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Homestead Gardens Sets Up Lively Holiday Display
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SEVERNA PARK, MD

NOVEMBER 2020

A Reading Tour: History Of The Severna Park Railroad Station



By Krista Latchaw

Members of the Severna Park Museum Inc. are sharing their memories of historical landmarks around Severna Park in this limited six-part series.

If you lived in Severna Park in 1880 — or Boone as it used to be called — you would have seen the first railroad steam engine running from Baltimore to Annapolis roaring down the tracks. The B&A short line integrat-
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Voters Get To The Polls

Anne Arundel County's early voting process got off to a hot start, including the county's highest early voting day turnout ever on October 28 with 18,757 voters. The county's early voting total was at 76,200 voters by October 30.

At Severna Park High School, chief election judge Wally Smith said his site was getting roughly 3,000 voters a day

until a slower Halloween weekend.

"This new facility has worked out really well," Smith said. "We used to do it at Severna Park Library, which was a much smaller area. This allows a big group of people to flow through real well. If someone is physically challenged, it gives them an opportunity because there is more space."

>> Continued on page 5



SP Native Is First Female SUPT Graduate At Vance Selected To Fly The F-35 Lightning II



Force has to offer, which is where Vander Kolk steps in.

The selectee comes from the University of Virginia with a degree in aerospace engineering. She played collegiate level lacrosse all four years of college, was a three-time state champion goalkeeper with the Severna Park High School lacrosse team, and she was also a four-year starter for the Falcons basketball team.

She wanted to be in the Air Force and found her way in through the one-year program that University of Virginia temporarily offered for ROTC students.

"I basically did a crash course in ROTC, went to field training, commissioned and then came here [to Vance]," Vander Kolk said.

Once she got to Vance, she wasn't sure what she wanted to fly, but she took the same go-getter attitude from college to the flight line.

>> Continued on page 11

By 2nd Lt. Alyssa Letts, 71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

If the Air Force were casting for another Marvel movie, their lead would be at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma — Second Lieutenant Rachel Vander Kolk.

On May 1, the Severna Park native graduated from the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training program and became the first woman selected at Vance to fly the F-35 Lightning II — the jet of the future.

The F-35 requires the best that the Air

Margueritte Mills
Volunteers
Of The Month

Barbara And Don Hilliard Rid Streets Of Litter

By Haley Weisgerber

Retirees Barbara and Don Hilliard would wake every morning to wave to their grandchildren's bus as it passed by their Brittingham home. Once the bus had passed, the two would set off on a morning walk. After noticing the unsightly litter along the walk, they took matters into their own hands.

For about 12 to 14 years, the Hilliards have walked from East West Boulevard to West Pasadena Road, picking up trash along the road and in the median three times a week.

"There is lots and lots of litter," said Barbara. "We get like two shopping bags on that little stretch."

When they started collecting, Barbara reached out to former County Executive Steve Schuh's office, but they did not notice any changes. Don suspects there is not enough county staff available to pick up the trash.

"We did show pictures to the county once of our bags were full of litter, but they didn't really do anything, so we just figured we could do it," said Barbara. "We get in our bending exercises and our walking as well."

Equipped with Safeway bags and gloves, Barbara and Don have collected an alarming amount of litter on their walks, which are over a mile long.

"We've had everything from hypodermic needles to dirty diapers, water bottles, beer cans, and old McDonald's or Burger King bags," said Barbara.

Don even found a child's purse, which the pair believed was accidentally thrown out by a child. However, most of the trash that the two collect is not accidental.

"It's mostly all intentional," said Don. "Sometimes there is stuff that may have fallen off a truck, but everything else is intentional."

Though the couple does occasionally find trash on the bike trail, the litter is typically found along the median.

"It is amazing that people just



don't keep it in their car until they get home," said Barbara.

Although they are not certain of a solution, Don suggests that raising the fine for littering and encouraging the police to enforce the law could initiate change.

Barbara encourages other Severna Park and Millersville residents to take pride in their community and help to keep it clean. During Maryland's stay-at-home order, Barbara even posted a call-to-action on Facebook when many people were walking to get out of their houses. The Hilliards believe it is a small act that will keep their community beautiful.

"If you see something, pick it up and throw it out," said Barbara. "There's really no tools involved. If everyone picked up a little bit, it would make a difference."

We Want Your Recipes

Do you make a mouth-watering honey-glazed ham, a sweet potato souffle or other festive entry? How about fruitcake cookies or eggnog pudding? Maybe you are skilled at mixing drinks, and you have some tips for making the perfect cranberry mimosa or snickerdoodle martini.

We're looking for holiday recipes submitted by you, the reader. Send your favorite recipes to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com for a chance to be included in our Holiday Gifts & Events Guide. Please send contributions no later than 5:00pm on Monday, November 9. We look forward to reading about your favorite recipes!



Children Clean Up Shipley's Choice



Young environmental stewards took to the streets of their Shipley's Choice neighborhood in October to keep the area clean. Those kids were Ella Sprouse, Benjamin Sprouse, Cameron Ledson, Hayden Ledson, Mya Trippett, Lea Trippett, Kyra Trippett, Camille Mann, Thomas a'Becket, Sophia Lourie, Ellis St. John, Marco DeLuca, Michael Carroll and Christian DeLuca.

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the Cottage is Feeling Thankful!



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Voters At The Polls

» Continued from page 1

Halloween marked the first time Lisa Hanson voted in Severna Park.

"I didn't know there was early voting on the weekends, so this was great," she said. "I just happened to be driving by."

Amy Leahy campaigned outside the high school.

"This has run much more smoothly than the primary," she said. "The primary was so confusing for everyone. I'm really glad they had people request a mail-in ballot instead of having them sent, because the ones that were sent during the primary, they just mailed ballots to people. I had a friend who has been in Florida for three years and he had a mail-in ballot mailed to his home in Florida for the primary. Stories like that were not uncommon."



Judges Give Thanks

On behalf of the election staff at Severna Park High School during early voting, a special thanks goes to The Big Bean for coffee and tea, to an anonymous donor for 10 large pizzas from Pizza Boli's, and to Nothing bundt Cakes for 48 miniature cakes.

Kids: Help Us Unravel These Holiday Mysteries

The holidays are approaching, and we need help answering some age-old questions. Parents, have your kids answer any or all of the questions below and send responses to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com. Please include your child's first name, last name and age.

We'll share as many responses as we can, whether it's through our holiday special edition in November or on our website. We look forward to reading your thoughts!

- How does Santa make it all the way around the world in one night?
- How does Santa get the reindeer to fly?
- Where did Santa meet the elves?
- Does Santa ever get sick of eating just milk and cookies?
- What does Santa do throughout the rest of the year when it isn't the holiday season?
- What do you think eggnog is made of?
- What kind of magic brought Frosty the Snowman to life?



Giving Thanks During A Pandemic

Ellen Kinsella
Director of
Development,
SPAN Inc.



him or her. Maybe you lost your job or had your hours cut back. Maybe you're staying in isolation and having a hard time getting needed food or other supplies. Most likely you have experienced some degree of anxiety or depression caused by social seclusion.

If you are suffering any type of feelings

Virtually no family has been left untouched by COVID-19. Even if you have not contracted the virus, you have no doubt been affected in other ways. Perhaps a family member or friend is sick and you cannot visit

of hopelessness or desperation, you are not alone; please reach out for help. There are agencies that are designed to assist you without any physical contact. Visit www.namiacc.org to get a list of resources.

Meanwhile, if you can manage to maintain good mental health through laughter, prayer, volunteer work or another constructive outlet, then you have discovered a valuable coping tool that will help you stay resilient. Please stay well, try to accept the circumstances you cannot control, find the humor in situations, and for goodness sakes, wear your mask!

For local families who are not able to get enough food to eat, pay their utilities, or pay their rent or prescription costs, SPAN is here to help. Please call 410-647-0889 between 10:00am and 1:00pm Monday through Thursday to see if you are eligible for food or financial assistance. In some cases, SPAN can even give assistance

without you ever having to leave your home. We are committed to helping local families in need, and we have stayed open during the entire pandemic.

SPAN has been incredibly blessed with generous community members who have been keeping the donations coming in, so we can assist families to the same degree as always (or more). In September, Trish and Mike Davis matched donations up to \$5,000. Recently St. Martin's-in-the-Field Church and the Severn River Lions Club made large financial donations, and two SPAN volunteers each donated \$5,000. Landmark Roofing has committed to donate a roof awning over SPAN's side porch pickup area. They are also offering a \$100 donation to SPAN for every customer who mentions Landmark's Voice Values coupon and completes a new roof or siding job during November. Mike Hall of Severna Park Lanes in Severna Park and Greenway

Bowl in Odenton is offering a free bowling game for every person who donates two items of nonperishable food to SPAN (up to four people).

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is an independent nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills and food since 1990. SPAN serves 14 zip codes in Anne Arundel County. SPAN is located behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Road in Severna Park. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00am-12:45pm. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit www.spanhelps.org. Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off anytime using the storage bin behind SPAN's building. Please "like" SPAN on Facebook!

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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

By Zach Sparks

As Operation Welcome Home volunteers have gathered at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport over the years to celebrate the return of U.S. troops, those troops have often seen World War II and Korean War veteran Earl Daff in the crowd. On October 18, it was Daff who watched as a crowd gathered for him outside the Severna Park home of his daughter, in celebration of his 95th birthday.

Daff has volunteered with Operation Welcome Home since 2016.

"It is emotional because when the troops come through and see his World War II and Korean War hat, they thank him for his service," said one of Daff's two daughters, Brenda January.

Daff was a corporal at the time he left military service. He was stationed near Frankfurt, Germany, in World War II, and he was in the Army Reserves from 1948 to 1951, and the 101st Airborne Division in the Korean War.

One of six brothers, Daff learned one day that his older brother, Harold, was shot in the leg during World War II in Italy, so Daff got his parents' permission to drop out of high school and enlist.

Following World War II, from June 1946 to September 1948, he cleared the airfields of burned and shot German planes, and he worked on the Berlin Airlift by loading food and water on U.S. planes for the German population.

"The Russians wouldn't give them bread, wouldn't give them water, wouldn't give them gasoline," Daff recalled.

Daff returned home, got married to Bess Ward, and the couple stayed happily married for 64 years until her death in 2016.

As a member of the Army Reserves, Daff was recalled to active duty in 1950 after



Earl Daff

North Korean communist forces invaded South Korea. There, he worked with the 212th Railroad Battalion and the 831st Engineer Aviation Battalion, helping to transport ammunition to the front lines.

All five of Daff's brothers returned from their deployment safely. Daff earned the World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and Korean Service Medal.

After his military career ended, Daff moved to Glen Burnie with his family and worked for trucking companies, later relocating to West Virginia and back to Anne Arundel County.

His military service is widely respected by the troops he has met over the years, and in October 2020, it was his turn to be recognized.

For Daff's surprise, birthday cards came

from all over the country, including from the Washington Metro Area Navy Nurse Corps Association, the Virginia chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution and Operation Welcome Home Maryland.

They aspired to have 94 birthday cards for Daff but received more than 135 from all over the country, along with dozens of challenge coins.

Kathy Thorp, founder of Operation Welcome Home Maryland, organized the event with January's help. It was gratifying to honor a veteran who has spent so much of his time recognizing the service of others, Thorp said.

"Often, the troops will stop as they are greeting the crowd that is cheering them on, and give him a coin or a patch, definitely a handshake," Thorp said. "The most touching moment is when we all start in with the pledge of allegiance. It takes him a minute, but he stands out of his wheelchair, and proudly joins in with the pledge, with his right hand on his heart. Not a dry eye can be seen in the crowd."



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Fall Celebrations

COVID-19 has affected the way many people are celebrating fall this year. While many groups and organizations have canceled or postponed events, many have attempted to maintain normalcy and get creative.

The Shoppe at Jones Station Jones Station on the B&A Trail

The Shoppe at Jones Station is a gift shop open every Saturday through November 21 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. People are invited to stop by and begin holiday shopping. Antiques, crafts, kitchenware, ceramics, dishes, glassware and other unique items will be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the Ann Arundell County Historical Society. For more information, visit www.aachs.org.

Virtual Turkey Trots The Y in Central Maryland

The Y in Central Maryland, which includes The Greater Annapolis Y in Arnold, is hosting a virtual Turkey Trot this year in place of the 5k that would have taken place at all local Y facilities. Participants can log their miles anytime from November 22 through November 29. Race packets can be

picked up at Y locations the week before the race. All proceeds will benefit families suffering from poverty, and runners are asked to bring nonperishable food items to packet pickups. For more information, visit www.ymdturkeytrot.org.

Partnership Development Group

PDG, an organization with an office in Millersville that provides behavioral health and vocational services to individuals with serious mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorders and other disabilities, is also hosting a virtual turkey trot this year. The event will be open from November 15 through November 22. All 3k and 5k participants will receive a T-shirt. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/672153840096599.

PYY Marine Pasadena Lighted Boat Parade

On November 28 at 5:00pm, PYY Marine in Pasadena is hosting its annual lighted boat parade. Everyone is invited to watch the parade from the shore. Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place boats. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/986136455188431. To register a boat, call 410-255-1771.



