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Makes Season Debut

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SEVERNA PARK, MD

SEPTEMBER 2021

Severna Park Voice Celebrates 40 Years Of Service

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

From development and traffic to recreation and education, the landscape of Severna Park has changed over the last four decades. One thing, however, has remained the same: the *Severna Park Voice* is still committed to serving the community by providing coverage of the many events, activities, and interesting people who live and work here.

The paper's 40-year longevity, due in large part to widespread support from the community and small businesses, was born from a collaboration.

From Magazine To Newspaper

Margueritte Mills and Pat Troy started *Severna Park Magazine* after Troy learned in October 1978 that the *Arundel Observer* was closing. Troy specialized in community news at the *Observer*, and Mills was handling public relations for Wroxeter School and Shaivitz Furniture at the time.

"We didn't have enough ad revenue to hire a designer, so we did it ourselves," Troy recalled. "I bought a typesetting machine and we sat in my basement, sometimes all night at a big light table, laying out the magazine. Those were the days of hot wax, X-Acto knives and border tape. Her answer to when the layout would be done was always, 'We are coming around the corner.' Sometimes that corner came many hours later.

"Upon reflection, and in comparison to today's standards, our design work left much to be desired, but we had some fun, learned a lot and we captured some part of Severna Park history."

With help from Mills, Troy and three other Wroxeter faculty members founded Chesapeake Academy — now the lower school for Severn School — after Wroxeter closed in 1980. With Troy needing to balance the needs of *Severna Park Magazine* and her growing workload at Chesapeake Academy, she and Mills closed their office, which was located at the Elmore Building. They remained good friends and Mills launched the *Severna Park Village Voice*, now the *Severna Park Voice*, in 1981.

One of the most popular features in the paper, as Troy recalled, was a photo centerspread called Park People.

"I used a fancy SLR camera, but Margueritte always used an Instamatic," Troy said. "She would often take what she called 'posed candid,' often of her friends."

Mills was also active in the community, helping to create the Severna Park Fourth of July parade, chairing the event in 1983 and 1984.

In 1993, Mills was awarded the Media Advocate of the Year Award by the Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce and was selected Media Advocate Runner-Up for the state of Maryland by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Margueritte also believed strongly in the power of positive news," emphasized Troy. "She didn't want to publish 'hard' news, and she also didn't want to publish news that didn't relate to

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Organizations Reflect On State Of Mental Health

By Haley Weisgerber

National Suicide Prevention Week is September 5-11 this year. The week-long event encourages both people and organizations to raise awareness and educate about suicide prevention and mental health. This year, the pandemic has affected many people's mental health, and a few local organizations are working to make a difference.

Life of Joy Foundation

Joy Cortina of the Life of Joy Foundation, an organization dedicated to fostering a holistic approach to mental health and suicide prevention, said she has observed a great need for mental health reform locally.

"It's clear that the need is really great," Cortina said. "It was already a rising need before the pandemic hit, but especially in light of the pandemic, its only exasperated locally."

This year, she said, has been important for addressing mental health and suicide prevention.

"I know from stats from the county police department that we're on pace to exceed the number of suicides in our county, this year over last year," Cortina said.

Life of Joy seeks to address reform from three directions: accessibility, affordability and defeating the stigma.

Making resources and other organizations accessible to the people who need them is a big part of Life of Joy's outreach events. Getting help can also be expensive. Cortina is working to offer cost assistance to individuals who are trying to get help through Life of Joy Foundation. One of the more prominent issues is addressing the stigma and encouraging people to get help before it is too late.

"Statistics show that people tend to not reach out for help until very long into their struggle," Cortina said. "They try to kind of deal with it on their own because there's denial, there's fear. The stigma is a huge thing that people hold back from seeking care."

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Margueritte Mills Volunteer Of The Month

By Haley Weisgerber

Courtney Stevens, an Arnold resident and Severna Park native, always looked up to her sister growing up. In 2014, her sister, Stefanie Ashdown, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and inspired the community, remaining positive and determined. In 2017, Ashdown lost her battle. Stevens, still inspired by her big sister, works as the vice president of Stef Ripple to honor her legacy.

Stef Ripple is an organization founded in memory of Ashdown, affectionately referred to as an ovarian cancer warrior, that spreads awareness about ovarian cancer and supports patients and families during their journeys.

"To me, it's a way of keeping my sister close in my heart and in my family's hearts," Stevens said. "It's a way to make her proud and to keep her spirit alive."

Stevens called the organization a family project. Together with Ashdown's husband, Bob; her parents, Greg and Deb Petr; and honorary family member Wendy Preslan, the family works together to make Ashdown proud.

"We are a family," Stevens said. "It's not one person. We each shine so we make this happen. We each do our best to be able to keep Stef Ripple going."

Stevens, who works full-time as a web developer at Anne Arundel Community College, uses her expertise in

Volunteer Works To Keep Sister's Memory Alive



Courtney Stevens was named the September Volunteer of the Month for her work with Stef Ripple and the fifth annual Stefanie Ashdown memorial run.

graphic design to create graphics for the web and social media. She also works closely with a team at Johns Hopkins to manage the Stephanie Ashdown Cancer Family Support Fund and helps with many other administrative tasks.

The fifth annual Stefanie Ashdown Memorial "Do Your Best" 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk will take place September 25 in Arnold. The event is the organization's top fundraiser each year.

"Besides just raising funds, it was really helpful to spread awareness," Stevens said, "whether it's the yard signs on the side of the road or the

social media that we put on different community websites. It's really good for them to know what ovarian cancer is and to raise awareness."

In addition to assisting with planning the fundraiser, Stevens spends the day of the event coordinating with vendors and sponsors. When the event is over, Stevens said she usually feels a sense of relief, followed by a strong burst of emotion.

"The whole month of September is full of emotions," Stevens said. "My sister's birthday is in September, as well. September hits and the emotions come."

At the same time, however, Stevens said this gives her the push she needs to keep going.

"It's empowering," she said. "It makes you want to brainstorm and get those creative juices flowing on how we can use our mission."

The community was supportive during Ashdown's battle, and it is great to be able to host an event that gives back to the community and simultaneously honors her sister's legacy.

"I know that if she were here, she would be doing this," Stevens said. "She might not have a nonprofit, but she would be supporting other warriors. She would be just sharing her three principles of being thankful, helpful and kind."

To learn more about Stef Ripple or participating in the run, visit www.stefripple.org.

Make A Wave With Stef Ripple 5K



The fifth annual Stefanie Ashdown Memorial Do Your Best 5k returns to Belvedere Elementary in Arnold on September 25 at 8:00am. Sign up for the 5K run, 1-mile walk or kids fun run.

Funds raised will go to Stef Ripple, a nonprofit that raises awareness of ovarian cancer and supports ovarian cancer patients and their families. The organization

also shares principles of Stefanie Ashdown's life: be thankful, be helpful, be kind.

Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female 5k finishers and for several age groups. The top fundraising individual, top fundraising team, and the team from the furthest geographic location will win a prize. Last year's winners in these categories raised \$200 for the top individu-

als, \$400 for the top fundraising team, and runner participation came from as far away as Qatar.

Registration is \$30, in-person or virtual, for individuals. A discount of \$5 is available when four or more registrants sign up. Belvedere Elementary is located at 360 Broadwater Road in Arnold. Register at www.runsignup.com. Learn more about Stef Ripple at www.stefripple.org.



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With Love From Robin Williams' Front Yard

By John Singleton

It's always the Fourth of July in Robin Williams' front yard. Christmas, too. With a touch of Ravens Roost on the side.

"I love Severna Park!" said Williams, standing at a familiar site to commuters who travel along B&A Boulevard. "My neighbors are my best friends."

Born in Baltimore, the woman with the famous actor's name has lived in Severna Park for the past 12 years in a rambler she has transformed into a local landmark. Commuters toot horns and wave as they pass her famously decorated lawn festooned with American flags.

"My father and both my husbands were members of the U.S. military," she said while waving back. "I'm a very patriotic person."

Love of God and country are hallmarks of her life

despite periods of intense trial. After her mother's death in 1990, and her husband's death in 1991, her oldest son Dexter was killed on the streets of Baltimore in 1992, the victim of a robbery.

"I want to bring people to God," enthused the spritely 67-year-old. "I want to change something bad into something good. We're going through dark times in our country right now. But I'm like my mother. I do missionary work."

Cooking and delivering food to local charities including Woods Church and the Annapolis Lighthouse, Williams travels by bus. Signs and wonders tend to follow in her wake.

"I used to go the Emmaus Center in Glen Burnie where people were sleeping outside in tents," she confided. "For a

long time, I prayed for them and now they don't sleep in tents anymore."

In June, a loud crash was heard outside her front door just south of the community of Round Bay. In the middle of the night, a 21-year-old Mount St. Joseph High School graduate was killed in a car accident. It turned out to be Marine Corps Private Noah Blonder, the son of the owners of Buddy's Crab House in Annapolis.

"The next day, I collected some broken branches and debris from where the accident happened," Williams said, her voice breaking with emotion. "I keep these things in my yard surrounded by

American flags. I pray for both of the boys in that crash. The one who died and the one who lived."

Williams sees her front yard as a free speech zone. Whether it's cheering for her country or celebrating

her favorite sports team, nothing can stop her from expressing her opinion.

"My all-time favorite Ravens player is Joe Flacco!" she said, posing in front of the Super Bowl winning quarterback's jersey hanging from a tree limb. "But I love the Orioles, too! I love hockey and volleyball."

But "missionary work," as she calls it, continues to be her primary focus. Whether it's a hot meal delivered to a local church or a honk and a wave on the way to work, people looking for affirmation need to look no further than Robin Williams' front yard.

"I pray constantly," she said. "I put my trust in Jesus. And through these difficult times, I'm praying for Severna Park."

"We're going through dark times in our country right now. But I'm like my mother. I do missionary work."

— ROBIN WILLIAMS



Photo by John Singleton

Robin Williams' home on Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard is flanked by American flags, sports gear and religious tokens.

Rise Above Animal Sanctuary And Rescue Expands

By Emily Allgair

Since before 2018, Kaitlin Neal and her family have been saving pets and growing the foster-based nonprofit organization Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue in Millersville. What started as a single foster family has expanded into around 50 willing foster homes.

Neal and her associates have been planning to expand the organization and potentially open an adoption center in Pasadena to foster animals until they become healthy and available for adoption.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue takes in animals that are strays, owner-surrenders, and those that have faced overcrowding in other shelters. Although the organization takes in more cats than other animals, they are not limited to felines. Neal estimates that only between 15 and 20 dogs are fostered each year whereas the organization helps 800 to 900 cats each year.

"We get them fully vetted if they have injuries or if they need surgeries, dentals, etc., and we find them homes once they're healthy," Neal said.

Still planning on utilizing its foster homes, Rise Above Animal Sanctuary



and Rescue will continue to vet any animal that comes in before it is available for adoption.

In opening the new location, Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue looks forward to gaining more space and, therefore, more opportunities to save more animals.

