the program but fell in the playoffs to Arundel.

That outcome motivated and reshaped the players' outlook. Instead of holding a states-or-bust mentality in August, they focused more on each step of the journey.

"Taking it game by game was really important," said Adams. "Last year showed us what we didn't want. So it pushed us to work harder in practice, run those 800's, and do so much for the program. And rebuild it, really. We just had to start from the beginning again."

Said Marcoon of coming up short last year, "I think it really pushed us to be our best selves. We all knew what the goal was, but we just took it game by game, focused on getting out of our county first, then on the playoffs, and it wasn't until we got here that we were like, 'OK, now it's states. Now it's time to leave it all out there.'"

Asked about the mix of players on the team, Marcoon agreed the Falcons weren't a top-heavy juggernaut that could easily steamroll opponents on talent alone. Instead the Falcons had to carve out their roles and complement each other.

"It's more of a group effort," Marcoon said. "It's not just like three Division I players. We have some great players and some that are going to play in college, but a lot of us, we just mesh really well even if some us are true lacrosse players or are not playing in college. We all have a part in it. It's not just one or two people who do it all."

Aguilar said with the roster featuring players from all grade levels, the team had to take the right approach coming into the

season to be successful.

"A big part of it too was going into it with an open mind, especially since we didn't really all know each other," said Aguilar. "So we just had to go into it and see how it would end up.

At the end now, we all feel like better people and field hockey players, because we all got along so well, were so nice and respectful for each other and patient at the beginning of the season."

Aguilar said the team also kept the focus right where it was when the Falcons picked up field hockey sticks for the first time as kids.

"I think we had fun," said Aguilar. "I think we had fun playing Arundel three times. We had fun playing here. We really just love playing and being on the field together, and I think that was the biggest part."

The 2019 state champion Severna Park field hockey players are **Anna Grace Keller**, **Charlotte Kramer**, **Katherine Esposito**, **Quincy Laughlin**, **Lauren Aguilar**, **Sarah Adams**, **Molly Beairsto**, **Ava Drexler-Amey**, **Edie Deegan**, **Lila Slattery**, **Erin Schaner**, **Meredith Schepens**, **Anna Marcoon**, **Amalia Hagerty**, **Kate Rott**, **Jenna King**, **Carson Smith**, **Sophie Grazioli**, **Emma Marsh**, **Zoe Day**, **Bekah Mayron** and **Genevieve Mullervy**.

The team is coached by **Shannon Garden** and assistant coaches **Ben Pardew**, **Kelly Shanahan** and **Lexi Bristow**. The team managers are **Fatou Sall** and **Rachel Rinker**.

EXTRA POINTS

• Player after player spoke of the close bond they shared as key to their success.

"We as a team, we are all just best friends. We love each other so much and we play for each other," said Adams. "The chemistry is just amazing. Of course, everyone is really good too,

but without the chemistry you don't always succeed."

Said Slattery, "I think we had really great chemistry and we had a lot of heart. We were able to work together and work for each other. Every time we stepped on the field, we knew we could work for each other and finish together."

• Slattery, who as the Falcons' top scorer and offensive engine is likely to collect just about every individual accolade she's eligible for in the coming weeks, just completed a long odyssey for the Slattery family. Her sisters Emma, Samantha and Julia all won state championships playing for Severna Park.

"My family, this is our 11th year here, so it just feels like a great ending. It feels amazing. I saw all of them play on this field at least once. So to finally be on the field myself, it's just a different experience. I don't even know, I'm speechless."

• Garden praised the work of assistants Shanahan and Pardew, who helped Chesapeake to back-to-back 3A championships in 2016 and 2017 before joining her at Severna Park.

"I call them my team," Garden said, beckoning Pardew and Shanahan to join her in postgame comments. "I don't do this without them. This does not happen without Ben Pardew and Kelly Shanahan."

• Like she described after Severna Park's region championship win over Arundel, Garden credited the players with creating their own expectations. She said the ethos of hard work and dedication comes from the kids and was key to forming their culture of Severna Park field hockey.

"This group, I'm telling you, they've worked so hard," Garden said. "They worked hard really hard to create a positive environment for everybody on the team, and it really shows, because every girl on the team is so excited. Even yesterday at our last practice, they were crying at the end of practice, because they didn't want it to be over. And I have all ages on this team, freshmen through seniors, so it's an excellent mix. They all feel valued and important, and I think that starts at the senior level, of making them feel that way, and they've done an amazing job with that."

Warriors Repeat As Club Soccer Champs



The Warriors won 3-0 in the championship game of the Green Hornets seventh/eighth-grade club soccer league at Kinder Park on November 3 to repeat as club champions.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Four games into this season, the Warriors boys soccer team had only one win, and chances of them repeating as Green Hornets seventh/eighth-grade club soccer champions seemed slim.

But the Warriors kept practicing hard and having fun, and they put it all together at the right time.

The boys rallied to a 4-3-1 regular-season record before reeling off three straight shutout victories in the playoffs to win the title of club champions.

The team of **Alejandro Almodovar-Vives**, **Jack Clayton**, **Nathaniel Cortez**, **Jonathan Croghan**, **Ryan Crowley**, **Dylan Fenn**, **Jonas Gabler**, **Ryan Graves**, **Leo Havens**, **Sawyer Knapp**, **Gabriel Lamberti**, **Caleb Rassofsky**, **Galen Richardson**, **Kiernan Robinson**, **Joey Tomar** and **Alexander Villegas** clinched the crown with a 3-0 win in the championship game at Severna Park High School on November 2.

"There were no MVPs on this team," said coach **Kirby Knapp**, who coached the team with **Chris Richardson** with the goal of keeping practices lighthearted and enjoyable. "This group of boys kept each other positive and cared more about having fun than winning. The championship was just icing on the cake and a testament to them

working together."

