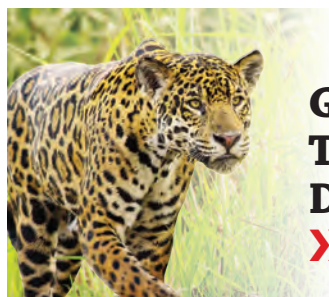


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» **Inside**



Get Your Fix With These Netflix Documentaries
» **Page A15**

Severna Park Girls Win Region Title
» **Page B1**



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APRIL 1, 2020

A1

The Winners For The 2020 "Best Of Severna Park" Are...



After counting the votes for nearly 3,000 surveys, we now have the winners for the Best Of contest.

To be eligible, each business must have a commercial address within Severna Park, Arnold or Millersville, and a nominee had to receive at least five votes to qualify. Only a few categories didn't receive enough votes, and we are listing both the winner and the runner-up in each category.

So without further ado...

the envelope, please!
Check out the results on page A4.

Neighbors Band Together During Coronavirus Shutdown

By Zach Sparks

If ever there was a time to be selfish, it was after the novel coronavirus shut down businesses, forced many people into unemployment, and left families in fear that the pandemic would render them sick or worse. But instead of turning their backs on their fellow neighbors, Severna Park and Broadneck residents took action, following a centuries-old philosophy held by Henry David Thoreau: Goodness is the only investment that never fails.

Around District 5, people helped their neighbors in ways big and small. They brought them groceries, they spread cheer and they used their skills to aid emergency workers who are working to save lives at their own personal health risk. These are just a few examples of how kindness has prevailed in recent weeks.

MAKING MASKS

As a registered nurse and the mother of a doctor in St. Louis, Jennifer Crisp has heard plenty about the nationwide shortage of masks. She's making masks for those who work in assisted living facilities and nursing homes, home health assistants, firefighters and emergency medical technicians. "Those are often the people forgotten," she said.

The chair of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's health and wellness committee, Crisp



Leslie Coleman made 21 masks for nurses in the newborn intensive care unit (NICU) at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

has had help from DECA Wrap owner Suzanne Brinks, who is cutting materials for kits to be sent to volunteer sewers.

"We're basically mass-producing for the home sewer, so we're not asking them to pick a pattern," Crisp said. "We're creating pre-cut kits so all they have to do is sew." Crisp created a registration form to find sewers who have their own machines and are able to drop off supplies. She was able to recruit 20 sewers as of March 24.

"Sewers generally are generous people," she said. "They belong to guilds and do a lot of charity work, like sewing pillows for cancer patients. That's just normal for them."

At the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in Maryland, Severna Park resident Leslie Coleman learned from a nurse friend that the hospital where she worked was running low on supplies, including masks. Coleman, who is a baker by trade, is also a crafter. She put her sewing skills to use, and in two days, made 21 masks for all the nurses in the newborn intensive care unit (NICU) at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

"My friend asked if I would make masks for her team if she paid me," Coleman said. "Without hesitation, I agreed, if she got me the materials and didn't pay me. Having had one of my children in extended stay in the NICU ward, I couldn't possibly charge these superheroes for making their 'capes.'"

When word got out that Coleman was making masks, she received more — but smaller — requests from other nurses, a holistic practitioner, and an asthmatic friend.

"Luckily, as a crafter, I had some elastic and extra material, and I also donated those masks," she said.

Wise member Jess Gorski started collecting N95 masks for emergency workers after speaking with a nurse practitioner and with her cousin, a police detective with the Prince George's County Police

» **Continued on A10**

The Maryland General Assembly wrapped up the 2020 legislative session early.
Flip to page A6 to see what laws passed.



Businesses, Nonprofits Go The Extra Mile To Help Those In Need



By Zach Sparks

On a patio where patrons normally converse and imbibe cocktails under a string of lights, they instead lined up with wish lists, hoping to stock up on toilet paper, ground beef, romaine lettuce, avocados, brioche buns and ground beef.

That set-up was created by John Miller and Josh Brown of Vida Taco Bar in Severna Park. Knowing their customers were finding empty shelves and long lines at grocery stores after the onset of the COVID-19 coronavirus, they used Brown's purveyor connections to transform Vida Taco Bar into more than a restaurant.

"We wanted to start a little convenience store to help people out," Miller said. "A lot of people are out of toilet paper and pasta. In a matter of hours, we were able to set up a pop-up mini mart. In this difficult time, it's allowing us to explore our creativity and options we considered in the past."

In late March, Vida Mini Mart became a destina-



tion not just for tacos and margaritas but also for bread, produce and eggs. Miller said the extra profits are going to Vida employees, who are working hard to prepare food and fulfill customer requests.

Hours are 4:00pm to 7:30pm Tuesday through Sunday, with carryout available until 8:00pm. The address is 541 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park.

"We're trying to do something for the community to help as much as we possibly can," Miller said.

Like Vida Taco Bar, SPAN has been focused on getting food and essential items to people. Ellen Kinsella, SPAN's director of development, and Jennifer Pumphrey, SPAN's director of operations, have asked people to show their identification through a window to get food SPAN left on its porch behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church.

SPAN relies on dona-

tions from the community to give back to families in need, and there has been no shortage of kindness despite the pandemic.

"Community members have been dropping off food just out of the kindness of their hearts. It's unbelievable," Kinsella said. "Shauna Talbot came by; she had a \$250 check and she brought us oranges and fresh juice and milk. People like her are what keep us going."

Though SPAN serves Severna Park, Arnold, Millersville and Broadneck, Kinsella said surplus items are going to families outside that area who need help.

"This way if they're truly hungry, they can get enough to get them going with their family to last them, at least

one more day, because the pantry that serves Glen Burnie is only open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays," Kinsella said.

As a member of the medical community, Dr. Richard Garden of Chesapeake Oral Surgery Associates used his connections to get supplies to emergency workers. After calling University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center Chief Medical Officer Neel Vibhakar, Garden put out a call to action on the "Chatter in Severna Park" Facebook page as he sought to collect medical supplies for the hospital.

"If our doctors and nurses go down, not only the licensed practitioners but the lay people, and the hospital staff breaks down,



Left: In late March, Vida Mini Mart became a destination not just for tacos and margaritas but also for bread, produce and eggs. Right: Ellen Kinsella (right), SPAN's director of development, and Jennifer Pumphrey, SPAN's director of operations, have continued to help families in need.

what will we do when we get sick?" he said.

Garden also reached out to his network of dentist and doctor contacts. He heard back from Alan Binstock, Yeremi Canizales, John O'Melia, Mairead O'Reilly, Stephen Molz, Kimberly Burroughs and Robert Martin. Together, they collected 3,500 pairs of gloves, 100 gowns, 1,750 surgical masks and 100 N95 masks.

Since then, doctors Lee Kleiman, Karen Nyekoleh Mygil and Allan Schulman collectively donated 500 masks and thousands of gloves.

"The N95 masks are as precious as gold right now," Garden said. "These guys are selfless. I'm just the delivery guy."

Countless other businesses and nonprofits worked tirelessly to bring services to people.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church collected cash donations to help people with rent, food and electric bills. The church was also collecting baby supplies for the Annapolis Family Support Center during Lent.

On March 25, Anne Arundel Community College donated 119 boxes of medical supplies to Anne Arundel Medical Center, University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center, and the Anne Arundel County emergency operations center.

Monica Alvarado, owner of Bread and Butter in Annapolis, partnered with Anne Arundel Connecting Together

» **Continued on A11**

COVID-19 County Health Update

By Haley Weisgerber

As of March 30, there were 110 positive COVID-19 cases in Anne Arundel County.

"In Anne Arundel County, the government is doing good things, but I don't want to sugarcoat

what's actually happening in our community," said County Executive Stuart Pittman in a virtual town meeting on March 21. "I've spent the week listening and it's clear to me that people are hurting."

Pittman is also advising county residents not

to hoard food and other household goods. At this time, there is no reason to believe Anne Arundel County or Maryland will have any shortages in food. "There is a clear issue with too many people being in a grocery store at once," he said.

Of Maryland's 1,413 cases, 43 cases have been released from isolation, and there have been 15 deaths.

Thirty-two of the cases were in the under-20 population, 1,190 people were 20 to 69 years old and 191

» **Continued on A9**

Inside

Community	A1-A11	Sports	B1-B6
Politics	A12-A13	Health & Fitness	B7
Arts & Entertainment	A14-A16	School & Youth	B8-B12
Business	A17-A20	Business Directory	B10-B11

Margueritte Mills
Volunteer
Of The Month

**Local Woman Is Dedicated
To Serving The Community**



Sharon Atkinson (right) was presented the Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month award by Severna Park Voice Publisher Dianna Lancione.

By Haley Weisgerber

Severna Park resident Sharon Atkinson has dedicated her retirement to making a difference.

Atkinson, who is a self-proclaimed people person, has always been interested in serving others. After retiring from school counseling in 2010, she used her free time to take on a variety of roles in the community.

Atkinson has been an active member of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church's mission ministry. She has traveled to Malawi twice and Guatemala five times.

Inspired by her experiences in Guatemala, Atkinson began taking Spanish classes at Anne Arundel Community College.

She became involved in the Backpack Buddies Program at Tyler Heights Elementary school in Annapolis. The program provides meals and snacks to children in need. After seeing a need, Atkinson

and another volunteer brought the program to Annapolis Middle School. Atkinson ran the program for six years before passing leadership to another group of volunteers.

"It was like my kid-fix," said Atkinson. "I was ready to retire but I missed being around children. Now, 10 years later, the program is still going."

In September of 2010, Atkinson started volunteering with Partners In Care (PIC), a nonprofit organization that allows seniors to age in place and remain independent. They provide rides, repair household items, establish connections and more.

"Partners in Care works on a reciprocity system," said Atkinson. "We are the good neighbors people used to have. If we give you a ride, you don't pay for anything, but you do something else. You donate to the PIC boutique, or if we have an event, you would bake a cake for it."

In her 10 years with

PIC, Atkinson has driven over 8,378 miles and volunteered 1,588 hours. She said her favorite part of the job is the people she meets along the way.

"Their children have heard their stories 10,000 times," she said. "I'm a new set of ears and their stories are just fascinating. It's just fun to share time with people who have such amazing life stories. I gain so much from it."

Atkinson said one of her favorite memories is meeting a woman who was a holocaust survivor.

"Some of the people I will get to be really good friends with and they will request me when they need a ride," said Atkinson. "It's really fun because you do get that relationship with them."

She also volunteers in the PIC boutique, an upscale resale store that largely funds the PIC programs. Atkinson works the cash register every Friday afternoon.

"I love it all," said Atkinson. "I like the one-on-one part of doing the job, but the boutique is fun because people get so excited to find wonderful bargains."

Atkinson said PIC has become her "fun job." Though she is technically retired, Atkinson will continue to volunteer with PIC and establish relationships that will last a lifetime.

"It is very much like family and they really do care for their members," said Atkinson. "It's a neat group of people and they do such amazing things."

**Rock 'N' Roll Revival Canceled,
But DVD Will Be Sold**

Severna Park High School's drama department issued an update on March 17 to answer common questions about this year's production of Rock 'N' Roll Revival. Shows were canceled this year in accordance with state and local government decisions regarding COVID-19.

"This is a huge disappointment to everyone involved in the show," the letter states. "We hope that our many community supporters understand how difficult this cancellation is for everyone, especially our student performers, band members, tech crew, hair and makeup crew, parent volunteers and staff

who have been working on this show since January. Of course, the health and safety of our community is paramount."

No refunds will be issued because the money had already been spent on show preparations, costumes, set-building materials, lights and sound equipment. However, ticketholders will have free access to an online link of rehearsals filmed by a videographer. The customary cost for a show DVD is \$30. Those who didn't purchase tickets will be able to buy the DVD.

For more information and to find the link once it's online, go to www.sphsdrama.com.

**Pittman Re-Establishes
Community Grant Program**

Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman announced is re-establishing a community grant program in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 budget. The program was previously phased out beginning in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget after the Anne Arundel County Council passed Resolution 47-15. Since that time, some funding has been provided to community organizations through specific county departments.

The community grant program is intended to offer county funding support for nonprofit organizations that provide vital services to county residents. Priorities include making services available to underserved populations, addressing the health and well-being of communities, and promoting equity and inclusion. The application period opened on March 1 for FY 2021 funding for eligible nonprofit organizations carry-

ing out key health and human services priorities in an effort to make Anne Arundel County "The Best Place - For All."

Applications are due on April 15 by 4:00pm. If awarded, funds will be made available on or around July 1, 2021 pending FY 2021 budget approval by the county council. The amount of funding available for the program in the proposed budget has not yet been determined, as budget deliberations are still underway. The county executive will submit his proposed budget on May 1, 2020.

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS) will oversee the grant process for the county. Detailed grant guidelines and submission instructions are contained in the FY 2021 County Executive's Community Support Grants Application packet: www.aacounty.org/departments/county-executive/community-support-grants/index.html.

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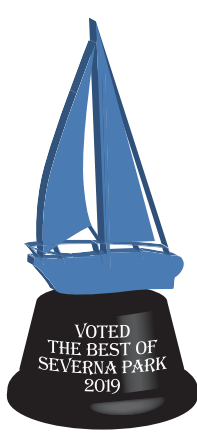
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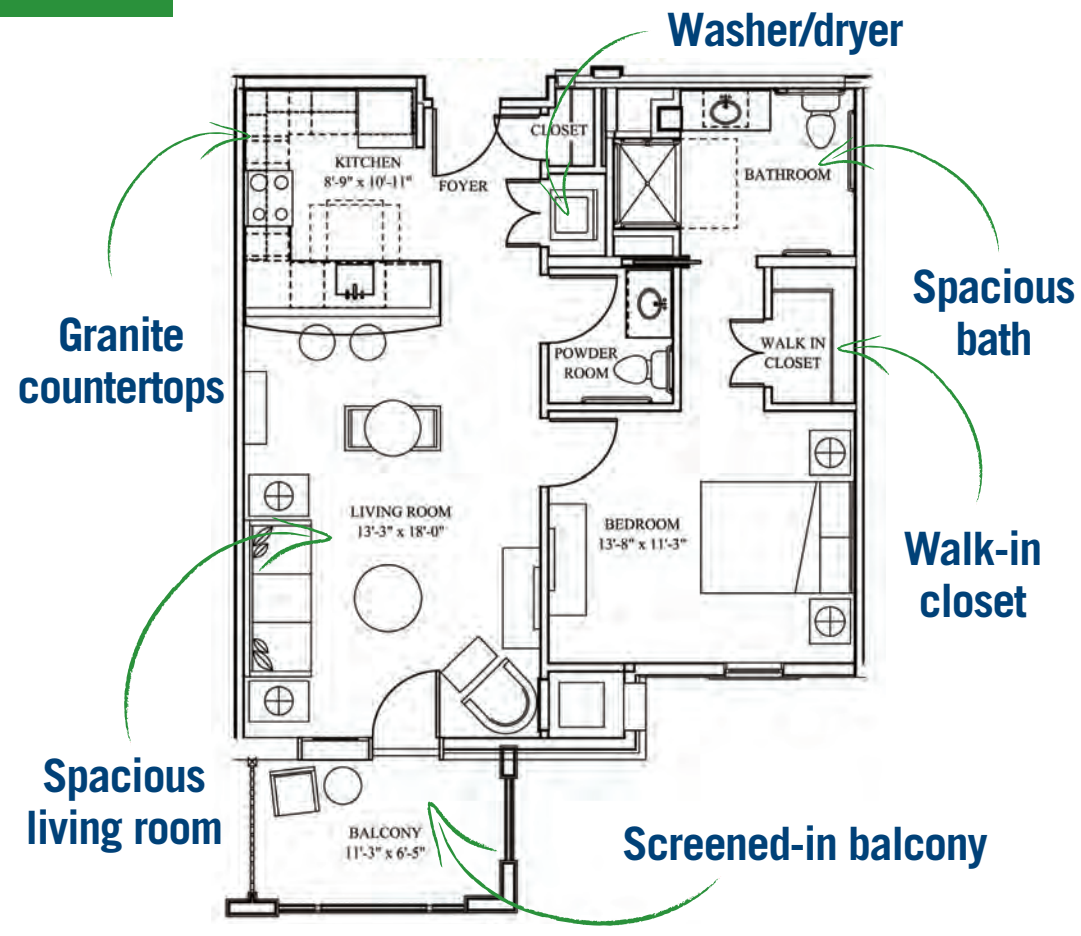


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And The Winners For The 2020 Best Of Severna Park Are...

Food/Dining

- 1. Best Restaurant Overall:** 1. Park Tavern
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 2. Best Wait Staff:** 1. Garry's Grill
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 3. Best Breakfast:** 1. The Breakfast Shoppe
2. Garry's Grill
- 4. Best Lunch:** 1. Garry's Grill
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 5. Best Dinner:** 1. Café Mezzanotte
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 6. Best Kids' Menu:** 1. Park Tavern
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 7. Best Bakery:** 1. Cakes & Confections Bakery
Cafe 2. Kirsten's Cakery
- 8. Best Barbecue:** 1. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 9. Best Burger:** 1. Five Guys Burgers & Fries
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 10. Best Coffee:** 1. The Big Bean 2. Starbucks
- 11. Best Crab Cake:** 1. The Point Crab House
2. Hellas Restaurant and Lounge
- 12. Best Pizza:** 1. Squisito Pizza & Pasta
2. Little Carmine's N.Y. Pizza Kitchen
- 13. Best Salad:** 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern
- 14. Best Sandwich/Sub:** 1. Jen's Steaks
2. Jersey Mike's Subs
- 15. Best Seafood:** 1. The Point Crab House
2. Sullivan's Cove
- 16. Best Wings:** 1. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
2. Shooter's Sports Bar & Grill
- 17. Best Dessert:** 1. Cakes & Confections Bakery
Cafe 2. Garry's Grill
- 18. Best Ice Cream:** 1. FroYo House
2. Bruster's Real Ice Cream
- 19. Best Fast Food:** 1. Chick-fil-A 2. Chipotle
- 20. Best Asian:** 1. Ming's Cafe 2. Thai Paradise
- 21. Best Mexican:** 1. Mi Pueblo II
2. Vida Taco Bar
- 22. Best Italian:** 1. Café Mezzanotte
2. La Posta Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen
- 23. Best Gluten-Free Selection:** 1. April's Table
2. Sullivan's Cove
- 24. Best Vegetarian Selection:** 1. April's Table
2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 25. Best Caterer:** 1. April's Table
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 26. Best Delivery Service:** 1. Chick-fil-A
2. Jimmy John's
- 27. Best Bar:** 1. Severna Park Taphouse
2. Park Tavern
- 28. Best Special Occasion:** 1. Café Mezzanotte
2. Café Bretton

Beauty & Fitness

- 1. Best Fitness Club:** 1. Park Fitness
2. RockWell Fitness
- 2. Best Hair Salon/Barber Shop:** 1. The Park Salon
& Barber 2. Image Creators Salon and Spa
- 3. Best Hair Stylist/Barber:** 1. Emidio Tripodi at
Emidio Vincenzo Escape
2. Ashli Shade at Split Ends Salon
- 4. Best Martial Arts Program:** 1. Kwon's Taekwondo
2. Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi
- 5. Best Place For A Massage:** 1. Sass Well
2. Emidio Vincenzo Escape
- 6. Best Massage Therapist:**
1. Kate Langston - Sass Well
2. Dewald de Lange - Emidio Vincenzo Escape
- 7. Best Nail Salon:** 1. Emidio Vincenzo Escape
2. VIP Nail Studio
- 8. Best Spa:** 1. Emidio Vincenzo Escape
2. Bodyworx Spa
- 9. Best Weight-Loss Program:** 1. Park Fitness
2. Vital Fitness Holistic Center

Health

- 1. Best Medical Practice:** 1. Maryland Primary Care
Physicians 2. Annapolis Pediatrics
- 2. Best Physician:** 1. Dr. Andre Gvozden
2. Dr. Victor Plavner
- 3. Best Women's Care:** 1. Bay Radiology
- 4. Best Chiropractic Practice:** 1. Fare Chiropractic
2. Back & Neck Care Center
- 5. Best Dental Practice:** 1. Dr. Paul Kinsey
2. McCarl Dental Group
- 6. Best Optometry Practice:** 1. Peepers of
Severna Park
- 7. Best Ophthalmology Practice:**
1. Peepers of Severna Park
2. Rutzen Eye Specialists & Laser Center
- 8. Best Orthodontic Practice:** 1. Wright
Orthodontics 2. Spivak Orthodontics
- 9. Best Pediatric Practice:** 1. Gvozden Pediatrics
2. Annapolis Pediatrics
- 10. Best Pharmacy:** 1. Park Pharmacy 2. Giant
- 11. Best Physical Therapy Practice:** 1. Patterson
Physical Therapy 2. FX Physical Therapy
- 12. Best Mental Health Care:** 1. Waypoint
Wellness Center 2. Brady Mental Health & Wellness
- 13. Best Veterinary Practice:**
1. Severna Park Veterinary Hospital
2. Healing Paws Veterinary Wellness Center
- 14. Best Senior Home:** 1. Brightview Senior Living
2. Sunrise Senior Living

Professional Services

- 1. Best Accountant:** 1. Gardiner & Appel Group
- 2. Best Insurance Agent:**
1. Lee Talbot - State Farm
- 3. Best Investment Adviser:**
1. Frederick Cassilly - Cassilly Financial Group
2. Jason LaBarge - Premier Planning Group
- 4. Best Lawyer:** 1. Paula Darrah
2. Andrew DiBlasio
- 5. Best Mortgage Company:** 1. Primary Residential
Mortgage Inc. 2. Arundel Federal Savings Bank
- 6. Best Realtor/Agent:**
1. Karen Jeffries - Coldwell Banker
2. David Orso - Compass Real Estate

Best Home Services

- 1. Best Fencing Contractor:** 1. Fence & Deck
Connection
- 2. Best Flooring/Carpet Contractor:**
1. Dorrance Hardwood Floors
- 3. Best Cleaning Service:** 1. Park Power Wash
- 4. Best Home Improvement Contractor:**
1. Landmark Roofing
2. Tomas Brothers Home Improvement
- 5. Best HVAC Contractor:**
1. Cornett Heating & Cooling
- 6. Best Interior Designer:** 1. Laura Bauer Design
2. Karen Renee Interior Design
- 7. Best Landscape/Lawn Contractor:** 1. Musgrave
Lawn & Landscape 2. Boucher Lawn & Landscape
- 8. Best Painting Contractor:** 1. Bay Country
Painters
- 9. Best Pool Service:** 1. Leslie's Pool Supplies
2. Goudy Pools
- 10. Best Plumbing Contractor:**
1. Dwyer Plumbing 2. Cipriano Brothers Plumbing

Community Services

- 1. Best Auto Repair:** 1. Severna Park Automotive
2. Magothy Auto Services
- 2. Best Bank:** 1. M&T Bank
2. Arundel Federal Savings Bank
- 3. Best Car Wash:** 1. The Great American Car Wash
2. Mighty Spray Carwash
- 4. Best Dry Cleaner:** 1. Admiral Cleaners
2. New Cleaners
- 5. Best Pet Grooming:** 1. Lisa's Pet Grooming
2. Mutt & Joe

Retail/Shopping

- 1. Best Overall Customer Service:** 1. Park Fitness
2. The Cottage
- 2. Best Art/Photography/Frame Shop:** 1. Side
Street Framers & Gift Gallery 2. Benfield Art Gallery
- 3. Best Bicycle Shop:** 1. Pedal Pushers 2. Bike Doctor
- 4. Best Consignment Shop:** 1. Savvy Consignment
2. Honeysuckle Quality Consignment
- 5. Best Home Décor:** 1. Park Home 2. The Cottage
- 6. Best Florist:** 1. Severna Flowers & Gifts
2. Peaceful Petals Flower Truck
- 7. Best Garden Center:** 1. Homestead Gardens
2. Gary's Gardens
- 8. Best Gift Shop:** 1. The Cottage 2. Park Home
- 9. Best Grocery Store:** 1. Giant 2. Harris Teeter
- 10. Best Hardware Store:** 1. Clement Hardware
2. Ace Hardware
- 11. Best Jeweler:** 1. Marc Todd Jewelers
2. Zachary's Jewelers
- 12. Best Liquor Store:** 1. Dawson's Liquors
2. Fishpaws Marketplace
- 13. Best Toy Store:** 1. Franklin's Toys 2. Five Below
- 14. Best Pet Supply Store:**
1. All For The Pet 2. Petco

Entertainment

- 1. Best Place For Family Entertainment:**
1. Severna Park Lanes 2. EcoAdventures
- 2. Best Live Music:** 1. Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and
Pub 2. Romilo's Restaurant & Bar
- 3. Best Happy Hour:** 1. Park Tavern
2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 4. Best Place To Watch The Game:**
1. Mother's Peninsula Grille 2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 5. Best Place To Take Out-Of-Towners:**
1. The Point Crab House 2. Park Tavern
- 6. Best Entertainment Venue Within 25 Miles:**
1. Rams Head On Stage 2. Rams Head Live!