"It will be an actual brick and mortar building where we have cats that people will come and visit and hang



Left: Kiki, a brown tabby, is currently owned by Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue. **Above:** Miracle is a tortoiseshell rescue kitten currently being fostered.

out with," Neal said. "I feel like it will give them time to get to know the cat before they actually adopt them," she added.

Not only will the adoption center benefit the animals, but Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue plans on hosting event nights, including paint nights, trick trainings, and educational speakers to make sure that the pets are happy in their forever homes.

One of Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue's favorite success stories is that of Kiki, a rescue kitten with hydrocephalus that was 5 weeks old and a few ounces when they got her. Doctors said that Kiki probably would not make it past one year, but more than a year later, Kiki has been enjoying her life as the organization's own cat mascot.

To make these plans a reality, Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue will need help from the community. Aside from the board of directors, Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue is fully staffed by volunteers and is currently looking to bring more into the organization.

Being a nonprofit, Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue is run completely off of donations — both funds and items. To increase both of these donations, there is an itemized wish list, as well as opportunities for business sponsorships in partnership with Rise Above Animal Sanctuary and Rescue's new location and advertising.

Relating to business and volunteer opportunities, as well as donations, any questions, requests, and inquiries can be gathered by emailing riseabove-animalrescue@gmail.com.

Golfing For Gabi: Severna Park Supports Family Of Coach, Teacher

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The Pellicani family in 2017 received news that no one wants to hear: their granddaughter, Gabriella “Gabi” Pellicani, had glioblastoma, a form of brain cancer.

The cancer was aggressive. Incurable.

Gabi was treated at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, from April to June 2018 as part of an experimental clinical trial that focused on a particular genetic mutation found in Gabi’s tumor.

Her 10-month battle ended in October 2018.

Heartbroken, the Pellicanis set out to prevent the same outcome for other families. Golfing For Gabi — a fundraiser at the Rockville Links Club in New York, Gabi’s home state — started in 2019.

Three years later, the tournament is set for its third installment on September 23. As has been the case the last few years, Severna Park is playing a role in its fundraising success. This comes as no surprise to Paul Pellicani, Gabi’s grandfather and head coach of the Severna Park High School varsity basketball team.

“We found out about Gabi’s diagnosis in December 2017,” Paul said. “Unbeknownst to me, our players contacted our opponent on a given night and had a game dedicated to Gabi while she was going through treatment. They raised about \$1,040 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. People have been so nice.”

Many donors wanted to support Paul and his wife, Lisa, who taught at Severna

School for 26 years.

Severna Park High School graduate Jake Hallet remembers talking to Paul Pellicani before the first Golfing For Gabi event. Hallet last played for Paul in 2017.

“I’d want people to know how special Gabi was, not only to the family,” Hallet said. “She would come to our practices and light up the room. She was always smiling and dribbling a ball.”

Hallet worked with his friend, Cullen Joyce, to promote the event on social media. In the process, Hallet was helping Paul, a “phenomenal human being.”

“He was always so supportive of myself and my brother, whether it was on the basketball court or in life,” Hallet said. “In those years, we did not always have the best season, but he inspired each of us to be a better person.”

Paul’s former players, in return, have been inspired to help their coach and Gabi, one of their favorite fans. Most charitable golf events offer hole sponsorship as an option, and with Paul and Lisa sponsoring hole five, Severna Park has also supported the cause.

“Hole five is a short par three and it is



Gabi Pellicani was 5 years old when she lost her battle with glioblastoma, a form of brain cancer.

adjacent to the pool at Rockville Links Golf Club,” Paul explained. “Gabi was 5 years old when she passed. When her dad was golfing, she would wait at the fence by hole five. So it made a lot of sense for us to sponsor hole five.”

In Golfing For Gabi’s first year, hole five raised about \$6,000. Last year, donors collectively gave \$8,000 to hole five. Both years, the

fundraising far surpassed the \$250 cost to sponsor a hole.

“It has effectively become a pseudo sponsor,” Paul said.

The support has gone beyond hole five. “One former player sponsored another hole,” Paul said. “Another player, unbeknownst to me, had went and sponsored a hole on behalf of the boys basketball team.”

So many of Lisa’s former students and Paul’s players continue to show their gratitude. Pete Young, Paul Pellicani’s assistant coach for the last 23 years, knows why.

“Coach Pellicani has poured as much energy into helping the kids who aren’t Division I players as the ones who went to have successful college careers,” said

Young, who coached both of Paul’s sons, Ben and Nick, Gabi’s dad.

“Gabi won’t be forgotten,” Young said. “We still look at her as our littlest Falcon. Our clipboards have a gray ribbon that says, ‘For Gabi.’ It’s embedded in our DNA.”

Knowing that most people from Severna Park are unable to visit Long Island, New York, for a golf tournament, the Pellicanis created the sponsorship as a way for people to support the Jimmy Fund and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Boston.

“Very little research is done on pediatric cancer,” Paul said. “The reason is unfortunate even though I understand it: it’s not lucrative for investors because there aren’t enough cases.”

People can help in three ways: Venmo golfing4gabi, make a donation online at www.danafarber.jimmyfund.org/goto/golfingforgabi, or make a check out to “Dana-Farber Cancer Institute” and send it to coach Pellicani at 49 Hatton Drive, Severna Park, Maryland, 21146. All checks will be presented at the event on September 23.

For more information, visit www.golfingforgabi.com.

“If one day because of the effort of the event and community coming together, this could be a small piece of families not getting the news we got, that is the motivating goal,” Paul said. “Yes, it does continue Gabi’s memory, but we don’t want someone else to go through this.”

“Let’s not have this be just a sad story, but maybe something positive can come out of this.”

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Introducing Boone Station Hall

By Sarah Elder
Severna Park Community Center

Long before Severna Park had a community center, this area was known by the name of the local Baltimore Annapolis Railroad stop: Boone Station. The town changed its name to Severna Park in the late 1920s, but the history of Boone Station, and how it helped to build a community, is still a part of who we are today.

The small church structure on the property next to the Severna Park Community Center, known for years as Holy Grounds, is believed to have arrived in 1927 to this community by train — as a ready-to-assemble kit from Sears, Roebuck & Company, known then as the “world’s largest store.”

From 1908 to around 1940, Sears sold more than 70,000 “kit” single-family homes across the United States through mail order. The kits were shipped by boxcar and arrived with a 75-page instruction manual. Kits could contain as many as 30,000 pieces, marked to facilitate construction.

Barns, churches, and garages were also part of the Sears kit phenomenon, and an important part of our national story of ingenuity and resourcefulness. Other manufacturers followed Sears’ example and developed single-family home kits of their own, but the Sears name is still synonymous today with prefabricated homes of this period.

The original Holy Grounds building on our property was built by a small congregation who would have appreciated the discounted price of buying a premade kit building, and the opportunity to work together to assemble their church structure. Plus, the close proximity of the railroad station stop made this a perfect location to build!

As the original “kit” for the building likely arrived in a boxcar to the railroad stop once known as Boone Station, it seems fitting to now rename Holy Grounds officially — **Boone Station Hall**.

While we have not yet found proof of this origin, we love the connection to the rich history of Severna Park for this charming hall that hosts everything from baby showers to celebrations of life.

New signs for Boone Station Hall were installed recently. We hope you will stop by soon to see our new “look.”



The small church structure on the property next to the Severna Park Community Center, formerly known as Holy Grounds, has been officially renamed Boone Station Hall.

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Re/Max Plans Harvest For The Hungry Events

Re/Max Experience will host its annual Harvest for the Hungry stuff-a-truck event at Pastore's Plaza on November 14 from 1:00pm-6:00pm. The community is invited to join Re/Max for music, grub from food trucks, crafts for kids, giving Christmas wishes to U.S. troops, a visit from the Grinch, and a tree lighting at dusk.

The business is also collecting nonperishable items now through November 14 for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Those items can be brought to 3820 H Mountain Road in Pasadena or to Bella Napoli

Italian Restaurant at 350 Mountain Road Pasadena. To have the items picked up, call 410-255-0000.

Re/Max Experience is excited to add a little flair to the food drive this year with the Bring It On Box Challenge. How does it work? Fill a box with nonperishable items. Sign the box, take a photo and post it online with the tag "Bring it On Box Challenge." Take the empty box and challenge someone else. This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to friends, family, social groups, sports teams, businesses and even your strongest competitor to stand united for a great cause.

Lifeline 100 Registration To Support County Food Bank

*Thirty Percent Of
Registration Fees September
1-12 To Be Donated*



Join the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Anne Arundel County Police Department and Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA) on October 3 for the seventh annual Lifeline 100 community bicycle event, which starts and ends at Kinder Farm Park in Millersville.

Lifeline 100 features scenic trails and roadways to spotlight cycling awareness, safety and its benefits. The event typically attracts more than 800 participants from ages 4 to 84 of all abilities and a wide range of bikes including road bikes, hybrids, mountain bikes, cruisers, tandems, recumbents, adaptive and trikes. Over the past six years, the event has generated more than \$200,000 in proceeds for nonprofit beneficiaries and has won an award from the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association.

In recognition of Hunger Action Month, the event will donate 30% of all registration fees collected September 1 to September 12 to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB). The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant, detrimental impact on food insecurity in Anne Arundel County. Since March 2020, AACFB has witnessed a 482% increase in the number of people seeking assistance at food pantries and, in response, distributed nearly 7.4 million pounds of food throughout Anne Arundel County. Today, AACFB continues to see an average of 64,000 people per month that rely on its food and basic necessities programs.

The need for food donations in Anne Arundel County remains high. In recent months, AACFB has experienced

a 76% drop-off in food donations. Furthermore, due to the pandemic, AACFB saw one of its largest food drives canceled for the second year in a row; the drive typically generates roughly 40,000 pounds in food donations for the people of Anne Arundel County.

AACFB is also a partner with BikeAAA, the Anne Arundel County Police Department, Anne Arundel Medical Center and Crofton Bike Doctor in the Wheels of Hope program, which collects used bikes that are refurbished by volunteers and provided with new helmets to adults and children in need. Many adult bikes are placed with people without cars and in need of transportation. The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks has partnered with AACFB with Donation Trailers in the Parks, an award-winning program to collect food and other essentials.

Lifeline 100 will take cyclists through 100- and 65-mile scenic routes with views of the Severn River, Chesapeake Bay, historic Annapolis and more. The 30- and 15-mile flat, paved trail routes are great for riders of all ages and abilities including families, adaptive bikes and people with special needs who can register at a two-for-one rate with their accompanying rider thanks to Ride Leader sponsor Prophasys. All routes are fully supported with route maps and markings, rest stops and SAG vehicles.

The free children's bike rodeo for ages 4-10, provided by PedalPowerKids, will return on October 3 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for a fun and educational experience. The bike rodeo will include a short bike safety check, helmet instruction and safe riding tips followed by a kids' obstacle riding course that includes turns, stops and crossings. Reserve a free time slot at www.lifeline100.com/rodeo.

For full event details and registration information, visit www.lifeline100.com.