Havens's beautifully lofted toe-poke goal from 20 yards out in the semifinals against the Gray team coached by **Brian Johnson** and **Rick Carlson** lifted the Warriors to a berth in the final and earned Havens the nickname of "Golden Toe."

In the final at Kinder Park on November 3, the Warriors matched up with the talented royal blue team coached by Doug Mules, which had beaten the Warriors twice in the regular season. Knapp scored the opening goal to give the Warriors a first-half lead, and the defense of Crowley, Cortez, Tomar contained the royal blue attack in front of Fenn, the goalkeeper. Havens scored an insurance goal shortly into the second half, and Knapp earned a brace to close the scoring and cement the Warriors' 3-0 championship victory.

Coach Knapp credited Green Hornets and Scott Ayers for a fun season for everyone.

"Green Hornets club soccer is special because the boys are playing against friends from the community," said Knapp. "It's healthy and fun local competition amongst kids they have grown up with."

Knapp said the Warriors translated their training into play and enjoyed the process of working to improve.

"Each boy got better as the season progressed and used skills they learned in practice during games, which is all you can ask for as a coach," Knapp said.

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Boom Goes The Dynamite: Strong First Volleyball Year For SP Girls



The Dynamite comprised first-year volleyball players, but the group of athletes took quickly to their new sport and earned rave reviews in the county league by season's end.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Too often, entering high school serves as an unofficial mile post when student-athletes drop one or more sports in order to specialize in their primary sport.

For a group of Severna Park freshmen, entering high school was the perfect time to pick up a sport they'd never played before.

The Dynamite volleyball team, comprising nine ninth-graders and one eighth-grader, many of whom play lacrosse and other sports, formed this fall as its players decided to give volleyball a shot and play in the Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks league high school/U17 co-ed league.

The result was a season of fun and development, with many of the players progressing to the point of being legitimate contenders for their high school teams next season.

The Dynamite included **Stella Bordone, Sophia Bordone, Megan DeFeo, Isabella Joyce, Isabel Baselga, Lola Blumenburg, Hope Collier, Grace**

Ferensic, Madi Holden and **Emma Boyle**. They were coached by **Paul Joyce** and **Matt DeFeo**.

Volleyball is a sport dominated by the club circuit at the youth level, and the Dynamite traveled outside their Severna Park residences to play representing Crofton.

"We had tough battles with teams from Crofton, Bowie and GORC, as all of our opponents had more experience," said coach Joyce. "All of our players had experience in other sports, so we focused on the five basic volleyball skills and moved on to solid game strategy as the season moved on."

With good athletes who enjoyed learning and training, the players hit their stride late in the season.

"We were unstoppable over the last three weeks of the season as we scored our highest number of points in our last two games," Joyce said. "The coaches of the opposing teams raved about our hustle, improvement and enthusiasm. Many of our players are now playing club volleyball and will be strong candidates for next year's high school teams."

Park Girls Fall In State Final, Reflect On Proud Season

» Continued from B1
pair of Perry Hall breakaway chances in the first half, and they continued stellar play throughout the night. Backs **Chase Campbell** and **Lena McLaughlin** provided stout clearances and excellent possession, with McLaughlin repeatedly anticipating Perry Hall attacks and heading away troublesome Gator passes. Senior goalie **Katie Byrd**, who played the role of hero in the semifinals by clinching the Falcons' win with a save in the penalty shootout, made a pair of clean saves in the first half. She finished with four for the game and came off her line for multiple important catches throughout the night. Freshman **Ava Schultz** provided valuable minutes with strong defense.

Perry Hall coach **Matt Smoot** recognized what his side was up against.

"If we are honest, I don't know if we were able to play our best game," he said. "I think that's a tribute to Severna Park. They made it very tough for us to possess the ball and attack the way we are used to. So it really became that game of attrition."

With the defense delivering its characteristically excellent play, the midfield and forwards were freed to attack. Perry Hall (13-6) found no way to contain the dynamic attacking of **Maddie Altman**, who pushed a relentless pace throughout the night. **Sofia Espinoza, Ella Raines, Lauren Campbell, Toni Fiocco-Mizer, Joi Fleming** and **Bella Espinoza** all fortified the Severna Park offense.

There were opportunities. McLaughlin got her head to a corner pass from Maddie



Photo by Colin Murphy

Lena McLaughlin and the Severna Park defense were stout once again in the final, holding Perry Hall scoreless over 100 minutes for their 12th shutout of the season.

Altman in the first half and headed the ball down onto goal, but it was cleared off the line by Perry Hall.

In the second half, Lauren Campbell's volley blast from 20 yards was bound for the top corner of the net, but Perry Hall's **Caroline Warns** leaped to get her head to it and deflect it away. Fiocco-Mizer let a shot rip from distance, but it sailed wide. Chase Campbell's free kick shot from 25 yards was on frame, but goalie **Breanna Ellenberger** was able to bat the ball down to herself and collect it before McLaughlin could pounce on the rebound.

Bella Espinoza sent a precise through ball into space for Raines, but Raines's run was just offside, halting a breakaway chance.

Maddie Altman drew oohs and ahs from the crowd with a sensational full-speed Marseille dribble through two Gator defenders to continue sparking Severna Park's attack. Raines did the same on the opposite sideline, pirouetting through two Perry Hall tackles. **Ellie Lane** and **Rachel Reed** saw minutes to provide punch off the bench.

It just didn't add up to a score. Through regulation time, then the first overtime, then the second, Lauren Campbell's headed-away shot remained the best chance for either team.

