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JANUARY 15, 2020

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The Park Loses Two Community Icons

Nancy Brown



A swim teacher who devoted nearly 70 years of her life to the sport, Nancy Brown passed away on January 1 after an eight-year battle with cancer. She was 83.

Brown was a Pasadena resident, but she had a profound impact on swimmers from Severna Park and statewide. She taught the sport to children on Baltimore area summer swim teams, as well as adults from 18 to over 90 when she founded the Maryland Masters program in 1974.

"I just love seeing them get excited about swimming and teaching them how to swim correctly," Brown said in a 2015 interview with the *Severna Park Voice*. "It's thrilling, really, to see someone change their strokes to something beautiful, because swimming is beautiful when it's done right."

Her love of swimming began as a child when she spent every summer at her grandmother's house on the Magothy River, where she would swim all day, earning her the nickname "water rat." Her strong competitive spirit emerged as a member of the Friends School Swim Team in Baltimore, which she captained in 1953 and 1954. Her math teacher and coach, Larry Peacock, encouraged her to pursue a life of fitness through swimming.

Brown did not compete again until forming Maryland Masters, which she led at the Catonsville YMCA with a

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Mary Carter



By Haley Weisgerber

Severna Park is mourning the loss of longtime dance teacher and mentor Mary Carter, who passed away on December 30.

Born in 1931, Carter began private dance lessons at the age of 4 and was asked to teach at age 11. She dedicated her afternoons and weekends to teaching throughout high school and middle school. In 1962, her husband's work brought her to Severna Park and the rest, as they say, is history.

The first Carter School of Dance opened with 60 students at the old Carrollton Manor Clubhouse. For 43 years, Carter was sponsored by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and taught classes to over 800 students in Severna Park, Arnold, Pasadena, Odenton and Davidsonville. In 2007, she sold the school but continued to operate it under her own name and creative direction.

When the Severna Park Community Center purchased the school from the new owners in 2013, the name changed to The Dance Center of Severna Park, but Carter was asked to stay on as the creative director.

Though Carter's studio endured many changes, her passion for teaching never wavered. With over 50 years of experi-

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AACPS Budget Proposal Focuses On New Teachers, Pay Raises

In his \$1.36 billion operating budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2021, presented to the Board of Education on December 18, Superintendent George Arlotto included pay raises for employees and 195 classroom teaching positions to address enrollment increases and to reduce class sizes.

More than 91% of the new positions in Arlotto's recommendation are for employees who will have daily contact with students. The recommendation also contains 20 teaching assistants and permanent substitute positions, 11.2 cultural arts teaching positions, and two elementary reading/language arts teachers.

Dana Schallheim, who represents District 5 on the Board of Education, said the 195 positions and any possible additions by the Board are critical to keeping Anne Arundel "above the water line."

"Large class sizes and too few student support staff are problems created by years, decades even, of chronically underfunding our schools coupled with ever-increasing enrollment," Schallheim said. "Unlike a television sitcom that resolves problems immediately, this system-wide challenge will take many years and both determination and advocacy from both the superintendent and county government."

Fifty-seven positions will go to staff the new Crofton High School, which will open in September 2020 for freshmen and sophomores. More positions will be allocated as the school adds a grade in each of the next two years.

AACPS is educating approximately 1,700 more students this year than it did just a year ago, the greatest year-to-year increase in about 30 years.

Arlotto's recommendation also funds nine additional school counselors, two more school psychologists, and a social worker to help meet

the social and emotional needs of students.

"The singular school counselor at Oak Hill Elementary School in Severna Park currently has a caseload of more than 700 students, far exceeding the American School Counselor Association guidelines recommending a ratio of one school counselor for every 250 students," Schallheim said. "Adding a school counselor won't achieve recommended levels; it would, however, be a game changer for both the current school counselor and every student she serves at Oak Hill. Although final staffing decisions won't be made until the budget process is complete in June, I am optimistic that this year Oak Hill will finally receive the second school counselor they desperately need."

The budget proposal also contains funding for 73.3 special and alternative education positions, 10 English Language Acquisition teachers, five bilingual teaching assistants, and two bilingual facilitators.

"When I think about the obligation that we, as a school system, have to the nearly 85,000 students we serve every day, three words come to mind: opportunity, intentionality and impact," Arlotto told the Board in his budget address. "It is only through the creation of opportunities, carried out with intentionality, that we can have the positive impacts on children that they deserve and that our parents and community expect."

Elementary schools in the four clusters still

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"A Seismic Shift In Both Chambers" — Breaking Down The 2020 Session

Education, Vaping, And Sports Betting Are Among Agenda Items

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoices.com

For the Maryland General Assembly, it's a new dawn. It's a new day.

Maryland's longest-serving House of Delegates speaker, Mike Busch, died last April. Mike Miller spent more than three decades as Senate president before stepping down before this session.

When the 441st session got underway on January 7, the House had new leadership with Baltimore County Democrat Adrienne Jones, and the Senate welcomed Baltimore City Democrat Bill Ferguson as its new president.

Delegate Heather Bag-

nall — a Democrat who represents Severna Park, Arnold and other areas in District 33 — called it a "seismic shift for both chambers," while fellow District 33 Delegate Sid Saab, a Republican, said he expects the new leaders to share the same progressive message championed by their predecessors.

While their impact remains to be seen, one thing is certain: Maryland is set to debate important issues with longstanding implications. Education reform, sports betting, e-cigarettes and Baltimore City crime are some of the thousands of issues that will be addressed during the 90-day session.

EDUCATION

Maryland is long overdue to update its spending formulas. The Kirwan Commission was tasked with studying the best school systems in the world and recommending changes to put Maryland on a path to similar prestige. After roughly two years of research, the commission has recommended

significant expansion of full-day preschool, teacher raises, an internationally benchmarked curriculum that enables most students to achieve "college- and career-ready" status, and several other initiatives.

Now that the findings are out, Maryland will have to foot the bill, which has been estimated at an ad-

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The State Of Anne Arundel County

When County Executive Stuart Pittman held his State of the County address in December, he outlined several key initiatives. Here are some takeaways paired with comments from Pittman.

TAXES

Last year's budget raised income and property taxes to fund education, public safety, and transportation infrastructure — and

that might not be the last tax hike.

“Had we been allowed to tax progressively like the state and the feds do, that figure would have been higher. Stay tuned on that front, as we work to shift the burden away from our lowest-paid residents.”

BODY CAMERAS

When he announces his Fiscal Year 2021 budget recommendation this May, Pittman will include funding for body-worn cameras for police officers.

"I have thought long and hard about the stress these officers are under and also about how to build the community trust that is so essential to effective policing. My conclusion is that transparency is the answer."



Anne Arundel
County Executive
Stuart Pittman

STAFFING FOR TEACHERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Pittman touted the addition of 140 teachers, 35 counselors and 50 special

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Margueritte Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

By Chris Fincham

During her sophomore year at George Washington University, Courtney Stoner participated in an internship with the Anne Arundel County Literacy Council.

Years later, her parents have become mainstays within the organization, helping students and volunteers alike throughout the county, while discovering a passion for teaching and helping others.

Bob and Mary Anne Stoner had no idea their daughter's internship would lead to this. With no teaching experience, the Severna Park residents casually expressed an interest in their daughter's endeavor, which quickly led to much more.

"We said to her, 'That's great, we'd always like to teach somebody how to read,'" explained Mary Anne. "And she said, 'Ok great, I've emailed the director and he's expecting to hear from you guys!'"

Now, the Stoners are active tutors, trainers and advisors within the AACLC. They teach English Literacy Council Volunteers Make Impact, Help Community learners — English as a Second Language or ESL — as well as basic literacy for area residents.

"The literacy council lets you help each person with whatever their goal is, which is really neat," Mary Anne said. "Our program is a one-on-one program, so you really are building a bond and

Anne Arundel Literacy Council Volunteers
Make Impact, Help Community



Bob and Mary Anne Stoner were presented with their Volunteer of the Month certificates by Severna Park Voice Editor Zach Sparks.

trusting relationship with this person and you can just see them grow."

Bob said, "It's almost like you become a little part of their families, and then you get to see somebody on kind of a weekly basis, go from barely speaking English at all, to confident and capable."

"You can see from the first day with some students, that they're really not confident - head down, little eye contact. And now they come in happy and they're just like, 'Hey how's it going?'" said May Anne.

Helping members of the community become more fluent and literate can help with seemingly minor interactions that most people take for granted.

"They'll tell us things like, 'I went in and I talked to my son's teacher today' and stuff like that," said Mary Anne.

The tutoring can also lead to significant and potentially life-

changing events achievements as well.

"I've been lucky to have a student for three and a half years, and she actually just bought her first house," Bob said. "Buying a car, signing a lease, buying a home - it's life skills."

The program provides all the materials and plans but also allows volunteers a lot of flexibility, which enables them to cater to each student.

"With this program, for some it's related to work and things," Mary Anne said, "but other people want to be able to follow recipes, help kids with homework, or read notes from teachers."

One student had let her license lapse and didn't have the confidence to go in and pass the test.

"She had got her license with a whole class when she was 16," explained Mary Anne. "When she was like 40, she let it lapse, and when you let it lapse in the

state of Maryland, you have to do all of it again. She didn't have the confidence to go in and pass the test.

"Well, we have to teach in a public place and the MVA is a public place, so let's have class at the MVA! She got her license, and since then has also gotten a better job," Mary Anne said. "She Uber drives part-time, and she's become a mentor to middle school and high school girls who are having similar problems."

"It shouldn't be a stigma that you don't know how to read — it's just another skill that you need to learn," said Mary Anne.

The AACLC hosts large group training sessions for new volunteers twice a year at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. The sessions focus on general training and then break out into what the tutors are likely going to focus on everything from basic literacy and ESL to test-taking and GED-prep, all aimed at adult learners throughout the county.

Learn more about the Anne Arundel County Literacy Council at www.icanread.org. If you are interested in supporting the organization by being a tutor, contact them to learn about training and the exciting rewards of teaching adults to read. There is a contact form available on the website, you can reach out by phone at 410-269-4419, or send an email to the program director at programdirector@aaclc.org.

State Of The
County

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education instructors this school year. But it's not enough, he said.

"Investing in public education, both K-12 and Anne Arundel Community College, is the only way we will reduce the intergenerational poverty that faces too many children in our least affluent neighborhoods. But it is also our most powerful driver of overall economic growth."

The county went from 693 to 791 sworn police officers in one year. Fire and police departments still need support.

"At our fire department, the call volume for each one of the last five years rose by an average of 7%. Staffing was stagnant, and our trucks were going out short-staffed too often."

ACCOUNTABILITY

Pittman cited the upcoming launch of an open data portal as one example of his administration's commitment to hold county government accountable.

"That's why we're starting Arundel Stat, a new open data portal that will be launched in 2020, allowing the public to see how we measure not only the successes of our programs, but also the shortcomings."

He also shared plans to limit the current modification process, which allows the county's Planning and Zoning officer to unilaterally facilitate development projects that do not conform to county code.

"Land use plans and laws exist for a reason, and when the planning officer, a paid employee who works at the discretion of the county executive, has the power to waive legal requirements through modifications, the only winners are the well-connected regional developers who contribute generously to political campaigns. The loser is the natural environment that sustains us."

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Maryland Could Soon Make Radical Changes To Education

By Zach Sparks

zach@pasadenavoice.com

The funding formula for Maryland public schools hasn't been changed since the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act was passed in 2002, but the Kirwan Commission is poised to change that fact.

Now that lawmakers have convened for the 2020 session of the General Assembly, they must decide how much of the commission's findings they will fund.

Learn how the changes might affect your kids and your wallet.

WHY WAS THE COMMISSION FORMED?

The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in 2016 to establish the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. Chaired by a former president of the University of Maryland, William "Brit" Kirwan, the 25-member commission was tasked with reviewing the current funding formula and with making recommendations that would help students meet the challenges of a changing global economy and fulfill the state's workforce needs.

From September 2016 to 2019, the members studied school systems across the world to come up with the best practices for improving education in Maryland.

"The Kirwan Commission not only looked at funding," said Cheryl Bost, president of Maryland State Education Association, "they looked at the whole programmatic parts

of education: adding more career technology education opportunities for all students, increasing pre-k opportunities, creating community schools to address students and families that are maybe living in concentrated poverty. So it really takes a holistic look at our education."

THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE COST

For all the Kirwan initiatives, the total cost is a projected \$3.8 billion annually in addition to current spending. That cost would be phased in over 10 years. Maryland got a head start in 2019 when the General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which was a down payment on the initiatives.

The Kirwan Commission has recommended the expansion of full-day preschool, to be free for all 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families.

Under the proposals, teacher preparation would be more rigorous, and teacher pay would be equitable to other professionals with the same amount of education. Using Singapore and Shanghai as models, career ladders for teachers and school leaders would be developed, creating new standards for advancement and compensation.

"When we compare teachers to other professions that require the same amount of education, we make 85 cents on the dollar," Bost said. "We are definitely underpaid, and we are experiencing teacher shortages even today, and so the need to raise salaries

across the board will help us attract the best and brightest."

A fully aligned instructional system would be developed, including curriculum frameworks, course syllabi and assessments.

Career and technical education would be celebrated. Every middle and high school would be staffed with mentors to counsel and advise students on career and technical options.

Schools serving high populations of students living in poverty would get a boost with before- and after-school and summer academic programs and student access to needed health and social services.

An accountability oversight board would ensure the recommendations are successfully implemented.

PROS AND CONS

The commission's findings and next steps have largely been a partisan debate. Democrats want to fund most of the findings while Republicans say the price tag is too high and that there is no way to guarantee results.

"I think the findings about teacher accountability and improving things within the classroom are good," said Michael Malone, a Republican from District 33. "I have a concern with making mandatory pre-K for all. That is a very pricey item, and I'm not sure the studies show that you get a return on that, and I think much of early childhood education should be left for the families to make the decision and for the state not to necessarily be stepping in."

District 33 Democrat Heather Bagnall wants to see the final language in any proposed bills, but she is "giddy" about the possibilities.

"It's exciting to see something that is so innovative and forward-looking," Bagnall said. "For a long time, we treated career development as a lesser path to college, not as an equal path to higher education."

Delegate Sid Saab said the cost is high for a state that already spends so much on education per pupil, and "there is no guaranteed outcome" when spending more money to see better student performance.

According to a map published in June 2019 by *Education Week*, Maryland spends \$13,146 per pupil, above the national average of \$12,756 but below states like Pennsylvania (\$16,122), New York (\$19,697) and Vermont (\$20,540).

Republicans have also expressed skepticism because the last time the funding formulas were changed as a result of the 2002 legislation, another group, the Thornton Commission, was behind the recommendations. Their work produced mixed results.

Bost, who taught fourth and fifth grade in Baltimore County at that time, said schools did see student success and smaller class sizes until the recession in 2008.

"When we measured students based on academic outcomes, we saw great increases," Bost said. "Then, when the recession hit and many of our local jurisdictions supplanted money that was coming from

the state and they cut back on their funding, and even the state made some changes to the inflationary numbers, it was really the accountability to fund that dropped off. When that happened, you could see the progress of students start to stagnate and drop off."

WHAT WILL ANNE ARUNDEL PAY?

According to data presented by the Kirwan Commission, Anne Arundel would not need to exceed its current spending until Fiscal Year 2028 when the added contribution would be \$8.4 million, jumping to an additional \$50.2 million in Fiscal Year 2029, and \$95.9 million by Fiscal Year 2030. That last projection is fourth-highest among Maryland's 24 jurisdictions, which is in line with Anne Arundel having the fourth-highest population. Prince George's County (\$360.9 million) and Baltimore City (\$329.4 million) top the list in FY2030, with eight counties owing nothing more than the current spending.

Under the recommendations, state aid would increase each year as well, with Anne Arundel getting an additional \$30.3 million (over what the law currently requires) in Fiscal Year 2022 and an additional \$173.5 million by 2030.

HOW WILL MARYLAND AFFORD THE CHANGES?

Governor Larry Hogan is not the Kirwan Commission's biggest supporter, mostly because of the cost involved.

"After more than three years of meetings, the Kirwan Tax Hike Commission has still failed to produce any plan to pay for its massive spending proposals, which will cost taxpayers more than \$30 billion," he said in an announcement. "Local leaders agree with me — they will not support the billions in crippling state and local tax increases that would be required. Some good ideas have been discussed, but the commission mostly focused on simply increasing spending, rather than real accountability measures and better results for our children."

Lawmakers may legalize sports betting or recreational

cannabis to bring in more state revenue. But neither of those proposals would put a dent in the \$3.8 billion price tag.

State officials estimate that sports betting and recreational marijuana might generate between \$50 million and \$200 million each, with cannabis being more lucrative.

In an August report published by the Pew Charitable Trusts, Josh Lehner, senior economist with Oregon's Office of Economic Analysis, explained the uncertainty. When trying to forecast the revenue of alcohol or cigarettes, the government can refer to decades of data. With cannabis, such data does not exist.

"For standard forecasting models, it's helpful to have more detail about demographics, consumption and product types," Lehner said. "We're not there, and other states I've talked to aren't there yet either."

FINAL THOUGHTS

Democrats and Republicans agree that Maryland's standardized test scores are in the middle of the pack; they differ on whether funding is the solution or if more accountability is the answer.

A showdown looms this session as both sides try to find a compromise on funding for public schools. Bagnall thinks the cost is worth it.

"On average, education has a one-to-seven return, \$7 for every \$1 invested," Bagnall said, "but the statistical analyses of the Kirwan recommendation has that margin closer to one to 17, which is what they saw over a 40-year study in Pennsylvania, just with early childhood education investment."

Saab looks at the Thornton Commission as a cautionary tale. "The Thornton Commission spent double on education and the scores and graduating rates were about the same," he said.

"With some of the misinformation that's been out there, they talk about it's this radical change in education, but every change is based on policy that has worked somewhere else," Bagnall said. "It's not like these are new innovations; they're just new for us, and they're new as a package."

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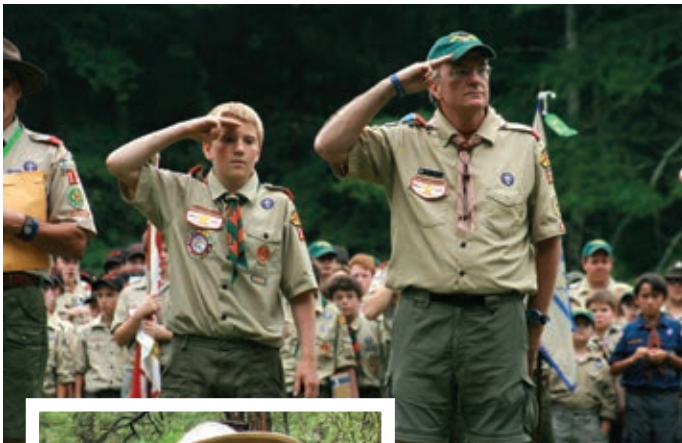
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Craig Lindsay Honored For 14 Years As Scoutmaster



During Craig Lindsay's tenure as scoutmaster, 70 boys achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts. Though pleased with the achievement of his Eagles, Lindsay emphasized that he is proud of all of his scouts.

By Sharon Mager

A commercial real estate broker and former scoutmaster, Craig Lindsay couldn't believe his eyes when he stepped through the door at the Shipley's Choice clubhouse on January 4. He thought he was going to a meeting about his Maryland Master Naturalist program, but he was shocked to see a crowd of more than 120 people — current and former Boy Scouts and leaders, parents, family members and friends — gathered for a surprise party.

The event was to honor Lindsay for his 14 years of service with Boy Scout Troop 339, which meets at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. He officially stepped down from the scoutmaster position on September 30, though he is still involved as the charter organization representative.

"I had tears in my eyes as I looked and saw all the faces," Lindsay said. "I can't describe how touched I was."

Former scouts and their families brought food and gifts, and they shared how Lindsay's leadership has

impacted their lives. Talking to young men that he watched grow up, seeing old friends, and looking at photos from times past brought back many memories.

Lindsay was a Cub Scout as a young boy, but his real scouting adventure began when his oldest son, Ben, joined scouting. Lindsay's younger son, Eric, eagerly followed eight years later.

Ben was in the first grade when he joined Pack 858, also sponsored by Woods Church. Lindsay discovered they needed a den leader, so he volunteered.

"That was 20 years ago," he recalled, amazed at how quickly time passes.

He served that pack for five years as a den leader, and during the last two years, he also took on the role of cubmaster. When Ben advanced to Boy Scout Troop 339, Lindsay became an assistant scoutmaster under the leadership of Scoutmaster Wally Smith.

