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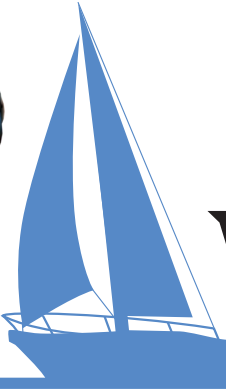
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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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SEVERNA PARK, MD

AUGUST 2021

## Marylanders Call For Fair Redistricting Process

By Zach Sparks  
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

“  
If you believe the game  
is rigged, you’ll be  
discouraged from playing.”  
— DAN MEDINGER, BUSINESS OWNER

Those words from Dan Medinger summarized the consensus of residents from Anne Arundel and Howard counties, as well as Baltimore City, who testified during the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission public listening tour on July 7. Every 10 years, Maryland must draw new congressional and state districts following the U.S. Census. The governor appoints members to an advisory committee, which proposes new maps to the governor. The governor then submits his plans to the Maryland General Assembly to be passed into law.

States sometimes gerrymander, or manipulate the boundaries, to benefit one political party. Former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley admitted doing this after the last Census so an additional Democrat would be elected to the House of Representatives.

The Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission established by Governor Larry Hogan includes three co-chairs and two Republicans, two Democrats and two unaffiliated members.

» Continued on page 8

## Shortstop Jackson Merrill Selected In First Round Of MLB Draft



Photos courtesy of Jerry Espinoza

Jackson Merrill suited up for the Arizona Complex League (ACL) Padres, a rookie-level affiliate of the San Diego Padres, in July and August at the Peoria Sports Complex in Peoria, Arizona. Merrill got his professional career off to a hot start, batting .355 with 11 hits and five RBIs in his first 31 at-bats.

### Merrill Becomes Highest Drafted Baseball Player From Maryland Since 2002

By Alex Murphy

In fifth grade, Jackson Merrill was asked to write down what he wanted to be when he grew up.

What was Jackson’s dream? To play Major League baseball.

On July 11, 2021, that dream took one step closer to reality as Jackson

was drafted with the 27th overall pick in the 2021 MLB First-Year Player Draft by the San Diego Padres.

With that selection, the shortstop became the highest drafted player from Maryland since the Oakland Athletics took former Arundel High School and University of Maryland infielder John McCurdy 26th over-

all in 2002.

“When my name was said on the screen, my entire family was going crazy,” Jackson said about draft night. “I wasn’t shocked, but at the same time I was like, ‘Oh my God, this is a reality.’ So, I was just sitting on the couch, staring at the TV for  
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## National Night Out Unites Community

The Eastern District National Night Out on August 3 brought families to Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company for games, live music, the opportunity to pose for pictures with police and fire vehicles, and much more.

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Margueritte Mills  
**Volunteer  
 Of The Month**

## Independence Day Parade Is A Family Affair

By Haley Weisgerber

Jim League was familiar with the Independence Day parade put on every year by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) when his wife, Liz, took over as the chief executive officer at the chamber in 2018. He had watched the parade as a spectator many times, but he did not know how much work the GSPACC put into planning and managing the parade.

"When I realized that the chamber was totally responsible for it, I wanted to help continue that legacy," League said.

League has been acting as a coordinator for many years. He works alongside his wife on the back end of the parade, organizing floats and volunteers, and determining the fine details.

"It involves a tremendous amount of planning and logistical coordination," League explained. "When I saw what needed to be done, it just really interested me at the time. I thought it would be fun."

League said he does most of the "heavy lifting" three days before the parade, after all of the entries are in. He has to decide the order of the floats and coordinate with volun-



*Jim League was named the August Volunteer of the Month for his role as coordinator of the GSPACC Independence Day parade.*

teers to bring the most joy to the spectators.

"We typically have over 100 entries in a parade," League said. "And they have to be scheduled. It just involves hours of work."

The GSPACC usually begins to plan the parade in January. This year, the county didn't give the chamber the permit until the end of May. League began to plan on June 1 and described this year as

"an anomaly."

"It was more difficult for the volunteers because we started so late in the planning process," League said.

Despite the short notice and the lack of time for formal training, volunteers rose to the occasion, according to League. The hard work of the volunteers, chamber members and the support of the community made this year's parade an enormous success. League was thrilled with the number of spectators lining the streets.

"Since the reopening of the economy, we've found that all of the chamber events are much more popular than they have been in the past," League said. "I think people just want a sense of normalcy in their lives. They want to get out of the house and just enjoy life."

League is excited to continue working with the GSPACC on the Independence Day parade and hopes to see more communities creating floats in future years. He enjoys playing a role in putting on a parade that has brought the community joy for so many years.

"Severna Park is a close-knit community," League said. "The parade is just an extension of that."

## Calendar

### ONGOING

**Through Aug 14:** Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week. Info: [shopmdtaxfree@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:shopmdtaxfree@marylandtaxes.gov).

**Tuesdays:** Food Truck Tuesdays at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company from 4:30pm to 8:00pm. Info: Visit @H2FoodTruckTuesdays on Facebook.

**Wednesdays:** Trivia Night at Romilo's Restaurant and Bar. Info: [www.romilosrestaurant.com](http://www.romilosrestaurant.com).

**Thursdays through Saturdays:** Live music at Brian Boru. Info: [www.brianborupub.com](http://www.brianborupub.com).

### AUGUST

**Aug 14:** Kenzie Rose Youth Triathlon from 8:00am through noon at St. Andrews Swim and Tennis Club and Kinder Farm Park. Info: [www.kenzieroseyouthtri.org](http://www.kenzieroseyouthtri.org).

**Aug 14:** Severna Park Farmer's Market at the park and ride on Ritchie Highway and Jones Station Road in Arnold from 8:00am to noon. Info: [www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket).

**Aug 14:** Everything Market at Severna Park American Legion

from 8:00am-1:00pm. Info: [gerrilynn311@gmail.com](mailto:gerrilynn311@gmail.com).

**Aug 14:** The Henry Kinder Farmhouse opens to the public from 11:00am-3:00pm. Info: [historical@kinderfarmpark.org](mailto:historical@kinderfarmpark.org).

**Aug 14:** Irish Festival hosted by American Legion Post 175 at 832 Manhattan Beach Road from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. Info: [www.legionpost175.org](http://www.legionpost175.org).

**Aug 15:** Made in Maryland Festival at Kurtz's Beach in Pasadena from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Info: [www.madeinmarylandfest.com](http://www.madeinmarylandfest.com).

**Aug 15:** Jazz Beyond Borders presents Daniela Soledade and Nate Najar at Cafe Mezzanotte at 5:00pm. Info: [instnt.us/f5a6h](http://instnt.us/f5a6h).

**Aug 19:** Meet artist Abigail McBride during this year's 31st annual Annapolis Art Walk from 6:00-9:00pm. Info: [www.mcbridegallery.com](http://www.mcbridegallery.com).

**Aug 21:** Severna Park Farmer's Market at the park and ride on Ritchie Highway and Jones Station Road in Arnold from 8:00am to noon. Info: [www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket).

**Aug 21:** Plating Grace and Grub food truck comes to St. John the Evangelist after 5:15pm mass. Info: [www.platinggrace.com](http://www.platinggrace.com).

**Aug 26:** Adult Book Club meeting to discuss "The Stranger in the Mirror" by Liv Constantine at 8:00pm at Park Books and Literacy Lab. Info: 410-449-3100.

**Aug 27:** Hollis Brown entertains the crowd at Rams Head On Stage at 7:30pm. Info: [www.ramsheadonstage.com](http://www.ramsheadonstage.com).

**Aug 28:** Severna Park Farmer's Market from 8:00am to noon. Info: [www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket).

**Aug 28:** Annapolis Opera presents "Sunder: A New Work Reading" at Maryland Hall at 7:30pm. Info: 410-263-5544.

**Aug 28-29:** Maryland Renaissance Festival at 1821 Crownsville Road in Annapolis from 10:00am to 7:00pm. Info: [www.rennfest.com](http://www.rennfest.com).

**Aug 29:** Elektric Voodoo performs at Rams Head On Stage. 8:00pm. Info: [www.ramsheadonstage.com](http://www.ramsheadonstage.com).



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# Severna Park's Elaine Bachmann Named Maryland State Archivist

By Emily Allgair

Elaine Rice Bachmann started with the Maryland State Archives as the art collection curator in 1994, became deputy state archivist in 2015, and as of July 1, is now the Maryland state archivist.

The Maryland State Archives is responsible for the collection, habitation and preservation of government documents such as land, court and county probate records; church records; colonial and state executive, legislative and judicial records; and business records, as well as some collections of private photographs, newspapers, maps and papers. Some of these permanent records held within the archives date back to 1634, when the colony of Maryland was founded.

"We're really the historical agency of Maryland's past," Bachmann said.

In a press release regarding Bachmann's appointment, Governor Larry Hogan stated that "Elaine is well-respected and admired for her decades of work at the state archives.

"She has been particularly instrumental in a number of critical projects, including most recently the redesign of Lawyers Mall in Annapolis," Hogan added.

In this new position, Bachmann holds the authority to approve the inclusion of documents into and set policies for the archives, in addition to the management of the entire agency and its departments.

"In the times that we are living in right now, what we are really examining is what do the historical records tell us



*Elaine Bachmann oversees the archives and manage the entire agency and its departments.*

about life in Maryland today and in the past," Bachmann said, "and do those records accurately reflect all Marylanders, or where are we falling short?"

One program designed to acknowledge this error of the past, and a program that Bachmann most looks forward to furthering, is called Legacy of Slavery. Looking at the probate records, manumission papers, and freedom records that are stored in

the state archives, Bachmann and her colleagues hope to rediscover stories that have been lost throughout Maryland's history.

"To be able to be at the helm of an agency that has the opportunity to bring some equity to the representation of history, I think, is a huge responsibility and a real privilege," Bachmann said.

As for the future of the Maryland State Archives, Bachmann hopes to

continue to grow the multidisciplinary field of archives.

"It's not just knowing history," Bachmann stated. "It's also knowing technology and understanding the digitization of records, and also working with people who are trying to learn these records.

"By better understanding our history," Bachmann said, "I think it makes you a better citizen today."

## Library Club Spotlight: Arnold Senior Center Book Club

By Haley Weisgerber

In January 2019, Jen Hetherington took a full-time position at the Broadneck Library and inherited the Arnold Senior Center Book Club. The partnership between the library and the senior center had been paused during Hetherington's transition, but she was eager to get the club started again.

"My goal now is to engage people and have people read books that they might not," said Hetherington. "I want to get people out of their comfort zones."

The seniors met for two months in-person before COVID, once again, put a pause on meetings. In the fall, Hetherington kicked off the book club again virtually. A group of seniors are meeting on Zoom once a month to discuss a book chosen by the group.

"We really are the facilitator," said Hetherington. "We make sure that we have plenty of the books in the library and give them recommendations. We might ask a few questions, but they really run with it and we're just happy to be a part of it."

The group has read everything including nonfiction, historical fiction and more. Most recently, the group read "Truths I Never Told You" by Kelly Rimmer, a book about women's

issues in the 1950s. Hetherington said her favorite part about facilitating the book club is listening to the women share their opinions.

"I feel like people read books in different ways," said Hetherington. "Each one has a different experience when they read the book, and I just love hearing what other people think. I always feel like I learned more about the book, the more people I talked to about it."

When the club met in person, members gathered at the Arnold Senior Center. Senior centers in Anne Arundel County recently reopened, but for now, the book club will stay virtual. Members have been attending online from all over the county, and have expressed a desire to stay virtual for a little longer.

"I think that they like being able to get in without having to get in the car, and some of them aren't right here in Arnold," said Hetherington. "I think they appreciate that. We're happy to continue doing it via Zoom."

Hetherington said that she is excited to meet in person in the future for seniors who are not comfortable with technology. She is looking into the possibility of having a meeting in person and having a virtual meeting for seniors who cannot travel as easily or may

prefer to stay home.

"These women have been very dedicated online and they want to stay online, so we want to make sure that we're still meeting their needs too," said Hetherington.

Anyone is welcome to join the book club regardless of age and location.

"The senior center book club is open to anybody," said Hetherington. "It's advertised as a senior book club, but you do not have to be a senior to be a part of the book club. We're happy to have people of all ages join in."

Hetherington encourages people who are interested to visit the Anne Arundel County Public Library website and look for the Arnold Senior Center Book Club on the events page. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13 and will discuss "The Weight of a Piano" by Chris Cander.





## Remembering Dick Ladd

Former District 5 Anne Arundel County Councilman Dick Ladd died on July 18 at age 80. He was born on August 13, 1940 in Quincy, Massachusetts, to Robert and Harriet Ladd. In 1962, he married Edith Russell and they remained married until her death. In 2000, He married Sabra Ashley.



years. During his retirement, he not only served as a county councilman but also as a member of the Army Science Board.

Upon finishing his council term in 2014, Dick wrote his last *Severna Park Voice* column.

"It has been a great pleasure and an honor to represent and work with the many vibrant and dynamic Severna Park and Broadneck communities," he wrote. "Public service is indeed rich in its psychic rewards, and I have been well rewarded."

Dick is survived by his wife, Sabra, two children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

A proud graduate of Bowdoin College, Dick retired from the Army in 1982 and joined the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations. He was appointed the deputy undersecretary of the Army, after which he ran a consulting firm in Washington, D.C. for many

## Locals Report "Moose" Sightings

By Judy Tacyn

Severna Park residents were pleasantly surprised to see a familiar face recently turn up on the bench at the corner of Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard and Ritchie Highway. Severna Park native Arthur "Moose" Williams has been living with his brother in Laurel, Maryland, since an extended hospitalization in January 2020. Williams needed time to fully recover and quarantine, so after his discharge, he and his brother felt it best that the siblings at least temporarily live together.

Immediately following Williams' return to Severna Park, Facebook discussion threads started as people happily announced their Moose sightings, with neighbors asking where he had been and was he in need of anything.

Williams came to town to renew his non-drivers license identification in late July, which expired on his birthday last month. After arriving at the Motor Vehicle Administration in Glen Burnie, Williams learned that he needed an appointment and extra documentation to comply with the REAL ID Act. With an appointment in August, Williams is staying in Severna Park until then and thoroughly enjoying his local celebrity status.

Williams said he's feeling good these days, though the high temperatures cause his feet and ankles to swell. He has lost some weight. To pass time, he has done some small jobs for Macey's Corner Exxon gas station. In exchange



for his labor, Williams has been paid enough money to eat several meals and purchase a few scratch-off tickets. He recently painted the curbs around the pumps a bright white.

When asked where he's staying, he sticks to his standard "here and there" response, but adds that he's inside at night. He expects to return to Laurel after his appointment at the MVA but said he would also be happy to stay here in his hometown.

When he returns to Laurel, he can be found at the intersection of Route 198 and Red Clay Road, in front of the 7-Eleven. Williams said that his new friends in Laurel are nice, but adds, "not like here." And then, he chuckles.

## Send Us Your News!

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# Wellness House Provides Free Services To Cancer Patients, Caregivers

By Zach Sparks

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

Marna Ross first came to Wellness House of Annapolis shortly after her husband was diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma in 2015.

"You could walk into this place with a devastating diagnosis, and everybody would be smiling and happy," said Ross, an Arnold resident. "You can leave your disease at the door."

Wellness House is a gathering place with support groups (for children and adults), yoga, reiki, meditation and therapeutic art classes. Each offering is designed to give strength and support to cancer patients and their caregivers as they focus on recovery and healing.

When people arrive at Wellness House on Mas Que Farm Road, they are greeted by a gate that safeguards a 200-acre property. The historic farmhouse is owned by Janet Richardson-Pearson, who has donated use of the building since 2009, two years after Wellness House of Annapolis was founded by plastic and reconstructive surgeon Kelly Sullivan.

"I had land and wanted to do something philanthropic, something with healing and health," Richardson-Pearson said. "Two of my four children had cancer and survived. I would have loved to have something like this available at that time."

Last year, Wellness House gave more than 5,000 services to people in the community. All services are free to everyone, regardless of income.



**Left:** Wellness House of Annapolis executive director Mary Jermann (right) and volunteer Marna Ross believe in holistic health practices as a compliment to traditional medicine.



**Above:** Volunteer Teri Jacobson (left) visited a cancer patient named Cathy at her Severna Park home in July.

"One of Kelly Sullivan's founding principles was that there would be no charge," said Mary Jermann, executive director of Wellness House. "Medical bills can cost tens of thousands of dollars. We never wanted to be a barrier to anything."

Like everyone at Wellness House, Jermann has a connection to cancer. She worked at Hospice of the Chesapeake as director of volunteer services, and she watched her 84-year-old stepfather fight the disease.

"Seeing what he went through and what my mom went through as a caregiver, it changed my life," said Jermann, a Severna Park resident.

It also changed Ross' life. She enjoyed Wellness House so much that after her husband's cancer went into remission,

she became a volunteer. Ross administers healing touch, reiki and energy healing.

Volunteers and staff at Wellness House believe their holistic practices are not substitutes for traditional medicine but are complimentary.

"You have ownership over your experience," said Terri Fevang, program and development director at Wellness House, who has several specialties including sound meditation. "I'm a big proponent of the idea that sound is medicine. Live music hits the body parts and affects stress and oxygen levels."

She cited a University of Maryland Medical Center Greenebaum Cancer Center study that proved the effectiveness of music therapy.

"Every person had some form of pain

relief, and one person even lowered their blood pressure from 170 to 120," she said.

The doctors at Maryland Oncology Hematology, a sponsor of Wellness House of Annapolis, agree about the benefits of holistic practices.

"Relaxation techniques, meditation, massage, and therapy can help patients and families cope with symptoms from cancer and the treatments used to treat their cancer," said Dr. Jeanine L. Werner. "We are very fortunate to have Wellness House of Annapolis right here to partner with us in their care."

The team at Wellness House hopes to keep growing by offering more services and helping more patients and caregivers along their personal cancer journeys.

"Wellness House is the best-kept secret in Annapolis," said Lisa Peri, who does marketing for Wellness House. "We don't want to be a secret."