The Falcons began the penalty shootout. Maddie

Altman and Bella Espinoza converted their chances, and Perry Hall responded both times. After another Perry Hall make and two Severna Park misses, a moment of unbelievable confusion took over the stadium when the Gators mistakenly celebrated prematurely, dog-piling in front of the goal before the shootout was actually over, believing they had won.

Naturally, once the referee informed everyone the game actually wasn't over, the Gators missed their ensuing two kicks and Lauren Campbell made hers, extending the shootout. In the sixth round of kicks, after a Severna Park miss, Perry Hall's **Erin Marciszewski** converted her chance perfectly, past Byrd's outstretched dive to her right, to clinch the championship, 0-0 (4-3); the Gators successfully defended their 4A title from a season ago.

Severna Park's appearance in the final, its 10th all-time and 16th semifinal-or-better finish since 1989, marks the near-culmination of the Falcons' resurgence in the past four seasons. The program went 5-7-3 in 2016, when the current seniors were freshman and former coach **Brian Morgan** was in his first year leading the team.

Since the Falcons have improved each season. The program went 13-1-2 and made the region final in 2017, then followed by going 17-2 with 16 shutouts and an appearance in the state semifinals in 2018. With Stimpson taking over for Morgan this year, the Falcons continued the program's rise with a trip all the way to the state final and a 15-3-2 campaign.

Bella Espinoza, a senior who healed from a broken foot suffered on October 3 in time to come back for the playoffs, said the Falcons are proud of the how much they have advanced the program; many of the current seniors were on varsity as sophomores.

"My class has contributed to making history, from sophomore year making it to regionals, and then semifinals my junior year and finally states my senior year," she said. "This has been the most amazing experience of my life, and even though we lost, I am so thankful that

we had the longest possible season with this team and coach Stimmo."

McLaughlin and Byrd showed grace and humility in speaking to media in the postgame press conference.

"Seeing everyone every day, working hard with them every day, sharing the common goal every day just really brings us all together," McLaughlin said. "It's incredible because this whole season has just blown my expectations, and it's just amazing to have made it this far."

Said Byrd, "This was a great way to end the season. Obviously we didn't get the result we wanted, but it was just a great level of intensity and an awesome chance to come this far. It's been very bittersweet to know it's the last. So it's been a balance to enjoy every last moment you have and then, of course, huge excitement building up to this game. We were so excited and just trying to take it all in."

Fiocco-Mizer, a four-year varsity player, said the team grew in strength as the players grew closer together.

"This team is more than just a team," Fiocco-Mizer said. "We are a family. I've never been so proud of the girls. We didn't reach our ultimate goal, but we fought with pride and honor, and that's all I could ask for from my 30 sisters. I've played for this team for four years, and each year was better than the last. I will always remember this experience and always be a Falcon at heart."

The 4A state runner-up 2019 Severna Park girls soccer players are Leah Myers, Olivia Altman, Chase Campbell, Lena McLaughlin, Katie Byrd, Ava Schultz, Maddie Altman, Sofia Espinoza, Ella Raines, Lauren Campbell, Toni Fiocco-Mizer, Joi Fleming, Bella Espinoza, Ellie Lane, Rachel Reed, **Delaney Lee, Lauren Vincent, Reagan Clark, Sydney Holmes, Lexi Richardson, Mackenzie Rice, Sydney Park, Chloe Nagel, Riley Edwards, Olivia Nicholson, Jordyn Urrea, Hanna Verrault, Mallori Scheimreiff and Delanie Robertson**. They are coached by Rick Stimpson and assistants **Denise Hofstedt, Johan de Vicq, James Joynner, Kendall Kosman and Ryan Parisi**. The team managers are **Kendall Nagel, Becca Cremmins and Bella Gladly**.

Coming January 15

Along with its January edition, the *Severna Park Voice* will publish a special magazine all about the 24th annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Special Olympics Maryland. This guide will include coverage prior to the event to highlight the tradition and those who take the frigid plunge in support of children and adults with intellectual disabilities.



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

WHAT EYE TECHNOLOGY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MODERN DENTAL OFFICE?

What dental technology do dentists find the most indispensable? What can't they live without? A recent publication surveyed dentists, and the No. 1 response was eyeglass loupes and headlamps. Magnified eyewear has become essential over the past 20-plus years, and attaching an independent light source adds to the view.

Q: Why do dentists wear goggles?

A: Dentists wear eyeglasses for protection and to improve vision. Loupes are magnifying glasses that enlarge everything I see in the mouth. Magnification of three times or larger is needed for me to perform precise dental work and to properly diagnose conditions in the mouth.

The headlight, mounted on the loupes, shines where I look.

Dentists need to work in a dark area (your mouth). Lighting is essential for treatment in the oral cavity. Used overhead in the treatment rooms, LED dental lights produce more neutral white light, use

about one-fifth of the power consumption of halogen light bulbs, do not produce radiant heat, and will last up to 30,000 hours. Adjustable LED overhead lights are also mounted on the ceiling or chair. Rechargeable mini LED headlamps are also attached to glasses or loupes to increase illumination of the magnified treatment area.

Q: Why does the dentist make me wear glasses?

A: The tinted glasses handed to the patient in the dental treatment areas are provided for safety. These protect your eyes from anything that could splash or drop into your eyes during dental procedures. The dental team wears glasses for the same reason.

When dental lasers are utilized, as a precaution you will be required to wear specially treated eye glasses during treatment to protect your eyes from inadvertent laser light beam exposure.

If anything drops into your eyes, it can cause damage. The liquids used in dentistry are often acidic or strong alkaline, which could damage the soft tissues of the eye. If your dental treatment involves restorations, particles of filling material could escape the high-volume suction and have the potential of lodging into the eye and scratching it. Ultrasonic cleaning of your teeth dislodges tartar and bacteria into the air. Glasses will also protect your eyes from the instruments and equipment that the dental team is holding. Every patient has always worn eye protection since I opened my first office, so luckily I don't have any stories to tell.