Looking back, Lindsay said, "Wally was kind of a legend. He lived and breathed scouting. I was so blessed to have a mentor like him showing me the ropes. Wally stepped down only when he knew the troop would be in good hands."

Now, Lindsay is passing the torch confidently to

Todd Powell.

"I wouldn't have stepped down if I didn't have Todd to take over," Lindsay said. "He was a first-rate assistant and will be a tremendous scoutmaster."

Lindsay and Powell met and became friends through scouting.

"Craig is a remarkable person," Powell said. "He has connections with all of these people, and he takes an interest in everyone and in their well-being."

Powell's sons, 17-year-old Jake and 14-year-old Cooper, are members of the troop, and Lindsay, "has been an inspiration, a role model and

a mentor to both of them," Powell said.

In a Silver Beaver (distinguished service award) nomination letter, Powell shared, "We cannot begin to list how much Craig Lindsay has done for our family, Troop 339, Woods Church, the Greater Severna Park Community and scouting."

Powell referenced countless hours at meetings and conferences, merit-badge counseling, Eagle coaching, monthly campouts, troop summer camps, district camporees, high adventure camps, blood drives, Adopt A Highway, Memorial Day flag placement at the veterans cemetery,

Scouting for Food, Eagle Scout projects and many community service projects.

During Lindsay's tenure as scoutmaster, 70 boys achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts. Lindsay attributes the achievements to each Eagle's individual hard work, and to the many wonderful adult volunteers who encouraged and supported them.

Though pleased with the achievement of his Eagles, Lindsay emphasized that he is proud of all of his scouts.

Reflecting on his years as scoutmaster, Lindsay said he's grateful to his wife, Mary, for her support.

"I couldn't have done it without her," he said, while also praising his daughter, Morgan, for her support.

Scouting can change lives, according to Lindsay. For some, it gives them structure and peace in their lives.

"For many scouts, it's being around other adults who know who they are and recognize that they are important persons," Lindsay said. "I've had boys say to me, 'Mr. Lindsay, you always knew my name,' or they say, 'I came to the meeting scared, and you came up and talked to me and really listened.' They needed adults who cared for and validated them."

Winter Projects To Get You Ready For Spring

Submitted by
The Anne Arundel
Home Services Company

The holidays have come and gone, along with our second annual Christmas party, and we are truly appreciative for all the support you have all given our local small businesses.

Now we are all eager for spring and Orioles Opening Day! While we are waiting, most people are spending more time in the house, so

why not make some improvements while you are there? The Anne Arundel Home Services Company has come up with a few things that you can do this winter to improve the aesthetic and value of your home.

Insulate the attic, ducts and foundation. This will save on heating costs and ensure your home is warm and cozy.

Give rooms a fresh coat of paint. There tends to be less moisture in the air

during winter months, which will ensure the paint bonds to surfaces faster and dries quicker.

Install new flooring. Have new carpet, laminate or tile installed. Makes rooms look fresh and new.

House cleaning. Kids being home for holiday breaks, along with family gatherings and more traffic in your home, can create a mess. Get a professional cleaning team to come in and get in all the nooks and crannies while

you curl up on the couch with a good movie and hot cocoa.

Update bathrooms and kitchens. New fixtures and hardware can make a world of difference.

Outdoor projects including decks, patios, retaining walls, fire pits and more. Most don't realize you can save up to 20% in the "offseason."

The Anne Arundel Home Services Company would be happy to help with any of these projects and more. Call 410-589-2819 to learn more.

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Christmas Trees Get New Life In Bay Erosion Prevention



The Christmas trees will be used as erosion-prevention barriers at Beverly Triton Nature Park in Edgewater.

By Judy Tacyn

On January 4, an environmentally passionate group of Arnold and Cape St. Claire residents mobilized to help the Chesapeake Bay by collecting Christmas trees to be used as erosion-prevention barriers.

The grassroots effort started with a simple Facebook post by a Beverly Triton Nature Park ranger.

Like most shorelines, Beverly Triton's is impacted by rain, weather and excessive high tides, which cause soil to erode into the Chesapeake Bay. Ranger Karen Jarboe, who works for the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks (Mayo peninsula parks), had done shoreline conservation work in the past and used trees and logs to slow the rate of erosion. Knowing people generally throw out their Christmas trees after the season is over, Jarboe used social media to let people know they could donate their pine trees to the park for shoreline conservation. The message spread instantly.

Stacey Wildberger, president of Cape Conservation Corps, read Jarboe's plea for trees and shared it in a Cape St. Claire Facebook group. Matthew Toronto, owner of Matthew's Hauling Service, saw that post right after Christmas and

offered his truck to haul trees for the project.

"When I started this campaign, it spread quickly," Wildberger said. "It got bigger than I thought it would, and it spread beyond Cape St. Claire into Arnold. People were excited about the idea that their Christmas trees could help the bay."

Jessy Oberright, an Arnold resident and creator of Broadneck Nature Nook, said it became immediately apparent that response was going to be high.

"Since I know both Matt and Stacey, and I have a passionate interest in environmental conservation, I offered my assistance on the administrative and logistics side of things," Oberright explained.

Toronto, who grew up in Cape St. Claire and spent summers crabbing and splashing in the bay, contacted Beverly Triton Beach ranger Ariana Kidder to offer help by hauling trees. By then, several interested friends and neighbors also volunteered to help. In seemingly just hours, there were 11 volunteers, three rangers, and dozens of Arnold and Cape St. Claire residents ready to pitch their drying Christmas trees into the bay.

"It kind of just snowballed in a good way," Oberright said. "There is so much negative news concerning our environ-

ment; I think people are really desperate for opportunities to feel like they are helping."

The trees will help protect the Beverly Triton shoreline from damaging winds, rain and tides by providing a buffer. Jarboe said the trees are only a temporary solution to a larger problem.

"The trees do lose their needles and will need to be replaced until a more sustainable solution is available," Jarboe said.

Erosion is the process of soil removal via rain, wind, tides, soil disruption, etc. Soil is difficult to replace. The more we lose, the less we have. It also silts in the bay, covering up submerged aquatic vegetation. Erosion also makes the water turbid or cloudy, preventing sunlight from getting to that vegetation, so water quality continues to deteriorate.

"There are uses beyond shoreline restoration that the trees can be used for," Jarboe said. "Promoting fish habitat is a common use at other parks throughout the country. Some parks use [dead] trees for enrichment for their educational animals or as wind breaks for their critters, like at Tuckahoe State Park."

Trees are not permanent solutions, but they help.

"The most important thing people can do to get involved with conservation or preservation is to focus on their own backyards and actions," said Jarboe. "Learn how to manage your backyard for the benefit of the environment and promote this attitude in your own communities."

The Arnold-Cape Saint Claire crew moved more than 60 trees over a nine-hour period after pulling the entire event together in just a week. They had to stop taking pickup requests when they met their hauling limits, but inquiries kept coming.

"People were, overall, very grateful for the service and were delighted that their trees would 'live on' to provide a benefit to the Chesapeake Bay," Oberright said.

Read the full story at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

Send Us Your Love Story

One of the best parts about holidays is sharing joy and friendship with those around us. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we'd love to share the best love stories from couples in Severna Park and Arnold. Do you think you have the best love story in town? Whether your story is happy, funny, romantic or a tearjerker, we want to hear it. Send us your story and we will publish our favorites. The winner of Best Overall will receive a bottle of champagne from Harbour Wine & Spirits and a \$25 gift card to Park Tavern.

How To Enter

Submit a story (500-600 words) and a high-resolution photo (1 megabyte or larger) to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com with "Love Story Contest" in the subject line. Deadline is Thursday, January 30, by noon. All stories will be adjudicated by a panel of *Voice* staff members, and the winning entries will be printed in part in the February edition and in full at www.severnaparkvoice.com. The winner will be notified by email.

If you have any questions, email spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com or call 410-647-9400.



Ready To Vote? Our Best Of Severna Park Contest Starts Next Month

Every year, we look to our readers to choose the best businesses in town. If someone is visiting from another area, which restaurants are Severna Park, Arnold and Millersville residents bringing them to? What gym is the best? Where should someone get their car serviced? Support

your favorite places and organizations by casting your votes.

The official Best of Severna Park ballot will be printed in our February edition, and we will begin accepting votes immediately. Voting will continue through March, with the winners being announced

in the April edition. Rules will be printed with the February ballot, but you can get started now by brainstorming your favorite businesses.

Do you know of a category we missed in past years? Send us a suggestion by emailing spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.

UM BWMC Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15
5:30pm-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.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21
6:30pm-7:30pm: Parkinson's Support Group
meets. Open to patients with Parkinson's

disease, their caregivers, family members, friends and anyone interested in learning more about the disease. Discussions include managing symptoms, maintaining an active and high-quality life, and sharing experiences and support. Preregistration is not required. Call 410-787-4433. (Dr. Constantine Padussis Conference Center, 301 Hospital Drive, third floor).

SUNDAY, JAN. 26
10:00am-4:30pm:

Safe Sitter program helps preteens ages 11 to 13 gain confidence with babysitting skills and abilities in caring for young children in emergency and non-emergency situations. Participants will learn about child care essentials, choking child/infant rescue, preventing problem behavior, introduction to first aid and injury management. For more information, call 410-553-8103. (301 Hospital Drive, third floor, 3 South classroom).

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Public hearings were scheduled in early January. The Board is scheduled to adopt the budget during its February 19 meeting. Should the Board offer amendments at the February 19 meeting, testimony will be taken on the amendments.

DPW & YOU

Severna Park Loses Two Community Icons

Nancy Brown

» Continued on A8

group of six people. The program has since grown to over 800 members with 20 teams throughout the state.

In 1986, Brown moved to Anne Arundel County and formed a masters group at the YMCA of Severna Park, which became the Severna Park Community Center (SPCC) in 1995. She led the team to 10 YMCA Masters Nationals championships and numerous top three finishes in the women's, men's and combined team divisions.

Shelly Beigel, the SPCC's director of programs and partnerships, remembers walking into the building with Brown in 1995.

"She had an unending passion for teaching, swimming and helping people better their lives," Beigel said. "She worked for the center, but a lot of her time was volunteered. She helped us as we expanded throughout the years, and she made swimming fun. For example, at Thanksgiving, she would come on deck dressed like a turkey."

Brown held many individual accolades in swimming, including setting a masters world record in the short-course 100-meter backstroke in 1991. That same year, she was featured in *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in the Crowd section. Brown was a persistent goal-setter and had motivational statements taped to bathroom mirrors throughout her home to keep her focused.

In 2006, she moved into the 70-74 age group and was determined to reach USMS All-Star status, requiring her to capture the most first-place finishes in the age group. Brown ended the year with 44 No. 1 rankings while also setting six USMS national records

and nine YMCA national records along the way.

That same year, she also competed in the FINA world championships at Stanford, winning the 200-meter backstroke and bringing home second- and third-place awards as well. She had an impressive 23 FINA World top 10 rankings in 2006. She also set a long-distance national record in the Two Mile Cable National Championship that year.

Brown had another All-Star year in 2011 with 30 USMS first-place rankings despite receiving a rare cancer diagnosis in July. She completed events in all three pool courses while setting four national records before having an extensive 10-hour surgery in September. By April of 2012, she was back in the pool competing at the YMCA Nationals in Fort Lauderdale.

Brown credited her fitness from swimming for saving her life after being diagnosed with an aggressive primary peritoneal cancer in 2011.

"Swimming was a lifesaver for me," she told the *Voice* in 2015. "It's incredible what exercise can do to get you through something like that. Physically and emotionally, I can't say enough for it."

Continuing to compete throughout years of chemotherapy and a clinical trial, Brown accumulated many more individual USMS national top 10 rankings, finishing with 833. She also holds 32 USMS All American honors for posting the fastest time in the country in at least one event during a given year.

As much as she loved competing, Brown loved teaching even more. Her students adored her, too.

"I swam with her 30 years ago and remember her setting records in just about every event she swam

at nationals, not to mention what a wonderful person she was!" Laura Edwards said.

"Nancy Brown was so helpful to me when I started out as a swim coach," said Melissa Albers. "Very helpful and patient with any questions I had."

In recognition of her 40-plus years of commitment to U.S. Masters Swimming, the organization honored her with the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award in 2015. This award recognizes outstanding USMS volunteers whose contributions stand out in service to local, regional and national programs.

"Nancy is a constant cheerleader, encouraging, supporting, coaxing and, in all ways possible, promoting Masters swimming and instilling enthusiasm for the sport," said fellow USMS swimmer Kristina Henry, who nominated Brown for the award.

She was also instrumental in running the swimming portion of the Maryland Senior Olympics from the mid-'90s to 2005. She was elected into the organization's Hall of Fame in 2005.

In addition to the USMS Service Award, the organization presented Brown with its Fitness Award in 2010 for her outstanding contributions to fitness activities within USMS. She was also inducted into the Friends School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Anne Arundel County Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

Above all else, Brown adored and her family, which included long-time companion Geoffrey Revett, three children, four stepchildren, a sister, three nephews, two nieces, 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mary Carter

» Continued on A8

ence under her belt, Carter touched the hearts of many students.

"It's difficult to summarize how much I really learned from her," said Kristin Joda, who danced at the Carter School of Dance from 1990 to 2003. "Hundreds of routines, easily. Under her direction, she taught me even more about commitment, humility and creativity. I believe everyone who has ever been a student of the Carter School of Dance would have felt her glowing influence."

For Kellie Greer, the director of The Dance Center of Severna Park, Carter became like family.

"She taught me my very first year of dance and she trained me as a teacher and then on how to lead the studio. From the time I was 7 years old, she's been in my life," said Greer. "She was like my grandmother and that's how she was to all of her students."

Lisa and Kate Gahs began dancing with Carter at the age of 3.

"My sister, Lisa, and I both fell in love with ballet and tap when we started taking dance lessons with the Carter School of Dance," said Kate, who danced at the school for more than 30 years. "Mrs. Carter always came into a class with a smile and enthusiasm. She never forgot a face, and inspired so many generations of dancers."

Both sisters will remember Carter for her positive attitude and ability to make students feel special.

"At the end of each recital, she would take the microphone and tell the entire group of dancers gathered onstage that they were wonderful," said Lisa. "It never mattered how many mistakes you might have made by the end of recital, to hear her say how wonderful it was made every dancer feel talented."

At work, Carter had the same infectious positivity.

"There isn't much difference in her as a teacher and as a colleague or friend," said Greer. "She wanted everyone to love what they were doing. If you didn't love what you were doing than you needed to find something that you did love. She told stories all the time. Even during our meetings at work. She'd always have a story and a lesson."

Carter was famous for ending each recital by saying, "Don't walk in your bare feet." This simple saying will stick with her students for years to come.

"After she thanked the teachers, crew and parents, she would tell the dancers to promise they would not walk in bare feet over the summer so they can come back to class in the fall," said Lisa. "Ending each year with an invitation to come back was, for me, a reminder of how much she loved teaching us, and how much we loved being in class with her."



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Breaking Down The 2020 Session

» Continued from A1
ditional \$3.8 billion annually by 2030.
“Every kid deserves a world-class education,” Saab said. “More than 80% of the budget is mandated, though, and we still have to worry about infrastructure, roads, police and fire.”

To read more about the Kirwan Commission, see the story on A4.

Aside from Kirwan, there are other education quandaries to settle. Democrats have put forth a plan called the Built to Learn Act. Funded in part by Maryland Stadium Authority bonds and state casino revenue, the \$2.2 billion plan would escalate school construction. Hogan has countered with the Building Opportunity Act, a school construction plan that would cost \$3.8 billion over five years.

In Anne Arundel County, Bagnall is working with the public schools superintendent, Dr. George Arlotto, to create a line item in the budget that focuses on how funding can be used to close the equity gap, “not special education, but the other gaps within our education system,” she said.

TRAFFIC AND THE BAY BRIDGE

With a 14-mile backup in October, and several other delays throughout the summer and fall, frustrations boiled over when drivers were stalled by Bay Bridge traffic. A scheduled maintenance project on the bridge didn't improve the situation.

Making matters worse for commuters, the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announced in August that all three potential sites for a new bridge span are located in Anne Arundel County.

That announcement did not come as pleasant news to Anne Arundel County's delegation, many of whom have been thwarted in attempts to

give Anne Arundel the same veto power that the Eastern Shore counties have in choosing the next bridge location.

“We're still looking for Anne Arundel County to have a stronger say and for Anne Arundel County to not carry the full burden for proposals of getting over the bay,” said Michael Malone, a Republican from District 33.

In addition to the Bay Bridge, Bagnall said she is working with the state to address myriad traffic issues, including Route 450.

“Historically, attempts have been made at addressing it, but we're on something like our fifth hydraulics study,” she said. “... We have identified the problem 10 times over. Now we have to fix the problem. We do a very poor job at not just informing the public but including the public.”

SPORTS BETTING

If the General Assembly reaches a consensus, sports betting could be on the ballot next November. While some lawmakers are eager to catch up with Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania and Delaware — which have all legalized sports betting — Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh has said that the state constitution requires commercial gambling to be approved by the voters.

Lawmakers need extra revenue to pay for the Kirwan Commission's recommendations, and even though the projected income would go a short way toward meeting that goal, there is too much support on both sides of this issue to ignore legalized sports betting as a possibility.

VAPING PRODUCTS

Last year, lawmakers bumped the legal age to buy tobacco and nicotine products from 18 to 21. Now, they have their sights set on vaping. The conversations stem from a surge in deaths, with the Centers for Disease Control reporting 57 e-cigarette or vaping-related deaths

nationwide as of January 7, 2020 (no start date is listed for the data).

The Trump administration has expressed its intent to ban most flavored e-cigarettes, but no formal decision has been made as of January 10.

“It is not sufficient necessarily to wait for the federal government to take action,” Bagnall said. “Sometimes we have to, as a body, do what's best for the population in Maryland.”

DISTRICT 33

Saab wants to implement term limits for state delegates and senators, another issue that would be put to the voters. “I view it as a public service, not as a career,” Saab said.

He is also helping to pilot a project that pairs school resource officers with Anne Arundel Crisis Response. “We identify kids who could potentially be problems to the school and help them, not just in school but after-hours,” he said.

Inspired by a call she received from the student-led Our Minds Matter movement that started at Severna Park High School, Bagnall is introducing legislation to “take down barriers to care, to destigmatize behavioral health care and mental health care, and also to create an actual behavioral health system.”

To reduce the burden of college debt, Malone wants to reintroduce his bill to double the tax deduction from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per year per beneficiary per account for Maryland 529 plans. The amount has not been changed since Maryland 529 plans were created in 2001.

Gerrymandering, or manipulating district boundaries for political gain, is another problem he's targeting.

“Now is the time it has to be done if anything is going to be done,” Malone said. “The gerrymandering issue has to be put before the voters. That issue

needs to be addressed now so that it can be put on the 2020 ballot, because if it's not dealt with now, putting it on the 2022 ballot will be too late because we will have already had the Census figures in and the maps will be drawn under the current rules, which are not sufficient to prevent gerrymandering.”

OTHER NOTEWORTHY ISSUES

Maryland's elected officials are also discussing these issues:

- Setting upper payment limits for high-priced prescription drugs purchased or paid for by state and local governments
- Governor Larry Hogan's Clean and Renewable Energy Standard bill to get Maryland to 100% clean energy by 2040
- Hogan's efforts to curb Baltimore City crime (tougher sentences for violent offenders who commit crimes with guns, tougher penalties for witness intimidation, etc.)
- Regulating the sales of long guns, like shotgun and rifles
- Revamping Pimlico Race Course to keep the Preakness in Baltimore
- Legalizing recreational cannabis
- Settling a 13-year lawsuit by deciding how much to fund Maryland's four Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Lauren's Law Snippets



Lauren Burke Meyer

Whenever I need a giggle, I know where to go. It's my iPhone Notes app. I flip through my current 56 notes and find my “Lauren's Law” note.

What's held me back from writing more frequently is that so many of my best Lauren's Law stories are short, quick laughs. So, without further ado, I'll share some of the randomness.

One time I bought a guy a beer, and he not only left the bar with another girl, he married her. I never bought a beer for a guy again.

I threw my back out when I was 26 years old. Carrying my laptop, work purse and gym bag proved too much for me.

My company decided to take company-wide headshots when I was 39 weeks pregnant. Got to love taking a picture everyone will see daily on your email and slack when you are your heaviest.

I joked to my husband that I wouldn't get an epidural for the birth of our first child. Then it didn't work. Ouch.

I tore my ACL at an “optional” college lacrosse practice. Did I mention this was my second time?

I gained weight at a faster rate than pregnant women during my freshman year of college. Eighteen pounds in two months, thank you very much.