They also launched the Wellness Rising podcast in June. Through Apple Podcasts or Spotify, listeners can find the podcast, which explores health and wellness beyond a cancer diagnosis, featuring experts from the fields of mental, physical and spiritual wellness.

Wellness House is also planning a rock 'n' roll benefit concert with the Paul Reed Smith Band on September 26 at the Annapolis Maritime Museum.

To learn more, visit [www.annapoliswellnesshouse.org](http://www.annapoliswellnesshouse.org).

"We're trying to explore the thought of what it really means to be well," Fevang said. "Having cancer is not your identity."



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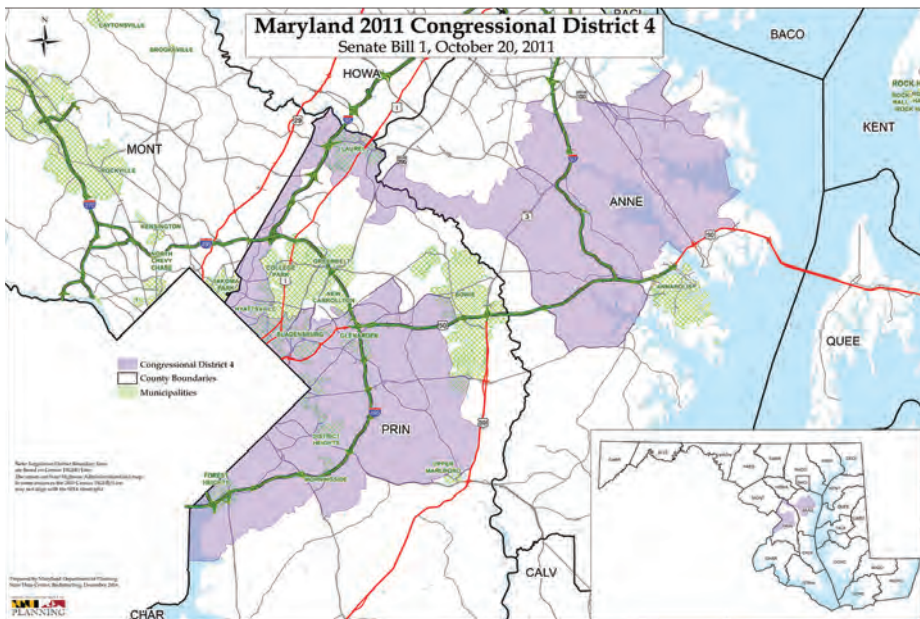
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## Marylanders Call For Redistricting



In 2011, Democratic Governor Martin O'Malley drew Maryland's fourth congressional district in a way that gave Anne Arundel County four representatives. Currently, none of those officials live in Anne Arundel County.

### » Continued from page 1

This time, Marylanders hope the maps give them real representation.

"I'm a registered Democrat, and what the state Democratic Party has done is extremely bad for democracy and representative government in the state," said Paul Sundell, a Severna Park resident. "It does make it so politicians are less responsive to the voters, it increases partisanship, and it increases voter frustration and apathy."

Raymond Szyperski, who lives in congressional District 3, analyzed a map as he spoke to the commission.

"The thing starts up in northwest Baltimore County, snakes itself totally around the city, going through Baltimore County and Baltimore City, touches a few lakes or a few islands out in the bay, comes through Anne Arundel County and goes westward to Howard County, and it's just an unbelievable thing," he said. "It literally looks like a snake. And I just can't believe that any person who would be representing this area would be familiar with the wants and needs of all the citizens."

As District 33 Senator Ed Reilly and others emphasized, the current configuration often leaves districts with odd representation.

"Ladies and gentlemen, did you know that Anne Arundel County has more congressional representation than [15] states?" he said. "Twenty years ago, in a political payback, Governor [William Donald] Schaefer, who did not garner a majority of the vote of the citizens in this county, divided the representation that today does not have any one resident from Anne Arundel County representing us on the federal level. ... we have over 600,000 residents of this county and we should have an opportunity to have a resident represent us."

Anne Arundel County has four congressional representatives, each of

whom lives outside the county.

"Too many legislative districts have been drawn, so the primary election is the election, and the general election is not competitive," said Bryan Simonaire, Maryland's Senate minority leader, who represents Pasadena in District 31. "Primary voters tend to be fewer in number but more passionate with stronger and more extreme positions. This type of district creates extremes in Annapolis as representatives tend to listen only to those who elect them in the primary election."

Delegate Michael Malone, a Republican from District 33, agreed. He has sponsored redistricting legislation since taking office.

"By gerrymandering the districts, you cause very polarized districts to exist, and good policy often will fall in the middle," Malone said. "And unfortunately, it makes it difficult for someone to be elected if they aren't going far left or far right, where the best answer often lies more in the middle."

The Maryland General Assembly is not required by law to use the maps created by the commission, but Marylanders hope fair districts are drawn and used. Several people urged the commission to consider single-member districts.

"Legislative districts do not belong to Democrats or Republicans," Medinger said. "They belong to the voters. And I see gerrymandering as a form of voter suppression."

The July 7 hearing came during the first of three rounds of public meetings. The first round is a listening tour that concluded July 28 and the second round will begin in late August after Census data is distributed to the states on August 16. The third round will occur after the commission drafts legislative and congressional maps. For more information, visit [www.redistricting.maryland.gov](http://www.redistricting.maryland.gov).

## Shortstop Jackson Merrill Selected

» Continued from page 1  
like 10 minutes."

The *Severna Park Voice* was able to talk to Jackson and his family earlier this season, and at that time, the focus was on his recent recommitment to the University of Kentucky to play baseball.

The spring sports calendar wasn't even finalized by that point, but once it was, Jackson took full advantage, hitting .500 in his senior season with 12 home runs and 37 RBI as Severna Park reached the 4A title game.

He also participated in the Brooks Robinson All-Star Game held at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on June 27, homering and being named the South team's Most Valuable Player.

Everything culminated that Sunday evening, and understandably, emotions were running high.

"I was extremely excited," Jackson said. "I don't really show a lot of emotion except when I'm on the field, so I didn't say much, but I was excited, not only for me but for my family because of how much they've helped me get here."

Sitting next to Jackson during that watch party were his parents, Josh and Jennie. They've taken the journey with Jackson step-by-step, and while he isn't one to show much emotion off the field, they took care of it, especially on draft night.

Nervous energy quickly turned into jubilation once the Merrills were no longer in suspense.

"It was a little bit tense at first, just waiting, anticipating," Josh said. "I was just ready to exhale after all of this."

In the winter and spring leading up to Jackson's senior season, thoughts of getting drafted weren't on anyone's mind.

As soon as the high school season started, scouts made their way to Severna Park High School to watch Jackson play.

A few turned into a few dozen once postseason baseball came to SPHS, and it became more than apparent that getting drafted wasn't just a possibility but a reality.

"Going into the season, we know he had Kentucky," Jennie said. "We were like, 'Alright, he's going to play in the SEC,' and then slowly as things began to build, we had [general managers], scouts and all sorts of people showing up at these games. The crowds were getting bigger and bigger, and in his entire career at Severna Park, we had never seen that

many people at a playoff game."

When pre-draft workouts began, new doors literally opened as teams started showing more interest in him.

His parents saw that amongst the players participating in these workouts, Jackson could compete with anyone. That was affirmed with the Padres' selection in the first round, as Jackson watched the live feed from a house while surrounded by family and friends.

"We were full of excitement and adulation," Josh said. "Finally, I could exhale after that. I said, 'This step is done and over with. He's drafted.' Now, we have a clear vision for what's ahead of him."

Since getting drafted, Jackson has made the rounds, interviewing and talking with just about every media outlet in the Maryland and San Diego areas.

It's been a whirlwind, and to top it off, he and the Padres agreed to a \$1.8 million signing bonus on July 23, now cementing him in one of the most exciting organizations in baseball.

"We feel he's a shortstop," said Padres scouting director Mark Conner. "If not, he has options to move to third base or second base in the future. He has a very good clock, very good hands. His footwork probably needs to improve a little bit to stay at the position, just reading the hops and getting in the proper spots."

With stars like Fernando Tatis Jr., Manny Machado, Adam Frazier and more in the infield, Jackson knows the road ahead of him, but he's ready to carve his own path.

"I'm extremely excited to get started," Jackson said. "I want to get going as soon as possible. I know that there's Tatis and Machado up there on the left side of the infield that are absolutely insane, but for me, it's all about where can I help the team. It doesn't matter to me where it is, I just want to help the team and get on that field."

His parents are ready to make the journey with him, starting in Arizona and hopefully ending at Petco Park.

"They told us a long time ago, 2 percent of the people ever make it this far," Jennie said. "Now, we're here. He's climbed to the top of the first mountain, but there are more mountains to climb."

With the support of his family, friends and Severna Park behind him, Jackson is starting his ascent up the next mountain to make that fifth-grade dream a reality.



Friends, neighbors and supports of Jackson Merrill lined Benfield Road on July 18 to give him a proper sendoff as he headed toward the airport to reach Arizona.



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## Providence Center Celebrates 60th Anniversary



*In 1961, Providence Center was founded to serve the important and exclusive needs of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It was the first such center in Anne Arundel County. On July 31, 2021, the center's leadership celebrated its 60th anniversary at Kurtz's Beach in Pasadena. Guests enjoyed music, lawn games and a barbecue luncheon.*

## Revivify By Jass Offers Free Radiation Tattoo Removal

To honor the many women and men who have fought and continue to fight against cancer, Revivify by Jass is offering complimentary removal of radiation marker tattoos for any cancer survivor. Both men and women are encouraged to take advantage of this service.

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- This service includes a medical-grade numbing cream to ensure you are comfortable.
- Simply provide a letter from your oncologist or radiologist approving the removal of any radiation marker tattoos.

Revivify By Jass is located at 820 Ritchie Highway, Suite 240, in Severna Park. To take advantage of the complimentary removal of radiation marker tattoos, call 410-903-4865.

## SPHS Reunion Set For Classes Of 1985, 1986

Join former Severna Park High School graduates for a 35-year reunion on Friday, September 17, from 8:00pm-11:00pm at Severna Park Taphouse, located at 58 W. Earleigh Heights Road.

The weekend events will include a charter boat "Big Worm" (separate charge from main event) from 1:00pm-7:00pm on September 17 for those who'd like to fish and/or cruise on the Chesapeake Bay. The boat is Coast Guard certified for 48 passengers, but event organizers would like to keep it to the first 20 or 30 people who send in their deposits.

All classes are welcome with pre-registration. Admission to the reunion is \$20 per person, and tickets will not be offered at the door. Venmo @tia-carson-1 (3235) via PayPal or Zelle (tia-carson@gmail.com), or send a check to Tia Carson, 159 Boone Trail, Severna Park MD 21146.

For more information about the reunion, contact Tia (Buxton) Carson at [tialcarson@gmail.com](mailto:tialcarson@gmail.com). For details on the charter, contact Ray Terry at [rayjr@imandcd.com](mailto:rayjr@imandcd.com).

## Shop Or Sell At Legion's Market

Severna Park American Legion will host an everything market on August 14 from 8:00am-1:00pm. Shoppers can find food, clothing, home goods and more. Vendors can reserve a table for \$25. Email Gerri Hoy ([gerrilyn311@gmail.com](mailto:gerrilyn311@gmail.com)) for additional information or to reserve a vendor space. The Severna Park American Legion is located at 832 Manhattan Beach Road.

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## Lauren's Law: Music Edition



**Lauren Burke Meyer**

These days, I'm spending a significant amount of time playing with toy musical instruments, thanks to my young daughters. Xylophone, tambourine, maracas, drums, you name it. Parenthood has me reliving my musical moments of my childhood — many of which have laughable incidents.

### Piano

My musical journey begins with the piano, and I'm still surprised I begged to play it. This was my standing weekly appointment when I snuck chocolate chips while my mom and sister went for their lessons. However, a littler sister I am. I wanted to be like my older sister and tickle the ivories with grace. At first, I started off passionate, practicing often and showing up prepared. Safe to say, our sweet piano teacher should have been charging us more. She eventually would have to help me complete my assigned homework, filling in treble clefs, or whatever I was attempting to master at the time. I can, however, still play a mean "Heart and Soul."

### Recorder

Next up: the recorder. The first instrument all elementary school students have no business playing. We all thought we were such musical geniuses playing this woodwind. On the contrary. What's the opposite of music? Noise. Yes, I can attest to the raise-your-eyebrows noise when playing this instrument.

### Violin

Again, I had to be like my sister and play the violin. Most kids began in third grade. However, I started in fifth grade. Already a tall kid, I towered over the kids two years younger than me. Forced to use my sister's hand-me-down violin, I found it was not only too big for me, but it also overpowered the high-pitched sounds of my peers. I felt like Buddy the elf "singing loud for all to hear" at a baritone boom level.

My parent's 1998 Christmas card described my playing another way: "Lauren began playing the violin this year. Any parent who has had a beginner knows this isn't a pleasant auditory experience! I can't think of another instrument, other than the drums, where the parent begs the child to stop practicing!"

With the help of another great music teacher and many private lessons and yes, lots of practicing (sorry mom and dad), I went on to make first chair the next year. This meant I had to play harder music, and I was way out of my league. However, it was a rare shining moment to be one of the only sixth-graders to make first chair in orchestra.

Soon enough, the novelty wore off, and I quit the violin before the start of seventh grade. Now my musical efforts are limited to bedtime routine and singing for my daughters. All is right with the world.

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

## Hye: RBSA Series 2 Winner!



**Mary Marta**  
Round Bay Sailing  
Association

Chris Drury, skipper of Hye, and his tactician, Meredith Hillyer, summoned "patience, keen attention and eyes on the prize" to win the RBSA Series 2. According to Drury, given the relatively light air that blew on Wednesday nights, Series 2 was unlike Series 1, when Hye and other small boats could not sail in the heavy air on a few nights (see "Rockin' and Rollin' — RBSA First Race Night" from the Severna Park Voice May 2021 edition). Series 2 was a different story for the Johnson 18, which took first in three of six races and had podium finishes in three others.

This is not the only successful run that captain and tactician have had. Drury and Hillyer go way back in sailing together. When they were both much younger, Drury was one of Hillyer's sailing instructors at Deep Creek Lake. The two met much later in life and are now a couple; they sail together three or four nights a week. Drury used to sail with his father on Round Bay, and now sails frequently on Deep Creek Lake and up and down the East Coast. Hillyer has participated in many national regattas and has twice won the Adam's Cup Women's National.

Drury said that sailing Round Bay on the Severn is one of the highlights of his week because it's challenging and fun. Those sentiments are shown by increasing participation on the river on Wednesday nights.



Bob Murphy's Johnson 18 was skippered by Chris Drury.

Merlin, skippered by Mark Oursler, took second in the series, and Rosalita, skippered by Tom Lloyd, took third. Congratulations to Hye, Merlin and Rosalita!

## The August Gardening Checklist



**Elizabeth Elliott**  
Himmel's  
Landscape &  
Garden Center



The heat of summer is upon us, and your garden may be suffering the consequences. But in spite of the sweltering conditions during the dog days of August, there are plenty of tasks you can add to your to-do list that will get your plants to peak performance!

### Tackle the Weed Issue

If it looks like your weeds have suddenly taken hold of your garden, they probably have. The combination of summer sun and rain, along with the plant's life cycle of seed production, triggers an intense growth that can make it seem like it happened overnight. It's easy to weed after a soaking rain or thorough watering. Make sure to remove the roots, and if there are any seeds, try to contain them to avoid millions of baby weeds popping up in your beds and lawn next season when it's time for the seeds to germinate. Spot mulch as needed to help suppress regrowth.

### Replace Annuals

Those annual flowers that looked so beautiful and lush in spring and early summer have likely started to fade. When possible, cut back vigorous growth on your foliage and vining selections, and deadhead flowering varieties to encourage new blooms. You may opt to remove spring bloomers altogether to make room for summer-to-fall flowering varieties. If you decide to plant new annuals, make sure you choose varieties that will endure the heat of summer and the cooler temperatures of fall, like wave petunias, celosia, marigolds, osteospermum, calibrachoa and verbena. Even a few replacements will make a difference in your late summer beds and containers.

### Perennial Perfection

Many perennial selections are at their peak this time of year, particularly those that attract birds

and pollinators like black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, lobelia, agastache, sedums and even herbs. Dead-head and maintain summer perennials to ensure a long and healthy bloom season, even into fall. August is a great time to divide varieties like hosta, daylilies, ornamental grasses and iris. Simply dig up the entire plant, use a sharp garden knife or spade to divide into three to four smaller plants, and replant the divisions back into the garden. Or you can always share with a neighbor.

Visit your local garden center to check out new perennial varieties in stock. This time of year, you can find outstanding selections that are hardy, drought tolerant, colorful, attract pollinators, and will last for the rest of the growing season to provide that much desired four-season interest.

### Water Thirsty Trees and Shrubs

Although evergreen trees and shrubs seem hardy, they suffer from drought conditions just like their leafy deciduous cousins. Have you ever noticed a beautiful arborvitae suddenly turn brown and quickly die? It's most likely due to lack of water in the summertime. Take care of your evergreen screening plants and ornamentals by ensuring they have plenty of water. Evening is the best time for watering. Talk to your local garden center expert for more watering tips to keep your plants healthy and happy.

### Still Have Time For A Few More Tasks?

Repot houseplants into a larger container with fresh soil. They will most likely reward you with some shiny new growth and maybe even some blooms. Inspect your established trees and shrubs for scale and other insect pests or fungal disease. Curled or spotty leaves, white specks on bark, and yellowing or discoloration in general are signs that your plant may be in distress. Document the changes and speak to your local garden center expert to determine a culprit and plan of action. And as always, if you prefer to laze the last few days of summer away in your pool or barbecuing with friends, call your favorite landscaping company and let them take care of the maintenance for you!



# Five Olympians With Hearing Loss

**Mariya Hutto**  
Hearing Aid  
Dispenser  
Chesapeake  
Hearing Centers



## Jim Ryun

Ryun lost 50 percent of his hearing during a bout with the measles when he was 4. After being cut from baseball, basketball and track, he joined the cross-country team and found his niche. He later held four world records for the mile and competed in three Olympic Games, taking home a silver medal in the 1,500-meter run.