Safety glasses are thoroughly decontaminated following strict guidelines after every use.

Eyewear in dentistry is made for improved vision, but eyewear also has many components for safety. Remember, safety glasses work only if you wear them.

Deborah Badro
Nurse Practitioner
Severna Park
Racquetball &
Fitness Club



The holiday season can be such an exciting time of year for many. It's fun to spend time with family and friends, socialize, and partake in all the festivities the season has to offer.

However, it is also a time for overindulging in all the specialty food favorites that we love and crave. How can we enjoy the holiday season and stay healthy and fit when ringing in the New Year without any unwanted extra calories to burn? Here are a few suggestions to help you stay on track and to

remind ourselves that there are healthy choices.

Drink water. Most of us need more water. The benefits of drinking water are numerous. Water consumption can decrease blood pressure, prevent dehydration, keep skin healthy, increase energy levels and keep major body organs functioning optimally. Water also provides a great way to feel full.

Choose healthy options. There are usually healthy options available. Fruit and vegetable platters on the appetizer side are great options. However, vegetables and sides with a lot of creams and heavy sauces can be loaded with calories and sodium. Choose lean protein entrees. Also, think about

preparing healthy choices to take to parties. Then you could always eat what you brought if there are no other options.

Limit alcohol intake. Alcohol beverages often have loads of sugar, carbs and calories. If you must, stick to a two-drink limit and opt for low-calorie versions.

Don't graze. Situate yourself away from the buffet table to prevent grazing on food when you are not actually hungry anymore.

Sleep. Get plenty of rest and a good night's sleep. Feeling tired can be a catalyst for overeating in an attempt to increase energy levels.

Moderation. Everyone enjoys their favorite holiday

menu item. Just remember, consume everything in moderation.

I hope you find these holiday tips helpful. It is a lot easier to avoid putting extra calories on than it is to lose them later. Share some healthy menus with your friends or ask your friends to share their best low-calorie holiday menu item. Don't forget to continue your fitness routine, whether it be walking your dog, riding a bike, or working out with your friends at a local gym. If you do not have a fitness regimen, now's a great time to start one for the new year. It's also a perfect time to get involved in community events. Best of luck this season.

BWMC Foundation Hosts Successful Gala

The Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation's signature event, The Power of Caring gala, was held in November at the Live! Casino and Hotel in Hanover with the honorary chair, the Creston G. Tate and Betty Jane Tate Foundation.

About 450 guests attended the event, which included a cocktail reception, seated dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the live music of the band Millennium. Proceeds directly benefit University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center and enable UM BWMC to increase investments in technology, programs and services that improve patients' experiences.

"This year, we celebrated the power of caring to acknowledge the impact of UM BWMC's exceptional medical care and the impact of the everyday acts of kindness, care and compassion from our community members — especially the Tate family," said Kathy Burk, the BWMC Foundation executive director. "We were honored to recognize the Tates for all they've done to support both the UM BWMC and the entire community."

Supporting this year's event were more than 80 sponsors and underwriters including community businesses, medical leaders, physicians and individuals. Sponsors were recognized by a variety of superhero-themed monikers. The Creston G. and Betty Jane Tate Foundation was Earth's Mightiest Caregiver sponsor. Guardians of Wellness sponsors included the UM BWMC medical staff and Live! Casino and Hotel. While, the Men and Women of Steel sponsors included Kaiser Permanente, UM Baltimore



About 450 guests attended the gala, which included a cocktail reception, seated dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the live music of the band Millennium.



Washington Emergency Physicians, UM Baltimore Washington Primary Care, UMMS and UM BWMC.

Additionally, support came from major sponsors including J.B.A. Chevrolet, Ron and Karen Lowman, VNA of Maryland, Gable, FutureCare Health and Management Corporation, Chesapeake Oncology Hematology Associates, BB&T, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, Sandy Spring Bank, U.S. Anesthesia Partners of Maryland, Chesapeake Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center,

Leach Wallace Associates Inc., Maryland Primary Care Physicians, Woodholme Gastroenterology Associates, Gallagher Evelius & Jones, Hospice of the Chesapeake, M&T Bank, University of Maryland Radiation Oncology, UM Baltimore Washington Heart Associates, UM Baltimore Washington Oncology & Hematology, The Vascular Center at UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center, UM BWMC Executive Team, and BWMC Foundation's Next Generation Group.

The BWMC Foundation is the fundraising arm of the UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center. It helps bridge the gap between the medical center's basic operating costs and its ability to stay abreast of advancing technologies, programs and services, and plays an integral role in helping UM BWMC provide the highest-quality health care to the communities it serves. The BWMC Foundation accepts gifts of all sizes and offers numerous ways to donate. Visit www.bwmcfoundation.org for more information.

UM BWMC Calendar

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

1:30-2:30pm: Preventing Diabetes Class. A diabetes educator discusses factors leading to diabetes and lifestyle changes to prevent diabetes and improve overall health. To register for this free class or for more information, call 410-787-4940. (Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology at UM BWMC, 300 Hospital Drive, Suite 223).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:30-6:30pm: Diabetes Support Group – Meets to discuss current issues regarding diabetes management (Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology at UM BWMC, 300 Hospital Drive, Suite 223). Reservations are not requested. For more information, call 410-787-4940.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00am-2:30pm: American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by UM BWMC. To schedule an appointment to make a life-saving donation, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or UM BWMC's community outreach department at 410-553-8103. (Dr. Constantine Padusis Conference Center, 301 Hospital Drive, third floor).

Joe Bocek
Park Fitness



One of my favorite holiday movies was on television the other day. It's the movie with the boy who somehow keeps getting left home.