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RBSA Hosts Annual Awards



Mary Marta

Club skippers keenly anticipated the Round Bay Sailing Association annual awards ceremony held in October to learn the winner of the “Highpoint” for 2020. Other sailing honors were also awarded: CRASH (covered in September), Corinthian, Commodore’s Cup, Most Improved, and Red Lantern trophies.

RBSA awards Highpoint for the best overall scores for Wednesday night racing. According to Chris Drury, vice commodore of RBSA, boats must enter a certain number of races to qualify, as a percentage of total races. Each boat is then given points based on how it did in those races. For example, a boat would have a better score if it beat 15 boats instead of only five boats.

This year’s RBSA Highpoint winner is Lightfoot, skippered by Ken Shuart (pictured with crew). Ken attributed Lightfoot’s success to consistency and paying “attention to the small things, like good jib trim, good kite trim and weight distribution. Constant consideration to these things can save valuable seconds, which can determine the difference

between a first or a second place.” Ken and crew dedicated this year’s performance and trophy to the late Wes Saunders, former skipper of Lightfoot who championed the current skipper and crew.

This year’s Corinthian Award went to Don Snelgrove of Himmel for his exemplary Corinthian spirit on the race course. Drury commented that Don was nominated by peers not only for exhibiting a Corinthian

spirit but also for good leadership during the pandemic, consistent good sportsmanship and promotion of sailing. The Commodore’s Cup goes to the RBSA boat with the best 2020 record in the charity races: CRAB, Hospice Cup and Leukemia Cup. Mike Miller of Quintet took the trophy this year. Mark Lister of Winsome Ride took the Most Improved award. Mark’s Bavaria 46 moved up 10 full spots in the overall standings for 2020.

Finally, the Red Lantern award is given to the skipper and crew who can appreciate that other forms of performance can be combined with sailing. Some wonder, why show up on a race course with little hope of placing? To sail with friends and enjoy! The Red Lantern award considers important tasks: can you sail an entire race without upsetting a tray of hors d’oeuvres? Can you prepare frozen daiquiris and popcorn while racing? After careful consideration, this year’s Red Lantern award went to Jim Hyatt of Jambo.

All in all, it was a very good season for Round Bay Sailing. Visit us at www.roundbay-sailing.com and come join us! The first race of next season will be April 21, 2021.

Community Activist Honored For Leadership In Fight For Equality

By Haley Weisgerber

Community activist Emma Buchman was recognized during the Fannie Lou Hamer Awards reception on October 6 for her dedication to fighting for human and civil rights in the community.



Emma Buchman

The Fannie Lou Hamer Award is presented by the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Anne Arundel County. The award was named for American voting rights activist, civil rights leader and philanthropist Fannie Lou Hamer, who died in 1977 at the age of 57. Hamer was the child of Mississippi sharecroppers and was a fierce advocate for African Americans and women. She ran for Congress in 1964 and 1965, and was seated as a member of Mississippi’s official delegation to the Democratic National Convention of 1968, where she was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War.

“Fannie Lou Hamer was a special woman, and most people aren’t aware of her, and that is why we selected her,” said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee Chair Carl Snowden. “What we want to be able to demonstrate is that women that you’ve never heard of make a significant contribution to the community and to the nation.”

The award is for women who are household names and women who are the head of their households. Honorees share the common goal of wanting to make their community a better place.

Buchman stood out to the selection committee because of her work with various civil rights and social justice organizations, her involvement in several Black Lives Matter protests within Anne Arundel County, her knowledge about social media as a tool to reach young people and much more.

“The selection committee looked at work, saw her commitment and decided she was one of the winners,” said Snowden.

The committee unanimously agreed to honor Buchman. She is one of the youngest women to have ever received the award.

“She is the epitome of the future,” said Snowden. “She was selected primarily because she is a young woman who has been actively involved in working to

improve the community.”

Buchman was born and raised in Severna Park. She attended Washington College on the Eastern Shore, majoring in international studies and French. She is currently the deputy director of March on Maryland, an organization that seeks to create a unified community through change and engagement support, social justice initiatives, and community education. Through her work with March on Maryland, Buchman has become involved with many other activist organizations such as Connecting The Dots, Community Actively Seeking Transparency (CAST), the Caucus of African American leaders, March On Foundation and Showing Up For Racial Justice. Snowden commends Buchman for fighting for racial harmony and equality for all people.

As someone who values history, Buchman is proud and humbled to receive an award that was named for such an inspirational figure as Fannie Lou Hamer.

“She deserves to have her name said over and over again each year,” said Buchman. “She deserves to have her story told. She’s not only someone who deserves it, but someone who may not have received that recognition had it not been for people like [Carl Snowden] who have made sure her name is known.”

Buchman began to fight for equality and activism after college, though the desire for change has been on her heart and mind for most of her life. She said that the more she fights, the more passionate and educated she becomes to her cause.

“We are all people,” she said. “We are all deserving of love, respect and dignity. Every human has those rights to be loved, have dignity and to have a chance to fight for a world that will let them be individuals and support them. When I see other people trying to tear that down, I feel that it’s my responsibility to build them up.”

Buchman would like to thank Snowden and the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee for honoring her this year.

“I said in my speech that I don’t think they know how much this means to me,” said Buchman. “I really can’t articulate how much it means to me that this group of people gave me the award, because they are such a special, hardworking group of people. I can’t believe how much faith these guys have in me, and I really hope that I live up to it.”

Fighting NET Cancer With Katherine

Less than a year after former Severna Park resident Katherine Mueller was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called Neuroendocrine Tumors (NETs) in November 2018, her family organized the inaugural Fight NET Cancer With Katherine, a fundraiser at Severna Park Taphouse. The concert-like event raised more than \$73,000 for the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation (NETRF), and a West Coast donor matched the funds, bringing the total to about \$146,000.

There was no event this year, but NETRF is trying to fund a research project in honor of Mueller. The \$100,000 research project would focus on her rare type of cancer, pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (pNETs). The goal is to raise \$27,000, which will amount to \$100,000 when paired with the funds from the 2019 fundraiser.

Family members Larry and Robin Sells have pledged \$5,000, but they need help getting to the finish line.

“To date, NETRF has funded over \$26 million in NET research,” Mueller said. “During my two years of battling cancer, I have directly benefited in many ways from the research accomplished by NETRF-funded projects. I know how critical it is to support these scientists and studies focused on improving and expanding treatment options for NETs, because my life and the lives of countless others depend on it.”

The deadline for donations is December 31, 2020. See the fundraising page at www.netrf.org/get-involved/fundraising-events/katherine-mueller-net-research-fund. Send checks made out to NETRF to Robin and Larry Sells, 309 Locust Thorn Court, Millersville, MD 21108.

SP Native Flies F-35 Lightning II

» Continued from page 1

“When I got here, I just wanted to be in the air,” Vander Kolk said.

She was open to the needs of the Air Force, but gradually, she began to focus on the F-35. Vander Kolk liked the idea of being in a jet that was good in all aspects of air combat.

Vander Kolk didn't know she would be a first for Vance if she got what she wanted. She was focusing on celebrating the success of her class at drop night — the tradition every pilot goes through when they find out what assignment and aircraft they will get.

She flew that morning, so she didn't have a lot of time to anticipate what she would drop. There was noticeable electricity in the air for all the student pilots.

And when the assignments dropped, Vander Kolk made history for Vance.

“There's not a lot of words to describe the feeling I had when I found out,” Vander Kolk said.

After working so hard for her goal of F-35 selection, it took time to process what she achieved both for herself and women at Vance.

She attributed her success to teamwork. “Everybody's mission is important,” Vander Kolk said. “Looking out for my team is what lifts me up.”

The F-35 selectee encouraged everyone pursuing ambitious goals to work hard at everything they do to open as many doors as possible.

“I didn't always know I wanted to be a pilot, but I wanted to be the best at what I tried,” Vander Kolk said.

Captain Marvel would certainly approve.

Local Parks Offer Safe Haven During Pandemic



By Haley Weisgerber

On October 5, Governor Larry Hogan announced that Maryland state parks had reported a record 17.1 million visitors so far in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly during the stay-at-home order, local and state governments encouraged residents to spend time outdoors. Similarly, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks offered local parks as a refuge to many families. At Kinder Farm Park in Millersville, this resulted in a 50 percent increase in attendance during 2020 with only three months left in the year.

“We're seeing a lot of people who are visiting the park for the first time just out adventuring and looking for new places to go,” said Kinder Farm Park Superintendent Bradley Hunt.

The park has even seen an increase in county residents who have never been to the park and families from all over the state looking for something new.

“I think everybody just wanted to get outside and do things, and parks offer that,” said Hunt. “We have seen an explosion of people here. Even though buildings are closed, we have had a huge increase in people.”

On March 16, entry fees at all county parks were waived to encourage residents

to get outside during the stay-at-home order. Hunt said this is when the attendance surged.

“They are seeing the county extend themselves, offering a safer place to go outside and social distance, rather than be cooped up inside a house on lockdown,” said Hunt.

Attendance at Kinder Farm Park has remained consistently high after fees were reinstated on September 1. Even with the arrival of colder weather, the numbers are significantly higher than 2019. Hunt predicts that this could have something to do with virtual schooling.

“One kind of interesting thing is that with the kids being in virtual schooling right now, Wednesday is their free day, and we are seeing a ton of families and kids,” said Hunt.

Hunt believes that the county parks have been an important mental health outlet for people who are struggling with being cooped up in their houses.

“The county keeping parks open gave people a place to go and forget about the world for a while and relax,” said Hunt.

The Friends of Kinder Farm Park (FOKFP), a nonprofit organization that supports the park through fundraising, has also continued monthly meetings, though volunteers have had to limit attendance to board

members only. The vice president of Friends of Kinder Farm Park, Karen Haghghi, said that since the pandemic, many large PayPal donations from community members have come through, as well as cash donations to the park's “piggy bank,” a donation box that supports the Farm Education and Live-stock Group, which cares for the animals. While they have not seen a similar spike in membership, the FOKFP are appreciative of donations, as many of the fundraising efforts have been canceled. FOKFP made the difficult decision early on to cancel all events for the duration of 2020. This included the Jingle Bell Hayride and the annual Fall Harvest Festival. Though many ideas have been tossed around, the group has not planned a holiday alternative.

“Our creativity has been stifled,” said Haghghi. “We kept trying to use our imagination about how we could do certain things. As a group, we work so well together and we have a lot of good skillsets that we haven't been able to put together.”

Though the group is currently limited, FOKFP is hosting a food drive on December 5 to benefit SPAN. Food will be collected in the handmade sleigh that would have transported Mr. and Mrs. Claus during the Jingle Bell Hayride.

Both Haghghi and Hunt agree that the Department of Recreation and Parks served residents in a difficult time, and this newfound appreciation for local parks isn't going away. At the end of the pandemic, people will remember who helped them through it.

“I'm pretty convinced that if anything has come out of this pandemic for the parks, it's made them visible for people and it's brought new people in,” said Hunt. “I'm pretty confident that our attendance will either go higher or maintain the same.”

Lauren's Law: Learning To Drive

Lauren Burke Meyer



Learning to drive is one of those times when I look back and feel so badly for my parents. To be fair, I feel badly for me too.

Things got off on the wrong foot with driving school. There's no pun

intended here on “wrong foot” even though I am a lefty, and lefties are supposedly more likely to get into car accidents. Anyway, I was a boy-crazy adolescent at the time, with my big crush in my driving class. No shock here; I

didn't retain much from that class.

Later, when I went to take my permit test — and failed on the second time — I can still remember the question that determined whether I passed or not. “When is the road the most slippery?” For anyone who wasn't forced to read the driving manual multiple times, it's when it first starts raining. Apparently, this question was covered in our class. While I didn't learn it then, I've never forgotten it since.

For me, passing the permit test happened on the lucky fourth try. I couldn't take the pressure of a real-time computer test. Each time I received a wrong answer, I cringed, and the words on the computer screen became more and more jumbled.

However, my day finally came that I passed

my permit test and was ready to hit the open road. With a licensed driver, of course. Driving for the first time with my dad, I blew through a stop sign in our Chartwell neighborhood. I remember feeling pressured from the driver behind me. It was their mere presence of being behind me that caused it.

After many hours of driving practice and thankfully much improvement, it was time for the highway driving tests. Those went well, although my pit-stained shirts after each two-hour drive might have indicated otherwise.

Next up — driving test time. Apparently, my '93 Ford Taurus had a broken tail light. The DMV sent me away without allowing me to take my test. Once the light was fixed, I did a great job on my driving test, however,

I couldn't get close enough to the curb when parallel parking. Therefore, it was a failed test.

After the permit test debacles, broken tail light and failing the driver's test, I had enough. I went out in my driveway with two trashcans and practiced, practiced and practiced. When I went to take the test, I finally passed! Sure, it was seven months after my 16th birthday, but I had a license.

Learning to drive was like an impossible video game for me, and the DMV will forever remain my most despised place to visit. However, I'm grateful for the patience of my parents, instructors, and my older brother and sister who got stuck driving with me when I had my permit. Lastly, thank you to my friends who gave me rides while I *slowly* acquired my license.