## Tamika Catchings

Catchings was diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss as a toddler. Her classmates originally made fun of her because of her hearing aids, but when she began dominating first the soccer field and then the basketball court, things changed. The basketball star went on to become WNBA Rookie of the Year in 2002, win four Olympic gold medals, and become the only player to appear in 10 WBNA All-Star games.

With the Olympic Games in Tokyo ending this month, let's get in the spirit with these five inspiring athletes who pushed beyond hearing loss to achieve greatness.

## David Smith

Smith was born with mild to severe hearing loss. At 6 feet, 7 inches, this volleyball star has proven he can stand tall against not only the spike but also hearing loss. Hand signals and lip-reading help keep him on his A game. A member of the 2012 Olympic team and a medalist in the 2016 Olympics, he wears hearing aids on and off the court.

## Chris Colwill (USA, Diving)

This 5-foot-10-inch University of Georgia grad and member of the U.S. Olympic diving team participated in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games, and he won a gold medal in the 2007 Italian Grand Prix. In an interview when he was 14 years old, Colwill relayed the benefit of being without 65 percent of his hearing: far fewer distractions during competitions.

## Terrance Parkin

Parkin, a two-time Olympic swimmer (2000, 2004) who was born deaf, won a silver medal in the 200-meter breaststroke while competing for South Africa in the 2000 Olympics. He has won a record 34 Deaflympics medals and, in 2011, saved a 7-year-old boy from drowning in a swimming pool in Johannesburg.

*Get your gear back in top shape — call Chesapeake Hearing Centers at 410-881-0426 for a free consultation to improve your hearing.*



**Tamika Catchings won four Olympic gold medals and appeared in 10 WBNA All-Star games.**

# Nonprofits Selected For Giant Programs

## ACAN — Community Bag Program

Reduce single-use plastic in the environment and give back to those in need in the local community, all while running routine weekly errands at the local Giant in Severna Park. ACAN Food Pantry has been selected by the local Giant Food store leadership as the benefiting nonprofit for August.

The Community Bag Program is an easy way for shoppers to give back to the local community and the environment as part of the regular shopping routine. Every \$2.50 reusable "community bag" sends a \$1 donation to a nonprofit local to the community in which it was purchased.

ACAN Food Pantry was selected as the August beneficiary by local store leadership at the store located at 573 Ritchie Highway. The pantry will receive a \$1 donation for every reusable community bag purchased at this location in August.

"It's more important than ever to help reduce single-use plastic in the environment," said Margo Arnoux, executive director of ACAN Food Pantry. "Nonprofits at the local level, like us, rely on community support. This program offers the perfect solution to multiple issues. We hope you'll support us in August by purchasing one — or two — community bags at our local Severna Park Giant!"

Learn more about ACAN Food Pantry by visiting [www.acansevernapark.org](http://www.acansevernapark.org).

## Services From The Heart — Floral Bouquet Program

Brighten up your day with a bouquet of flowers that fights hunger in the community. Local nonprofit Services from the Heart has been selected by the Giant Food store in Severna Park as the benefiting hunger organization in Giant's new Bloomin' 4 Good program.

During August, Services from the Heart will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet with the purple circle sticker sold at the Giant Food located at 573 Governor Ritchie Highway. According to Feeding America, every \$1 donation to a local hunger organization can provide 10 or more meals to someone in need.

Services from the Heart is a nonprofit based in Severna Park. Founded in 2013, the Services from the Heart's Backpack Buddies program provides nutritional meals and snacks to a group of economically disadvantaged students attending three Title I schools in Anne Arundel County. The program served 106 children during the 2020-2021 school year. Learn more about the program by visiting [www.communityservicesfromtheheart.com](http://www.communityservicesfromtheheart.com).

"We are thrilled to be chosen as the recipient of this unique and impactful program, as the demands of those in need are higher than ever this year," said Donna Wilson-Johnston, founder of Services from the Heart.

# Why Does Bill And Melinda Gates' Divorce Mesmerize Us?

**David V. Diggs Esq.**



In early May, Bill and Melinda Gates, two of the planet's wealthiest people, publicly announced that they were ending their 27-year marriage. The couple has been active in all areas of philanthropy, funding educational, environmental and other causes through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Unlike most of my clients, the Gateses issued a joint public announcement:

Why do celebrity divorces capti-

vate? Is it merely rubbernecking and voyeurism, as we revel in the pain and suffering of those at the high end of the socioeconomic spectrum? I suppose high-powered couples divorce for the same reasons that normal folks do. Sometimes the marriage was doomed from the start. Other times, spouses drift apart as interests and commitments take them in different directions. Infidelity, cruelty and abuse are some fault-based causes of divorce.

Whatever the reasons, Bill and Melinda's separation offers us some teachable moments. A joint announcement is a wonderfully civil way to break the news to others, particularly children. When parents of young ones separate, it is essential that the news be delivered jointly.

Said message must be accompanied with reassurance that children are not to blame, that they are loved and that they will continue to be protected.

The Gateses also saved potential millions in attorney fees by resolving their differences amicably and (apparently) collaboratively, without

contested litigation. It is certainly easier to resolve cases when there are billions to be divided, but everyone benefits when issues are resolved through negotiation, cooperation and perhaps mediation.

There are reports that Bill had an affair. Neither party is explaining the reasons for their separation. They don't have to, and neither do my clients. Unfortunately, their request for privacy doesn't appear to have been heeded.

Perhaps most important, the couple has agreed to continue to work together at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. That's an impressive transitional plan, although I suspect one or the other may bow out within a year or two. Nevertheless, we wish them well and we can stop craning our necks.

*If you are contemplating separation or divorce, you will have many questions. You should consult with an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is experienced in all facets of family law. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1171, or email [david@diggsllaw.com](mailto:david@diggsllaw.com). The staff is fully vaccinated.*

"After a great deal of thought, and a lot of work on our relationship, we have made the decision to end our marriage. Over the last 27 years, we have raised three incredible children and built a foundation that works all over the world to enable all people to lead healthy, productive lives. We continue to share our belief in that mission and we will continue to work together at the foundation, but we no longer believe we can grow together as a couple in this next phase of our lives. We ask for space and privacy for our family as we begin to navigate this new life."

- Melinda and Bill Gates



# Solley Cove Boat Ramp Provides Water Access For County Residents

**By Zach Sparks**

*zach@severnaparkvoice.com*

Anne Arundel County now has its sixth public boat ramp following a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Solley Cove Park in Curtis Bay on July 15.

“This is not just for south county or north county but for everywhere,” said Jessica Leys, director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks.

Offering access to Curtis Creek, the site includes a trailered boat ramp on one side and a kayak beach launch on the other side.

Funding for the \$2 million project was approved previously by then County Executive Steve Schuh and the Anne Arundel County Council, which had Derek Fink serving District 3 and John Grasso representing District 2.

Solley Cove gives people another boat launch option. Other locations are at Sandy Point State Park and Truxton Park in Annapolis, Fort Smallwood Park in Pasadena, and Discovery Village in Shady Side. The Tucker Street boat ramp is available only to Anne Arundel County residents.

“There are 14,000 boats on trailers in Anne Arundel County,” Pittman said, “so when you start doing the math, there is a lot of demand.”

Pittman said the ramp allows people who aren’t born into wealthy families

to enjoy Anne Arundel County’s 533 miles of waterfront.

“When people don’t have the opportunity to be close to the water, they don’t have the heart to be good stewards,” Pittman said.

Lisa Arrasmith, chair of the Public Water Access Committee, was among a group of kayakers who used the beach launch area following the ceremony. The new amenity is worth celebrating, but county residents deserve even more public water access, she said. No other boat ramps are currently in the county budget.

“Queen Anne’s County, right across the Bay Bridge, has 12 public boat ramps for less than 2,000 registered trailered boats,” Arrasmith said. “The new Solley Cove public boat ramp is a beautiful facility and a good start toward solving the drastic need for more public boat ramps in Anne Arundel County. What’s next?”

Solley Cove Park is open from dawn to dusk and is located at 7360 Carbide Road in Curtis Bay. The parking lot has long spaces for trucks and trailers and regular car parking spots.

Pittman envisions a time when county government will hold Anne Arundel river days with festivals and free boat rides.

“We can get a lot of people out on the water who haven’t been before,” Pittman said.

# National Night Out



Photos by Zach Sparks

*National Night Out was made possible by many groups including the Eastern District Police Department, Pasadena Business Association, Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, Greater Severna Park Council, Broadneck Council of Communities and Cape St. Claire Improvement Association.*



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**Michele Sabean**  
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*"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back."*  
 - **Maya Angelou**

During these slower days of summer, many of us enjoy baseball, watermelon, barbecues, the pool and beach, and most importantly, time to gather with family and friends. For many, giving back is also part of their summer routine. I am continually reminded of this as SPAN receives food and financial donations and has amazing volunteers who give of their time. I want to thank the many in this community who continue to use their time, talents and resources to help SPAN provide food and emergency financial assistance to those in need.



During this summer break, we have several examples of youth taking time to "throw something back" to help others. SPAN partnered with the Chartwell Young Leaders for our float in the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's Independence Day parade. Our entry received second place in the nonprofit category. The youth hit golf balls off the float while others caught them as we moved down the parade route. They also helped collect food and financial donations from the crowd. The Severna Park United Methodist Church youth group did a food frenzy collection and provided SPAN with a truckload full of food! From Anne Arundel County Public Schools students, we



SPAN partnered with the Chartwell Young Leaders for a float in the Independence Day parade.

continue to receive beautiful hand-created cards with inspirational messages that are packed with the food for our clients and birthday bags filled with supplies to help our clients celebrate their children's birthdays.

A big thank you also to the Crain West/Hillendale and Chartwell garden clubs and Tim Blanchfield's Long and Foster team, each of whom did wonderful collections of food and money to benefit SPAN. We are also grateful for Randy Groff, who provides us with fresh eggs, and for Diehl's Produce and all the wonderful community members who continue to "round up" their purchases to provide gift cards to SPAN clients. We are so blessed that many of our clients are able leave with eggs and gift cards for fresh produce in addition to nonperishables.

With the uncertainty of the delta variant, and for

some the uncertainty as the pandemic safety net policies expire, it is great to know that we can count on this community to help!

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](mailto:spanhelps@yahoo.com) or visit [www.spanhelps.org](http://www.spanhelps.org). Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off using the storage bin behind SPAN's building.

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## County Council Civil Service Opportunities And Update

**Amanda Fiedler**  
Councilwoman  
District 5



For the month of August, the Anne Arundel County Council is in a legislative recess. While there are no public meetings or discussions over legislation, working for the residents of our district takes place every day. One responsibility of the county council is to appoint individuals to commissions within the county. There are a total of 60 boards, commissions and councils in Anne Arundel, and each of these bodies is composed of selected volunteers who were vetted through an application process.

In the past three years of serving on the council, I have voted on appointments to the Board of Appeals, Human Relations Commission, Pension Oversight Commission, Soil Conservation District and Planning Advisory Board, just to name a few. With five dozen civil service groups in the county, the need for interested and willing volunteers is critically important to the success of each.

The county council has three upcoming appointments when we return from our summer recess. In September, appointments will be made to the Salary Standard Commission and the Ethics Commission.

The Salary Standards Commission is tasked with reviewing current council compensation and benefits, comparing with surrounding jurisdictions and counterparts across the country, and making recommendations for any changes to the next county council. This is a four-year term for all seven members.

The Ethics Commission was created by voters to administer the Public Ethics Law, in addition to training and advising county employees. The commission assures the residents of the county that elected officials and employees have impartial and independent judgment in decisions that they are tasked with. There is one seat open for appointment by the council for this commission.

Later this year, the council will appoint members to the Charter Review Commission and Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee will have the responsibility of

reviewing our district as part of the General Development Plan for Region 4. They will create a document of recommendations for land use, zoning, environmental features, infrastructure and public safety, while staying in line with the goals of Plan2040.

The Charter Review Commission has an important responsibility to the citizens of Anne Arundel County as their primary role is to recommend revisions to the county charter and councilmanic redistricting. Simply put, our charter is the framework for county government, granting powers, duties and privileges, specifically for Anne Arundel County. Our councilmanic map determines which district you reside in, of the seven council districts. The commission will be tasked with using the 2020 census information to create near equal populations in each district. The county council is actively seeking applications for the Charter Review Commission.

While there are just four known commission or committee appointments the council will make this year, having qualified, interested individuals submit resumes for future considerations is very important. Whether it be an unexpected vacancy, or a term limit, the council is regularly responsible for filling these important seats. I hope all residents will consider these opportunities.

When the council reconvenes in September, two pieces of legislation I have introduced are scheduled for public comment and a vote.

The first is Resolution 36-21, in support of the county executive promptly entering into an agreement with Robert A. Pascal Youth and Family Services for the leasing of a county owned property adjacent to a current property that Pascal Youth and Family Services is currently leasing. In 2019, Pascal entered into an agreement with the county to lease a vacant county owned building and expeditiously invested over \$700,000 to renovate and bring the interior and exterior up to code in order to offer critical mental health services and beds for those in crisis. This new leasing opportunity would help Pascal expand its services to address its daily waitlist of over a dozen residents in need, at no cost to the taxpayer.

This expansion to a building that has an elevator would also allow Pascal to offer mental health

» Continued on page 18

## Some New Laws

**Michael Malone**  
Delegate  
District 33



On July 1, many bills went into effect as law. Many of the bills were technical in nature in that they may have altered the definition of a certain statute, changed a dollar amount based on today's money, or even helped in updating laws where technology surpassed the actual language. Careful consideration by the respective committees and the supporting staff in the legislature as well as the Senate and House Floor debates is taken into account to make these bills into law.

Below is a summary of a few bills which just became law and may impact you or your loved ones in the community.

### Education

In my years in college and also during my older children's years in college, textbooks were expensive. While you don't think of these books (or at least our family did not) as part of college tuition while budgeting, the costs of textbooks became high. *Senate Bill 667*

*University of System of Maryland – Textbooks – Availability of Free or Low-Cost Digital Materials (Textbook Transparency Act of 2020)* requires all Maryland schools of higher education to “develop a method to clearly and conspicuously show students in the online course catalog which courses use free or low-cost digital materials and may provide access to certain low-cost print materials; and providing that certain free or low-cost digital materials include certain resources and be equally accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities.”

*Senate Bill 405 Higher Education – Student Identification Cards – Required Information* was passed into law, requiring that the institution where these students study must now provide the number to Maryland's helpline on their personal ID badges. This easily available number must be the institution's hotline in case a mental health crisis occurs either to them or to someone on the campus. Help is readily available.

A new office of telework assistance has been established to assist in creating and developing “best practices for telework policies and guidelines. *House Bill 73 – State and Local Government and Public Institutions of Higher Education – Teleworking* is the new law that mandates

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## A Loss For Our Community

**Dana Schallheim**  
Board of Education  
District 5



On July 16, our community lost a devoted public servant and staunch advocate for our students and school system when Candace C.W. Antwine, Board of Education member who represented District 1, passed away unexpectedly. Candace was not only my colleague but also a dear friend.

To say I am heartbroken and devastated is an understatement. My heart goes out to her son, Joey, a Meade High School graduate, and to her family and friends. While her six-year term on the board was cut short after only two years and seven months, she made an indelible mark on the school system.

Candace focused on the health of the school system, promoting inclusion of our diverse student body, eradicating bullying and bias, supporting our military families and those who often didn't have a voice. Whether you agreed with her votes or not, no one can say that she

didn't always put the students first. Her death is a loss for the entire community.

I will always be proud of the work Candace and I, along with our other board colleagues, accomplished over the last couple of years. Candace's perspective was always needed. A diverse school system requires diverse representation on the board in all aspects. Candace not only represented her district well but also fought for all students from all corners of the county. She served on multiple board committees as well as on several Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) committees.

I am currently developing meaningful and lasting ways to honor her memory and carry her work forward to benefit the students of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Proceeding on the path she helped forge with her colleagues, myself included, is the only way I can get through this tragedy and heal — hardly a replacement for her presence, collaboration and friendship.

While each member is grieving in his or her own way, I already see encouraging signs that this tragedy will help all of us recognize the need to hit the reset button and remember

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## Some New Laws Went Into Effect This July

» Continued from page 17

the state court administrator, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House and the public institutions' presidents create all programs related to teleworking.

**Health care** has been impacted in an unprecedented way by what has happened over the past two years. Many new laws will enhance our health care system as a result.

For example, *Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021 (House Bill 123)*. This act mandates that the Maryland Medical Assistance Program provide telehealth services, with

some limitations, to include counseling and treatment. No longer will telehealth be excluded as an option to a person needing assistance. The Maryland Health Care Commission is now required to submit its reports on telehealth and how they are providing these services.

*Senate Bill 102 Income Tax Credits For Preceptors In Areas With Health Care Workforce* allows health care workers a tax credit "requiring that a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner work at least three rotations, with each rotation consisting of 100 hours of

community based clinical training in an area identified as having a health care workforce shortage, in order to qualify for a certain credit against the state income tax; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to issue a tax credit certificate for \$1,000."

Also noteworthy is the notary public stamp need not have jurisdiction information on the certain stamp, but it does require county residence and qualification information to remain. *Senate Bill 212 State Government - Notaries*.

Specific to **Anne Arundel County**, if a business owner holds a crowd control training certification, then that owner can offer "on-premises consumption" of beer and or wine. This is now considered a Class MT license thanks to the passage of *House Bill 674 Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class MT License* signed into law by the Governor Larry Hogan and effective July 1. Please note there is a per person maximum of two servings per day.

More than 700 bills were passed during the 2021 regular session. Please refer to all the bills passed or vetoed this session: [www.legiscan.com/MD](http://www.legiscan.com/MD). This link displays 10 years of all laws of the most viewed bills, most monitored and who their specific sponsor was, etc. I look forward to the next session and seeing what legislation will be "top of mind" for our great county and state.

## County Council

» Continued from page 17

crisis services to those who are disabled. While I was disappointed that the administration asked the council to reject this resolution, I will be steadfast in my support of growing private and public partnerships that provide the necessary and critical treatment to those in crisis.