The challenge, of course, with movies on TV are the commercials. This time of year, there are holiday commercials galore. From cars to perfume to snacks and more, there is no lack of holiday music and colors coming from our televisions.

One commercial that seems to be making a lot of news is one for Peloton. You may have seen the commercial already, and you may have an opinion on it. Whatever that opinion is, that's totally fine. Personally, I think the acting and story could have been better. But I digress. What happens in the commercial? A woman has been gifted a Peloton exercise bike (a really nice exercise bike) and she is sharing her



last year of using this bike with her husband through videos she's recorded.

Now, the commercial has gotten a bit of flack. Lots of different opinions have been expressed, such as, "her eyebrows are too expressive," "she doesn't need the bike because she is already thin," and even likening the notion of buying your spouse an exercise bike is to buying them a vacuum cleaner.

Again, all interesting obser-

ventions. The one that interests me the most is about fitness always being about being thin or losing weight.

Sure, weight loss is a primary motive to start an exercise program. Every New Year, many people embark on a new or repurposed fitness journey with their weight in mind. And that is perfectly fine.

What is interesting is how often we overlook fitness as an adder, as in it can add to us, making us better and

improved rather than just smaller and less.

We shared this quote from Dr. Mark Hyman with our members just the other day: "Health isn't all about losing a few pounds or about the absence of chronic disease; it's about feeling good, showing up, and giving your highest gifts to the world."

Isn't that just about the best gift any of us can receive?

Imagine an artist who can live longer to produce a few

more beautiful pieces to share with the world. Being healthy and pursuing health can help that.

Imagine an uncle or grandma who we get to spend several more years with and get many more hugs from. Prioritizing fitness can allow that to happen.

Imagine a dear friend who can manage their blood sugar better or drop their cholesterol 100 points, and because of that, we can share many more laughs and good times together. That is one of the greatest gifts.

So, if you look at fitness and health only in terms of weight loss, you might be missing a much larger piece of the puzzle. When we become more active, when we prioritize fitness and exercise, we add. But more than strength and more than life expectancy, we add other things too. We add laughter, we add memories, we add love, and we add life.

That's really what fitness is all about.

So go ahead and give yourself this gift this year. You and your loved ones won't regret it.

SCHOOL & YOUTH

Local Schools' Knowledge Is Put To The Test

By Haley Weisgerber

The Severna Park and Broadneck High School It's Academic teams completed the first round of competitions this season.

"It's Academic" is recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's

longest-running television quiz show. Created in 1961 by television pioneer Sophie Altman, the show pits schools against one another to test students' knowledge in history, literature, science, math, the Bible, mythology, sports, general information and current events.

SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

The It's Academic program at Severna Park has been successful in recent years, so there was a lot riding on the October 19 competition. The team faced Aberdeen High School and Patterson Mill High School.

With the help of their coach, Theresa Goldberg, and social studies teacher, Tim Dunbar, the team was up to the challenge.

"We had Mr. Dunbar come over because he's really quick on the buzzer," said team captain and senior Henry Testerman. "It's really hard to beat him, and it's a little bit of fun. He

» Continued on B12



The Severna Park High School team competition will air on December 21 at 10:00am on NBC.

Scholarship Created To Honor Falcons' Top Fan



Even after graduation, Kenny Elgert continued to attend Severna Park High School athletic games, making sure he was always the first person to arrive.

By Darrell Mak

The enduring legacy of Kenny Elgert — dubbed the Severna Park High School Falcons' No. 1 fan — continues on as the Falcon Athletic Boosters Club honors him with a \$1,000 annual scholarship in his name.

"Kenny has done a lot for every sport," said Kris Dean, head coach for the Severna Park girls varsity basketball team and co-creator of the new scholarship. "He's been at all of our basketball and softball games for many years and we definitely want to keep his name around."

Dean said Deidre Murphy, the team representative, initially devised the idea of a scholarship shortly after Elgert's death in March 2018 and pitched it to parents who overwhelmingly supported it. Murphy enlisted Dean's help to gather support from the boosters club and to help write the scholarship's guidelines and requirements. The boosters club unanimously approved the proposal at its first meeting of the school year this past September.

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must

be a graduating senior at Severna Park High; have two years of participation as an athlete or volunteer with the school's Unified Sports, Special Olympics or other sports organization; and must be a current Falcon Athletic Booster member. An essay or video submission will also be required. As is the case with the other four athletic booster scholarships, applications for this scholarship will be solicited in the spring and due in April. Winners will be announced at the senior awards ceremony in May.

Elgert was 35 years old when he passed away unexpectedly but peacefully in his sleep while on a cruise with his family. Born in Baltimore, he moved to Severna Park at age 4 and attended Oak Hill Elementary, Severna Park Middle and Severna Park High schools. Elgert was part of Bello Machre, worked at the Providence Center, and was a proud employee of the Severna Park Giant Food store for nearly 20 years.

Elgert was a team manager for Severna Park's football, boys basketball, and lacrosse teams during his time at

» Continued on B12

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Debuts New Building

By Haley Weisgerber

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School opened the doors on a new building on December 5 with a ribbon cutting and blessing ceremony.

The addition offers state-of-the-art classrooms for middle school students, administrative offices, a conference room, teacher space, a technology closet, a science laboratory and an art studio.

"We are a pretty small school, and so it's a big move for us," said Jamey Hein, head of school at St. Martin's. "We've been in these temporary modular buildings for 15 years. It was a process to move out of those and into this new space."

Though groundbreaking on the project began in October 2018, the formal decision to add the building was made nearly two years prior. This structure has been long-awaited by students and staff.

"We are considered a very small independent school, so in order to do a project like this, all of the funding needs

to happen internally. The school relied a lot of private gifts and our first two grants in our 60-year history," Hein explained. "That was a lot of work. No public entity came to us and said, 'Here's the funding.'"