Best Children's Activities

- 1. Best Activity/Entertainment Center:**
1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. EcoAdventures
- 2. Best After-School Program:** 1. Creative Force
Dance Center 2. Kwon's Taekwondo
- 3. Best Children's Dance Company:** 1. Creative
Force Dance Center 2. Spotlight Studio of Dance
- 4. Best Day Care:** 1. Vineyard Child Care Center
2. The Goddard School of Arnold
- 5. Best Music Instruction Program:**
1. Rattle and Roll 2. Theater in the Park
- 6. Best Playground:** 1. Kinder Farm Park
- 7. Best Party Rental Venue:** 1. Creative Force Dance
Center 2. EcoAdventures 2. Severna Park Gymnastics
- 8. Best Summer Camp:** 1. YMCA
2. Creative Force Dance Center
- 9. Best Sports Facility:** 1. Kinder Farm Park 2. The Y
- 10. Best Youth Sports League:** 1. Green Hornets
2. Broadneck Bays

Community

- 1. Most Desirable Community:**
1. Olde Severna Park 2. Shipley's Choice
- 2. Best Community Beach:**
1. Olde Severna Park 2. Round Bay
- 3. Best Pool:** 1. Whitehurst 2. Chartridge
- 4. Best Club:** 1. Chartwell Golf and Country Club
- 5. Best Nonprofit Organization:** 1. SPAN
2. Severna Park Community Center
- 6. Best Place To Work:** 1. The Cottage
2. Brightview Severna Park
- 7. Best Church:** 1. St. John the Evangelist Roman
Catholic Church 2. Severna Park United Methodist Church
- 8. Best Religious Leader:** 1. The Rev. Lee Ferrell
2. Father Erik Arnold
- 9. Best School:** 1. Severna Park High School
2. Severn School
- 10. Best Marina:** 1. Whitehurst
2. Hamilton Harbour Marina and Boatworks
- 11. Best Business To Open in 2019:** 1. Café Rio
2. Sullivan's Cove


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Senior Softball Yields Social Opportunities

By Alyson Kay

As the weather warms up and flowers start to bloom, Americans of every skill level start preparing for the next baseball and softball seasons, including some of Anne Arundel County's senior citizens.

The Anne Arundel Senior Softball Association (AASSA), in its 27th year, provides people age 60 and over with the opportunity to compete in softball games against seniors of various ages and skill levels. There's also a 50 and over league for younger players.

"Everybody's welcome as long as they're age-eligible and can still move around a little bit and play," said league president Mike Christ. "We like to think it helps keep us young."

To make games safer, players can slide only into second and third bases, and games use two home plates spaced apart to avoid collisions. Teams also make use of courtesy runners for players with limited mobility.

To keep the teams even, the league holds practices at the beginning of the season to divide players

into three skill level groups. The players are then drafted into one of the league's six teams. The draft is repeated every year, so players can expect to play on a different team each year. After the teams are set, they decide practice schedules individually.

Friendships form naturally between players.

"It's just a general you meet somebody and become a teammate," Christ said. "There's this thing about sports that brings people together."

Even outside of practice and games, sometimes multiple teams will hold events to socialize.

"Some of the teams will get together, maybe sponsored by a local eatery or a bar," said Christ. "Players will get together after a game, congregate, talk about how good they did or how terrible."

The league holds a year-end banquet where players are awarded trophies. The league also has a hall of fame that players can be inducted into.

The league's structure helps foster relationships as well.

"Because we have a

draft league that everyone changes teams every year, pretty much after a while you know everyone in the league," said Christ. "It's like a large family."

Some players in the league have played together for decades.

"This past fall, four of these players we inducted have played together probably since their 20s, been on teams with each other, been on teams against each other," Christ said. "Their wives know each other. Their kids know each other. That's just through softball. And they all come from different walks of life."

According to Christ, the hardest part of running a senior league like the AASSA is finding enough people who can play.

"The main thing is finding enough healthy players who know about us," said Christ. "We always seem to encounter people who are able and willing to play but just didn't know we existed."

The 2020 senior softball season is expected to begin on April 24. To inquire about joining, contact league commissioner Mike West at 410-271-2446.

Families Enjoy The Outdoors During Shutdown



Photos by Mandala Wojnar

Kinder Farm Park started offering free admission on March 16. Many local residents enjoyed this perk on March 19 while taking advantage of the beautiful day. For many, it was a great opportunity to get some fresh air while still practicing social distancing. The playground is closed, but the many trails, fields and ponds are still accessible. Kinder Farm Park is located in Millersville, and is open daily from 7:00am to dusk. A park spokesperson said it is uncertain when the park will resume admission fees.



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Maryland Legislators Rush To Pass Bills Before Session Ends

By Zach Sparks

When Americans realized the full scope of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) impact, governors across the nation began to ban large public gatherings, educational leaders scrambled to close schools, and lawmakers worked to finish their annual sessions early. Maryland was no different, with 660 bills passing in the final days of the 2020 session, which adjourned roughly one month in advance of its scheduled end.

"We were trying to make sure we had consumer protections against price gouging, that we had protections for employees so they couldn't be fired for having to take time off to quarantine, and we wanted to make sure there was expanded unemployment," said Delegate Heather Bagnall, a Democrat from District 33. "There were things we couldn't do. We ran out of time. A lot of us continued to

work with our federal delegations to make sure these gaps were filled."

Not everyone was pleased with the result. Delegate Sid Saab, a Republican from District 33, referred to the relief package as a one-size-fits-all approach, and he said several bills were rammed through the legislature without a full hearing in both chambers.

"We need to help hotel workers and restaurant workers, not the people who are at home but still getting paid," he said.

While the 2020 legislative session will largely be remembered for its abrupt end, it still yielded enough time for lawmakers to enact reforms that will impact Marylanders for years.

One of those bills was the Blueprint for Maryland's Future — an education plan that stems from the Kirwan Commission's recommendations — which will cost roughly \$4 billion per year over the

next decade.

"The blueprint was a promise to Maryland; it was a promise that even after a crisis, we're committed to improving Maryland schools, that we're committed to finding solutions to a global education system, and that we're committed to seeing this out all the way through," Bagnall said. "The Thornton [Commission law] was working and then we stopped funding it, and we can't do that again. Even in the 11th hour when the magnitude of the coronavirus was coming to light, we were still putting in guardrails; we were still putting in safeguards and measures to figure out, if the economy does change, what do we do? Do we expand the timeline? If we hit a recession, what do we do? So that bill was a promise that every year we will come back and make sure Maryland's future



Photo by Brenda Winthrope

U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (right) and Chris Van Hollen addressed the Anne Arundel County delegation in March to discuss coronavirus preparations.

degree that we are taxing our brick and mortar, it actually hurts local business," Bagnall said.

Malone also took issue with the tax on cigarettes.

"Although I am very concerned about the tobacco use in Anne Arundel County, the state and the nation, as a whole that's still a very regressive tax," he said. "It's going to nearly double the tax on ciga-

rettes and make it nearly \$10 a pack. And although it would be wonderful if that gets somebody to stop smoking, if it doesn't, it puts greater financial strain on folks."

Democrats also drafted legislation for a referendum that will ask voters if the General Assembly should be able to reallocate funds from the governor's proposed budget instead of having only the ability to cut items from the budget, or to add items only with a revenue stream. Republicans tried to pass an amendment to rephrase the wording of the question, which will appear on November's ballot, but it failed.

"My concern with the ballot measure is a key line in the text [explaining the] shift of how the legislature can cut from the budget, then reallocate, and the last line is to 'maintain a balanced budget,'" Malone said. "So when you hear that, I think the voters will think this is a good thing because they will focus on that including clause about the balanced budget because they will think that is something new, and Maryland already has in its constitution that the budget may be balanced."

Another potential ballot item, which did not pass, was Malone's redistricting bill that he has championed for three years. The bill would ask voters if congressional districts should be drawn so that they're compact, contiguous, of adjoining territory and give due regard for geographic and political boundaries. That measure would need to pass this session to reach voters by November's general election instead of waiting until the next cycle. Malone's bill had 63 cosponsors but never made it to a vote.

"On the last day of session, the rules committee, which is the committee that needed to vote on it to get it on the floor, took time to vote on a resolution on whether or not Washington D.C. should have statehood," Malone said, "and they took time to vote on two procedures on how FIFA will handle the World Cup and competition related to any World Cup games that might be played in Maryland. I didn't think the resolution was bad, but the World Cup is not coming to North America until 2026. Why were those two things being addressed but not redistricting?"

A special session may be held in May. If so, it will be reserved for emergency legislation, not the bevy of bills that didn't pass in 2020. This year's General Assembly session is over, but the work is far from done.

"People want to help, and the challenge right now is people don't know how to help," Bagnall said. "So they're finding ways to take care of each other. That's a real testament to the people we represent, and it is a real honor to represent this district."

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SPCC Gala To Celebrate 25 Years, Honor Founders

By Judy Tacyn

Geographically situated in the heart of Severna Park, the Severna Park Community Center is the literal and figurative hub of our community. With meeting spaces for groups and clubs, a dance studio for aspiring ballerinas, a pool for a future Michael Phelps, and a basketball court that hosts a myriad of sporting events and large gatherings, SPCC has been open to nearly every Severna Park resident to “gather, play, grow and thrive!”

Severna Park natives might not remember a time without this valuable community resource, but in fact, SPCC is just 25 years young. To celebrate the silver milestone, Executive Director Sarah Elder teased, “Our annual gala will be better than ever this year! Truly a night to remember.”

Dubbed “An Evening of Glamour and Giving,” the SPCC fundraising gala has been rescheduled from April 18 to October 24, and it will honor its founders to mark the center’s silver anniversary. To accommodate an expected 300-plus people, the event will be held at the Hilton Hotel at Linthicum Heights, near BWI airport, and it promises to be a spectacular evening.

This year’s gala honors the founders of the community center, including Andy Borland, Mark Corneal, Carl Gutschick, Charlie Kreter, Lee Marston, Jeff Norris, Terry Schoener, John Strange and Joan Tiernan.

Once a YMCA, that facility closed in 1996, and developers quickly saw townhouse potential on the large property. Wanting to preserve the community

“This year’s fundraiser and gala celebrates the vision and legacy of our founders. Money raised will help to ensure the center’s future success.”

— SARAH ELDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEVERNA PARK
COMMUNITY CENTER

gathering place, a group of Severna Park citizens formed a committee, and in collaboration with Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, purchased the property. The Severna Park Community Center was established as a nonprofit organization. The old YMCA was demolished and replaced with a beautiful new building that housed a pool for swimming and water-based physical therapy, dance studios, gymnasium, fitness facility and community meeting spaces.

“Through the past 25 years, an estimated 20,000 to 40,000 people per year enjoyed using the facility,” said Elder. “This year’s fundraiser and gala celebrates the vision and legacy of our founders. Money raised will help to ensure the center’s future success.”

Unlike galas past where a single community member was recognized for contributions that year, “this year the center will applaud those individuals who helped to launch this local gem,” said board chairman David Orso. “We are so blessed to have such an amazing facility right here in the heart of Anne Arundel County.”

The night will feature fabulously delicious food stations so guests can move around and mingle with honorees and their Severna Park neighbors. The Shatters Band will provide live music to help partiers dance the night away. There will be live and silent auctions, and of course a few surprises. The event might not be until October, but it’s never too early to start searching for the perfect gala attire complete with silver sequins and glam in the silver-spangled Hollywood-themed style.

“While we are amazingly proud of our history,” added Elder, “we’ve got plenty more planned for the SPCC’s future!”

This year’s fundraiser will help offset the costs of repairing the center’s HVAC, renovating the dance studios, renovating the Andy Borland Gymnasium and remodeling the locker rooms, as well as programming at SPCC.

It’s not too early to purchase tickets for this sure-to-sell-out evening. Volunteers, donations, ticket sales and sponsorships are all needed. Tickets can be purchased on the website at www.spcommunitycenter.org (click on the “Giving” dropdown and choose “Gala”).

And, if you are able to contribute or get involved, contact Sarah Elder at 410-647-5843, ext. 201, or at selder@spcommunitycenter.org.

The *Severna Park Voice* plans to feature the honorees over the months leading up to the 25th anniversary gala so you can get to know these visionaries and learn their thoughts on what makes the Severna Park Community Center so special.

Partners In Care Launches Veterans Helping Veterans Program



Tower Federal Credit Union’s TowerCares Foundation awarded Partners In Care with a \$5,000 check for the new veterans program.

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Partners In Care, the nonprofit organization based in Pasadena that assists older adults in Anne Arundel County, will soon launch a new program: Veterans Helping Veterans (VHV).

VHV is an extension of the services Partners In Care already provides. The new program will be only for veteran residents, and volunteers for the program will also be veterans.

Partners in Care assists residents age 50 and older who live in their home. Volunteers are at the heart of Partners In Care’s mission. “They amaze me to no end,” said Sharon Zentgraf, member care director and lead contact for VHV.

Residents are offered one ride per week with a volunteer, to somewhere they need to go, such as to doctor’s appointments or to the grocery store, or to somewhere they want to go. Partners In Care also offers socials and seminars on topics of interest to seniors, like taxes.

In addition, Partners In Care volunteers provide small handyman services to residents in the program,

such as installing railings, changing lightbulbs and hanging pictures.

Zentgraf explained that VHV came about when veterans in their program requested services and seminars designed specifically for them. One of the areas Zentgraf said they can help veterans is to provide information they need from local and federal governments. “We can help get through the red tape and get them connected with the right people,” she said.

The annual Veterans Day ceremony Partners In Care has held for many years will continue. VHV will also offer socials and activities exclusively for veterans.

Although VHV has not been formally launched yet, Partners In Care recently offered a seminar for veterans during last year’s Veterans Day event. Midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis engaged with veterans in discussions. Zentgraf said the program was “amazing” in how the veterans and midshipmen learned from each other and helped to bridge generations. Zentgraf noted most midshipmen could not picture the experiences of older veterans

until they had talked with them directly.

Zentgraf said having veterans volunteering for other veterans is an important component of the program. “There’s a bond that none of us can understand,” she noted. VHV will help facilitate connections with other veterans, which Zentgraf noted is especially important as veterans get older because post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) tends to worsen with age.

There are currently 200 veterans enrolled in Partners In Care, and the nonprofit expects the number to increase, possibly double, when VHV is fully implemented. Spouses of veterans are also eligible to enroll. As a result, they are seeking more veteran volunteers of any age to participate.

The launch date of VHV has recently been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. To find out when the new launch date will be, get more information about VHV, learn how veterans can enroll or learn how to become a volunteer, visit www.partnersincare.org/programs or call the Partners In Care office at 410-544-4800 and ask for the veterans program.



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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

Sailor Completes Tour Aboard Submarine

By Lieutenant Junior Grade Jacob Dirr

Sean Flanagan relieved Corey Poorman as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Pasadena (SSN 752) during a ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk on March 6.

Guest speaker Captain Chris Cavanaugh, director, Submarine/Nuclear Officer Distribution (PERS 42), praised Poorman, a Severna Park native, for his inspirational leadership.

"I'm incredibly proud of Commander Poorman and his crew, who represent everything I love about the submarine force," Cavanaugh said. "The crew is ready, with a strong culture of warfighting and camaraderie. Pasadena also has maintained a fantastic relationship with the community, and the support from the families is phenomenal."

Under Poorman's leadership, Pasadena transitioned from the West Coast to its new homeport in Norfolk last year, and earned the 2017 and 2019 Battle Efficiency E for Submarine Squadron 11 (CSS-11).

During his remarks, Poorman thanked his crew through anecdotes about various sailors and their accomplishments.

"To the fighting warriors of Pasadena, let me say it's been the greatest honor of my life to serve as a com-



manding officer," Poorman said. "The world is a dangerous place and we must remain ready, so never, ever, cede your operational readiness."

Poorman will transfer to commander, submarine force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to instruct future submarine commanding officers. He was relieved of command by Flanagan after reading his orders.

Flanagan enlisted in the Navy from Douglas, Georgia, in 1997. He was assigned as a nuclear electrician's mate and completed the Nuclear Field "A" School and Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida. Following prototype training, he was assigned as a staff instructor on MTS-635 in Charleston, South Carolina, where he was selected for the Nuclear Enlisted Commissioning Program. He previously served as executive of-



ficer, Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, and as executive officer aboard USS John Warner (SSN 785).

During his first speech as commanding officer, Flanagan thanked the Pasadena team for the warm welcome and support throughout the turnover process; he praised the Pasadena sailors for the exceptional pride they all share.

"The pride you have in the ship that you show everyday inspires me," Flanagan said. "I don't have to tell you it's a challenging world out there, and the nation expects us to answer the call if, and when, the time comes. I promise that I will work hard with you every day, and together we'll make sure Pasadena is always ready. Anytime, anywhere!"

Pasadena was commissioned February 11, 1989, and in July 1991, it became the first improved 688 class submarine to deploy. Measuring more than 360 feet long and displacing more than 6,900 tons, Pasadena has a crew of approximately 140 sailors. Pasadena is capable of supporting various missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

COVID-19 And The Courts

David Diggs
The Law Office of David V. Diggs



As I write this article on March 23, we are all experiencing an unprecedented upheaval in our lives caused by the COVID-19 health crisis affecting the globe. Most tragically, 15,000 people have died worldwide. Markets are in a free-fall. Our children are home from school. As of 11:00am this morning, all non-essential Maryland businesses are closed, joining the restaurants, bars and health clubs that were shuttered the week before. We are advised not to get too close to our elderly grandparents, parents and loved ones. Supermarket shelves cannot be stocked fast enough. Health care workers are pulling double shifts. In my nearly 59 years, I have not experienced anything like this.

Since March 16, all state courts have been restricted to emergency operations, through at least April 3. They have been closed to the public and lawyers. Most matters have been postponed and will be rescheduled. Essential personnel, which include administrative judges, court administrators and administrative heads, have been required to report to work. Administrative judges are determining what cases may be heard with remote electronic participation, or can be rescheduled after the emergency period has ended, or can be resolved without a hearing.

The Anne Arundel County Circuit Court has sent out a call for volunteer attorneys to be on standby should a petition be filed by an individual or group contesting isolation and/or quarantine as the result of a government directive. Individuals ordered for quarantine and/or isolation are entitled to challenge the decision in the Circuit Court and to have counsel appointed to represent them.

At the Law Office of

David V. Diggs LLC, we are planning for worse and hoping for better. We are socially distancing, washing our hands frequently and soldiering onward. We are fortunate to be among the essential business "that support the judicial system." Nevertheless, things have changed. I haven't been in court since March 12. Many of our clients are unable to work and they do not know if their jobs will still be around when the crisis passes. I am not sure of much, as we do what we can to stem the disorder, but I am nearly sure that my next court appearance on April 7 is likely to be postponed.

Fortunately for the day-to-day practice of the law, most of the state's courts allow for the electronic filing of court documents. While I prefer face-to-face exchanges with clients, during the emergency, video conferencing and old-fashioned telephone calls are nearly as effective, without the threat of contagion.

Lawyers and their clients are confronted by myriad deadlines. Most lawsuits must be filed within three years of the event. Every complaint filed brings deadlines for naming experts, completing discovery, amending pleadings, filing pre-trial statements, etc. For criminal defendants, there is a constitutional right to a speedy trial. It remains to be seen whether or not any of these legal deadlines will be waived by our courts.

Finally, if you or a loved one have questions about the legal ramifications posed by the COVID-19 health crisis, you should consult with an attorney you can trust and who will assist you in making informed decisions.

David Diggs is your neighbor and legal counsel. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC at 410-244-1171 or david@diggsllc.com. The office is located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville.

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SPRING ARBOR SENIOR LIVING
By HH Hunt

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COVID-19 County Update

» **Continued from A1**
people were older than 69 years old.

People who are 65 years and older and those with underlying medical issues are most at risk.

SYMPTOMS

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently acknowledge shortness of breath, fever and a dry cough as symptoms of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 symptoms are similar to the flu and the common cold and could appear anywhere between two to 14 days after contracting the virus. People who are having trouble breathing should call their doctor before they go to the emergency room.

"Not all shortness of breath is COVID-19," said Anne Arundel County Health Officer Dr. Niles Kalyanaraman. "It is still flu season, so we want to make that assessment as we can."

TESTING

Anne Arundel County is experiencing a shortage of tests. Currently, the county is asking people to call their doctors or the health department for screening to determine if they need a test. Tests are being administered to high-risk citizens, those who have traveled and people who have had fevers for more than 72 hours and severe symptoms first. People experiencing symptoms should call their primary care doctor or the health department to determine if they need to be tested.

Drive-thru testing, which should be available in Maryland soon, will be the most effective way to discover the virus for citizens and medical care workers.

The shortage of tests comes from the lack of testing methods that are available at the federal level. There are many private companies working with the federal government to mass-produce tests.

Currently, test results are expected to come back

between four and seven days. The health department is working to speed up the process, but there is not enough testing equipment to keep up with the number of tests.

"It's a game of trying to keep up with as many tests as we try to do," Kalyanaraman said. "Can we make sure we can process them? That is the delay we are seeing."

"There is no vaccine at this time. There is no treatment at this time. What we have is individual actions and government actions to slow the spread of the virus."