Bill 71-21 will restructure the certification and renewal process for pool operating and lifeguard licenses in the county. Currently, the county is one of few, if not the only, jurisdiction to require lifeguards to get a license from the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, verifying their certification as a lifeguard. We are also the only large jurisdiction to require an annual certification for pool operators. Both of these are unnecessary, burdensome and costly steps to pool management companies, community owned pools and the department staff. This bill will remove the necessity to license a certified lifeguard and will move the pool operating certification to a triennial timeline. I will continue to address bureaucratic waste in an effort to support local business, their employees and use of your tax dollars.

If you are interested in serving on a county commission or board and would like more information, please reach out to me. I am available to you and your family for all questions and concerns related to our great district. Contact me at [amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org](mailto:amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org).

## A Loss For Our Community

» Continued from page 17

that we are all on the same team, with the same goal: to ensure that all AACPS students receive a world-class equitable education.

Now the Anne Arundel County Council has quite the task ahead of them as they work to appoint someone to serve the remainder of Candace's term. The county council unanimously passed Resolution 40-21 on July 29, which sets forth the process to select a successor to Ms. Antwine for the District 1 seat on the Board of Education.

Here are the highlights of that resolution:

- The application period for District 1 residents who wish to apply opened on August 2 and closes on Wednesday,

September 1.

- The county council will hold at least one hearing with public interviews of the applicants before moving to a roll call voting process.
- If no applicant receives a majority of the votes on the first ballot, a subsequent roll call vote will be held that will consist of all applicants receiving votes on the previous roll call vote. This will continue until an applicant receives a majority of the votes.
- The county council will then confirm the applicant by passage of a resolution.

Materials related to the application process are posted on the Anne Arundel County website. May Candace's memory forever be a blessing.



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## Plating Grace And Grub Food Truck Rolls Into Severna Park August 21

By Judy Tacyn

You may know the Rev. Leo Patalinghug as the Baltimore Catholic priest who brought down Bobby Flay in an episode of “Throwdown With Bobby Flay” on the Food Network, but he is also the founder of Plating Grace, “a fun, family focused, dynamic ministry seeking to bring about a future of stronger families, closer relationships, and a deeper understanding of Jesus as food for our mind, body and soul.”

On Saturday, August 21, Patalinghug will bring his Plating Grace and Grub food truck to St. John the Evangelist, and you're invited.

Patalinghug's love for food has been marinating since his childhood thanks to his mother, a home economics teacher. He worked in restaurants before entering the seminary, and when he was studying in Rome for the priesthood, he found time to take cooking classes just for fun. After his ordination, he continued devouring cooking classes not only to hone his culinary skills but also to learn about cultures and people through the food they eat to

celebrate their faith, family and culture.

“It's obvious that love of God must always come first. But when God sends us food, we recognize how each meal, especially the sacred meal of the Holy Eucharist, is an opportunity to love God more,” said Patalinghug, a priest in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Throughout the course of his 22 years of priesthood, Patalinghug has developed a calling to connect food in faith, which eventually lead to his “Savoring Our Faith” television program on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), now in its 10th season. The program has led to books, speaking opportunities, and now the Plating Grace and Grub food truck.

“Plating Grace came about originally as a joke but was then taken very seriously when I explained how the family meal is an essential part of a healthy family,” Patalinghug said. “I grew up in Baltimore, and while I did not personally experience food insecurity, I recognize that many around me did. More importantly, however, I recognize how a regular family meal has helped my family weather the difficul-



The Rev. Leo Patalinghug (far left) and his culinary team will bring their Plating Grace and Grub food truck to St. John the Evangelist following the 5:15pm mass on August 21. The truck boasts a menu based on foods from around the world.

ties and challenges that all families face.”

The new state-of-the-art and crowd-funded food truck boasts a menu based on foods from around the world that Patalinghug personally finds delicious, satisfying and comforting.

“It's not pretentious food, but it is chef driven, precisely made, and very approachable,” he added.

The Plating Grace and Grub food truck, in partnership with the Franciscan Center in Baltimore, brings food to 10 homeless encampments in Baltimore. But the truck does more than feed people; it provides jobs, professional skills and personal development opportunities for formerly incarcerated people who prepare ingredients, cook food, and serve people.

“We are giving people a chance to learn the virtues of hospitality in order to help them become more professional for their

future and for their families,” Patalinghug said. “Besides that, we are giving everyone a chance, no matter what their background, to come together and celebrate around great food and meaningful experiences.”

Patalinghug will celebrate mass at 5:15pm at St. John the Evangelist, after which all are welcome to eat at the Plating Grace and Grub food truck. This event is open to all regardless of religion.

“We're asking for people to taste our food and hear our message. We want to invite them to celebrate their faith not just in the church but around their own dinner tables,” he added.

To learn more about Plating Grace and its mission to bring people together one meal at a time, and to feed the homeless and hungry in Baltimore, visit [www.platinggrace.com](http://www.platinggrace.com).

## Vacation Bible School Roundup



Asbury United Methodist Church started its Rocky Railway-themed Vacation Bible School on July 12.

By Haley Weisgerber

Local churches rang in the summer by hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) to engage the youngest members of the community.

### ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Asbury United Methodist Church (AUMC) kicked off its VBS festivities on July 12 for “Rocky Railway - Jesus Pulls us Through.”

“It was all about trains, and the main theme was Jesus' power pulls us through life's ups and downs,” said Kris Neale, who coordinated VBS this year at AUMC. “Each day focuses on Jesus' power, whether it's Jesus' power that helps us do hard

things or Jesus' power that gives us hope and helps us to be good friends.”

Neale said the children were initially nervous, but as they did crafts and obstacle courses, they began to warm up.

“By the end of the week, the kids didn't leave,” said Neale. “We had a celebration that following Sunday and so many of the families came back and with the kids. They were all still so excited about what they had done throughout the week.”

The week went off without a hitch thanks to the team of volunteers who put everything together in less than a month.

Neale was happy to engage the youth in the church community. During the pandemic, with everything getting canceled, the youth were left out of many activities.

“There wasn't a lot of opportunity to really have that connection with our youngest,” said Neale. “And this was a great way to do that for everybody.”

### SEVERNA PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

April Montagne is celebrating her third year as the children's coordinator at Severna Park Baptist Church (SPBC), and her third summer leading VBS. Last year, Montagne introduced family VBS outdoors. Children were not dropped off, and she modified the idea this year to include indoor activities. On July 20 through July 22, families gathered at SPBC for Concrete and Cranes, a construction-themed VBS.

“The theme was building on the love of Jesus Christ,” said Montagne. “The» Continued on page 22

## Divine Mercy Academy Celebrates First Year In Pasadena

### School Has Severna Park Roots



By John Singleton

Pasadena's first classical school has grown 120% in one year. And it's time to celebrate!

“We're throwing a party on October 30 to celebrate our success and say thank you!” explained Ali Ghaffari, founder of Divine Mercy Academy. “The first annual All Saints Fun Run is designed to raise funds to help us fully achieve our mission of making saints. Funds received will go to enhance the teaching materials in the classroom, to improve compensation for our teachers, and to fund a number of efforts which deepen our students' relationship with God. Our goal is \$100,000.”

Making friends is a legacy of Divine Mercy Academy (DMA). Since its inception in 2018, the school has grown

from 18 to 80 students on a shoe-string budget.

“We started in a single room in Severna Park with two classes separated by an accordion divider,” added Ghaffari, who lives in Severna Park with his wife and three daughters. “Outgrowing our space, we moved to Pasadena last fall in the empty former convent at St. Jane Frances, which we outgrew in a year. We have now moved into the space where St. Jane Frances Elementary School used to be.”

During the 2020-2021 school year, faith and an assurance of things unseen renewed the community in a time of uncertainty.

“Our teachers' sense of joy sustained our school,” Ghaffari said. “It was amazing to watch them laugh, sing and inspire our children through what was a trying time for the world.”

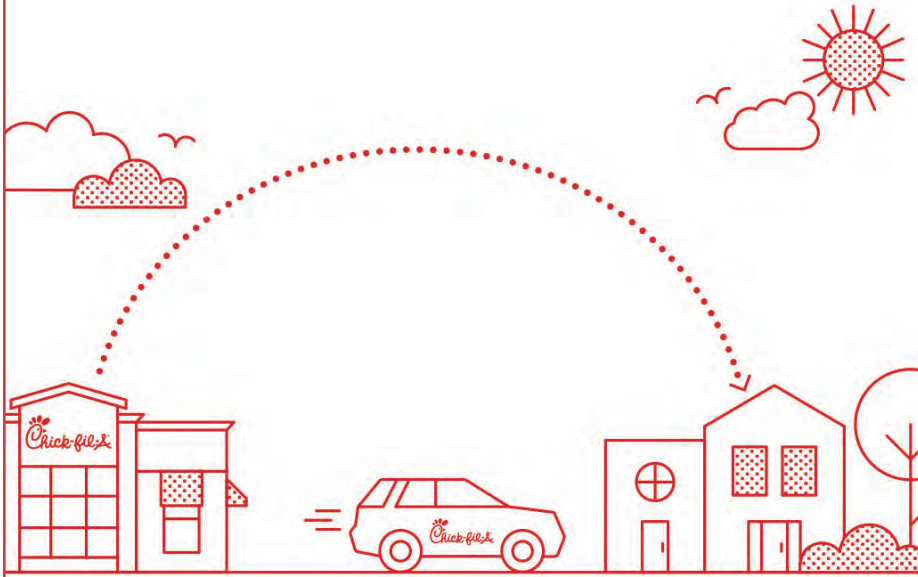
Connecting students with their spiritual roots in Athens, Jerusalem and Rome has proven successful for

» Continued on page 22



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## News From Temple Beth Shalom

The month of August is primarily occupied by the Hebrew month of Elul, which is the preparatory month of introspection prior to the High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). In many traditional settings, the shofar (ram's horn) is sounded every morning of this month. Sabbath services are on August 13, August 20 and August 27, all at 7:00pm. Additionally, on Saturday, August 28, the High Holy Days commence with the holiday of Selichot. It will be observed with a movie and discussion at 6:30pm, followed by a service at 9:00pm including the dramatic sound of the shofar.

## Woods Welcomes All To "A Closer Walk"

Join Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church as members walk together through worship, enjoy their traditional picnic with food and music, and hold ministry activities outside on the lawn September 12 from noon to 2:00pm. The event, called A Closer Walk, is free and open to all. Invite your friends, neighbors, and get to know your church family. Walk with Woods as members fellowship together in this new programming year;

walk with them as they grow in faith; and walk with them around Woods' campus as they launch WoodsWalk. The grounds of Woods Church is developing dedicated walks such as the spiritual walk, offering a chance for mediation at various points of interest and reflection, and the environmental walk, where everyone can appreciate the splendor of God's creation and all that Woods has done to be stewards of this creation.

## Divine Mercy Academy

» Continued from page 20  
Divine Mercy Academy and other classical schools. "Plato, Aristotle, and the great books of the western tradition had an enormous impact on my faith journey," Ghaffari said. "In the end, it came down to the greatest book of all, the Bible. Now we're

passing these treasures on to the next generation." Registration for the All Saints 5K Fun Run is \$35. The run is scheduled for 9:00am on October 30. Contact Adam Farber at 410-212-0029 or [arbera@gmail.com](mailto:arbera@gmail.com) to register or inquire about being a sponsor.

## Vacation Bible School Roundup

» Continued from page 20  
concrete and the cranes were building on Jesus' foundation." Montagne said her favorite part of VBS this year was watching the children learn about the Bible with their families. "It was just so heartwarming to be able to do something like this again after being cooped up for so long," said Montagne.

### SEVERNA PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Severna Park United Methodist Church kicked off its Vacation Bible School on August 2. This year, the theme was "I Wonder." "Kids wonder about so many things, so we are going to lean into all their wonders," said Erica Benjamin, director of children's ministries, as the VBS was getting underway. "Kids will be encouraged to think about what God created them for, what their gifts are and how they can use them, and what people around them can learn from."

Benjamin has been running the VBS at SPUMC for 11 years. This year, she started planning in January with a survey sent out to parents to gauge how comfortable parents would be with sending their children to an in-person VBS this year. Children were placed in smaller cohorts to keep the 120 kids and 55 volunteers safe. Students engaged their imaginations while experimenting with science, technology, mathematics and engineering. "We will be spending a lot of time in the scientific process beginning by asking questions and posing hypotheses,"



Severna Park United Methodist Church kicked off its "I Wonder" themed Vacation Bible School on August 2.

Benjamin said early in the week. "Asking questions and finding answers is an important part of our faith, just like the scientific process." When it comes to choosing a favorite part about VBS, Benjamin said she loves everything. "I love working alongside our volunteers, so they feel empowered to share their gifts," she said. "I love hearing the laughter, singing and energy of the kids. I love when kids have that moment of getting it and realizing how loved they are by God." Benjamin is hoping to welcome 300 kids to SPUMC next summer for a food-truck-themed VBS.

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## BHS Athletes Represent Team USA In Summer Olympics

**R**unner Matthew Centrowitz and windsurfer Farrah Hall, Broadneck graduates, both came to the Olympic Games in Tokyo with big goals. Centrowitz joined the Olympic field in hopes of defending his title in the 1,500-meter run. Hall, who finished 20th at the London Games in 2012, was looking to finish higher this Olympics.



Photo courtesy of Sailing Energy/World Sailing

Farrah Hall concluded her event with a 16, 16, 16 in the 27-board Women's RS:X fleet, ending the regatta in 15th overall.

### Farrah Hall

Farrah Hall concluded her event with a 16, 16, 16 in the 27-board Women's RS:X fleet, ending the regatta in 15th overall. As full-fleet racing ended, and Hall was not in the top 10 overall, she did not progress to the medal race.

Hall raced in heavy winds and big waves for much of the week, conditions she noted she has struggled with in the past, but she showed significant improvement off Enoshima.

"As far as competition goes, this is one of the best regattas that I've ever had," Hall said in a statement. "My speed was awesome. I was smoking around the course, and I had some good fights. What I'm really happy with is that I gave 100 percent, did everything that I could, and I sailed well. I didn't make any major mistakes and I finished with a really good regatta for me. In London, I was a little bit less prepared just because I was more of a rookie, and I wasn't extremely happy with my regatta. But at Tokyo 2020, I can say that I'm very happy with this regatta. I have a huge appreciation for the RS:X class, where you have to be a real athlete to sail it."

Photo courtesy of AP/Charlie Riedel

Abel Kipsang, of Kenya, led Matthew Centrowitz, of United States, and Azeddine Habz, of France, to win a men's

1,500-meter heat at the 2020 Summer Olympics on August 3 in Tokyo, Japan.

### Matthew Centrowitz

When he won the 1,500-meter final as a 26-year-old in 2016, Matthew Centrowitz became the first American to earn gold in the event since 1908. He previously came in fourth at the 2012 Olympics.

Winning gold again was going to be a huge challenge, not only because Centrowitz is 31 years old but also because his field was stacked with formidable challengers.

With a time of 3:33.69, Centrowitz came in ninth place during the second semifinal and did not qualify for the gold medal race. Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen captured gold in the final.



## Anthony Domina Drafted By North American Hockey League's North Iowa Bulls

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park has always been known for developing outstanding lacrosse players. But now, with Jackson Merrill being drafted in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft by the San Diego Padres, Severna Park is getting noticed for developing athletes in other sports.

The latest Severna Park athlete drafted was Anthony Domina, who was selected in the fifth round by the North Iowa Bulls of the North American Hockey League (NAHL).

"I started watching hockey with my dad at 4 years old and began playing hockey at 5," said Domina, who was raised in the Manhattan Beach neighborhood of Severna Park.

"I played lacrosse and baseball growing up, but I was best at hockey," Domina said. "I love the game. I love the physicality and quickness of the game."

After playing in numerous leagues at Piney Orchard and other rinks in the Washington area,



Anthony Domina was selected in the fifth round of the North American Hockey League (NAHL) by the North Iowa Bulls. He previously played at the Northern Cyclones Academy in Hudson, New Hampshire.

Domina was offered a chance to play at the Northern Cyclones Academy in Hudson, New Hampshire. That school  
» Continued on page 30

## Age Is Just A Number For Senior Softball Players



Mike West, commissioner of the Anne Arundel County Senior Softball Association, pitched for the Severna Park Taphouse team this season.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Al Hunter has some advice for his teammates in the Anne Arundel County Senior Softball Association.

"You always swing at the first pitch because you might not be around for the next one," he joked. "A guy our age, you don't buy green bananas."

Banter is common at the Bachmann Sports Complex in Glen Burnie, where senior softball players compete. That camaraderie keeps the

"You always swing at the first pitch because you might not be around for the next one. A guy our age, you don't buy green bananas."

— AL HUNTER

men coming back to the sport each year, giving them an opportunity to  
» Continued on page 30



# Green Hornets Rugby Roundup

Several Green Hornets rugby teams took the field this summer, and they produced great results while forming new friendships.

## CHAMPIONS

### U13

The U13 Severna Park Green Hornets rugby team capped off an incredible season by once again claiming the title of best U13 team in the state on August 1. The team, consisting of **Brook Nagle, Ailee Briggs, Calhan Cassidy, Dash Havens, Grayson Robinson, Jackson Eaton, Noah Croghan** and **Zoey Evora**, put up a perfect record of 4-0 in their championship run, scoring 133 points and allowing a mere 24 points.

The team is unique in that they are not just amazing rugby players but amazing friends. They possess an impressive chemistry that, when paired with their high levels of skill, is the perfect combination for a dominant squad. MVP honors of the day go to flyhalf Dash Havens, who not only commanded a new and intricate system but also was successful on over 90% of his conversion kicks. Every player on the pitch had notable plays and everyone brought full effort to the table in every minute of every game.

Coaches **Ryan O'Kane, Sean Martin, Brendan Nagle** and **Matt Ramirez** have nothing but positive notes to add.

"There is truly nothing that can make a coach prouder than to see a group of kids work so hard all season long and walk away from this tournament with a state title," said Ramirez, who has coached

Severna Park's U13 Green Hornets rugby team claimed the title of best U13 team in Maryland on August 1.



Green Hornets rugby for six years. "Since our first practice in June, we knew that this group was special, and we made that very clear to them. Nothing less than the best was expected from this group of kids, and they delivered nothing but the highest level of effort, concentration, performance and execution.