With less than 200 students, the St. Martin's school community is small, but with

the help of private donors and the St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church community, they secured the funding.

While the educational experience of students and teachers was not hindered by the modular buildings, this new space was designed with their specific needs in mind.

» Continued on B12

On December 5, St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School held a ribbon cutting and blessing ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of its new state-of-the-art learning center.



Arnold Scout Completes Neighborhood Gaga Ball Pit For Eagle Project

By Jane Seiss

For about a year, Broadneck High School junior Robby Barsin planned and prepared to construct his Eagle Scout project — a wooden-fenced Gaga Ball pit.

Nearly a year after coming up with the idea, he completed the work on the pit in the Timbers neighborhood in Arnold during the weekend of November 10 with the support of family, friends, neighbors and fellow Boy Scouts.

"We started working on the project about December of last year," Barsin explained.

After gaining approval for the idea from the local Boy Scouts council, he began making plans.

"I had to get the neighborhood to approve the idea of the Gaga pit," he said.



Photos by Casey Pollock

Robby Barsin's Gaga Ball pit project was completed in the Timbers neighborhood.

Joe Barsin, Robby's dad, provided guidance on paperwork and pitched in on construction work. Troop 783's scoutmaster, Jabe Nekula, helped Barsin keep the project on track. Chris Nemarich, a troop parent, provided assistance and secured donated funds from the Knights of Columbus of St. Andrew by the Bay.

Scouts from Barsin's troop helped build the pit. In all, Barsin estimated that he had the help of 30 people. He said the project took 50 hours or more.

The pit project was inspired by Barsin's experience with Gaga Ball, a popular

game at Boy Scout camps. The object of the game is to hit opposing players below the knee with the ball so that they are out. The last person in the fenced-in

» Continued on B12

Once he had the green light, Barsin embarked on a neighborhood fundraiser. He delivered flyers to mailboxes and followed that with a door-to-door appeal for money to help pay for pit

construction supplies and materials.

Rick Miller, a neighbor who owns a woodworking company, helped by getting reduced pricing for items purchased at Home Depot.

Middle Schoolers Sew Chemo Port Pillows

By Haley Weisgerber

Severna Park Middle School teacher Rebecca Jenkins taught her seventh- and eighth-grade Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) students a valuable lesson when she tasked them with creating 100 chemotherapy port pillows for cancer patients.

The pillows will be donated to the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital, a center founded to promote the research of treatment options.

"We chose to donate to Johns Hopkins because I had personal experience with an oncology doctor who changed my life with her second opinion," said Jenkins. "Johns Hopkins was very excited about the donation and said the seatbelt chemo port pillows would be given to new patients during their chemotherapy orientation."

Chemo ports are implanted just under the skin, usually in the chest, to provide access for drawing blood and



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

The chemo port pillows will be donated to the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

giving treatments. The port is attached to a catheter that connects to the superior vena cava, a large vein near the heart. Living with a port is not easy for cancer patients.

"Some chemo patients have actually asked their doctor's permission not to wear seatbelts in case they get pulled over," said Jenkins. "The thick webbing rubs and

irritates where their port is placed. These pillows allow for the safe use of seatbelts with a comfortable cushion for their port placement."

Jenkins purchased flannel material to prevent the uncomfortable rubbing. The pillows are attached to seatbelt using thread. After teaching the basic sewing skills needed to complete the project,

Jenkins taught the students about ports and the difference the pillows would make.

Eighth grade students Ronnie McIntyre, Reese Ball, Mia Tocco and James Bent took a special interest in the project.

"I have many relatives who have fought cancer," said Mia, who has made 15 pillows in her spare time. "When I

» Continued on B12

Q

Question of the month

Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Ms. Benefiel's class at Shipley's Choice Elementary answered the question:

If you could create a new holiday, what would it be?

If I could make up a new holiday, it would be for left-handed people.
Brayden Babcock

I would do Cartoon Day: a day to appreciate all the cartoons and learn about animation. And each class in school has to watch at least two cartoons!
Kelsey Begin

Shipley's Choice Elementary School



This month, we asked Ms. Benefiel's fifth-grade class at Shipley's Choice Elementary, "If you could create a new holiday, what would it be?"

Friends Day because I think that a holiday to spend time with friends and neighbors is what this world needs. Who wouldn't like a day with friends?
Ashlyn Campbell

If I could create a new holiday, it would be called Animal Voting Day. You would have to vote for your favorite animal, and if any animal has the most votes, they would win.
Nate Chung

If I could make a new holiday, it would be Homeless Awareness Day and we would go around giving the homeless food, clothes, etc.
Ava Deegan

My holiday would be called Lazy Day. You would not have to go to school and you would just be able to lie on the couch, watch TV, and not be productive.
Anna Durastanti

I think we should have a holiday for animals. We would celebrate it by picking up trash. Also, we could feed the animals food that is good for them.
Tyler Fain

If I could make a new holiday, I would make a day called National Dog Day because I think there should be a day where people play with their dogs and do fun "dog" things. If you don't have a dog, you could go to a dog shelter and celebrate with the dogs there.
Sean Firman

If I could make a new holiday, it would be National Boop the Snoot Day. It would be celebrated by everyone booping their pet's nose.
Delaney Gelinis

It would be National Halo Appreciate Day. You would dress in "Halo" costumes and play "Halo."
Zach Hedges

If I could make up a holiday, I would call it Friends Day, where you spend the whole entire day with one or more friends so you can have fun with them.
Grace Heravi

My new holiday would be National Save An Animal Day. People would celebrate it by saving an animal or getting an animal at the shelter.
Brianna Knutsen