— NILESH KALYANARAMAN,
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
HEALTH OFFICER

HOSPITALS

Hospitals in Anne Arundel County are working on increasing surge capacity, which refers to the number of beds and ventilators available. Steps have been taken to cancel all elective surgeries and turn recovery and operating rooms into emergency rooms.

Taking preventive measures will slow the rate at which cases come into the hospitals. Currently, hospitals are receiving cases at a high rate. The slower the disease spreads, the better the health care system can handle it.

"Think back to just a few days ago when you go to the grocery store and the aisles are empty because everyone went there at once," Kalyanaraman said. "Now imagine if we do that to our hospitals. That is a dangerous situation."

PREVENTION

The health department advises all residents to wash their hands frequently, cover their coughs, avoid sharing, avoid touching their face or others and use hand sani-

tizer with 60% alcohol. It is not advised that people wear masks unless they are sick. A mask will only prevent the illness from spreading to other people and it will not keep the virus away.

"Those are the steps that you can take and each one of those steps decreases our risk," Kalyanaraman said. "It's hard. We are not used to thinking about every single action you take and that is what we are asking you to do."

SOCIAL DISTANCING

The health department continues to ask Anne Arundel County residents to practice social distancing. People are asked to limit their circle of people and to keep it constant.

"It may seem like it's not important and the question we get is, 'How can my action be so important?'" Kalyanaraman said. "Everything about this virus that we are focused on now is slowing it down. There is no vaccine at this time. There is no treatment at this time. What we have is individual actions and government actions to slow the spread of the virus."

People should stay six feet away from one another, but they are encouraged to go on walks and spend time outside.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO FROM HOME?

To alleviate the health department of some non-medical calls, Pittman established the EOC (Emergency Operation Center) in Glen Burnie. The EOC is responsible for donations, communication and connecting residents with the department of the government that will best fill their non-medical needs during this pandemic. Medical supply donations are in high demand. For this reason, monetary donations are also being accepted through the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County. Residents who do not have medical supplies still have an opportunity to help medical care workers to restock.

"We are all in this together, everywhere in the world," Pittman said. "We will learn from this. We will recover together."

Community members with medical questions about COVID-19 are asked to call 410-222-7256. To contact EOC, call 410-222-0600 or email eoc@aacounty.org. To make a monetary donation, visit www.cfacc.org.

Severna Park Residents Run A Long Way For A Good Cause

By Haley Weisgerber

Berrywood residents Dan and Susan Morrissey are making a difference in the best way they know how: by running a marathon.

On October 4, the Morrissey family is traveling across the pond to run the London Marathon, one of the world's largest fundraisers.

It was Susan who originally hooked the family on running.

"There was a women's 5k at Quiet Waters Park and you didn't have to have any experience," said Susan. "You could just show up and they would help you to successfully run the race. I was able to do it. I wasn't the fastest, but I crossed the finish line."

Dan took up running shortly after and never looked back.

"I got involved and I really got the bug and started doing marathons," said Dan.

The London Marathon will be Dan's sixth marathon and Susan's first.

Each year, runners from all over the world gather in London to support their favorite charities. In 2019, the runners raised a record-breaking 66.4 million pounds, or \$81 million.

Dan, Susan and their son Michael chose to fundraise for the Salvation Army.

"I'm an advisory board member for the local Salvation Army," said Dan, who has been involved with the organization for two years. "It seemed like a perfect fit."

The Salvation Army is a church and a social service organization that strives to end poverty and ensure that every person is treated fairly.

"I'm excited that it's the charity we are going to support," said Susan. "I was not aware of how much the Salvation Army does. It is an incredible organization."

The Salvation Army's most popular program is the kettlebell fundraising campaign at Christmas-time. The organization is also involved in disaster



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

Dan and Susan Morrissey said that they are excited to run the London Marathon as a family.

relief, poverty outreach and much more.

"What's special about the Salvation Army is who we are at our core," said Captain Ryan Vincent, who runs the Annapolis location. "We are a Christian organization that firmly believes that nobody is more special than anyone else and everyone deserves an opportunity. We resolve ourselves to make sure everyone is meeting needs and that we are holistically fixing a situation."

Dan and Susan's fundraiser will benefit the Salvation Army in Annapolis, whereas Michael, who lives in Houston, will donate to his local station.

Vincent said he is excited that people are willing to fundraise for the organization.

"As a Salvation Army employee, this means that we have people who believe in what we're doing," said Vincent. "If people are willing to put their hard-earned money into this organization then that means the world to us."

The funds will support the Salvation Army's social service and youth outreach programs. The Salvation Army is currently operating the only

homeless shelter in Annapolis and strives to end poverty in the community.

Dan said that the Salvation Army has inspired him to give back, and running a marathon is the best way he knows how.

"This is my opportunity to give back," said Dan. "I've been fortunate in my life, and now that I'm retired, I want to give back to those who haven't been as fortunate."

Susan, who is walking the marathon, has been training to finish in seven hours. Dan, however, is just hoping to finish the race before his son.

"I haven't been close to beating him for that last couple races, but this time I've doubled down," said Dan. "I hired a professional coach who monitors my workouts. I am getting faster. I'm optimistic that if I'm not going to beat him, I'm getting close."

Dan and Susan said that they are excited to make lasting memories as a family and make a difference in the process.

"It feels good to do something with your family that's fun and healthy," said Dan. "It's a real bonus that what we're doing is bringing money in to provide support to people who need it."

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Neighbors Band Together During Shutdown

» Continued from A1 Department.

"They're going into homes, investigating how people have died," she said of the homicide detectives. "They had eight masks to share, and they were not even N95."

Her biggest concern was that while nurses, doctors and police officers have protected and served the public, they have become especially vulnerable to the virus.

"You feel like you're helping your community, helping emergency responders get the resources that they need, and creating some sense of normalcy," she said.

Longtime sewer Hannah Warzoha started by making masks for friends who were immunocompromised. Since then, she has sent roughly 140 masks to medical professionals and first responders.

"I never expected to be in a position of making masks for health care workers," Warzoha said. "I'm appalled by the response of the [president's] administration, not getting personal protective equipment to people on the front lines. I feel like this is a little thing I can do, and it's amazing how grateful people are."

Warzoha said it takes about 10 minutes to create each mask, as she takes extra time for hand-washing and other precautions. She is not profiting from the masks in any way, not even charging for shipping.

Jean Cleckner, the owner of I Do I Do Designs 4 U, is also sewing masks and donating those to Anne Arundel Medical Center.

SHARING FOOD AND SPREADING LOVE

An anonymous neighborhood mom has set up a table with bagged lunches every weekday by the traffic circle on Leelyn Drive.

Julie Jensen started a card donation station at Severna Park Elementary, encouraging people to make cards, draw a picture or write a note to a health care worker.

An anonymous woman and her family in Chartridge bought and delivered flowers to neighbors. One of those

neighbors was Julie Wertz Bresson, who was handed tulips as she was leaving her home to visit her mom in Kensington.

"It was really so sweet," she said. "After talking to another neighbor on the court, I learned that she's just one of the nicest people around."

As a youth program director who creates youth programs for nonprofits, Annapolis resident Dee Ward had been working on a speaking engagement about planting seeds in life and relating that message to the actual seeds people are planting in their homes and gardens. He decided to expand the scope of that project after seeing organizations like ACT and NO HARM feeding families, and the Rev. Sheryl Menendez and her organizations donating more than 800 pounds of produce.

"By GLUE already having some gardening supplies, we decided to create an in-home gardening project that can be useful in multiple ways," Ward said. "First, we asked the communities through Annapolis to donate through our cash app \$blackexcel or through our Facebook 'Newtowne Community Development Corporation' nonprofit page to create almost 500 gardening kits."

The kits contain compost and soil mix, veggie seeds with flowers, toilet paper and paper towels, and instructions. Ward and other volunteers are still accepting donations as they distribute gardening kits around Annapolis.

"Gardening isn't a process that happens overnight, and like this virus, it's going to take time to grow and heal," Ward said. "Gardening is a great way to keep others in touch and involved from a distance socially."

As the number of Maryland coronavirus cases spikes, these local volunteers agree that they will ramp up their efforts, not abandon them.

"The hoarding and panicking is easy when you don't know what is happening," Gorski said. "But this is a way for people to connect and to fight off the virus."

Laura McElwain Colquhoun contributed reporting to this article.

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Businesses!



Businesses Go The Extra Mile

» Continued from A1

to pay restaurants to make food for hungry families. The effort helped restaurants during a time of dwindling business while also aiding food-deprived families.

Other restaurants and liquor stores worked to expand their services, many of them offering curbside service and delivery for the first time. Severna Park Taphouse started giving away a free roll of toilet paper with every order.

That service was appreciated, but it also took a toll. Garry's Grill was one business that started delivery to help customers, but temporarily closed to protect

its workers.

"At the end of the day, your health is what's most important; if you don't have that, nothing else matters," owner Eddie Conway wrote in a Facebook post. "We feel we are at the point where the risk is simply not worth the reward to anybody ... we cannot thank you enough for everything!"

In a time of need, Severna Park looked to its local businesses and nonprofits for support, and they didn't disappoint. Patrons hope to be sipping on cocktails and gathering with friends again soon, but for now, they at least have the food and essential items to survive.

What's Open



Supporting locally owned businesses just got easier with the *Severna Park Voice's* new "What's Open" widget on our website. Track how small businesses are evolving to serve the community, what is open, and what services businesses are offering.

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As the impact of the pandemic continues, there is no doubt we are all in this together, and small businesses need your help!

Why are small businesses so important? Well, it's simple. Small businesses are the lifeblood of any great community, especially ours. These local companies embody the very reason we live here. They are an integral part of the way of life we share every day. They make various donations to local school activities, support our youth sports programs, give countless gift certificates to so many nonprofit organizations, and yes, even partner with your community newspaper. They are one of the main reasons we enjoy such a desirable quality of life and WE NEED TO BE THERE FOR THEM! Not just talk about it but really be there for them, as they have for us. And we need to start right now!

As the COVID-19 crisis progresses, we encourage every one of you to go out of your way to patronize local businesses for every need/want you may have. Furthermore, when this crisis begins to wind down, stop by a local business and thank the staff for all they have done to make our community the wonderful place it is.

The following are few things you can do right now to help our local business community. On their behalf, we thank you.

Shop Local

We should always make it a point to shop local, especially during this pandemic. For every dollar you spend with a local business, 68 cents goes back to the community. So instead of buying the products or services you need online and giving the profits to some mega corporation in some faraway part of the world, try to make your purchase right here where you live.

Buy A Gift Card

Many local companies offer online and curbside service. Buy this year's birthday gift or something special for Mom or Dad from a local store right now.

Schedule Big Projects And Purchases Now

Been saving for that big project? Whether it be for a home project, medical procedure, appliance upgrade, car, boat or home, call a local small business and schedule an appointment. And remember, local businesses donate 250% more than large companies to community causes.

Pride In Service

Local companies take great pride in offering fantastic customer service and unique gift items. Companies with fewer than 500 employees account for 99.7% of all U.S. employers. Please support them.

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POLITICS & OPINION

Council Update

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



The topic of school capacity is one that I hear often, most recently at a Greater Severna Park Council meeting in late 2019. At the time, Oak Hill Elementary was considered an "open" school by county standards, and frustrated parents wanted to understand how new homes were being constructed.

The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) is a mechanism that is in place to balance growth and the impact on infrastructure, including schools, fire suppression, roads, water and sewer.

For schools, it is the school utilization chart. This county council unanimously supported legislation to close elementary and middle schools from major subdivision (more than five homes) when an elementary or middle school reaches 95% capacity. High schools close when they are at 100%. The county council votes on this chart every year. It was not intended to be a real-time instrument, though it has great importance. By law, the chart uses the most recent state certified enrollment, and projected enrollment based on the Educational Facilities Master Plan created annually by the school board, county and state. The current chart, passed in February of 2020, used the certified student enrollment from 2018 and the projected enrollment from 2019. It was this chart that closed Oak Hill Elementary as well as a handful of other schools in the county.

New construction is a lengthy process. From first application to a shovel in the ground, the process can be three to six years on average. A major subdivision (more than five homes)

proposed in a closed school area is placed on a wait list of six years before they can build.

While the adequate public facilities ordinance is focused on new construction, organic growth also increases student populations. Our district is one of the most sought-after areas in the county for home buying. In 2019, 434 homes were purchased in the Severna Park zip code, 46 of those in the Chartwell community; 421 homes were purchased in the Arnold zip code and the majority were existing homes. While there is no data on the number of children this added to area schools, it is safe to assume some portion of these existing home sales had an impact. However, there is no mechanism to address that growth.

In recent weeks, members of the Severna Park community have reached out to my office with concerns over a bill introduced by one of my colleagues. Bill 12-20 creates an exemption to the capacity law. It allows residential housing projects to circumvent the adequate public facilities test for schools as long as the project is awarded funding from low-income housing tax credits by the Maryland Department of Housing and Communities, and if at the time of their application for the tax credit, schools were open; or if at the time of testing for adequate public facilities an elementary or middle school is not above 98% capacity and a high school is not above 105% capacity. The project can be no more than 50 units.

To give background on projects awarded these tax credits, they must be awarded the credits before they submit development applications to the Department of Planning and Zoning. There are roughly four applications submitted to the state every year

» Continued on A13

Doing Our Part During COVID-19 Pandemic

Peter Franchot
Comptroller
of Maryland



We are living in unprecedented times. As our state, nation and the world battle the COVID-19 pandemic, there is much fear and uncertainty about what tomorrow brings and what the future holds.

But there is also reason for hope and appreciation.

I want to thank the Hogan administration, state legislators, local governments, health professionals and first responders, and all our partners, for working collaboratively and urgently to protect the wellbeing of Marylanders. I must also recognize the dedicated team at the comptroller's office for staying committed to the mission of helping taxpayers (more on that later).

I am also grateful to you for heeding the directives from

Governor Hogan by staying home as much as possible to help protect public health and prevent the spread of this disease.

We all must do our part to overcome this pandemic. As Maryland's chief fiscal officer, I am deeply concerned about the economic implications that coronavirus will leave in its wake.

Maryland's local, independent businesses are the lifeblood of our state's economy and the pillars of their communities. These social distancing orders and closure orders, while necessary, are battering these entrepreneurs and the employees who support them.

Having spoken directly with dozens of small-business owners, they all say the same thing: in the absence of extraordinary action, many of them will go under. The fallout — jobs wiped out, life savings drained, community investment vanished — would go far beyond shuttered brick-and-

mortar buildings.

To survive, small businesses need cash to pay their employees, vendors, landlords and banks.

We can all help by ordering takeout or delivery from local restaurants or buying a gift card now from Maryland retailers for future use. Remember, these are the businesses who support area little league teams, run fundraisers for your school PTA and donate to those in need. If you can, I urge you to return the favor and help #KeepTheLightsOn.

You can find a county-by-county list of area restaurants and other facilities that are offering carryout, curbside or delivery service at www.marylandtaxes.gov.

Additionally, I'm pleased with the Hogan administration's actions to offer a \$177 million business relief program to help them ride out the crisis, by providing immediate financial support to cover expenses and preserve jobs.

While our branch offices across the state are closed as a precaution, there are still many ways to get your tax questions answered, which include:

- Using our website, www.marylandtaxes.gov, where you can find tax forms and general information on filing your taxes, in addition to the latest news for taxpayers.
- Emailing us at taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov if you have a specific question about your income tax return or other tax issues. For taxpayers who are currently on payment plans for taxes owed to the state but are having hardship making payments, they can email

» Continued on A13

It Counts To Be Counted

Ed Reilly
Senator
District 33



In 1787, the men who framed the United States Constitution agreed that the growing new country needed congressional representation. They wrote into the Constitution that everyone must be counted every 10 years, and that one elected person would represent up to 30,000 people per state in Congress. Well, fast-forward 233 years, and that number has grown to one representative for 747,000 persons, and there are now 435 seats in the House of Representatives. This year marks the 24th time our country has conducted a census.

You might wonder who will be counted for the census. Everyone who has an established residence in the United States is counted. This will include all United States citizens,

individuals with work visas, international students, and unauthorized immigrants. Temporary visitors, such as tourists, will not be counted. Yes, the United States government wants to count everyone. The Census Bureau has assured the American public that the information being gathered will remain confidential and will be used only for statistical data. By law, this data cannot be shared with any law enforcement agency.

The new census numbers will show population shifts. Congressional and state legislative districts can now be adjusted to reflect the changing population. Potentially, congressional districts will adjust, and new congressional

lines will be drawn. Hopefully the new districts will follow natural boundaries more than politically beneficial congressional districts. By doing so, the issue of gerrymandering potentially could end.

In addition to the legislative requirements, the census will also provide federal funding to states for every person counted. You are worth \$18,250 over the next 10 years in federal funds to the State of Maryland. This money will go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other resources. State budgets are adjusted according to the amount of money that is distributed due to the census numbers. If people do not

» Continued on A13

Words Matter

Sid Saab
Delegate
District 33



Senate Bill 1028, called "Balancing the State Budget," passed the state legislature in a mad rush on the last day of session. This bill would put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to give the legislature more power over the state budget. Though this idea

has been floated before, it has never passed when debated properly. Now, under adverse circumstances due to the pandemic, and without a public hearing, it was pushed through within hours.

I want to share a good description of the bill as explained by former State Senator George W. Della Jr. (Democrat-Baltimore City) and as reported in Maryland Matters on March 24, so you can see how your Maryland General Assembly is being led:

I served in the Maryland State Senate for 28 years and remain interested in the activities of the legislature. The coverage of the final day of a General Assembly session is always difficult because hundreds of bills are enacted, but only Maryland Matters reported on the passage of Senate Bill 1028 on the day after Sine Die. This may be the most consequential legislation passed by this year's General Assembly.

Your article relayed the immediate political retribution administered to Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith (Democrat-Prince George's) for being the only Democrat to speak and vote against the bill. In retaliation for her position, she was, within minutes, stripped of her position as House chair of the Spending Affordability Committee. Given the nature of Senate Bill 1028, the removal of a Spending Affordability Committee chair is very troubling.

Senate Bill 1028 would allow the legislature to "move money around" in the governor's budget. So, for example, if the

governor asked for \$200 million for the COVID-19 crisis, the legislature might decide to allow him \$100 million and use the other \$100 million to fund public education enhancements such as those enacted in the Kirwan bill.

Proposals identical to Senate Bill 1028 have been banging around the legislature for the last 25 years and, until now, they have never passed, which should've given this legislature some pause. Unfortunately, the House Appropriations Committee (on which Ms. Valentino-Smith serves) never held a hearing on Senate Bill 1028 (the hearing on a similar but not identical House bill was conducted without the benefit of the public because of the coronavirus lockdown).

Senate Bill 1028 was presented to members of the committee with six hours to go in the session and contained partial and misleading "referendum language" which suggested that passage of the bill would result in no significant changes. There was

» Continued on A13

Demonstrating Leadership During A Crisis

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33



I've just completed my second session in office, which ended once again with a history-making Sine Die, this time in the midst of an international crisis. I'm strangely calm. I have written several versions of this month's column because I think it's important in this moment to strike the right balance. To discuss local issues or a wrap-up of the legislative session feels inappropriate and blithe, dismissive of the larger picture and massive scale of a crisis, yet with the rapidly changing landscape of this outbreak, anything addressing our strategies today will be obsolete by publication. I know people are also seeking normalcy, but to act as if we are simply returning to normal feels disingenuous and negligent.

Instead, I will write about my experience in the waning hours of the General Assembly as tensions ran high; a combination of concern, frustration, exhaustion and a desire to provide for the millions of Marylanders we represent, as the General Assembly stood firm in our commitment to perform beyond our constitutional mandate. During those final days, I heard colleagues call me and others socialist, fascist and Stalinist. The rhetoric grew louder and more abrasive, but in the end we put our heads down and continued to do the work, because

the work we were doing, the bills we were passing, were the culmination of months and even years of work by our Maryland families.

I know my colleagues and I will have a different perspective on the necessity of continuing, and in truth, I was frustrated that we were adjourning early not only because a great deal of important legislation was lost but because in a moment of crisis, I felt that I owed it to you, my constituents, to stay, to remain in Annapolis for as long as needed to make sure our community had access to essential services, to be ready to pass emergency legislation as needed. I can only imagine the challenge posed by this crisis for our speaker and Senate president, both newly elected in each chamber, facing the worst pandemic in a century, weighing the needs of the members against the needs of all of Maryland, and determining in a matter of days whether our presence or our absence would put a greater burden on the health system as we prepared for the surge. Leaders are forged not in moments of calm, but in moments of chaos and uncertainty. And in this uncertain time, our leadership in coordination with the governor gave us a level of certainty and a definitive timeline. We had three weeks of work to complete in three days with a few hours' notice, and I'm proud of the work we did. Perhaps this means the bill you were championing didn't make it. I know the bill that emerged from this community to aid adolescent

access for mental health care would have been law but for the intervention of this crisis and even should we come back in May, it will be to respond to any gaps in service created by the pandemic, not to pick up where we left off.

In the coming weeks, we'll have time to address the legislation that passed, the legislation that failed, and the legislation that was lost to a pandemic. We'll have time to answer questions, talk with constituents and plan for the next session, but for now, it is far more important that we continue to work to keep people physically and mentally healthy as well as financially solvent.

We have a tradition in the General Assembly: to explain our votes. Out of a concern for time, I did not stand on the chamber floor, but I will do so now. I want to explain my vote for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a bipartisan bill that has been touted and disparaged for the last two sessions, and the culmination of years of work. I voted for the blueprint because it was not only a policy but a promise to our constituents, a promise that at the end of this crisis, we will come out on the other side. It is a promise that we have a future and that we will work to ensure the financial security of our state. It is a promise that we will come back, session after session, year after year to get it right. It is a promise to our businesses that we will develop a strong workforce, a promise to our taxpayers that we will attract new business

» Continued on A13

Be Safe From COVID-19 And Domestic Violence

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



Many of us are using the stay-at-home time to catch up on household projects, start a fitness program, read a book or just play games with our kids. COVID-19 has compelled many of us to slow down, take a shallow breath and appreciate the quieter things in life.

For some, though, staying at home is intimidating. As Facebook posts remind us, check on the extroverts in your lives. Not everyone is emotionally equipped to spend long periods without extensive and varied social interaction. Anne Frank and seven other people stayed in a 450-square-foot attic for 761 days, and we can all agree that situation was far from ideal.

For some, the deleterious effects of staying home may extend far past cabin fever. All of us are affected emotionally by COVID-19, by the stress of not knowing how long or how severe the pandemic will be, by financial concerns worsened by the loss of a job or income, by worry over elderly or vulnerable friends and family, etc. For persons in abusive relationships, however, these additional stresses can tip the already unsteady balance into further abuse.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in three women and one in four men will experience some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetimes, and one in four women and one in nine men will experience severe forms of such violence. In the last few months, Maryland courts have heard approximately 2,000 protective order cases and 800 to 1,000 peace order cases per month. Protective orders protect persons in intimate or family relationships and can order that an abuser stay away from the victim, vacate the family home, lose custody of minor children, and financially support the victim and any children, etc. Peace orders protect persons not in an intimate or familial relationship, such as a neighbor or friend, and typically order that the abuser stay away.