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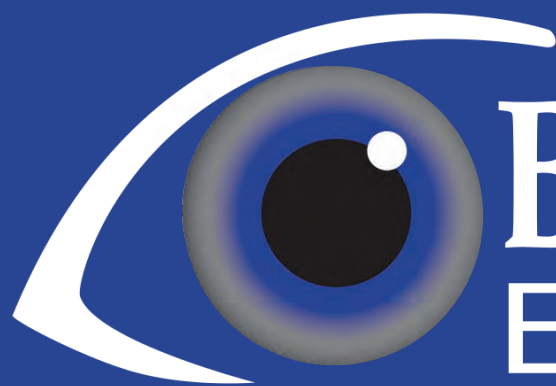


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Severna Park Voice Celebrates 40 Years Of Service

» Continued from page 1
Severna Park.”

A few months after Mills' death in November 1995, her granddaughter Dianna and her future husband, Lonnie Lancione, dedicated themselves to continuing the legacy, taking full control of the paper, incorporating it in May 1996. Together they quickly assumed all roles within the paper: advertising sales, graphic design and layout, taking photographs, writing stories and whatever else needed to be done.

By building long-term, mutually beneficial advertising relationships that were built on trust, they were able to support Severna Park's small business community and grow their business. Shortly thereafter, Lonnie and Dianna established the Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month award to preserve Mills' spirit and passion for providing positive, hyper-local news.

And now, after owning the paper for 25 years, Dianna and Lonnie are still committed to fulfilling her grandmother's vision.

"We have never wavered from why we do this, not one bit. We still believe people want to feel good and they value having a trusted source for local information," they said almost simultaneously.

Growing With Severna Park

Over the years, the staff grew and the paper flourished, adding a variety of special editions. Like the paper, those editions

have changed over the years to showcase a more creative and reader-friendly design.

When the staff reflects on the paper's 40-year history, though, what often comes to mind are the people and community events that make the Severna Park area such a special place.

Severna Park High School's Rock 'N' Roll Revival started in 1989, giving students an annual showcase for their skills.

In 1995, a group of community members, affiliated with Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, arranged for the purchase of the land and established the Severna Park Community Center, a nonprofit, outreach organization designed to serve the community.

Severna Park hosted a special visitor on October 5, 1998, when Hillary Clinton visited the B&A Trail to talk about the Millennium Trails campaign.

Area residents celebrated the town's centennial in 2006, and the *Voice* staff was there to collect historical anecdotes, speak with founding families and cover the many related festivities.

After a long and trying years-long process of funding approval, the new, \$130.2 million Severna Park High opened its doors to students and teachers in January 2017.

The *Voice* has also captured countless accomplishments from area youth and sports teams.

There have been stories of great accomplishments, like in 2015 when Severna Park's Katie Higgins became the first female pilot to fly with U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. And at the Summer Olympics in 2016, when Arnold native Matthew Centrowitz bested 12 other runners in the 1,500-meter race, becoming the first American to win a gold medal in that event since 1908.

There have been stories of tragedy followed by accounts of neighbors helping one another in times of need. This was evident during the coronavirus pandemic that started in 2020.

Countless other stories of kindness and accomplishment have graced the pages of the *Severna Park Voice*. For the Lancione family and the *Voice* staff, it's been an honor to serve such a tight-knit community.

"Continuing Margueritte's vision, while working with so many really fantastic local people, has truly been a blessing for us," they concluded.



Margueritte Mills launched the *Severna Park Village Voice*, now the *Severna Park Voice*, in 1981.



Right: Dianna and Lonnie Lancione dedicated themselves to continuing the legacy, taking full control of the paper, incorporating it in May 1996.



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Out Of The Darkness Walk Returns

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Maryland chapter is moving forward with plans to host the 12th annual Annapolis Out of the Darkness Community Walk in person on September 18 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Navy Marine Corps Stadium.

The health and safety of participants, staff and volunteers will be top priorities as AFSP works with local authorities to make this a safe event. Online options will be offered for those who do not feel comfortable attending.

The global pandemic has impacted the emotional and economic well-being of many individuals and families, and left many people to manage a variety of emotions, including feelings of uncertainty. In Maryland, suicide continues to be the 11th leading cause of death. While the overall number of suicides in the U.S. dropped in 2019 and 2020, Maryland's suicide rate did not decrease. Now, more than ever, it's important for everyone to stay connected and take steps to safeguard mental health to prevent suicide.

The walk is an opportunity to unite the community to fight suicide while recognizing and honoring loved ones, raising awareness, educating communities, supporting one another, and sharing hope. AFSP remains dedicated to providing walk participants with opportunities to connect, heal, share stories and show them that they are not alone.

"Suicide touches one in five American families. We hope that by walking, we will draw attention to this issue and keep other families from experiencing a suicide loss," said Kat Olbrich, Maryland and Delaware area director for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. "Our ultimate goal is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide."

To provide participants with a meaningful and safe event, this year's Annapolis Out of the Darkness Walk will look different from past walks. Those who preregister for free (www.afsp.org/annapolis) do not have to check-in on the day of the walk. For those who do not preregister, QR codes to register and donate will speed up the process, but preregistration is encouraged.

Teams and walkers will be assigned arrival times, allowing for a more staggered two-mile walk over the course of four hours. Bring a smartphone, water and mask.

Participants will be able to pick up honor beads to show their connection to the cause and explore resources provided by local community partners and mental health services. A slideshow will honor and remember those lost to suicide.



Organizations Reflect On Mental Health

» Continued from page 1

Life of Joy Foundation is working hard to assist people in getting the resources that they need to get better. Cortina encourages the community to get involved because raising awareness can make all the difference in the world.

"Seeking support sooner than later is really key," Cortina said. "Really just building your own toolbox, building your awareness, engaging in things in the community. That's really the biggest piece of advice that I have, because it's all about awareness."

To learn more about Life of Joy or find additional resources, contact info@lifeofjoyfoundation.org or visit www.lifeofjoyfoundation.org.

Ellie's Bus

Sherry and Larry Leikin, the founders of Ellie's Bus, said that mental health awareness and activism has improved drastically.

"I think there's a lot more awareness and that is a good thing," Larry said. "Internationally, nationally and locally, there is more awareness of the problem."

Sherry cited Simone Biles stepping away from the women's gymnastics all-around, floor and uneven bars events at the Tokyo Olympics to focus on her mental health. Sherry said that this encourages children to know that it is OK to step away, especially in Severna Park, where athletics are valued.

"When Simone Biles stepped out of the Olympics, that was a huge way of signaling to kids that even the greatest athletes in the world can have to deal with mental issues and mental distress," Sherry said. "I really think it's slowly starting to turn, and people are recognizing the importance of good mental health and keeping

yourself healthy."

While the situation may be improving, there is still work to be done. With Ellie's Bus, the Leikins hope to continue to spread awareness of mental health issues and suicide prevention.

"It's all about education and making sure that kids understand that they have a place to go if they're not feeling right, and mostly to teach kids to look out for their friends," Larry said.

The Leikins encourage children, or even adults, who are struggling to find help with their parents, friends, or even starting with a primary care physician to point them in the direction if they do not know where to turn.

"Go to anybody. If you don't want to go to your parents, go to a coach or whoever you feel comfortable going to," Larry said. "That's what we want to encourage kids to do."

The Leikins encourage everyone to look out for their friends and to educate themselves. A little awareness and education could make all of the difference.

To learn more about Ellie's Bus, visit www.elliesbus.org.

National Alliance on Mental Health - Anne Arundel County

Fred Delp, the executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Health Anne Arundel County (NAMIAAC,) said the current state of mental illness and health in Anne Arundel County is in desperate need of help. Delp said there are three big obstacles standing in the way of improving the situation. The first is education about warning signs and symptoms for mental illness and health, and resources within the community. The second is the lack of mental health professionals in the area.

"We need to have more psychiatry in our caring for mental health," Delp said. "There's a shortage of psychiatrists in our county. It's very difficult, especially in the African American and Latino communities."

He also mentioned that local hospitals have only 40 beds for acute psychiatric care, and they are nearly always full and only for patients over the age of 18. The third and most discussed obstacle is the stigma surrounding mental health and illness. That stigma keeps people from having tough conversations.

"The community needs to be aware of these things," Delp said. "Mental health seems to take a backseat."

NAMIAAC offers many free programs to educate, raise awareness and offer support to the community. The nine signature programs offer resources and education for caregivers and parents, advocates, individuals with mental illness and mentors. Delp said NAMIAAC reaches out to thousands of people within the county each year and attends workplace events to educate. The team also operates a warmline seven days a week that allows them to speak to people directly.

At the end of August, Delp met with County Executive Stuart Pittman to discuss the work NAMIAAC does in the community. During that presentation, Delp suggested that the county should be more transparent with the community about the realities of mental health in the community.

"I'm just saying we need a stronger, bigger effort to let the community know about all the mental health resources in the county," Delp said.

To learn more about NAMIAAC or find resources, contact info@namiaac.org. For help, call the warmline at 443-569-3498.

Round Bay Residents Protest Development Of Historic Mount Misery

By Haley Weisgerber

Seven years ago, when Danielle Dupcak and her family moved into Round Bay, they fell in love with the community for its proximity to the water and the fact that each house had personality. Her home on Old County Road is located on a hill called Mount Misery, which was used as a fort for Union soldiers in the Civil War.

The Dupcaks purchased the lot from a bank after the previous owner lost the property. Then, the bank split the lot into seven subdivisions.

Now, Sikora Development LLC and Style Works Design Build want to build two three-story, \$1.6 million homes on two of the additional lots. The homes threaten a large area of hillside, while building a driveway on a slope that is greater than 25 percent.

"You chatter as neighbors and you realize that the development impacts each other," Dupcak said, "whether it's runoff to a neighbor who is downhill, causing them financial harm because you know they're dealing with water issues, or just increased traffic noise, trees coming down, and pollution to the water and wildlife."

The property is also considered to be within the Critical Area, which means the land is within 1,000 feet of the tidal waters and wetlands that make up the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. This particular property is within 1,000 feet of both the Magothy and Severn rivers. In order to build on this land, the developer had to seek a modification to the Critical Area Law, a modification that was granted to the dismay of many Round Bay residents.

In the original variance filed by the developer's legal representation in 2020, the developer stated that the two homes will use a combined driveway to minimize the impact on the hillside. The first lot could have 5,663 square feet of lot coverage, which refers to the size of the footprint, and the developer is using approximately 2,724 square feet. The second lot could have 5,359 square feet of coverage, and the developer is using approximately 4,560 square feet, most of which is the shared driveway.

"In total, overall lot coverage will be approximately 3,738 square feet below the amount otherwise allowed with less slope disturbance that might otherwise be required," the letter stated. "By only using one shared driveway, lot coverage, as well as sleep slope disturbance, is minimized."

Sue Mead, who has lived in Round Bay for over 20 years, was among the concerned residents. Her house is adjacent to the property where the two homes would stand.