My senior year of high school, I was on the front page of *The Capital*, going for a ground ball in a lacrosse game. I was in between

another player's legs and readers complained that the photo was a sexual innuendo. The same day, my sister appeared in *Sports Illustrated's* “Faces in the Crowd” section. I'll let you decide who had the bigger lacrosse accomplishment.

My company does free lunch every Wednesday. I won a competition and got to pick the free lunch option. It ended up being on the only Wednesday I was out of town.

Despite a career and hobbies that center around storytelling, I sometimes tell my husband stories that have no purpose or beginning, middle or end. Sorry dear.

My adult career began on Cyber Monday, and I had no idea it was a day of any significance. I should mention it was for an online retailer, so it was busy to say the least. I also went to the Raven's “Sunday Night Football” game the day before. Talk about a case of the Mondays.

I almost got a former client on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.” The producer was slow to get back to me at times and would say, “The chaos keeps us young.” Ironically, my job at the time aged me terribly.

I hope you laughed out loud a minimum of three times. If you didn't, go ahead and reread these again and that should help. For any of these stories that you'd like me to expand upon, email me at lburke15@gmail.com, and I'll consider for a future column.

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.”

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Unsung Heroes

Ellen Kinsella
Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



As someone involved with an independent non-profit that gets all of its funding from donations, it feels as if we always have our hands out. While we try to show gratitude as much as possible, both in person and by thanking donors with letters and social media posts, there are many generous folks who donate anonymously to SPAN, and their only reward is the feeling of being kind. This column is dedicated to them:

- The “mystery man” who periodically stops at SPAN and delivers \$1,000 without identifying himself.
- The little boy who asked for donations to SPAN at his birthday party in lieu of gifts.
- The son who donated a large sum of money to SPAN as a Christmas gift to his mother.
- The man who reads our wish list on our website and delivers needed items to our after-hours drop-off bin.
- The man who spent 30 hours creating a pen-and-ink drawing for SPAN’s interview room because he wanted to “pay us back” for the assistance SPAN gave him.
- The realtor who periodically delivers a carload of our most-needed items.
- The woman who hand-crochets baby blankets for babies whose mothers don’t get baby showers.
- The young mother who donated \$25 because SPAN gave her assistance a year previously and she wanted to pay it forward now that

she was back on her feet.

- The man from the church and the volunteers who fix our toilet, repair our handrails, build shelves, as well as many other projects.
- The woman who won a 50-50 raffle at her community picnic and donated her winnings to SPAN.
- The woman who hand-knitted beautiful hats and mittens so children could be warm.
- The SPAN volunteer who cancelled a luncheon because we were short an interviewer.
- The young boy who held a lemonade stand and donated his earnings to SPAN.

I could write 20 more pages with examples like these, but I’ll leave you with a quote from John Wooden, who said, “The true test of a man’s character is what he does when no one is watching.”

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.

How Dental Disease Impacts Our Four-Legged Friends

By Dr. Kimberly Gostyla
Noah’s Ark Veterinary
and Boarding Resort

The No. 1 health problem affecting our pets today is periodontal disease.

February is Pet Dental Health Month; what better time to provide information about the effects of dental disease on our four-legged family members and education on preventative steps we can take to keep dental disease well-managed.

By 2 years of age, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have some form of this disease. However, due to the lack of outward clinical signs and lack of owner education, this disease often goes unrecognized and untreated until the very late stages.

Periodontal disease begins when bacteria in the mouth accumulates around the teeth. The bacteria, combined with other factors including each individual’s unique immune response, will lead to dental tartar formation, local inflammation, bleeding and pain. As the disease progresses, what starts as a mild dental plaque can lead to severe complications and have negative impacts on a pet’s overall health.

Commonly, dental disease is present with no clinical signs at all. Early on, owners may notice bad breath, tartar accumulation, and red gums. Not only is this painful for our pets, but the bad breath weakens the patient/owner bond.

As the disease advances, clinical signs may include abnormal chewing, drooling, bleeding, swelling under the eye, refusal to eat, etc.

Advanced periodontal disease can lead to major complications throughout the body, including bone infection, fractured teeth, eye

complications, oral tumors, and life-threatening spread of disease to the kidneys, heart and liver. This is why periodontal disease has been dubbed the “silent killer.”

Fear not; I’m here to tell you that there are preventative measures that can be taken to keep dental disease under control. Far and away, the No. 1 preventative measure is to brush your pet’s teeth. It takes 24 hours for plaque that accumulates around the teeth to solidify into tartar, so brushing really needs to be done daily. Ideally, I recommend using a soft toothbrush and veterinary-labeled toothpaste, which come in a wide variety of yummy flavors like chicken, peanut butter, and seafood.

Dental chews and dental foods have overtaken the

pet supply world in the last few years. It is hard to weed through all of these products to determine which may actually be of benefit. However, you are in luck. The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) is a group of board-certified veterinary dentists and veterinary scientists who have comprised a list of treats, chews and diets that meet specific standards to decrease tartar buildup. This list can be found at vhoc.com, or look for the VOHC seal on accepted products.

Finally, your pet’s teeth should be assessed at least yearly by your veterinarian, and a management plan should be implemented. A full dental prophylaxis under anesthesia with dental X-rays may be indicated. This is the best way to get a thorough cleaning of the teeth and

gums, assess the oral cavity and identify underlying dental disease. Two-thirds of a tooth resides below the gum line and dental X-ray is the only way to assess the health of the entire tooth.

The current standards for dental care in people includes brushing the teeth twice daily, having the teeth fully scaled and polished twice yearly, and having full dental X-rays taken once yearly. In a world where our pets have become our family members, we need to adopt a more aggressive preventative and management approach to help keep them healthy as well.


To honor your pet during Pet Dental Health Month, call and schedule an appointment today with your veterinarian to discuss your pet’s dental health!

Yule Ball Turns Back The Clock



Photos courtesy of Randi Lewallen

The third annual Yule Ball invited guests to don their historically-inspired holiday attire (anything from Tudor to Victorian and all eras in between) at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company on January 4. More than 160 attendees enjoyed music, dancing and hors d’oeuvres.



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We Can End Distracted Driving



David Diggs
The Law Offices of
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Shortly before the holidays, I was privileged to join two of my colleagues from the Maryland Association for Justice — Ryan Perlin and MAJ’s president, Ellen Flynn — in giving an hour-long multimedia presentation aimed at ending distracted driving.

We made the presentation at St. Timothy’s School for Girls in bucolic Green Spring Valley, just north of Baltimore City. The entire school and faculty, nearly 200 people, were fully engaged as we discussed this deadly problem on our roadways.

Full confession time: I was a distracted driver, thinking that my ability to multitask permitted me to make telephone calls, while driving to and from appointments and/or court. As a result of my involvement with the Casey Feldman Foundation and EndDD.org, I no longer drive distracted.

In 2009, Casey Feldman was killed by a distracted driver while traversing the street in a crosswalk. She was 21 years old, just one year older than my oldest son. Following Casey’s tragic death, her family and friends wanted to do something to prevent others from being injured or killed by distracted drivers. Joel Feldman, Casey’s father, a friend and trial lawyer from Philadelphia — with help from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, 60 for Safety, his law firm, Anapol Weiss, and others — worked to develop a science-based presentation that would engage and change attitudes and behaviors. The presentation is based on health communication and behavior change theory. It incorporates teen messaging concepts to engage and appeal to teens in a non-confrontational matter.

With the help of volunteer speakers across the country, including safety professionals, teachers, trial lawyers, college students, driver’s education instructors, law enforcement personnel, physicians, nurses, therapists, injury prevention coordinators, and other health care professionals, Joel Feldman’s dream of reaching thousands of teens and adults with distracted driving presentations has become a reality. As of January 2018, nearly 400,000 students and 15,000 adults have seen the EndDD.org presentation in 45 states and Canada. We reached even more in 2019. As the program has expanded, talks are also being given to middle school and college students, adults and businesses. Special presentations for adult audiences are available upon request.

The key to the program is its combination of hard evidence, sobering statistics and good humor. The teens with whom I have spoken are generally more astute than their parents about driving undistractedly. We help to give them tools so that they can confront parents, friends and fellow students when distracted driving endangers safety.

The video clips included in the EndDD.org multimedia presentation feature a Quebecois bus driver busy doing paperwork, while he looks down in his lap and away from the road for unbelievably long periods; harrowing footage of real-life distracted teens barely avoiding collisions; and a pair of young men discussing ways to avoid distracted driving. Ultimately, they decide that the car is not a good place to make a delectable seafood bisque.

If you are an educator, a community leader or if you’re interested in making our roads safer for all, you should check out the EndDD.org presentation. If you’d like to arrange for a presentation, please call or email me.

Finally, if you or a loved one are the victim of a distracted driver, you are entitled to be compensated for your injuries. 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 personal injury law. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs, LLC, which is located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville. Call 410-244-1171 or email david@diggsllaw.com.

Moyer Brothers Are Shining Examples Of SPCC Program’s Success



Aaron and Owen Moyer competed as a team during the Karen Stevens Memorial Kids Triathlon in September.

After swim instructor Karen Stevens passed away from cancer in 2009, her husband partnered with the Severna Park Community Center to create a memorial fund and swim lesson program in her honor.

Benefitting youth with special needs, the Children In Need program has made a huge impact in the community, helping kids like Aaron and Owen Moyer.

In September, the brothers

became the first Children In Need participants to compete in the Karen Stevens Memorial Kids Triathlon, with their effort serving as an inspiration to other children looking ahead to 2020.

This year, Aaron and Owen made big strides while competing.

“Aaron has worked very hard to develop his swimming skills,” said his mom, Bretagne Moyer. “It was a wonderful feeling to see him on the pool deck with all the other competitors.”

David Ensor, lead instructor for Children In Need and coordinator of the Karen Stevens Memorial Kids Triathlon, has put an immense amount of time and energy into the program. According to Ensor, Aaron swam 16 lengths of the center’s competition pool in a mere 14 minutes and 33 seconds. When he started swim lessons with Children In Need, he was able to swim only a few strokes before having to stop.

In large part, this achievement has to do with Ensor’s training.

“His encouragement and enthusiasm create an environment in which [children] can truly thrive,” Bretagne said.

By using the right verbal and physical cues during instruction, Ensor helped the Moyers develop not only swimming skills but also listening skills. Ensor has helped the boys in more ways than this, though.

“Aaron has benefited in many ways, both physically and mentally,” Bretagne said. “Swimming has kept Aaron in great physical condition, which was particularly important this summer as he prepared to have spinal surgery.”

Swimming builds endurance, keeps up the heart rate and takes stress off the body, which would normally be detrimental in more popular exercise methods (like using a treadmill).

“It is the best physical therapy,” Bretagne said.

Moreover, swimming has provided the boys with purpose. According to Bretagne, “the greatest benefit Aaron has had from the program is that it has broadened his life by giving him a sense of belonging.”

Putting a child’s mind at ease, especially given the stereotypes and judgments amidst cognitive delays, is something that can’t be measured in meters or seconds.

The Children In Need program, as well as the Karen Stevens Memorial Kids Triathlon, have offered hundreds of lessons to children, keeping them at the top of their mental and physical game. Currently, about 10 children are enrolled in the Children In Need program, which provides more than 130 lessons per year.

To see if the Children In Need program appeals to your child, contact the Severna Park Community Center at 410-647-5843.

UM BWMC To Implement Visitor Restrictions Due To Influenza

Due to an increase in the numbers of influenza cases throughout Maryland and Anne Arundel County, the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center is implementing a hospital-wide visitor restriction policy for the safety of patients, visitors and staff.

The policy went into effect January 8 and will continue until further notice. The guidelines are as follows:

- No one under age 18 (except if parent of a patient) is permitted to visit inpatient units.
- Children under 18 are not to be brought to outpatient or doctor visits, unless the appointment is for the child.
- Only **two** adult visitors are allowed per patient at a time.
- Visitors exhibiting flu symptoms — runny nose, fever, cough — are not permitted to visit hospital patients.

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NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

The Nowakowski family



Severndale

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!



The Decosmo family



Severndale Community Is In The Heart Of Severna Park

By Judy Tacyn

Developed in 1962 by the Washington Lumber Company and built by the Platt Realty Company along Truck House Road, the Severndale community is right in the heart of Severna Park.

With five cul-de-sacs, Severndale always has a spot for impromptu court pizza parties, happy hours, pickup games for the kids, and parent socialization.

Community events include everything from picnics with barbecue, a moon bounce and DJ to a Halloween parade and Easter egg hunt.

There is a community beach with a dock, grill and kayak/canoe rack.

Residents enjoy fishing, crabbing, kayaking and quiet time along the Severn River.

JEN NOWAKOWSKI
RESIDENT FOR FOUR YEARS

Jen Nowakowski and her family moved to Severna Park four years ago when they outgrew their row house in Canton. Severna Park served as the perfect location for their work commutes.

"My husband and I house-hunted

for months. A colonial with water access and sidewalks was high on our priority list," Nowakowski said. "Now that we have a school-aged child, we love that our house is within walking distance to Oak Hill Elementary School."

The family also looks forward to the community silent auction and outdoor family movie night every year. Nowakowski called Severndale unique because it's a down-to-earth, family-centered community.

"The sense of community here is amazing, and you can't beat the location," she added. "There is never a shortage of things for our children to do, whether it's playing outside at Kinder Farm Park or spending the day kayaking out on the Severn."

Naturally, Nowakowski recommends Severndale to anyone looking to move into the area.

"My family and I have made lifelong friendships with many of our neighbors," Nowakowski said. "It is something I really hoped for when we moved here. There is always a cookout, outside movie night or happy hour that someone is hosting."

Nowakowski has been the secre-

tary of the community association since 2018.

KAREN CROPPER
RESIDENT FOR 26 YEARS

A job relocation from Long Island, New York, brought Karen and Jim Cropper to Severna Park. The family looked in Columbia, but didn't feel a sense of home until a house in Severndale caught their eye.

"We liked that it was a little bit smaller community, which makes it easier to meet neighbors and to form friendships," Karen said. "It's impossible to walk down our streets or work in our yards without seeing people and stopping to say hi. We are multi-generational, and neighbors interact with each other to form family-like bonds. Many people have raised their children in the community and stayed because they continue to feel connected."

The Croppers feel Severna Park is a great place to live because of their small-town feel, close-knit community neighborhoods, local parks, access to waterways and top-notch schools.

As for her neighbors, Karen said

she cannot ask for any better.

"We take pride in working together to keep our neighborhood clean, safe and a great place to live. Older neighbors offer friendship, share their stories, and offer advice to new homeowners," Karen said. "Newer residents return the favor of friendship and take up the task of doing the work needed to keep our community running. Everyone looks out for each other."

Karen and Jim have served on the community association board, chaired neighborhood events, and were active in the school when their children attended.

CHRISTY DECOSMO
RESIDENT FOR 10 YEARS

Christy Decosmo moved to Severna Park (Berrywood) when she was just 10 years old. After a brief time living in Glen Burnie, she married and had her first child in 2008. It was then she felt the pull back to Severna Park.

"My husband and I longed for a family-centered community with great public schools. Our search brought me back to Severna Park," Decosmo said. "After many, many showings and open houses, we

found 'the one' in Severndale."

Severndale provided the couple's top three home requirements – a yard big enough for kids to play in, a community that had sidewalks, and a community with water access.

"Severndale is unique because it resembles a neighborhood of past times. It has that old-school neighborhood feel," Decosmo said. "Neighbors look out for each other and their kids. As we pass each other in our vehicles, we wave hello to each other. Neighbors are quick to lend out a power tool or a missing recipe ingredient to each other. On nice days, kids are outside playing together or riding their bikes. Neighbors are often seen taking walks with their dogs."

A decade after moving in, Decosmo still believes her family made the right choice for them.

"My neighbors are wonderful people. They have helped Severndale feel like home ever since we moved in. We all look out for each other and offer each other support in any way we can," she said. "We often stop and have friendly conversations with each other as we're coming and going."



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Council Update



Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5

The new year is officially here. Most begin the journey of fulfilling their New Year’s resolutions while the winter cold settles over us, and the darkness of evening comes much earlier.

In state and local government, it is the beginning of the General Assembly legislative session and the county budget process. As your councilwoman, I have the pleasure of being involved in both arenas, representing you.

This session, I will again serve as one of two county council representatives from Anne Arundel County on the legislative committee for the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). MACo reviews, discusses and votes as a collective body of local jurisdictions. These votes allow MACo to take a position on state laws that directly impact the abilities of local jurisdictions to make important decisions for our individual counties. There are three legislative priorities this year for MACo.

School Funding – funding fairness and the county role. As part of a discussion that involves the Kirwan Commission and also the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future, education is a hot topic on social media, news media and at water coolers.

MACo will advocate for “fair and reasonable funding” without “unduly burdening county budgets or ... other essential local services.”

I firmly believe that local jurisdictions should be able to make local budget decisions in the best interest of the public. Our state legislatures must consider that Anne Arundel County, and all other counties, create budgets that fund not only education but also fire, police, detention officers and sheriffs to keep our communities safe. It is imperative that we are given the flexibility and fairness as this state bill moves through the legislative process.

Next steps in the drug and mental health crisis. In Anne Arundel County, opioid-related non-fatal overdoses are decreasing, but the drug

addiction and mental health crisis that is filling our hospitals, school guidance offices, and crisis response teams is still very present and crippling families.

Repeal “implied preemption.” The judicial system has a history of inconsistent applications of state preemption, which is an idea that the state can preempt over local jurisdiction law in certain areas. A case-by-case application, without a defined state law, makes it challenging for local legislators to understand boundaries for local policy. The repeal would give our council, and councils across the state, a better ability to do the job we were elected to do.

In Anne Arundel County, the new year also means the beginning of budget season. While the county executive still has months before presenting his Fiscal Year 2021 budget on May 1, public town halls have been scheduled. In our district, I will join the county executive on January 29 at Severna Park Middle School beginning at 6:30pm. This is an opportunity to have your voice heard. Where would you like to see your tax dollars focused? Would you like to see the county increase its revenue with additional taxes? What is most important to you? Education? Crime? Infrastructure? Mental health? The environment?

Meanwhile, legislation continues at a steady pace in the Arundel Center. On January 21, Bill 96-19 will be heard before the public. I introduced this bill after hearing from multiple management organizations that they are struggling to hire certified lifeguards during summer seasons with the current age difference between state and county law. If passed, this bill would lower the age for lifeguards in our county from 16 years of age to the state minimum of 15 years of age.

Bills regarding fair housing exceptions (Bill 92-19), the human relations commission (Bill 94-19), wastewater extension (Bill 95-19), affordable housing for the elderly of moderate means (Bill 97-19), and Resolution 2-20 declaring suicide a public health crisis in Anne Arundel County, are also being heard on January 21. Our public meetings begin at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive



When it comes to the Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort, in Anne Arundel County, we are still in.

No local official should have to make such a declaration. It should be understood that every local and state government must do their part to meet the EPA’s pollution reduction targets established for the Chesapeake Bay in 2010. There should be leadership from Washington D.C. demanding that governments across the watershed do their part or face consequences.

Unfortunately, it appears that after turning its back on emission standards, clean air rules, clean water rules, climate change and so many other environmental initiatives, this EPA may be abdicating its responsibilities to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

In early January, I spoke to legislators from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania at the Chesapeake Bay Commission’s meeting about Anne Arundel

We’re Not Giving Up On The Bay

County’s efforts to help achieve clean water. I told legislators that our county council unanimously approved our legislation to protect forests from development. I talked about investing in our award-winning wastewater treatment plants, and how we hope to connect more septic systems to those plants to make our investments really pay off for clean water. I talked about the nearly \$270 million in stormwater infrastructure investments Anne Arundel County will make by 2023 to control flooding and reduce pollution. I finished with a collaborative message, saying it will require all of us working together as a partnership to make similar strides and achieve a clean Chesapeake Bay.

Later in the day, the director of the EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Program told the same group of legislators that the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan is an “aspirational document” that is not enforceable. I am told by others who were in the room that jaws collectively dropped. It was left to representatives from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Maryland Department of the Environment

to clarify for legislators that failure to reduce pollution should not be an option. Upon hearing this, I released a statement condemning the comment and calling upon local and state governments to declare “we are still in.” Over the next few days, many environmental organizations and local elected officials also condemned the statement and demanded leadership from the EPA.

Last year, I directed staff to research how we could better protect the environment. Almost immediately, they reported back to me that we could significantly improve environmental protections simply by enforcing our current laws. I was told that the first step to reform was sending a message to the development community and county agencies that from here on out in Anne Arundel County, the law is the law. We released guidance to the development community and the Office of Planning and Zoning that no waivers, also known as modifications, to environmental laws would be approved without a guarantee that the environment would be improved on development sites.