Despite the shortened legislative session this year, two bills buttressing protective orders and peace orders passed. House Bill 248/Senate Bill 210 clarifies that rape and sexual offenses are bases for obtaining a protective order rather than a peace order.

» Continued on A13

Council Update

» **Continued from A12**
to build in Anne Arundel County. One project per year has been awarded the credit in our county for the past two years. Once awarded this tax credit, the developer has three years to complete the project or funding is lost.

While the bill is narrowly tailored for a specific project outside of the fifth district, it applies countywide. It would allow a project that fits the criteria and funding by the state to locate in the Severna Park Middle feeder area, a school that is at 97% capacity.

In addition to the potential future impacts for our district, the larger picture also gives

me pause. Some schools that would become open under this bill have 50% or more of their students who qualify for free and reduced meals. These are the schools that do more with less. What are the unintended consequences for the students and teachers in those schools? How does a council vote unanimously in favor of stricter capacity laws, and then create a loophole above that? Are we prioritizing the need for affordable housing over the burden on our schools, students, teachers and families? These are the considerations I am giving this bill.

The public hearing for this bill, along with more than a

dozen other bills, has been held up indefinitely due to the COVID-19 health emergency and restrictions. COVID-19 has created a level of uncertainty, fear and anxiety for many residents in the county. While your federal, state and local leaders work to address those concerns, I hope you and your family find the silver linings. For my family, I am enjoying that I am present for more moments than usual, such as enjoying the sunshine when it is out, taking long walks and having conversations with my children I may otherwise not have had. I wish you all silver-lining moments, wellness and health. We are in this together.

I am always here for you and your family and can be reached at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

It Counts To Be Counted

» **Continued from A12**
respond, the data may reduce the amount of funding that is giving to a community, or under-allocate elected representatives. On the local level, the census will show the impact that housing developments could have on an established community. It is a good indicator of traffic congestion, retail development and the number of students enrolled in our local schools. It's important to be counted.

The census should have been delivered to your house between March 12 and 20, with April 1 being Census Day in America. You can complete your form online (see the link provided below), by phone or by mail. Your data will be secure. Federal law protects all the information you provide when answering census questions. This material is secure for 72 years and cannot be released by the Library of Congress until April of 2092.

You've heard census ads on TV and radio. You've received census notification in the mail. Now it's your turn to take the time to fill

out the census form and be counted. If you haven't received it in the mail or have any questions pertaining to the process, please refer to this website: 2020census.gov/en.html. That site also has an interesting interactive map that shows the percentage rate of response by state if you want to see how Maryland is doing. If I can be of any help to you, please email me at edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us or call me at 410-841-3568.

Demonstrating Leadership

» **Continued from A12**
and new revenue to our state, and a promise to our children and families that they will have an equal path to a bright and prosperous future.

I have been called a magical ideologue for my belief in this process, but in fact, I'm a pragmatic fatalist who is also an optimist; I anticipate how

Doing Our Part

» **Continued from A12**
our Individual Collection Section at COVID19@marylandtaxes.gov. Businesses requesting a refund of business-related taxes in March can email taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov.

• Finding us on social media, where we post all the latest agency news and information for taxpayers. We're on Facebook at www.facebook.com/comptrollerofmaryland and our Twitter handle is @mdcomptroller.

Taxpayers may experience longer response times to questions and the processing of tax returns due to limited on-site staffing.

A few other things we have done and continue to monitor for potential additional changes:

- Extended the filing and

payment deadlines for both state and federal income taxes to July 15.

- Extended the deadline for monthly business tax payments due in March, April and May to June 1.

• Suspended the enforcement of limits on how much beer and distilled spirits customers can buy from Maryland-based craft breweries and distilleries for carryout and delivery.

• Helped the governor's office craft an executive order that allows restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, distilleries and other licensed alcohol manufacturers to deliver off-premises.

• Provided guidance to distilleries who sought permission to produce hand sanitizer.

The filing and payment extensions are particularly important because they free up money for individuals and businesses to use for other critical needs as this pandemic persists. That said, if you have not yet filed taxes and expect a refund, file online and use direct deposit so we can get your money to you.

We're here to help in any way we can. Stay healthy and stay safe. We're all in this together — and difficult as it may seem now, we will be stronger for it.

Words Matter

» **Continued from A12**
no public hearing. Make no mistake: the enactment of Senate Bill 1028 will materially change the Maryland budgetary process.

The heavy-handed disciplining of Delegate Valentino-Smith was autocratic, politically clumsy and unjustified. However, beyond this political kerfuffle, the real danger is the actual bill itself. It was a proposal that should've been completely vetted with a public hearing which could have been carried out at the proposed May special session of the General Assembly.

Delegate Valentino-Smith did what we ask our elected officials to do: Vote your conscience even when that means you are speaking truth to power.

The leadership of the House of Delegates should be deeply embarrassed.

So there it is — not a pretty picture. Thank you, Senator Della, for speaking up. Ballot questions are worded to entice voters to approve them, so educating the public on what this precisely means will be the next task.

Be Safe From COVID-19 And Domestic Violence

» **Continued from A12**
The relief available within a protective order is greater and more expansive than that of a peace order. HB250/SB227 requires that protective and peace orders remain in effect until a timely filed motion to extend them is heard. Final protective orders last one year, and final peace orders can last up to six months, and both can be extended another six months if good cause exists. This bill fills in the potential gap between when an order expires and when a motion

to extend is heard. I voted for both of these bills in committee and on the House floor.

Despite the lockdown, lots of information and help remains available for victims of domestic violence and other abuse. Advocates are available 24/7 at National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or by chat. All calls are free and confidential. More locally, YWCA offices in Arnold and Glen Burnie are currently closed, but their hotline at 410-222-6800 is open, and other help may be available. As an es-

sential service, many attorneys remain available by phone or email. While Maryland courts are largely closed, they are hearing emergency matters like protective and peace orders, and, if the courthouse is closed, interim protective orders are available through the commissioner's office in

both district courthouses in Glen Burnie and Annapolis. Forms for obtaining a protective and peace order, as well as other pertinent information, are available online at www.courts.state.md.us/legalhelp/domesticviolence.

Stay safe and healthy everyone.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Show Must Go On: Keeping The Arts Alive



By Megan Ruge

Amidst the novel coronavirus pandemic, many theaters and arts groups have closed their doors, postponing and cancelling performances until further notice. Some groups, however, are carrying the phrase “the show must go on” into this time of challenging circumstance.

Many groups worldwide are finding ways to bring their shows to the masses virtually. A staple in the arts community, Broadway has opened its shows for free streaming online while it’s closed to the public. In Anne Arundel County, many artists have followed Broadway’s lead, putting on shows and making them available to the public via internet streaming.

One of those groups is the Pandemic Players. The lead organizer of the Maryland chapter of this project is Stephen Deining, whose brainchild brought together theater companies and actors from Annapolis to Harper County to keep them active and support suffering theaters through pandemic social distancing.

“When we put this idea out, it was at the beginning of self-quarantine,” Deining said. “I kind of

just threw out the idea on social media.”

The project began on Thursday, March 12, and grew fast. For Pandemic Players productions, each actor plays a part to their personal cameras in their homes, but when put together with other production values and livestreamed on Facebook, the result is a free theater production that is nothing short of excellent.

In these strange times, the actors are in “the worst conditions you could ever ask an actor to perform from,” Deining said. But when the word went out, it spread like wildfire. Both Deining and his associate Paul Valteau have been a part of the Maryland theater community for years, so it was easy for them to collect interested participants to prepare for their first production. During the production, viewers are able to silently participate through comments on the livestream.

“During a show, you normally can’t talk,” Deining said. The livestream gives the participants a respectful and non-disruptive means of interacting.

Though productions are part of the lineup for Pandemic Players, the light that they shine isn’t limited to livestream theater.

“This idea was not only to keep people’s spirits alive but to keep people funded,” Deining said. On the group’s Facebook page, they are encouraging the public to donate to theaters that are struggling due to being shut down.

“First thing we do is decide as a community who is in the greatest need,” Deining said. The group posts active links to preregister 501(c)(3) organization donation sites and plans to promote them with each show.

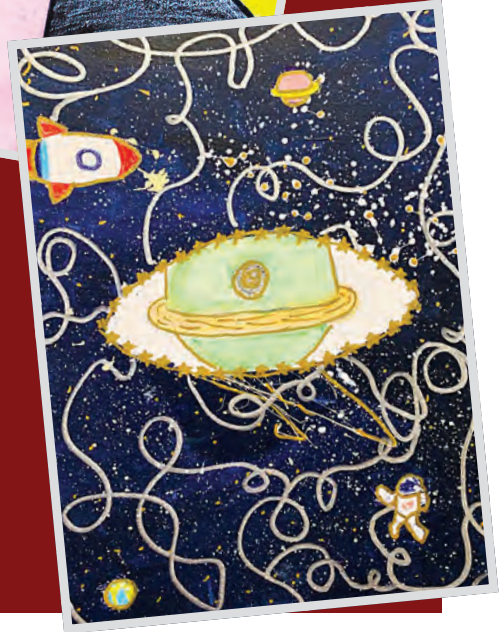
Their first show, “St. Joan,” took place on March 21, and the affiliated group for this show was Spotlighters Theater of Baltimore. The next show, “The Importance of Being Earnest,” took place on March 28. Showtime will be each week on Saturday at 7:00pm.

Since the group’s conception, many others have reached out to Deining asking to create a chapter of Pandemic Players in their own locations. Deining said he was happy to see others wanting to create this sort of atmosphere and encouraged them to do so. Since then, chapters have sprung up in Los Angeles; Chicago; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and even New Zealand.

“What we’re going through now is a very short-term situation, we hope,” Deining said. “We joke that we are the only theater company in history that looks forward to closing.”

Downtown Annapolis is offering daily concerts at www.facebook.com/annapolisstreaming.

Middle School Artists Depict The World Through Their Eyes



Each year, Severn School art teacher Yehee Shin searches for exhibits and contests for middle school artists to show their work. It’s not about competition or determining who is the most talented; it’s about giving Severn School’s aspiring artists real-world experience in interpreting ideas and creating for a wider audience. Whether it’s a local art show or a nationwide contest, these opportunities motivate young artists and help build confidence in their abilities.

This spring, four of Shin’s students will be featured in the Maryland Art Education Association’s quarterly magazine, MAEA Gazette. Those students are Andrew Beard, Lizzie Veiel, Tenley Mann and Olivia Cochran.

Top Left: “See Through My Eyes” is a piece made by eighth-grader Andrew Beard. **Middle Left:** Sixth-grader Olivia Cochran created “Bird’s Eye View.” **Middle Right:** Lizzie Veiel, a sixth-grader, made this piece called “Mixed Emotions.” **Bottom Right:** Sixth-grader Tenley Mann created “Life is on the line.”

Anne Arundel County Public Library Expands Digital Services

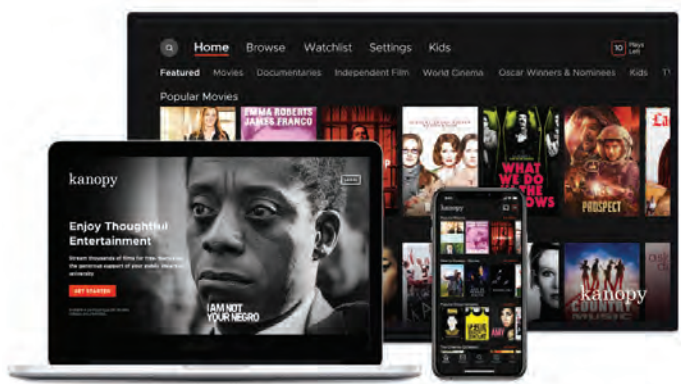


Photo courtesy of Kanopy Inc.

With Kanopy, users can stream a wide variety of material.

By Desirae Martins

Upon the advice of public health officials, Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) closed all of its locations from March 13 through at least May 3 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. While library officials aimed to protect the health and safety of library staff and patrons, as well as slow the spread of the virus by closing physical branches, they have not slowed their electronic support and services to customers. In fact, AACPL increased electronic services since it closed its physical doors.

Many county residents rely on libraries for education, entertainment and enrichment, and AACPL has taken steps to ensure content remained available and, in some cases, more accessible online than before the closure. According to

AACPL’s marketing director, Christine Feldmann, the library has really stepped up its game since the coronavirus hit the local area. The majority of its services are easy to access through the library website in order to effectively accommodate isolated residents and residents practicing social distancing. Specifically, patrons can acquire a library card exclusively online, which was not a possibility before, and the library will not charge late fees during the closure period. Additionally, any locked library cards due to late fees or fines have been unlocked.

Right now, the AACPL website has digital material readily available for all ages and interests. According to Feldmann, the easiest way to take advantage of this material is to download library-contracted applications such as Cloud Library, » **Continued on A16**

Dining Out

Get Hooked On Jenó’s Steaks In Severna Park

By Mary Cobbler

“Get hooked” is the motto of Jenó’s Steaks in Severna Park. The slogan sounds almost like a dare — and I’m warning you now, dear reader, you are likely to get hooked on this delicious grub from the first taste.

I’ve tried Jenó’s Steaks before. The offerings were a delicious, savory refuge when I went through the misery of the Keto diet for one whole week last January (the horror!), getting me through the carb-less days with to-go containers of seasoned steak, sweet onions, soft peppers and creamy cheeses. I hadn’t been back in a while, so I was excited to head back as we dealt with the frustration of a coronavirus quarantine.

My husband and I placed a carryout order from Jenó’s on a Monday afternoon. The menu includes a lot of mouth-watering options of the heart-attack-inducing variety, but let’s be honest, who goes to a place called Jenó’s Steaks for a salad? There is one vegetarian option on the menu, but the overwhelming vibe of the cuisine can be classified as indulgent and satisfying. We just had to order a regular cheesesteak sub with everything on it, and we added a chicken cheesesteak sub, an order of Truck 23 fries, and a side of egg rolls.

It’s worth mentioning that the staff’s hygiene practices during the COVID-19 crisis were nothing short of impressive. The staff took orders over the phone and

Where To Find Jenó’s Steaks

552 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard
Severna Park
410-544-1416

handed out bags of food at the door. They wore masks and gloves, which were changed between orders, and they wiped down and sanitized their screens after entering each purchase.

The food smelled so amazing that it took every bit of my willpower not to steal a few fries from

the bag before I got home. The food, however, was worth the wait.

The cheesesteak sub exceeds what you’d hope for in this classic dish made famous by the City of Brotherly Love. The meat is well-cooked and has a good, chewy texture. It’s not shredded quite as

thin as a few other local cheesesteaks I’ve had, but the meat is hearty and generously portioned onto a soft, warm Kaiser roll. We requested everything on the sub, which included cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayo, fried onions and red hot peppers. If you want fancier fixin’s (like mushrooms, jalapenos, special sauces or a fried egg) you can pay between 50 cents and \$2 extra. The fixin’s we ordered were satisfying and added several flavor and texture dimensions to the well-seasoned, familiar favorite. The fried onions were especially delightful; soft and sweet and a perfect complement to the sizzling meat. We ordered this steak with the provolone, although you could also choose cheddar or American cheeses.

The chicken cheesesteak sub is also indulgent, with an entirely different flavor. Aromatic chunks of spiced chicken tasted great with the myriad of toppings. We ordered this one with the cheddar cheese sauce, which was creamy and melted nicely into the chicken and bread. The velvety texture and layers of flavor in this sub tickled the taste buds and left me licking my fingers and wishing for more.

It should be noted that the Truck 23 fries are more of an entrée than a side dish — they are not just loaded; they’re overloaded with large chunks of steak, soft onions, crispy bacon, spicy jalapenos, creamy cheese sauce, » **Continued on A16**



Photo by Mary Cobbler

The cheesesteaks are indulgent, with several flavor and texture dimensions and the fries are a local favorite.

Top 10 Documentaries To Watch While You're Quarantined

By Kerrigan Stern

In the current medical and political climate, there's never been a better time to binge on Netflix shows while you're sheltered in your home. Check out these captivating documentaries on Netflix that will be sure to leave your mouth hanging on the floor.

DOCUSERIES

"THE TRIALS OF GABRIEL HERNANDEZ"

CRIME
Premiered February 26, 2020

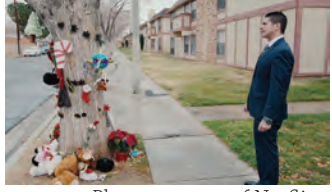


Photo courtesy of Netflix

This six-part limited series is not for the faint of heart. "The Trials of Gabriel Hernandez" is a staggering look into the brutal death of an 8-year-old boy who suffered terrible abuse from his mother and her boyfriend. Within this investigation into Hernandez's homicide is an eye-opening look at certain nationwide systems, such as the Department of Children and Family Services, that were tasked with protecting Hernandez but ultimately ended up failing him.

This series is one that will not only anger and tug at the heartstrings of any viewer, but also serve as a wake-up call to society that these systems must be redesigned in order to protect children in need.

"KILLER INSIDE: THE MIND OF AARON HERNANDEZ"

CRIME
Premiered January 15, 2020

He was once an NFL superstar playing under the bright lights of Gillette Stadium, but he became a



Photo courtesy of Netflix

convicted criminal on the cold floors of Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center. This docuseries dives into the life and crimes of former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez.

Featuring footage of Hernandez during pivotal moments of his life along with interviews with several of those closest to him, the series attempts to take a step into Hernandez's mind. While this limited series will give you answers about Aaron Hernandez's life, and the startling damage to his brain, it may end up leaving you with even more questions about his crimes. But even so, this is a series that both sports fans and neutral bystanders won't want to miss out on.

"DON'T F*CK WITH CATS: HUNTING AN INTERNET KILLER"

CRIME
Premiered December 18, 2019

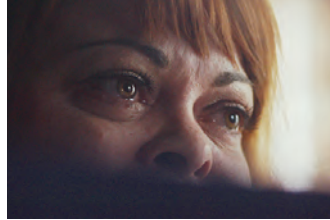


Photo courtesy of Netflix

If you're one of those people who can easily predict the storyline in a movie, you may have your work cut out for you when it comes to "Don't F*ck with Cats."

This docuseries reveals the impact a group of people can make together, even from thousands of miles apart. "Don't F*ck with Cats" follows a community of online sleuths who try to track down a man who filmed himself killing kittens. The series takes you on a journey through numerous countries and several suspects as this digital community bands together to fight for justice. By the time you're finished, your mind will be racing with unanswered questions for days to come.

"PANDEMIC: HOW TO PREVENT AN OUTBREAK"

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Premiered January 22, 2020

This docuseries hits close to home. "Pandemic" features doctors and medical professionals fighting the war against influenza while trying to curb the next inevitable pandemic.

A feature of this limited series that makes it so intriguing is its relevance to the current coronavirus outbreak. As predicted in this docuseries, a new pandemic influenza would likely come from an animal, just as the coronavirus has. A few of the other predictions have been evidenced by recent news as well, such as the likelihood of people hoarding certain necessities, including food, water and even medical supplies.

If you're interested in health care or you are concerned about the current pandemic, you surely won't want to miss this series that was undoubtedly ahead of its time.

"OUR PLANET"

NATURE & ECOLOGY
Premiered April 5, 2019



Photo courtesy of Gisle Sverdrup/Silverback/Netflix

After watching "Our Planet," there is no doubt that you'll appreciate the beauty of the world we live in even more.

This docuseries highlights all of the different diverse habitats across the world, from the frigid Arctic wilderness to the deep, mysterious abyss of the ocean. Each episode features Earth's natural wonders that many of us may not get to see during our lifetimes.

So if you have even a sliver of wanderlust in you, check out "Our Planet" and be prepared to become captivated by planet Earth.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

"TAYLOR SWIFT: MISS AMERICANA"

MUSIC & CONCERT
Premiered January 23, 2020

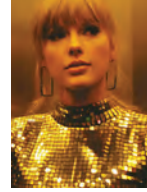


Photo courtesy of Netflix

No one said fame is always easy, and Taylor Swift can certainly attest to that. This series explores Swift's journey as a singer/songwriter and the difficulties she experiences from the media and the general public.

Whether you're a "Swiftie" or not, this documentary underscores the phrase, "The grass is not always greener on the other side," while also showing that, with resilience and determination, you can make your own garden bloom like Swift.

"AMERICAN FACTORY"

SOCIAL & CULTURAL
Premiered August 21, 2019



Photo courtesy of Aubrey Keith/Netflix

A documentary focusing on the migration of Chinese workers to an auto-glass factory in Dayton, Ohio, this film highlights the social and economic issues that converge when immigrants are faced with both American citizens and American capitalism.

This film will give viewers an inside look at the relation between employees and employer, with the added challenge of working at and running a business in a country on the other side of the planet. Explore international and work-life tensions in our country with "American Factory."

"KNOCK DOWN THE HOUSE"

POLITICAL
Premiered May 1, 2019



Photo courtesy of Netflix

This documentary combines both feminine empowerment and political drive. "Knock Down the House" follows four working-class Democratic candidates who ran for Congress in 2018, taking viewers on their journey, filled with adversity and setbacks, as these women vie for their seat in office.

The film is a story about political power and the challenges these women faced in order to achieve their goals, both personally and professionally. "Knock Down the House" will show viewers how hard work and persistence can move anyone closer to their goal, no matter how many obstacles stand to impede them.

"SHIRKERS"

BIOGRAPHICAL
Premiered January 21, 2018



Photo courtesy of Netflix

In 1992, high-schooler Sandi Tan, along with her friends

Sophie and Jasmine and an American mentor, Georges Cardona, pursued her creative talents with the production of Singapore's first indie-a-road movie, titled "Shirkers." But the film was never seen.

After shooting wrapped decades ago, Cardona mysteriously vanished, along with all of the group's footage. This documentary follows Sandi as she investigates Cardon's disappearance, taking her through two expansive continents, each with their own clues. As it dives into this complex mystery, "Shirkers" will surely give viewers their crime junkie fix.

"AMANDA KNOX"

CRIME
Premiered September 10, 2016



Photo courtesy of Netflix

Since the 2007 murder of Meredith Kercher, intensified by the 2016 release of this documentary, 33-year-old Amanda Knox has become infamous.

In 2007, Knox became the top suspect after her roommate was murdered during a foreign exchange trip to Italy. Knox sat on trial for the following eight years, nearly half of which were spent in an Italian prison, for a murder she claims she did not commit.

"Amanda Knox" dives into this horrific crime and features interviews with both Amanda Knox and various other interviewees who believe in her guilt, or are unsure of where they stand. But with all of the evidence pointing to both Knox's innocence and guilt, this documentary is, again, one that may leave you with more questions than you began with.

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Contagion: Predicting A Pandemic

By Audrey Ruppert
Film Critic

This month I was going to review the second installment of "A Quiet Place," but going to see a film is unfortunately out of the question due to the coronavirus outbreak. Instead, I thought I would review one of the many pandemic films that have been made. Unsurprisingly, films like "World War Z" and "Outbreak" are currently topping the YouTube rental charts. I chose "Contagion," as it is widely considered to be the most scientifically accurate of its genre.