"When they granted it, we were shocked," Mead



This photo, captured by a drone at the top of Mount Misery, shows the slope and proximity to the water.

said. "It's a steep slope; you're adding pavement, a driveway; you're deforesting the whole hillside. It is a historic site where there is proof that it was used at the beginning of a civil war."

A group of three to four neighbors, including Dupcak and Mead, filed an appeal to the modifications. Specifically, they are challenging the lot that would include the driveway. They reached out to the Magothy River Association and the Chesapeake Legal Alliance to assist them, and each neighbor paid \$250 to file the paperwork. There was room for only one name on the appeal, so one neighbor used his name.

Just after the neighbors submitted the paperwork, COVID-19 pushed the case to the side. The neighbor who had put his name on the appeal had to change jobs and move away due to the pandemic. So, the neighbors and the developer found themselves in front of the Board of Appeals on August 25, hoping to speak. Even though all neighbors had paid for the appeal, the case was dismissed in favor of the developer.

Spadaro believes the development of this land will cause runoff and flooding issues for the neighbors further down the hillside and along Old County Road.

"The developer has to come up with another plan," Spadaro said. "There's no reason to have a driveway, or come up with a smaller size house, so they don't have to remove that much mountainside."

The developer has planned to include rain gardens on the property to aid with runoff, but according to Spadaro and Mead, it is going to take much more than rain gardens to fix the problem.

"Rain gardens are meant to overflow," Mead said. "Then that will overflow into a very busy, windy road. That's why I have safety concerns with this added driveway and a blind corner and safety concerns during serious weather."

Mead and Dupcak worry about overpopulating lo-

cal schools with the addition of these homes and the lack of stormwater drains along Old County Road.

"Most people must think we are against all development and I'm not," Mead said. "I think there's a compromise here because there's a lot of options."

As one compromise, Mead proposed building a smaller home and connecting the house to a neighboring driveway to avoid disturbing the hillside.

Spadaro fears that Civil War history will be erased if the hillside is destroyed.

The fort, presumably called Fort Grey, housed 250 soldiers year-round and had a spectacular view of the Severn River, Magothy River and the Chesapeake Bay. Spadaro believes that Mount Misery played a bigger part

in the Civil War than the public knows, and he is particularly interested in protecting the view.

Maryland was considering joining the Confederacy, but in an effort to not isolate Washington, D.C., troops from 8th New York Regiment were called in to defend the capital. The view from the fort on top of Mount Misery enabled Union soldiers to look at Confederate ships attempting to enter Maryland or Washington D.C.

Arnold residents at the time were not too pleased with the soldiers' arrival. Spadaro said soldiers were told to not buy produce from the residents as the produce was believed to be poisoned. He believes the neighborhood and Maryland's opinion on the Union troops' presence may have something to do with the lack of awareness about the fort. The Magothy River Association is currently working on a living history project to spotlight Mount Misery's historic relevance.

"This would have been an ideal spot for a park," Spadaro said. "That might be water under the bridge, but there's no real reason that a section of this property could not be set aside for the memorial for those Union troops."

Along with the Magothy River Association and the Chesapeake Legal Alliance, the neighbors are going to challenge the Board of Appeals' decision once again.

"We will also aggressively go back to the county, because I do believe we have a larger opportunity to go at the grading permit, which we feel that this subdivision will fail," Spadaro said.

On August 25, this group of neighbors was not allowed to share concerns, but they are not throwing in the towel just yet.

"I guess people just need to try and speak out and this is our way of just trying to do it a little bit," Dupcak said. "Make some noise and see if anyone wants to listen. We feel like we have a case, and we would just like to see the appeal go forward."

Literacy Council To Hold Fundraiser Book Fair October 16

The Anne Arundel County Literacy Council (AALC) will host a fundraiser book fair on Saturday, October 16, from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

The book fair will take place outside Discoveries: the Library at the Mall at the Crate & Barrel court in Annapolis Mall. Westfield Annapolis Mall generously donated space and marketing support for the event. Discoveries Library will feature a children's activity and a library card sign-up booth at the book fair.

The fair will feature a range of gently used books including children's books, cookbooks, bestsellers, romance novels, memoirs, mysteries, thrillers, historical fiction and much more. Books will be priced \$2 for hardbacks and \$1 for paperbacks, with bundled book offerings at special prices. Shoppers will have the option of filling a special edition Anne Arundel County Literacy Council tote bag with books for \$20. PayPal, credit cards, check and cash will be accepted.

Also at the book fair: gift basket raf-

fles and more.

The event will be entirely run by volunteers who have come together to provide services in the community and uplift those in need. Proceeds from the book fair will support the council's free adult tutoring programs in Anne Arundel County. Sponsorships are still available — contact Jane Seiss at director@aalc.org for more information.

Additional details are available at the literacy council's website: www.icanread.org.



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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

Millersville's Zurlo Brothers Graduate From U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Michael Alan Zurlo and Matthew Ryan Zurlo of Millersville recently graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point, New York. The brothers earned Bachelor of Science degrees and commissions in the U. S. armed forces. They also earned Merchant Marine officer licenses, qualifying them to serve as officers on any ship in the U.S. flag merchant marine. Both are graduates of Severna Park High School.

The United States Merchant Marine Academy is one of five U.S. federal service academies. It educates and graduates licensed Merchant Marine officers to serve the nation during peace and war. In addition to the rigorous academic and physical requirements for admission, applicants must be nominated by their congressman or senator. Michael and Matthew were nominated by former Senator Barbara Mikulski.

All USMMA graduates incur an obligation to serve the United States. The U.S. Flag Merchant Marine — manned exclusively by American mariners — is essential for securing the country's commerce

in peacetime and delivering warfighters, weapons, and military supplies in times of conflict. The majority of "Kings Pointers" serve for eight years as Navy reservists in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program while working aboard U.S. flag vessels; others will serve on active duty in the armed forces.

By virtue of their elite training and real-world experience, graduates are ready to go on day one in service of American military strength and economic power. As part of their four-year education, the Zurlo brothers spent one year training as cadets aboard ocean-going vessels. Both brothers will serve on active duty in the U.S. Navy and are attending Navy Flight School in Pensacola, Florida, to become naval aviators.

Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, a 1986 alumnus of the academy, gave the commencement address and



The Zurlo brothers earned Bachelor of Science degrees and commissions in the armed forces.

told the graduates, "Your graduation comes at a particularly important inflection point in the United States history. Sea power matters now more than ever. And a big part of that is all of you."

Dedicated during World War II, USMMA has since served the nation in both peace and war. Learn more at www.weartheusmma.com. For more information about the academy, visit www.usmma.edu.

September Update From The Nonprofit SPAN

Michele Sabean

Director of Development
SPAN Inc.



It was wonderful to see so many community members at the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company for the Eastern District National Night Out in August. SPAN's bathtub costume received a lot of attention. It was a reminder that in addition to food, SPAN provides emergency financial assistance to help people through a utility turnoff, court-ordered eviction or the need for a medical prescription.

Emergency financial assistance is very needed these days as some of the pandemic supports end. Maryland's eviction moratorium ended August 15 and the Supreme Court has ruled that the Centers for Disease Control does not have the authority to extend the moratorium in areas of high COVID-19 transmission. SPAN has always been there to help those facing crisis situations, such as a loss of job or illness, and

SPAN continues to be here as an available source of support.

An additional form of support, to help renters and landlords, is the \$22.8 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds that Anne Arundel County has to distribute. This is a federally funded program in response to COVID-19 and more than 60% of the funds still need to be dispersed. More information about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program may be found at www.dhcd.maryland.gov, and for Anne Arundel County specific information, at www.acdsinc.org.

SPAN continues to be grateful for the supportive community that helps us help others. It is wonderful to see the donations that show up at our door and to stop by the Severna Park Library and Severna Park Community Center and find the SPAN donation boxes full.

Your generosity also helps with an additional program, Holiday Caring, which provides clients with holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children.



SPAN's bathtub costume received a lot of attention during National Night Out in August.

Now that students are heading back to school and pumpkins are starting to appear everywhere, many will start counting down the days until Thanksgiving and Christmas. But many families worry about Thanksgiving and Christmas because they can't afford a large meal and gifts for their children. Unforeseen circumstances, such as a car accident, illness or job layoff can throw family budgets into crisis mode. At

SPAN, we can ease the burden a bit.

Please consider becoming a sponsor — you will be matched with a SPAN client family to purchase the food and/or gifts for the family and deliver the donation to SPAN for distribution. Sponsors also have the option of sending SPAN a tax-deductible donation or gift cards. For more information, please email us at spanhelps@yahoo.com or call 410-647-0889. Thank you for your help; together we are making a difference every day!

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

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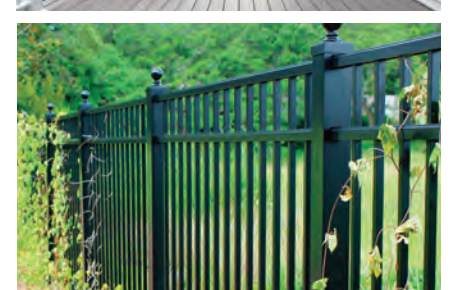
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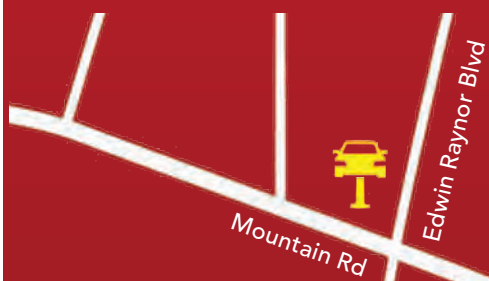
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GPO Mourns Passing Of Former Public Printer Bill Boarman

William "Bill" J. Boarman, who served as public printer of the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) from December 2010 to January 2012, died August 22 in Severna Park. He was 75 years old.



Bill Boarman

"The GPO team and I send our deepest condolences to public printer Boarman's family and friends," said GPO Director Hugh Nathaniel Halpern.

"While I never had the opportunity to meet him personally, Bill's accomplishments as the leader of GPO helped shape GPO into the successful enterprise it is today. He will be missed."

Boarman served as the nation's 26th public printer after being appointed by President Barack Obama. His appointment was a homecoming of sorts, as Boarman worked at GPO during the 1970s as a printer/proofreader before leaving to serve in various elected posts within the International Typographical Union, which merged with Communications Workers of America (CWA). He became senior vice president and president

of the printing, publishing and media workers sector.

During his year as public printer, Boarman led GPO to do more with less by reducing the size and costs of the agency, streamlining operations, and utilizing new technology. Under his leadership, GPO launched a task force to recover outstanding payments from federal agencies, a program that still exists today. During Fiscal Year 2011, GPO recovered more than \$9 million in outstanding payments. And GPO launched its first mobile app and expanded the agency's social media presence by launching a Facebook page. In December 2011, Boarman made GPO history by naming Davita Vance-Cooks as deputy public printer, the second-highest ranking position at GPO. Vance-Cooks was the first woman ever to be appointed to that position and went on to become the first Black and first woman public printer. While Boarman was public printer, GPO celebrated its 150th anniversary and opened a history exhibit showcasing the important role the agency plays.