Our Department of Inspections and Permits has announced stricter enforcement of sediment control laws on construction sites, and our Office of Planning and Zoning is releasing guidelines describing the requirements of the new forest conservation ordinance. We won’t stop enforcing the laws, and we don’t expect the EPA to stop either.

Anne Arundel County is not alone in its efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Local and state governments around the watershed have poured billions of dollars into this project. Yet, when some states and counties fall behind, we need strong federal leadership to bring them back in line.

If the federal government won’t lead this effort, then state and local governments must.

In Anne Arundel County, we are still in. And I invite the Chesapeake Bay governors and other local leaders to join us.

Together, we will send a message back to the EPA that we will not sacrifice our bay-dependent local economies or our children’s environment, when we have already come this far.

Pedestrian Policy: Improving Safety For Runners, Walkers, Bicyclists

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



One-fifth of Americans resolved this new year to become more physically fit.

With no specialized equipment, membership or schedule required, walking and running often top the list of ways to get in shape. From Kevin Kline in “The Big Chill” to Tom Hanks’ country-crossing runs in “Forrest Gump,” to 2019’s “Brittany Runs a Marathon,” running on roadways is here to stay.

According to the Maryland Department of Transportation, over 100 pedestrians in Maryland were struck and killed in each of the past five years. One in five traffic fatalities involves a pedestrian, and 92% of pedestrians struck were injured or killed. Not surprisingly, about three-fourths of these accidents occur in the dark.

State policy should support safety for pedestrians, including runners. The

Maryland Department of Transportation has a 20-Year Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, which focuses on access to biking and walking, as well as a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, whose mandate is to advise state government agencies on issues directly related to bicycling and pedestrian activity including funding, public awareness, safety and education.

Walking, running and cycling are not only fitness activities that can promote mental and physical health, but they are also inexpensive and environmentally friendly modes of transportation. The law on road-running isn’t particularly clear and neither is public perception. I’ve heard that in Maryland the pedestrian has the right-of-way, but that is true only in intersections and crosswalks. I’ve also heard that runners aren’t allowed on the road except to cross it, but that’s not entirely true either, as pedestrians are allowed to walk on the road if there’s no sidewalk.

However, roads without sidewalks or shoulders

are increasingly common, especially in newer neighborhoods, mine included. While popular for financial, environmental and aesthetic reasons, shoulder-less roads without sidewalks can be a hazardous no-man’s-land for runners and walkers alike. While under the law, drivers must exercise “due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian” and “shall drive at an appropriate, reduced speed when any special danger exists as to pedestrians,” no guidance is given regarding the meaning of “due care” or “special danger.” Meanwhile, a pedestrian is defined as “a person afoot,” which appears to include runners, but pedestrian activity in the statutes is generally called walking, not running.

I hope to introduce legislation this session to improve safety for runners, other pedestrians and bicyclists. Such legislation will likely include increasing the penalties for a driver operating a vehicle carelessly or distractedly which results in the injury or death of a vulnerable person, such as a pedestrian or cyclist, and permitting drivers to drive

on the left side of the road when passing bicycles and motor scooters.

Other contemplated legislation may include clarifying the law regarding runners as pedestrians, granting pedestrians right-of-way on shoulders, and giving pedestrians the same three-foot clearance on roadways that bicyclists enjoy.

In the meantime, whether you are aiming for an Ironman or just taking Fido for a longer walk, I encourage all runners, walkers and bikers to do so safely, attentively and courteously, especially during the dark days of winter. Cross at intersections and at crosswalks if possible. Wear light, bright or reflective clothing, or use a light in the dark. Be fulfilled in your fitness goals and respect others’ fitness goals. And drivers — stop for walkers and runners in crosswalks and intersections, be attentive, safe and courteous, and share the road. If a runner or biker can touch your car, you are far too close.

Questions, comments or suggestions? Call 410-841-3510 or email michael.malone@house.state.md.

Advocating Like A Boss

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33



Last week during a town hall meeting, I introduced two new county health and human service leaders to members of the community gathered at Annapolis High School. That evening, I also shared a personal story about something that many of us take for granted sometimes — until something happens. I’m talking about health and well-being. That’s what I care about most. I believe that’s what government *should* care about most.

My wake-up call came during a family emergency. I was driving my son to urgent care after learning that his acute stomach pain might require surgery. He was screaming in pain, and I was trying to remain calm, as my mind ticked off the boxes I’d need covered

in a fight for his life.

Thank goodness my son turned out to be fine. But I will never forget that day. We all experience difficult and unforeseen circumstances at some point during our lives. Far too many people are coping with chronic illnesses that never go away. For some of us, childhood traumas alter our lives forever. Well-being, or the lack of it, affects virtually everything: where we live, how we eat, whether we play, and what help we access when we need it the most.

The latest term referring to the universe of underlying issues that affect health and well-being is “social determinants.”

With the appointments of Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman as the county health officer and Kai Boggesse deBruin, Ph.D., as the new deputy chief administrative officer for health and human services, we are signaling a fundamental shift in how we ap-

proach wellness.

We are rebooting the county’s dashboard that traditionally has measured our progress more narrowly in terms of data on housing starts, retail sales and building permits issued, for example.

But what about the overall health of our population, housing affordability, access to public beaches, fresh fruits and vegetables, preserving leafy forests and green open spaces, and maintaining a healthy Chesapeake Bay? Think about what it will mean if the goals of our policy decisions are aimed at improving the health and well-being of county residents while also preserving the natural environment in which we live.

The field of medicine widely accepts the conclusion that 80% of health outcomes have nothing to do with medical treatment. So in Anne Arundel County, we will instead

» Continued on A14

The School Budget

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



Happy New Year, which, amongst new beginnings and resolutions, marks the start of the busiest time of year for your AACPS school board. This month’s column is dedicated to sharing a few of my initial reactions to Dr. George Arlotto’s recommended budget.

Last year’s historic education funding began to chip away at a decades-long issue of restoring lost or “frozen steps,” which occurred due to lack of funding during the economic downturn. This year’s budget continues this important work, which will hopefully restore the frozen step that occurred during the 2011-2012 school year, pending negotiations with bargaining units.

If successful, this will

be the third of five frozen steps restored, money that our teachers and staff worked hard for and deserve. Restoring lost steps and paying our teachers like the professionals they are is not a problem that can be fully corrected in one year. I hope that our county executive and county council will recognize this and continue to approve funding for restoring frozen steps.

While I am beyond thrilled that Dr. Arlotto has continued to recognize and act to restore frozen steps, I see this as only one of a multi-pronged problem. In order to adequately retain our veteran teachers, we must also work to restore lost experience steps. In years past, a practice was negotiated with the teacher’s union to dock years of experience off teachers new to AACPS. This practice began in response to frozen steps as a means to level the playing field.

The thought at that time was that there would be inequity amongst teachers if a new teacher was paid at a rate higher than existing teachers whose annual step increase was frozen due to lack of funding.

Now that we have begun to restore frozen steps and have stopped the practice of docking experience steps, we must correct this inequity. For me, this is not only a moral imperative but also a necessary step to retain our veteran teachers. It’s a widely known fact that it costs less to retain than it does to recruit, and in a state that doesn’t train enough teachers to meet demand, why wouldn’t we do all we can to hold onto veteran teachers in whom we’ve already invested?

Next, let’s talk about the social and emotional needs of our students. Just like teacher compensation, we must continue to dig ourselves out of a

» Continued on A14

The School Budget

» **Continued from A13**

hole that took decades to create. Some of our school counselors have a caseload that exceeds 700 students. The American School Counselor Association recommends a student to counselor ratio of one counselor for every 250 students. This budget continues to chip away at this problem and provide our students with the support they need. Don't be surprised if the Board amends the budget, as it did last year, to add additional school counselors, social workers and school psychologists to the 17 positions already included in Dr. Arlotto's recommended budget.

Could you thrive in middle or high school math or English class with upwards of 40 of your peers? Me neither. Just like last year, this year's budget continues to make inroads to providing our students learning environments necessary to thrive. Although we have a long way to go before we can put this issue to bed, I am grateful for the 195 positions already included in the budget that address ever-increasing enrollment and reduce class sizes. I am considering amending this figure to add even more teaching positions.

I realize I have hardly touched on the thousands of line items in this 427-page budget. However, I hope I've provided some insight to my thoughts about this year's budget. I am always available to listen to your concerns, which I hope you will share with me and my colleagues. Please advocate for what's important to you. You can send written testimony to boardoffice@aacps.org and request that it be sent to all members, or testify in person at any scheduled Board meeting or budget hearing. As always, please email me at dschallheim@aacps.org if I can be of assistance.

Advocating Like A Boss

» **Continued from A13**

evaluate the effectiveness of our policies in terms of health outcomes and not solely by wealth.

I can't take credit for the idea. It's actually the focus of a lot of research and experimentation. New Zealand calls it well-being and organized its national budget around the concept.

Our Healthy Communities Transition Team recommended that every piece of legislation before the Anne Arundel County Council should include a health impact statement alongside the currently required fiscal impact statement. We are working to make that happen.

In the 10 months since I've taken office, we have accomplished many good things. We increased staffing to better address mental health issues in schools. We funded unmet education and public safety needs. We shifted the General Development Plan to a process that is community driven rather than developer driven. I signed legislation banning Styrofoam, and we've hired more inspectors to monitor erosion and sediment control. Also, our county departments are partnering with the federal government to improve the quality and nutrition of foods offered in low-income communities.

We are making a good-faith effort to help people feel better, live better and do better. I believe that's a core responsibility of government. We will not stop paying attention to the economy or the financial health of the county — that would be foolish and fiscally irresponsible. We'll keep an eye on the bottom line while continuing to pay our bills like we do at home. My administration will focus everyday on how best to improve the daily lives of our people. It's a tall order, yes, but we will prove that government policies can be compassionate and comprehensive at the same time.

Send Us Your Letters

We want to hear your thoughts regarding what's happening in the neighborhood. Is there a current issue at hand that you feel strongly about? We know our readers are passionate about their neighborhoods, schools, community and so much more — and the *Voice* would love for you to tell us about it.

Letters to the Editor can be emailed to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com and may be edited for space, clarity, grammar, spelling, etc.

Letter To The Editor

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BOARD OF ED

Dear Anne Arundel Board of Education members:

I testified at the November 20 board meeting to request action to change school start times in Anne Arundel County. I am the mother of a second-grader at Folger McKinsey Elementary School and a soon-to-be kindergartner.

The mission of Anne Arundel County Public Schools is to educate all of our students to be well prepared to empower them to create a better quality of life for themselves, their communities and the next generation. Anne Arundel County Public Schools' hours are not supportive of an environment that educates, empowers and improves quality of life. The hours are not safe for any age group, and they are not healthy for high school students.

Safe hours are based on dawn and dusk times when children can see and be seen without artificial illumination. Healthy hours are after 8:30am for middle and high school students due to shifts in biological rhythms that they cannot control. Study after study after study has backed this up. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Medical Association (AMA), U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) all recommend that middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30.

The high school start time of 7:30am is a full hour earlier than the earliest time recommended by the medical experts. And on the opposite side of this, our elementary school children are starting school too late. My child starts instruction at 9:40. By this point, she has been wide awake since 7:15 like most of her

“*It is time to change school start times that prioritize education, empowerment and the improvement in the quality of life for all of our children.*”

— **Katie Eckert**

peers. The best hours of her day that are ripe for instruction are wasted in before-school child care. By the end of the day, my daughter is exhausted and transitioned at least three times between before care, school, and after care. An earlier start time for elementary school would eliminate the need for before care and the emotional and financial burden on families of this disruptive schedule.

The consequences of not getting enough sleep are alarming. Higher risk for being overweight; depression; engaging in risky behaviors such as drinking, smoking, using drugs, drowsy driving and related care accidents; and poor school performance. Simply put, chronic sleep deprivation puts our children's mental and physical health at risk and limits their potential to learn and grow. Consider the suicide rate in Anne Arundel County. We have a serious problem that requires serious action to foster an educational environment that supports improved mental health for our children. It is incumbent upon us as a community to put a stop to the status quo.

Multiple states and counties around the country have changed school times. Children are healthier, safer, perform better on tests and have improved attendance and graduation rates simply by changing the start time. Yes, there will be administrative and operational challenges to figure this out. We may need to invest in more buses. We may need to invest in more lights for sports fields. But these are solvable issues. And what's at stake, the health of our children, pales in comparison to the administrative and financial barriers required to solve this problem.

It is time to change school start times that prioritize education, empowerment and the improvement in the quality of life for all of our children. I plan on attending the January 22 Board of Education meeting to testify again and to request action. Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Katie Eckert
Severna Park

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Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



We are excited to announce our newest members of the chamber: **Neil Schwartz of Long and Foster Real Estate, Park Wellness Group, Primerica/Michael Krause, Sertified LLC, and F45 Training.**

We held two ribbon-cutting celebrations in December. EscapeTime celebrated the grand opening of its new location in Annapolis. This is the second location for this fun and entertaining business. **St. Martin's-in-the-Field** held a grand opening of its new middle school. The Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton, 14th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, was there to bless the new building, and many community members attended the wonderful event.

On December 5, we held the 10th anniversary celebration of our Holiday Taste and Sip event. We relocated to the beautiful Chartwell Golf & Country Club and added a tent for expanded space. There were 26 vendors offering fantastic food, desserts and libations, and more than 300 people attended. Many thanks to the presenting sponsor and creator (Matt Wyble and the Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium), gold sponsor (Valerie McLaughlin of Emerald Financial Partners), bronze sponsor (Kogen Dojo), music sponsor (Griswold Home Care) and photo sponsor (Park Tavern). Thanks also to the more than 100 donors to the silent auction.

The next night was our annual tree lighting and open house. Hundreds of people came out for the dance performance by **Creative Force Dance Studio**, and musical performances by the **Severna Park Elementary School** and the **St. John the Evangelist School** chorus. We thank

our sponsors: **Wright Orthodontics, Trinity Bible Church, Negron Agency of Farmers Insurance, Severna Park Veterinary Hospital, Elmore and Throop Attorneys at Law, Bruster's Real Ice Cream, and Chick-fil-A Severna Park.**

Our Successful Women in Business group held its annual holiday luncheon at **Café Bretton**. Chef Victor treated us to a beautiful lunch with four selections from the delicious French-themed menu. The event was sponsored by **Lisa's Cakepops.**

Partners in Care held a wonderful multi-chamber Bubbles and Bling event in December. We enjoyed mingling and shopping in the store, which has an incredible selection of clothing, jewelry, artwork and many other items. Their inventory and variety of items is truly amazing!

Our **2020 directories** have arrived, and we are distributing them to various "drop points" such as the library and offices. Please visit us and pick up your directory. You will find listings of all our chamber members and the great goods and services they provide in the community. Remember to shop local!

We are participating in a multi-chamber legislative leadership breakfast on January 16 from 7:30am-9:30am at the **Blackwall Barn and Lodge**. We have confirmed over 30 legislators who will be in attendance. It is important to keep up to date with legislative initiatives that impact business and you. This event is open to the public, and we encourage you to attend and stay informed! Tickets can be purchased at www.gspacc.com.

We are an active and vibrant chamber promoting the Shop Local, Eat Local and Give Local movement in our community. Won't you join us? Call 410-647-3900, email info@gspacc.com or visit www.gspacc.com.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Explore The Art Of Expression At Creative Force Dance Center

By Chris Fincham
chris@severnaparkvoice.com

Creative Force Dance Center is dedicated to offering the highest quality dance instruction in a professional and nurturing environment.

Catering to boys, girls, men and women of all interest and ability levels, the center offers both recreational and competitive programs and also offers specialized programs for students with disabilities.

"The biggest thing that I feel is important, and what makes us different from any other studio, is that our main focus is that anybody should have the opportunity to learn the art of dance," said Tammy DePascal, the owner and Creative Force Dance Company director. "We work really hard to build a safe nurturing environment for folks in our studio. When anyone enters our facility, kids feel safe and free to express themselves."

Regardless of age or experience,



No matter the age or experience, Creative Force Dance Center aims to inspire self-esteem, teamwork and commitment.

At our studio, so there are a lot of different people who can teach a lot of different things."

Along with regular classes, the center also offers summer programs and a variety of camps.

"We have six weeks of classes and we usually have three to four weeks of camp as well — full-day, half-day — and usually, one week that is intensive for the serious dancers," said DePascal.

It's never too late to sign up, as classes remain open all season long. The goal is to find the best all-around fit for each student, and class placement is based on a variety of factors including age, experience and ability. Everyone has an opportunity to dance at Creative Force Dance Center.

"Our biggest thing is inclusion," said DePascal. "We have kids with physical limitations or special needs; in our environment, everyone has the opportunity to learn the art of dance and it's amazing."

"When you demonstrate empathy and inclusive behavior, the kids and students look to emulate what they see the adults do," added DePascal. "It's all part of what goes on at CFDCI"

Creative Force Dance Center is located at 570 F Ritchie Highway. Find the center online at www.creativeforcedance.com, call 410-431-7018 or email info@creativeforcedance.com.

HeartLands Is Committed To Personalized Resident Experiences

By Haley Weisgerber
haley@pasadenavoice.com

The decision to move into an assisted living community is not an easy one for many families.

The staff at HeartLands Assisted Living, a medium-sized facility with 82 residents, is committed to providing each resident with a personalized experience — making that decision a little easier.

"This team has longevity in health care," explained Anne Stewart, director of sales at HeartLands. "Typically, a team member might stay two or three years on average. Of the eight department heads here, most of us have been here 15 to 17 years. In fact,



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

With 13 different room layouts, HeartLands is designed to accommodate married couples, veterans, various levels of dependency, and short- and long-term care.

the newest person has been here 12 years. That's the new guy on the block. Things are very consistent here. It's not a constant changing of faces that you have to learn."

With 13 different room

layouts, HeartLands is designed to accommodate married couples, veterans, various levels of dependency, and short- and long-term care.

HeartLands is owned by Five Star Senior Living, an

organization dedicated to maximizing and enhancing lifestyle. All Five Star sites are held to high standards in terms of resident care and experience.

Of the 281 sites all over the country, HeartLands Severna Park was named number two in the nation for customer and family satisfaction.

"We are very customer-service oriented," said Stewart. "The promise is if anything isn't to your liking, we have an open-door policy."

Much of Stewart's job is reassuring families. She gives her personal cell-phone number to families and encourages them to reach out to her at any time with questions or concerns. » Continued on A16

Ribbon Cutting

What A Fit: F45 Training Comes To Severna Park



Photo by Shannon Vitielliss

Eric Young welcomed the community to Severna Park's newest fitness center, **F45 Training**, on January 10. The business is located at 484-D Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. F45 Training is a global fitness community specializing in innovative, high-intensity group workouts that are fast, fun, and results-driven. It is specifically designed to provide a functional full-body workout while improving energy levels, metabolic rate, strength, and endurance.

Would you like your business event featured in the Severna Park Voice?

Call 410-647-9400 or email spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com



How The SECURE Act Is Changing Retirement Planning

Jason LaBarge
Managing Partner
Premier Planning Group



We all have one of those people in our family or at the office; a person who, no matter the people around them or where they are, they make you cringe as much as they might make you smile. They don't care who they disagree with. They don't care if they are politically correct. I'm talking about the people who talk politics all the time. Well, Congress just gave these types of people a lot to talk about. In fact, Congress gave all of us a lot to talk about, particularly those approaching retirement.

On Friday, December 20, 2019, the SECURE Act was passed. SECURE stands for "Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement" and is intended to strengthen retirement security for people across the country. The bill has put into place several changes, and I'd say that for the most part, the changes are positives. As with anything, there are some tradeoffs. I'd like to go over some of the bigger changes today and how they might affect your retirement plan. These law changes will impact those approaching retirement, those already in retirement,

and those who inherit an IRA from a loved one.

CHANGES TO REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMDs)

Previously, you were required to start taking a required minimum distribution, or RMD, the year you turned 70.5 years old. Anyone with an IRA or 401(k) was required to withdraw a certain percentage (based on age) of their account each year. Essentially, this was the government saying you have deferred paying taxes on these funds long enough, and they want the tax revenue. This was not always an ideal situation, as many people I work with did not need the money at that age. The SECURE Act has pushed the age when you start taking your RMD to 72 years old. According to a MarketWatch article, the 70.5 age was based on life expectancies in the early 1960s and had not been updated since.

It's important to note that account owners who turned 70.5 before December 31, 2019, should ensure that they have taken their RMD or have plans to do so prior to the deadline of April 1, 2020. Anyone who has an IRA and who turned 70.5 on or after January 1, 2020 will not need to begin taking required minimum distributions until 2022.