Despite its breakneck pace and A-list cast, "Contagion" strikes me as more of an educational film about pandemics than a cinematic masterpiece. That being said, education is exactly what we need right now, and it's worth a watch. Gwyneth Paltrow stars as a patient zero who inadvertently picks up a new virus that originated in China and swiftly spreads it to the United States. Her husband (Matt Damon) loses both his wife and stepson to violent encephalitis brought on by the disease, and he quarantines himself with his daughter in an effort to save their lives. Within a matter of weeks, the virus has spread around the globe, and epidemiologists race to try and find a vaccine.

WHAT "CONTAGION" GETS RIGHT

- **Reluctance from Officials** - Early on in the epidemic, a scientist (Kate Winslet) warns a mayor at the center of an infection cluster that she must shut down schools and take drastic measures to stop the spread. The mayor complains that her town was forced to "overreact"



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

"Contagion" is more of an educational film about pandemics than a cinematic masterpiece.

to the swine flu, and that she "doesn't want people to panic." Winslet tries to explain that the virus spreads on an exponential curve, and taking precautions early is critical.

- **Crossover Events** - The fictional virus of "Contagion" crossed over first from a bat to a pig, then to a human. This can happen; COVID-19 is thought to have possibly crossed over from a bat, pangolin or civet.
- **Tracing of Early Patients** - An official from the World Health Organization (Marion Cotillard) reviews footage from a casino where Paltrow's character spent a night, and traces which patients came into contact with her. The WHO recommends early contact tracing - if this is done vigilantly enough, you can often quarantine the few who have been exposed before the virus explodes. In the movie and in real life, this was not done in time and the virus spread beyond the point it could be contained.
- **Conspiracy Theorists** - Jude Law plays a conspiracy theorist who spreads dangerous misinformation,

hypothesizing that perhaps the virus was government-made or that the cure is being hidden from the people. Some people online are currently theorizing that this virus is an act of Chinese bioterrorism.

WHAT "CONTAGION" GETS WRONG

- **Competent Governments and Rapid Medical Response** - The World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control work like well-oiled machines in "Contagion," and the government listens to them. The president is quick to take action, and the military is brought in early to help treat the sick. Huge makeshift hospitals are set up in gymnasiums and conference centers with lightning speed. The people in "Contagion" are so focused on accountability, they even put a CDC authority (Laurence Fishburne) on trial for disclosing to his wife that the virus has spread before it was announced to the public (thereby using his position of power to unjustly benefit his family). In reality, we have seen disjointed government response across the world,

a flurry of misinformation, and a reluctance to implement the measures so necessary to contain this pandemic. We have seen a lack of accountability, a scrambling to get the necessary health equipment, and a shortage of beds, ventilators, protective equipment and doctors.

- **Vaccines** - The vaccine in "Contagion" comes out ridiculously fast. Jennifer Ehle's character decides to sacrificially try the vaccine on herself, thereby jumping to the "human trial" phase more quickly. In reality, we already have some human trials for the COVID-19 vaccine. It is going to take a long time before authorities determine any vaccine safe for public use. Perhaps they would roll it out without precautions if COVID-19 were as deadly as the virus in "Contagion," but as it stands, we won't see a vaccine until early 2021 in all likelihood. Patients also take the vaccine in "Contagion" and are immediately immune. In reality, they would have to wait a few weeks before being completely protected.

WHAT "CONTAGION" LEFT OUT

- **The stockpiling:** While there's a few scenes of people fighting over For-sythia, the supposed "cure" for the virus that Jude Law peddles, nothing is mentioned about food, hand sanitizer or toilet paper shortages.
- **The Enforced Lockdowns:** While you see people blocked from leaving their counties or states in "Contagion," and you see people hiding on their own will in their homes, there is no enforced lockdown of the streets. New York seems days away from lockdown, and Spain, France, Italy and the UK are now on lockdown — people are only permitted to leave their homes for essential reasons.

Get Hooked On Jenó's

» **Continued from A14** and sour cream. The fries themselves were similar to boardwalk fries, and I could taste the sliced potatoes under the layers of toppings. This is the salty dish you crave after a stressful day or a painful breakup — the kind of food that warms the heart and sends your tummy into a happy place.

The egg rolls offered a different, surprising flavor palate to the meal. Instead of fat, stuffed egg rolls you might expect in most Asian restaurants, these five rolls were thin, filled with mostly meat (pork and beef, although there are also some carrots and green onions mixed in) and crispy on the outside. They were served with a sweet, smoky dipping sauce that went surprisingly well with what was basically a fried cheeseburger roll.

There were a few things to complain about at Jenó's. By the time I got home with my food and started chowing down,

the bread was slightly soggy and so were the fries. The food was undeniably greasy (as cheesesteaks nearly always are), so it was hard to tell whether the food was already a bit too greasy or if the grease settled into it over the 20-minute drive home. It still wasn't unpleasant, but if the sub weren't wrapped, I would wager that it would easily soak through the bag. The second complaint is also mild: the staff mixed up our drinks and gave us a Coke instead of a Coke Zero, so my diabetic husband couldn't have a soda with me. This is understandable, as the staff was operating in a difficult time period and taking extra coronavirus precautions, so the staff could easily have made that mistake.

The two subs, fries, egg rolls and two sodas came out to just over \$36 and made for a great lunch. Look no further for a satisfying meal; Jenó's is the place to go!

County Public Library Expands Digital Services

» **Continued from A14** Overdrive, or Libby for ebooks, and RB Digital or audiobooks by Tumblebooks for e-audiobooks to any personal device. Library patrons can also quickly and easily stream documentaries, movies or popular children's shows through the Kanopy application or listen to music through the Naxos Music Library. The library's digital collection also offers educational resources such as TumbleMath, a resource where students learn a variety of math concepts using animated picture books and lessons online.

Despite the branch clo-

sures, the library staff continues to find new ways to support the local community with its online presence. "In the next two weeks, the library will acquire \$150,000 in digital material, acquiring new and more copies of popular content during this time of hardship," Feldmann said.

In addition to the library's digital collection, library staff maintains a social media presence, offering story time, movie discussions, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities streamed or hosted through Facebook and Zoom.

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Fellner Legal Services Is Committed To Community Values

By Haley Weisgerber

Behind each neighborhood in Severna Park is a community association that strives to make their section of the community great. The staff at Fellner Legal Services is dedicated to helping these community associations achieve their goals.

Fellner Legal Services is a community association law firm that represents condos and homeowner associations (HOA) throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C.

"Having the opportunity to serve clients like this and understand their different needs gives me an advantage and allows me to solve their problems a little bit more expeditiously," said **Brian Fellner**, who opened the firm in July of 2018.

Fellner and his legal assistant, **Sherelle Morton-Bey**, work hard to ensure their clients' needs are met.

"I think I prefer the



Brian Fellner (right) of Fellner Legal Services opened his law firm in the summer of 2018.

smaller size," said Morton-Bey about working for Fellner Legal Services. "I like for it to be a two-person firm. It's small, it's

just us, and I feel really included."

Fellner was working with a Teach For America program when he decided

to go to law school.

"I call myself an example of bad process, good results," he said. "There wasn't a brilliant thought process about it. I look back and I've been practicing law for about 13 years and it's a good fit for me."

After practicing community association law with another firm for seven years, Fellner decided to open his own firm.

"I had a vision about what I wanted to say, and I wanted my messaging to be a little bit different, a little bit unique," said Fellner. "It seemed like a good opportunity to do that and be able to talk directly to clients."

In addition to directly communicating with clients, Fellner writes educational blog posts for his website. These posts are a part of his overall goal to prevent conflict.

"All of what I talk about in my blog posts is about governance," said Fellner, who prides himself in his ability to litigate and

» Continued on A18

Annapolis Home Brew Helps The Whole Family Develop Their Hobbies

By Zach Sparks

As former customers of Annapolis Home Brew, Shawn Dann and Steve Bolton appreciated the range of offerings meant to help everyone, from the first-time brewer to the seasoned winemaker. Now that they've been owners of the store for more than two years, they get to help others explore their passion for those crafts.

Part hobby store and part specialty supermarket, Annapolis Home Brew helps enthusiasts with their beer, mead, wine, cider and kombucha needs.

When it comes to beer, Annapolis Home Brew has over 100 proprietary recipes.

"They can be broken out into either extract brewing, which is the quick and easy version, and partial mash brewing, which gives you a little more control, a little more onus is on you, and then all-grain brewing where you are definitely in charge; it's like making



Part hobby store and part specialty supermarket, Annapolis Home Brew helps enthusiasts with their beer, mead, wine, cider and kombucha needs, according to store manager Steve Bolton.

a cake from scratch as opposed to making it from a kit," said Bolton, the store manager. "They all make good beer."

Although brewing will save someone money in the long run, Bolton said it's more about the fun and enjoying the process.

"When I used to brew

personally for fun, it was a social activity," Bolton said. "We would get together, make beer, spend an afternoon doing it. If you do all-grain brewing, it can take six or seven hours, so plenty of time to enjoy what you made the last time. Getting friends together – enjoying food,

enjoying beer, enjoying the process of making it – is as much a part of it as the end result."

Bolton said that in brewing, there are no bad ideas, only bad procedures when people don't follow proper sanitation. That's why the Annapolis Home Brew staff members not only offer equipment but also lend their advice whenever possible.

"We have classes so we can show people the process, show them what it takes to do brewing or winemaking or cider making, and we also can rent out our kitchen for anyone who knows how to brew but doesn't have the space needed or the large equipment that you need to do some of these bigger beers," Bolton said.

An added bonus for customers are the build-a-beer, build-a-wine and build-a-cider experiences. Customers pay one price and they get all the ingredients and equipment use as well as private lessons for up to

» Continued on A18

Entrepreneurism Runs In Park Family

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Entrepreneurism is in the DNA of the Trippett family from Severna Park. Spanning multiple generations, all members of the Trippett family are involved in the operation of five family businesses in Maryland.

Starting in 1973 with a real estate company, Michael and Judith Trippett began Trippett Enterprises. Based in Severna Park, they own, manage and maintain homes in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Western Maryland, West Virginia, and most recently in the Caribbean island of Antigua.

Son Jason Trippett said, "My parents are honest people who worked hard from nothing to something. We learned the business side from my parents."

As adults, Jason, along with a brother also named Michael, carried on the en-



trepreneurial spirit instilled by their parents and began business pursuits of their own. Though they did not have previous experience in the meat business, in 2009, they bought a longtime family business in Hagerstown, Maryland: Hoffman's Meats.

Prior to purchasing Hoffman's Meats, both brothers worked in corporate positions in different capacities. "Right after the real estate meltdown in 2008, I said, 'I have some operations background, and my brother was a master salesman,'" Jason Trippett said. "Let's buy



As adults, Jason and Michael Trippett carried on the entrepreneurial spirit instilled by their parents and began business pursuits of their own. Though they did not have previous experience in the meat business, in 2009, they bought a longtime family business in Hagerstown, Maryland: Hoffman's Meats.

this place and make a run of it," he told Michael. Later, a third brother, Doward, joined the operations five years ago, and all three brothers now manage different parts of the business.

Now nearly a century old, Hoffman's Meats is a

» Continued on A19

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



There are almost 56,000 businesses in Anne Arundel County, most of which are independently owned and operating as small businesses. In the face of market evolution or adversity, small businesses have the ability to change and adapt quickly.

In the short amount of time that we have dealt with this virus crisis, many of our businesses have discovered new and creative ways to meet the needs of their customers. The entrepreneurial spirit never shuts down, even though many operations have at this time. You will find drive-thru pickups of hearing aids and desserts, pop-up taco quick marts, Zoom home workouts, home delivery of many products that were previously sold only at the location, and much more.

We welcome these new members: A Step-Ahead Organizing and Cleaning Service, Bannister Private Capital, Rooftop General Contractors, Bradford Counseling Services LLC, and Bay Hills Golf Club.

We have some exciting ribbon cuttings on the horizon that are postponed until further notice. This includes a ribbon cutting for our newest busi-

ness, Paramount Yard Pest Control.

On March 9, we held a multi-chamber bowling outing at Dave & Buster's in Arundel Mills. Over 60 people from five chambers got together for a great evening of food, drinks and bowling.

Our Successful Women in Business group held a multi-chamber event at Walden Country Club in celebration of Women's History Month. The event was sponsored by the American Business Women's Association, Maryland Capital Chapter. This great organization's mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition. For more information, visit www.abwa.org.

Our guest speaker was Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin. Mary Margaret is a pioneer for women, overcoming polio to become an international long-distance swimmer. She worked for the Pentagon for 14 years and during that time became a long-distance runner. Mary Margaret is president of the Mary Edwardine Bourke Emory Foundation, which is raising money to open the Women's History Museum in Centerville. She delivered a fascinating presentation on women in Maryland who made a difference in gaining the

» Continued on A18

What Will COVID-19 Mean For Your Investments?

Jason LaBarge
NSSA Managing
Partner
Premier Planning
Group



One of the questions on everyone's mind is, "What will the coronavirus mean for my investments?" By the time this article is printed, we'll know more about how the financial markets are reacting to the global spread of the COVID-19 virus. As I'm writing this on March 18, I realize many of you are feeling anxious as markets are moving sharply lower, but no one really knows the extent this will play out in the market and how it will ultimately affect your investment portfolio.

You may be worried about the virus, and rightfully so. The virus has a direct economic impact because businesses, organizations and individuals are increasingly not working, staying home and limiting human contact. This has a clear and direct impact on both the supply and demand sides of the global economy. Potential travel limits, factory closings and school closures impact the supply side — the ability of economies to produce goods and services is reduced. Fewer trips to malls, restaurants, and sporting events impact the demand side and result in lower consumer spending. Sharp stock market drops also contribute to lower consumer demand as household wealth is impacted.

The stock market is a forward-looking mechanism. In other words, investors buy stocks in anticipation of what the economy and corporate earnings will look like in the future. With

COVID-19 clearly going to have an impact, stocks have suffered sharp losses as it remains too early (as I write this in mid-March) to see the full effect that it will have on the economy and how businesses will react to it.

Looking forward, have we seen the end of this market selloff? No one knows the answer to this question, and it is a very fluid situation. We do believe that more stock market weakness is possible as companies get a clearer view of the impact of the virus and start to reduce their outlooks. As businesses reduce their sales and profit expectations, stock prices could fall lower.

While there is a clear risk to stocks in the near-term, we do see some reasons for optimism. First of all, areas that were initially inflicted, such as China, have already begun to see a slow but positive return to normalcy as businesses start up again and workers come back to their jobs. Second, coming into the emergence of COVID-19 in the U.S., the domestic economy was in a good place given strength around the consumer, the housing market and the services industry. Third, the combination of the severe drop in oil prices caused by the price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia along with the sharp drop in interest rates should be a boon for you and me, the consumer. When some normalcy returns to the U.S. after the virus dissipates, as it has done in China and South Korea, \$30 oil prices and near-zero interest rates are essentially a tax cut for the American consumer.

Lastly, and most importantly, similar to what other

» Continued on A18

Annapolis Home Brew Helps The Whole Family

» **Continued from A17**
four people to make either beer, wine or cider. Annapolis Home Brew will let the beverage ferment onsite, and people return to the store for bottling day.

"You don't have to worry about buying a kettle, buying a burner, buying anything but the ingredients," Bolton said. "We're trying to entice people into brewing by showing them how easy it can be. It can be as easy or as complicated as you want it to be. You can just grab a kit off the shelf and make a beer, or you can get into all the fine minutia of blending the flavors and 'I want a half-ounce of this and three ounces of that and 17 pounds of something else' to create your recipes, and there's a lot of online help

you can get."

Currently, Annapolis Home Brew is taking orders for six-gallon pales of Chilean wine juice. With a delivery date set for mid-April, the supplies will allow people to make 30 bottles of wine per bucket.

"We have started appealing more to winemakers because unlike brewing, which is very labor intensive upfront, winemaking, if you do it from juice or from one of our recipe kits, it's kind of like you add the yeast and let them do all the heavy lifting for you," Bolton said. "They will eat the sugar, turn it into alcohol, turn it into [carbon dioxide], and then eventually die off. You have a brew day and it's going to take anywhere from two to seven hours, so

there's a lot more potential winemakers out there than brewers because winemaking is so passive. And when you're done making wines from one of our kits, you get 28 to 30 bottles, so that can be very cost-effective."

Annapolis Home Brew also has supplies to make kombucha, which is full of probiotics and antioxidants. Kombucha can be offered as a non-alcoholic beverage, so even the kids can make it.

"We also have soda-making kits for people who want to have a project to do with the kids while they're out of school and you're looking to fill all of this downtime," Bolton said. "Hopefully we can reach a large amount of people and help them get through this [shutdown]."

With dogs frequently

hanging out at the store on weekends, and popcorn made for the kids, Annapolis Home Brew hopes to appeal to all types of people.

"This is not just dad's den; this is a place the whole family can enjoy," Bolton said. "It's a great activity for couples and we have a lot of solo female brewers; it certainly is not just a guy hobby."

Annapolis Home Brew is located behind Severna Park Lanes and Pete's Cycle at 836 Ritchie Highway, Suite 19, in Severna Park. Hours are noon to 8:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday; and noon to 4:00pm on Sunday. For more information, call 410-975-0930 or visit www.annapolishomebrew.com.

What Will COVID-19 Mean For Your Investments?

» **Continued from A17**
nations have done, we do expect some additional economic stimulus out of Washington that would improve investor optimism. At the time of this writing in mid-March the Trump administration is discussing a plan that could amount to as much as \$1.2 trillion in spending. According to Bloomberg, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pitched \$250 billion in checks to be sent at the end of April, with a second set of checks to bring the total up to \$500 billion four weeks later if there's still a national emergency.

We've already seen the government enact some measures that include giving the Small Business Administration authority to issue loans to small businesses affected by the virus, and the Treasury Department will defer tax payment, without interest or penalties, to certain affected individuals and businesses. Although we don't know what the final stimulus plan will look like just yet, we expect it could possibly include payroll tax relief and targeted financial relief to the most-affected industries (such as travel, hospitality and leisure).

The current market volatility will remain with us for the foreseeable future. We are focusing on potential actions in two areas — what is being done to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 and what fiscal stimulus measures are being enacted to reduce the economic uncertainty caused by it. Since you cannot predict when, or if, these will occur, it highlights an important and time-tested strategy that

you should follow — a diversified and well-balanced investment portfolio can help mitigate the difficult market days.

At the writing of this article, we're experiencing a volatile market, and it's important to be diversified by not having too much risk exposure to one asset class or security. Focusing on long-term risk and return objectives is important as you want to stay on course and focus on the things you can control in your portfolio. It is in times like this that you can find solace in an investment portfolio built on the "red money, green money" framework that I've mentioned before, where the investments providing for your daily needs are protected from such market downturns. I refer to these investments as green money, because it's safe and always there. Red money is the money in the market that pays for all the extras in retirement. It can be susceptible to some market volatility, but since you have the green money providing your essentials, it can make weathering this kind of uncertainty more palatable.

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Fellner Legal Services Is Committed

» **Continued from A17**
write policy. "It's about policies, good board practice, or communicating notices to owners. That's one thing that I really like that drew me to opening my own office, so I can give that commentary because I feel like I have a really specific voice that I like to use."

Fellner said his firm has a core system of beliefs that he hopes will benefit his clients.

"My firm has a motto and its 'service, success, simple,'" said Fellner. "All three of those concepts are very important to me."

Service, which is included in the firm's name, represents Fellner's dedication to his clients and the community.

While many lawyers measure success in court, Fellner said he would prefer to set good policy and avoid the courtroom. His definition of success is good policy that creates a mutual understanding between community associations and residents.

Legal jargon can be confusing, so Fellner prides himself on making things simple for clients.

Fellner encourages his clients to take a similar approach.

"One of my favorite terms is 'good governance,'" said Fellner. "I represent associations as opposed to individuals fighting associations. I try to not just be the one who is fighting on their behalf, but to keep them

out of those fights in the first place. That's really what they're doing. They're governing whatever their association is."

Fellner strives to help his clients serve their communities in the most efficient and mutually beneficial way.

"I love my job because I get to help people," said Fellner. "Being a lawyer doesn't always feel that way and every day of it doesn't always feel that way. Having this firm and being able to see that what we do benefits these communities helps them and steers them right."

For more information about Fellner Legal Services, call 443-906-0117, email bfellner@flslawyer.com or visit www.flslawyer.com.

Chamber Update

» **Continued from A17**
vote. To find out more and donate to the museum, visit www.mebefoundation.org.

We have rescheduled our Shop Local Fun Fiesta at Park Plaza to May 16. Stay tuned!

Our annual Fourth of July parade will be held on Saturday, July 4, from 10:00am to 11:30am in Severna Park. This year's theme is "Celebrating our Rich Community History." Our grand marshal is local historian and retired business owner Scott Jay. We would love to see an outpouring of community participation with floats and walkers! Please contact our office at 410-647-3900 with questions. Applications can be downloaded from our website at www.gspacc.com.

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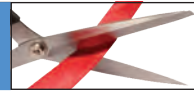
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Police Protection Services Comes To Pasadena



Chris Itnyre was joined by members of the Pasadena Business Association on March 11 for the opening of the new business Police Protection Services & Security Training Academy at 8567 Fort Smallwood Road. Police Protection Services provides security guard training and also physical security around the clock, everything from armed guards to retired police officers.

Entrepreneurism Runs In Park Family

» **Continued from A17**
slaughterhouse. Depending on the client, Hoffman's either processes and boxes meat or they turn the meat into products such as bacon and hot dogs. Hoffman's Meats is the only plant in Maryland making hot dogs, and they are the official hot dogs of both the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Redskins. They also have an all-natural and organic line of products, and they sell to retailers such as Whole Foods.

Building on the success of Hoffman's Meats, the Trippett brothers expanded their ventures, and in 2014 purchased J.W. Trueth in Catonsville, Maryland, a kosher slaughterhouse. Also a century's old and well-established meat processor, J.W. Trueth has beef products that are produced under strict rabbinical

supervision.

They are the closest kosher slaughterhouse to New York City and New Jersey, and a rabbi from either of those places travels to Catonsville daily to participate in the processing of the cattle. After the kosher parts of the cattle are used, the remainder of the meats are processed and shipped all over the country. "Some of the best steakhouses in the country buy our meats," Jason Trippett said with pride but also humility.

Though the two meat processors have different operations, both use local cattle, from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Both also have small retail stores onsite open to the public.

Most recently, the brothers expanded their business circles and now own and operate a self-storage company

and catering business, both in Hagerstown.

Jason Trippett said working with his brothers is easy because of their clearly defined roles. "We do logistics. We know our responsibilities, and we get along well."

Though the family businesses have expanded, the Trippett family's roots are still firmly planted in Severna Park. The elder Michael Trippett attended Severna Park High School the first year it was built. The only Trippett family member who does not currently live in Severna Park is the younger Michael, who lives in Olney to be nearer to the businesses in Hagerstown.

"We all grew up here," Jason Trippett shared. "That's where I'll die too."