Boarman was associated with the printing industry, its labor relations, and personnel management for over 50 years, starting with his four-year apprenticeship at McArdle Printing in Washington, D.C. in 1971.

County Celebrates National Preparedness Month

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month, an annual opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of always being prepared for disasters and emergencies.

Preeti Emrick, director of the Office of Emergency Management, urges community members to integrate preparedness into their lives as well, "even if in the smallest way. Whether it is creating a communication plan with your family, purchasing an item or two for your emergency kits, getting vaccinated, or simply signing up for Alert Anne Arundel, we can all take steps to better prepare ourselves for the challenges ahead," Emrick said.

Throughout this month, the Office of Emergency Management will help the county prepare both at the individual and community level by hosting preparedness presentations to community groups/organizations, and by sharing preparedness tips on its social media accounts, which include a new youth preparedness campaign.

"Preparing as individuals and communities can save lives and avoid putting our first responders in harm's way as they respond to emergencies," Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman said. "As severe storms and weather events become more frequent, we all need to do our part."

Week 1 of National Preparedness Month was held September 1-4. Check

out Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor and YouTube to learn about these other preparedness topics:

Week 2 (September 5-11):

Build a Kit

Put together an emergency go-kit and gather supplies for sheltering-in-place that will last several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate or move to a different area of your home quickly.

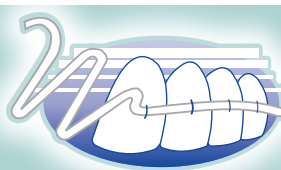
Week 3 (September 12-18): Low-Cost, No-Cost Preparedness

Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards, and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.

Week 4 (September 19-25): Youth Preparedness

The youth are the future, so the Office of Emergency Management is launching a new youth campaign with its mascot, Pepper the Preparedness Pup. The campaign targets children and young adults by using a combination of pictures, videos, and activities where they can easily learn about preparing for emergencies and disasters.

For more information, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 410-222-0600 or oem@aaacounty.org. TTY users, call via Maryland Relay 7-1-1.



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morning cartoons and rainy days, and video games were a luxury.

Those were the good old days.

In today's world with entertainment mainly in the form of technology and a smartphone in every child's hands, envisioning your children in the garden may seem a stretch of the imagination. However, studies show that connecting to the great outdoors has incredible benefits. The National Wildlife Federation notes that "connecting children and nature ... helps children grow lean and strong, enhances imaginations and attention spans, decreases aggression, and boosts classroom performance. In addition, children who spend time in nature regularly are shown to become better stewards of the environment."

Gardeners know that tending a garden requires patience, scientific observation, humility and a little good humor — traits that are worth cultivating in children. Plus, given the decrease of pollinator populations, increase in pollution, and a changing environment, it's our responsibility to connect young people to nature. Their future depends on it!

No matter the age or interest level, there are numerous creative activities to spark an appreciation for plants and the greater connection to the planet. Check

out our list of fun ideas for all ages:

Sensory Garden

Introduce children to interesting fragrances, flavors, color and texture with a sensory-rich herb garden. Plant a small bed or large container with herbs like rosemary, lavender, golden oregano, and mint. Snip the herbs for culinary or medicinal use or let them go to flower and watch the pollinators swarm.

Spooky Garden

Succulents and cacti are trendy for a reason; they are super cool and easy to care for. Take pumpkin decorating to the next level this Halloween and create a spooky pumpkin succulent planter. Pick a pumpkin, cut off the top, and scoop enough flesh to accommodate an assortment of succulents. Install a bit of potting soil and then tuck the plants in tight. The display will last for weeks. Once the pumpkin starts to soften, pop the succulents into another container and use the pumpkin for a lesson on composting.

Pollinator Protector

Have you heard about the decline in some bee populations, and the devastating global effects? You and your family can play a part in restoring important pollinator habitat. Cultivate a small bed or place a few containers in a sunny spot. Visit your local garden center for a selection of native perennials - including butterfly weed, New England aster, coreopsis, coneflower and Joe-Pye weed - selections that will provide beneficial food and habitat for pollinators. As you tend the perennials, reflect on the vital role they play in our food system and ecosystems, and observe the amazing beauty and variety of pollinators local to our area.

Visit your local garden center for more tips and tricks to help your kids get outside!

Estate Planning Protects You and Your Family

Nicole T. Livingston, Esq.
Council Baradel
Attorneys at Law



incapacitation. A well-conceived plan is essential to your emotional and financial well-being. It provides peace of mind and can help avoid familial disputes over elder care, end-of-life decisions and inheritance. Estate plans also often utilize various methods of planning to minimize the impact of federal and state taxes that can follow death.

Preparing your estate plan should consist of the following areas of focus:

- Planning for your own disability
- Deciding who will manage your assets

Estate planning is a broad term that encompasses many things. It includes careful consideration for the disposition of assets after death, and proactive decisions regarding wishes surrounding

and care for you when you are sick or incapacitated

- Deciding on end-of-life care and who you wish to make care decisions and by what guiding principles
- Deciding what will happen with your worldly belongings when you die
- Transmitting your family's legacy to the next generation while reducing transmission costs such as taxes
- Leaving assets to your children or other beneficiaries to protect those assets for your intended purpose, such as education, retirement or other goals, and to protect you from potential predators and creditors

A comprehensive estate plan will tie together your goals and allow you and your family to rest assured you are protected and prepared for your future and beyond.

Nicole T. Livingston is an estates and trusts attorney in Annapolis, Maryland, with extensive experience helping individuals and families plan for their future. Reach her at 410-268-6600 or livingston@councilbaradel.com.

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Operation Build A Reef Helps Plant 20 Million Oysters In The Severn River

On August 20, the Severn River Association (SRA) and Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) celebrated the planting of 23.89 million juvenile oysters in the Severn River, funded through the Operation Build a Reef campaign. The oysters found their new home on the Traces Hollow reef on the north side of the Route 50 bridge near Jonas Green Park. The grassroots fundraiser provided a unique opportunity for the public to buy bushels of spat-on-shell to enhance water-filtering oyster reefs within their local river. The campaign exceeded a planting goal of 20 million oysters and fundraising goal of \$30,000, planting nearly 24 million oysters and raising more than \$38,000. The excess funds will be applied to the 2022 Build a Reef effort.

"The Build a Reef program is a proven success," said Ward Slacum, executive director of Oyster Recovery Partnership. "This is the third year that the campaign has generated enough public support to plant millions of additional oysters in the river. Community stewardship is proving to be a powerful tool to bring about positive changes for the Severn!"

In 2018, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources planted 40 million oysters in the Severn, which was the catalyst for Operation Build a Reef. Since then, grassroots fundraising has contributed another 45 million oysters to Annapolis' scenic river.

"Our oyster monitoring results are very encouraging," said Erik Kreifeldt, president of the Severn River Association. "SRA's oyster dive team sampled oysters from five restoration reefs this



The oysters found their new home on the Traces Hollow reef on the north side of the Route 50 bridge near Jonas Green Park.

summer. Preliminary results indicate that the oysters on the Wade Reef in particular, where we planted 16.9 million oyster spat, are doing very well. We'll soon have a full report on oyster survivability, growth rates, density and abundance. The Build-a-Reef restoration program is a key part of the SRA's commitment to continue repopulating viable oyster reefs throughout the Severn."

Title sponsor Smyth Jewelers not only donated funds to support this year's planting, they "married" engagement

ring sales to Build a Reef by planting 1,000 oysters for every ring sold.

"We loved the idea of supporting our community while also giving our customers an extra special reason to celebrate a milestone in their lives," said Bob Yanega, chief financial officer and vice president of operations.

The 2021 Build a Reef was funded solely through grassroots donations from individuals, families and local businesses, as well as the M&T Charitable Foundation, and the Delaplaine Foundation.

The program was made possible by the Horn Point Laboratory Oyster Hatchery, whose team diligently worked to spawn oysters; the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which provided in-kind support; and the Severn River Association, which educated and engaged the local community.

ORP created Operation Build-a-Reef to help Marylanders support smaller oyster restoration projects within their local rivers. For more information on this campaign, visit www.buildareef.org.

Why Include Native Plants In Your Community?

By Diane Lewis

Alison Milligan, local native plant expert and volunteer extraordinaire, spends most days discussing the benefit and urgency of using more native plants — trees, shrubs, perennials — in communities and home landscapes.

"Plants that are native to Maryland provide function and habitat that exotic or invasive species don't provide," Milligan said. "They create ecosystems that increase biodiversity, which makes the environment healthier for everyone and everything. Our plant choices matter, now more than ever."

Milligan added, "We need to rethink our relationship to nature. There are many plants that are specific to the needs of insects, birds and animals in our environment. If natives are no longer present as a resource, then the complexities within the natural environment can be irreversibly broken. The monarch caterpillar's dependency on milkweed is a classic example; without milkweed, there will be no monarchs."

Milligan started gardening at 20 years old while she was serving in the U.S. Air Force. She began by growing tomatoes and pumpkins and she had her first compost. Each year, she has continued to experiment by growing more varieties of vegetables and flowers.

"It wasn't until I became a Master Gardener and then a Master Naturalist

that I fully comprehended the value of native plants and the vital role they play in supporting life; from butterflies to bass (rockfish) to barred owl, they are the foundation of the food chain for these lifeforms," Milligan said. "Once I made the connection, there was no turning back."

Now, 40 years later, aside from Milligan's impressive bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering, she has accrued substantial credentials because of her extensive studies and volunteer work for several Maryland programs. In addition to being a Maryland Master Gardener and Naturalist, she's a Watershed Steward and a graduate of both the Chesapeake Bay Landscape (CBLP) and HoLIE (Howard County Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment) programs.

This year, Milligan received certification as a tree trooper for the Replant Anne Arundel program and is helping to plant more resilient tree species in the county.

"These programs work in specific ways to educate and serve residents by planting the right native plants to solve common landscaping problems, create habitat, and improve the health of our air and water," she said.

Milligan's home landscape is almost entirely natives and requires little to no care throughout the seasons since nature's beauty unfolds at its own pace without

the need for a lot of time and energy on her behalf.

"I don't have time to fuss over plants; that's the advantage of natives - it's all about 'right plant, right place,'" Milligan added. "The design logic I learned in engineering complements my interest in nature. I am logical about testing and assessing a plant's individual requirements and utility; I document and photograph them throughout the seasons to understand how they compete, what life they support, and how effectively they solve problems. Most of the gardening I do now is pulling invasive weeds and planting natives in their place."

Milligan is also a hero to people in the local community who are interested in learning and volunteering in their own neighborhoods; she gives free "house calls" and provides valuable advice on what and where to plant natives. Her early inspiration came from Dr. Doug Tallamy, an entomologist and professor at the University of Delaware and author of the book "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants."

Tallamy explains in his numerous books the vital connections between plants and insects, and how these interactions are important to all species, including humans.

"The loss of insects means the loss of all, or most of, a food source for toads, skink, birds and mammals," Milligan

said. "They are all a part of the food web that is sustained by native plants."