"I witnessed nothing but absolutely inspiring play from everyone on the pitch," he continued. "We had awesome performances in Grayson, Calhan and Noah's stellar backline play and Ailee, Zoey and Jackson's gritty forward style. Just as importantly, we saw an absolute catalyst of a player in Brooke, coming off the bench every game and consistently putting the nail in the coffin, especially in a 60-meter breakaway run to secure the state championship game and title. Every member of this squad played the best games they've played all year and should walk away from this tournament proud of not only their rugby performance but their composure, demeanor and levels of class they've exhibited today."



The U7 Green Hornets finished the season with two wins and one tie.

## OTHER TEAMS

### U7

Led by veteran **Charlotte Gibson** and newcomer **Lucas Aquino**, the U7 Green Hornets capped off an undefeated season with two wins and one tie at the 2021 Maryland Rugby Festival.

"We only had had seven players today, so our players had to play every minute of the three games," coach Matt Aquino said after the game on July 31. "I'm very proud of them for the hard work today and this season."

The team included **Amelia "Millie" Davis, Ronan Dapkus, Avory Evora, Charlotte Gibson, Harry Graham, Jackson Minor** and Lucas Aquino.

### U9

The U9 Green Hornets won all three of their games on July 31. With nearly 20 tries by the team and only three surrendered, the kids dominated. The team was led by scrum half **Kieran Gipson, Arjun Carie, Brooks Bilzor, Rachel Werner, Waverly Alexander, Laken Alexander** and **Noah Mack**.

### U11

The U11 team finished off a great season by coming fourth in the state championships after ending the regular season with nine wins and one loss.

They started the tournament with a 25-15 win against the West Carroll Marauders, followed by a 15-15 tie with the Washington Warriors.

They lost their final pool game and semifinal to the eventual champions, Ellicott City.

The team of **Ares Mason, Cade Cobb, Elly Davis, Heath Gardner, Landan Weiciech, Lincoln Latchaw, Rodney Anderson, Stuart Werner** and **Will Gibson** end the season after progressing in their teamwork and rugby skills. The team's thoughts were also with teammates **Clark and Callen LaChappelle**, who missed the tournament for a family member's memorial service.

### U16

Severna Park's U16 rugby squad finished their winningest season in recent history. Unfortunately, with some key veteran players missing from the state tournament due to vacation schedules, the remaining U16 players had to step up and play in unfamiliar positions in the toughest bracket of the tournament. While they went 1-3 in the tournament, the kids gave their all the entire day.

"As a coach watching these kids step up and do as well as they did, I couldn't have been more proud," said coach Ryan O'Kane. "While they didn't win the tournament, it was still an incredible year of rugby for these kids."

The team included **Liam Cooney, Sawyer Knapp, Alejandro J. Almodover-Vives, Gabriela Jurado, Ryan O'Kane, Tatum Isaacs, Riordan O'Kane** and **Darby Doyle**.

## Hornets Enjoys Great Turnout In First Flag Football Season



The Greater Severna Park Athletic Association formed a flag football league this summer and saw immediate demand as the league recruited 250 kids for a total of 21 teams. A successful 2021 campaign ended on July 30 as the teams clashed during competitive play on the turf fields at Kinder Farm Park.





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# API 12U Travel Baseball Has Outstanding Season



API's 12U travel baseball team won the Essex Father's Day Summer Classic tournament in June.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

It's not easy to go on the road and outshine the best regional teams during a tournament, let alone

several. That's exactly what the 12U API Academy travel baseball team did, winning four tournaments this year, and earning finalist honors in two others, on their way to a 50-18-1 record.

The players were crowned champions of the Frederick Spring Classic, the STATS Memorial Day Tournament, the Sports at the Beach 2021 Coastal Clash Open, and the Essex Father's Day Sum-

mer Classic tournament. They were finalists in the Fruitland St. Patrick's Day Bash and Crofton Swing Into Spring. The 12U team also reached the elite eight in the Myrtle Beach Nationals, which included 41 teams from around the U.S.

Head coach **Chad Moran** said the strength of the team was that every player had "a moment" that helped the team win and each athlete bought into the philosophy of "do your job and play your role."

"The growth started in fall ball, and they were committed to the process," Moran said. "We had kids throughout the lineup who could hit. They grew through the year. Some kids who were Saturday starters became Sunday starters."

The goal is to develop players so they are ready to make a high school team if they wish, he said.

Of the 12 players on the roster, 10 are from Severna Park or the Broadneck peninsula.

The 12U API Academy travel baseball team featured **Silas Lane, Logan Clarke, Mason Schreiner, Logan Moran, Brett Hudson, Alex Merlino, Fletcher Warner, Easton O'Brien, Cooper Mengel, Conrad Maillard, Jonah Lucas** and **Andy Blanck**.

Chad Moran led the team with help from assistant **Jeff Mengel** and assistant/pitching coach **Eric Clarke**.

"We wanted it to be a spring to remember, so we had high expectations," Chad Moran said. "The boys had a special season."

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# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

## Brendan Para

Severn River Swim Club  
SPRFC Stingrays

By Zach Sparks

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

**B**rendan Para swam for Severn River Swim Club this summer, but his individual results were not his sole focus. "He was a huge role model on our team," said Amy Miller, swim team manager. "He took it upon himself to cheer on all of our swimmers."

A swimmer since the age of 6, the 13-year-old Para competes with the Sharks and also for the Stingrays, the Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club team.

In recognition of his dedication to the team, commitment to improvement, and outstanding character, he became the third winner of the McTammany Award. The award is named after Mike McTammany, who has coached for the Severn River Swim Club since 1987.

"Brendan was just always supportive of his teammates," McTammany said. "He pushes himself to be the best and helps others be the best they can be."

Para was surprised to win the honor and said he was "so happy" when he was notified. He takes pride in being a good teammate.

"You see someone who is nervous or on the edge, and I give them some advice," he said. "Then they try and that's all that matters."

In his first meet for Severn River Swim Club



**Brendan Para proudly accepted the McTammany Award from Mike McTammany, who has coached with Severn River Swim Club since 1987.**

this year, against Bay Hills on June 19, Para finished first in the boys 13-14 age group for 50-yard backstroke (37.40), first in the 100-yard individual medley (1:20.40), first in the 50-yard butterfly (38.76) and second in the 50-yard breaststroke (44.96).

“

*Brendan was just always supportive of his teammates. He pushes himself to be the best and helps others be the best they can be.*

— MIKE MCTAMMANY  
COACH, SEVERN RIVER SWIM CLUB

In Week 2 against Truxtun Park on June 26, he placed first in the 100-yard individual medley (1:12.79), 50-yard backstroke (32.94), 50-yard breaststroke (39.27) and 50-yard butterfly (33.13).

Week 3 pitted Severn River against Mayo on July 3. Para again finished first in the individual medley (1:11.84), 50-yard free-style (28.14), 50-yard backstroke (33.23) and 50-yard butterfly (33.40).

In Week 4 against Indian Landing Boat Club on July 10, Para finished the season with first-place finishes in the 50-yard backstroke (33.25) and 50-yard butterfly (33.01). He also took third in 50-yard breaststroke (40.09).

Para has been practicing long course. He wants to swim in high school, potentially even college and beyond.

"I was watching the Olympics and I think it would be a huge accomplishment to make it to the Olympics," he said.

*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](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com) to nominate a young person in our community making a positive impact through sports.*

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**Yvette Williams**  
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## Age Is Just A Number

» Continued from page 23  
feel young and active.

Teams are named after sponsors: Severna Park Taphouse, Glory Days Grill, Cape Hair Scene & Barber Shop, and others.

Of the roughly 80 players in the league, three 87-year-olds are among those who have been active the longest.

Ken Cline from Lansdowne joined the Anne Arundel County league around the age of 66. Twenty years later, he's still enjoying the experience and the laughter.

"I used to play for Catonsville," he said. "This is a good group of guys."

Dick Baker primarily serves as a catcher but previously played in the outfield. This year, he suited up for the Severna Park Taphouse team.

"It's a good way to get exercise and to have a great time with the guys," said Baker, who lives in Glen Burnie.

A pitcher for the Cape Hair Scene & Barber Shop team, Hunter is the third member of the 87-year-old club. He lives near Gambrills and Odenton.

The 2021 season ended in August with Severna Park Taphouse coming in first and Sidelines Sports Bar & Grill finishing second. The Taphouse team included Baker, league commissioner and Arnold resident Mike West, and several other players.

West encourages seniors to sign up in advance of next season. Players must turn 60 or older next year to be eligible.

"Come out and see what you can do," West said. "Everyone has to hit, and everyone plays in the game somewhere along the line."

Players are assessed during tryouts



*Ken Cline, who played for Glory Days Grill this year, joined the Anne Arundel Senior Softball Association roughly 20 years ago and is still pitching.*

each spring, and coaches hold a draft to distribute the talent evenly between teams.

With double bases at first base and with two home plates, the league avoids collisions and limits injury risk.

Baker, who plans to play until he "can't run anymore," said senior softball keeps guys alive longer.

"It's a good way for friendship and to socialize," Baker said. "You get to meet all of the players' wives. It brings families together."

To learn more, contact Mike West at 410-271-2446 or [westarnld@verizon.net](mailto:westarnld@verizon.net).

## Domina Drafted By Bulls

» Continued from page 23

further develops hockey players and has online high school classes and tutoring.

"The academy really focuses on grades as the college recruiters will only take great students with a very high grade point average (GPA)," said Gary Cremen, one of Domina's former coaches, who runs the Piney Orchard facility in Odenton. "If a college is recruiting a player with a 4.0 GPA compared to a 2.5 GPA, they'll take to 4.0 GPA every time because the student exhibits great time management skills and maturity."

The academy also offers players outstanding instruction and exposure to the junior leagues across the county. The Maryland Black Bears, who play at Piney Orchard, are one of those teams.

"I've coached Anthony from 5 years old until 16," Cremen said. "He learned how to play hockey the right way as well as how to skate properly. He's worked hard and listened well to instruction from his coaches."

Cremen has seen the advancement and maturity of Domina, who is also best friends with Cremen's son, Scott. "Both of them have always played up a level, (playing at the next age bracket), so that has really helped them compete at a very high level."

Domina enjoyed his time at the Northern Cyclones Academy because of the specialized training and

opportunity to showcase his skills in front of scouts and recruiters.

"Unlike other sports, the colleges like players to play in the advanced junior leagues for three years to ensure they are mature both mentally and physically when they step on the ice at a college campus," Cremen said. "They are a 21-year-old freshman when they begin their college career."

Hockey now has the advantage of Hockey TV where anyone can watch games being livestreamed. This helps the recruiters see as many players as possible to track their development.

Domina will have a 60-game schedule next year at North Iowa as well as play in an arena that holds 2,200 fans in Mason City, Iowa.

He would like to return to the East Coast to play college hockey, namely Maine or Vermont, and he also has professional National Hockey League aspirations.

Domina knows he needs to keep developing his skills to get the attention of college recruiters, but his dedication to the sport goes back to playing hockey games at 6:45am on Saturday mornings at Piney Orchard.

"He's a great kid and knows he will be playing in front of big crowds in Iowa as it's the only game in town," Cremen said. "He realizes that every time he plays in Iowa, it will be an audition for future scholarships. He's worked very hard for this opportunity."

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## Evergreen Caps Swim Season



Photo courtesy of Laurie Dennis

Despite COVID-related challenges, the Evergreen swim team enjoyed a fun season. The Evergreen swimmers gathered around coaches Colin Dennis and Clara Blevins for a team photo to celebrate the season's end. Assisting the coaches this year were Samuel Ackerman and Abby Cleveland.

## Severn River Swim Club's Athletes Enjoy Summer Success

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severn River Swim Club made a splash during competition this summer, going 3-1 in four meets. Swimmers competed in the Greater Annapolis Swim League and the dive team was in the Central Maryland Dive League.

**Tyler Moran**, a rising junior at Severna Park High School, set team records in the 50-yard freestyle (23.23), 100-yard individual medley (57.01) and 50-yard backstroke (25.81).

"I wasn't really focused on records," said Moran, a year-round swimmer who made it to nationals. "It was swimming every day, usually long course, which we hadn't swam in three to four years. ... It was worth it. It went pretty well."

Meets were virtual this year, meaning kids did them at their home pools and the teams submitted times.

On the dive team, **Juliette Luers** finished third in the league. Twice, she broke her own dive record, a team and pool record, finishing with a total score of 245.40 in six events.



(L-R) Beckett Dickson, Juliette Luers and Avery Seltzer competed for the dive team this year.

"I was a gymnast most of my life and I found flipping and twisting pretty easy," Luers said, explaining what drew her to the dive team.

**Avery Seltzer**, a fifth-grader at Oak Hill Elementary, got first place in the league championships for girls ages 9 to 10. She received first in every dual dive meet she participated in.

Severn River had almost 200 swimmers on the team this year. The dive team had 50 kids. Typically, the dive team has 12.

**Amy Miller** served as swim team manager. The swim team was led by head coach **Meghan Heil** and assistant coaches **Mike McTammany**, Tyler Moran, **Kelly List** and **Henry Wright**.

Luers and another senior, **Leah St. Lawrence**, shared head coaching responsibilities for the dive team this year. McTammany emphasized the value that the club has brought to its young athletes.

"It's about self-improvement, learning new strokes and doing new tricks on the diving board, and building friendships that will last forever," he said.

## St. Andrews Finishes With 3-1 Record

Photo courtesy of Tom Barrett

With its biggest swim team ever, comprised of 149 swimmers (68 of them ages 8 and under), St. Andrews went 3-1 this season.



performances. The 11-12 boys broke a 21-year-old record in the 200-meter freestyle relay with a time of 2:12:00.

**Court Barrett**, **Charlie Dyke**, **Finn Luhta** and **Caden Mahl** formed the record-setting team.

Also this season, **Galen Robinson** won the Luke Moran Award.

"Luke Moran was a dynamic young man who grew up at St. Andrews, lifeguarded, swam and coached," said St. Andrews swim coach **Maura Bayly**. "He passed away two years ago after courageously battling a long illness. Luke fostered an environment of kindness, acceptance, empathy and love for the members of St. Andrews. St. Andrews swim team honors his name and legacy with this award."

of them ages 8 and under), St. Andrews went 3-1.

Not only was it a stellar year with participation but also with team

St. Andrews Swim and Tennis Club had a record summer in 2021. With its biggest swim team ever, comprised of 149 swimmers (68

## Junior Legion Baseball Returns After 20-Year Hiatus

Photo by Judy Tacyn

The last time Severna Park American Legion Post 175 fielded a junior baseball team was in 2001. It was coached by Dave Ferris, the head coach of the Severna Park High School junior varsity baseball team, a role he's held for 22 years. After playing many summer seasons in an Anne Arundel County league, Ferris opted to field a team for the American Legion in 2021. His 18-player American Legion roster included 17 players from the Severna Park High School junior varsity team, plus one player from St. Mary's High School.

Coming off an undefeated high school season, the Ferris-led team earned a regular season record of 10-5 in league play to secure a spot in the American Legion state playoffs. The team won their playoff opener 8-7 over Severn/Old Mill Post 276 on August 6. Two days later, they lost 11-4 to St. Mary's Post 255, ending their season in second place.

Read more at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).





## Holy Cow: Severna Park Teen Crowned Maryland Dairy Princess

By Zach Sparks

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

Elizabeth Karides was chosen as the 2021 Maryland State Dairy Princess on July 14, and she's determined to milk the opportunity for all it's worth.

Her goal is not to promote herself, though. The former Dairy Princess of South Central Maryland, Karides wants to use her

*During a pageant held in July, Connie and Sam Karides supported their daughter, Elizabeth, as she competed against four other regional dairy princesses to earn the title of Maryland State Dairy Princess.*

public speaking skills to share three messages with the public.

"I want to share with people how nutritional real milk is," Karides said,

stating the first message. "It has 13 essential nutrients. It protects you from developing chronic diseases and improves the immune system."

She also wants people to know that from her firsthand experience, farmers treat animals fairly and the farmers take their environmental responsibility seriously.

"Dairy farmers are stewards of the environment," she said. "They are working to reduce their carbon footprint."

A junior at Severna Park High School, Karides is a longtime member of the Anne Arundel 4-H Dairy Leasing

Club, which allows members to feed and care for a heifer from March through October. In her previous role as Dairy Princess of South Central Maryland, she traveled to stores, malls, fairs, schools and festivals around her area, promoting the dairy industry and the healthfulness of milk and dairy products.

Now, her role will take her farther across the state, including to the Maryland State Fair, which kicks off August 26 in Timonium.

"She will be an outstanding representative for the state's dairy industry, along with the other four regional dairy princesses," said Susan Summers, a 38-year member of the Maryland Dairy Princess Committee and a former chair.

Summers said three out-of-state judges selected Karides from among five candidates for the state title.

"The scorecard focused on a personal interview and onstage performance, where personality, poise and dairy knowledge were judged," Summer said. "And each

» Continued on page 36



## Troop 918 Celebrates Eagle Scouts

By Haley Weisgerber

Boy Scout Troop 918 has a big reason to celebrate. Andrew Gleason, Darek Redmond, Fuller Clement and Zachary Knox have all made Eagle Scout this year.

Troop 918 is led by scoutmaster Chip Bulgin and is chartered with Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Severna Park. Two of those scouts talked to the Voice about their projects.

Andrew Gleason

For Andrew Gleason, Troop 918 is a family affair. His father, Lloyd, is also an Eagle Scout from Troop 918 and his younger brother, Cody, is currently a First Class Scout. Gleason, who started scouts when he was in the second grade, said Troop 918 has a family feel.

"We don't have as many people as others, but we have a bunch of cool personalities and true leaders," he said. "The leaders are excellent, and the older scouts try to help out with the youngest scout."

Gleason realized he was close to finishing the merit badges needed to start the process of being an Eagle Scout. It took him about a year to achieve Eagle from that point. He was excited to take on new responsibilities and leadership roles in the troop. He officially completed his Eagle board of review and became an Eagle Scout on February 12, 2021.

For his Eagle project, Gleason worked with the Ferndale Early Education Center to build a little library.