CTS Celebrates 35-Year Anniversary And Earns MITEL Partner Of The Year Award

CTS — formerly Chesapeake Telephone Systems — a Millersville-based provider of business and public sector communications solutions, is celebrating 35 years in business and was recently named Mitel's Partner of the Year.

"We're very proud to have been recently recognized by Mitel for Top Performance in MiCloud Connect sales and client support across the Americas," announced Jeff Nolte, CTS president. "The award was presented in Dallas at Mitel's signature event,

Mitel Next."

MiCloud Connect is popular among CTS clients as a complete cloud business communications service. It delivers seamless mobility, voice, collaboration and contact center solutions. By combining powerful features and flexible service plans with Google Cloud's proven reliability, MiCloud Connect makes all-in-one communications simple and secure.

"The years have flown by, and we're excited to be celebrating our 35-year anniversary," noted Jeff

Nolte. "We couldn't have reached this milestone without our amazing team. Customer satisfaction drives everything they do and was a key factor in Mitel's selection process, so we're particularly proud of our Partner of the Year award. It is a testament to our team's professionalism and hard work."

CTS delivers and supports cloud-based, hybrid and on-premises systems for small, medium and large organizations, based on each client's unique needs, budget and schedule.

Arnold Y Unveils Renovations



The Arnold Y recently completed a year-long renovation to make the center more accessible, functional and welcoming to members and the local community. The Y wants people to come, stay, feel connected and build community, so the new fireplace serves as intentional symbolism. Renovations include a new, accessible entry and renovated lobby, including installation of an elevator and extra handicapped spaces in the parking lot; conversion of the original Stay & Play to a multi-purpose space and administrative office space; conversion of the original administrative space to a family room; a new family bathroom and "mommy room" in the new family room; new flooring/carpeting in the fitness area; new strength equipment; and more.

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» Page B8



Year-Long Project Ends With Colorful Mural At Oak Hill Elementary
» Page B8



SEVERNA PARK SPORTS

SEVERNA PARK, MD

APRIL 1, 2020

B1

Ty Broadway Caps Undefeated Season With State Title



Severna Park junior wrestler Ty Broadway went 43-0 on the season and won the state championship in the 220 lbs bracket on March 7.

By Colin Murphy
 colin@severnarparkvoice.com

Ty Broadway didn't play organized sports growing up. He started with football as a freshman at Severna Park in the fall of 2017 and joined the wrestling team that winter.

Just over two years later, Broadway is an undefeated state champion.

The Severna Park junior achieved that distinction on March 7, defeating Manchester Valley's Grant Warner 13-6 in the 3A/4A, 220-lbs state final at Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro.

Broadway was the only state champion from Anne Arundel County and finished the season a perfect 43-0.

A dream that was born a year ago, when Broadway failed to place at the state tournament, came into focus this season before realizing fully on the first Saturday in March.

"Sophomore year when I went to states and didn't place, I just had that feeling of being hopeless, of having everything at your fingertips and not executing," said Broadway. "That's when I changed. It just gave me that feeling of, 'Yep. I'm never

losing again."

If it seems bold to proclaim that now, Broadway has been saying it throughout a flatly dominant season. Every time he's been on the mat, he's showed how no one can stop him.

Broadway said Falcons coach Trevor Bryden and the Severna Park coaching staff saw his commitment and gave him the work he needed to achieve his goals.

"Then, the coaches were like, 'Since you have that mentality, let's work on conditioning, on that motor.' They said, 'You're really fast for a 220. Guys are going to have a tough time to keep up with you.' So that helped me with my stamina."

By uniting his goal and the work ethic needed to achieve it, Broadway was never anything but overpowering this winter. He blazed through the county season and captured a second consecutive county title at Annapolis on February 22, defeating Southern's Jojo Herring in the county final.

Between counties and states, Broadway matched up with Warner in the 3A/4A East Region final on February 29, winning that matchup 19-7.

In the state final, Broadway again met Warner, who he said was a worthy opponent for the state crown.

"[Warner] was my toughest opponent this year along with [Old Mill's Nate Fleming]," said Broadway. "They can still execute when they're tired. All they need is one slip-up and they have that burst of energy just to come right at you. It really keeps me thinking and gets me on my toes to say, 'Hey, don't get lazy, because if you get lazy, that's when mistakes happen.'"

No mistakes happened. Broadway used his unique combination of non-stop motion, speed, explosive athleticism and strength

» Continued on B6

Green Hornets Wrestling Finishes Outstanding Season



The Green Hornets wrestling program produced 17 place-winners and won the team crown at the Anne Arundel Wrestling League county championship meet at North County High School on February 23.

By Colin Murphy
 colin@severnarparkvoice.com

A couple years removed from a program-wide hiatus, Green Hornets wrestling is back in full force.

Severna Park's young wrestlers proved it with a team championship this winter.

Green Hornets wrestling took a large contingent

of athletes to the county championship tournament at North County High School on February 23 and produced 17 place-winners to dethrone the defending-champion Panthers and claim the title of Anne Arundel Wrestling League county champions for the 2019-2020 season.

Commissioner and coach Tom Wheeler said the Hornets have come

on strong as they lay groundwork for the future — but the present has come with success, too.

"Last year we were able to build a foundation for Green Hornets wrestling with the support from our wrestling families and the hard work of our kids," said Wheeler. "This year we took further strides in building the program into a feeder system for the area

high schools. Everyone in our wrestling room worked hard all season and made a commitment to excellence. Our coaching staff preached about getting better each time we stepped on the mat, and our kids were able to put those words into action and perform when it mattered."

Severna Park upped its

» Continued on B4

Park Girls Beat South River For Region Title

By Bob Hough

Severna Park needed every bit of Kaila Stasulli's nine fourth-quarter points in the Class 4A East Region II final at South River on March 4.

Her final two points were the most important.

Stasulli drove the length of the court and converted a driving layup with three seconds left to break a tie and lift the Falcons to a 41-39 victory over the Seahawks.

Severna Park (19-5) won its third region title and first since 1988.

Stasulli scored all nine of the Falcons' points in the final quarter and the final two of the third after scoring just a point prior to her first field goal of the game in the final seconds of the third.



The Severna Park girls basketball team finished 19-6 and made the state tournament after a region-final win over South River (above) on March 4.

"I just tried to beat my first girl and look for what I had," said Stasulli, on the go-ahead shot. "I thought I was in position to take the shot."

South River had one last

chance, but its final shot was off the mark and the Falcons stormed the court to celebrate.

"The girls made some adjustments and Kaila did a wonderful job running

the offense," Falcons coach Kristofer Dean said. "We have a designed play we run at the end of quarters that we've been working on, but generally she doesn't get

» Continued on B6

Senior Student-Athletes Cope With Loss Of Sports

By Colin Murphy
 colin@severnarparkvoice.com

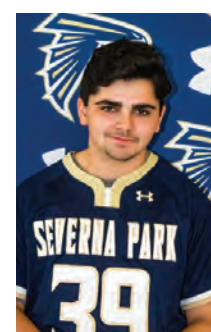
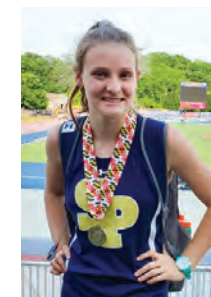
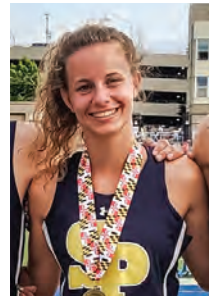
Everyone shares the same hopes: some day in the not-too-distant future, the world will emerge from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and return to some semblance of normalcy.

Of course, there won't be any way to make up for lost time.

This is especially true for Anne Arundel County's high school senior student-athletes, who, since school was suspended on March 13, have been missing out on a once-in-a-lifetime experience: the chance to enjoy playing spring sports as they close a major chapter in their lives.

"For seniors, it's just devastating," said Severna Park softball coach Meredith McAlister. "It's the end of everything they've worked for."

At Severna Park High School, senior athletes on the softball, baseball, lacrosse, track and field, tennis and bocce teams are faced with the uncertainty that their



Severna Park High School's senior athletes, like many around the state and country, are coping with the ongoing loss of sports and school due to the coronavirus outbreak. All are hoping for sports to resume before the end of the school year.

seasons will take place at all. While the epidemic is wreaking havoc in many ways worse than disruptions to school, as the coronavirus has claimed thousands of lives and continues to threaten health and livelihoods around the globe, the sudden evaporation of sports has nonetheless caused real heartbreak, too.

"I was in shock and couldn't believe it was true," said Emily Wilson, the catcher for the Falcons' softball team. "Then when I saw the season was postponed again (until April 24), my heart dropped. I thought, 'It's my senior year, and we haven't even played a game yet.'"

Two of Wilson's teammates, co-captains Kerri Kazmarek (pitcher) and Abbie Iaquina (first base), have patiently waited their turns to fill starting roles and were finally set to seize their opportunities this season.

"That is where most of the sadness is coming from," said Iaquina. "I worked really hard in the offseason to get

» Continued on B5

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



By Colin Murphy
@c.murphy.photo

Grace Gibbs has been a member of 12 varsity teams in her four years at Broadneck, and as impressive as that is, it might not even be the most impressive fact about her.

While maintaining peak academic standing and competing for the Bruins in soccer, track and field, and lacrosse, Gibbs has also found time to nurture two passions simultaneously: art and the environment. Her nature-themed art has garnered multiple awards and recognitions, and she is interested in studying environmental science and art after graduating from Broadneck.

"I really enjoy art, especially painting," said Gibbs, who won a Maryland Foundation of Women's Clubs art contest in 2019 and had her work displayed in the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore in 2017. "I find it hard sometimes to express myself vocally, so I really enjoy being able to show a part of myself through visual art. I think it's really cool how people can connect with art too. I am also passionate about protecting the environment. As long as I can remember, I have loved the outdoors and I want to be able to protect it. I want to show the connection between humans and nature in my art."

It's not just through art that Gibbs is able to show connections. Her Broadneck coaches know her as someone who binds her teams together through her leadership.

"She is a consummate team player and is always willing to do what is best for the team," said girls soccer assistant coach Mike Malone of Gibbs, who helped the Bruins to a state championship as a sophomore in 2017. "Grace is among the best one-on-one defenders in the county and has been an integral part of the success we have achieved during her time. She has been an excellent leader both on and off the field. Our underclassmen have all benefited from her presence."

As a defender in both soccer and lacrosse, Gibbs does the unheralded dirty work that every team needs. Broadneck lacrosse coach Katy Kelley said that in addition to her strengths and physical tools as a player, Gibbs can always be counted on to lead by example.

"Grace has a humble demeanor but is quite the competitor," said Kelley. "She is a huge contributor both defensively and in transition for us."

Gibbs said that on the playing field, she knows her strengths lie in her actions, not her words.

"I am definitely not the most vocal player on any of my teams, but I think I do a good job of leading by example," Gibbs said. "I am not very flashy when I play, but I feel that I always get what needs to be done, done. My biggest goal in any sport I am playing is that I go my hardest. I think that my work ethic is one of my strongest attributes when it comes to being on a team."

The approach has led her to success beyond soccer and lacrosse Gibbs has a versatile role for the Bruins' indoor track and field team, competing in the 300-, 500- and 800-meter runs as well as the long jump and triple jump. This winter was her first season competing in triple jump, and she became the school's all-time record holder in the event with a jump of 31 feet, 9 inches at the county championships.

Not surprisingly, Gibbs applies her way of tackling challenges to the classroom as well. She holds a 4.4 grade-point average and has taken AP and honors courses throughout her time at Broadneck, including three AP courses and 12 credits at Anne Arundel Community College as a senior. She is a member of the National Honor Society and vice president of the National Art Honor Society.

Even with all these activities, she still finds time to enjoy the outdoors through mountain biking and snowboarding.

After graduation, Gibbs will attend Juniata College in Pennsylvania, where she's committed to play for both the soccer and lacrosse teams, and where she plans to major in art and environmental science.

Kelley believes Gibbs' character is the foundation for her current and future success.

"Grace is athletically, artistically and academically successful but, even more impressive, Grace never seeks praise or recognition from others for her efforts," Kelley said. "She simply works hard in everything she takes on, as she knows no other way, and strives for excellence in herself and her endeavors. I have no doubt she will do great things in her future."

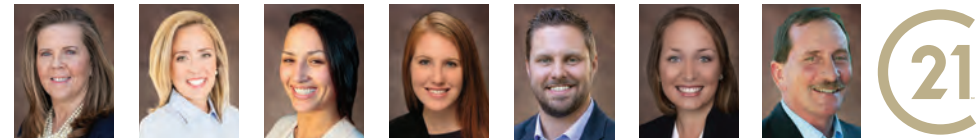
In partnership with The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21, the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month series seeks to recognize the many student-athletes in our area who make an impact not necessarily by way of statistics or stardom, but by their unique contributions. Do you know a young person in our community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

Student-Athlete Of The Month

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Hornets 8U's Win League Title

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The season wasn't an immediate slam dunk for the Green Hornets 8U select boys basketball team, which started the year 0-2 in Anne Arundel County play.

But Severna Park's team of youngsters turned it around quickly, went on a win streak and captured the league championship.

The 8U Green Hornets reeled off nine straight victories to close the year 9-2 and in first place of their Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks division.

Harrison Rumney, Finn Fowler, Chase Connell, Raymond Schummer, Brian Feldmaier, Luke Rex, Liam Brown, Tilghman Jeffers and Brennan Jones

employed a stifling defense to limit multiple opponents to single-digit totals. Fowler, Rumney and Schummer were the high scorers, while Connell and Rex provided leadership on both ends of the floor and everyone made valued contributions.



The Green Hornets 8U select boys basketball team closed the season on a nine-game win streak and captured the Anne Arundel County league championship.

The team was coached by Marshall Rumney, Pat Connell and Brad Fowler.

"The best part about this team was seeing the transformation and growth from practice No. 1 through game No. 11," said coach

Rumney. "Their willingness to learn and consistently work hard in each practice led to their success in games, and their unselfish play made them a really fun group to work with."

Cape 12U Boys Finish Strong Hoops Season



The Cape select 12U boys basketball team had a successful season across two leagues this winter. Cape went 17-6 overall, including a first-place finish in the Alliance League Silver Division and a second-place finish in the Anne Arundel County B Division. The team featured Blake Levicki, Cayden Decker, Brayden Goldstein, Calvino Foote, TJ Denney, Ben Cukor, Drew Cahall, Joey Smargissi, Parker Hartman and Tommy Anglim. The team was coached by head coach Brian Anglim and assistant coaches Alan Hartman and Sam Smargissi Jr.

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Standout Swimmers Power Success For SP Stingrays

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

A pair of youth swimmers for the Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club Stingrays achieved notable awards while helping their team to great levels of success this winter.

Stingray teammates **Mary Feliz** and **Court Barrett** were both honored by Maryland Swimming as the state's Outstanding Swimmers for their respective age groups.

Feliz, 13, was named Maryland Swimming 12-Year-Old Female Outstanding Swimmer in the short course category. Barrett, 11, won Maryland Swimming 10-Year-Old Male Outstanding Swimmer in the long course category.

As a team, the Stingrays finished a program-best eighth place in the state championship meet held at St. Mary's College from March 5 to March 8.

Feliz, of Shipley's Choice, is a five-time Outstanding Swimmer award winner. She swam in 10 scoring events for the Stingrays at the Maryland Swimming long course championship meet, winning both the 1,000-yard freestyle and the 200-yard butterfly. Feliz placed second in both the 100 fly and the 1,650-yard freestyle. Feliz's point accumulations helped the Stingrays achieve their team placement.

"Mary is the true heart of our team," said Stingrays head coach **Jim Hutcheson**. "Her work ethic is unstoppable, and she has not let her lack of



Court Barrett (left) and Mary Feliz both earned Outstanding Swimmer awards from Maryland Swimming this year.

his record and then proceeded to place fourth in his event," said Hutcheson.

In addition to the team's eighth-place finish at states, the Stingrays recently celebrated their first Olympic qualifying alumnus. **Jackson Schultz**, a swimmer at the United States Naval Academy, achieved a qualifying time for Olympic trials in the 200-meter breaststroke.

Hutcheson said the Stingrays program has grown in the past five years to become a powerful entity in Maryland Swimming despite its relatively small size. The team has competed in multiple USA Swimming events in recent years as well as the prestigious IMX Challenge Meet at the University of Maryland, an elite, IronMan-esque meet for distance swimmers that draws more than 200 teams from Maine to North Carolina and involves more than 1,400 swimmers.

The Stingrays program has also produced multiple age-group Outstanding Swimmer recipients every year over the last several years.

"This year's accomplishments have laid the foundation for an even stronger performance going forward because of a dedicated and professional coaching staff, family-oriented program, and great support from the management and membership of SPRC," said Hutcheson.

physical stature stop her from being among the best female athletes in Maryland as she represents her community in pools throughout the eastern part of the U.S."

Barrett, a student at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, received his first age-group Outstanding Swimmer award from Maryland Swimming. He scored in five individual events at the state championship meet as an 11-year-old, a rare feat for an 11-year-old competing primarily against more physically developed and stronger 12-year-olds. Barrett's point totals were crucial to helping the Stingrays to their proud team finish.

"Court's character is one thing that makes him so special," said Hutcheson, who recounted that Barrett praised a competitor who broke a previous event record he had set as a 10-year-old. "Just before he swam in the finals, Court was the first to congratulate the swimmer who had just wiped out

SP Ospreys Finish Fun Year



Severna Park Osprey eighth-graders (l-r) Mikaila Daly, Taylor Gruppuso, Luke Cobb, Dillon McConnell, Sam Testerman, Ryan Phelan, Sam Gillespie and Jagan Som completed their final season of middle school ice hockey this winter.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Records weren't the all-defining measure of accomplishment for the Severna Park Ospreys middle-school ice hockey team this winter. The team didn't practice and only convened for games about once a week.

Not surprisingly, the low-pressure approach to the team resulted in a successful winter of fun on the ice.

"I try to keep this fun for the players," said Ospreys coach and self-proclaimed "chief bottle washer" **Greg McConnell**. "Players get enough pressure at their regular clubs, so we try to make middle school hockey as a low-key, fun time — basically organized pond hockey."

Competing in a loosely organized league against teams from Broadneck, Chesapeake, Central and Crofton, the co-ed Ospreys went 3-7. The team of **Jagan Som, Quinny McConnell, Beckett Dickson, Aidan McIntyre, Ryan Phelan, Luke Cobb, Mikaila Daly, Elizabeth Jones, Dillon McConnell, Sam Gillespie,**

Pierce Brenner, Declan Laughlin, Daniel Jelinek, Mitch Gaudet, Nicholas Calce, Evan Reaser, Kristina Jones, Thomas Osborne, Alex Elfenbein, Jack Clark, Kyle Gruppuso, Sam Testerman, Taylor Gruppuso, Finnegan Pasko and Maxwell Grotheer were in control of their own lines and playing time.

Taylor Gruppuso, Daly, Cobb, McConnell, Testerman, Phelan, Gillespie and Som were eighth-graders who finished their middle school hockey careers.

Coach McConnell said middle school hockey is growing, but the hope is to keep it low-cost, low-pressure and focused on fun. The Ospreys managed to do just that this winter with volunteer efforts from coaches and families and minimal expenses to rent ice time and pay referees. McConnell noted the volunteer efforts of Broadneck coach **Bob Lime**, who coordinated the league's scheduling, ice time and referees. He likewise praised Osprey parents **Adam and Kate Gillespie**, who were the "go-to parents to run the clock, keep the score sheet

and play music, which was appreciated by all, especially the dancing parents who could often be seen grooving to the music in the stands."

Above all, he was glad to see the players keep the atmosphere light and inclusive.

"We generally let players choose their position and their lines," said McConnell.

"Although we have three grade levels and varying playing abilities and experiences, we strive for equitable ice time. We don't shorten the bench for power plays or when we are short-handed. We don't try to match lines against other teams, and most teams and players that we play against respect that approach... They did a great job of switching up the lines and tried to keep the ice time fair for all..."

At the end of games, if we have ice time left, we hold a shootout so that everyone gets a chance at scoring. Even the goalies get to pick up a regular stick and try to score... There are a few ringers in the league that could run up the score, but most of the time, these players are sharing the puck, the ice and the fun."

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Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies Win Girls Hoops Club Crown

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

Only in youth sports can a group of players walk onto a court, decide their team is named the Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies and go out and win a championship.

That's just what the FBRD girls did in the Green Hornets fifth/sixth-grade girls club basketball league.

The team of **Abigail Almodovar-Vives, Mimi Castaneda, Olivia Hilbert, Megan Krause, Syrenna McNutt, Sita Parikh, Celia Richardson, Gabriela Villegas** and **Lily Wells** avenged its only loss of the season in the league championship game at Benfield Elementary on February 22, defeating the Ballhogs 16-8 to win the crown and finish the year 10-1.

Coached by **Lee Ann Richardson** and **Omar Villegas**, the Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies went 3-0 in the playoffs, with come-from-behind



The Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies avenged their only loss of the season to win the Green Hornets fifth/sixth-grade girls club basketball championship on February 22.

wins in the quarterfinals and semifinals.

They faced a stiff test from the Ballhogs in the final but came away with a win.

"The Ballhogs are an extremely quick team that likes to use pressure defense to cause turnovers, which they convert into easy baskets. They were the highest-scoring team

in the league," said coach Richardson. "We knew we needed to play tough defense, play at our pace and protect the ball on offense, and use our height advantage on the boards if we were going to win. The girls executed the game plan perfectly. I am so proud of them."

The win was special for the Rubber Duckies, who

had suffered playoff defeats in previous years.

"Most of these girls have been playing for Coach Omar and I since first grade," said Richardson. "We've gotten knocked out in the semifinals several times, so to not only make the final game, but to win, meant a lot to them. They worked hard all season and just kept getting better as the season went on."

Coach Villegas said of the Rubber Duckies, "The great thing about coaching these girls is seeing how much they support each other, even when things were not going well."

Richardson applauded Green Hornets girls basketball commissioner Ed Davis on facilitating a great experience for the whole league.

"Commissioner Ed Davis deserves kudos for organizing an evenly matched and competitive league that consisted of 10 teams," said Richardson. "He has done a tremendous job building the program."

Hornets Wrestling Finishes Outstanding Season

» Continued from B1

showing from last year's county championships, when the program brought just 17 athletes to the county tournament and produced six individual place winners, to a total of 47 county competitors, 17 county place-winners and three county champions this year.

Parker Housel (52 lbs), **Leo Wheeler** (55 lbs) and **JP Lighthizer** (90 lbs) all claimed individual county titles.

Ryan Beall (95 lbs), **Tristan Morante** (85 lbs), **Axel Cornett** (80 lbs), **Cole Atallah** (65 lbs), **Liam Hawse** (52 lbs), **Landon Goller** (50 lbs) and **Merrick Fraser** (45 lbs) were all runners-up at the county tournament in their weight classes.

Individual accomplishments were many for the Green Hornets in a season of highlights at several tournaments that included the county championships, the Southern Holiday, the Defend the Den, the Battle on the Mat, Battle of the Bay, and the Matt Morrow Memorial tournaments.