CHANGES TO TRADITIONAL IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

Previously, there was a maximum age of 70.5 that you could contribute to your traditional IRA. The SECURE Act eliminates the maximum age completely for those with an earned income. In 2020, the maximum contributions to all of your IRA accounts (traditional and Roth) is \$7,000 for those aged 50 years and older (\$6,000 for those under 50 years old).

CHANGES TO INHERITED IRAs OR STRETCH IRAs

Previously, anyone who inherited an IRA could stretch the IRA required minimum distributions out over their expected lifetime. This helped to potentially expand the tax liability out over several years or decades. With the exception of beneficiaries who inherit an IRA from a husband or wife, this benefit has been revised from lifetime to 10 years. This is one of the tradeoffs for all the positives in the law.

Beneficiaries of an inherited IRA will be required to withdraw all assets of that IRA within 10 years. Since regular required minimum distributions will no longer be required, but all assets must be out in 10 years, it will be important to talk to a tax » Continued on A16

SCORE Looks Back On Successful Year



Southern Maryland SCORE Chapter 390, based in Arnold, held its holiday lunch at the end of December. Members collected donations for Toys for Tots, and Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation CEO and President Jerry Walker shared an economic outlook and plans for Anne Arundel County. Chuck Lacijan was recognized for his contributions to SCORE website development, and Dave Butner was honored for his ongoing contributions to the chapter. The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) provides a network of knowledgeable mentors and relevant workshops/events to help emerging entrepreneurs and existing small businesses solve problems and improve competency as they create companies, jobs and revenue in Maryland.

SECURE Act Is Changing Retirement Planning

» **Continued from A15**
professional when making the decision of when to withdraw the funds. If you have inherited an IRA from someone other than a spouse and you are still working, particularly if you are in your prime earning years, withdrawing this money will have tax implications that you want to be prepared for.
Again, note that spouses who inherit an IRA from a husband or wife will still be able to stretch the distributions out over their lifetime. The law also provides exceptions for minor children, disabled individuals, and people less than 10 years younger than the decedent. I'd recommend that if you have an estate plan in place, you review your plans with your estate planner to see if the SECURE Act necessitates any changes. It's important to note that these changes do not affect existing inherited IRA accounts. This only applies to accounts inherited in 2020 or later.

YOUR NEXT STEPS
I see this law impacting two areas significantly, estate planning and retirement planning,

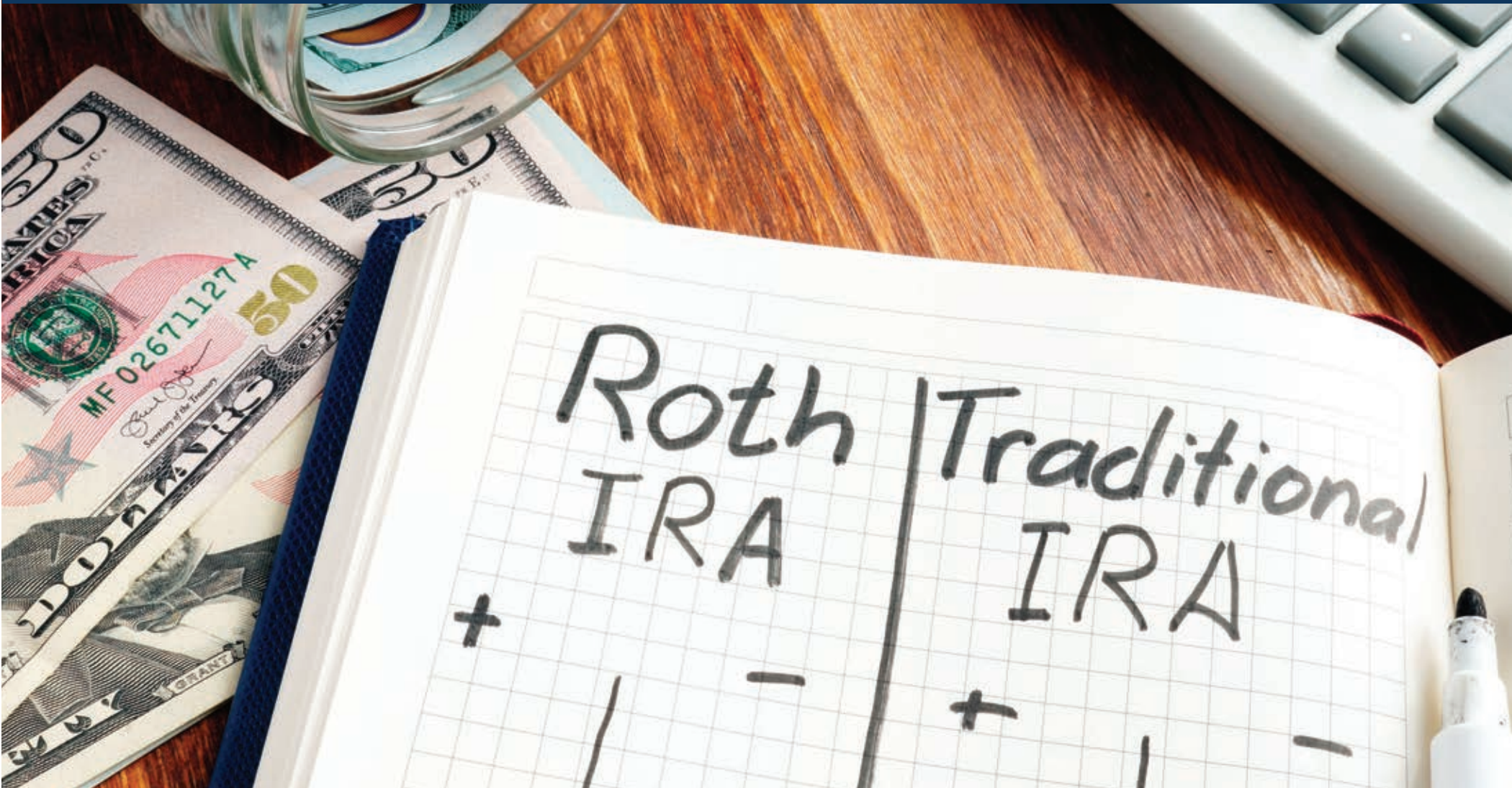
Those of you who thought you had an estate plan in place need to meet with a professional to see how this law has impacted it. If you don't have an estate plan in place, you should meet with a professional to put one in place.
The SECURE Act will affect how you plan for retirement, and a visit to your trusted financial professional to review your plan and how these changes affect it is highly recommended. Many parts of the SECURE Act go into effect this year, so you'll want to prioritize visiting your estate and retirement planning professionals right away. If you do, the next time you're at a social gathering and this new law comes up, you'll know it fulfilled its purpose for you, and you can feel more confident in your retirement because of it.
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Jason LaBarge, Managing Partner at Premier Planning Group, 115 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401 443-837-2520

HeartLands Assisted Living Community

» **Continued from A15**
"I'm a problem solver. Families that come to me have had something occur in their lives. Their parent has had a hospitalization or realization that they can't stay home anymore," said Stewart. "They are terrified, nervous and they have a big step ahead of them. I help navigate that."
When it comes to assisted living communities, the residents and families have to make the decision themselves. After a tour of the facility and a private lunch in the dining room, families are encouraged by Stewart to go home and think about the decision before they commit to anything.
"This is not high-pressure sales," said Stewart. "This is too important a decision for high-pressure sales."
In Maryland, assisted living communities are required to have nurses available for only eight hours a day. At HeartLands, nurses are available around the clock.
"The average age in this building is 87, and I assure you illness and falls do not happen between 9:00am

and 5:00pm," said Stewart. "They happen at night, they happen in the middle of the night. We've always had 24-hour nursing here, and for a long time we were the only ones that had 24-hour nursing."
Physical, speech, and occupational therapy is offered in-house and memory care is available for residents with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Also, an activity program, directed by Linda Seegmuller, allows residents to pursue hobbies, join clubs and more. Stewart refers to HeartLands as a "boutique-style" assisted living experience. Everyone is a priority and every experience is unique.
"The population we serve remembers boutique shopping. Little stores, little shops, little bistros where there is special attention to you," said Stewart. "That is what we do here."
HeartLands is hosting an open house on January 15 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and January 25 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. To learn more call 410-729-1600 or visit www.heartlandsassistedliving.com.

New Year, New Laws... Do you need to refresh your retirement plan?



Unsure how the SECURE Act will affect your retirement plan?

Most changes go into affect in 2020; don't waste your time figuring it out on your own. Jason LaBarge is offering a complimentary consultation to look at your entire situation and help you to create a path to your retirement goals.

CALL 443.837.2532 TO ATTEND OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SEMINAR
January 28 & 29 at 6:30pm
at Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park



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Trade Skills
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SEVERNA PARK, MD

JANUARY 15, 2020

B1

Hosting Winter Jam, Park Boys Go 2-0



Photo by Colin Murphy
Jacob Goodman slashed to the hoop for two of his 18 points in Severna Park's win over Cristo Rey on December 27.

By Colin Murphy
@c.murphy.photo

The Severna Park boys basketball team had a strong showing in its opening game of the Winter Jam basketball event at Severna Park High School on December 27 as the Falcons jumped out to a large lead over Cristo Rey and thwarted a comeback attempt to win 59-45.

Jacob Goodman led Severna Park with 18 points, Jack Leverty added 11 and Orion Young had 8 points and 8 rebounds.

The Falcons improved to 6-2 overall with a 49-36 victory over Perry Hall on the event's second day on January 28.

The event, in its third season, has grown from eight

teams in its first year to 16 this year, which included JV matchups, schools from the D.C. area, and Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association schools.

Against Cristo Rey, the Falcons produced a suffocating defensive effort in the first half, allowing just nine points in the first quarter and five in the second. Leverty hit a pair of smooth midrange jumpers and had a steal and breakaway layup to help the Falcons build a lead. Good ball movement by Declan Fox and Stephen Horman freed up Goodman to attack off the dribble, and Tyler Dulin, Eric Bloom and Joe Harrington played strong back-line defense and rebounded well to close

» Continued on B2

Broadneck, SP Wrestlers Have Success At Tri-Meet With Southern



Photos by Colin Murphy
Top left: Severna Park's Patrick Ellis won a thrilling heavyweight matchup by pin to seal the Falcons' 37-36 win over Southern. Top right: Severna Park's Bohdan Andrulis took down Broadneck's Tyler Johnson and eventually won by pin. Bottom left: Severna Park's Carson Gotimer pinned Broadneck's Nathan Jones to go 2-0 in the tri-meet. Bottom right: Broadneck's Dylan Ruppert grinded out a 9-4 decision over Severna Park's Colin Shadowens.

By Colin Murphy
@c.murphy.photo

Both the Severna Park and Broadneck wrestling programs can be proud of their overall showings from their tri-meet with Southern at Severna Park High School on January 8.

The Bruins, who graduated a huge swath of their lineup

from last year's roster of state contenders, came away with a pair of team victories, defeating Southern 45-33 and the host Falcons 48-27.

Severna Park held its own against Broadneck and got an exciting win over Southern, coming from behind to defeat the Bulldogs 37-36.

Both teams are young and lack experience, but the

Falcons and Bruins also have talented wrestlers fortifying their lineups, both with similar goals of building throughout the season and excelling in the postseason tournaments.

"The goal is just to get better every day," said Severna Park coach Trevor Bryden. "A lot of different skill sets and levels of experience. So for the guys

who have never wrestled and the guys we have really high hopes for, the goal is to get better every day."

Broadneck coach Reid Bloomfield was happy to see his young lineup wrestle hard and sweep the meet.

"We're a really young team, so any win is a good win," said Bloomfield. "We're starting eight

» Continued on B5

Severna Park Girls Post Rivalry Win Over Broadneck, 39-21



Photos by Colin Murphy
(L-R) Hailey Betch, Jess Albert and Emma Ryan were among Severna Park's many playmakers in the Falcons' win over Broadneck.

By Colin Murphy
@c.murphy.photo

The Severna Park girls basketball team relied on defense and a big third-quarter run to outpace visiting Broadneck for a 39-21 win on December 13.

Kaila Stasulli led Severna Park with 9 points and 4 assists and Lena McLaughlin had 10 rebounds and 5

steals for the Falcons, who deployed customary defensive intensity to pull away from Broadneck.

"I thought we were pretty flat to start the game, but we made some adjustments, the girls made them, we had a good talk at halftime, and they came out playing how we should have come out to start," said Severna Park coach Kris Dean, who is eager for improvement

before the calendar turns to 2020. "It's early. We're still working. We're a little bit behind where we usually are. The focus is just to get better, that's always the focus."

Effort on the defensive end set the tone early for the Falcons. With the bench chanting, "Defense! Defense!" Jess Albert blocked the Bruins' first shot attempt of the game,

and the Falcons jumped out to an 8-0 lead on buckets by Albert, McLaughlin and Theresa Bragg.

"The defense cheer always gets us riled up and gets us to play as best as we can," said Albert. "Coach Dean always tells us to play a white-line, help defense, so we're always making sure we're helping, have that second help so everyone can

» Continued on B3

SP Swim Teams Sweep Quad Meet



Photo courtesy of Laurie Dennis
Severna Park swimmers and coach John Bachkosky were all smiles during the Falcons' meet with Northeast, Southern and Annapolis on January 10.

By Colin Murphy

The Severna Park swim team continued its strong season on January 10 with wins over Northeast, Southern and Annapolis at Arundel Olympic Swim Center.

The Falcon girls improved to 11-1 on the year, and the Falcon boys are now 9-2-1. Both teams defeated Broadneck in their most recent showdown with the Bruins.

On January 10, standout performances came from throughout the Severna Park lineup. On the girls side, Sara Smith won the 200-yard freestyle, and Shannon Sullivan was second. Smith also won the 50 free. Madeline Goger won the 200 individual medley in front of teammate Morgan Schultz. Camryn Raines won the 100 butterfly, and Sullivan was second. Raines also won the 100

» Continued on B4

Creek Boys Push For MIAA Playoffs



The Indian Creek boys basketball team competed in Severna Park's Winter Jam over the holiday break. The Eagles are 4-7 and will push for a playoff spot in the MIAA B Conference.

Photos by Colin Murphy

Park Boys Go 2-0 At Winter Jam

» Continued from B1
defensive stands. The Falcons led 36-14 at half.

"I thought the first half, both ends of the floor, was about as good as we can play," said head coach **Paul Pellicani**. "We shared the ball, had good ball reversal, made good decisions on shot selection. Defensively we really throttled — 14 points in the first half, I'm very happy with that."

Cristo Rey switched its defensive scheme to a disruptive zone in the second half, temporarily stalling Severna Park's offense. But Young kept the Falcons ahead with rebounding energy, relentlessly crashing the glass and coming up with four offensive rebounds and two put-back layups in the third quarter alone.

"I think all of us have really focused on, as soon as the shot goes up, really crash and be aggressive," Young, a senior, said. "Even if it leads to a couple rebounding fouls, we always play the same and try to crash the boards."

Some effective individual scoring by Cristo Rey closed the lead somewhat, but Severna Park never surrendered its double-digit advantage en route to the victory.

Goodman, a senior, has elevated his scoring this year having scored in the teens and 20s in almost every game.

"I think everything has just kind of come together. My teammates are finding me," said Goodman. "I'm not the quickest guy, so it's kind of lulling the defense to



Photo by Colin Murphy

Jack Leverty scored 11 points in Severna Park's win over CRJ.

sleep. I wait for a guy to go backdoor, then I attack off that, and normally I can get to the basket."

Pellicani said Goodman put in the offseason work to take his game to a new level this season.

"I'm really happy for that situation, because he really worked hard in the offseason," said Pellicani. "He put in all the time, all the effort, did everything he was supposed to do, and he literally changed his body. He is bigger and stronger. You can see what he's doing offensively, but he's getting some big rebounds, he's getting some steals, he's getting deflections. He's become a complete player."

The Winter Jam has

become a great success in its three years, as players, coaches, families and referees enjoy the organized scheduling and swift administration of the games. Players, coaches and referees also had access to hospitality rooms that provided food — a sure way to win over teenage athletes on their way in and out of the gym.

Young said the Falcons hope to ascend the county ladder in 2020. The rest of the season is wide open, and Severna Park has an experienced and well-rounded roster.

"I definitely think it can be a good year for us," said Young. "We just have to take it one game at a time and focus on one win at a time."

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Severna Park Girls Get Rivalry Win, 39-21

» Continued from B1
be covered and we can
get all the blocks.”

Broadneck made a
little bit of a run in
the second quarter to
close to within 20-10
by halftime. Severna
Park did not attempt
a 3-pointer in the
first half, but they
came out gunning in
the second, getting
stops on the defensive
end and letting it fly
from deep. Stasulli
hit 3's on back-to-
back possessions, and
freshman **Hannah
Verreault** hit another
as Severna Park went
on a 15-3 run to take a
35-13 lead.

“We’ve been
working on outside
shooting, and I think
that over time we’re
definitely going to
have a lot of shooters
and be a threat on the
outside,” said Stasulli, who
added the good crowd and
rivalry atmosphere was a
fun environment in which
to get a win. “It’s always a
good feeling to come out
and play well in front of a
lot of fans.”

Isabel Garren had 10
points, including three
3-pointers, to lead the
Bruins (1-2), who got 4
points each from **Skylar
Flewellyn** and **Devon
McCue**. Broadneck coach
Juan McKinney was
confident his young Bruins
team will make strides as
the season progresses.

“We just have to be
more consistent on
offense,” McKinney said.
“Defensively we played
pretty well in the first half;
we just didn’t make any
shots. The second half, we
gave up open shots in the
third quarter, they went on
a run and that pushed it up
a little bit. But we’re young,
and our defense is going to
have to carry us until our

offense catches up.”
For Severna Park,
another winter brings
another deep roster of
athletes. Every Falcon
provided valuable minutes
against the Bruins,
and stats were diffused
throughout the lineup.
Hailey Betch had 7
rebounds and 5 points.
Bragg had 6 points and 5
rebounds. **Cat Cleary** came
off the bench to contribute
5 points and 5 rebounds.
Ella Ryan had 5 rebounds
from the point guard
spot in 16 minutes off the
bench. **Sydney Nwuli**
pulled down 2 rebounds
and played tough defense
in eight minutes. Starting
guard **Cam Chew** played
strong perimeter defense
and had 2 points and 2
rebounds. Reserves **Jillian
Murphy**, **Micayla Sloat**,
Emersyn Kelter and
Peyton Sullivan all came
on for minutes.

The Falcons dropped
their opening contest to

South River on December
6 but came back to win
over Broadneck, and they
notched another victory
with a 38-22 win over St.
Mary’s on December 16
behind a team-high 11
points from McLaughlin.
Dean is encouraged by the
group he has this season.
“Peaking at the right time,
that’s what we’re working
toward,” Dean said. “Great
group, I love these girls,
really the last three years
we’ve had a great group.
And they’re working hard,
and they’re going to work
harder, and we’re going to
get better.”
Albert said the team has
goals to improve on last
year’s postseason finish,
when they lost early in
the playoffs.
“We definitely want to
have a winning record
and make it farther than
we did last year in the
playoffs, and we definitely
have the potential to do it,”
Albert said.



Photo by Colin Murphy
Kaila Stasulli played stout on-the-ball defense and led Severna Park with 9 points in the Falcons’ win over Broadneck.

JV Lady Falcons Defeat Broadneck



Photos by Colin Murphy
The Severna Park JV girls basketball team defeated Broadneck 31-23 on December 13. Abby Kavanagh led the Falcons in scoring with 12 points, Sarah Smith and Lily Spilker had 5 points each, Genevieve Mullervy scored 4.

Taylor Wild Golf Tourney Raises \$20.5K

On November 2, the
fifth annual Taylor Wild
Memorial Golf tournament
was held at Compass Pointe
Golf Course in Pasadena.

The event honors **Taylor
Wild**, a Marine from
Severna Park who was
killed in 2013.

A turnout of over 160
golfers made this year’s
event one of the best
tournaments to date.
Event organizers **Abby
Sprinkel** and **Griffin
Wild**, among others, are
extremely grateful and
humbled by the support
from players and donors,
who raised \$20,500 in
total. \$20,000 has been
given to The Community
Foundation of Anne
Arundel County for the
two scholarships awarded
in the name of Wild
and fallen Marine **Eric
Herzberg**, also of Severna
Park. An additional \$250
has been donated to both



The Wild family presented a \$20,000 check to The Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County representatives for the Herzberg/Wild Memorial Scholarship.

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In Championship Rematch, And Possible Preview, Spalding Ice Hockey Ties Mount Saint Joseph, 1-1

By Colin Murphy
@c.murphy.photo

The January 6 matchup between the Archbishop Spalding and Mount St. Joseph ice hockey teams made it clear that the battle for the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference championship will be as closely contested this year as it has been in recent seasons.