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Social Distancing From Pancreatitis This Holiday Season

Lacy GilMurray
Co-Medical Director
VCA Calvert
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Planning the holiday dinner may look different this year, but many families still expect to celebrate with the same delicious foods that comfort us each holiday season. Although not specific to this time of year, pancreatitis is more frequently seen at animal hospitals around the country during the holiday season. One of the main reasons for this is the amount of scrumptious but high-fat treats around the house, which pets aren't typically used to consuming. When Fido or

Garfield sneaks into the leftovers of turkey, ham or whatever yummy meal your family whips up on Thanksgiving, their pancreas has to work overtime to process that extra fat, and it can cause a wide array of symptoms including:

- Lethargy
- Decrease in appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Drooling
- Restlessness
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

As you can see, these are all fairly non-specific symptoms that could indicate a wide array of illnesses as well, so diagnostics such as blood tests, X-rays and abdominal ultrasounds can all be used to help correctly diagnose and manage this disease.

Treatment

If your pet is experiencing any of these symptoms, it is important to call a veterinarian right away, as this is a painful and potentially life-threatening situation if not caught in time and managed appropriately.

While pancreatitis can't be cured in the traditional sense, supportive care is necessary to manage the pain, inappetence, nausea and lethargy that are hallmarks of this disease.

If your pet is experiencing mild symptoms, they may be treated on an outpatient basis with special diet instructions and oral medications. More severe cases may call for hospitalization for intravenous fluid therapy and intravenous (IV) medication administration. Rarely, severe cases may need 24-hour care, fluids, a feeding tube, or treatment for problems with blood sugar related to decreased insulin production. Thankfully, the majority of pets recover with supportive care and a diligent eye on fatty or high-calorie treats.

While not every pet that finds the holiday ham will be at risk, there are some things you can do to decrease the odds that you and your furry family will have to deal with this condition.

- Don't feed pets table food or leftovers
- Avoid fatty foods for pets entirely (think ham, gravy, stuffing, anything with lots of butter, and poultry skin)



- Make sure your family and friends know not to feed your animals. Alternatively, consider crating your pets or placing them in a separate room during dinner.
- Make an effort to keep any holiday treats off of countertops and tables where tall dogs or crafty cats have access
- Empty trash to outside bins immediately to prevent any dumpster-diving in your kitchen

As always, if any concerns arise, contact your local veterinarian or local emergency clinic. At VCA Calvert Veterinary Center, our veterinarians and staff are always happy to see you and assist your pets this holiday season, but following the tips above many prevent any unexpected visits, and keep you at home with your loved ones this holiday season.

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Kiwanis Club Plans 65th Anniversary Zoom Celebration

The Kiwanis Club of Severna Park will celebrate its 65th anniversary this December and would like to thank the Severna Park community for all of its support over the years. The Kiwanis Club is a group of volunteers dedicated to serving children and young adults on a local and international level.

Kiwanis Club members encourage the community to join them for a virtual Zoom celebration on Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00pm. Closer to that date, the link will be posted on the Kiwanis Club website and Facebook page.

"We plan on having a celebration in the future when we can all safely get together, but we invite you for our virtual one for now," said Past President Rachel Jacobs. "We are going to celebrate and share our club's history in the area and show pictures of a lot of our projects, activities, fundraisers, etc. through the years. If you have any history on the Severna Park Kiwanis

Club, please share it with us. We would love to see what you have!"

The club is holding a fill-the-box event for the Kiwanis Kids Closet at Belle Grove Elementary throughout November. Requested items include diapers, wipes, baby food and bottles, baby blankets, and hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo). Have a meal, support Garry's Grill and donate baby supplies for the box.

"We are so thankful that we can still be out supporting the community, with our members and members of our high school Key Clubs," Jacobs said.

The club is also selling Anne Arundel County coverlets for \$40, a \$10 discount. All money raised goes back to the community and the club's Teenager of the Year scholarship. Support local!

Visit www.severnaparkkiwanis.org or www.facebook.com/severnaparkkiwanis, or contact Rachel Jacobs at rachelfjacobs@gmail.com for more information.

History Of Severna Park Railroad

» Continued from page 1

ed electric engines from 1906 to 1908. Up until 1930, steam engines carried freight and electric cars carried passengers. Town residents could ride the train every hour from 6:00am to 10:00pm.

In 1931 during the Great Depression, the railroad also fell on hard times and was put into a receivership to avoid bankruptcy. The last passenger trip was February 5, 1950. Until 1968, a diesel switcher hauled coal to the Naval Academy.

The first half of the Boone Railroad Station was built in 1919 after Oscar Hatton, developer of Boone and Roland Teel, headmaster of Severn School, formed a group to raise funds for the structure. The group is now known as the Olde Severna Park Improvement Association (OSPPIA). The station was later known as the Severna Park Railroad station after the town's name change in 1925.

Also in 1925, the building was made larger as the community started to grow. The station was also used as a post office (until 1951), supervised by then-postmaster "Sharky," who lived on B&A Boulevard.

"The improvement association would decorate the fir tree in front of the station for Christmas every year," recalled longtime Severna Park resident Scott

Jay. "Residents would come out to sing carols and Santa would fly down. It was a huge town event."

In 1952, the building was Jay's third-grade classroom. "Severna Park Elementary was overcrowded and that was the overflow building," Jay said. "My dad built the cupola on the top of the building in 1948." That was rebuilt by Scott and friends in 1988.

The building was also Aurora Savings and Loan under manager Clyde Burke. In 1960, the building served as the first Severna Park Library, and in 1963, the Severna Park Model Railroad Club was formed by Frank Foight and remains there until this day.

"I used to ride the train as a kid and I wanted to make sure residents remember the history of this town," Jay said. He recalled a story where, "Kids would put lard on the tracks and when train cars came into the station, they would slide right past the building." With a laugh, he said, "They used to put cows and goats on the tracks and the motorman would have to stop the train — those were the days!"

Severna Park Museum Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-stock corporation sponsored by the Winkelmeyer family. Donations are welcome at 528 Melrose Lane.

Reopening Plans

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



The Board of Education, despite Dr. George Arlotto's recommendation to continue school in an all-virtual environment for the rest of the semester, voted to move

forward with a hybrid plan. This plan sends teachers back to school buildings on November 2, ECI and pre-K through second grade on November 16, and grades 3-5 on November 30 pending acceptable Anne Arundel County COVID-19 positivity and case rates.

Parents of elementary students were asked to choose between three options. Students could attend in-person lessons two days per week with the remainder of the week in the virtual environment, all virtual for the remainder of the semester with the option to choose to either remain virtual or move to the hybrid model for the second semester, or remain all virtual for the rest of the year.

While I have advocated for, and believe in choice, I remain concerned about the reopening plan for several reasons. Be aware that AACPS is still required by the Maryland State Department of Education to offer an average of 3.5 hours of synchronous learning per day whether that is in-person or virtual learning. This rule stifles our options and certainly our ability to retain consistency for our teachers and students.

First, I don't believe the hybrid model, as written, focuses on the students who need to return to in-person instruction the most. Teachers and parents are aware of the students most in need of in-person instruction. This includes our students with special needs, English language learners, or any student that hasn't

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Animal Legislation A Highlight For November

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



Since March, families across our county have been living life a bit differently than they had before COVID-19. Homes that once stood empty from 9-5 are now full of activity with parents, children and retirees spending more time at home than ever before. More time at home, uninterrupted from the usual hustle and bustle, has led to increased pet adoptions and sales from coast to coast. Pets can be exceptional companions, especially during this extraordinary time. Dogs, cats and other domesticated animals have been used for emotional support in the residential and professional setting for years. For most, they become a part of the family.

Ownership, though, comes with an enormous responsibility to humanely care for the animal and also ensure that the animal never creates a safety concern for itself or members of the community.

For decades, Anne Arundel County

Animal Care and Control (AACACC) has been tasked with the responsibility of enforcing local and state laws, responding to animal-related complaints, conducting investigations regarding animal cruelty, investigating public safety concerns pertaining to animals and providing temporary housing for animals for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, the adoption of animals.

Local laws in AACACC's toolbox are outdated and limit the ability for the department to fully protect the animal or animals most at risk. A recent story shared by Friends of Anne Arundel County Animal Care and Control told of two young male huskies that were held at AACACC six times within a year's time for running at large, posing a risk to their own safety as well as the safety of the community and other pets. Current county laws prevented AACACC from taking any action beyond catching the dogs, holding them and releasing them to their owner with a fine. Unfortunately, a seventh incident occurred, resulting in the death of pet chickens, and the huskies were euthanized as required by law. This was certainly a situation that could have had a different outcome, had our county laws given more tools to the

animal control officers.

Currently, there is no law, other than fines, for owners of pets that are repeatedly in violation of county law and a risk to themselves and the community. For animals that are seized, there is no process in place for their return, and the powers of the department and officers are unclear in certain circumstances.

Bill 89-20 clarifies the roles and authority of AACACC officers, increases penalties for owners whose pets violate laws three or more times in a two-year period, clarifies the appellate process for the owner, and defines requirements of the owner, under certain conditions for return. This legislation was introduced by the Pittman administration, and I am a sponsor of this bill that would increase these protections for domesticated animals and the community. It is not unusual for pet owners to feel overwhelmed and challenged by their pet, but the humane care and safety of the community is of utmost importance.

The majority of pet owners in Anne Arundel County take every action necessary to develop a positive relationship between their pet, family and neighborhood. Often, owners call on the "experts"

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How Did Each Party Get Its Political Mascot?

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



As we wrap up the 2020 presidential election, this month's article will be of a lighter nature. I do this with the hope that we can all work toward a brighter future, whether one likes an elephant or a donkey. "Party animal" conjures up images of John Belushi in a toga. It also conjures up images of blue donkeys and red elephants during media coverage of recent elections.

Why donkeys for Democrats? Back in 1824, there was only one significant political party, the Democratic-Republicans. John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and two other candidates, all Demo-

cratic-Republicans, ran for president. As none of them won a majority of the vote, under the 12th Amendment, the House of Representatives chose the president. The House chose Adams, despite the fact that Jackson had won both the electoral college and the popular vote. Many believe this went down because one of the other candidates, Henry Clay, threw his support behind John Quincy Adams in exchange for becoming secretary of state, an office which then was a breeding ground for presidents.

Irritated by this outcome, Jackson started his own political party, the Democrats. Fast forward four years: in 1828, John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson face off again for president in one the dirtiest campaigns in American history. Adams supporters accused Jackson of marrying a convicted adulteress (Jackson and his wife apparently married a few years before her divorce was final) and

Jackson supporters accused Adams of giving the Russian czar a young American girl as a sexual gift. During the mud-slinging, Jackson opponents called him Andrew "Jackass."

I am not a fan of President Jackson - he defied the Supreme Court, violated a treaty and forced Native Americans from their homes to resettle in the Trail of Tears. Not one to back down from a challenge (he did, after all, fight in more than 100 duels), Jackson co-opted the insult. He claimed the donkey as hardworking, strong-willed and humble, and included donkeys in his campaign posters. He beat President Adams in a landslide.

Over 30 years later, in 1864, newspapers dominated how Americans got information, and political parties often represented themselves with roosters, eagles, and other random animals. In a pro-Lincoln newspaper called Father

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How Did Each Party Get Its Mascot?

» Continued from page 15

Abraham, a cartoon elephant flying a banner celebrated a string of Union victories, including some in Maryland. Why an elephant? The idea of elephants representing the Republican Party had been discussed as early as the founding of the GOP in 1854, and "seeing the elephant" was slang for engaging in combat.

Ten years later, enter Thomas Nast, already the most influential American political cartoonist of all time. In an age when photography was in its infancy and literacy was questionable (Nast himself was well-educated and self-educated but functionally illiterate), political cartoons pictorialized controversial issues for the masses. Nast's influence ranged widely — he popularized Santa Claus as red-clad, plump and jolly (previously Santa Claus was featured more as a religious figure) and of a bearded, top-hatted Uncle Sam resembling President Lincoln.

In a number of political cartoons in the 1870s, Nast adopted Jackson's donkey imagery for the Democratic Party, and the elephant for the Republicans. A Republican himself and friend of then-President Grant, Nast reportedly chose the donkey for its dull stubbornness, and the elephant for its dignity, intelligence and power when provoked. I can't argue with Thomas Nast — I have long admired elephants for their memory, compassion, love of family and grace under pressure.

The Democrat donkey and Republican elephant have remained in the American lexicon since the 1880s. The Republican Party has officially adopted the elephant as its mascot; the Democrats have never officially adopted the donkey. While I will never be presented with an elephant, as President Reagan was by Sri Lanka in 1984, I hope to proudly represent the Republican elephant for many years to come.

Reopening Plans

» Continued from page 15

been engaged or has not engaged successfully with virtual learning regardless of grade level. I believe AACPS should focus its attention on returning these groups first to classrooms so healing can begin, and achievement gaps can start to close.

Instead, some teachers will be teaching two groups of students simultaneously — one group in the class and another online. I hope and I pray I will be proved wrong, however, I am not sure this model is fair to either group of students who will be struggling to engage from home or a 6-by-6-foot square in the classroom with a masked teacher. Of course, I believe everyone should be wearing a mask at times per the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, state and local guidelines. The issue I have is that it will be hard to read body language, impossible to read lips, and possibly muffled for both those in the classroom and those at home, especially when the teacher's attention is split between the children in the classroom and those connecting virtually.