If I could make a new holiday, that holiday would be Best Friend Day and you would get to spend the whole day with a friend, family member, or anyone.
Tucker Lapriola

If I could come up with one holiday, it would be Family Day. It would be a day where you hung out with your family. That means no school, no chores, and no work.
Mackenzie Machi

I would make GOAT USA a holiday because they have really good clothes, and it would be fun and they give you good stickers.
Abby MacRobbie

I would do a soccer holiday, where you can enjoy your time outside with friends and family, to play soccer and maybe even with some random people you don't know.
Ben Montgomery

If I were to make up a new holiday, it would be to celebrate kids. It could be celebrated by simply just having fun!
Reese Pasko

It would be called Innovators Day and it would be celebrated by seeing and remembering all the amazing inventions.
Nathaniel Patty

If I had to make my own holiday, I would call it Animal Appreciation Day because we already have holidays where we celebrate with people. But someday, we need to notice that your pets and animals are really important. Animals need attention. This is how you celebrate the holiday: you get a lot of treats for your pets, make a cake for the pets, and then play with your pets for a long time to show love for your pets. Pets need to be noticed too.
Jeremy Peiffer

I would have Teacher's Appreciation Week so the teachers could have a week of no work and the kids would have no school. To celebrate it, the kids would get the teachers gifts.
Elizabeth Pietris

I would make a new holiday called National Historian Day because many ancient historians like Aristotle or Galileo don't get celebrated, and many aren't known.
Abby Russell

My holiday would be Food Day. All fast food would be free and you could eat whatever you wanted.
Annie Speigel

I would make a holiday to celebrate the ocean. On that day, every school would take a field trip for scuba diving!
Sophia Stutz

If I could make up a new holiday, it would be for the youngest child. They would get presents like it's their birthday and basically get to do anything they want.
Barret Wienk

Arlotto Delivers Broadneck Cluster Redistricting Recommendation

Courtesy of the AACPS Communications Office

On December 4, Superintendent George Arlotto delivered to the Board of Education his recommendation regarding the redistricting of school boundaries in the Broadneck cluster in order to best utilize, to the extent possible, the space available at the cluster's five elementary schools and two middle schools.

Arlotto recommended shifting four neighborhoods north of College Parkway on the eastern edge of the current Broadneck Elementary School attendance area from that school to Cape St. Claire Elementary School. The shift of the neighborhoods — identified as 603, 604, 605 and 606 in redistricting documents, is projected to move 108 students from Broadneck Elementary to Cape St. Claire Elementary. It would move Broadneck Elementary from 109.6% of capacity to 93.4%, and Cape St. Claire from 76.6% of capacity to 92.4%.

Arlotto's recommendation also includes a grandfathering clause for students who would be entering fifth grade in the 2020-2021 school year. No middle or high school boundaries would be changed under Arlotto's recommendation.

The recommendation submitted to Arlotto by the redistricting committee, made up of representatives from every elementary and middle school in the cluster, would have shifted 33 additional students who reside in three additional neighborhoods — identified as 600, 601 and 602 in the redistricting documents — from Broadneck Elementary to Cape St. Claire Elementary. The board will consider Arlotto's recommendation and any other alternatives in January and decide which options to take to a public hearing later this year before it votes on a plan. Under board policy, a redistricting plan must be adopted by April 30, 2020 for it to go into effect in the 2020-2021 school year.



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8:00 p.m. Festive Carol Sing: Join us to sing a collection of traditional Christmas Carols before our service begins.

8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service: A Celebration of Holy Eucharist with choir, organ and instruments.

DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service: Join us for a celebration of Holy Eucharist as we celebrate one of the Holiest days of the year: the Nativity of our Lord.



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St. Martin's-in-the-Field Debuts New Building

» **Continued from B10**
 "It gives them a more appropriate space to learn that's suited to kids of their age," said the director of academics, Kim Carson. "Because of the added space and the proximity of the different classrooms off of one hallway, the students are able to group together and participate in lessons that involved more problem-solving and critical thinking."
 The new structure includes a main entrance for all students, an issue that St. Martin's has faced for years.

"We have three divisions here: preschool, middle school and lower school," Carson said. "At one time, all three positions entered the school through three different doors. So now, all of our students are entering through the main door and spreading out to their different classes."

Every young student at St. Martin's is paired with an older student as part of a buddy system. Carson said that in addition to making the building safer and more secure, the most exciting prospect of the new entryway is that the older and younger

buddies see each other as they enter the building.

"Already, the symbolic nature of the one entrance is important because we've been three different schools, and now we are trying to have a more cohesive unified approach to educating kids and inviting kids in each day," said Hein.

Though the building is currently being used, there is still some work to be done. Hein is excited to decorate the inside of the building to match St. Martin's student-centered mission.

"We want the walls to reflect a student-centered look and feel and culture and community and vibrancy," Hein said. "We really want the kids, teachers and families to get a feel for who we are when they come into the school."

"We have been told one of our hallmarks is that when we get families here that it's all about the feel," he continued. "It was the welcoming ethos that drove people to enroll their children here. It's very exciting to create that space and see how the students and teacher live into it."

Local Schools' Knowledge Is Put To The Test

» **Continued from B10** usually beats us up pretty bad about it."

They met once a week with Goldberg to study, and in the month leading up to the competition, they practiced in front of the television team.

Testerman was joined on the stand by juniors Kelly Smith and Adam Didouchevski. Freshman and alternate Zach McGrath was on the set to cheer the team on.

"We all specialize in something," said Testerman. "I take history, current events and random knowledge. Kelly is definitely literature and math, and then Adam is geography and sports."

Testerman, who has been competing since his sophomore year, said the first year competing can be rough, but it all comes with practice.



The Broadneck High School team competition will air on January 4 at 10:00am on NBC.