William Abboud placed first at the Battle on the Mat and second at the Matt Morrow Memorial at 57 lbs. **Jack Tenenbaum** placed first at the Battle on the Mat at 90 lbs. **Matt Bruffey** placed second at the Defend the Den at 70 lbs. **Eamon Ensor** placed third at counties at 95 lbs. **Timmy Gately** placed third at counties at 40 lbs. **Gabriella Gauthier** was fourth at counties at 40 lbs. **Austin Hausmann** placed fourth at counties, second at the Southern Holiday and third at the Battle on the Bay at 45 lbs. **Sawyer Latchaw** was fourth at the Defend the Den at 50 lbs. **Will Lucas** placed second

at the Battle on the Mat at 90 lbs. **Henry Peake** was third at the Defend the Den at 45 lbs, and **Paul Puckett** was fourth at 70 lbs. At 80 lbs, **Adam Rather** placed third at counties, second at the Battle on the Mat and second at the Defend the Den. **Jackson Rausch** was third at counties at 65 lbs. **Jack Seely** was second at the Battle on the Mat at 65 lbs. **Oliver Seely** was fourth place in the county at 60 lbs.

Housel paired his county title with a first-place finish at the Battle on the Mat. Fraser placed second at the Battle on the Mat and second at the Battle of the Bay in addition to his runner-up county finish. Hawse, in addition to placing second at counties, placed second at the Battle on the Mat and third at the Defend the Den.

Leo Wheeler followed his county championship with an outstanding showing at regionals and states, placing second in his weight class at the Maryland State Wrestling Association South Region championships and fifth at the MSWA State Championship.

Coach Wheeler commended the total team effort that contributed to the Green Hornets' successful season.

"All the success that we had as a team was due to the hard work and dedication of our wrestlers, their families and our awesome coaches: Shane Fraser, Richard Hawse, Steve Seely, Jason Dewald and Rich Goller," said Wheeler. "I'm proud of everyone that was a part of Green Hornets wrestling. It was a great season and we look forward to putting in the work and taking more strides forward next season."

10U Crush Girls Win Pair Of Hoops Crowns



The 10U Green Hornets Crush girls basketball team went 17-5 overall this winter and claimed a pair of championships.

Severna Park went undefeated in the A Division in Anne Arundel County's 10U league, capturing first place. The team also went 6-5 in the fourth/fifth-grade division of the Arbutus League, but they finished strong to win the postseason A bracket tournament.

The Crush are **Quinlyn Bary, Avery Billmyer, Izzy Burleson, Tatum Davis, Abby Kelliher, Kendall**

Kemezis, Lily Mosher, Reese Pasko, Paige Sanborn, Bryn Williams and **Keira Wittlinger**. They were coached by **Aaron Burleson, Darby Davis** and **Stacy Williams**.

"The girls worked so hard all season," said coach Williams. "Their defense was described as suffocating by more than one opposing team. This was quite a feat considering they were often the smaller team by a long shot. They are a tenacious, competitive and positive team that are a pleasure to coach. They leave it all on the court!"

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Week 1 June 15 - June 19

Incredibles 2

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Week 4 July 6 - July 10

Frozen 2

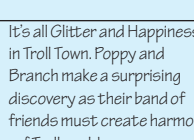
The magic returns and a new story begins when a mysterious voice calls out to her. Elsa the Snow Queen travels to the forest and the dark seas beyond her.



Week 7 August 3 - August 7

Trolls Tour

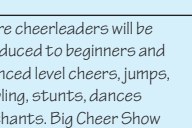
It's all Glitter and Happiness in Troll Town. Poppy and Branch make a surprising discovery as their band of friends must create harmony among the six different types of Troll worlds.



Week 2 June 22 - June 26

Cheer/Tumble

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Week 5 July 20 - July 24

Under the Sea

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Week 6 July 27 - July 31

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Week 9 August 17 - August 21

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Seniors Cope Without Sports

» **Continued from B1**
better and perfect my hitting and solidify my skills at first so I could be a starter, and now that it's taken away from me it just feels unfair. But I know I'm not the only one in this situation, and that's what I have to keep reminding myself, we're all in this together."

Coaches and parents have coped by posting old pictures on social media, celebrating memories of athletic triumphs to fill the void. Student-athletes are holding onto hopes that games can still be played after April 24, and they're preparing to play as soon as possible.

McAlister loaded a folder online for the softball players to access individual workout plans. The lacrosse players are doing solo stick work against brick walls at home. The baseball players are hitting balls off tees into nets in their backyards and basements. Runners on the track and field team, who normally are often seen running through the neighborhood in closely huddled clusters, have done their training runs alone, or in a few cases in small groups separated by six feet or more to abide by social distancing guidelines.

Teammates are staying in touch in group text threads, sharing workouts and trying to keep bonds strong.

"My teammates and I are still training and playing like we will have an abbreviated schedule when we get back," said **Julia Putzi**, one of six seniors on the girls lacrosse team. "It is really stressful to not know if we will play again, but no news is still better than the possible bad news. The hardest part is not being able to play with, or even see, my teammates. We had a lot of potential for the season and we were very excited to be able to start playing games."

The goals for all the teams remain in place.

"Trying for state championship would be amazing," said **Wesley Adams**, a senior pitcher for the Severna Park baseball team. "It's what I've always dreamed of as a high school baseball player. I'm hoping we go back and can play."

The disappointment isn't limited just to senior spring athletes. No athletes in Anne Arundel County were more heartbroken by cancellations than the Northeast boys basketball players, who were

in the midst of the finest season in program history. On March 12, less than 24 hours after the National Basketball Association suspended its season and the day the dominoes started falling around the country, the Eagles were enjoying a spirited sendoff from the school and Pasadena community and were moments away from boarding a bus to the University of Maryland to play in the Class 3A state semifinals at Xfinity Center when the game was cancelled.

Then there are the underclassmen. Sophomores and juniors with hopes of impressing college coaches with their play this spring or laying the groundwork for enlarged roles as next year will just have to wait.

For the senior student-athletes, sports are just one aspect of a special time in life that can't be postponed.

"I think that's just as bad as losing the sports," said **Casey Fox**, one of 13 seniors on the Severna Park boys lacrosse team. "You lose what you have left. It's our childhood, 18 years of making friendships with everyone, and then it kind of just crushed the last two months when it all comes together, graduation, prom, final sports seasons, the summer, that kind of stuff. It's kind of heartbreaking to see what it's come to."

Even in the current situation, many of the seniors expressed gratitude, appreciating what remains instead of fixating on what is lost.

"I have learned a lot, seeing what's going on in other places," said Fox. "There's people who have it worse. We have a nice house to live in, I have brothers to hang out with, my parents are here for me. We're missing school and sports, but there's people who can't pay rent, who are out of a job, who are going hungry because they're not able to work. I'm glad for what I have, but this is hurting everyone."

For Putzi and others, one of the final lessons of high school is a lesson for life.

"I have learned that you can't take anything for granted and to appreciate the time you have, because nothing is guaranteed," said Putzi. "I wouldn't have changed anything in the past four years. I've been honored to be a member of the girls lacrosse program at Severna Park."

T-Wolves Win 10U Club Hoops Title

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

The third/fourth-grade Timberwolves boys basketball team avenged its only loss of the season with a championship-game victory over the Thunder to finish the Green Hornets boys club basketball season as league champions with a 12-1 record.

The team of **Brayden Kiernan, Aiden Jones, Gavin Cooper, Trent Gloyd, John Vickerman, Connor Hance, MJ**

Matthews, Bennett Cowden, Parker Young and Aidan Zawadzki won with defense, allowing opponents an average of only nine points per game on the season.

"The boys really came together for several different schools and played like a team by the end," said coach **Ryan Young**, who coached the team with **Michele Matthews, Mike Zawadzki and Brandon Hance**. "All the players contributed in their own way."



Bucks Boys Win 10U B Bracket Playoffs

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

The Green Hornets Bucks basketball team of **Jack Peery, Sam Gillespie, Owen Inglesby, Aiden Pearson, Cole Hoffmaster, CJ Callaway, Alexei Vilcu, Brady Benz, Johnny Kiddney and Gabriel Pollock** won the boys basketball third/fourth-grade postseason "B" bracket championship.

"I am very proud of the boys and the effort they gave," said **Chris Callaway**, who coached the team with **Craig Gillespie**. "They have played tough basketball all season long. With the exception of one or two games, every game we played was a two-point

win or loss, so the boys were used to playing tight games. It was no different in the final as they pulled it out in the last 20 seconds. They worked hard and had a lot of fun in practice with some epic games of knockout."

Perhaps the team's most cherished accomplishment was the collection of nicknames they earned throughout the season: "Jumping Jack" Peery, "Cole Trickle" Hoffmaster, CJ "Big Country" Callaway, Johnny "McBuckets" Kiddney, Alexei "The Russian Rocket" Vilcu, "Brady Bunch" Benz, "Sam I Am" Gillespie, "Owen Me Money" Inglesby, Aiden "Perry the Platypus" Pearson and Gabriel "The Gabenator" Pollock.



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Severna Park-McKinsey Park
This spacious & private home features serene views of the pond & woods from the large balcony and yet is just steps away from a large variety of shopping venues. Numerous upgrades include fresh paint for the ENTIRE interior and NEW carpet throughout! The open kitchen boasts full upgrades! Two generous bedrooms, including the master bedroom w/built-ins and walk-in closet! Two tiled baths with granite tops on both vanities.

Severn-Quarterfield Farms
Move right in! This exceptionally maintained home featuring numerous upgrades is sited on a gorgeous lot that backs to open space. The gourmet, eat-in kitchen with skylight, features a breakfast bar, granite counter tops and stainless-steel appliances. The generous family room features a classic raised brick fireplace, hardwood floors and French doors lead to the oversized deck! The master bedroom features walk-in and sumptuous bath.

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Broadneck-Area Middle Schoolers Unite On Ice Hockey Team



The Bruins mixed all ages and ability levels on their middle school ice hockey team, keeping the focus on fun.

By Colin Murphy
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Broadneck middle-school ice hockey team had a successful year competing in the loosely organized

middle school hockey league along with Severna Park, Central, Chesapeake and Crofton.

A mix of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, the Bruins supplemented their

respective club hockey seasons by playing together in a league focused simply on having fun.

The team comprised eighth-graders **Kyra Lime, Troy Matchett, James Smack, Albie Palsa, Stefan Wikar, Henry Viscardi, Ryan Kucharski, Dylan Witte** and **Seth Fisher**; seventh-graders **Caleb Young, Gavin Wildberger** and **Payton Palsa**; and sixth-graders **Jackson Camden, Sam Rivera, Aiden Weber, Nancy Schindler, Brady May, Chase Monaco, Bret Porter, Eliot Martin** and **Max Marinello**. The Bruins were coached by **Bob Lime, Steve Matchett, Mike Viscardi, Brian Smack, John Camden** and team manager **Ann Young**.

A highlight for all teams came in the fast-paced county tournament, played in a five-day span in March. All teams play in play-in round games against each other, then a championship matchup is determined

after play-in round game results and tiebreakers are processed. Some games are played back-to-back in a single night.

Crofton repeated as champions of the league after defeating Central in the championship game.

The Bruins don't practice throughout the year and just come together for games, keeping a "pond hockey with coaches" ethos, said coach Lime.

"We treat this as a fun extra team for the players in the area," said Lime. "It is an opportunity for the kids that go to school together to play on the same team for once. There is a wide range of skill on the middle school teams. The great thing about this league is that the more experienced players help the newer players improve. We do a shootout after almost every game where all players from both teams (including the goalies) take a penalty shot on the other team. It really is a lot of fun."

SP Girls Win Region Crown

» Continued from B1 the shot. I'm proud of her."

The game was tied five times — all in the second half — and the lead changed hands 13 times. The biggest lead of the game was Severna Park's five-point lead early in the second half, but South River quickly fought back and neither team led by more than three points during the final quarter and a half.

"We just had so much energy and we really wanted to win," Stasulli said. "We were all just so motivated."

Lena McLaughlin and **Hailey Betch** each scored eight points for the Falcons, who found some success down low through the first three quarters. **Cam Chew** followed with five points and **Jess Albert** and **Theresa Bragg** each added four.

Ashlynn Burrows scored 24 points to lead South River, but the rest of the team combined for just four field goals and 15 points.

"She flat out carried us tonight," South River coach **Mike Zivic** said. "It she wasn't doing what she was doing, we probably lose that game by 15 points."

The teams traded five-point victories on the other's home court during

the regular season. In the meeting at South River on January 17, South River ran out to a 15-point lead in the second quarter before the Falcons rallied for the 38-33 victory.

That victory in January gave the Falcons the much-needed confidence they needed to pull off the win on Wednesday.

"That was huge," Dean said. "These girls couldn't have been any more confident today."

Albert said the supportive environment the players and coaches maintain allows Severna Park to continually improve and excel.

"I think not only our ability to play well as a team on the court, but also to be really close friends outside of the game made us as successful as we were this year," said Albert. "We were all able to push each other to work as hard as we could every day at practice. Our coaches told us every day that we had one goal: to get better that day. I think our coaches knew how much potential we had and believed we could do great things from day one."

Read an additional full season recap article about the Severna Park girls basketball team online at www.severnaparkvoice.com/sports.

SP-Area Athletes Reflect On College Seasons Cut Short



Photo courtesy of Garry Talbert



Photo courtesy of Sam Marshall, Oregon Athletics

The coronavirus epidemic caused the cancellation of the college seasons of many area athletes, among them *Newberry softball's Haley Simonds* and *Oregon women's lacrosse's Claire Domshick*, both Severna Park graduates. Read a full story about *Simonds* and *Domshick* online at www.severnaparkvoice.com/sports.

Broadway Wins State Title

» Continued from B1 to jump out to a lead, work points and secure the final win of a perfect season.

With an unbeaten year and a state title under his belt, Broadway said the interest from college programs is coming his direction.

"I'm going to wrestle in college," said Broadway, establishing a new goal. "I want to go Division I."

Still, he relished the completion of his state-

championship aspiration. Broadway said the support from his family is what made the accomplishment special to him.

"I just felt special because a lot of my family members, they were there and they were rooting for me," Broadway said. "I felt like it was the least I could do because of the number of sacrifices they do for me. They came to support me. It was a really touching moment for me."

LOOKING FOR A GREAT PLACE TO DINE?

Let the *Voice* help you decide!

In June, the *Severna Park Voice* will publish a special Dining Guide, featuring information on all your favorite restaurants in Anne Arundel County. There will also be plenty of discounts, deals and coupons included.



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April Showers



The warmer, wetter weather of spring can bring health risks for dogs in the form of an infectious disease called leptospirosis. Fortunately, there is a vaccination that can help protect your furry family member.

Karen VanKirk
Associate Veterinarian
VCA Calvert Veterinary Center



April showers bring May flowers, but the warmer, wetter weather can also bring added health risks for your dog in the form of an infectious disease called leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can affect humans and animals. This disease can cause serious damage to the liver and kidneys and even death. Rats, mice, raccoons, opossums, skunks, wolves and deer can spread the infection to dogs. When these animals are infected, the bacteria enter the bloodstream and make their way into the urine, which makes its way into the environment. Pets can be infected by ingesting an infected animal or water that has been contaminated by their urine. However, the bacteria can also penetrate the skin through scratches or open wounds and even penetrate the lining of the mouth, nose and eyes.

Infected animals can show loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, depression, fever, and even increased urination and thirst. In many dogs, infection can be severe, but sometimes the signs are subtle, and some dogs can recover quickly but continue to shed the bacteria and be carriers. The good news is that this disease can be treated, and many infected pets can recover if they receive treat-

ment in a timely manner before widespread organ damage occurs.

Fortunately, there is a vaccination that can help protect your dog. Experts estimate that there are about 10 strains of the bacteria that can infect the dog — the current vaccination protects against four of the most common, prevalent strains. Vaccination is strongly recommended if your dog goes outside at all. This practice alone, while it doesn't completely eliminate the chance of infection, can greatly reduce it.

You can also take additional measures to protect your pets. Keep your living environment and yard free of debris that could act as food or shelter for rodents or pests. If you encounter a pest problem, take measures to deal with it promptly. Do not allow standing water to collect on your property and avoid exposing your dog to streams, stagnant water or puddles while on walks or outings. Finally, if your dog shows signs of not feeling well, get it to your veterinarian so that they can receive appropriate testing and timely treatment.

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New Medical Center To Provide Mental Health Care

Jillian Amodio



The newly built J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center in Annapolis will be a pivotal point in providing expanded access to mental health care for Maryland residents.

The goal of the medical center is to provide quality, comprehensive and integrated care in one location for those needing mental health help. Services provided at the new facility will include the following:

- Inpatient mental health care
- A psychiatric partial hospitalization program
- Intensive outpatient programs
- Residential and outpatient substance use services
- Referral and care coordination to community-based treatment and support services

Anne Arundel Medical Center mental health specialists — including therapists, counselors and providers — will eventually move to this campus in an effort to provide all-encompassing care.

The new 56,000-square-foot facility is designed with both safety and aesthetics in mind. The facility delivers an essence of light, calm and peace through the incorporation of natural light, calming art and soothing décor. The overall feel of the entire facility is one of tranquility and healing.



Photos by Jillian Amodio
The new 56,000-square-foot facility can currently support 16 adult individuals for inpatient care, and 12 adolescents and 22 adults for the day program.

ity is one of tranquility and healing.

On January 21, the Anne Arundel County Council discussed numerous resolutions including Resolution 2-20. First introduced by Councilman Nathan Volke, the resolution called for suicide to be declared a public health crisis and requested that the Anne Arundel County Department of Health take appropriate action. The resolution was passed unanimously. This resolution served to bring awareness to the ever-increasing demands for mental health needs to be met within the county. With the addition of facilities like the new mental health hospital, more patients will receive the care they need.

The 16-bed facility offers private rooms with en-suite bathrooms providing comfort and privacy in a safe and well-monitored environment. Rooms overlook the courtyard and are flooded with natural light. Even the hallways are bright and open. There is a common area and several areas where families can visit with patients.

The courtyard can be utilized by patients with doctor's approval and staff supervision. It will also be utilized for certain group sessions, enabling care to be provided in the fresh air and natu-

“Over the past six years, we have expanded mental health care in our county exponentially, and our goal and passion is certainly to continue our expansion to meet the mental health needs of all of our community.”

— **CINDY RADOVIC**
CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH AND EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH FOR ANNE ARUNDEL MEDICAL CENTER

ral environment. Patients will be in group sessions the majority of the day with social workers, psychiatrists and therapists. While the inpatient beds are currently available for adult patients only, the intensive day program is approved for adolescents ages 13 to 17.

“As our inpatient care is becoming established, we are simultaneously and incredibly aware and focused on some of the additional gaps in mental health care for our community with intensive focus on our community's youth as well as teen suicide prevention,” said Cindy Radovic, clinical

director of inpatient mental health and emergency mental health for Anne Arundel Medical Center. “We have treasured partners at community, county and state levels to work together in closing these gaps.”

To be admitted to the facility, patients can be transferred through any Maryland emergency department or through a referring doctor, therapist or psychiatrist. The facility can currently support 16 adult individuals for inpatient care, and 12 adolescents and 22 adults for the day program.

Prior to six years ago, patients in acute mental health crisis were evaluated in the emergency department at Anne Arundel Medical Center. In the event that patients needed additional levels of care, available resources were either a great distance from Anne Arundel County, which put additional burdens on family, or the limited resources that were available could not keep up with the ever-increasing demands of mental health.

“Over the past six years, we have expanded mental health care in our county exponentially, and our goal and passion is certainly to continue our expansion to meet the mental health needs of all of our community,” Radovic said.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

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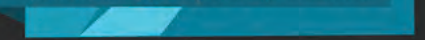
Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

* Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

University of Maryland Medical System Announces Updated Visitor Policy Restrictions At All Facilities

After the first confirmed COVID-related death in Maryland, the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) enacted updated visitor restrictions at all 13 system hospitals and other UMMS health care facilities.

Under the strict patient safety policy, no visitors are allowed, except under specific circumstances, and by prior approval of the physician administrative officer or their designee. This policy applies to all patients within UMMS hospitals and other facilities, is in alignment with Johns Hopkins Medicine, and is consistent with approaches taken by other leading health care institutions nationwide.

“Due to rapid escalation of COVID cases across Maryland and increased community spread of the disease, we have decided to enact this more aggressive and comprehensive, systemwide policy, which will be in effect until further notice,” said David Marozzi, MD, COVID-19 incident commander for UMMS, associate professor and associate chair of population health within

the Department of Emergency Medicine at the UM School of Medicine (SOM) and assistant chief medical officer for acute care at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE STRICT PATIENT SAFETY POLICY INCLUDE

FOR IN-PATIENT FACILITIES:

- End-of-life care or end-of-life decision-making. For these situations, two visitors will be permitted.
- One parent or caregiver of a child in the neonatal intensive care unit
- One parent or caregiver of pediatric patients as long as they are not symptomatic
- One visitor inclusive of a professional support person or postpartum helper of a patient in the labor and delivery and the postpartum units
- One visitor for patients in inpatient hospice units
- One visitor to accompany patients for hospital discharge

- One visitor for patients undergoing emergency surgery
- Visitors who have been asked by the patient's care team to be a part of scheduled family training for patients with rehabilitation needs

FOR ALL OUTPATIENT APPOINTMENTS:

- One visitor will be permitted to accompany a patient to facilitate care or treatment such as an ambulatory visit, procedure or same-day surgery

UMMS experts urge the public to practice vigilant hand hygiene, follow respiratory etiquette (cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing), maintain social distances when possible and avoid shaking hands. These strategies are fundamental to protecting our workforce, patients and the community. More information about the strict patient safety policy can be found on the UMMS dedicated COVID-19 information webpage, www.umms.org/covid.

SCHOOL & YOUTH

SPHS, Broadneck Families Host International Exchange Students

By Judy Tacyn

Three European teens are nearing the end of year-long exchange programs where they have lived with host families in Arnold and Severna Park. Ani Khutsaidze from Georgia and Nicole Pascu from Romania both attended Broadneck High School, while Giacomo Bertazzon from Italy attended Severna Park High School.

Khutsaidze and Pascu were both recipients of the prestigious Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) scholarships from the United States State Department. FLEX offers teenagers an opportunity to experience and embrace American culture to bridge nations through common ground. The selection process is rigorous.

"The FLEX scholarship is one of the best-known scholarship programs in my country and in many other countries in Europe," said Khutsaidze. "Globally, its acceptance rate is 2.4%. In my country, you have to work hard to become one



Ani Khutsaidze (left) from Georgia and Nicole Pascu from Romania both attended Broadneck High School this year.

of 80 finalists among 5,000 applicants."

Bertazzon's exchange was through ASSE International, and he was a member of Severna Park's region-championship swim team.

The *Severna Park Voice* caught up with these jet-setting student scholars to hear about their experiences and finally put to rest a couple age-old misconceptions about Americans.