Secondly is the question of student placement. Under all three plans, it is possible that students will be moved from their existing teachers, classmates and potentially home school community, all of whom have formed relationships with the students. I realize that some shifting, under the existing plan, is inevitable due to student choices and teacher availability, however, the thought of students potentially losing their teachers, including cultural arts teachers students have known for years, is disheartening

and could negatively affect our students.

Lastly, I have serious concerns about returning to the status quo in terms of school schedules once the hybrid model begins. Roughly 15 to 25 percent of a school's total enrollment will be attending school in-person on any given day, including bus riders, walkers, bike riders and car riders. Even with COVID-19 bus capacity guidelines, far fewer buses will be needed to transport far fewer students to school every day. Why, then, are schools returning to pre-COVID-19 bell schedules, which include some elementary schools starting as late as 9:45am and dismissing at 4:10pm? Especially with the release of the transportation consultant report last March, purchased with taxpayer dollars, I'd hope that our transportation staff have been using these last many months, while most buses have been idle, to improve pupil transportation including tightening routes and making full use of existing software. There is no sense in returning our youngest students to school so late in the morning, a nightmare for working families in terms of morning child care, those looking for work, and our students who will be walking home from school or bus stops in the dark during winter months.

The details of how students will return to school are just as important to me as when they return, and I will not stop advocating for the safe return to classroom instruction, the preservation of existing teacher/student relationships, and healthy, safe and age-appropriate start times for all elementary students.



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Letter To The Editor

I'd like to express my concern over the current regulations put in place by the county, and how they are affecting our local businesses long-term.

Why must customers vacate the inside of a business by 11:00pm but can continue to sit outside? Why was it safe to be seated at a table at 10:50pm but not at 11:05pm? Customers won't be able to sit outside through the winter, forcing the restaurants to close at 11:00pm. Some of our best customers are our fellow restaurant industry workers, who enjoy coming in to relax after their shift. At this time, with everyone closing at 11:00pm, they are unable to do so.

Giving customers a curfew won't stop the virus, and we know it doesn't become more contagious as the night wears on. What about the customer who orders a glass of wine at 9:58pm, but her friend can't get one at 10:02pm? What about those with six people in their family, who can't meet anyone out for dinner, simply because they would be over the capacity at a table. These are the sort of decisions that don't make a lot of sense but are going to kill our local businesses if kept in effect — things that don't have a direct connection to virus spread, but have been put in place during a period of restriction and then left that way.

In order to keep up with the regulations and continue to operate, many local businesses have had to go to great lengths to create an outdoor dining environment where there wasn't one before. The weather is changing and many of those businesses won't be able to use their outdoor spaces anymore. Others will have to add heaters to their tents and put the sides down, creating a

very similar atmosphere to inside. What, then, will the difference be between sitting inside at 11:30pm or outside in the tent at that time?

What it comes down to is the fact that it's time to give both customers and businesses a choice again. It's time to allow businesses to put regular hours back in place, and to allow the community members to decide what is right for them. The same customers who can decide for themselves if they should go out or not can also decide when it's time to call it a night.

I believe that these restrictions were initially put in place with good intention, but it's time to re-evaluate and take a hard look at which ones still need to be there. It's time to think about our local business owners and all the team members they employ. I fear without doing so, we will see many local restaurants never come back from this. In fact, I think it's fair to say it's not only time, but long overdue.

Thank you,
Tony Toskov, Owner
Two Rivers Steak & Fish House
Twain's Tavern

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Animal Legislation A Highlight

» **Continued from page 15**

to tackle a variety of issues from general training of a young animal, to obedience training for more individualized challenges. Pet training is often an invaluable preventative investment that pet owners make.

In recent months, I was contacted by the owner of a pet training business, who was finding it challenging to locate the type of training facility her family had envisioned to better serve the county. The lack of one word, "training," in the definition of "pet care business" in our animal control laws, and in uses for "commercial kennels" in our zoning laws have prevented this business and service from becoming a reality.

In November, the Anne Arundel County Council will hear and vote on my bill, 87-20, that would define "training" as an allowable use in the home pet care business and in commercial kennels.

As families across the county welcome new pets into their homes, these two pieces of legislation aim to protect the animals, the community and allow invaluable services to be available in a whole new way.

For information on these and other pieces of legislation before the county council, visit www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council/legislation.

To reach me for constituent concerns or questions on legislation, email amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

MLB In The Era Of COVID



Photo courtesy of the Toronto Blue Jays

Toronto Blue Jays first base coach Mark Budzinski (right), pictured during a home game against the Boston Red Sox on August 25, was one of several coaches who called Buffalo's Sahlen Field their home park in 2020.

SP Natives Reflect On Baseball Season



By Alex Murphy

Fifteen years. It had been 15 years since Toronto Blue Jays first base coach Mark Budzinski had stepped foot in Sahlen Field, home of the Buffalo Bisons, the Blue Jays Triple-A minor league affiliate. For the Severna Park-born Budzinski, that first glimpse aroused flashbacks of his time as a player with the Bisons in 2001, when they were affiliated with the Cleveland Indians.

"It was actually pretty cool," Budzinski said. "Our coaches' locker room was in
» Continued on page 22



Although the Green Hornets field hockey team (Middle Cavalier League) lost their final regular-season match against SMA, 3-2, on October 31 at Severna Park High School, they enjoyed a 3-2-1 season overall.



Chris Bellotte's Green Hornets junior field hockey team capped an undefeated season with a 3-1 victory over South River at Severna Park High School on October 31. To go 6-0 this year, the Green Hornets played as a unit, with contributions from all members of the team.

Hornet Teams Battle On Halloween Weekend

The 10U A Division Green Hornets football team finished its regular season with a showdown against Severn at Severn Danza Park on October 31.



U12 Green Hornets Shut Out The UQA Lions

By Thomas Kendziora

The U12 Green Hornets are 3-3 heading into the playoffs. The Voice caught up with the team following a midseason victory.

With cowbells ringing and parents cheering across the sideline ropes, head coach Roy Bowerman III watched his Severna Park Green Hornets turn a slow start into a dominant performance October 7.

The U12 Hornets moved to 2-1 this fall by securing a 28-0 victory over the Upper Queen Anne's County Lions. After posting a 2-7 record at the U11 level last season with a lot of new faces on the team, Bowerman said the extra year of experience and maturity has been the difference.

Severna Park spent nearly the entire 10-minute first quarter on defense, as UQA kept running the ball and kept moving the chains. But the defense tightened up in the
» Continued on page 23



Photo by Thomas Kendziora

Hayden Fox earned the Hornet Hammer after scoring his first career rushing touchdown. While he's thrown for scores, he was excited to finally carry the ball across the goal line.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Nathan Crosby

BAYS Soccer, Basketball

By Zach Sparks

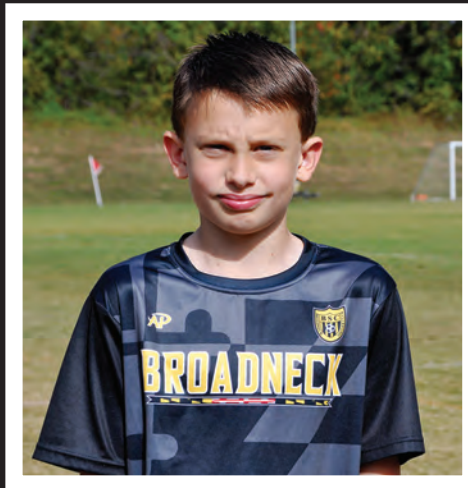
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

What does Broadneck Area Youth Sports (BAYS) soccer player Nathan Crosby do on the days when his team doesn't have practice? He usually organizes a game of soccer or basketball at his neighborhood park. A soccer player since age 6, the now 11-year-old athlete loves the social aspect of playing sports.

"He loves it. It's what he would do all day, every day if he had a chance," said Nathan's father, Marc Crosby. "He's a really dedicated individual. When he puts his mind to something, he goes at it hard."

Nathan shows a commitment that is rare for his age, watching film of professional athletes like Lionel Messi and Neymar, looking for ways he can model their technique.

His dedication earned him a spot on



Nathan Crosby played soccer on the 13U BAYS team this year, two tiers above his age group.

the 13U team this year, playing two tiers above his age level. Even though the team finished 6-2 this year, with the season ending on Halloween, he would have played even if his team was in last place.

"It doesn't matter what the team's record is," Nathan said. "I want to lead my team and keep working on self-improvement."

This season, he has worked to perfect his dribbling by doing cone drills. He cited speed as his best skill, but intelligence is also key to his success.

"The mental part is always fun," he said. "Through the game, you figure out what the other team's plan is and how to beat them."

"When they have a fast break, you have to figure out quickly what to do," he added. "And when you steal the ball from them, you need to know just to kick it out of bounds, or to look upfield and find the open passer or dribble it upfield, so it takes quick decisions."

Leadership is an important aspect of his game.

"If we're down at the half, usually we yell, 'Keep at it,'" he said. "When [our team is] on offense, I will yell because there are some things they can't see. I yell either encouragement or the passes,

and then also communicate to my defense where they should be going."

During the winter, Nathan plays point guard for a BAYS basketball team. And if it's impressive that an 11-year-old studies film for one sport, it's even more impressive that he studies professional players from two sports. His favorite basketball players include two Boston Celtics: a Hall of Fame forward and a guard who currently plays in the NBA.

"I look up to Larry Bird," he said.

"Also, Marcus Smart; he's not that much of an offensive [player], but he plays good defense. That's what I do in basketball, too. That's how I am most useful to my team. I score a lot, but I like defense."

Currently a student at Magothy River Middle School, Nathan wants to eventually play soccer for Broadneck High School.

"It's fun to play with friends, but mentally it also helps," he said. "In high school, if you don't have a high enough grade point average, you can't play sports. So it helps keep my grades up."

In partnership with The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21, the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month series recognizes the many student-athletes in our area who make an impact not necessarily by way of statistics or stardom, but by their unique contributions. Contact Zach Sparks at zach@severnaparkvoice.com to nominate a young person in our community making a positive impact through sports.

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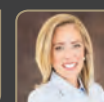
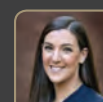
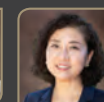
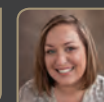
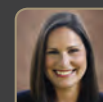


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MLB In The Era Of COVID

» Continued from page 19

the home clubhouse. Where I had a locker then, I was standing where the sinks are in the bathroom, just outside of the locker room, and just reflecting back 20 years almost. It was surreal.”

The Blue Jays were forced to move there after the Canadian government prevented them from playing in Rogers Centre, their home ballpark, for the 2020 Major League Baseball season.

Sahlen, after hoping to attract an MLB team when it opened in 1988, now had its time in the spotlight, a stadium now situated between office buildings, a parking garage outside left field, and the on-ramp to I-190 in right.

The year 2020 has provided anything but a sense of normalcy for most around the world, but despite that, for baseball fans, this felt strangely normal.

What didn't feel normal was games being played in front of no fans, just empty seats, or for some teams, cardboard cutouts or even stuffed animals, with artificial crowd noise pumped in through the stadium speaker systems.

“It was a lot different not having real fans and the energy they bring,” Milwaukee Brewers closer and Old Mill High School alum Josh Hader said. “However, once you were in the game, you were focusing on competing.”

This is just a snapshot of MLB in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, something that started in March with the suspension of the 2020 season.

It persisted through the late spring and early summer, with back-and-forth arguments between the players and owners, and then an agreement on a 60-game regular season and 16-team expanded playoff format.

After the MLB's initial announcement on March 12 at 4:00pm EST, no one truly expected the shutdown to last four months.

“We had no idea how long it was going to last,” Budzinski said. “I think when we left Florida, we were thinking three weeks to a month. When it got past that point, we had no idea.”

Budzinski left the Blue Jays spring training facilities in Dunedin, Florida, to return to family and his home in Richmond, Virginia, and the team went online, meeting on Zoom, texting or calling each other as quarantine went on.

On the other side of the country, Hader was able to utilize the Brewers' spring training facilities in Phoenix, Arizona, at least for a few months.

“It started to shut down everyone,” Hader said. “We were able to work out at the complex through some of the months. Once we shut down, I had a net that I

would throw into.”

Once MLB announced its season in June and subsequent spring training 2.0, or summer camp as MLB branded it, which began on July 1, things kicked into high gear. Teams trained at their respective ballparks, including the Blue Jays in Toronto, but anyone who left the confines of the Rogers Centre during summer camp faced a \$750,000 fine.

“Our front office did a great job just setting us up in a position to succeed there and to stay healthy,” Budzinski said.

Workouts were limited to a certain percentage of players, COVID testing was done every other day or several times a week, and meals were pre-prepared and put in to-go boxes, and the latter two continued into the regular season.

While summer camp was held in 30 separate bubbles, the regular season wasn't, though schedules were modified to reduce travel, as teams faced same-division opponents in their league and the opposite league.

Home or road, the routine was pretty much the same, including wearing masks everywhere even on the basepaths, in the dugout and in the clubhouse.

“Most of us lived in a hotel,” Budzinski said. “In Buffalo, there were a few guys who had residence there, but it was basically from the hotel to the ballpark and back. Same thing on the road. There was no going into restaurants. There was no going into malls or stores.”

That business-like mentality persisted throughout the league in a season where more than ever, every series was important for a playoff push.