Having already tied 0-0 in one prior meeting this season, the Cavs and Gaels played to a 1-1 stalemate at The Gardens Ice House in Laurel.

Ryan Trott's first-period score gave Mount St. Joe a lead it protected for nearly the entire game before Archbishop Spalding rallied for a 1-1 tie on **Riley Caldarella**'s last-minute goal.

Spalding goalie **Collin Berke** and MSJ goalie **Jake Williams** dazzled in front of the net with 28 and 19 saves, respectively.

The programs have combined for the last three MIAA A Conference championships, with Spalding winning each of the last two over Mount St. Joe, and the Gaels winning in 2017 over Calvert Hall.

With two ties this season and rich championship traditions, both sides foresee a late-season battle for conference supremacy.

"This rivalry started a long time ago," said Berke. "With each generation it heats up. The boys all know each other. Last year, we were the underdogs and we went all the way to the championship, so we know anything can happen. We're working hard as a team, bonding, and our confidence will boost up with every win. We'll be a good contender for it this year."

The Gaels put pressure on the Cavaliers and held the better of play throughout much of the game even in spite of earning a



The Archbishop Spalding and Mount Saint Joseph ice hockey teams have met in each of the last two Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference championships. They have tied both meetings this season, including a 1-1 draw on January 6 in Laurel.

Photos by Colin Murphy

larger share of the game's penalties.

Trott gave his side a 1-0 advantage late in the first period, sending a shot off Berke's shoulder and into the goal from a nearly flat angle deep in the corner.

"I just got down to the goal line and didn't really have any options, so I just threw it onto the net and it went in; squeaked through between him and the post," said Trott.

The Gaels intensified pressure throughout the second period, backing the Cavs up and peppering Berke with shots, which was a welcome sight for MSJ coach **Mike Marley**.

"I thought we were able to forecheck really effectively and put pressure on them, especially on their defensemen down low in their zone, especially towards the end of the second period. That was kind of our best stretch when we had them pinned in deep a lot," said Marley.

Berke came up with an array of saves, using his stick, glove, leg paddings and even taking one off the facemask. Caldarella later called Berke "the best goalie in the league," and Spalding's coaching staff noted that Berke had a three-game stretch over the winter break in which he

recorded an eye-popping 150 total saves.

Spalding was able build offensive pressure with better consistency in the third period, getting strong attacking play from leading scorer **JB Vance** as well as **Dominic DeCesaris** and **Michael Urgo**.

Like Berke, Williams shined in net for St. Joe. He made a pair of point-blank saves on one possession and stopped play with a glove save. A penalty that gave Spalding a power play led to an intense stretch of Cavs pressure with under five minutes to play, but Williams continued to deflect shot after shot, and

the Gaels killed the penalty.

"Honestly, it's the team," said Williams. "Without them, I wouldn't be able to do that. They help me and keep me in control whenever I get angry. Without them I would have let in more goals. They keep me calm inside."

He added that the rivalry has grown in intensity, as demonstrated by the group of classmates from both schools who trekked down to Laurel to watch the game and support their teams.

"It's everything," said Williams. "Our school gets behind us. That helps us with our morale."

The Gaels did almost everything needed to put away a victory, but the Cavs pulled Berke to get another man on offense with 54 seconds left. Urgo made a sweeping move on the left side and dropped a nifty pass behind him to Vance, who sent a pass through traffic over to the right.

Fresh out of the penalty box, Caldarella was waiting, and he wristed a shot past Williams and into the top shelf to tie the game at 1-1 with 32 seconds left. He dropped down to one knee for a sliding fist-pump in celebration before getting embraced by teammates.

He was keen to fuel the rivalry's fire after the game, saying he was doing a little chirping on the ice.

"I called it," said Caldarella. "I was talking to the goalie before I got my stupid penalty, and I told him, I said, 'I'm going to nip it above your glove.' I just turned to their bench, give a nice little celly, go down on one knee. Bring it straight to the boys, ya know?"

Salvaging the tie was a decent result given the Cavs' substandard play throughout much of the first and second periods, said head coach **Rob Trantini**.

"I think we just have to get better with poise of controlling the puck," said Trantini, whose Cavs are 5-6-

7 overall and still winless in MIAA play at 0-1-3. "Early on, the first part of the game, we did a very poor job of that. The second half, we did a much better job. [Mount St. Joe] are fast, very aggressive, and they were on us early. We were just throwing pucks around with no poise. In the second half we did a much better job, poise and control, and they were chasing us."

Both teams also compete in the Mid-Atlantic Prep Hockey League along with several of the DC-area prep schools. The Gaels are 6-4-3 overall and undefeated in the MIAA at 2-0-2, having received consistent scoring and playmaking from **Nolan Westlake** and **Chris Robinson**. Notable wins over DeMatha Catholic and Gonzaga give the Gaels confidence they can compete for both the MIAA and MAPHL crowns.

"It's been a lot of fun. I think we've got a really good team. We've got a team that likes to work hard," said Marley. "Any of the teams that are going to make the playoffs can make a legitimate run to winning the title. If we get in the playoffs and we get hot, get some goal scoring and some goal-tending, we'll be alright."

With Calvert Hall also contenders for the MIAA, a rematch between Spalding and St. Joe is no certainty, but could nonetheless come in the MIAA playoffs with the potential for a finals trilogy if the programs meet for the title. The spirited rivalry and strength of both programs yields confidence on both sides, including for Trantini and the Cavaliers.

"They know that if they bring their best they can be on the ice, and they can compete with anybody," Trantini said. "At the end of the day, it's up to them and how we play together as a team. If they play their best, they can beat anybody in the league."

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Severna Park Swim Team Sweeps Quad Meet

» Continued from B1
breaststroke, and Goger was second. **Krista Gretz** won the 100 free, and **Sabrina Bowes** was second. **Nicole DeMaio** won the 500 free, and **Ainsley Jefferds** was second. **Sophie Patz** won the 100 backstroke, and **Lauren Turk** was second.

DeMaio, Bowes, **Kate Myers** and **Kylee Emrich** won the 200-yard medley relay. **Mackenzie Burfoot**, Gretz, Goger and Smith won the 200 free relay. Gretz, Sullivan, Raines and Smith won the 400 free relay.



Photo courtesy of Laurie Dennis

Severna Park swim team captains (l-r) **Colin Dennis**, **Emma Patenaude**, **Lauren Turk** and **Ben Simpkins** led the Falcons at their January 10 meet.

On the boys side, **Ben Simpkins** won the 200 free and the 100 breast. **Tyler Moran** won the 200 IM, and **Andrew Gillespie** was second. Moran also won the 100 free, and **Giacomo**

Bertazzon was second. **Morgan Sloan** placed second in the 50 free, and **Jack DeBaugh** was third. **Charlie Pitta** won the 100 fly. **Nathan Damanti** and **Henry Wright** took second and third in the 500 free. Sloan was second in the 100 back, and Gillespie was third.

Moran, Damanti, Gillespie and Sloan won the 200 medley relay by one second over Annapolis. Debaugh, Bertazzon, Pitta and Simpkins won the 200 free relay. Sloan, Pitta, Simpkins and Moran won the 400 free relay.

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Broadneck, SP Wrestlers Have Success



Photos by Colin Murphy
Above: Ty Broadway is 23-0 on the season for Severna Park. **Right:** Broadneck's Will Donahoe took down Severna Park's Andrew Trulll at 113 lbs.



Colin Thompson over Severna Park's **Camden Webb**. Gotimer displayed his prowess in his 182 match against Broadneck's **Nathan Jones**, executing a range of takedowns and holds to stack up points against Jones. Gotimer led 13-2 in the third round when he pinned Jones to, like Andruslis, go 2-0 on the day. Broadneck surrendered forfeits at 195 and 220, with **Caleb Robinson** and **Ty Broadway**,

» **Continued from B1**
underclassmen and had a couple first-year kids in the lineup. So for those guys to come out here in a good environment and experience success, come away with two wins, we're really proud of that."

The Bruins began the night with a powerful display against Southern, accepting points on a few forfeits and getting victories from **Ben Durkin** (a third-round pin at 120 lbs), **Cayden Groah** (minor decision at 132), **Jacob Miller** (minor decision at 138), **Dylan Ruppert** (third-round pin at 152), **Gjavan Meiklejohn** (second-round pin at 170) and **J'Marion Simms** (first-round pin at 285).

The host Falcons then faced Southern and immediately went into an 18-0 hole after a forfeit and two pins. **Jack Chadwick** got Severna Park on the board with a minor decision a 132. **Bohdan Andruslis** racked up points in his match at 152 to earn a 17-3 major decision. **Carson Gotimer** kept the Falcons' momentum going with a first-round pin of his opponent at 182. With Severna Park leading 31-30 and a forfeit looming in the 106-lbs weight class, Severna Park's **Patrick Ellis** needed to pin his opponent in the heavyweight bout in order to secure a team victory for the Falcons.

Ellis and Southern's heavyweight were tied 2-2 in the second round when Ellis opportunistically seized on an overly aggressive play for points and caught his opponent for a match-clinching pin.

"I had the single leg on him; he was really fighting hard against it, but he threw himself over too early and put too much weight forward," said Ellis. "It goes into technique and being cautious. He put too much weight forward. He really wanted the points, and that helped me throw him over, and I was able to trap him."

Ellis, who said he achieved a match-clinching pin once before in his wrestling career, in middle school, noted he has a somewhat counterintuitive mindset in

his bouts. "Honestly, I have probably the worst mentality," Ellis said. "I always think that I'm going to lose. The reason I think that is that it always helps me think that I have to be as cautious as possible. If you're always on your highest point of awareness and striving to make sure everything you do has no error, then it really opens up and you have the ability to win the matches. You're focused on, 'How can I get to them without them doing things to me?' It is about speed, it is about strength, but at the end of the day, the most important thing is technique."

The exciting finish set the stage for Severna Park and Broadneck to clash. Severna Park forfeited at 120 to begin the match. Broadneck's **Rylan Woodward** led Severna Park's **Dean King** 12-4 in the second round of their match at 126 when he managed to seal six points with a pin. Chadwick and Groah squared off at 132 and grappled through nearly three rounds of low-scoring wrestling before Groah managed to pin Chadwick for an 18-0 Broadneck lead. The Bruins' **Jacob Miller** pinned **Matt Thompson** in the second round at 138 to up the lead to 24-0. Broadneck's **Dylan Ruppert** and Severna Park's **Colin Shadowens** delivered an intriguing battle at 145 — Shadowens was wrestling for the first time this season after recovering from an injury during football season, and despite lacking conditioning, he managed to go the distance with Ruppert, avoid a pin and drop a minor decision, 9-4. Both wrestlers could be contenders for the county at 145.

At 152, Andruslis secured a 2-0 night with an impressive first-round takedown throw of Broadneck's **Tyler Johnson** and a subsequent pin. That got Severna Park its first points as the Falcons trailed, 27-6.

Meiklejohn came out firing in his match with **Aiden Milewski** at 160, pinning Milewski after 23 seconds. The 170 match was a grind, a 2-0 minor decision by Broadneck's

respectively, accepting the wins for Severna Park. Ellis also made it a 2-0 night when he secured a 3-1 decision over Simms in the heavyweight battle.

Severna Park surrendered a forfeit at 106. At 113, Broadneck's **Will Donahoe** pinned the Falcons' **Andrew Trull** to conclude the match.

Broadway, who accepted forfeits against both Southern and Broadneck, ran his season record to 23-0 and figures to be one of the top contenders for the county at 220 as well as a player in the region and state tournaments.

A junior, Broadneck suffered an injury that kept him out of most of the football season, but he came into wrestling season healthy, and he said his coaches have been key to his success.

"Listening to coach," said Broadway. "I feel that if I listen to coach, anything can happen, anything is possible. He really pushes me and has high expectations for me, and I have high expectations for myself."

He said the Falcons can make some noise as a team in the coming weeks, and no matter what, they'll be wrestling hard.

"I have faith in my team, win or lose," Broadway said. "I just want them to wrestle hard and give 120% on the mat, because once it's over, it's over."

Meiklejohn, a county contender for Broadneck at 170 lbs who hopes to qualify for states, spoke confidently about the Bruins' prospects for continued success over the rest of the season.

"For the team, [tonight] gave us a lot of confidence," said Meiklejohn, a junior. "We came out and beat the team we were supposed to beat, Severna Park, our rival. Then Southern, they thought they were going to come out here and destroy us, and we took it to them, too. For the rest of the season, we just want to come out here and show all the teams that Broadneck is tough and we can stick it to every team there is."

"Whether we win or lose, we want to make them walk off the mat wanting to never wrestle Broadneck again."

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Indian Creek School senior **Reese Fortier** is a leader on the volleyball court and in her school community.

By Colin Murphy | @c.murphy.photo

Indian Creek senior **Reese Fortier** has many markers of personal success — outstanding student, senior class president, captain of the Eagles' volleyball team and yearbook editor, just to name a few — but it is her impact on others at Indian Creek that separates her as an influential member of her school community.

"She's a highly motivated, very focused and goal-oriented young lady who is also very good at organizing and getting people to move toward a goal," said Indian Creek Upper School math teacher Todd Kerr of Fortier. "It's very plain and obvious the girls look to her for leadership."

Indian Creek social studies teacher and yearbook advisor Tonya Montgomery agrees.

"Reese is a leader in the classroom," said Montgomery. "She works really, really hard. She's also a thought leader in classes. She's someone who thinks really deeply about the work she does and comes in with ideas to share, and she's confident in her ability to put those thoughts out there and make them understandable to her classmates."

One example of Fortier's confidence in bringing her goals to fruition came when saw the movie "Angst," a film that explores modern anxiety, and launched an effort to bring the film to campus for separate screenings in front of the student body and the parents. Fortier met with teachers, administrators and the parent-teacher organization to pitch the value of the movie as something that would destigmatize mental health issues and empower the school community to be open in seeking the resources they need.

"As soon as I saw the movie I thought it was something everyone should see," Fortier said. "I'm pretty open about this, but as someone who has struggled with anxiety and not really knowing so much where

that came from, after watching the movie I saw so many connections from when I was younger. I thought that if more people saw it, then more people would be able to get those resources sooner and when they need them. Mental health is something I've always felt strongly about and am passionate about bringing awareness to."

It was a recent instance in which Fortier sought to bring those around her closer together, something she has excelled at more and more since first coming to Indian Creek for her sophomore year. Fortier played a range of Green Hornets sports while growing up and attending Folger McKinsey Elementary School and Severna Park Middle School before zeroing in on volleyball as her favorite during middle school.

"I figured out fast I wasn't a musician," Fortier said. "Volleyball was the sport I really loved."

Her move to Indian Creek as a sophomore coincided with the school's creation of a volleyball program in 2017. The Eagles won the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland C Conference championship in their first season in 2018 and have continued to excel since, with Fortier serving as captain this season.

No one expected the Eagles to do well that first season, but Fortier said the program's success is a result of everyone committing to helping each other.

"We really had to lean on each other that first season," said Fortier. "We were new to the conference and everyone expected us to lose. I think it just came down to coming together as a team."

Fortier looks forward to college and the possibility of studying neuroscience, psychology or philosophy. She said the small-school setting at Indian Creek has afforded her the opportunity to take initiative in a variety of endeavors, like volleyball. The experience has given her perspective on how important it is to build strong bonds with the people around you.

"Volleyball is completely reliant on teamwork," said Fortier. "You're all on the same side of the court, you're all relying on each other. If you can't get the pass, you can't get the set, you can't get the hit. So it's very interconnected. I feel like that has helped me a lot as far as connecting with people off the court and learning to lean on people for help. I've always been a very independent person who does my own thing and didn't want help with things. So I think having that necessity on the volleyball court of having others support you has helped me learn to lean on others to support me and to support others when they need it. You can't play the game all by yourself. I couldn't be one-on-one. I have to have a team with me. These past few years, my self-growth has been about building that team around me, and it's helped me become successful."

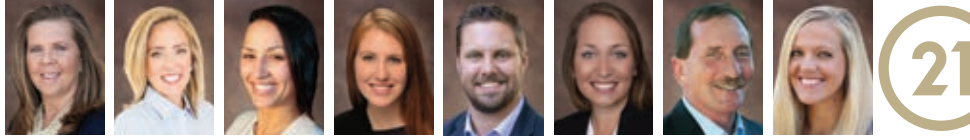
In partnership with The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21, the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month series seeks to recognize the many student-athletes in our area who make an impact not necessarily by way of statistics or stardom, but by their unique contributions. Do you know a young person in our community making a positive impact through sports? Nominate them by contacting **Colin Murphy** at colin@severnaparkvoice.com.

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Local Teachers Recognized For Excellence

Story and Photos by Chris Fincham
chris@severnaparkvoice.com

Broadneck High School's Matthew Bem and Shipley's Choice Elementary School's Angela Miller were both recently recognized for their outstanding work inside the classroom. Miller and Bem were two of the 14 teachers from across the county who

were named semifinalists for the 2020 Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year in December.

Both teachers were honored for the recognition but equally humble and quick to shift praise toward their colleagues, staff and faculty at their schools. However, the principals at both schools say the recognition is well-deserved.

— Jim Todd, the Broadneck High School principal, spoke on what makes Matthew Bem such an effective educator worthy of recognition.

“Mr. Bem is passionate about science, teaching, and most importantly his students. He challenges his students and has an incredible feel for when it is time to give feedback or provide support.”

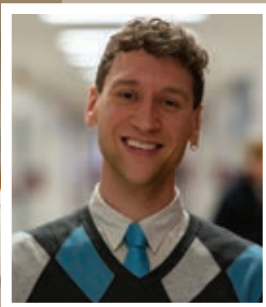
— Dr. Beth Burk, Shipley's Choice Elementary principal, described Miller as one of the most thoughtful educators she knows.

“She is constantly reflecting about her instruction and how to best reach students individually. She then applies her ideas to adjust her instruction and learning environment. Her instruction is consistently highly effective and engaging.”



Matthew Bem

Biology | Broadneck High School



A 2010 graduate of Broadneck High School, Bem returned to his school after earning his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from George Mason University in 2014.

“I got really lucky,” Bem said. “I graduated college a little bit early, and I was able to get in here mid-year. I was extremely fortunate, because this is an amazing school.”

Though Bem was inspired by teachers like Shonda Payne, who now teaches at Glen Burnie High School, teaching was never part of his original career plan — while in high school or even the first part of college. In high school, he was interested in social studies but had always wanted to do something with science — biology in particular. His time

» Continued on B9



Growing up in Long Island, New York, the Severna Park resident has wanted to be a teacher since being inspired in middle school.



Angela Miller

Second Grade | Shipley's Choice Elementary School

“My sixth-grade teacher,” recalled Miller. “She made learning fun, and she was someone who I admired and looked up to and I thought, ‘I want to be just like her.’”

After graduating from Towson University, she started teaching in Baltimore County, and then spent a year teaching in the Caribbean before settling in her husband's hometown of Severna Park. Miller began teaching at Shipley's Choice in 2007, but she was “excessed” in 2009 and spent three years teaching at Arnold Elementary before the opportunity to return to Shipley's presented itself. Originally a fourth-

» Continued on B9

A Day In The Life Of A CAT South Student

By Haley Weisgerber

Anne Arundel County Public Schools offers a unique opportunity for students to receive a technical education.

With over 15 programs to choose from, the Center of Applied Technology South (CAT South) in Edgewater offers students a hands-on and specialized education in a trade.

Broadneck and Severna Park high school students who enroll in the programs take their basic English, math, science and social studies classes at their “home school,” and are transported to the CAT South campus to learn their trade.

“I think this is the best type of education,” said CAT South Principal Joseph Rose. “I personally came through technical education, and after I graduated high school I was a carpenter for three and a half years. It really gives students a leg up and experience in whatever they choose. It allows them to connect the theory and the application.”

Throughout their education, students are prepared for the workforce in a big way. Resume writing, interviewing and character development are included in every course.

“We make sure we are preparing the whole child, not just aspects of the students,” said Rose. “It's one of the things we are hearing back from our business partners that we work with on a regular

» Continued on B8



Photos by Haley Weisgerber

Top: Emily Crabill said the instructors at CAT South inspire the students to learn. **Center Left:** For Adam Steen, the Marine Service Technology program at CAT South is a perfect fit. **Center Right:** Cailyn Dove of Broadneck High School is in the first level of the two-step Academy of Health Professions program. **Bottom:** Cole Kraycik of Severna Park worked underneath one of the vehicles donated to CAT South.

CYSO Performs At Carnegie Hall And White House

By Laura McElwain
Colquhoun

Student musicians who play with the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) recently had the unique opportunity to play at prestigious venues on the East Coast.