"It's for books for children to read and a bench," said Gleason. "That helped the children that needed to be picked up or had extra time to be able to enjoy something."

The project took several months to plan and com- » Continued on page 36



Andrew Gleason became an Eagle Scout on February 12, 2021 after working with the Ferndale Early Education Center to build a little library.

## SPUMC Students Participate In Work Week



The ASP students at Severna Park United Methodist Church hosted a food drive in July for SPAN to address food insecurity in their community.

By Haley Weisgerber

Each year, students at Severna Park United Methodist Church (SPUMC) travel to central Appalachia for a week-long service project, building and repairing homes for communities that have fallen on hard times. For the second consecutive year, the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) trip was canceled due to COVID-19, so the staff had to get creative again. During the last week in June, the ASP team planned a work week in the community to engage students in ministry work closer to home.

"The church goes to Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and places like that all over the country doing stuff, but it's hard finding things locally," said the Rev. Lee Ferrell, minister of Christian education and youth.

Most of the students' energy went into facilitating a food drive for SPAN. Ferrell wanted the students to address the issues of hunger insecurity in the surrounding community.

"It didn't require a lot of people power, like putting a roof on the house, but the point is that they were addressing a need and that was what we were out to do," said Ferrell.

Working at home allowed the church community to get involved as well, and many members of the congregation donated to the SPAN drive for the ASP students.

The students also started a relationship with Langton Green Community Farm in Millersville. They were set to build a fence to keep deer and critters away from the produce, but the project was rained out.

"We started a relationship with this group, and we will continue that," said Ferrell. "Anytime they need something like that, we will find a crew to go over and do whatever they need done."

The students also painted three classrooms in the church. Nick Wright, a rising senior at Severna Park High School, was among the 30-some students who » Continued on page 36



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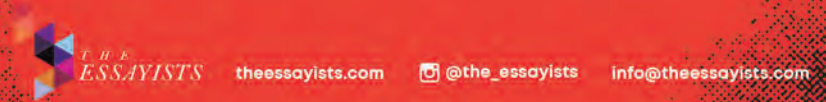


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# Child Care - Masks Off, Wallets Empty, What's Next For Our Preschool Kids?

By David Bishop

Creative Beginnings Preschool

Unmasking our children is going to cause a surge in enrollments in child care centers and preschools over the next several months and we all need to be prepared for what that means: the impact of supply and demand. We are going to re-enter the limited market of affordable child care options in the Anne Arundel County area.

We have long observed the limited availability of child care simply based on the number of two-working-parent households to maintain a higher standard of living than the majority of the country. This is a norm for our community. We work hard to enjoy our quality of life, and to be effective in our jobs, we need the reassurance that our children are in a safe, secure, dependable environment, and properly cared for by people we know we can trust, as well as help them develop in preparation for school and society.

But the drawback is that sometimes we are forced sacrifice those qualities due to the cost of child care. Survival comes first, but we don't want to leave our children in the hands of just any caretaker who we don't know. We want to develop a relationship with the caretakers of our children. We want to be sure they are instilling the same values and behaviors we would impart on our "mini me" if we could be home with them. We don't want

to be forced to simply put our children in the home of anyone because that person was available and affordable.

An often-overlooked option in recent years seems to be faith-based or "church housed" schools and centers. Years ago, as a new parent, I was not the type of person who would default to a church-based child care or preschool facility.

My concern was that this organization might be instilling different religious values in my child than those I believe or teach at home. However, I soon learned that children are not theological scholars debating divinity in preschool classes (shocking, I know). When evaluating a preschool or day care facility, what I'm concerned about most is not a church's theological dogma that doesn't impact my child. I want to know they are teaching my child simple foundational social and moral lessons. I'm looking for a school and teacher who starts with the basic lesson "do unto others as you want done to you" and grows my child from there.

I'm looking for the same kindness and Christian nurture that I received as a child, when I absolutely loved going to Sunday school. A teacher who leads with a caring heart and wants to see a graduating 4- or 5-year-old move on with strong academic, moral and friendship foundations so they can enter kindergarten confidently and ready for anything the world might throw at them.

We need to always have a "child comes

first" philosophy and focus on how we can develop and prepare children for kindergarten and beyond in a way that best supports our community. Creative Beginnings and other church-based child care shouldn't ever be focused on profits. They should simply work to nurture, develop and grow our children through three years of learning and play to build and support our community.

It's because of this philosophy that I encourage everyone to put your local faith-based or "church housed" child care centers as the first options for your child's needs. Whether you are religious or spiritual or not, providing that foundation for your children at an affordable cost is invaluable to their foundations to become great community members.

*Creative Beginnings has a staff vaccination rate of 95% and plans to be 100% mask free for children in the fall. Information can be found at [www.creativebeginningspreschool.org](http://www.creativebeginningspreschool.org) for tours, class registrations and schedules. There will be opportunity for before and after care from 7:00am to 6:00pm as well as the foundation of a 40-year preschool and experienced teaching staff.*

*David Bishop is a 1999 graduate of Severna Park High School. He currently serves as chairman of the board for Creative Beginnings Preschool in Arnold, as a member of College Parkway Baptist Church and as the president of the Mago Vista Area Civic Association, which is comprised of more than 2,250 homes in Arnold.*

# Partnership Leads To Launch Of Project Learn



The Arc Central Chesapeake Region and its partner, Education Team Allies, are excited to announce the launch of Project Learn. The project, funded in part by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, will focus on supporting parents and students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to understand the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and become strong self-advocates.

If you have become frustrated by the IEP process and have had trouble accessing resources in your community, email Deena Kilmon, director of engagement, at [resources@thearcctr.org](mailto:resources@thearcctr.org), or call 410-353-1137.

This project was supported, in part, by grant number CFDA 93.630 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, in Washington, D.C. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

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## Troop 918 Celebrates Eagle Scouts

» **Continued from page 32** plete. Gleason worked on everything from planning and measuring to painting the little library to match the colors at the Ferndale Early Education Center. He is thankful to everyone who helped him during his Eagle process, especially Mike Binnex, scoutmaster Chip Bulgin, his dad, Jill Bulgin and his project coach, Richard Wiles.

Gleason just graduated from Severna Park High School and will attend Anne Arundel Community College in the fall. He will take time away from scouts to focus on his classes, but he looks forward to getting back into it later in life.

## Darek Redmond



*Darek Redmond built two benches in Elvaton Park and became an Eagle Scout on December 9, 2020.*

Darek Redmond became an Eagle Scout on December 9, 2020. He has been a member of Troop 918 since he was in first grade.

"My troop is one of the best troops in the area," said Redmond. "The adults are very involved in what the kids want to do."

His favorite part about being a scout is spending time outdoors and visiting new places. He became an Eagle Scout because of the many doors it would open later in life. His brother, Trevar, is also an Eagle Scout in Troop 918. When it came time to complete his Eagle project, Redmond decided to build two benches in Elvaton Park.

"I wanted my project to be right next to my older brother's project built in 2014," he said.

His benches are an add-on to the bulletin board that his brother installed. Redmond said he is proud of himself for achieving the Eagle. He recently graduated from Severna Park High School and will attend Anne Arundel Community College. He hopes to transfer to the University of Maryland to study business.

*Fuller Clement achieved Eagle rank on November 16, 2020, and Zachary Knox became an Eagle Scout on May 31, 2021. Erik Binnix had his Eagle board of review on August 4, and three Life Scouts from Troop 918 are currently in the process of becoming Eagle Scouts.*

## Severna Park Teen Crowned

» **Continued from page 32** contestant gave a milk toast and creative promotional skit, where they were judged on delivery and content."

For the milk toast, Karides had to pretend that she was addressing a Lions Club.

"For my toast, I explained that just like dairy farmers are the stewards of the earth, Lions Club members are stewards of the people, helping them to improve their sight and quality of life," she said.

Karides will serve a one-year term as

Maryland State Dairy Princess. She is also active in extracurricular activities at Severna Park High School. Karides is president of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and is a member of National Honor Society and the It's Academic team.

She has not decided what to study after high school, but she may pursue a career connected to the agricultural community.

"I love meeting these farmers and people in the agricultural community," she said.

## Students Participate In Work Week

» **Continued from page 32** participated.

"Although we were not able to go on ASP this year, I believe it is still important to help out your local community whenever there is an opportunity," said Wright. "I felt that the work we were doing for SPAN and around the church was extremely beneficial."

Ferrell said the students' work ethic is unmatched, whether they are traveling or staying home. This summer in particular, their dedication was inspirational.

"They love their church," said Ferrell. "They really would do anything that we asked them because they love this place and they like working."

She hopes that the students learn that

although traveling and building homes for those in need may sound like it has a greater impact, there are always things that the students can do in their own communities to put their faith in action.

"We go to Appalachia every year so that the kids can put their faith into action," explained Ferrell. "It's a big, glorious project, but if there is something locally that people still need, we also want them to see that service."

The year 2020 would have been SPUMC's 40th participating in ASP. Church leaders are hoping to have a big celebration next summer if they are able to travel, but for now they are content with celebrating the work that they have done right here in their community.

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# Broadneck Senior Earns Position In American Legion Boys Nation



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Commander Jason O'Neil (right), of American Legion Post 7, said Hektor Thompson "represents the qualities of an individual going through our academic experience and learning what good government is all about."

By Judy Tacyn

Boys Nation is an annual forum of civic and leadership training offering hands-on government experience run by the American Legion. This year, 65 Boys Nation senators were chosen from a pool of more than 17,000 Boys State participants, making it one of the most selective educational programs in the United States.

Hektor Thompson, a rising senior at Broadneck High School, was selected to participate in Boys Nation 2021, which was held in Washington, D.C., from July 23-30. Thompson represented Washington state as a senator.

For the week-long experience, participants are divided into two parties, Federalists and Nationalists. They come up with values and ideals to form a platform, elect individuals to legislative positions, present a vice president and president candidate, and then elect their leaders. Then they must draft bills and negotiate them through committees and then to the House floor.

"I have a new respect for senators and politicians; getting bills written and passed is a lot of work. They do not have an easy job," said Thompson. "Because of our cultural, geographical and political differences, passing bills, amendments and resolutions that benefit everyone is time consuming and challenging due to political gridlock."

Thompson believes that young people have grown up in a different way than the politicians in Washington, D.C., today, which will aid his generation in driving a political shift that values diversity and works toward solutions that benefit the greatest number of Americans.

"If we want a better future, we have to do better, together," said Thompson. "It's impossible to make everyone happy. But through com-

promise and valuing process over winning, we can do the most good for the most people."

Thompson hopes to one day be a Green Beret. His father is retired from the British Army, and his family has lived around the globe.

"Each move has helped shape me as a person. I've lived in Nottingham Forest in England, lived near a concentration camp in Germany, and with aborigines in Australia," added Thompson. "With each move, the military has been my only constant. I would love to serve as a Green Beret because I love their warrior diplomat ethos. My dream job would be working in the United Nations in conflict resolution and prevention, and peace studies."

Thompson was sponsored by American Legion Post 7 in Annapolis.

"Post 7 has been so fortunate to have a young man of the caliber of Hektor Thompson," said Commander Jason O'Neil. "He represents the qualities of an individual going through our academic experience and learning what good government is all about. We are honored to have him represented and we wish him the very best in the future."

At Broadneck, Thompson has served as president and founder of Speech and Debate Club, president and treasurer of Model UN, and vice president of Key Club. His other activities include Broadneck High School Principal Advisory Council, National Honor Society, Anne Arundel Youth Advisory Council, lieutenant governor of District 4A Key Club, and he plays both club and varsity soccer. He has been named to the superintendent's honor roll since 2018.

A resident of Annapolis, Thompson hopes to attend the U.S. Military Academy to become an Army officer. He is the son of Rhana and Jamie Thompson.

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# Six Troop 993 Members Become Eagle Scouts

Troop 993 recognized six of its members on August 7 during an Eagle Scout ceremony at Severna Park United Methodist Church.

## JOSEPH "JOEY" BABIK JR.

Babik started his scouting journey as a Tiger Scout with Pack 957 at Southgate Elementary School. Over the years, he participated in the Pinewood Derby, Rain Gutter Regatta and multiple camping trips. Babik progressed through the Cub Scout ranks, and in 2015, he received his Arrow of Light and bridged over to Troop 993.

Over the past six years, Babik has continued his scouting career with Troop 993, earning 31 merit badges, participating in numerous camping adventures and making more memories to last a lifetime. He used his leadership roles as troop guide, patrol leader, assistance patrol leader, Order of the Arrow representative and junior assistance scoutmaster to help guide and mentor younger scouts in the troop.

Babik's Eagle Scout project was building a sturdy, weatherproof food collection storage box for SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods), a nonprofit organization helping people through critical or emergency situations such as hunger, utility turnoffs, court-ordered evictions and prescription/medical needs. The collection storage box provided SPAN the opportunity to collect and store food donations regardless of weather conditions or fear of animals tampering with the food.

Babik is currently a senior at Old Mill High School. In addition to scouting, he also competes in football, lacrosse, and track and field.

## BLAKE BIERDEMAN

Bierdeman began his scouting journey at the age of 6 as a Tiger Scout of Pack 405 at McEachern Methodist Church in Powder Springs, Georgia. Bierdeman relocated to Maryland in fifth grade with his family and joined Shipley's Choice Pack 688. It was there he completed Cub Scouts and earned the Arrow of Light award. He bridged over to Troop 993 in 2014.

During his many years at camp, Bierdeman earned numerous merit badges and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow in 2017. He experienced multiple High Adventure camps including Sea Base and Summit. His scouting accomplishments include the Conservation Award, Paul Bunyan Award, senior patrol leader and group lead at Summit High Adventure Camp.

Bierdeman's Eagle Scout project entailed building mobile gardens at the Complete Care assisted living center. This work has allowed residents in the dementia unit the ability to garden and have handicap wheelchair access.

Bierdeman is an active member of Severna Park United Methodist Church and a recent graduate of Severna Park High School. During his time there, he played the trumpet in the marching band and participated in the sailing team.

## PATRICK ELSER

Elsel's time in scouting began as a Tiger Cub in Pack 688 at Shipley's Choice Elementary School. Highlights of his Cub Scout years include Pinewood derbies, cake decorating contests and the first of many camping trips. Completing his years as a Cub Scout, he earned the Arrow of Light and bridged to Troop 993.

Elsel earned 39 merit badges and was selected for the Order of the Arrow. He held the leadership positions of patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader

and Order of the Arrow representative. His favorite memories of scouting are from the many camping trips and summer camps he attended. The pinnacle of these trips was completing three High Adventures with his father, including Summit Bechtel Reserve, Sea Base and Philmont.

Elsel's Eagle Scout project was designing and installing a pollinator garden at Shipley's Choice Elementary School. Pollinators are nearly as important as sunlight, soil and water to the reproductive success of over 75% of the world's flowering plants.

A recent graduate of Severna Park High School, Elser is heading to Rochester Institute of Technology for the bachelor's/master's program in computing security. He will continue to use the scouting lessons he learned in leadership, discipline and teamwork in college and throughout his life.

## ALEXANDER MANN

Mann started his scouting career at age 6 in Cub Scout Pack 858 at Severna Park Elementary School. Under the tutelage of Mark Haring, Mann's love of scouting began. He loved everything scouting offers: friendships, hiking, fishing, camping, community service and learning a myriad of new skills each week.

When it was time to transition to Boy Scouts, Mann found his people in Troop 993. For his Eagle Scout project, he designed, constructed and installed bat boxes in the Shipley's Choice community. Bats are a natural pest control as they eat thousands of mosquitoes each night.

Mann has now graduated from Severna Park High School. He plans to continue to volunteer his time with Troop 993 as an adult leader. He also plans to attend Anne Arundel Community College in the fall to pursue a career in forestry as a park ranger.

## PETER MONACO

Monaco began his scouting career in fifth grade when he joined Troop 993 with some of his lifelong friends.



Throughout his seven years with Troop 993, he has attended numerous camping trips and service projects and has earned 23 merit badges. Monaco also participated in two High Adventure trips, Summit and Seabase.

Monaco completed his Eagle project in August 2020. His project consisted of building a trail and a bench around a small memorial located in Shipley's Choice. His project provides a place for the residents of Shipley's to relax and enjoy nature.

Monaco is a senior at Mount Saint Joseph High School. In addition to Boy Scouts, he is on the water polo and mountain bike teams.

## JACOB POPE

Pope started his scouting career in Pack 688 with the Cub Scouts. He and several of his friends decided to progress to the Boy Scouts and joined Troop 993.



During Pope's seven years of scouting, he enjoyed all of the camping trips, especially the Summit High Adventure. Some of his favorite memories are when his tent flooded with water on Assateague Island, when he earned the biking merit badge with a friend as a new scout, and when he was elected into the Order of the Arrow.

Pope's Eagle project was the beautification of the Severna crest traffic divider. This project was done during the COVID pandemic.

Pope plans to use the skills he learned in scouts to help him during his senior year at Severna Park High School, in college and eventually in his career.

## Scout Spreads Kindness Around Arnold



Andrew Gable, an Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 995 in Arnold, has based his project on spreading kindness throughout the community by leading a group of volunteers in creating a painted rock garden alongside two benches near Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. His kindness rock beautification project encourages people to visit the garden and take a rock for inspiration, share a rock for motivation, or create a rock for preservation to help his garden grow. More than 50 volunteers painted custom rocks, built benches and installed the project in the lower parking lot at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church prior to July. Post any rock that you paint or find by using hashtag #EagleRocks on Facebook.

## Maryland Welcomes New Superintendent Of Schools

Provided by the Maryland State Department of Education



Mohammed Choudhury

Mohammed Choudhury officially assumed the office of Maryland state superintendent of schools on July 1. He is responsible for leading the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the state's education policy through the implementation of the Blueprint for Education and emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previously serving as associate superinten-

dent and chief strategy, talent and innovation officer for the San Antonio Independent School District, he plans to build upon the solid foundation established by his predecessor, Dr. Karen B. Salmon, and the MSDE team through engagement, listening and learning.

"Maryland's admirable dedication and foundation for ensuring the success of every student and bridging gaps in education are initiatives that I am excited to spearhead," Choudhury said in a statement.