The Blue Jays, despite the stadium switch, and the Brewers, both made it to the postseason, clinching the No. 8 seed in their respective leagues, but were subsequently knocked out in the Wild Card series, losing 2-0 to the Tampa Bay Rays and Los Angeles Dodgers, respectively.

Postseason celebrations were different, as were post-game celebrations, with an emphasis on elbow-bumping instead of high-fives, and no champagne showers, but the achievement of getting there didn't change.

The Rays and Dodgers battled in the World Series in Arlington, Texas, in front of reduced-capacity crowds, the final step in MLB's modified postseason bubble, with the Dodgers earning their first world title since 1988 with a 3-1 victory on October 27.

Moving forward, nothing will truly come close to replicating the 2020 MLB season.

“It's a season I'll remember for a long time,” Hader said.

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U12 Hornets Shut Out UQA Lions

» Continued from page 19

red zone, forcing a turnover on downs and keeping the Lions off the board. The Hornets never looked back after that.

"They came together as a team and worked together as a team, and we were able to overcome," Bowerman said.

On just the second offensive play after the turnover, Hornets running back J.P. Lighthizer broke free down the sideline for a touchdown run of over 80 yards, giving Severna Park a 6-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. The lead was 12-0 at halftime thanks to a touchdown pass from Lane August to Cole Cavanaugh. On the opening drive of the third quarter, Landon Williams found the end zone and kicker William Mazcko drilled the two-point kick to make it 20-0.

Later in the period, another touchdown pass from August to Cavanaugh was nullified because the county's mercy rule requires a team leading by 18 or more to change both its quarterback and running backs. After being sent back to midfield, though, the Hornets regrouped and kept the drive going. Hayden Fox, filling in for August at quarterback, capped off the possession with a rushing score that extended the lead to 28-0.

Fox — one of Bowerman's four "OGs" who have now played five seasons of tackle football together, along with Roy Bowerman IV, Bodie Isenberg and Ben Ruppert —

earned the Hornet Hammer after scoring his first career rushing touchdown. While he's thrown for scores before, he was excited to finally carry the ball across the goal line.

"It just feels like a relief," Fox said. "You finally accomplish your goal, and now you just want more and more."

After just three games in this shortened season, Severna Park — whose roster includes William Andrione, August, Evan Boucher, Bowerman IV, Ailee Briggs, Tom Brockett, Shawn Burkhardt, Cavanaugh, Noah Croghan, Jack Crutchley, Noah Draper, Isaac Fairbanks, Fox, Lincoln Greenwood, Aidan Holly, Isenberg, Ben Kreis, Lighthizer, Mazcko, Michael Queen, Ruppert, Daniel Smearman, Nakia Summers, Jack Tenenbaum, Joey Viskocil, Houston Walker and Williams — has scored nearly as many points as it did in nine contests last year.

With a league structure that allows youth teams to develop roster continuity, Bowerman says the Green Hornets are now a football family. The cowbells have become a tradition; each mom received one customized with their child's number this season. "Coming out and seeing these boys [and Ailee] do what they do on the field, this is pure football to me," Bowerman said. "These kids are doing it because they have fun doing it and they love the game, and that's what means the most to me."

FORCE Green And White Teams Enjoy Strong Seasons



Photo by Kristen Murphy

FORCE Green and FORCE White both enjoyed soccer games on Halloween.

Playing for the 2011 girls select soccer program, the Severna Park FORCE Green and White teams are in second and third place, respectively, in their divisions in the CMSL league this year. Both teams had strong showings during a Virginia tournament, with

FORCE Green finishing as a finalist and FORCE White finishing as a semifinalist.

Both teams also enjoyed a Halloween-themed soccer day put together by team manager Marci Flynn, who also organized several other team-building activities throughout the season.

"Our aspirations as a program are to develop both strong soccer skills and individual core values, while at the same time building a great community environment where the girls can have a lot of fun and create long-lasting friendships," said Mark Cover, who coaches both teams and leads the overall 2011 program. "It was a great Halloween soccer day!"

Other coaches are Mike Mazzola, Adam Baker, Brian Muldowney and Kate Hopkin.

Players are Naomi Baker, Annie Bigelow, Chloe Clark, Emma Cover, Claire Crivella, Grace Distler, Emma Dooley, Hunter Flynn, Bennett Fockler, Ella Gold, Audrey Hopkin, Signe Larson, Elizabeth Locher, Julianna Malena, Abri Malena, Charlotte Mazzola, Sienna McPhee, Quinn Muldowney, Carlee Scott, Kate Wallace, Kate Williams and Ava Worthington.



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SPHS Marching Band Reunites For Mini Season



On October 23, the Severna Park High School marching band met at the school stadium to work on fundamental marching skills such as posture, positions and movement.

By Haley Weisgerber

The Severna Park High School marching band is ready for a 2020 season like they've never seen before. During the four-week season, they are focusing on conditioning for 90 minutes, two days a week. The season began on October 21 and will end on November 11.

Although they will practice physical dis-

tancing and wear masks and other protective equipment, many students, including Severna Park senior Erik Binnix, are just excited to have a season at all.

"It means a lot because I was pretty upset when the initial announcement came out that the season was going to be canceled," said Binnix, who is the marching band's drum major. "Hearing that we now get some

sort of season is great for everyone in the marching band, but especially for me and the other seniors."

Following a period of uncertainty, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education announced a modified band season in mid-October.

The board mandated that all bands had to invest in personal protective equipment

(PPE) such as masks with openings that allow students to play their instruments, face shields, bell covers to cover the hole on brass instruments, and instrument bags for woodwind instruments. This will protect students from aerosol and water vapor while they play. In addition to the new equipment, students also have to stay six feet apart and

» Continued on page 28

Young Artist Designs Bright Mural Outside Of Garry's Grill

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Fourteen-year-old artist Madelynn "Maddy" Creswell frequently uses paper or limbs when she needs a space for drawing, but she was offered the opportunity this fall to display her

work on her biggest canvas yet: a brick wall outside of Garry's Grill.

Maddy completed an 11-by-15-foot mural in October, showcasing her work for all to see. A freshman at Severna Park High School and a busser at Garry's Grill, Maddy was astounded when restaurant owner Eddie Conway offered the wall for her art, and she was overjoyed to see patrons chatting about her work during a celebration on October 21.

"It's crazy to be able to go to the place that I work and see it out there and see people talking about it, like how amazing it is," she said. "It makes me feel really proud. It makes me feel like I've done something big."

Maddy's concept for the mural came while watching "The Princess and the Frog," an ani-

mated musical made by Disney. She sketched a design on her iPad, got it approved by Conway and then got to work in September.

"I thought about New Orleans and just the family aspect of how music brings people together," she said. "I thought about a trumpet player and things coming out of the trumpet, and I thought if I did music notes flowing out, it seemed like when you look at it, it matches the theme of the restaurant and it makes you feel happy."

Maddy wasn't the only person thrilled with the result. Conway explained that he has known the Creswell family for about 20 years, since his days as a server at Garry's Grill, and he trusted Maddy because of that family relationship.

"If you're talented, it doesn't matter your age," Conway said. "She deserved the opportunity, and it's better than my wildest dreams could have expected."

A self-taught artist, Maddy has
» Continued on page 27



A self-taught artist, Maddy Creswell painted this 11-by-15-foot mural outside of Garry's Grill.



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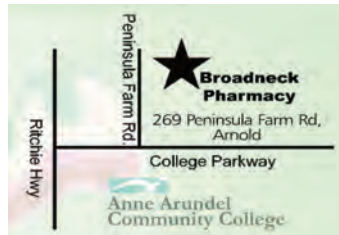


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Colburn Brothers' Luci Light Project Shines Around The World



(L-R) Trey and Travis Colburn are partnering with Environmental Auto Service owner Steve Connelly for a Luci lights fundraiser.

Even in the middle of a pandemic, two local teenage brothers have found a way to help and serve others. Trey and Travis Colburn were raised with Orphan Grain Train (OGT) as a part of their lives. They know the mission of OGT is to provide humanitarian needs for those who are less fortunate both domestically and internationally.

Trey and Travis recently learned that there are children who live in villages where there is no electricity. Once the sun sets, there is no light for homework, reading or playing outside. The brothers decided to raise funds to send Luci lights to these kids in need. Luci lights are solar powered, have four settings and can be recharged daily. Each charge provides about 12 hours of light. OGT has already shipped more than 5,000 lights to underdeveloped areas, and the goal is to send 5,000 more. OGT buys Luci lights in bulk, and the price for each light is \$10. Each \$10 donation will send a Luci light

that will brighten the life of a child and their family.

Steve Connolly, owner and operator of Environmental Auto Service and Severna Park Auto Body, has partnered with the Colburn boys to promote the cause. When Jim Colburn, father of Trey and Travis, told his boss about Luci lights and what his boys were doing, Connolly was immediately ready to help. This was his idea: a customer donates \$10 for a Luci light, and in return, Connolly provides a free vehicle cabin sterilization service, a \$50 value.

Anyone who wants the deal can call 410-987-5546 for an appointment. Environmental Auto is located at 402 Headquarters Drive, Suite D in Millersville.

To learn more about OGT or donate to this project, go to www.ogt.org/maryland. Click on the "Donate to Maryland" button and include "Luci Light Project-Colburn" in the comments section. A receipt for the donation will be emailed.

Young Artist Designs Bright Mural

» Continued from page 24
been drawing since age 5.

"Everything she has done has been phenomenal," said Maddy's mom, Melody Creswell. "She has gotten in trouble for being bored in school and for drawing on her leg ... and we laugh about it because I have pictures of her legs covered, and that's always been her escape. That's her being herself. I'm proud of her for being proud of herself."

"Ultimately the thanks go to Eddie for being so welcoming and being so family oriented that he's willing to incorporate that," she said.

Maddy praised Conway as a "genuinely good person" and for always giving people opportunities. She also said her parents' support has been instrumental in her growth as an artist. Her dad, for example, was on scaffolding, helping to project and trace the design.

Whatever comes next for Maddy, her belief in her skills will be an asset.

"It's awesome that Eddie gave her the opportunity, and he has no idea how much it has increased her self-confidence in art," Melody said. "We're just so excited for her."

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ASK ABOUT OUR EXCLUSIVE FALL SPECIALS!

SP Stage Company Presents A Virtual Broadway Revue

By Emily Allgair

Although Severna Park High School's auditorium doors have been shut since March 13, the talent of this community has yet to be paused.

This November, SP Stage Company is hosting a virtual, free musical production showcasing the performing talents of Severna Park High School students. From singers to dancers, and even instrumentalists, director Atticus Cooper Boidy and musical director Michael Brisentine have taken the online Google Meet forum and extended it beyond the virtual classroom.

"A lot of the songs that we picked are purposefully chosen because they can be done within the environment of someone's home," said Boidy. "You'll see a lot of intentional nods to 'at-home activities,' like getting ready to shower or making coffee, and even just sitting in your bed," he added.

Seeing as Anne Arundel County Public



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Mummert

The Broadway Revue cast posed for a picture during one of the virtual rehearsals.

Schools are not yet back to in-person classes, neither are these rehearsals.

"Some challenges of having a virtual pro-

duction would be the delay, lagging and accidental muting we experience on calls," said student music director Kaitlyn Mummert.

"Specifically, from a dance aspect, another challenge would be the flipped camera when not only learning movement but teaching as well," said student choreographer Ashely DeLeon.

Despite these setbacks, the cast members

have been persistent in putting on the best show that they possibly can.

"As student director," said senior Nick Ivey, "I get to see all of the progress they're making, and it's just really cool to see what everyone is doing with their individual songs."

Although streaming a performance through a virtual platform is not typically how one would imagine watching the upcoming fall production, sophomore Alex Hilbert likes to think that every viewer gets a front-row ticket to the show.

"I like that everyone is shown equally in ensemble numbers, and I think it's cool that everyone will be showcased individually."

When asked what audiences should be excited about for this production, Michael Brisentine said, "I just think that audiences should look forward to hearing the kids make art again; it's just so special right now. And I hope that when people watch this performance, they feel the joy that the kids are experiencing from participating in this."

Register for tickets on www.sphsdrama.com for the 7:00pm show on November 13. While the Broadway Revue is free, Severna Park Thespian Society is collecting donations for Burgers & Bands for Suicide Prevention.

Compassionate Care During COVID-19

By Diane Lewis

High school junior Colin Lukas used his personal experiences this summer as a springboard for his new business, Colin's Covid Care.



Colin Lukas

Colin helped his family and friends cope when a seriously ill family member required repeated hospitalizations. The experience was made more complicated due to COVID-19. Colin became proficient at navigating nearby stores, where long lines, social distancing and scarcity of items always occurred.

"I studied the specific layouts and brands offered at nearby stores," Colin said. "I learned which ones were more likely to carry the items and particular brands needed."

Because of these hurdles, Colin initially focused on providing personalized and efficient grocery delivery.

"I realized it was the simplest things that make people the happiest because of the extra stress and amount of time it took to do regular things," he said.

The teen has expanded his business to include other tasks, like mowing lawns and moving furniture. His website allows potential customers to email him their

job requests and the time they would prefer the tasks to be done. He has a flexible schedule because his virtual learning consists of only two 90-minute classes per day.