"Planting a diversity of natives is important because that's the key to creating a thriving healthy ecosystem," she added. "Natives support beneficial insects like ladybugs, ground beetles, and spiders that eat garden pests like aphids, slugs and mosquitos. The common practice of using insecticides upsets the balance of nature because not only does it kill nuisance bugs but also the beneficial insects, including bees. Eliminating bees from our environment is not an option - they pollinate over 80 percent of all flowering plants, including food crops, like my blueberries."

Milligan said many native plants solve problems and fit the average homeowner aesthetic. Oak (*Quercus* spp.) and river birch (*Betula* spp.) trees provide exceptional benefit to the Chesapeake watershed and local fauna. Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) are commonly sold shrubs that compliment most landscapes - they are excellent alternatives to Tier Two invasive plants like burning bush (*Euonymus* spp.) and barberry (*Berberis* spp.) which threaten habitats, and in the case of barberry, increase tick populations.

To learn more, download the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's native plant guide: www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/resources/native-plants.html.

Delegate Malone To Serve As Judge On Circuit Court

A Look Back On His Career In The Maryland General Assembly



**By Zach McGrath
Student Intern**

On August 12, Governor Larry Hogan announced three judicial appointees to fill vacancies in the Washington District Court, Baltimore County Circuit Court and the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court. Among the appointees is Delegate Michael Malone, who will fill the vacant seat in the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court.

Malone has represented Severna Park and the rest of District 33 in the Maryland General Assembly since 2015 and will now continue his service to Anne Arundel County on the bench. Erin O'Neill, Malone's legislative assistant, said he "looks most forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Anne Arundel County in an impartial and fair way as the Honorable Judge Michael Malone."

Malone has been a resident of Anne Arundel County since his father, a chaplain in the Army, was stationed at Fort Meade. He was community



Delegate Michael Malone

oriented from a young age and became an Eagle Scout by completing a project to raise funds for the Arc of Anne Arundel County. After briefly leaving Maryland for college, he continued serving Anne Arundel County as president of the West Anne Arundel County Rotary Club, president of the Davidsonville Ruritan Club, and vice president of the Crofton Kiwanis. He became politically active in the late 1990s as a campaign manager.

Malone was defeated when he ran for the Anne Arundel County Council

in 2002 but was elected to the Anne Arundel County Republican Central Committee. In 2011, he was appointed to the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections and served until 2015.

Outside of the legislative session of the General Assembly, Malone works as a lawyer. He has been active in the legal field since college, interning for federal judge Herbert Murry and the Maryland Attorney General's Office. He also completed a clerkship for Anne Arundel Circuit Court judge Marvin Kamenetz. Malone runs his own law firm that specializes in family law and general litigation.

Malone was appointed to the Maryland General Assembly in 2015 after former Delegate Cathy Vitale was appointed to the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court. He assumed office on March 16 of that year. He was subsequently elected to the House of Delegates in 2018. Since joining the House of Delegates, Malone has served on the Judicial Committee and currently serves on the Family and Juvenile Law Subcommittee and the Civil Law and Procedure Subcommittee. During his career as a delegate, Malone would also serve on the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, the Work Group to Address Police Reform and Accountability in Maryland, and the Joint

Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorders.

Malone worked on a myriad of bills and legislative issues that affected Severna Park and District 33. He has worked on and advocated for legislation that supported veterans and their transition back to civilian life, making Maryland more business friendly, and lowering taxes for Marylanders. Another major issue was gerrymandering, one of the main planks of Malone's campaign in 2018.

While Malone will probably join the bench before the General Assembly's debate on redistricting this year, he has advocated and written extensively on the issue, including in this publication. O'Neill added that whenever he talked with constituents, "he would stop what he was doing to visit, listen and teach. He has never been shy to disagree sometimes, and each person who has experienced his arguments have walked out of our offices with a level of respect and comfort knowing they had been listened to."

Malone's vacant seat in the House of Delegates will be filled by appointment. The Anne Arundel County Republican Central Committee will recommend a nominee to Hogan. The seat will be contested for a full term in the upcoming 2022 election.

Helping Afghan Refugees

**Sid Saab
Delegate
District 33**



of the Afghan refugees resettle. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will help our allies when they are approved by the government for resettlement in the U.S.

LIRS will continue its work with special immigrant visas (SIV), providing support as refugees enter the country, especially in the Delaware/Maryland/Virginia region.

Delegate Brian Chisholm and I are collecting donations at RockWell Fitness for the rest of September to assist Afghan refugees. RockWell Fitness is located at 551 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. Inside RockWell Fitness, you will find a bin that you can leave such donations in. At the end of each week, we will take donations to the LIRS Maryland

The current situation in Afghanistan has left all of us asking, "How can we help?"

One Maryland-based organization says it's prepared to help some

office located at 3799 East-West Highway in Hyattsville.

If you'd like to donate new or gently used clothing, hygiene products and household/kitchen necessities, you are welcome to drop off those items at RockWell Fitness. If you know anyone else who has the heart to help, pass this along to them. If transportation is an issue, we can stop by and pick up donations when possible.

Also, the Maryland Office of Refugees and Asylees works with a network of public and private service providers to aid interpreters and their families in becoming self-sufficient as quickly as possible. If you know someone who needs assistance, contact the Office of Refugees and Asylees immediately.

I express my sincerest condolences to the families and loved ones of our service members and the Afghan civilians harmed by the recent suicide attack.

Thank you to the brave men and women who have put their lives on the line. With much gratitude, thank you to my constituents who have reached out to my office with a desire to help.

If I can be of service to you or your families, please reach my office at 410-841-3551.

Welcome Back To School!

**Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5**



AACPS Virtual Academy. It's been a long, long road to get to this point and I know there is a lot of trepidation and questions. Here is a brief rundown of what you can expect and where you can find the answers you need.

As you are all probably now aware, the Maryland State Board of Education passed regulations on August 26, requiring that masks be worn over one's nose and mouth by all persons in school buildings and on school buses. This includes students, teachers, staff, visitors and contractors. Unlike last year when social distancing measures were also in place, vaccinations and masks are now the most important layers of protection. Masking is especially important for students 11 years old and under who are not yet eligible for a vaccine. The regulations can be found at www.marylandpublicschools.org.

These regulations now go to the

The time has finally arrived. For the first time in 18 months, our children are returning to the school building for five days a week of in-person instruction, unless you've enrolled in the

Maryland General Assembly Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review for final approval. This process could take up to a couple of weeks.

Anne Arundel County's superintendent of schools, Dr. George Arlotto, had already required that all students, staff, visitors and contractors wear masks anytime they are inside school buildings. In other words, please send your child to school wearing a properly fitting mask and some backups just in case.

There is new guidance about quarantining that can be found under the "Safety Protocols" link below. The major change is that if students are wearing masks, they won't have to quarantine if determined to be a close contact so long as they were three feet apart.

Just like last year, both rapid and PCR testing are available for symptomatic students and staff in all school health rooms. Additional information on student surveillance testing is forthcoming.

There is a ton of information available online on a variety of topics:

- Fall 2021 information including FAQs: www.aacps.org/fall2021
- Safety protocols: www.aacps.org/safetyprotocols

» Continued on page 22

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We Need Everyone's Help To Make Communities Safer

**Jim
Fredericks**
Anne Arundel
County Sheriff



September 11, 2021, marks the 20-year remembrance of the horrible attacks on our country, our citizens and our way of life. I recently saw advertising for documentaries about the trag-

edies that took place, and I found my heart racing and my breathing changing with just the thought of that day. We all know where we were or what we were doing when we heard the news.

I was a young sergeant in the police department, working in the traffic safety office. First responders were all called to action in some way to either respond to one of the scenes or to begin to protect areas in our own communities once thought off limits. Shortly after 9/11, law enforcement began a transformation to help ensure that such tragic events could be avoided through improved information gathering, sharing of information, and other homeland security enhancements. I truly believe our communities are safer because of the efforts that were brought as a result of the 9/11 attacks and the desire to protect our citizens.

The outpouring of support for those efforts was a window to the soul of the American spirit. Sadly, the lessons learned then are slowly being forgotten, as the entirety of law enforcement is bombarded with negativity by opinion-based media and lawmakers without fore-

sight to the consequences of their words and actions. I need not look back any further than the 2021 Maryland legislative session as an example of those consequences, whether intended or not. Suffice it to say that the legislature is not making communities safer through its actions.

The desire to serve in public safety is still a noble calling, and law enforcement will adapt to change as it always does. We are a society of laws. Not perfect, but better than most in my opinion. Let us not forget there are forces outside our communities and outside our borders that would like nothing better than to see us fail as a nation. I will do my small part to deliver the good government you deserve and be the public servant you should expect. September 11 will always be a day of remembrance and reflection, but it should not be the only day when we remember the harsh lessons of terrorism, both foreign and domestic.

Public safety workers and others who were at the scenes, particularly in New York, continue to suffer health problems to this day. Organizations such as the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund continue to track deaths related to illnesses borne by first responders of the 9/11 attacks. Regardless of whether you read this article before, during or after the 20-year anniversary of the attacks, I hope we all stay focused on the task at hand, which is to safeguard our communities and defend the American way of life. I am certain that law enforcement is up to the ongoing challenge, and I hope you are too.

Visit the Voice Online

Visit the Severna Park Voice website for free, unlimited access to great photo galleries, local sports coverage and stories you won't find anywhere else — plus web-exclusive content featuring the latest news in your community!

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Welcome Back To School!

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- Contact tracing procedures:
www.aacps.org/contacttracing
- Bus schedules:
www.aacps.org/buses
- Student schedules:
www.aacps.org/studentschedules
(for school specific schedules for middle and high school students, please visit your school's website at www.aacps.org under "Select a School" at the top of the screen)
- School hours:
www.aacps.org/schoolhours
- Meal benefit application:
www.aacps.org/mealapplication
- Brightspace learning management system:
www.aacps.org/brightspaceforfamilies
- Student/parent portal:
(report cards, schedules, attendance, access to forms, etc.)
www.aacps.org/parentportal
- High school and middle school A/B day schedules:

www.aacps.org/abschedules

- 2021-2022 school year calendar:
www.aacps.org/calendar

Additionally, AACPS' family information line, accessed by dialing 410-222-5001, is back up and provides a way to contact key departments and offices in the system as well as leave a message with questions. Messages are retrieved and routed to the appropriate department or office at least twice each weekday.

I know it's been a difficult 18 months and we are not yet out of the woods, but I know this school year will be leaps and bounds better than the last. Staff members at your child's school are ready and willing to help reacclimatize your student so that the building of relationships, rekindling of old friendships, developing new friendships, learning recovery, and new learning can begin. As always, I am here if you have questions, want to voice concerns, or make suggestions. I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org or by phone at 443-534-4660.