Read more at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).



## Christen Morrell Uses Music To Represent The Human Experience

*Christen Morrell tries to not take life too seriously, a sentiment she shares in her upbeat music.*

**By Zach Sparks**

*zach@severnaparkvoice.com*

Christen Morrell's newest single "Love to Love You" starts with slow, endearing lyrics and begins to build — like bubbles about to burst — before surging into a catchy, exuberant chorus that is sure to make listeners jump up and dance.

Released on July 12 and produced with the help of Joe Begalla and Cairo Marques-Neto, the song accomplishes a goal that Morrell strives for in all her music: to spread happy vibes and express her idea of authentic love.

"Gratitude can look different in so many ways," Morrell said. "I try not to take life too seriously. Like anyone, I experience the spectrum of emotions — anxiety, fear, sadness — but growing through those moments and allowing

» Continued on page 44



*"I just want it to feel like a warm hug that comforts people in all stages and seasons of life."*

— CHRISTEN MORRELL

## Time Travel To Fun: Renaissance Festival Starts August 28



*Jousting is always a popular attraction at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, set this year for August 28 through October 24.*

The Maryland Renaissance Festival, a tradition for the entire family, begins its 45th season August 28 and runs Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday through October 24 for nine weekends of thrills, feasting, handmade crafts, entertainment and merriment in Crownsville.

The 27-acre Village of Revel Grove comes to life each autumn with more than 200 professional performers on 10 stages, a 3,000-seat arena with armored jousting on magnificent steeds, and streets filled with village characters. Join King Henry VIII in the forests and glades with over 140 artisans exhibiting crafts in their own renaissance shops, five taverns featuring cool libations, and 42 food and beverage emporiums providing a vast array of succulent and sweet treats to sate even the heartiest of appetites.

The almost continuous entertainment on all 10 stages features many returning performers: Shakespeare's Skum in its 37th year with rollicking renditions of the bard's most popular plays in 20 minutes; the charming and beguiling talent of A Fool

» Continued on page 46

## Dining Out



### Cool Off With Frosty Treats

**By Mary Cobbler**

Ah, summertime fun in the sun — playing outdoors, swimming, backyard barbecues and eating cool, icy delights. Here's a sampling of some of the local treats offered throughout the Severna Park area.

How about a good old-fashioned ice cream cone? Look no further than Bruster's Real Ice Cream, tucked in the corner of a strip mall at 160 Ritchie Highway. Just the smell wafting from the pick-up window is sweetly intoxicating.

Bruster's has a varied menu including cones, sundaes, shakes and blasts (ice cream and toppings mixed to a smooth consistency). With a vast offering of flavors, it's hard to choose. I considered basic chocolate but decided to be more adventurous. Why not

take a walk on the wild side? I asked about this season's favorite flavor and was surprised. A helpful gentleman declared that "graham central station" is currently the top pick of customers.

"It's better than it sounds, but people taste it and really like it," he said, handing me a mini spoonful to taste.

I was pleasantly surprised and gave him a thumbs-up.

I thought this ice cream, described as "graham ice cream and graham swirls loaded with chocolate flakes," would taste like a graham cracker, but to me it tasted like a mix of dark caramel and cotton candy with flakes of chocolate. It was a perfect conglomeration of tastes. Give it a try! I chose to enjoy my ice cream on a large, fresh waffle cone that added to the goodness. Other cones and cup choices are available.

A few years ago, my dad surprised me with Bruster's pumpkin cheesecake. Afterward, I started

» Continued on page 44



Photos by Mary Cobbler

**Above:** Currently, mango is the preferred choice for gelatis at Rita's Italian Ice and Frozen Custard. **Left:** Kavern's snowballs are made from smooth, shaved ice with plenty of flavorful syrup. **Below:** Try "graham central station" at Bruster's Real Ice Cream for a unique flavor treat.



## Daniela Soledade And Nate Najar To Samba At Cafe Mezz

Jazz Beyond Borders will present Brazilian vocalist Daniela Soledade and guitarist Nate Najar on Sunday, August 15, in the Jazz at the Mezz performance series in the courtyard and gardens of Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park.

*Downbeat Magazine* calls Daniela a “master of classic samba and bossa nova.” Born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, she grew up in a family of musicians with a direct line to the origins of bossa nova. Her grandfather was Paulo Soledade, who composed songs with legendary Brazilian artists Antonio Carlos Jobim, Vinicius de Moraes, Toquinho and Baden Powell. Her father, Paulinho Soledade, is an artist and producer who learned guitar from Baden Powell and worked with Ivan Lins and Gilberto Gil.

As a child, Daniela participated in studio recordings for Brazilian artists such as Xuxa and the band Osgénius. At age 14, she placed first in the entrance exam to attend the prestigious music conservatory Villa Lobos. In 2003, she settled in the U.S. where she maintains an active performing schedule. Her debut album, “A Moment of You,” was released in 2019 on Blue Line Music Records. The “Love and Bossa Nova” program was introduced by Daniela with Najar in 2020.



Brazilian vocalist Daniela Soledade and guitarist Nate Najar will perform August 15 at Cafe Mezzanotte.

Najar uses a distinctive technique to convey his artistic prowess — not many artists play acoustic classical guitar with right-hand classical technique, yet it is the perfect choice for Najar’s comprehensive approach. Not restricted to single notes or chords, he seamlessly weaves melody, harmony and rhythmic freedom. The result is music that is swinging, emotional, inventive and interesting.

Najar’s latest album, “Under Paris Skies,” was released in 2018 on Woodward Avenue Records. Rick Andersen of All Music Guide called him “one of the most consistently interesting and stylish young guitarists on the jazz scene.” Becky Byrd, wife of late and beloved guitarist Charlie Byrd, said, “There is no doubt that there is a piece of Charlie’s soul in Nate’s mind, heart and fingers.”

Cafe Mezzanotte offers a spacious setting and wide selection of wine and Mediterranean cuisine. Ingredients are harvested from the restaurant’s garden, a testimony to a commitment to using fresh, organic, locally grown produce.

Cafe Mezzanotte is located at 760 Ritchie Highway. Parking is free and plentiful. Seating for the dinner show is from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Concert tickets are \$25 and available from InstantSeats at [instnt.us/f5a6h](http://instnt.us/f5a6h).

## Fall Concert Series To Get Underway At Hatton Register Green

The Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails are set to entertain crowds at Hatton Register Green this fall. Four acts will perform in September.

### September 5: Jeff Herbert

Jeff Herbert is an accomplished bagpiper, singer and guitarist with more than 15 years of experience and over 30 years of guitar and vocal experience. In addition to his solo career, he is a charter member of the Washington D.C. Fire Department Pipes and Drums band.

### September 12: Sparks & McCoy

Sparks and McCoy is the duo of Edward Sparks and Steve McCoy. As of 2021, Sparks and McCoy have been performing together for 37 years. Sparks & McCoy have a full performance schedule for 2021 at various venues, from restaurants and bars to festivals. The music is rock-based acoustic music for the masses.

### September 19: Guava Jelly

Guava Jelly is an Annapolis-based



Guava Jelly is an acoustic duo/trio playing a mix of reggae, pop, rock and country music. The band comes to Severna Park on September 19.

acoustic duo/trio playing a mix of reggae, pop, rock and country music. The type of music that Guava Jelly delivers is unlike most other local performers. The band is a Caribbean-infused

trio whose reggae vibes are woven throughout the fabric of the band’s diversity of music. For the last 10 years, cross-generational audiences across the region have swayed and danced to this

dynamic trio. Guava Jelly is an eclectic mix of cultural backgrounds, reflecting the music they play.

### September 26: Bowers & Stramella

Bowers & Stramella is an acoustic duo based in Maryland. Larry and Tony have been performing as a duo for over 30 years, combining strong harmonies with acoustic guitar, bass, lap steel guitar, ukulele and harmonica. They blend old classics, folk, country and soft rock, playing popular music from the ‘40s, ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s.

All concerts start at 4:00pm and run for approximately two hours. Hatton Register Green is in Severna Park at the intersection of B&A Boulevard, Evergreen Road and Holly Avenue. Parking is limited. Bring a blanket or chairs. There are a limited number of benches in the area. In the case of rain, concerts will be canceled. For more information, contact [friendsofatrails@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofatrails@gmail.com) or David Greene at 443-994-8074.

## McBride Gallery To Present “Poetry In Painting”

McBride Gallery will present “Abigail McBride: Poetry in Painting” during this year’s 31st annual Annapolis Art Walk event. Meet the artist on August 19 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. A painting demonstration will be held that evening from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

Abigail McBride paints with the mind of a scholar and the heart of a poet. “The longer I paint, the more amazed I am at how beautiful the world is,” she said.

From the sun splashed outdoors to rich interiors, her interests are broad in scope. She is part of a new breed of painters working from direct observation be it plein air or in the studio.

McBride is an Anne Arundel Community College teacher who hosts online classes and participates in traveling work-

shops. She is a founder of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association.

Her work has been highlighted in museums throughout the United States, including the Mitchell Gallery in Annapolis and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin. She has also been featured in *Southwest Art Magazine*, *American Artist Magazine*, on Maryland Public Television and in Radio Capital Conversations. McBride has participated in juried shows from national organizations Oil Painters of America, American Impressionist Society, and the Portrait Society of America.

McBride’s work will be on exhibit until September 5 at McBride Gallery, located at 215 Main Street in Annapolis. The gallery is open seven days a week. Hours are 10:00am-5:30pm Monday through



From the outdoors to interesting people, the subjects of artist Abigail McBride are broad in scope. Her work will be on exhibit until September 5 at McBride Gallery in Annapolis.

Saturday (9:00pm on Thursday) and noon-5:30pm on Sunday. For more information, visit [www.mcbridegallery.com](http://www.mcbridegallery.com).

## Corks For A Cause Returns September 22

Sample more than 90 point wines from around the world, courtesy of Fishpaws Marketplace, during Corks for a Cause at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park on September 22 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Guests can also enjoy gourmet hors d’oeuvres from the area’s most popular purveyors, as well as local, artisanal cheese tastings. Orlando Phillips will perform live music.

Tickets are \$60 in advance or \$65 at the door. Attire is business casual.

All proceeds will support UM BWMC’s emergency department renovations, Safe Sleep program, and the healing garden. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.umms.org/bwmc/giving/corksforacause](http://www.umms.org/bwmc/giving/corksforacause).





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# Despite An Engaging Premise, "Old" Fails To Live Up To Its Potential

By Audrey Ruppert

The following review contains spoilers for "Old"

**M**. Night Shyamalan is like that one soccer player who somehow makes it onto a national team, scores an amazing goal in the Euros tournament, and is then bought up by a top soccer club for millions of dollars — only to become a terrible investment who is lackluster in every season hereafter. Since "The Sixth Sense," Shyamalan has trotted out a series of films that are awful at worst and mediocre at best. Sadly, "Old" did not break the pattern.

What makes this so depressing is that "Old" had the potential to be an intriguing film or even a thought-provoking miniseries in the vein of "Black Mirror" — but it proved to be neither. The premise is as follows: two families, a couple and two other holidaymakers are taken from a beachside resort by hotel staff to a beautiful "private beach" for the day. Slowly, the cast begins to realize they are trapped on the beach and cannot escape — and terrifyingly, time is warped by the rocks on the beach, so the characters age quickly. The children grow up in a matter of hours, and the older members



Photos courtesy of Universal Pictures

*In "Old," two families, a couple and two other holidaymakers are taken to a "private beach" for the day. Slowly, they realize they are trapped and time is warped, causing them to age quickly.*

realize there is little time left for them.

"Old" could have explored three themes in a lot more detail: the process of aging and how it affects what we deem important in life, the lengths an oft corrupt pharmaceutical industry will go to make a profit, and the "trolley problem" (sacrificing a few non-consenting people to save many others). Each concept was introduced then left woefully underdeveloped, which was bitterly disappointing.

The exploration of our relationship to time and aging fell flat because we aren't emotionally invested in the cast.

Each character was interesting on paper; there's a therapist who has her own unresolved issues, a couple on the brink of divorce, a rapper with imposter syndrome who grew up privileged, and other people who could have had depth to them. Unfortunately, with the film's relatively short run time, poor exposition and less than stellar acting, the deaths have little impact and it's difficult to buy into the "deeper" message: removing oneself from the trivial pettiness of everyday arguments and valuing what really matters, because time is short. Great idea, terrible execution.

plot holes which make the film unbelievable could have been explained if more screen time was devoted to the thing that was ultimately the cause of the aging. You simply cannot shove such a complicated reveal into the last three minutes, leave it unexplained, and expect your audience to walk away satisfied.

The end result feels like a long episode of "The Twilight Zone" and it's a real shame a film with such potential was given to a director like Shyamalan. In the right hands, "Old" could have been worth the watch.

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## Christen Morrell Uses Music

» Continued from page 39

yourself to feel through them can bring about the most beauty.”

A singer-songwriter, electronic performer and producer, Morrell started writing music while she was a student and three-sport athlete at Severn School. Her earliest artistic memories are of writing poetry, playing piano, taking voice lessons and performing in school musicals. She grew inspired by artists like Maggie Rogers, Bleachers, and MisterWives.

She was later accepted into the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, after auditioning with “Stars” by Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. Morrell then started her first year at the college’s satellite campus in Valencia, Spain.

At age 19, Morrell was signed to Disrupción Records, a Valencian label, for eight months while she produced her self-titled, four-song debut EP.

“A lot of my music comes through self-reflection, prayer and meditating on what I believe authentic love to be,” said Morrell, who grew up in Arnold and now calls Annapolis home. “A lot of my values are planted in my lyrics.”

Morrell gained valuable performing experience during her year abroad, and upon returning home, she penned “To The Water!” a tune about growing up on the Severn River.

Through a crowdfunding campaign on Plaid Dog, she raised \$11,000 to produce new music. Although she has enough material for another EP, she plans to continue releasing tracks as singles.

Fans can look for her next single, “Leave it in the Summer,” on August 26. Morrell said the “sassy, upbeat hit” is about saying goodbye to that summer fling and dancing into autumn.

As of early August, “Love to Love You” had 1,430 plays on Spotify and “To The Water!” had 20,555.

Her success comes as no surprise to Frank Donn, Severn School’s band director, who mentored Morrell when she was in high school, working on her independent senior project.

“Students propose an idea and then a mentor helps them set goals and reach milestones,” Donn said. “When Christen got the hang of something, she took the reins, and she would always put herself out there whether it was open mics or as a soloist in many of the school concerts.”

“I’ve had a lot of students with goals of creating albums and they’ll throw out an arbitrary number,” Donn said. “They might say, ‘I’m going to write 10 songs,’ but then I have them scale back. Christen did a full album.”

Donn and Morrell used to experiment with layering her voice and adding violin to some tracks. He also gave her advice about self-promotion and getting into a venue for live performances when she returned home following her first year at Berklee.

“With Christen, it didn’t seem like me mentoring,” he said. “It felt like a creative brainstorm. She came up with as many if not more ideas as I did.”

Morrell looks forward to releasing new music this fall. She is also focused on a Berklee mentorship program called She Knows Tech. The program teaches female students how to use Ableton for producing, live performances, or engineering in the studio.

Fans can follow and interact with Morrell on Instagram, Facebook and on her website at [www.christenmorrell.com](http://www.christenmorrell.com). Her music is featured on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube and SoundCloud.

She hopes listeners find solace and affirmation in her lyrics and beats.

“I just want it to feel like a warm hug that comforts people in all stages and seasons of life,” Morrell said.

## Cool Off With Frosty Treats

» Continued from page 39

visiting the store frequently to get my fix. So, give that a go too.

If you’re looking for something a little lighter, head to Rita’s, located at 567 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, for Italian ice or gelati.

The gelati is Italian ice with homemade custard on the top and bottom. My server said that mango and cotton candy are the preferred flavor choices these days. Black cherry is also popular.

I chose mango. The tart, tropical, mango-flavored ice is a perfect frosty mid-day indulgence. For me, though, the best part is the decadent custard on top of the ice. It’s smooth, rich, and thick with just the hint of vanilla. Rita’s is my favorite custard, and it pairs well with the ice.

Many people claim Baltimore to be the origin of the cold summer staple, reaching back to the 1800s. Snowballs are my favorite cold treat. I head to Kavern when I crave my egg custard with marshmallow snowball.

Kavern, at 8370 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard, serves snowballs, ice cream and a variety of other frozen novelties. The shop has more than 70 traditional snowball flavors, along with specialty and combination flavors. Its ice is smooth-shaven, and the staff gives a generous amount of syrup (not watered

down). Kavern also offers quality marshmallow cream — smooth and sweet, not powdery.

In addition to snowballs, Kavern serves ice cream, soft serve, frozen cakes, chocolate-covered bananas, ice cream cookie sandwiches and more. You can order indoors or at the window. If you want to stay and relax, several tables are available inside, as well as a counter with stools. If you prefer to eat outside, there are several big Adirondack-type chairs available. Bring Fido along for the ride. Pick up a doggy cup for him — a small amount of vanilla ice cream with whipped cream and a little dog treat.

The Froyo House, at 550 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, allows you to make your own frozen yogurt sundaes and top them with various goodies including fruit, candies, whipped cream and other toppings. There are tables to eat at and family friendly movies playing.

Don’t forget Slurpees at local 7-Eleven stores. These slushy frozen drinks have been around since the 1950s and still bring a smile to the young and old alike. Here’s a bit of trivia — there are 34 types of Slurpee flavors across America and that doesn’t count mixing them to make your own.

Enjoy the summer and all the frozen delights available.



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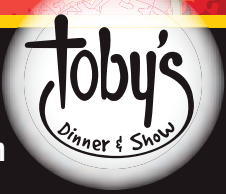
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# Anne Arundel County Fair Returns For A Week Of Fun

By Haley Weisgerber

The Anne Arundel County Fair is coming back to the fairgrounds for family fun and games from September 15-19 after a year off of festivities in 2020 because of COVID-19. Joseph Degreenia, a member of the fair week team, is excited to see people of all ages gathered for the fair.

"Many generations of county residents have participated in the fair and it's great that families can now come back and make even more memories while taking pride in the county," said Degreenia.