Arnold Scout Completes Eagle Project

» **Continued from B10**
 court wins. Barsin thought building a pit to play the game at the Timbers playground area might boost use of the park.

"I've played about five times since we built it. It's a lot of fun," Barsin said.

Barsin has been in-

involved in scouting since first grade, and once he has submitted a written report about his project and completed one more merit badge, he expects to earn Eagle rank.

He has been active throughout his years in scouts, attending scout

summer camps for the last six years. Last summer, he worked at the Rodney Scout Reservation in North East, Maryland, as an aquatic instructor, helping with canoeing and kayaking activities.

"I love going out in the wilderness and helping new

scouts learn new skills," he said of his experience with the organization.

Barsin takes courses at Broadneck and also attends the Center of Applied Technology South in Edgewater. He wants to be a carpenter when he has finished his education.

Middle Schoolers Sew Chemo Port Pillows

» **Continued from B10**
 heard it was going to Johns Hopkins — my sister is actually in there right now — so I just wanted to do something to give back."

Ronnie took this opportunity to help her neighbor, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

"I was just thinking about anything I could do to help him, and then this came up and it was a perfect opportunity," said Ronnie.

She donated the first pillow she made to him. Though she could not hand-deliver it, knowing where her pillow went was "an amazing feeling."

"I had a head cold and couldn't go see him, but my

dad told me he was crying because it meant so much to him. That made me feel really happy," said Ronnie. "When my dad came back, he said that he likes it because he has rashes from the seatbelt hurting him. I didn't know that was something that everyone went through."

Every student enrolled in FACS has made one pillow, but these four students went above and beyond the classroom expectations.

Ronnie, Reese, Mia and James are considered "senior sewers," which means they have taken sewing classes before. Jenkins relied on these four students to act as role models and help out the

beginners.

While Mia has been sewing since she was 8 years old, her peers started as beginners. For James, sewing is more of a "school activity," but that didn't stop him from investing his free time into the project.

"I don't have the materials to do it at home. I'm probably going to stay after school and make more," said James. "I just wanted to help people, and Johns Hopkins is a great hospital, and they have saved so many lives."

Reese said that while the class cannot find the cure for cancer, they wanted to make the road a little easier for patients.

"I feel like nowadays

people assume that kids are consumed in electronics and don't care about people. Even though, yeah, we watch Netflix, we are still good people," said Ronnie.

The project encouraged students to give back to their community, and though the project is finished, they are not done.

Jenkins' classes nearly doubled the initial goal of 100 pillows.

"I am proud that my students were intrinsically motivated to work on the project," said Jenkins. "Middle school is a tough age, but their willingness to give back really shows how generous and kind the Severna Park Middle School population can be."

"It's Academic" is a team effort, and according to Testerman, the Severna Park squad has no shortage of knowledge. "I'm by far not the smartest person on the team," said Testerman. "It's cool to sit there and listen to the vast amounts of knowledge that comes from our coach and my teammates."

BROADNECK HIGH SCHOOL

Broadneck competed against South Carroll High School and Mount St. Joseph High School on November 16.

Coached by Eric Bitoude, the team prepared for the competition by practicing from quiz books, watching old episodes of "It's Academic," and testing their buzzer skills.

"I think what gave us an issue the past few years were the reflexes on the buzzer," said Bitoude. "We are more confident with that because that is part of what we have been practicing."

Senior Jameson Gilkey, junior Jack Collier and sophomore Griffin Bodziak were tested on their knowledge in math, history and English literature. Each team member specializes in one area.

"I consider myself the team history buff," said team captain Jameson Gilkey. "Math and science have always been, for me, a difficulty, but with Jack here we've really stepped up."

Though the team worried about the literature section, they were confident in their answers during the show.

Gilkey and Collier are veteran scholars, but Bodziak had never competed before.

"Since it was my first year, it is definitely interesting to experience," said Bodziak. "The first round it was nerve-racking, but after that, the jitters kind of wore off I felt really confident."

For Gilkey, this could be his last time taking stage alongside the It's Academic team, but he knows he's leaving it in capable hands.

"It's always disappointing leaving a team that you've worked with for so long," said Gilkey. "It's sad to leave these guys, but I know that they've grown so much throughout the time I've been here. I have no worries about where they'll end up."

The Severna Park competition will air on December 21 and Broadneck's will air on January 4 at 10:00am on NBC.

If the teams advance, they will move on to the playoffs. The winning team will receive a \$3,000 scholarship to split between the three competing teammates.

Scholarship Honors Top Fan

» **Continued from B10**
 Severna Park, and he competed in the Special Olympics in softball, bowling, bocce and soccer. He graduated from Severna Park High in 2005.

Earlier this spring, the boosters inducted Elgert into the school's Hall of Fame. Elgert passed away just days after learning he would be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

This past June, Bello Machre's annual fundraiser event, Every Step Counts, honored Elgert's memory. The event is organized for people to walk, run, bike, rollerblade and even ride motorized wheelchairs, and it raised more than \$206,000.

In 2012, Elgert successfully underwent brain surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center, where doctors removed a tumor.

Over the years, Elgert enjoyed the Earleigh Heights carnival, Rock 'N' Roll Re-

vival, going on cruises, and keeping up with his police and firefighter friends. He also loved going to Severna Park and other athletic events, listening to music and dancing. Even after graduation, Elgert continued to attend Severna Park High School games, walking from his parents' home to the school, making sure he was always the first person to arrive. He was well-known to the school's coaches, administrators and teachers, both at Severna Park and other area schools. He never missed a Falcons game, home or away.

"We wanted to do as much as we could," stressed Dean, adding that the school is hoping to get a plaque installed at his seat at basketball games and patches made in his name for the team's warmup suits. "The whole season will be dedicated to Kenny and his family."

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