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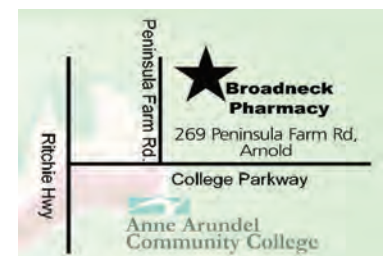
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If You Really Loved Your Kids

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the leading cause of death in children is motor vehicle crashes. As a matter of fact, a child is almost 10 times more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than from COVID-19. Based on this startling statistic, it seems imperative that we immediately address this clear and present danger to our children and take aggressive corrective action to do everything we can to eliminate this risk at all costs. If we break this problem down and identify the things we can do to take all necessary precautions then we can come up with some obvious areas that will save more kids. The most obvious thing to do is to keep children out of motor vehicles unless absolutely necessary. There are a number of public policy things we could institute that would encourage people to do the right thing and keep kids out of cars.

In addition to the current laws requiring child safety restraints, we could make it illegal to have a child in the car unless it can be proven that the car trip was for medical purposes or some other emergency. If that isn't reasonable, then we could at least put a tax on having children in a car to discourage the amount of time they are exposed to the risk.

We also have the five days per week, two times per day, that children go to and from school, and most of them are driven there in a motor vehicle of some type. We can eliminate this almost-daily high risk to our children (and our teachers too, by the way) by just making virtual school mandatory to ensure we limit this daily exposure. On the other hand, by taking a more thinking-out-of-the-box approach, we could address

this at a national level by mandating local zoning codes be changed so that nobody was too far to walk to school.

If all of these approaches are going a bit too far, then we could at least add to the current car safety laws and do everything possible to eliminate a single motor vehicle death for our nation's children. Let's not forget, even with the current car safety laws, motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death for children despite mandates that kids ride in the back seat, car seats, etc. Obviously, our current approach must not be enough and there are other things we can do if we care.

Neck and head injuries are probably high in the causes of motor vehicle deaths, so why not mandate the use of helmets with added neck protection for all children in cars? Most kids don't seem to mind wearing helmets on their bikes and scooters, so I'm sure they will get used to wearing them in the car. We also know that speed kills, so we should also improve survivability by immediately reducing all speed limits — on all roads, highways, interstates, etc. — to no more than 25 miles per hour. Surely, saving a child's life is worth taking a little more time to get where you are going.

Since 20% of child passenger deaths were the result of alcohol impaired drivers (65% of the time, it is the child's driver that is impaired), we could also outlaw alcohol if you own a vehicle or have a driver's license. Not only could we eliminate impaired driving, we would significantly decrease the number of cars on the road and all the health issues associated with drinking alcohol. Giving up alcohol consumption seems a small price to pay to save our children.

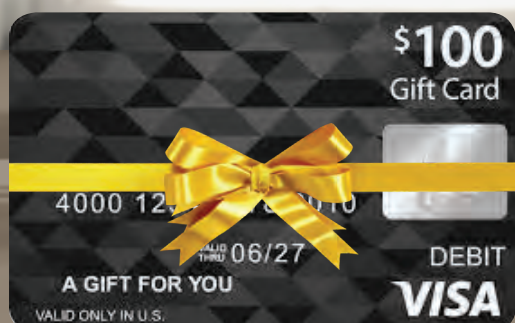
Before you start blowing me up with your flame-throwers, let me be clear — children need to be protected in motor vehicles! We should continue to make progress in decreasing the number of motor vehicle related deaths in children. People need to buckle up their kids in a properly installed car seat. Drunk drivers need to be removed from the road (especially drunk drivers with kids in their cars). People need to slow down and drive safer in general.

We all know those are important things for keeping our kids safe. Yet, we put them in our cars almost every day and we accept that risk to our most precious loved ones. We accept that there are certain things too expensive or disruptive to our lives to simply not allow our children to get in a car despite the risk to them or us. We still allow them to go to school during flu season. We let them play outside knowing there are things or people or previously unknown allergies that could do them harm in this world. We let them swim despite the hazards and flesh-eating, brain-damaging bacteria that shows up from time to time in bodies of water.

Somehow, with something that is almost 10 times less deadly than being in a car, with only slightly more deaths than the seasonal flu, we can't seem to wrap our heads around the fact that our kids are likely to be just fine if we allow them to live a normal life in today's COVID world. Managing and minimizing personal risk is part of living as a human being in a free society. Take your life back. Take your sanity back. Let your kids be kids. And be safe out there!

Tom Scott
Severna Park

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Pets Flock To Woods Church For Annual Animal Blessing

By Judy Tacyn

At Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, the Noah's Ark Ministry hosts an annual Blessing of the Animals event and sends loss-of-pet condolence cards.

"Our ministry is here to support pet owners with prayers and condolences," said Cheryl Query, Noah's Ark Ministry coordinator. "We understand how important pets are in lives of our members."

On October 3 at 1:00pm, pet owners are invited to bring their leashed or caged animals for a reading of prayers and offering of blessing at the church. Pets can take home a thoughtful treat bag, which includes a certificate of blessing.

The tradition of blessing animals began nearly 800 years ago by the Catholic canonized St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis believed that humans were but one of an infinite number of God's creations, and all are blessings in his eyes. As a result, St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment. In the early 13th century, St. Francis of Assisi found the Franciscan Roman Catholic religious order of consecrated life.

St. Francis died Oct. 4, 1226, and soon after was canonized by Pope Gregory IX. Christians honor St. Francis of Assisi on October 4, and Catholics recognize October 4 as the feast day of St. Francis. The tradition of blessing animals occurs on October 4 around the world.

Query said that dogs and cats are the most common pets to attend the blessing; however, turtles, frogs, ferrets, rabbits, exotic birds, lizards, farm animals, fish or even spiders may flock to the ceremony. She reminds all pet owners
» **Continued on page 28**



File Photos by Kyle Cleary

Woods Church held a drive-thru Blessing of the Animals in 2020. On October 3, the church will continue its tradition with an in-person event.



Photos by Judy Tacyn

At St. John the Evangelist Church in 2020, Charlotte Farber and her turtle (top) were among the many who received blessings.

Meet The Pastor: David Brown Severna Park Baptist Church

The Severna Park Voice is helping the community learn about the pastors at the many churches in the area. This month, we got to know David Brown from Severna Park Baptist Church.

How long have you been at Severna Park Baptist Church?

I started as lead pastor at SPBC December 2009, so coming up on 12 years.

When did you decide that you wanted to be a pastor?

Growing up as a child, our family attended a small church in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. It was never on my radar to be in ministry or a pastor. My personal faith was somewhat nominal until just before my senior year of high school. I knew that Jesus died on the cross for my sin and his resurrection provided me opportunity to go to heaven in the future. But I had little understanding for how that impacted the present.

Most of my friends were getting involved in things that were not emotionally or physically healthy. Long story short, I encountered



Pastor David Brown

another group of friends who were Christians and I started reading the Bible. I read the entire Bible that year and it impacted my mind and heart profoundly. I transitioned from renting the faith of my parents and

other adults to owning an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. This began the process of spiritual growth and a desire to share with others what I was learning.

In all, I have been involved with youth ministry since 1995, became a youth pastor at my home church in 1998, and have served in various capacities at multiple churches ever since. Coming to Severna Park has been my first lead pastor experience.

What is your favorite thing about being a pastor?

Serving as a pastor has so many rewarding experiences. My favorite aspect of ministry is being able to teach things I learn from the Bible
» **Continued on page 28**

Beloved "Snoopy School" Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Students at Severna Park United Methodist Church Nursery School look forward each year to pumpkin patch field trips.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

The term "Snoopy School" is well-known by many. However, most don't know how Severna Park United Methodist Church Nursery School (SPUMCNS) — celebrating its 50th anniversary this September — got its playful nickname.

"When the school was first established,

they had a sign on Benfield Road that featured a beagle that looked much like Snoopy," explained Heidi Taflan, director of SPUMCNS since 2014. "We've been known locally as Snoopy School ever since."

Angela Gahs began working at the nursery school in 1993 as an aide before moving on to a teacher role and retiring as director in 2011.

"Up through when I retired, there was a stuffed Snoopy from 'The Peanuts' comic strip that sat at the front of each classroom, and the children loved to hold it," said Gahs. "There was also a large Snoopy flag hanging in the hallway that said, 'School is Cool.' Eventually, it became synonymous with the school."

A Look Back at the Beginnings

In 1971, Patricia "Pat" Woodall Miller opened the nursery school after learning that a group of young mothers in Chartwell were looking for a place for their children to gather.

Pat Kern, teacher and director of SPUMCNS from 1980 to 2003, remembers Miller fondly.

"Pat Miller was soft-spoken, kind, always had a sweet smile on her face and had a strong Christian faith," said Kern. "She cared deeply for her students and
» **Continued on page 28**

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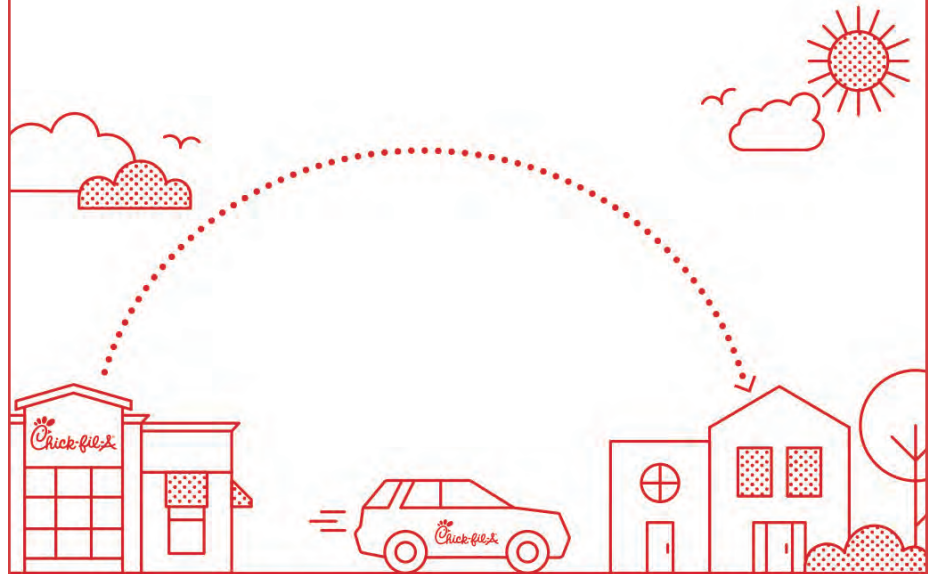
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News From Temple Beth Shalom

By Rabbi Ari J. Goldstein

This is an active month in the Jewish community. Monday, September 6, was erev Rosh Hashanna ("erev" means evening and the holiday is Rosh Hashanna, which is our new year). September 7 is Rosh Hashanna day. September 15 is Kol Nidre, which is the evening that begins the day of Yom Kippur.

This year, because of COVID, we are making these services available to members of Temple Beth Shalom only.