Colin's family has always focused on helping the less fortunate in the community, and they participate in year-round activities. Colin's grandfather set a great example.

"My grandfather always said that helping others keeps your mind off your own troubles and makes you feel better," Colin said.

Colin's own struggle to cope with a two-year debilitating depression makes it easy for him to identify with his grandfather's saying. The same isolation, heightened anxiety and impaired coping skills are a few symptoms of mental health illness.

"I am so grateful to my family and my friends, who helped me when my world came crashing down," he said.

Colin wants to become an entrepreneur in the future, but he hasn't decided on the kind of business. Colin's Covid Care is helping him develop much-needed skills.

"People really appreciate the willingness to listen to their concerns during isolation," he said. "My services are offered at a very reasonable cost because helping people through a difficult time is the most important aspect right now."

Colin can be reached at colinscovidcare@gmail.com.

SPHS Marching Band Reunites

» Continued from page 24

answer COVID screening questions before they are allowed to step on the field.

Though the planning process was not easy, marching band director Eric Kilby said he is glad students are getting a marching band season, even if it isn't quite what they had in mind.

"It's great to see them all versus being on the other side of a computer screen," said Kilby. "As a band or orchestra director, you get into the job because you like interacting with the kids and you like working with them as an ensemble. Having a computer in between you and them makes things very difficult."

For the freshmen and sophomores who are joining the band this year, this season is especially important. It gives students the opportunity to learn the basics so they aren't behind at the start of the next season.

"I assume this is very interesting for them and I hope we can make it a positive experience for them," said Binnix. "I hope that the only thing that separates this from a normal season is the fact that we have to stay six feet apart and wear masks."

While they await the shipment of PPE, the band is spending the first few practices learning marching band fundamentals such as posture, positions and movements.

"They can't really work on the marching stuff alone," said Kilby. "Marching band is a

group activity. Having the time outside and spending it learning the basics is kind of the priority."

Without football and competitions, Kilby is determined to make the most out of this season for the students.

"Band, just like sports, we have a competition and a performance element that happens at the end," said Kilby. "That's a big motivator for the kids. In this situation, we don't have the pay off at the end. We really have to do our best to make sure the kids stay motivated to do the activity."

For seniors, like Binnix, this season is especially important, as it is the last time many of them will play as an ensemble.

"I am so grateful to have this opportunity and for all of the work put in by our adult volunteers, Mr. Kilby and the students, for their dedication to maintaining all of the precautions," said Binnix. "It feels great to see them all in person again and get out of the house."

The Broadneck High School marching band has also kicked off a 2020 mini season.

"Although there are currently no competitions or football games, we're excited to give the students a small taste of normalcy," said band director Matt Heist. "The social network and sense of family within the Broadneck marching band is a priority, so I'm glad we can provide some time for students to be with each other."

Severna Park Dancer Finds Fame On TikTok

By Haley Weisgerber

When 16-year-old Nick Garvey of Severna Park created his TikTok account four months ago, he never imagined that he'd become a TikTok influencer. Now, with 60,000 followers, 2.6 million likes and more than 4 million views on his account, Nick is using his popularity to make his mark on the dance world.

Nick has been dancing for about six years. He currently trains with the Greater Annapolis Ballet and studies almost 20 hours, six days a week. While he takes contemporary, acrobatic and other classes, ballet is his preferred style.

"With ballet, if you train hard you can't go wrong," Nick said. "If you want good turns, good height, good physique, you train hard and you will get there."

Nick had established a strong work ethic through his years of ballet, which he now puts to good use as a popular TikTok influencer.

Originally, he made videos for fun, until he made a few dance TikToks that blew up overnight.

"I posted two ballet videos in May, and I woke up the next morning and they had hundreds of thousands of views," said Nick, who never expected his videos to take off. "From there I have been going at it



Nick Garvey has become a popular TikTok influencer because of his educational and entertaining ballet videos.

success, but there are things you can do to almost ensure it."

Nick and other influencers suggest making at least three TikToks a day, giving followers a clear reason to follow, and creating high-quality content. Unlike other social media platforms, on TikTok there is no guarantee that Nick's followers will consistently see his content because the app is largely discovery-based. This means knowing your audience. Lucky for him, his training and content creating are often simultaneous, so it does not impact his dancing.

Although it is hard to predict what videos will succeed, Nick has noted patterns in his content. His educational and comedy videos typically perform the best. In fact, in his highest-performing TikTok, Nick explains men's dance wear. These patterns do not stop Nick from creating the content he enjoys.

"I would say that my favorite content to make, even though it's the lowest performing, is straight ballet," Nick said.

His main goal is to educate and inspire his followers with his content. Nick has received many messages from other male dancers thanking him for giving them courage or inspiring them to dance.

"It is the greatest feeling in the world to inspire someone who needed the push or someone to show them that it was possible,"

Nick said.

Nick plans to continue to grow his account and wants to do more as an influencer and a dancer. In the future, he would like to compete on a televised dance show like "World of Dance," create a men's dance wear brand and teach masterclasses. He said that his greatest support system is his friends and family.

Nick's father, Pete Garvey of Stage & Screen Studios, said he was shocked when his son came to him about his success on the app.

"I was somewhat clueless about TikTok as a platform to influence so many people," Pete said. "I saw that he was busy and let him do his thing. Then he came and said, 'Hey dad. By the way, I have 100,000 views.'"

From then on, members of the Garvey family became Nick's biggest fans. Pete even built Nick a website and assisted him in diversifying his online presence.

"I'm all about supporting him in how he expresses himself, and he did that through dance," Pete said.

Though Nick does not know exactly what his next step is, he is excited to continue to grow his TikTok and create content to educate and inspire his followers.

To learn more about Nick, visit www.tiktok.com/@nickthegarvey or www.nickthegarvey.com.

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Reflections Of Two Months Back In The Classroom

Jamey Hein
Head of School
St. Martin's-
in-the-Field
Episcopal School



We think we can, we think we can. These adapted words from "The Little Engine that Could" rang true through the summer months as our school put its plan to reopen, safely and responsibly, in motion. As one of our county's non-public (independent/

private) schools, we were in a fortunate position to work independently, via our own task force, on developing approved guidelines that permitted us to open our doors to in-person learning five days a week. As we walked our path, dedicating ourselves to safe "mask-to-mask" teaching and learning, we worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Health Department and in concert with our accrediting body to ensure our measures were sound.

In our small school, we are simply not adequately staffed to manage a simultaneous virtual experience for families wishing to keep their children home. However, should the situation call for it, we can pivot and



conduct our program remotely. Our choice stems from an ability to maintain small class cohorts of 12 to 14 students per classroom and to house our three age "divisions" in three distinct physical spaces. Of course, we implemented several other guidelines: masks, distancing, temperature checks upon arrival, routine cleaning, reduced bathroom capacity, separate entrances and exits, and one-way hallways. We have partnered with families throughout our trajectory to ensure their follow-through at home with safe measures and communication. Overall, these steps, combined with our current student

count of 215 students, allows to safely and effectively manage in-person learning.

Moreover, we have discovered that kids and families are genuinely happy back in school, even with some big differences. We wear our masks throughout the day, almost to the point we forget they are there! We handwash and sanitize like crazy. Our desks are spaced apart, and we still use Zoom for parent meetings and gatherings like back-to-school night. We optimize the outdoors for everything: classes, lunch, play, weekly assemblies, parent association meetings, and even band class! We are grateful to be where

we are, and we sense our young students — from preschool through middle school — are benefiting from a connected in-person school experience.

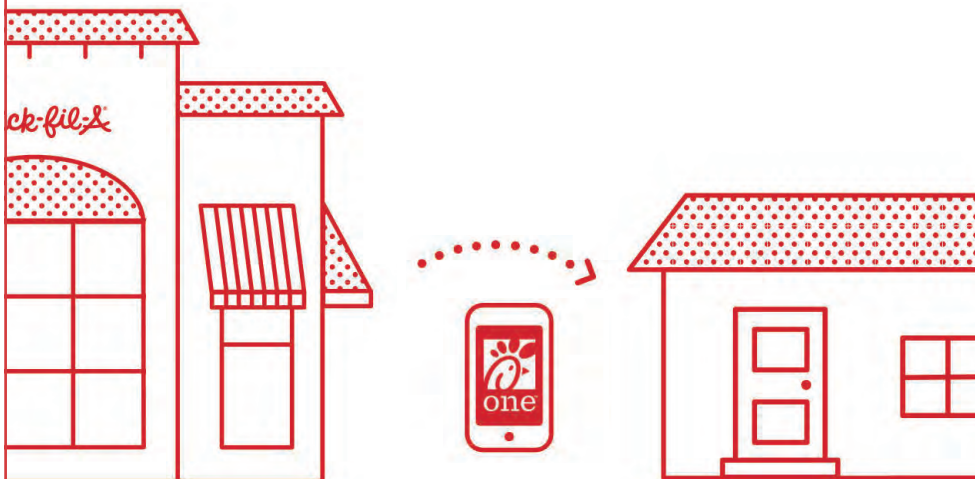
At the same time, this is not an easy walk. I contend that whatever path a school is on — virtual, hybrid, in-person — teaching and administering a school of any stripe in our current context is an exercise in their flexibility and stamina. There is a quiet yet perpetual state of overwhelm and even anxiety which can be felt, even via a Zoom screen as we discovered during last spring's sudden immersion into distance learning. We know the end goal is the continuity of student learning and students' social and emotional well-being, and that is essential work. As we lean into this cooler season, we know the transition may ebb and flow as cases potentially rise, and we will adapt. It's helpful to be small right about now, knowing that not only we can, but we will.

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County Public Library Offers Sweet Baking Experience



From her apartment in Versailles, France, Molly Wilkinson is teaching virtual lessons for AACPL's Bake-Along program. Students enrolled in the upcoming class will learn to make French treats like Tarte Tatin (above).

By Haley Weisgerber

Though traveling out of the country is not an easy feat these days, the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) is bringing the French pastry experience to kitchens throughout the county. The library's Bake-Along program gives local families the opportunity to make pastries alongside pastry chef Molly Wilkinson.

"While we have hosted many virtual programs since the pandemic began, this particular series is the first bake-along program and one of our first international programs," said Anne Arundel County Public Library marketing and communications manager Christine Feldmann.

Wilkinson is originally from Dallas, Texas, but she moved to France to study pastry at Le Cordon Bleu, a prestigious culinary and hospitality school located in Paris, France. Wilkinson has worked as a pastry chef at many locations in the United States as well as France. Currently, she teaches pastry out of her apartment in

Versailles, France.

"So many of us are taking on new cooking/baking challenges this year, and this was a great way for the library to support that," said Feldmann. "It's also just a lot of fun to bake together — even virtually, and to get a little taste of France when we're unable to travel."

AACPL virtual services manager Stephanie Petruso heard about Wilkinson through a podcast and followed her on Instagram. Later, she realized these classes were perfect for AACPL.

"Stephanie saw that Molly Wilkinson did a class for another library, which gave her the idea to ask her to do some classes for us," said Feldmann. "Stephanie reached out to her via her website and she was very receptive."

During the class, the students will be given a recipe in addition to following Wilkinson. The October 12 session, which was geared toward children, made Moel-

» Continued on page 36

Dining Out Around The Park

At Ledo Pizza, Patrons Get More Than A Square Deal

By Mary Cobbler

It's always a pleasure to visit Ledo Pizza in Severna Park. Family-friendly and casual, it's a "feel good," unpretentious place to enjoy some good Italian and American food.

My dining companion and I arrived on a drizzly, chilly Sunday afternoon. A friendly welcome and soft mix of late '90s and country music helped us warm up and provided a comfy feel you want in a neighborhood restaurant.

Our server, Abbie, was cheerful, professional, and quick to provide suggestions for appetizers and entrees.

We kicked off our meal with a small order of hot wings and Ledo's famous spicy, toasted mini ravioli.

My dining companion considers himself a wings connoisseur and gave the wings a strong thumbs-up, declaring them meaty, flavorful and

» Continued on page 34



Where To Find LEDO PIZZA

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Photos by Mary Cobbler

Clockwise From Top: The Ledo deluxe pizza has the toppings to please the most discerning meat-eater, while the colossal veggie calzone, stuffed with veggies and cheese, is a pleasing carb-comfy meal. And if you're looking for a healthy dish, Ledo Pizza serves a generous portion of spinach salad. The hot wings have just the right amount of heat.

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At Ledo Pizza, Patrons Get More

» Continued from page 31

finger-licking good. He also emphasized they were seasoned at just the right level of “hot.” They had enough kick for those who like their food fiery while not taking it to the level where you taste only the burn.

I’ve enjoyed the ravioli in the past. Still, since Abbie said they’re the most requested, I decided to savor them once more. Toasty but not crunchy on the outside, sprinkled with cheese, and stuffed with soft, melted ricotta and jalapenos, these little treats, like the wings, have just the right “bite.”

Friends also recommended the spinach salad — so we chose to share this healthy dish. We were surprised at the generous portion of spinach. Topped with provolone cheese, cherry tomatoes, sliced red onions and croutons, the salad hit the spot, though more of these toppings and maybe one or two other additions would have livened it up a bit.

For our entrée, since we were at Ledo, we indulged, of course, in pizza. Though there are many “craft” pizzas and build-your-own options, we chose the most popular, the classic “deluxe.”