The main events this year include a concert on Friday and Saturday night with a variety of musical genres; wild west animal shows; a tractor pull; the annual livestock auction; and indoor exhibits to showcase the agricultural, horticultural, culinary and creative talents of Anne Arundel County residents. Carnival rides will be set up every



*Carnival rides and animal shows are two staples of the Anne Arundel County Fair, which is scheduled from September 15-19 at the fairgrounds in Crownsville.*

night courtesy of Jolly Shows. Individual ride tickets will be sold, or wristbands can be purchased for \$10 on Wednesday, \$15 on Thursday, and \$30 on Friday and Saturday.

"I enjoy seeing the youth participate and learn more about livestock and agriculture within their county, but it's



a lot more than just agriculture," said Degreenia.

Degreenia encourages everyone to submit an entry to the indoor exhibits, whether they are an expert or just getting started on their hobby.

"Many people took up hobbies during the pandemic, like painting, woodwork-

ing and gardening, so it's time to show off those skills," said Degreenia.

Categories include baked and canned goods, farm and garden, flowers, homemade wine, honey, quilts, photography and even livestock.

In addition to the indoor exhibits, guests can also participate in pie and watermelon eating contests, a jousting demonstration and more.

Rules, categories and judging guidelines for submissions are listed in detail on [www.aacountyfair.org](http://www.aacountyfair.org). The fun and games begin on Wednesday, September 15, at 5:00pm until 10:00pm at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds at 1450 Generals Highway in Crownsville. Admission is \$10 for all guests 10 and over; anyone under 10 can enter for free when accompanied by a paying adult. The fairgrounds can accept only cash as payment, but an ATM will be positioned at the gate.

## Time Travel To Fun: Renaissance Festival Starts August 28

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Named "O," the mime; and walk with nobility through the village with King Henry and his royal court. Minstrels, magicians, musicians, jugglers, daring feats of skill and artistry abound. Returning to the festival this season is the jousting troupe Debracey Productions, with a field full of horses, men in armor, chariots, trick riding and thrills for all ages. Major additional acts include The Wheel of Death, Valkyrik, Topsy Turvy and Piper Jones.

Throughout the season, popular renaissance acts from across the country bid

you to visit. Those include Hey Nunnie Nunnie's song and patter delight; Hilby, the Skinny German Juggle Boy, who amazes and confuses; the Danger Committee, which thrills with knife-throwing and whip snappery; The London Broil cooking up rare juggling well done; and in the 48th year of their enormously popular comedy sword-fighting and witty repartee, Puke and Snot bedazzle with their fast-paced humor. Add in a village full of stilt walkers, beggars, hermits, wenches, pick

pockets, rakes and rogues for an entertainment experience not only to be seen but to be immersed amongst.

Metal work, wood sculpture, jewelry, furniture, clothing, and many demonstrating craftsmen fill the shops and studios.

The king's kitchens prepare smoked turkey legs, steak on a stake, fresh crepes, stuffed chili peppers, gyros, succulent ribs, a fresh seafood raw bar, sweet concoctions and tender sandwiches of chicken, fish, crab, beef and pork with bountiful

servings of all manner of sides. Cool, mild drinks and an array of ales, ciders and wines will cleanse your pallet and refresh your constitution.

the first three weekends, from August 28 through September 12, the festival reduces pricing for all without coupons or special purchasing required to offer family friendly entertainment pricing. Tickets beginning September 18 through October 24 are for peak season. For prices, special event info and full schedules, go to [www.marylandrenaissancefestival.com](http://www.marylandrenaissancefestival.com).

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## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Barenburg Eye Associates Improves Their Patients' Quality Of Life



Ophthalmologist Clarke Nelson (M.D., Ph.D.) joined Barenburg Eye Associates in August. His specialty is cataract surgery.



By Zach Sparks

**B**lurry vision can lead to issues with work, hobbies, driving, exercise and other activities. At Barenburg Eye Associates, doctors offer routine eye exams, treatment and management of eye diseases, as well as cataract surgery, to help patients improve their daily lives.

Dr. Mark Gordon purchased the established, four-location Barenburg family practices in 1980. His daughter, Dr. Shoshana Cohen, joined the practice in 1996, specializing in contact lenses, pediatrics, and glaucoma treatment and co-management. In 1999, Dr. Mark Gordon's son, Dr. Joshua Gordon, joined the family practice, specializing in the treatment of dry eye and ocular surface disease, as well as hard-to-fit contact lenses.

The newest member of the staff, Dr. Clarke Nelson, joined Barenburg Eye Associates in August 2021. His specialty is cataract surgery.

"People really do have a tremendous quality of life after getting the surgery, so that's what drew me to it," said Nelson, who earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and two doctorate degrees from the University of Connecticut.

Nelson most recently worked at the Veterans Affairs office in Orlando, Florida, and completed a three-year residency program in ophthalmology at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Barenburg Eye Associates now gives

him the chance to return near his birthplace of Annapolis and form long-term relationships with patients.

"Most of the [eye] practices are now run by private equity firms. Barenburg has more of a family feel," Nelson said. "I got into this field because I wanted to be someone's doctor. Here, there is more freedom to practice the art of medicine."

Cataracts affect the lens in the eye. As a person ages, that lens gets cloudier. Although cataracts are most often found in people over age 55, each person will develop a cataract if they live long enough.

During cataract surgery, the eye's natural lens is removed and replaced with a plastic lens.

"It's like getting a window replacement," Nelson said. "You see better right away. It's a fairly simple surgery."

Surgery takes only 15 to 20 minutes. Additionally, Nelson offers drop-less cataract surgery, which potentially eliminates the usual eye drop treatments typically associated with cataract surgery. Nelson's general advice to patients is to take a few days off of work and refrain from exercising.

"It's a straightforward procedure," Nelson said.

Whether a patient is getting cataract surgery or treating another problem, such as a diabetic eye disease or macular degeneration, Barenburg accepts most insurance plans including Aetna, CareFirst BCBS, Cigna, Cigna

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## Chamber Update

Liz League  
CEO  
GSPACC



we thank all our renewing members for keeping us Chamber Strong!

We were overjoyed at the amazing attendance for this year's Independence Day parade. Our theme was "Celebrating our CommUNITY," and unity was the perfect word to describe the happy atmosphere of the morning. There were 101 entries in the parade, which included neighborhood floats, branded cars, lots of scouts and nonprofits, firetrucks, Mopars and more.

Thank you to the fantastic volunteers including **Tom Lerario of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Craig Lindsay, Jim Fernen of Vertex Carpentry, Frank Winner of the Mobileers, Christine Joyce of Long and Foster Real Estate, Megan Gibbs of Opportunity Builders Inc., and her husband, Sherri Norton of Live! Casino and Hotel and her daughter, Dana Eckert of the Bank of Glen Burnie, Tommy Sommers of Logo-Zone Promotions, Corporal Jamie Grover and her police traffic control officers, the Rev. Matthew Hanisian and his team at St. Martin's-in-the-**

**P**lease give a warm welcome to our newest members: KKR Photography, Ltd., Maryland Local Marketing, Goudy Pools, Andrea D. Martin Consulting LLC, Ivory Stone Interiors, and Skinlogic. And

**Field Episcopal Church, the Rev. Earl Janssen of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Earl Schaffer as the emcee, the judges spearheaded by Dianna Lancione of the Voice Media Inc. and including Stacey Cassidy of Savvy Consignment, Mike Hall of Severna Park Lanes, Dawn Wilson of Side Street Framers, Molly Connolly of Gardiner & Appel Group, Matt Wyble of the Century 21 – Matt Wyble Team.**

Congratulations to the winning parade entries:

**Best Overall** – Olde Severna Park Improvement Association

**Best Theme** – Cub Scout Pack 994

**Most Patriotic** – Nathaniel McDevitt Memorial Scholarship Fund Float

**Best Commercial** – First Place, Homestead Gardens. Second Place, Emidio Vincenzo Escape Salon and Spa. Third Place, Park Books and Literacy Lab

**Best Community** – First Place, Olde Severna Park Improvement Association. Second Place, Linstead on the Severn

**Best Organization/Club** – First Place, Orphan Grain Train. Second Place, Chartwell Young Leaders and SPAN. Third Place, Chesapeake Harmony Chorus

The decorated bike contest, held at the chamber before the parade, was great fun for all, with more than 50 children gathering to participate and ride bikes in the procession.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made the contest special for the kids: **Colette Barnes of Kinder-Care Learning Center and her team, Suellen Gerbracht of Edinboro Early School and her team, Rod Reddish**  
» Continued on page 51

## SPHS Graduate Succeeds As Small Business Owner

By Laurie Edwards

**T**he youth of today are sometimes criticized for being less industrious or less motivated than previous generations. Kailas Motiram, a class of 2021 Severna Park High graduate, proves this label does not apply to all.

In December 2020, Motiram was inspired to start a car detailing business, naming it That Car Detailing Guy. His entrepreneurial spirit kicked in when his dad asked him to detail his mom's car. He discovered he was a decent detailer, he enjoyed doing the work and customers were willing to pay for his services.

Prior to starting his business, Motiram worked at Mr. Car Wash in Millersville. His manager at Mr. Car Wash, Leo Barley, became a mentor, teaching him car washing and detailing skills. More importantly, Barley showed Motiram how to treat and satisfy customers. Motiram learned the importance of listening to a customer's concerns and responding with kindness.

"Leo taught me about professionalism and the importance of quality of work," Motiram stated. "He said the most loyal and caring customers usually are the



After gaining experience at Mr. Car Wash, Kailas Motiram started his own business called That Car Detailing Guy.

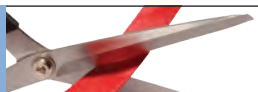
same people who had a problem [with your work] at first."

Motiram also credits his parents and high school for shaping his entrepreneurial aspirations. His dad is a mechanic who instilled a passion for cars and hard work at an early age. At 18, Motiram's dad emigrated from Trinidad with few resources to start his livelihood. Motiram's mom is

» Continued on page 48



## RIBBON CUTTING



# Bernward Mechanical And Construction Solutions Celebrates Five Years



*Bernward Mechanical and Construction Solutions President Carl Neimeyer and COO Tom French (left) cut the ceremonial ribbon in celebration of their fifth anniversary, while family, friends and employees looked on.*

## Calvert Vet Welcomes New Staff

Meet two doctors who have joined the staff at VCA Calvert Veterinary Center.

### Morgan Dvorkin



Dr. Dvorkin is a recent graduate of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. She grew up in Baltimore and is looking forward to returning to her native roots. Dvorkin graduated from Northwestern University in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and economics. After spending a few years as a business analyst, she realized that she wanted to turn her passion for caring for animals into a career. She began working at veterinary clinics, taking courses at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), and ultimately attending veterinary school at Virginia Tech.

Within veterinary medicine, Dvorkin specializes in the care of small animals. She has special interests in small animal behavior, alternative medicine and internal medicine. Outside of the office, Dvorkin is passionate about bringing medical and veterinary care to underserved populations. She has traveled to Latin America and Africa on various medical mission trips over the last two decades. She recently travelled with World Vets to Ecuador, with RAVS to North and South Dakota, and with Partners For World Health to Senegal and Uganda.

Outside of her veterinary work,

Dvorkin has an olde English bulldog named Murphy and a thoroughbred/warmblood cross horse named Connor. She is an avid equestrian and has been riding horses since the age of 2. She enjoys all outdoor activities and can often be found hiking, trail-riding, or lounging with one of her animals. Dvorkin looks forward to joining the VCA team and continuing her lifelong commitment to caring for animals, learning and serving her community.

### Dani White



Dr. White joined Calvert Vet in July, bringing her education from The Pennsylvania State University, Wildlife and Fisheries, and University of Glasgow, School of Veterinary Medicine.

The Maryland native has two pets of her own, a 6-year-old micro Yorkie named Trace and a 1-year-old tabby cat named Larry.

"I love getting to know clients and working with them to give their pets the best life possible," she said. "It is so rewarding watching them grow and thrive!"

Outside of work, she has been reconnecting with her Polish heritage through food, from family recipes to classic favorites. She also has a large plant collection.

White is excited to work with exotics and pocket pets. "I look forward to learning more about exotic medicine and getting some experience caring for a wider variety of pets," she said.

## UM BWMC Ranked One Of U.S. News And World Report's Best Hospitals

University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) was recognized in the 2021 U.S. News and World Report's "Best Hospitals" rankings as being among the best hospitals in the state.

UM BWMC was ranked No. 10 in Maryland and No. 8 in the Baltimore metro area. The medical center was also recognized as "high performing" in specific procedures: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, colon cancer surgery, diabetes, heart failure, kidney failure, lung cancer surgery and stroke.

"UM BWMC is proud to once again be recognized by U.S. News & World Report for our high-quality health care services," said UM BWMC president and CEO Kathy McCollum. "These rankings are a reflection of our dedicated team

members who are committed to providing exceptional care to the communities we are privileged to serve."

UM BWMC was among three University of Maryland Medical System hospitals to be recognized. University of Maryland Medical Center and University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson were also ranked.

"These rankings are representative of the efforts that all of our system hospitals are engaged in to transform health care, with a focus on delivering compassionate, high-quality patient and family centered care," said Mohan Suntha, president and CEO of UMMS. "Earning such recognition speaks to the relentless commitment of our workforce to the health and well-being of communities we serve here in Maryland and beyond."

## MaidHealthy Presents Check For \$500 To Life Of Joy Foundation



*Robert Wade (left), owner of MaidHealthy, presented a \$500 check to Joy Cortina, founder of Life of Joy Foundation, on July 27. Life of Joy Foundation nurtures mental wellness and prevents suicide by serving as a link to integrative care of mind, body and spirit. The organization's team also serves as an advocate with its collaborative network of resources, community engagement and cost assistance programs.*

## Grad Succeeds As Business Owner

» Continued from page 47

an economics teacher, and from her, Motiram developed an admiration for business and satisfaction from being the boss.

At Severna Park High, Motiram took classes in the Business, Innovation and Leadership Signature program and joined the SkillsUSA club. Both programs provide opportunities for students to collaborate with industry leaders to build workplace and technical skills and career knowledge. Motiram served as vice president of SPSHS chapter of SkillsUSA.

"As an officer, Kailas was a great role model to the younger students," said his advisor, Roxanne Angerer. "He brought creative and innovative ideas for projects and community service."

Shortly after launching the business, Motiram reached out to Ethan Lane, a friend who has similar business interests and accounting experience. Lane assisted with financial analysis and marketing ideas.

Motiram described one of their first

work sessions, saying, "We enjoyed ourselves. We had a good time even though we were doing work."

Their financial analysis has provided insight into which detailing products provide the best value. Marketing tactics include leveraging local business message boards and networking with auto body shops. That Car Detailing Guy is also online, most predominantly on Instagram. Here, customers can find a favorite promotion strategy of before-and-after photos to highlight results.

This fall, Motiram is headed to the University of Ohio to earn his undergraduate and Master of Business Administration degrees in finance. Encouraged by That Car Detailing Guy's success to date, Motiram is busy making plans to keep the business active while at school. Anyone can contact Motiram at 443-867-0155 or on Instagram or Facebook @thatcardetailingguy. Basic detailing services begin at \$50 with more advanced packages costing up to \$450.



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# Barenburg Eye Associates

» Continued from page 47

HealthSpring, Medicare, Medstar and United Health Care. Accepted Medicaid plans include Amerigroup, March Vision, Maryland Physicians Care, Priority Partners and others. Barenburg also accepts routine vision plans including Superior Vision, Davis Vision, EyeMed and Vision Service Plan (VSP).

Barenburg Eye Associates has five locations, including the Pasadena office at 8556 Fort Smallwood Road, Suite A. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00am-4:30pm. To learn more, contact the Pasadena office at 410-437-4440 or visit [www.barenburgeye.com](http://www.barenburgeye.com).

"Patients will say, 'I can't believe I didn't do this earlier,'" Nelson said. "People really do feel an increase in the joy in their life. As a doctor, that's what you live for."

» Continued from page 47  
**of Pedal Pushers and Greg Coster of The Big Bean.**

And thanks to our 54 sponsors for their generosity and support. It was a record-breaking number and a testament to the love that our businesses and nonprofits have for our community.

Star-Spangled Restaurant Week was held July 3-11 and the feedback was extremely positive. This year's mission was to support a local food pantry called **ACAN (Asbury Church Assistance Network)**. Participating restaurants donated 5% of the proceeds to ACAN to support its efforts in bringing fresh food to those in need.

On July 12, we held a ribbon-cutting celebrating the five-year anniversary of **Bernward Mechanical and Construction Solutions**. Owner **Carl Neimeyer** not only runs a successful business but is active in the community, overseeing a Cub

# Chamber Update

Scout troop and raising five children. He was an Open for Business sponsor of the parade and participated with his troop.

On July 30, we held a Fly-by-Friday luncheon at the chamber, sponsored by **Brightview Senior Living of Severna Park**. Brightview's chef prepared delectable pulled pork and brisket sandwiches and sides. We also enjoyed popcorn from **Pam Negron of the Negron Farmers Insurance Agency**, ice cream from **Bruster's Real Ice Cream**, and fantastic salads and cookies from **Laureen Vance of the Effortless Bistro**. Many thanks to all who came to enjoy the afternoon with us.

On July 31, we organized the ribbon-cutting extravaganza for **Tucker's at the Old Willy D's Lounge** in Pasadena for its grand opening. Owner **Jeff Tucker** held an all-day and late evening celebration at this newest and popular eatery. Not only is there great food and libations,

but there are games and fun events for the entire family. And they have a company shuttle bus to deliver you home safely.

Also on July 31, **Providence Center** celebrated its 60th anniversary in serving the community, and we were honored to attend and present citations. Providence Center was founded in 1961 to serve the important and exclusive needs of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It was the first such center in Anne Arundel County. Since then, it has evolved to become a provider of many services that include a supported employment program; art programs; comprehensive activity programs; unique vocational training programs in pottery, woodworking, horticulture and landscaping; seniors programs; and transportation services.

As always, visit [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com) for more information about the chamber and our activities. You can also email me at [ceo@gspacc.com](mailto:ceo@gspacc.com) or call 410-647-3900.

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