On December 5, members of the organization's symphony orchestra and both junior and senior flute ensembles played at the renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City. Later in the month, on December 21, members of the senior flute ensemble played background music during Christmas tours of the White House.

It was the fourth year the CYSO has been invited to play at Carnegie Hall for Christmas benefit concerts organized by composer and conductor Tim Janis. This year's title was “Christmas with Tim Janis and special guests: Tori Kelly, Colbie Caillat and Us The Duo.”

The orchestra played for most of the concert as students accompanied the famous musicians, while the flute ensembles played a special piece of their own, “Carol of the Bells.” In total, about 60 students participated.

Students headed to New York City by bus the morning of the performance. After lunch, they rehearsed once onstage before returning for the evening performance. Abby Cleveland, from Severna Park, is a freshman at Broadneck High School and was on her second trip to Carnegie Hall as part of a flute ensemble. She has been struck by the large size of the performance stage, noting during their rehearsal for this year's concert that it was difficult to hear other flutists.

“We started playing and you could hear it echo. The



The flute ensemble (above) and the string section principals (below) of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra gathered before their performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



acoustics are so amazing. The sound travels really well,” she said. “And it's such a beautiful place.”

It was the sixth year the flute ensemble has played during the Christmas season at the White House. Conductor Gail Vehslage said she submits a video application each year, though acceptance is not guaranteed. She was notified in late October that her ensemble had been selected to return.

The group of 39 flutists Vehslage took to the White House on December 21 included the CYSO senior flute ensemble, as well as an adult flute ensemble she conducts in Annapolis. Except for a 15-minute break, the group played Christmas music continuously for two hours in the East Room as guests walked through and toured.

“We took up half the

space, and the sound carried through the whole first-floor level,” Vehslage said. “We were visually surrounded by beauty, and then to have the music, it's very rich.”

In addition to playing music, the flutists were able to tour the White House themselves. Vehslage said the overall experience was memorable. “I know the kids will remember it the rest of their lives,” she said.

Cleveland, who played at both venues, said “Just being with all my friends and doing something big was surreal. It is crazy to think that I'm a freshman and I've played at the White House and Carnegie Hall. It's mind-blowing.”

Based in Annapolis, the CYSO offers a variety of orchestras and ensembles for musicians ages 8 through 21. More information can be found at www.cysomusic.org.

Area Scouts Reach Rank Of Eagle

By Judy Tacyn

SCOUT TROOP 450

They have been Scouting together for a decade, so it was only fitting that Grayson Phillips, Alex VanWie and Mitchell Frye would earn their Eagle rank together as the latest members of Troop 450's highest honor.

Based out of St. John the Evangelist parish and school in Severna Park, Phillips and VanWie received the coveted rank on Saturday, January 4, while Frye's Court of Honor was held November 30.

For his Eagle Scout project, Mitchell Frye constructed a



Photo by Judy Tacyn

(L-R) Grayson Phillips, Alex VanWie and Mitchell Frye of Scout Troop 450 earned their Eagle rank together.

St. Francis prayer garden on the southern end of the St. John the Evangelist property

in a quiet area under a blanket of trees where wildlife

» Continued on B8

SCOUT TROOP 993

Severna Park United Methodist Church was the site of Troop 993's recent Court of Honor ceremony where Benjamin Van Brunt, Michael Drabo and Brendan Huebner earned Scouting's highest honor as Eagle Scouts.

Benjamin Van Brunt joined Scouting as a Tiger in 2009 in Pack 25, Prattville, Alabama, and continued his journey in Cub Scouting with Oak Hill Elementary School's Pack 918. He continued to stay in Scouting as his Navy father was assigned around the world, including



(L-R) Brendan Huebner, Michael Drabo and Benjamin Van Brunt are Troop 993's newest Eagle Scouts.

Copenhagen, Denmark, and Krakow, Poland.

In 2016, his family was

transferred back to Maryland, where he joined Troop

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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. Fish's and Ms. Poremski's classes at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School answered the question:

What do you think your life will be like in the future?

I think I will go to Disney World with my family because I have never been to Disney World.
Analyce M.

I think I will be a speech therapist in the future because I always admired my brother's speech therapist. I also want to help kids, so this is one of the ways I can.
Anna M.

I am going to a college that has a riding school.
Callie C.

I think I will be an interior designer because I love designing. I will live in Maryland with two dogs.
Caroline S.

St. John The Evangelist Catholic School

I think I will become a chef in the future.
Charlotte G.

I imagine myself going to Duke University as a baseball player. I imagine getting married in Florida and getting inducted into the Hall of Fame.
Derek G.

I think in the future I'll have a great career. I don't know what the future holds, but I know it's going to be amazing.
Faith A.

I think I am going to be a teacher because my mom is a teacher and I want to be one.
Hayden F.

In the future, I see myself becoming a computer technician. I also see myself going to high school at Archbishop Spalding. I also see myself living in the state of Montana.
Isabella D.

Nicky and I are going to own a restaurant. Bacon, corndogs and bagels will be our main foods. We will have a stage where people will do comedy acts, but in our restaurant, only we will do the comedy.
Jack D.

When I grow up, I think I will play sports up to college and go to a Division 1 school, hopefully UCLA or Notre Dame. Then, I think I will become a stock market investor and make a lot of money.
Jack S.

Later in life, I think I will be an astronaut because I love science, and I think it is just



This month, students from Ms. Fish's and Ms. Poremski's classes at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School answered the question: What do you think your life will be like in the future?

cool to be in space floating around doing things. They get to go to the moon and walk on it, and they get to touch the moon.
Julian B.

I think in the future I will be a house designer.
Katie R.

I think my life will change a lot because they are going to make more high-tech things. I want to go to Virginia Tech or Cornell because my parents went there. I would like to go to Cornell because Ithaca is really pretty in the winter and it has a big campus.
Kaylen B.

I either want to be a famous photographer or a cheerleader. I will probably be a cheerleader until I get old, then I will try to be a photographer. I take good photos and I am very loud, so I think those two careers would be good.
Kenzie G.

In the future, I will be a gamer and athlete. I will have a pug and a Shar Pei for pets. I will train younger kids to become all-stars.
Logan W.

When I grow up, I see myself as an architect. I want to build things for the poor and help people. Plus, be the

first woman president.
Marianne B.

I think I will go to Maryland for college and play basketball. I want to do that because I like playing basketball outside and in the basement.
Michael C.

Jack and I are going to own a restaurant called BCB - Bacon, Corndogs and Bagels. I am going to be a comedian for the crowds.
Nicholas K.

I think I will be an engineer. I would live in Manhattan. I would have two kids and a nice house.
Owen M.

In the future, I see myself being a librarian.
Penny H.

I think I will open a baking business call Pretty Pink Bakery in Florida. I will make cake, cake pops, cupcakes and cookies because baking makes me happy. All the money will go to charity.
Reese B.

I think in the future I will be a pet-sitter. I love animals and I think this is the job for me.
Reese K.

I think I will be a cartographer.
Rivers B.

In the future, I think I will be one of the first women to be in the NHL. I would like to go to Notre Dame for college to play ice hockey. I will continue to look up to the pro hockey player Alex Ovechkin to achieve my dream.
Rowan P.

I want to start at the University of Maryland and study art because I would love to be an artist. When I am finished college, I will move to California with my friends. Then, I will open a few companies with my art and sell them.
Rylie S.

I would like to be an investor because my dad has his own company called H.B.T. Investments. I am hoping he will pass it on to me so I can keep it alive. Then I'll buy a nice house in Florida that's on the beach.
Tristan A.

Principal Spotlight

PATRICK BATHRAS
SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

How well do you know the principal at your neighborhood school? We're surveying local principals to learn more about their hobbies, their best stories and some facts that might surprise you. This month, get to know Patrick Bathras from Severna Park High School.

How long have you been at Severna Park High School?

I started as principal at SPHS in fall 2008.

What is your favorite part of being a principal?

Working with the students and seeing how talented, involved and great they are! The future is in good hands with our Falcons.
Which school event do



Severna Park High Principal Patrick Bathras enjoys riding his motorcycle "wherever the road leads me."

you look forward to the most each year?

Graduation because it's such a special and memorable milestone in a child's life.

What's something interesting most people don't know about you?

I have graduated two of my sons and nine nieces/nephews from SPHS.

Which decade do you love the most and why?

The 1980s. I grew up during my middle and high school years in the '80s and love the music, movies, and that time period in our country.

You're singing karaoke. What song do you pick?

"Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond

What is your favorite professional sports team?

Washington Capitals
Do you cook? What

is your favorite dish to prepare?

I use Blue Apron. I am not the most capable in the kitchen, so it's nice to have Blue Apron recipes, which make cooking enjoyable, tasty and nutritious. And with Blue Apron, I don't have to think about what to cook each day/week. But I do love to grill in the summertime.

What was your least favorite food as a child? Do you still hate it or do you love it now?

I used to not like Brussels sprouts as a child because my mother didn't cook them well. But when I was in my 30s, I went to a restaurant that baked them with bacon, so now I enjoy them a lot as an adult. After all, anything is good with bacon.

Do you have any superstitions?

I played baseball in high school, so I had quite a few superstitions while playing, like don't step on any foul lines when coming off or on the field. It's typical of baseball players to have superstitions.

What was the worst job you ever had?

I was lucky to have good jobs. I started at Best home goods store in the '80s with my first part-time job as a teenager, then worked part-time for a moving company during my senior year of high school, then did lifeguarding in college, then did part-time construction in summers while I began my teaching career. I have enjoyed all the various positions I've had in my educational career (principal, college professor, assistant principal, math resource teacher, middle and elementary school teacher).

What's the scariest thing you've ever done?

I did the slingshot (metal sphere that shoots two people in the air) at the inlet at the Ocean City, Maryland, boardwalk.

What is your favorite movie, show or book? Why?

"The Firm" by John Grisham. It turned me on to reading for enjoyment.

You're stranded on a deserted island. What three things would you take with you?

A lighter, toothbrush, and a cellphone so I can call someone to get off the island.

If you have a day with absolutely no plans, how do you spend it?

If weather is good, taking a ride on my motorcycle wherever the road leads me. If weather is bad, watch Netflix or Amazon Prime.

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Scout Troop 993

» Continued from B6

993. He held numerous leadership roles during his Scouting career, including patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader, though his favorite position was as den chief in Denmark, where he mentored Cub Scouts.

For his Eagle Scout project, the Severna Park High School junior planned, organized and led the construction of benches and signs for a revitalized youth playground area at his church, Severna Park Baptist.

Michael Drabo has been Scouting since second grade after receiving a friendship-bracelet invitation from a classmate in 2008. He has gone on to hold numerous leadership positions, including assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, troop guide, scribe, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

Drabo focused on envi-

ronmental conservation and preservation for his Eagle Scout project, leading the building and installation of bat boxes in the wooded area of a community greenspace to promote healthy communities of bats for mosquito and flying insect control.

“Bat houses provide a safe alternative location for bats to nest in, without having to worry about being displaced,” Drabo added. “Bats also are one of nature’s pest control animals. At night they fly around and eat plenty of insects. In the summer months, these bats can help to keep mosquito populations under control.”

Brendan Huebner joined the Cub Scouts in 2007 at Oak Hill Elementary. As a member of Troop 993, he attended all Boy Scout summer camps and high adventure trips offered, as well as Summit, Northern Tier, Philmont, and Sea Base. He served in numerous leadership roles such as den chief, and was a supervisor helping with the Cub Scout Day Camp program. Huebner

was inducted into the Order of the Arrow in 2014 at the end of his second year with Troop 993.

For his Eagle Scout project, Huebner cleared a section of wooded area from brush and undergrowth to make room for a bench at the Shipley’s Choice swimming pool. He also mulched the area, and stained and waterproofed the bench.

Huebner graduated from Severna Park High School in May 2019. He attended Center for Applied Technology South in his freshman, sophomore and junior years, completing the automotive technology program. He competed in the USA Skills Competition using the skills learned at CAT South, placing third as a junior and second as a senior in the regional competition. In the state competition, he placed fourth in his junior year. He is currently an automotive technician at Koons Ford.

Read the full story online at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

Scout Troop 450

» Continued from B6

can be regularly seen.

“I wanted to create a peaceful place where people could come to meditate or pray, as well as a place where the annual Blessing of the Animals could take place,” Frye explained.

Grayson Phillips also focused on the St. John the Evangelist campus for his Eagle project. The Severna Park High School senior added an elegant metal fence around the Mary Garden that serves both form and function.

“The Good Shepherd Room, where child care is held during Mass, opens up to the Mary Garden,” Phillips explained. “The fence not only looks good, but it is intended to keep the children safe and secure when the weather allows them to be outside.”

At least 10 scouts were need-

ed to dig fence post holes and construct the fence. Because the fencing and supplies were costly, Phillips also had to plan and schedule a fundraising dinner, which was held at Brian Boru Restaurant and Pub in Severna Park.

Al Jones, director of operations at St. John the Evangelist, said the design and specifications of the fence took time and effort to research and develop.

“It is a beautiful addition that adds to our campus and solves a problem all at the same time,” Jones said.

As a peer mentor in St. John’s Summer Madness volunteer program, **Alex VanWie** had the opportunity to lead middle school students at various volunteer activities throughout Anne Arundel County. After spending the day working at HOPE For All, a Glen Burnie-based organization assisting people with basic living essentials, VanWie was moved to contact the HOPE For All operations

manager, Jeanne Huber, to determine if he could do more beyond volunteering.

“HOPE For All takes in a lot of donations, but they don’t have a lot of storage,” VanWie said. “With the help of four other scouts, we were able to build two storage shelving units and a rug box.”

He added that he and the scouts had barely finished the project when HOPE For All volunteers started to fill the shelves of their new, much-needed storage.

“We are truly blessed to have people that want to help us with our mission to serve others,” Huber said. “Some may see the project as simply building storage shelves for a warehouse. We see it as an opportunity to better serve our families, because we can be more organized and have everything at our fingertips so that it can be distributed quickly.”

Read the full story online at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

A Day In The Life Of A CAT South Student

» Continued from B6 basis. We ask, ‘Hey, what can we do to better prepare our students for you?’ and they tell us to work on the soft skills.”

CAREER EXPLORATION

Career Exploration allows ninth-grade students to rotate between four CAT South programs a semester. When it comes time to apply in the 10th grade, these students will already have an idea of what the programs are like.

“I mean, even if you just come here for fun, you’ll gain so many life skills,” said Severna Park junior Emily Crabill, who discovered her passion for carpentry through career exploration. “Learning how to change a tire and cooking, all of that is life skills that are good to have under your belt. Even if you don’t pursue a career in them, it’s just fun and hands on.”

ACADEMY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Cailyn Dove and Grace Kinuthia of Broadneck High School are in the first level of the two-step Academy of Health Professions program. The first level, called medical terminology, partners with Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) to award students with college credits as they complete the program. “I’m not saying it’s not a challenging course, because it is a very difficult course, but because I’m so interested in the class, it makes it easier for me to learn,” said Dove, who aspires to be an anesthesiologist.

The Academy of Health Professions prepares students to be skilled health care professionals. Students who complete this program will have the opportunity to become certified nursing assistants or geriatric nursing assistants, certified clinical medical assistants, and obtain CPR and first aid certifications.

Though the first year of the program is mostly book work, Kinuthia said she was excited to learn more about health and the body.

“The coolest thing was studying the heart, because that’s what I want to do when I grow up. It was challenging because it was a lot of information, but it was interesting,” said Kinuthia.

CARPENTRY

When Crabill completed the career exploration program, she had already fallen in love with the carpentry program.

“College was never a big deal to me,” said Crabill. “My mom actually convinced me to put down carpentry as a ninth grader because she said, ‘We used to have shop class and it was so useful.’ I tried it out and it ended up being my favorite.”

Students in the carpentry program are automatically enrolled in AACC, where they will earn credits toward the architectural materials and methods class.

For Crabill, the best part of the program is the projects.

“We got to make heron decoys and donated them to people in the community. When we had the field trips going on, the parents were like, ‘How can I buy one of those?’ That is so cool to know I was a part of that,” said Crabill.

At the end of this school year, Crabill will have completed both levels of the carpentry program, but she is looking forward to working in this field for the rest of her life.

MARINE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

Broadneck senior Adam Steen grew up boating with his father. When he learned about the Marine Service Technology program at CAT South, it seemed like a perfect fit.

“I don’t like sitting down in a classroom or office, so any chance to work near the water and with my hands; I kind of wanted to avoid that typical desk job in a cubicle and I love being by the water,” said Steen.

The Marine Service Technology program prepares students for a career in recreational and commercial boat building and repair. Students

cover everything from marine electrical systems to basic sailboat rigging within the two-level course.

“There are so many projects, and we are always getting something new,” said Steen. “My favorite is probably learning about the engines. We completely take apart and reassemble the engines.”

Upon graduating this spring, Steen is going to college to study ocean engineering to work on large-scale commercial boats. He is considering looking into the designing.

“I think it’s a great opportunity that not everyone has,” said Steen of his time at CAT South. “Being able to have this experience now helps you with jobs in the future and prepares you for life.”

AUTO TECHNOLOGY

Cole Kraycik of Severna Park was already pursuing a job in the automotive field when he learned about the programs at CAT South.

“When I found out there was a class to teach me how to work on car, I figured that was a dream for me,” said Kraycik. “I found out about it when we were going on tours, and I realized how special this program really is.”

The Auto Technology Program is certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and teaches students to diagnose, repair and service vehicles. College credit is also awarded through the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC).

“I decided to do a technical education because I find working with my hands more interesting and easier to learn than from a book or a classroom. This environment is really helpful for that,” said Kraycik, who wants to work in this field after graduation.

“If this is what interests you, then you should just go for it,” said Kraycik.

Beginning in February of 2020, CAT South will offer a plumbing program. For more information, visit catsouth.org.

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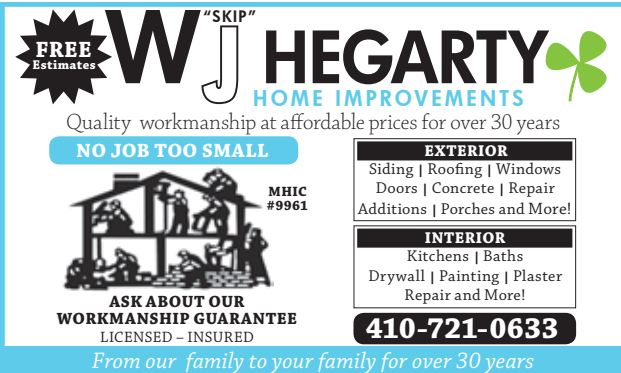
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Author Stephanie Verni Shares “Little Milestones”

Olivia Dawson's life is spiraling out of control. It's her 32nd birthday, and her colleagues are singing “Happy Birthday” to her at the same time divorce papers land on her desk. Working as an event planner for a struggling travel magazine and living in a small studio apartment in New York City, Olivia is concerned about her future.

That storyline marks the beginning of “Little Milestones,” the fourth novel by Stephanie Verni, a Severna Park author and professor of communication at Stevenson University. The contemporary fiction novel is set in the town of St. Michaels, Maryland, and features Oxford and Easton, with little jaunts to Annapolis.

Olivia moves to St. Michaels to be with her grandmother, Nan, and with her help, Olivia secures a job at a local bookstore, planning events and working at the store. She also reconnects with Nan's contingent of friends, most of whom she remembers from spending her summers in St. Michael's as a young girl and teenager. These connections help Olivia realize what's been missing in her own life: enduring friendships that last a lifetime and a strong sense of self.

Told in the voices of Olivia, Nan and Miles, “Little Milestones” weaves together the experiences of all three characters, including their heartbreaks, challenges, loves and friendships.

The novel piggybacks onto Verni's last book, “Inn Significant,” which was set in Oxford.

“As a Maryland writer, it's a pleasure to incorporate various locales into my storytelling and set the novel in locations around our beautiful

state,” said Verni, who cited the PBS series “Call the Midwife” as an inspiration for her new book. “As someone who has been in love with St. Michaels, Oxford and Easton for years, it also gave me an excellent excuse to visit often with a notebook and camera in hand to do research.”

Verni's other books include “Beneath the Mimosa Tree” (2012), “Baseball Girl” (2015), “Inn Significant” (2017), and a collection of short stories and poetry called “The Postcard and Other Short Stories and Poetry” (2018).

Verni will host a talk at the Severna Park Library on Tuesday, January 21, at 7:00pm. There, she will offer a workshop and Q&A to help budding writers with their novels or nonfiction writing.

For more information, visit www.stephsscibe.com or find Verni's books through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Spring Arbor Senior Living Cookie Lady Is Full Of Sweet Surprises

Fran Parish, affectionately referred to as “the cookie lady,” makes Spring Arbor Senior Living smell like home.