Our pizza was classic Ledo: thin-crust, square and baked to perfection, with thick-sliced, spicy pepperonis; crispy bacon; and hamburger, along with veggies — mushrooms, onions and green peppers. It’s a

meat eater’s meal: savory, flavorful and filling. I would have preferred it warmer and with more of their scrumptious sauce.

We also split a giant vegetable calzone — a baked turnover stuffed with veggies and cheese and served with the Ledo dipping sauce. This is comfort food for carb lovers at its best. What’s not to love about biting into flaky pastry stuffed with yummy, gooey melted cheese, with sauteed mushrooms, onions and green peppers?

We grabbed a packaged brownie for dessert. It was tasty, but ordinary. The chocolate cheese cupcake looked good, and there were other take-and-go items in the front that looked appealing.

Overall, the meal was delightful and filling with large portions, friendly service and a fair price. The cost for all, without drinks, was \$60.

There are many more menu items to try — sandwiches, soups, pasta dishes, and a new Bavarian hot pretzel. Perhaps we’ll give those a shot on our next trip.

Ledo is a neighborhood favorite, and it’s nice to know that it originated in Adelphi, Maryland, in 1955 — a time when pizzas were traditionally made in rectangular pans. When round pizza pans became popular, Ledo Pizza continued with the rectangular shape; maybe that’s what gives them an edge!

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“The Witches” Is A Frightening, Family-Friendly Flick

By Grace Constantine

“The Witches” is an aesthetically pleasing film that is at times funny, nerve-wracking and almost hard to watch. The family-friendly film on HBO Max is based off the 1983 book by Roald Dahl and is a remake of the 1990 film.

This adaptation, directed by Robert Zemeckis, follows a young boy named Hero and his experiences with witches. We see his life with his grandmother, who knows a great deal about the witches that end up causing the main conflict in Hero’s life. He meets new friends, has crazy new experiences and resolves his own baffling conflicts all while coping with the death of his parents.

While “The Witches” is stacked with wonderful actors including Anne Hathaway and Octavia Spencer, the actor who plays Hero, Jahzir Kadeem Bruno, was not the best choice for his role. He acted well when it came to most emotions besides grief or fear, which can be essential in scarier movies. His shortcomings became obvious when he grieved over his parents and when he acted scared for his grandmother. This is almost expected when it comes to child actors, though. Apart from Bruno, the acting was slightly over the top, which is expected from family movies, so it was not distracting.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures/Daniel Smith

(L-R) Eugenia Caruso, Penny Lisle, Josette Simon, Anne Hathaway, Orla O'Rourke and Ana-Maria Maskell star in “The Witches.”

I was blown away by how much I enjoyed the direction of “The Witches.” Also, the set design was intricately put together, with every scene beautiful to look at, perfectly capturing the mood of the ‘60s, the time period for the movie.

A few jokes in the movie could go over kids’ heads but will be quite funny for

anyone a little older watching with their family. The movie appeals to adults as well as children.

The only real issues I have with this movie are the subject matter, some animation, and editing tactics. Some of the scenes are overly scary and heavy for a children’s movie. “The Witches” is rated PG rather than G,

so I can understand it to a certain extent. The filmmakers skillfully handled the death of Hero’s parents despite it being a dark subject for a family movie. What I didn’t enjoy was how genuinely scary they made the witches. When the witches spoke, their mouths extended to their ears, which was a bit terrifying, and I can see some children getting frightened by that sight. At times, the movie felt slightly over-animated. For example, toward the beginning of the movie, there was a tear animated on Hero’s face and one of the witches’ cats was animated, which seemed unnecessary as they could have used a real one without any trouble. For the editing, there is a voiceover from an older Hero as he narrates the story; this would have been an interesting addition, but it was only edited in at the very beginning and the end of the movie, so you forget that it is even an aspect of the film.

Finally, the ending was not my favorite. The plot was easy to follow and wasn’t too complex, as expected, but I wish there was more of a resolution at the end.

Overall, I enjoyed the direction and set design, and despite the issues I had with it, this film is perfect for families with children that are stuck inside for Halloween but still want something fun to do or watch. Overall, I give this movie a %.

Yakushev & Mesa Will Bring Musical Flair To SPHS On November 23

The Anne Arundel Concert Association will continue its 2020-2021 season with Yakushev & Mesa on Monday, November 23. Two world-class soloists combine for a powerhouse duo with international flair. Ilya Yakushev is known for his musical pyrotechnics on the piano and Thomas Mesa is heralded as one of the most charismatic and engaging cellists of his generation.

The concert association will close out its season with Shenandoah Run (January 23), ReVoiced (April 1) and The Everly Set (April 17). All concerts are held at 7:30pm at Severna Park High School, located at 60 Robinson Road. Doors open 30 minutes before curtain time. Tickets for each performance may be purchased at the door for \$25 an adult and \$5 a child. Season passes can also be purchased; those are \$60, and children/teens through grade 12 may accompany subscribers at no additional cost.

For more information, visit www.aacconcerts.weebly.com.

MTPA Presents World Premier

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For four evenings in November, Maryland Theatre for the Performing Arts’ StageOne Park Place in Annapolis will be transformed by Orange Grove Dance (OGD) into a live, socially-distanced performance, “Still Standing,” featuring a vivid light installation that gently reflects the adjacent Annapolis National Cemetery. With the audience

viewing from MTPA’s Veterans Overlook, OGD will bring its trademark virtuosic athleticism and the alluring music of composer Dylan Glatthorn to this surreal luminous landscape designed by acclaimed lighting designer Peter Leibold.

This event will introduce many to the Annapolis National Cemetery. This cemetery was established in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln to accommodate Civil War Union soldiers who died at Camp Parole, outside Annapolis. After the Civil War, the cemetery was occasionally used for other brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the U.S., with the most recent interment in 2005. The dancers will utilize more than 100 wireless lighting units, creating a grid of light, memory and hope that mirrors the precise rows of the gravestones that sprawl across the horizon. Each dancer and light will serve as a reminder of the importance of casting our lights together during times of darkness.

Performance dates are November 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 6:00pm and 7:00pm at 3 Park Place in Annapolis. Tickets are \$30 per person.

MTPA and Orange Grove Dance will offer a special Veterans Day performance on November 11 at 6:00pm. Admission will be free for veterans and Anne Arundel County Public Schools students. Attendees must register prior to the event. Contact MTPA’s director of programming, Jemma Lehner, at Jemma.Lehner@mtpa-annapolis.org.

For tickets or for more information, visit whatsuptix.com.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

The *Voice* is looking back at stories covered in past years. This month, we revisited articles on a record-setting flight, Severna Park musicals and a filmmaking crew.

SPHS Goes All The Way To “Oklahoma!” For Fall Musical

Print Date: November 2017

Based on a tale of cowboys and farmhands searching for love, “Oklahoma!” was a rousing success at Severna Park High School during its two-weekend run in November 2017. The cast was headlined by Alena Carhart as Laurey, Jake Wernecke as Curly, Nolan Marks as Jud Fry, Matt Hall as Ali Hakim and Bianca Radice as Aunt Eller.

Photo by Stephanie Mennell Photography



“Cinderella” Brings A Little Magic To Audiences

Print Date: December 2019

During a two-weekend run of “Cinderella” in November 2019, Severna Park High School thespians enchanted audiences with the tale of a girl who tries to escape the oppression of



her wicked stepmother and stepsisters to attend the Royal Ball.

Photo by Stephanie Mennell Photography

Local Filmmakers Are Clowning Around

Print Date: November 2017

Severna Park High School graduates Devin McCord and Adam Narimatsu hoped people would reconsider their clown phobia in 2017 and

tune into their television pilot, “Clown Under The Bed.”

The series highlighted two characters — Adam and Devin — in their

struggles to navigate post-college life. The pilot won Best Comedy Short at New York City’s Chain Film Festival.

“Of course, there are certain behaviors that are exaggerated, but we are all really playing heightened version of ourselves,” McCord said in 2017.

The duo worked with Nathan Colby and Harry Slattery, friends who they had made videos with since about



2010. In September 2020, the group — minus Narimatsu — flew to Los Angeles and filmed a new pilot for a series.

“It’s called ‘Dungos Palace,’ and it is truly a weird and extremely ambitious concept about the ‘behind the scenes’ production of a children’s show,” McCord said.

“Clown Under The Bed” episodes are online at www.clownunderthebed.com.

Bill Cloughley Helps Set Unofficial World Record For Formation Flight

Print Date: November 2013

While contemporary Christian artist Matthew West belted the National Anthem before the Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders game on October 13, 49 single-engine planes buzzed the Chiefs’ Arrowhead Stadium for the week-6 faceoff. A tribute to breast cancer awareness and research, the stunt was orchestrated by KC Flight. While awaiting confirmation that the stunt earned the Guinness World



Record for largest formation flyover in history, Severna Park resident and pilot Bill Cloughley discussed the privilege of participating.

“All the pilots — we paid for our own gas to fly out there, and really didn’t get reimbursed for anything. It was 49 guys ... on their own to do this, but it was a lot of fun,” he said, highlighting that the pilots came from Oregon, Texas, Louisiana and across the United States.

Once they were airborne, the airmen

formed an enormous arrowhead with their Van’s RV props. Custom-made canisters affixed to each plane — including Cloughley’s RV7 kit plane he built over five years — released miles-long trails of pink smoke to drive home the message of cancer awareness.

Cloughley’s certifications as wingman and flight lead earned the IT specialist and retired Naval officer an invitation to participate in the flyover at

a pilot’s clinic in spring 2013, and he jumped at the opportunity.

Although Cloughley was thrilled to support a good cause while out in Kansas City — the flyover raised nearly \$30,000 for breast cancer research — he admitted his favorite aspect of the once-in-a-lifetime experience was just that: it was unique. “It was challenging to do it, and [I loved] the camaraderie with the other pilots, all doing something together that you just don’t see every day,” he said.

Library Offers Baking Experience

» Continued from page 31

leux au Chocolat or chocolate lava cake. The November 14 class, which is for teenagers and adults, will make Tarte Tatin, a pastry in which the fruit is caramelized in butter and sugar before being baked. Wilkinson teaches the participants by breaking down recipes and offering helpful tips and tricks along the way. Though AACPL has hosted baking events at library locations before, the virtual format gives participants the opportunity to engage themselves in the lesson.

“In the past, we have offered in-person cooking demonstrations from chefs and restaurateurs, as we have no kitchens in our libraries for hands-on food programs,” said Feldmann.

Participants of the October session spoke highly of the hands-on experience.

“There were lots of delightful social media posts showing happy kids baking at home,” said Feldmann. “They were so much fun to see.”

AACPL has offered a variety of virtual,

engaging, skill-building activities for the entire family. These events are made possible by the Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation, which supports all 16 branches of the AACPL and raises funds to enrich and enhance the lives of county residents.

“In these times of isolation, the library provides a safe, fun and educational outlet for kids,” said Feldmann. “Kids can connect with others who share common interests, learn new skills and be exposed to the world around them in a safe way.”

The next session will occur via Zoom on November 14 from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Registration opened on October 31 and will remain open until November 14 or until all 60 slots have been filled. This class is recommended for teenagers and adults. While you must be registered to receive the Zoom link, you can have as many bakers in your kitchen as you’d like. To register, visit www.aacpl.net. More information about Molly Wilkinson can be found on her Instagram page at www.instagram.com/mollyjwilck.



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Homestead Gardens Invites Guests To Experience Holiday Magic

“It’s an experience when you come in. The whole place is decorated. As soon as you get out of your car, there are places to go get coffee, refreshments and cider. It’s easy to maintain distance because the place is so big.”

— **BRIAN RIDDLE, PRESIDENT
HOMESTEAD GARDENS**

By Zach Sparks

With Santa’s workshop, elves and reindeer, the scene at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville might look like the North Pole, except it’s much closer to home. Because the coronavirus is keeping Santa sidelined this year, the Homestead Gardens team thought of the next best thing: transforming their garden center into a winter wonderland with spirited displays, fresh beverages and merriment galore.

“It’s an experience when you come in,” said Brian Riddle, president of Home-



The Severna Park and Davidsonville locations of Homestead Gardens will both have mechanical scenes made by Lou Nasti, who has spent more than 40 years designing animated snowmen, penguins and other characters.

stead Gardens. “The whole place is decorated. As soon as you get out of your car, there are places to go get coffee, refreshments and cider. It’s easy to maintain distance because the place is so big.”

While that “big” space will give guests

plenty of room for safe distancing, it will also give life to a vibrant backdrop of mechanical scenes made by Lou Nasti, who has been called a modern-day Geppetto. Nasti has spent more than 40 years designing animated snowmen, penguins

and other characters that embody the holiday season.

Asked about Nasti’s displays, Homestead Gardens community relations and special events manager Pam Finlay said, “They fit the uniqueness of Homestead Gardens. Brian knew Lou made these here in America and he knew these were the best.”

Visitors at the Severna Park store will also find the holiday scenes, including one with talking reindeer. Both the Severna Park and Davidsonville stores will be decked out with themed trees.

“There are scenes and vignettes, and trees with themes — farm and pet themes, an old-fashioned theme and more,” Finlay said. “And all the beautiful poinsettias and candy canes will be out.”