ANI KHUTSAIDZE - 17 SENIOR

Hometown: Telavi, Georgia.
Population: 29,000 (about the size of Crofton, Maryland).
Distance from Arnold, Maryland: 5,760 miles.

FIRST TIME TO THE UNITED STATES
Host: The Cox family

HIGH SCHOOL AND FAMILY LIFE

Khutsaidze comes from a small high school of only 500 students. Teens in Georgia do not choose any subjects or change classrooms while at school. Each class is just 35 students, with everyone taking the same classes at the same time.

"Broadneck is huge!" exclaimed Khutsaidze. "There are a lot of extracurricular activities; there is no chance that you cannot find a club based on your interests."

This year, Khutsaidze took English (honors), U.S. History (honors), Precalculus (honors), Psychology (advanced placement), World History (advanced placement), Creative Writing and Nutrition (honors). She is in the Science Honors Society and National Honors Society. She also started the Multicultural Leadership Club.

While her high school is different from Broadneck, her family lives are similar.

"I always say that I have two families, the American family and the Georgian family," she said. "I would say that they are very different and similar in good ways. What I love the most about both of my families is that we are very good friends. I am happy that if there is something going on, I can reach out to them."

"One more big similarity that I think I love the most is that I have two younger sisters in both Georgian and American families," added Khutsaidze. "My sisters are 5, 8, 8 and 12 years old. And funny thing is that they have talked to each other a couple of times via FaceTime."

WHY THE EXCHANGE IS IMPORTANT

"Cultures of different countries all together to create di-

» Continued on B10

School At Home: Online Resources For Students And Parents



There are many resources available to keep kids' minds active and engaged while schools are closed.

By Jane Seiss

In these extraordinary times, many parents are making an effort to keep their kids engaged with learning. For some, that means extra time for reading and memorizing the times tables. For others, it may mean learning how to make a family dinner, trying coding or working on a long-shelved art project. Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) is communicating with parents via email and social media, and the school website provides e-learning resources.

Staying motivated and getting organized can be challenging. Find guidance from AACPS on the E-Learning section on the system's website. Note that the school district uses Google Chrome as its instructional browser, and students and families should download Chrome. Once signed into Chrome, students use a homepage called ClassLink — it provides single sign-on to a dashboard of links to websites and online

textbooks.

For students in kindergarten through eighth grade, activities are organized by grade level and subject. There is no penalty for not completing work. Students may skip a day or repeat an exercise they want to review or try again. K-8 students may also tune in to AACPS TV for broadcasts of lessons repeated throughout the day.

High school students may stay on track with their work using their AACPS ClassLink and Google accounts to access websites, resources and Google Classroom to view, complete and receive feedback on assignments provided by teachers.

There are many options beyond what the school district recommends. Start with an inspiring video on the Khan Academy YouTube page, and check out these resources that are sure to keep your student's mind active.

The audiobook service Audible is offering free titles for kids up to the age of 18.

» Continued on B11

SPHS Senior Achieves Excellence



Allison Chang recently won a National Merit Scholarship, she has taken college courses as a high school student, and she is involved in several clubs at Severna Park High School.

By Haley Weisgerber

High school seniors are under a lot of pressure. With college applications, scholarships, extracurricular activities and making the most out of every moment, it is impressive that any senior keeps up.

For Severna Park High School senior Allison Chang, being busy has become a part of her routine.

Chang, who plans to study computer science in college, has been involved in many STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs. She holds officer positions in both the science and math honor societies at

Severna Park and was recently awarded a National Merit Scholarship.

Chang has also been enrolled in classes at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) throughout high school.

"The classes are more self-driven, with it being college," said Chang. "I have to plan out my time more to make sure I get all my work done when there's not necessarily people always checking up on me."

In addition to graduating from high school this spring, Chang will graduate with two associate degrees in math and computer science from AACC. She said that these classes will help her transition into a four-

year university.

"It's been good for me," said Chang. "I think it's helped me mature some and it's been a different experience."

For the past three years, Chang has played an active role in Key Club at Severna Park High School. Each year she leads two service projects — the Harvest for the Hungry food drive and the Prom Fashion Show.

The Harvest for the Hungry food drive is a Department of Education program that partners with local food banks in a regional competition to collect the most food and monetary donations. All the funds raised at Severna Park High School are distributed to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

"It definitely makes me feel happy to support families," she said. "I really like Harvest for the Hungry because all the resources stay local. Everything goes to our local food bank."

This year, Severna Park High School raised \$14,000 and won first place in its region.

"This year we actually came in first for total contribution," said Chang. "We always come in second after South River High School, so that is really cool."

The Prom Fashion Show is an annual fundraiser encour-

» Continued on B9

"The Sound Of Music" Hits The Right Note At Stage & Screen

Photos by Stephanie Mennell Photography

Children took on the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, "Getting to Know the Sound of Music," at Stage & Screen Studios in March. Audiences were transported to Austria, where they met the inspirational von Trapp family.



Oak Hill Elementary Students Help Paint Vivid Mural



Photos courtesy of Gayle Mangan Kassal

A year-long project culminated in a colorful display on the walls at Oak Hill Elementary School this March. Artist Gayle Mangan Kassal collaborated with Oak Hill art teacher Dana Henstrand and every student to complete the stunning mural. "This all fed into creating a wonderful storyline of the acorn growing into the mighty oak," the artist said. "As they enter the school as pre-k, they grow into fifth-graders. All the students enjoyed the concept and it also became a subtle message to care for our environment and its pollinators." To see more of her work, visit www.gaylemangankassal.com.

"This all fed into creating a wonderful storyline of the acorn growing into the mighty oak."

— Gayle Mangan Kassal



Service-Minded Kids Keep Busy

While television and video games were recommended activities for kids who were home from school during the coronavirus shutdown, some youth spent time being active in their communities. One of those kids was 15-year-old Elijah Natale, who picked up trash around Cape St. Claire. Do you know of any volunteer activities kids have participated in while schools are closed? We'd love to hear the details. Email spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.



SPHS Senior Achieves Excellence

» Continued from B8
aging students to model prom outfits. All proceeds benefit the March of Dimes, a non-profit organization committed to fighting birth defects. This year, under Chang's leadership, the event raised \$4,000.

"We usually have seniors model the outfits and I'm a senior, so it was sort of my classmate's year," said Chang. "It was really cool to see all of my friends dressed up."

Chang said organizing the Prom Fashion Show is her favorite memory from high school.

"There are always problems that come up," said Chang. "But when I see the show and everything comes together, that's always a happy night for me."

Chang kept herself busy throughout her high school career. Her busy schedule taught her the importance of managing her time and being organized, a skill set that she will carry throughout her life. She credits the Severna Park community with inspiring her to continue working hard.

"People in Severna Park are very driven," said Chang. "I'm taking a lot of AP classes and have a hard workload, but a lot of people around me are doing the same thing. It pushes me."

Though Chang has been accepted to University of Maryland College Park and Johns Hopkins University for computer science, she has not made any decisions yet.

"Ideally I would like to move farther away for college," said Chang. "I'm excited to be in a more diverse environment where I can be independent and find myself a little more."

Though she has enjoyed her time at Severna Park High School, she is ready to move on to the next big thing.

"In high school I spent a lot of time working on these service projects and doing things to help others," said Chang. "When I'm in college I want to find a way to continue doing that, but also incorporate my major. I want to figure out a way to help others using computer science."

Severna Park Elementary School



For the month of April, the Voice asked Mrs. Hayes' class at Severna Park Elementary, "What is the luckiest thing that has ever happened to you?"

Q. Question of the month

Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade

class. This month, students from Mrs. Hayes' class at Severna Park Elementary answered the question:

What is the luckiest thing that has ever happened to you?

Having nurses there for me when I had pneumonia.
Lucy Benner

When my brother was born.
Holly Braughton

When I got to go to Ocean City.
Nyla Chestnut

When I got a puppy!
Evan Chojnowski

Getting a good role in my first play.
Collin Cabbage

When I got a puppy.
Brady Distler

When I went back to my old soccer team, Severna Park.
Elli Fleming

When I got a solo in the school play.
Lila Gagnier

When I got to go to Disney World!
Myles Goger

Getting gerbils for Christmas.
Sarah Johnston

Getting a fish tank for the very first time.
Greyson Parker

When I won all of my Jr. PGA games.
Jonathan Reneu

When my mom took me to a fancy play for my birthday.
Mariella Sanderson

When I was born at only 28 weeks and weighed 3 pounds and 10 ounces and survived.
Gabriel Seward

When I made true lacrosse.
John Sparkman

When I got my Ramen sweatshirt.
Riley Sullivan

When I won my basketball championship.
Garrett Thompson

When I went to Disney Land.
Rachel Wing

Teens Earn Citizenship Award For Their Fundraising Efforts



Meredith DePole (left) and Kiley Cassidy were recognized with the Citizenship Award on March 6 after they and their team of eight friends raised more than \$41,500 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Both Cassidy and DePole are Severna Park residents who attend Archbishop Spalding, and they received the award when the Maryland chapter of the LLS held its Students of the Year grand finale.

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SPHS, Broadneck Families Host International Exchange Students

» **Continued from B8**
 versity. To me, diversity means people all over the world with unique ideas and perspectives," Khutsaidze said. "It is a global society that will not only enhance an individual's social development but [the exchange] also gives a great opportunity to get a better understanding of the world."

WHAT SHE'S LEARNED

"I already see how my experience has changed me for the better and taught me a lot. Throughout the challenges and adjustment with the new environment during my exchange year, I see how I've grown up and developed more and more as an individual person who is always ready to speak up, try new things every day, doesn't fear challenges, and what is most important, being eager to help the community and others in need."

MISCONCEPTIONS

- All of America doesn't look like New York City, Los Angeles or other places depicted in Hollywood movies.
- Georgians believe that coming to the U.S. will cause a person to gain weight because Americans eat a lot of junk food.
- Georgia isn't just a U.S. state, and it isn't part of Russia! It's an independent country in Europe between Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"I totally recommend this experience to other students. It is an incredible way to learn

how to live independently, be a good ambassador of your country by sharing information about it, and it gives you the opportunity to make a lot of friends," Khutsaidze added. "You will have a happy family that will always love you in a different part of the world."

NICOLE PASCU - 18 JUNIOR

Hometown: Alba Iulia, Romania.
Population: 65,000 (roughly the size of Glen Burnie).
Distance from Arnold, Maryland: 4,761 miles.

FIRST TIME TO THE UNITED STATES

Host: The Spencer family

FAMILY LIFE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Pascu's high school in Romania has approximately 800 students, so it's smaller than Broadneck's student body of 2,050. And, she said the education systems are also different. "Here (Broadneck) you can choose your classes at the beginning of the year. In Romania, after you finish eighth grade, you take an exam and based on your grades, you apply to different high schools and profiles," Pascu said. "Based on your options and your grades, you get a certain profile and a class schedule is made for you by the school. Another huge difference is that we don't move to our classes; we have one class assigned (the same people are in that for the next four years



Giacomo Bertazzon is staying with the Gaige family. "Learning about other cultures and other lifestyles is really important to understand and learn to appreciate our planet," he said.

unless someone changes their profile), and teachers come to our class. In Romania, we don't have electives as here in the states."

This year, she took Precalculus (honors), English 11 (honors), U.S. History (honors) and several electives that she wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to take, such as Yoga, Dance, Criminal Justice and Nutrition. She said her favorite classes were English and Yoga, and she was on the Unified Sports teams.

"Romanian and American teenagers are so different. While we have more freedom to choose for ourselves in Romania, American teenagers have more freedom when it comes to driving," added Pascu. "The sense of humor is different in Romania and the United States. People [take longer to open up] in Romania compared to the United States. In the end, we all are teenagers, but we are just raised in different environments."

WHY THE EXCHANGE IS IMPORTANT

"People are the representatives of their countries, so by getting to know more cultures, you learn that things are done differently around the world. You get the chance to see life through a different perspective and you become more aware and educated. People are people everywhere, despite their lifestyles. By being informed about different countries, you can learn new methods to improve yourself and to adopt things you find other countries do better. Also, you simply open your eyes to new opinions, and you create an amazing bond."

Pascu said she visited a lot of amazing places and met a lot of fabulous people throughout her journey. "People made my experience in the U.S. so unique and that's why I love it here."

MISCONCEPTIONS

- People from Romania (Transylvania) are

not vampires.
 • Americans are not just like the movies and not everything is like it is in "High School Musical."

GIACOMO BERTAZZON - 17, JUNIOR

Hometown: Casale Monferrato, Italy.
Population: 34,200 (slightly smaller than Severna Park).
Distance from Severna Park: 4,168 miles.

FIRST TIME TO THE UNITED STATES

Host: The Gaige family

HIGH SCHOOL AND FAMILY LIFE

High school in Italy takes five years, not four, and students have to pick a major before they start. Bertazzon attends a linguistic high school so that languages are among his mandatory classes. He studies French, Spanish, Chinese and English.

His hometown is in the "wine hills," so there is never a shortage of tourists. Bertazzon lives with his parents and three siblings.

"My American and Italian families have a lot in common," said Bertazzon. "They are both very nice and I love them both."

One major difference is geography. In Italy, Bertazzon lives near grandparents and relatives, so he sees his extended family almost daily. In the U.S., his host family is more spread out. In Italy, he makes sure to stop at his grandmother's house after

school because it's so close.

"I like every class I take [at Severna Park High School, but] if I have to choose, I'd say Entrepreneurship and U.S. History," he said. "[Here] there are way more options concerning the subjects you can study. The day I had to make my schedule was pretty hard — too many subjects!"

In Italy, Bertazzon is a swimmer, so he tried out for the Severna Park High School swim team and made it. To add to an already awesome experience, the Severna Park High School swim team earned the region championship this year.

"Swimming was an amazing experience. I met so many great people and I made lots of friends," Bertazzon added. "I'm so glad I also met coach John Bachkosky; he's the best ever."

WHAT HE'S LEARNED

"During this experience, I've learned how to be a little bit more independent than I was, learning the importance of money and how to spend money the right way. Also, learning about other cultures and other lifestyles is really important to understand and learn to appreciate our planet."

MISCONCEPTIONS

- "Not all Italians speak with our hands," Bertazzon said. "And we don't eat pasta twice a day (but just once a day)."
- "The classic stereotype about Americans is that they're all really fat. But Italians love Americans, so we don't really care."

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Online Resources For Students And Parents

» **Continued from B8**
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Computer science is driving the world, and now is a great time to learn it. Code.org offers online coding courses and activities organized by grade levels. There are fun tutorials for all ages, and even free online college courses for those in high school and beyond.
The Emerson Collective, a social change organization that invests in education initiatives, has posted a comprehensive list of resources for remote learning. There are links to a virtual field trip website and printable at-home packets in math and reading for K-8, as well as recommended resources for educators and schools.
Khan Academy is a nonprofit that provides

suggested daily schedules for students learning from home. Organized by grade level, they feature links to subjects so that students may smoothly connect to grade-appropriate online activities. At the Khan website, parents will also find guidance on how to support children's learning during school closures.
Local public libraries may remain closed for weeks or months. Fortunately, there are many resources for students available on the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) website. According to an email distributed by AACPL on March 18, new opportunities to learn are coming. Trained staff will provide daily story times from the AACPL Facebook page. The system's eBook, eAudiobook and eMagazine collection will grow to offer even more digital content

to library patrons.
Taking advantage of online learning and materials is not easy for everyone. According to the Pew Research Center, as many as 15% of school-age children do not have access to high-speed internet service at home. Locally, Comcast Xfinity Internet Essentials provides two months of free high-speed internet access to low-income families that are new customers.
Perhaps we have never appreciated classroom teachers as much as we do right now. If we walked into schools today, maybe like the Khan Academy video says, they would remind us, "Whoever you are, wherever you are, you only have to know one thing, you can learn anything." It is likely that they would also remind us to take breaks, exercise and have some fun.

Where Do We Go From Here?



Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5

During a press conference with Governor Larry Hogan on March 25, Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland state superintendent of schools, extended school closures for all Maryland public K-12 schools through April 24. Dr. Salmon, the Maryland State Board of Education, and superintendents from each Maryland school system, including the AACPS superintendent, Dr. George Arlotto, are working on plans for "continuity of learning for all students, including students with special needs." Dr. Salmon also stated that more information will be available in the coming days as the state and local superintendents work collaboratively on a statewide plan that maintains equitable standards and expectations for students. These plans, which will begin next week, will be posted on AACPS's website and communicated widely through the usual channels.
While the announcement answers one question, many other questions remain. What will continuity of learning for students look like? How will we equitably serve all 85,000 students? Will school be extended into the summer? How will we handle grade promotions, proms and graduations? What about our students at our Centers for Applied Technology who require access to workshops and tools or those who need hours to qualify for certifications?

How will we adequately support our special needs students, our ESOL students, and the rest of the student population during this unprecedented, once-in-a-century, global public health crisis?
The answers to these questions are forthcoming. I ask for your patience as the board, Dr. Arlotto, and his staff work with the state to answer these questions and implement solutions.
Any further decisions regarding school closures, "continuity of learning" plans, state assessments and calendar decisions for this academic year will be made by Dr. Salmon in consultation with Governor Hogan. These decisions will NOT be made by local boards of education, including the AACPS Board of Education. Local boards do not have the authority to scribble outside the lines of Dr. Salmon's decisions or executive orders in place, and we would never put any student, teacher or staff member at risk. I have full faith in our state and county governments to lead us through these challenging times.
While much is unclear as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, there are some certainties to draw your attention toward. AACPS has been magnificent in its response to this crisis. Staff began working around the clock once the initial school closure announcement was made, including over the weekend, to establish 52 meal sites which began operating on Monday, March 16, to feed our students in need. Nine additional sites were added shortly there-

after. By the end of the seventh day of meal service, AACPS had already served 119,373 meals to 39,791 students. Workbook packets were distributed to K-5 students who do not have access to our broadcast and e-learning site during the eighth day of meal service. Jodi Risse, supervisor of food and nutrition services for AACPS and her staff are miracle workers in my mind.
The kudos don't stop there. Unlike higher education, K-12 is not equipped to flip a switch and provided online or distance instruction comparable to what our students are accustomed to in school classrooms. Immediately after the initial school closure announcement was made, staff began working nonstop to provide educational materials to keep students engaged and their reading and math skills sharp. The materials found at www.aacps.org/elearning are impressive and have been very well received by students. As stated previously, additional information regarding continuity of learning plans for all students will be released in the coming days.
We never dreamed we'd be in the situation we now find ourselves in. Whatever the road ahead looks like, know that Dr. Arlotto, his staff, my board colleagues, and I prioritize your students' education above all else. Be patient and kind to each other and with us. This too shall pass. We will get through these challenging times together. As always, I am available at dschallheim@aacps.org and encourage your ideas and feedback.

LINKS

- AACPL:** www.aacpl.net
- AACPL on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/aacpl
- AACPS E-Learning:** www.aacps.org/elearning
- AACPS Digital Resource Information for Families:** (a Google doc with comprehensive instructions for accessing online resources) <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1igVJ2k0tPH05soBxGCMUDU4wYy8moGr1Dn4nF9wds58EE/edit>
- AACPS TV schedule & information PDF:** www.aacps.org/cms/lib/MD02215556/Centricity/Domain/1753/AACPS%20e-Lessons%20Broadcast%20Schedule.pdf
- Audible:** www.audible.com
- Audible Free Stories for 0-18:** <http://stories.audible.com>
- Code.org:** <http://code.org>
- Comcast Xfinity Internet Essentials:** https://internetessentials.com/?utm_source=highspeedinternet.com&utm_medium=affiliate&clid=ecd06a-f9ae-41cf-93f9-a3284c8aff24
- Emerson Collective Remote Learning Resources:** www.emersoncollective.com/articles/2020/03/covid19-resources-for-remote-learning/
- Khan Academy:** <https://khanacademy.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360040167432-How-can-Khan-Academy-be-used-for-remote-learning-during-school-closures->
- Pew Research:** www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/10/26/nearly-one-in-five-teens-cant-always-finish-their-homework-because-of-the-digital-divide/

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Going Remote: A Small School Works To Solve A Big Problem

Jamey Hein
Head of School
St. Martin's-
in-the-Field



St. Martin's now offers a virtual welcome with a familiar face and affirming message. A teacher hosts a one-to-one session to review a challenging math problem, and students respond to questions in a live chat room. A child receives a saxophone lesson with his band teacher.



At the onset of the millennium, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley claimed, "We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that haven't been invented, in order to solve problems we don't even know are problems yet."

Twenty years later, COVID-19 impacts our health and daily routine, and specifically — albeit temporarily — disrupts the nature of brick and mortar education. Distance learning has been a constant for some time, and in both the K-12 and higher education sectors, the tools available for employing it are boundless. However, did we ever predict a pandemic that would shutter schools and compel them into remote operation for an indefinite period?

As the head of an independent preschool-through-grade-eight school, I never fathomed such reality would face our small community that — above all — balances education with close relationships, sense of community, values and virtues, and individual attention for each child. Even for a small school, the task of mobilizing staff to carry out these ideals — remotely — is daunting and not something I could readily pull from a playbook. Still, we assured families that we would adapt and maintain educational continuity for our preschool through middle school students. Even more, we intended to maintain some special threads of our community and to be there.

Our smallness has allowed for agility from the get-go. Teachers responded with impressive collaboration, willing-

ness and creativity. We allowed them to plan and package materials to distribute. We gave them access to tools such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Flip Grid, and online math and literacy curriculum already in place to enable asynchronous learning, teaching demonstrations, class discussions and story times for our youngest learners.

While we cannot fist-bump our students upon entering our doors each morning, we now offer a virtual welcome with a familiar face and affirming message. A teacher hosts a one-to-one session to review a challenging math problem, or conducts a lively online discussion about a novel, and students respond to questions in a live chat room. A child receives a saxophone lesson with his band teacher. Our chaplain conducts virtual chapels, and the student council meets to brainstorm special events to promote spirit. Maybe a virtual field trip will be next? And a few times a week, staff gathers via Zoom to exchange

ideas, find support and even share a virtual happy hour.

We have agreed to treat this enterprise in the same light as a new teacher treats that memorable first year of teaching. We are all a little nervous, but we are learning, taking risks and being adaptive. We have let go of the school day as we were trained to know it.

We are solving this unique problem with the exact skills 21st century educators have promised to teach their students: confidence, creativity, collaboration and communication. We will model these skills and more in the weeks to come, and soon return "to school" more eager and inspired to educate this increasingly complex world's future problem-solvers.

St. Martin's is an independent preschool-through-grade-eight school committed to growing students of confidence, character and compassion. For more information, contact the director of admissions at kdanahy@stmartinsmd.org.

Jones Students Rewarded For Fundraising Haul

Principal Jim Whisman "stuck" to his promise in March after Jones Elementary students raised more than \$3,800 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society by partaking in the Pennies for Patients fundraiser. Students gathered around their principal, taped him to the wall and celebrated their achievement.



St. John's Performance Of "Frozen Jr." Gives Audiences The Chills



There was plenty of magic, adventure and humor to go around when St. John the Evangelist treated audiences to a production of "Frozen Jr." Princesses Elsa and Anna, along with the magical land of Arendelle, were brought to life thanks to a talented cast and crew.

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