“She draws people from all over the building with the smell of her cooking,” said fellow resident Dorothy Johnson.

Frequently, she can be found in the activities kitchen, rolling up cookie dough before anyone else is awake or has had their breakfast. But to make things even better, she wraps up two to three cookies and delivers them to all of the other residents as well as the staff members.

“Downstairs we have a memory unit, and she always goes down and brings them cookies too,” Johnson said. “She's very generous.”

When Parish was asked where she learned to bake so well, her frank answer



Fran Parish can frequently be found in the activities kitchen at Spring Arbor Senior Living, rolling up cookie dough before anyone else is awake or has had their breakfast.

was, “Not from my mother. I was self-taught.” Parish grew up on a

farm in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and decided she wanted to

become a nurse. She came to Washington, D.C. for nursing school and met her husband while at the park. Together they had six children and that's when her baking began. She would bake for their school activities as well as for her church. Once her kids were all out of the house, she continued to bake their favorite cookies for the holidays, an activity she continues to do.

Before coming to Spring Arbor two years ago, she lived in another senior living home where she made all of the baked goods for the complex. She now bakes two to three times per week, if not more.

While most people request chocolate chip cookies from her, she prefers gingerbread. Asked about her secret ingredient, she said the Giant brand margarine.

“I call it my baking therapy,” Parish said.

New Slate Of TV Shows Delivers Drama And Fun

By Zach Sparks
zach@pasadenavoice.com

With the ever-expanding network of shows available through cable and streaming services, how can you decide what shows are worth your time? Check out this handy guide of newly released and upcoming programs to find a few that fit your preferences.

DRAMA

“Truth Be Told”

Premiered December 6
Fridays on Apple TV+

Guilty or not guilty? A teenage boy was convicted of murdering his neighbor, and nearly 20 years later, podcaster Poppy Parnell (Octavia Spencer) is delving back into the case to prove his innocence.

Based on Kathleen Barber's book, formerly



“Truth Be Told” — Photo courtesy of Apple TV+

titled “Are You Sleeping,” the Apple TV+ program attempts to distinguish itself from similar shows by weaving in a web of secrets that connects both major and minor characters. The star-studded cast includes Lizzy Caplan (“Cloverfield” and “Mean Girls”) as Josie and Lanie Buhman, Aaron Paul (“Breaking

Bad”) as inmate Warren Cave, and Ron Cephas Jones (“This Is Us”) as Parnell's father.

“Truth Be Told” is a notch above the run-of-the-mill crime drama. Viewers longing for their short-term whodunit fix will likely enjoy the show, whereas others might find it lacking in originality.

“Reprisal”

Premiered December 6
All episodes streaming on Hulu

Hulu's noir thriller “Reprisal” doesn't waste any time, starting with an ominous scene that leaves a woman (played by Abigail Spencer) chained to a truck and left for dead. Years later, using the alias Doris Quinn, she's out to get revenge against the Banished Brawlers gang that wronged her, but she also faces a new challenge in the form of a Detroit mobster (played by Ron Perlman of “Sons of Anarchy”), who wants to take over the restaurant she's inheriting from her dying husband.

Created by Josh Corbin, “Reprisal” features solid acting and plenty of intrigue. It also transports the audience to a vibrant world with hot rods and the retro music of the Bang-A-Rang club. It's a

pulpy, fun-filled ride that leaves several characters covered in blood.

“Soundtrack”

Premiered December 18
All episodes streaming on Netflix

Joshua Safran's new series is partially told through story and partially conveyed by the main characters' spontaneous attempts to lip-sync songs. The show emphasizes a song's ability to make us feel human and enhance our emotions. While the show may become a new favorite for fans of musicals, it often falls flat because for every song that propels the story forward and elicits genuine sympathy or concern for a character, there is another song that feels out of place, wasted for the sake of meeting an arbitrary quota. Enjoy the show for its choreography
» Continued on B11

Dining Out



The Bangkok Oriental Offers Fabulous Food In A Friendly Environment

By Mary Cobbler

I visited The Bangkok Oriental restaurant on New Year's Eve and appropriately ate drunken noodles. The thought made me smile. Actually, the whole restaurant did. Tired after a long day of work, I found the restaurant to be a welcome respite — calm and serene; beautifully decorated with photos of Thailand, religious statues, Thai artifacts, and even musical instruments.

My waiter, “Mo,” was professional and kind. He served me jasmine tea in a classic china teapot with an elegant matching cup engraved with a drawing of a tiny bird. I always find it interesting that I can drink tea at an Asian restaurant, but it never tastes the same at home.

Mo was knowledgeable about all of the food and readily shared his customers' favorites along with his own.

I perused the menu and chose the Bangkok Oriental sampler appetizer. Within minutes, Mo delivered the large plate of mixed goodies — spring rolls, dumplings, “shrimp in the blanket,” coconut shrimp, chicken satay, fried green beans, and fried candies, accompanied by



Photos by Mary Cobbler

The pad kee mao (drunken noodles) blended thick noodles with broccoli, tomatoes, baby corn, Napa cabbage, carrots, red bell peppers and snow peas, all in a chili garlic sauce with fresh Thai basil.

several dipping sauces. For \$14.95, this is an excellent appetizer for a small group. The chicken was tender and flavorful, and all of the other items were crisp, not at all greasy, and infused with just the right amount of wonderful Thai seasonings. The spring rolls were especially tasty, with thin ribbons of carrots, bean thread noodles, and cabbage with homemade sweet-and-sour sauce. The fried beans were crispy on the outside and tender on the inside, and

the coconut shrimp had a sweet aftertaste. The fried “candies” were crispy meat-filled wontons. All of it was scrumptious.

Other tempting appetizers include onion petal and Thai fish cakes. The soups also looked inviting, especially the tom yum (lemon-grass soup) or the tom kha (coconut milk soup).

One of Mo's suggested favorite entrees, the pad kee mao (drunken noodles), outshined most if not all of the food I've tasted in the last year.

Served hot, this dish was a blend of thick, flat noodles stir-fried with broccoli, tomatoes, baby corn, Napa cabbage, carrots, red bell peppers and snow peas, all in a chili garlic sauce with fresh Thai basil. Not only was it a fabulous blend of texture and tastes, but it was also colorful. Offered additions included beef, chicken, pork, tofu, shrimp or a seafood combination. I chose shrimp, and it was perfectly steamed.

There are three levels of heat you can choose, and

even the lower level had a kick. But the heat was wonderful with the savory, garlicky sauce with just a touch of sweetness. The flavors literally burst in my mouth — the fresh, soft tomatoes; crunchy snow peas; crisp peppers — all of those textures made this a genuinely pleasurable meal.

Following the advice of



Spring rolls, dumplings, “shrimp in the blanket,” coconut shrimp, chicken satay, fried green beans, and fried candies were all included in the Bangkok Oriental sampler appetizer.

the online reviews about sticky rice with mango, I placed my dessert order, along with an order of Thai iced coffee. The sticky rice was an experience. The plump pillow of soft, warm, sweet rice, combined with the refreshing tang of the fresh mango, was magnificent. Strong, with heavy cream and a touch of

spice, the Thai coffee was a perfect accompaniment to the dessert.

Originally from Thailand, members of the kitchen staff pride themselves on serving authentic Thai food, choosing fresh ingredients, and preparing all of the sauces in-house.

The menu selection is large with many tempting curries, unique salads (papa salad, bean thread salad), stir-fried rice dishes, and an assortment of other entrees such as crispy duck pad ped, crisp whole fish, eggplant, and many types of meat and seafood dishes. Prices are reasonable, with most entrees running about \$14 or less.

Carryout or eat-in options are available. This restaurant is a delight; perfect for a date night or time with family and friends.

Where To Find Bangkok Oriental

Robinson Crossing shopping center

8043 Ritchie Highway,
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VEER To Headline Show At Baltimore Soundstage



Are you ready to party like its 1999? Alternative rock band VEER, which features two Cape St. Claire residents in singer/guitarist Ronald Malfi and drummer Jon Malfi, will headline a show at Baltimore Soundstage on January 17. Also taking the stage are the bands Rayne, Raven Tree, Indianhead, Liquid Lucky, and Vice Birds. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Tickets are \$11. Attendees will also get a free compilation CD featuring songs from the performing bands. For more information, visit www.veerband.net.

Does your band have a big concert coming up? Was your art selected for display at a prestigious gallery? Send your arts news to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.

Maryland Hall To Screen “I’m Not Leaving”

When the 1994 Rwandan genocide broke out, Carl Wilkens was the only American who refused to leave the country.

In 2011, Wilkens completed the book “I’m Not Leaving” to detail those days. A 40-minute documentary by the same title was later released.

Join Maryland Hall on January 31 at 7:30pm to see the film and to engage in a discussion with Wilkens.

His storytelling does not stop with Rwanda’s tragic history, but moves forward to the powerful and inspiring recovery process. Among the many lessons he shares from his experience is the transformative belief that we don’t have to be defined by what we lost or our worst choices. We can be defined by what we do with what remains – what we do next after terrible choices.

This harrowing, yet hopeful, documentary weaves together a story of tremendous risk and fierce compassion in the face of one of the most violent moments of the 20th century. Wilkens chose to stay in Kigali, Rwanda, throughout the 1994 genocide. Venturing out each day into streets cracking with mortars and gunfire, he worked his way through roadblocks of angry, bloodstained soldiers and civilians armed with machetes and assault rifles in order to bring food, water and medicine to groups of orphans trapped around the city. Working with Rwandan colleagues, they helped save the lives of hundreds.

After the screening, Wilkens will speak about his recent visits to Rwanda, as well as his personal stories from the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

The event is presented by Maryland Hall and Connect Rwanda in partnership with St. Anne’s School of Annapolis. Tickets are \$15. For more information, visit www.marylandhall.org.



Carl Wilkens

Connect with us



New Slate Of TV Shows Delivers Drama And Fun



“Soundtrack” — Photo courtesy of Parrish Lewis/Netflix

» Continued from B10 and flair. Just don’t expect to yell “encore!” after the final song.

“Dare Me”
Premiered December 29
Sundays at 10:00pm on USA Network



“Dare Me” — Photo courtesy of Rafy/USA Network

Based on the novel by Megan Abbott, “Dare Me” dives into the cutthroat world of competitive high school cheerleading. However, the show is about much more than that. As the teenagers vie for top placement in their sport, they simultaneously become entangled in conflicts that arise from jealousy and small-town secrets.

The tension starts brewing in the first episode as two friends, played by Herizen Guardiola and Marlo Kelly, see their relationship

fractured after the arrival of their new coach, Colette French (Willa Fitzgerald from MTV’s “Scream”).

“Dare Me” is an authentic look at the challenges and peer pressure associated with high school. Note that the show includes adult themes and situations.

“Deputy”
Premiered January 2
Thursdays at 9:00pm on FOX



“Deputy” — Photo courtesy of FOX

Bill Hollister (Stephen Dorff of “True Detective”) is an old-school lawman who makes decisions based on his own moral code. That sometimes means breaking the law in order to catch criminals. His methods are scrutinized by some of his colleagues, but that fact becomes moot when the elected Los Angeles sheriff dies and Hollister takes

his place since he is the longest-serving officer in the sheriff’s mounted posse. Hollister detests press conferences and the lime-light, yet he has a flair for playing the outlaw, finding himself in shootouts and car chases. Expect to find action-packed sequences and procedural narratives. Don’t turn to this program if you’re looking for fresh dialogue or a show that’s reinventing the wheel.

“The New Pope”
Premiered January 13
HBO

A spinoff of “The Young Pope,” this show explores the hidden world of the Vatican City. Jude Law and John Malkovich star in the drama.

“The Outsider”
Premiered January 12
HBO



“The Outsider” — Photo courtesy of Bob Mahoney/HBO

Based on Stephen King’s bestselling novel of the same name, “The Outsider” begins by following a seemingly straightforward investigation into the gruesome murder of a young boy. But when an insidious supernatural force edges its way into the case, it leads a seasoned cop and an unorthodox investigator to question everything they believe in.

CRIME

“FBI: Most Wanted”

Premiered January 7
Tuesdays at 9:00pm on CBS

Dick Wolf, the producer behind “Law & Order” and “Chicago Fire,” is the brain-child behind this high-stakes drama focusing on the Fugitive Task Force, which relentlessly tracks and captures the notorious criminals on the FBI’s Most Wanted list.

“Lincoln Rhyme: Hunt for the Bone Collector”

Premiered January 10
Fridays at 8:00pm on NBC

NBC has had its hits and misses with police procedural shows. The network’s latest attempt is based on Jeffery Deaver novel about a criminologist who suffered a terrible accident. Now he’s coming out of retirement to solve a murder that seemingly points back to the “bone collector,” the killer who left him paralyzed. With the help of young officer Amelia Sachs, he seeks to catch the psychopath, but both Rhyme and Sachs get caught up in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

“The Witcher”

Premiered December 20
All episodes streaming on Netflix
“The Witcher” has polarized critics and regular
» Continued on B12



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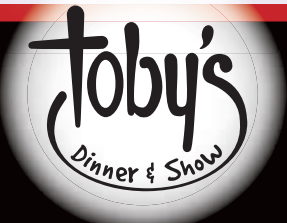
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New Slate Of TV Shows Delivers Drama And Fun

» Continued from B11



“The Witcher” — Photo courtesy of Katalin Vermes/Netflix

viewers alike because of its approach to storytelling and plainspoken main character, Geralt of Rivia, a burly, white-haired monster hunter portrayed by Henry Cavill (“Man of Steel”).

Before its release, “The Witcher” was heralded as the next “Game of Thrones,” a sprawling fantasy epic comprised of plot twists and action. While both shows are fantastical, the similarities end there. In its disjointed pilot, “The Witcher” lays the groundwork for multiple storylines but moves too quickly through one storyline in particular, causing the “tragic” events to be feel inconsequential.

Inspired by the stories of Polish writer Andrzej Sapkowski and ensuing video game adaptations, “The Witcher” improves over the course of several episodes, though, and is worth watching if you can exert some patience and enjoy the action without getting too caught up in the show’s shortcomings.

COMEDY

“AJ and the Queen”

Premiered January 10
All episodes streaming on Netflix

While traveling across the country in a run-down RV, drag queen Ruby Red discovers an unlikely sidekick in AJ: a tough-talking 10-year-old stowaway.



“AJ and the Queen” — Photo courtesy of Saeed Adyani/Netflix

ANIMATED/KIDS SERIES

“Fast & Furious: Spy Racers”

Premiered December 26
All episodes streaming on Netflix



“Fast & Furious: Spy Racers” — Photo courtesy of Netflix

“Fast & Furious: Spy Racers” follows a group of teenagers who are recruited by a government agency to infiltrate an elite racing league controlled by a nefarious organization bent on world domination. No problem, right? Leading the crew is Tony Toretto, the cousin of Dominic Toretto, who is again portrayed — at least in voice — by Vin

Diesel. With kid-friendly jokes and exciting stunts, the show is sure to charm younger viewers.

REALITY TV & INVESTIGATIVE SERIES

“Expedition Bigfoot”

Premiered December 8
Sundays on Travel Channel



“Expedition Bigfoot” — Photo courtesy of Travel Channel

A team of Sasquatch specialists go on a three-week expedition into the unforgiving Oregon wilderness to find Bigfoot with the help of new technology. Depending on your belief in Bigfoot lore, the show will either come off as hokey or revelatory.

“Lost in the Wild”

Premiered December 29
Sundays on Travel Channel

In this eight-episode series, veteran explorers Kinga Philipps and J.J. Kelley investigate the most-fascinating missing person cases on the planet. From Panama to the fabled lost city of Akakor, various parts of the globe are traversed as Philipps and Kelley look into cases new and old, speaking to witnesses, experts and locals in their quest to find the truth.



“Lost in the Wild” — Photo courtesy of Travel Channel

“Flirty Dancing”

Premiered December 29
Wednesdays at 8:00pm on FOX



“Flirty Dancing” — Photo courtesy of Greg Gayne/FOX

Hosted by Jenna Dewan, “Flirty Dancing” offers a new take on blind dating. In each episode, a single man or woman must learn two dances and perform each one with two potential matches. But here’s the catch: there’s no small talk. The bachelor or bachelorette must pick a match solely on the chemistry felt during the dance routines. “Flirty Dancing” is heartfelt and genuine, even if the formula gets a bit repetitive.

Several other shows are also debuting in late January and February. From “9-1-1” co-creators Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk and Tim Minear, “9-1-1: Lone Star” follows a sophisticated New York cop who,

along with his son, relocates to Austin and must try to balance the duties of saving those who are at their most vulnerable and solving the problems in his own life. Starting January 19 on FOX, that series stars Rob Lowe and Liv Tyler. The

Paramount Network program “68 Whiskey” will chronicle the lives of a diverse group of Army medics stationed in Afghanistan. Created by executive producers Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the comedy-drama airs January 15.

These shows came out at the end of fall but are worth your time if you haven’t seen them yet.



“The Mandalorian” — Photo courtesy of Disney+

“The Mandalorian” on Disney+

Baby Yoda has become a phenomenon and the subject of numerous memes. The “Star Wars” live-action show has much more to offer, though, introducing a new, captivating storyline created by Jon Favreau.

Alan Moore’s graphic novel, “Watchmen” is an ambitious turn for the series about masked vigilantes. Shrouded in mystery, the series can be perplexing at times, but showrunner Damon Lindelof (“Lost,” “The Leftovers”) rewards viewers with a satisfying conclusion.



“Watchmen” — Photo courtesy of Greg Gayne/FOX

“Watchmen” on HBO

Set 30 years after the events depicted in

“Living With Yourself” **on Netflix**

Actor Paul Rudd was nominated for a Golden Globe Award following his performance in this new comedy about a man who is burned out on life and love, and who undergoes a mysterious treatment, only to discover that he has been replaced by a better version of himself.

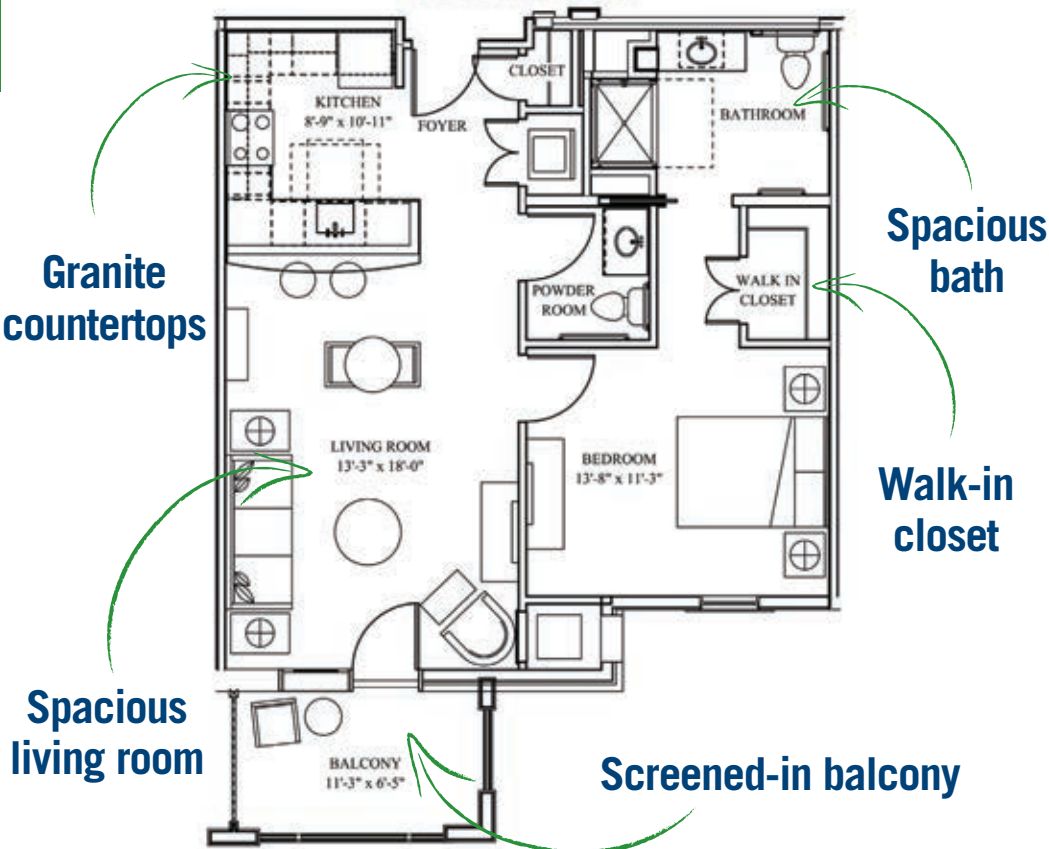


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