Homestead is also a must-see destination because of its model train display, which is complete with village scenes, animated skiers and cable cars. This year, the train’s architect, Joe Hartline, extended and painted the train tables. It usually takes four weeks to set up the railroad, he said, but this year required six weeks for additional maintenance and updates.

» **Continued on page 40**

Building Your Financial Plan: One Thing You Can Control During An Election Year

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and Managing
Partner at Premier
Planning Group



Having a sound financial plan does not take into account who the president of the United States is or will be. Instead, I

After 60 million pre-election day votes, and a combined \$1 billion spent on advertising by both campaigns, we can finally put the election behind us. As of now, we still do not know who will win, but to some degree it doesn’t matter.

want to discuss what does matter when building a financial plan.

The first component to determine is your income needs; I call this creating the B word. The B word, of course, is budget. We need to determine how much you’re going to need each month. We need to evaluate what bills and expenses are going to continue in retirement and what will not. We also need to factor in what I call the “go-go years” — these are the years after you retire and have your newfound freedom.

My parents, now retired, are your stereotypical middle-class Americans who spent their entire working lives accumulating money and employer plans and saving as much as they could. Don’t

get me wrong, growing up, I remember many family vacations we went on and enjoyed, but by no means were we extravagant; so when they finally retired, what was the first thing you think my parents did? They went to Europe and did the 35 countries in eight days tour! They saw everything! After that, they went on an Alaskan cruise and then bought a second home in Tucson, Arizona. You many have different plans in mind, however, like my parents, we can factor in these costs when determining your income. In fact, we need to because you will not want to spend like that forever.

Life will come to a point where it will slow down, and we need to budget your spending in those early years. Once we build your budget, we evaluate your income sources, which includes determining your social security benefits and any pensions you might have. The most important action here is calculating your net income as much as possible. When doing so, understanding the impact of taxes and Medicare premiums can result in a more accurate calculation of

net income.

Once we have determined your income needs, we can then factor in your asset allocation. We decide how to divide your investments over various asset classes to reduce risk and guard against changes in the market.

Establishing the proper asset allocation requires understanding your risk tolerance. Spending the appropriate amount of time on this is especially important; we do not just set it and forget it either. When things like the presidential election and other important events arise, we can adjust as necessary. It is important to note, however, that managing emotion is critical. Having your assets properly balanced prepares you for the ups and downs that naturally occur in the market, regardless of the events or circumstances creating the volatility.

The final component of your financial plan is estate planning. Estate planning is a broad term that encompasses several elements. The most basic estate planning tool is a last will and testament. Having a

» **Continued on page 40**

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO, Greater
Severna Park and
Arnold Chamber
of Commerce



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members of the chamber: **Angie D Entertainment LLC, Pegasus Bookkeeping, Golden Consulting and AE2 Creative LLC.**

On October 3, we held a fun and unusual ribbon cutting

at Severna Park's newest entertainment venue, **The Axe House - Annapolis.** Citations were presented and the ribbon was placed over a target. Owner Dustin Flowers hit the bull's-eye, cutting the ribbon expertly. We had a chance to test our axe-throwing skills and had a wonderful time.

On October 8, we held a ribbon cutting for a new pest control business in Severna Park called **Paramount Yard Pest Control.** The event was outside at the chamber, and we wish all the best to owner Eric Couslin, who said he is busier than ever.

On October 13, we held a ribbon cutting at the chamber in celebration of Larry Sells' new venture, **Larry Sells Consulting.** The event was held outside, and lunch was catered by **Garry's Grill.**

On October 21, we participated in a ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of a new **Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage** office in Severna Park. Congratulations to Elizabeth Parks and the team.

Our Successful Women in Business group held a virtual First Cup Club coffee with featured speaker **Renee Kremm of Prudential Advisors.** She spoke about the importance of "Getting Your House in Order" in the electronic age. Committee chairs are **Nancy Greer** of the **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi** and **Pam Spearman, independent consultant for Mary Kay.** Pam is retiring and moving out west, and we thank her for her many years of dedicated service to our chamber. Pam has served as board president and as committee co-chair of Successful Women in Business, and she and husband, Mark, have volunteered to help with our community parade for many years. We will miss Pam and we wish her all the best on her new chapter in life!

Our Health and Wellness Committee held a webinar on COVID confrontations and conversations. **Billy Greer, owner of the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi,** created and presented a fantastic video on how to avoid conflict and de-escalate tense situations related to COVID protocols.

Our Learn and Lead Committee held a webinar called "Becoming a Trustworthy Leader." The event was sponsored by

Popham and Associates and hosted by the **Treebranch Group.**

Chambers in Anne Arundel County held a multi-chamber virtual networking event with over 70 in attendance. We thank all who joined and our sponsors, **Eco Interior Maintenance** and **Minuteman Press of Crofton.**

We were proud to co-host a fantastic webinar on Alzheimer's called "The Slow Walk — The Journey of Alzheimer's." Organized by **Winsome Brown, co-owner of Lean on Dee Senior Care Advocates and community educator for the Alzheimer's Association,** the webinar featured **Dr. Alden Gross,** a John's Hopkins scientist studying the disease. Other hosts and presenters included **Maryanna Lanham of Athena Financial Services** and **Casey Bryant of the Law Offices of Casey Bryant.**

Our chamber eClub was held on the last Tuesday of October and was sponsored by **Minuteman Press of Crofton.** This event is open to everyone, so please join us and meet local business owners.

The last two months of the year are usually very busy for the chamber. Our general membership luncheon will be held on November 18 at the wonderful Hella's Restaurant in Millersville.

However, due to the pandemic, we will re-schedule our popular Holiday Taste and Sip event to the spring of 2021. The event will be sponsored by the **Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium,** and we will have more information in the new year.

More details to come on the chamber tree lighting, held the first Friday of December. We will not be able to hold the open house portion of the event, but we will still have a tree lighting that the community can enjoy.

Buy Local or Bye Local!

While our holidays are sure to look different this year, we are beginning to think about shopping. Before you press that button to purchase online from a global marketplace, please check out our local businesses.

Did you know that you most likely can get everything you want and need from a local business? And because of the pandemic, local businesses have expedited their e-commerce abilities to serve you, just like the "big box" guys? Take another look and see how hard they have worked to implement new delivery methods and other fantastic innovations. And you will help to keep them in business, as they are the reason for our vibrant local economy!

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce has been championing small businesses and nonprofits since 1957. For more information, contact Liz League at ceo@gspacc.com or 410-647-3900, and visit the chamber's website at www.gspacc.com.



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Pandemic Doesn't Stop Moran Insurance From Building Bridges For Life

The Voice staff had the opportunity to have an informal video conference with the Severna Park owners of Moran Insurance, Marc Dorman and Matt Lehmann. We wanted to check in on how the company and its team were doing during the 10th anniversary of Dorman and Lehmann's acquisition of the venerable agency. We last sat down with the owners in 2017 as Moran Insurance celebrated its 40th anniversary at The Severn Inn in Annapolis. We spoke about a wide range of topics, including the health of their company, Moran's ongoing commitment to the community, and perhaps, most pressing, the changes created by the coronavirus pandemic.

As an independent insurance broker, Moran represents over 40 companies — companies like Traveler's, Liberty Mutual, PURE and Selective. Having access to such a broad range of companies, Moran can tailor its clients' specific insurance needs and place them with the ideal company.

"Having that type of flexibility allows us to match each of our clients with the ideal company to ensure the best coverage at a competitive price," said Lehmann.

Client engagement and support have been the cornerstone of Moran's business philosophy. "Check in on your clients. Understand how they are doing. See how you can help. These basic human interactions are often lost in larger, faceless companies. They are, however, critical to our understanding of our client's needs," Dorman explained.

Listening and empathy allowed Moran Insurance to remain strong even in the most



Marc Dorman (right) and Matt Lehmann strive to provide innovative solutions for the unique insurance and risk management needs of their clients.

uncertain times.

As the pandemic unfolded across our region, Moran worked tirelessly to ensure that as the needs of its personal and business clients changed, its insurance adapted as well. The pandemic has altered the community in profound ways. Some business sectors are surging, while others are floundering.

"Adapting to this moment has been a hallmark of our company," Dorman explained. "We have built our reputation on our ability to adapt to our clients' needs. The only difference now is that nearly all of our clients' needs are changing simultaneously."

Just how is that possible? Before the lockdown, Moran Insurance set up remote workstations for each team member in early

March. Those stations included multi-screen computers, connected telephone systems, web cameras and much more. Video conferencing, interoffice messaging, and notes-based updates became the new normal for the staff. The seamless transition to the remote work environment allowed Moran to continue to care for clients promptly. Now that most of the regulations have been lifted, Moran has given its team a choice to remain at home or return to the office or both.

"It was important to Marc and me that we allowed for the most flexible work environment possible," Lehmann explained. "Some associates are at a higher risk or have small children. Everyone is different, and we must acknowledge this and find the best path

forward. After all, without our team, we are not Moran Insurance."

Moran Insurance prioritizes the needs of not just its clients but its team as well.

Understanding the challenges that face the personal and business communities is not all that concerns Moran Insurance. For 27 years, Moran has been the lead sponsor for Providence Center's annual golf tournament; 2020 marked the first year that this event was canceled. The same is true for Hospice of the Chesapeake's annual gala, which Moran also supports. Opportunity Builders, The Y of Central Maryland, CASA, Anne Arundel Medical Center, and Harbor School are all recipients of Moran's local commitment to generosity.

"When we give to an organization, whether it be time or money, it's usually because that organization means something to us. They need our support now more than ever!" Lehmann exclaimed.

Indeed, 2020 has been a year of clarity for Lehmann and Dorman. "We better understand the needs of our team, our clients and our community in ways not possible before COVID-19. We look forward to the chapter after coronavirus, and with health and the success of the people, businesses and institutions we call our neighbors," Dorman concluded. After all, Moran's slogan is "Building Bridges for Life."

Moran Insurance is licensed in 40 states but primarily serves the Maryland/Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. For more information, call 410-544-3422 or visit www.moraninsurance.com.

Building Your Financial Plan

» Continued from page 38

will ensure that your wishes are implemented at the time of your death. Many lawyers may talk about the benefits of having a trust, and trusts are certainly important, but they are not necessary for everyone. A will accomplishes what most of us need. Certainly trusts have a place and I will always recommend consulting with an attorney on what's appropriate for you, but making sure you have a last will and testament, health care directives, and other basic estate planning documents will ensure that your last wishes are achieved.

As you watch election events unfold and wonder what impact this will have on your future, ask yourself, "Do I have the proper financial plan in place?" Being able to answer "yes" to this question, in my opinion, is the most important point surrounding this election season. It is also one of the elements within your control. The winner of the election and

the actions he puts in place, to a large extent, are out of our control. Building a plan that can withstand either outcome is something we all can do for ourselves.

Jason LaBarge, Financial Advisor and Managing Partner at Premier Planning Group 115 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401 443-837-2531 www.jasonlabarge.com

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Experience Holiday Magic

» Continued from page 38

"The railroad has three tracks on the lower level and four tracks on the upper level, totaling 250 feet," Hartline said. "This layout was designed over 15 years ago, and while the track configuration remains constant, I try to vary the placement of buildings, people and cars, as well as adding trees and terrain changes."

Trains and animated characters are not the only items shoppers will find at the store. Homestead is also decked out with outdoor décor, trees, ornaments, toppers, lights, tree stands and more.

While Homestead Gardens will honor the holidays by welcoming families to its warm and fuzzy home, it will also participate in another time-honored holiday tradition: giving back. The store will again partner

with Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic, encouraging customers to hang a star on the Make-A-Wish tree as they seek to help children living with chronic medical conditions. Homestead will also hold a fundraiser for the Society for

the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and support a clothing drive organized by the Annapolis Rotary Club.

"They're our neighbors," Riddle said, explaining why he donates to community groups and civic organizations. "We have always been aware of that. We also want to support causes that uphold farming and agriculture. That's big in this area."

When making holiday plans, families can pencil in a trip to Homestead Gardens with the knowledge that the environment will be safe, entertaining and full of holiday cheer.

"People want to get out of the house and still feel like it's Christmas," Finlay said. "Families can do that at Homestead Gardens, where they have been coming for three generations."

Homestead Gardens is open from 9:00am-7:00pm Monday through Friday, 8:00am-7:00pm on Saturday and 9:00am-6:00pm on Sunday. For more information, call 410-798-5000 or visit www.homesteadgardens.com.

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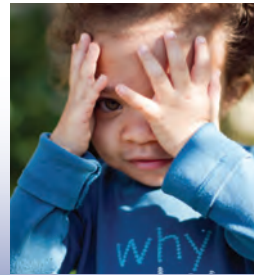
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On October 13, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce joined Larry Sells for the opening of his new business, which assists other small businesses with organizational guidance, growth and strategy, advertising and marketing methodology, sales and promotion planning, and fundraising and event planning. For more information, visit www.larrysellsconsulting.com.

Coldwell Banker Realty Relocates To New Office



Rich Fleischer, president of Coldwell Banker Realty in the Mid-Atlantic region, and Elizabeth Parks, branch vice president of the Severna Park office, welcomed Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz League to the office's ribbon cutting and virtual office opening event on October 21.

Paramount Yard Pest Control Pops Up In Severna Park



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