- September 20 is the first night of Sukkot
- September 22 at 7:30pm is a Sukkot program intended for all faiths
- September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Shabbat services at 7:00pm

This year, September corresponds to the Jewish month of Tishrei. In it, we observe three of our most important holidays. Rosh Hashanna is our new year and it begins an intense 10-day stretch of introspection with the aim of considering our misdeeds and working toward making ourselves better people. It culminates on Yom Kippur, in which we afflict ourselves by fasting and avoiding other comforts for a full day in the hope of starting the year with a sense of renewal. The month ends with perhaps the most historically significant holiday, Sukkot, which was originally intended to be the pilgrimage festival to Jerusalem to pray for a year of abundance.

Woods Hosting "A Closer Walk" Sept. 12

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church members invite the community to A Closer Walk, a free event on September 12 from noon to 2:00pm, as they worship, picnic, and enjoy food and music.

Invite your friends, neighbors, and get to know your church family. Walk with them as they grow in faith and walk with them around Woods' cam-

pus as they launch WoodsWalk.

The grounds of Woods Church is developing dedicated walks such as the spiritual walk, offering a chance for meditation 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.

Pets Flock To Woods Church

» Continued from page 25

to always have control of their pet and to bring the proper waste bags in case they are needed. Pets that are nervous in crowds should stay home, and owners may request a virtual blessing.

Virtual blessings, which were developed last year within coronavirus restrictions, will also be offered. Pet owners should send a photo of their pet to noahsark@woodschurch.org, along with a physical mailing address to which the certificate of blessing should be sent.

Blessing of animals to commemorate

the feast of St. Francis is celebrated at many Catholic or Protestant churches. Contact your place of worship to inquire about this tradition, or feel welcome to bring your pet to Woods Memorial Church on Saturday, October 3, at 1:00pm.

At the time of this printing, Woods is not requiring pet owners to wear a mask, however, that may change if Anne Arundel County COVID guidelines are updated. This is an in-person event (no drive-thru blessings).

"Snoopy School" Celebrates 50th

» Continued from page 25

coworkers."

Miller passed away peacefully in February 2021, but her legacy lives on through the school.

What Separates SPUMCNS?

When asked how SPUMCNS differs from other preschools or early learning centers, Taflan shared how the size is a major advantage. The classes are small with a maximum 7:1 student/teacher ratio.

"Because our classes are so small, our teachers are able to tailor our program to meet each child's needs and help him or her grow and develop in a warm, nurturing, exciting and developmentally-appropriate educational environment," said Taflan.

Building a community among the families, children and staff is a big priority. Some of the most anticipated events each year include holiday parties, field trips to the pumpkin patch, nature scavenger hunts in the garden, field days and Mother's Day Tea, to name a few.

Looking Forward

Taflan attributes Snoopy School's longevity and reputation to the committed, enthusiastic and caring staff members who implement a curriculum that emphasizes both social and academic development.

"The biggest tribute to this milestone is the fact that the school is still thriving and has such a tremendous reputation for excellence after five decades," said Taflan. "We had to pivot and innovate last year to continue through the pandemic and operated at one-third capacity for the full year. It's gratifying to know we'll be viable for the coming year, and while we still have seats available, we'll be able to offer our full array of classes."

One thing is for sure, the Snoopy community has had a long-lasting impact on all who have worked there or attended the school. Retired teachers and aides who call themselves the "Snoo-pettes" gather twice a year for lunch. Also, many former students return as adults to enroll their children.

Meet The Pastor: David Brown

» Continued from page 25

and share with others how to apply spiritual truth in the everyday. In my eyes, teaching is not just being upfront before a crowd but is also done through personal conversations and life on the go. So, being with people and sharing life, faith, hope and love is the greatest privilege I have as a pastor.

Can you tell me about a moment in your life where your faith grew?

There have been multiple circumstances and seasons of life where my faith has been challenged and grown. I hope my faith never stops growing. One circumstance that stretched my faith was during my college years. When I transferred to college in Tennessee, I entered a new state far from home and lived in a dorm room without a roommate. Additionally, the hall I lived on had only a few rooms filled and people kept the lights off on the hallway — odd, and likely things were happening on the hall that were not supposed to be happening.

Anyways, I felt alone and isolated from many friends (this was before there was much of the internet communication and apps that we have today). And while I am somewhat extroverted, it took me a while to connect and make friends. I spent many hours with myself and the Lord, learning to pray, seeking God in the Bible, and cultivating character that would ground me spiritually and emotionally for the person I am today. Additionally, that season gives me more empathy, and when I see people sitting or living alone, I can identify ways to befriend and encourage them.

Do you cook? What is your favorite meal?

Yes, I enjoy cooking but just for my family as I'm not an expert. As a father of five children, I love to pitch in with whatever we have going on, and meals are a huge part of the family. My favorite meal is barbecue with mac-and-cheese and all the fixings.

If you're not at church or at home, where could we probably find you?

Eating at any of our local establishments. I love Garry's Grill, Lil Carmine's, Mi Pueblo II, Ming's Café and Szechuan Inn, Severna Park Taphouse, FroYo House, Panera, Chick-fil-A. You get the picture.

Did you pick up any quarantine projects or hobbies?

In addition to a heightened schedule of ministry with people and adapting to Zoom technology, taking walks outside and decluttering inside our home were helpful tasks personally. One fun hobby or sport that I attempted a few times was disc golf at Kinder Park.

What's a fun fact about you that most people don't know?

I am fairly an open book, so there is not much that people do not know. One ironic fact is that I enjoy singing, but I'm not very good at it. I'm more like the people on "American Idol" who are entertaining for all the wrong reasons. Thankfully, no one must surprise or

hurt my feelings with this news, and I can make a joyful noise to an audience of one!

Do you follow sports? What is your favorite team?

I love sports and anything competitive. I was born and raised in Maryland, so I am a fan of all the hometown teams. Growing up, there were only the Baltimore Orioles for baseball and the Washington football team. While I am happy to see the Washington Nationals and Baltimore Ravens do well, they don't have my full fan allegiance. I also enjoy the Wizards, Capitals, Terrapins, and for a season, I had an unofficial opportunity to serve as a chaplain with the Maryland Black Bears junior hockey team.

What is an item on your "bucket list" that you haven't checked off, but really want to?

I appreciate the term "bucket list," with things you want to do before you kick the bucket. And as much as most, I value milestones and making memories personally and with loved ones. Yet, as a Christian, I believe that I will live forever in a new heaven and new earth. In other words, eternal life will not be sitting around with angels on pink clouds, strumming harp chords until endless boredom. Anything that I might miss on earth will be waiting for me in eternity.

Jesus came to give us "abundant life," which is not just quantity but quality (John 10:10). The Bible also says, "The glory and the honor of the nations" will be experienced in heaven (Revelation 21:26). So, the best of all things and of every culture: the best Mexican and Asian foods; the best architecture and art; Vegas or Mardi Gras without the depravity; Disney World without the lines; Washington D.C. without the politics; New York City without the traffic; Jersey Shore without the Jersey (sorry New Jersey).

My point? As a Christian, I advocate that people's best life is not here and now but in the future. I see so much struggle, suffering and injustice in our present age. Yet, my future informs every day for the one thing I will never be able to do in eternity. As the old saying goes, "A hearse never carries a U-Haul." The only thing I can take into eternity with me is people. Therefore, my bucket list is living every day to love others in such a way that they too will see and follow Jesus so we can spend eternity together.

What is your favorite type of music?

I love all kinds of music. In childhood, my favorite was Kool & The Gang and the King of Pop; in my early teen years, it was Run DMC; during my later teen years, it was U2 and Jars of Clay; and probably now, it is also my wife's favorite, Rend Collective.

What is the best thing about Severna Park Baptist Church?

Our motto is "growing godly generations." So, the best part of our church is its family atmosphere that is helping others to sincerely grow in faith, hope and love.

Falcons Fly To 45-0 Win Over Meade In Season Opener

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Yes, 2020 was an abbreviated season, but the Severna Park varsity football team enjoyed the taste of winning for the first time in 15 years. Now, with a full slate of games scheduled, the Falcons are eager to prove they can compete with the county's best programs.

The first step toward that goal began with a 45-0 home win over Meade on September 4. Running back **James Henson III** took a handoff outside and streaked down the sideline for a 43-yard run to start the scoring at 7-0 after kicker **Trey Smack** converted the extra point with 8:40 left in the first quarter.

Linebacker **Aiden Milewski** recovered a Meade fumble five minutes later, and Severna Park marched down the field on a series of running plays before quarterback **Seamus Patenaude** found the end zone on a keeper, putting Severna Park up 14-0. Defensively, Severna Park clogged running lanes and dominated the line of scrimmage. Spying Meade's quarterback, **Caleb Sartalamacchia** intercepted a pass on the next possession, giving the Falcons the ball at the Mustangs'



21-yard line.

"He went out and I was just sitting in that zone, and we practice robbing that sit route all practice," Sartalamacchia said. "I just jumped up and got the interception."

Severna Park settled for three points on a field goal by Smack. The defense forced another three-and-out, and Patenaude and Henson connected on a throw and catch for a 24-0 lead with 8:11 remaining in the first half. Patenaude stayed hot on Severna Park's ensuing drive. With possession near midfield, he found receiver **Kevin Bredeck** streaking across the middle. Bredeck caught the ball around the 30-yard-line and took it the distance.

"[The defender] was playing about four yards off of me and I had a go route," Bredeck said. "He was giving me inside leverage, so I kind of broke it off to the middle and I was wide open for a touchdown. Seamus threw

» Continued on page 38

Above: The Falcon home crowd was loud as Severna Park opened their season with a 45-0 victory over Meade on September 4. **Below (L-R):** James Henson III scored the game's first touchdown on a 43-yard run in the first quarter. During the lopsided matchup, linebacker Aiden Milewski was one of many Falcons defenders who became a constant presence in the Mustangs' backfield. Quarterback Seamus Patenaude kept drives alive with both his arm and his legs. This scramble came in the first half. In the second quarter, Kevin Bredeck and Caden Brunatti celebrated after Bredeck caught a touchdown. Photos by Zach Sparks



SPHS Field Hockey Looks To Add Another State Championship

Team Wants to Avenge Loss To Arundel

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park varsity field hockey head coach **Shannon Garden** believes she has a deep, well-conditioned, talented squad this year and she is preparing them to challenge for the state championship once again.

"I believe we are deeper than ever before," Garden said. "We're two-deep at every position and that should make a difference during the regular season and the playoffs."

It made a difference in the Falcons' season-opening win as they stunned highly ranked Garrison Forest 2-1 in double-overtime.

Leading up to that win, Garden has been implementing an intense conditioning regimen. At an August practice, the players had conditioning tests by running 880s (two times around the track) with a 90-second break between runs. The players are timed and have to reach a certain mark to be eligible to play in games.

» Continued on page 36

Photo by Will Stumme

The Falcons' Emma Marsh brought the ball past Broadneck defender Zoe Shevitz during a 4-3 Severna Park win over the Bruins on March 30.



SPHS Boys Soccer Not Taking Anything For Granted

By Dave Topp

The message last spring was clear: don't take things for granted.

Discussing a 2020 season reduced and rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic, Severna Park boys soccer head coach **Ryan Parisi** wanted to make sure his team stayed focused.

"Like anything in life, don't take it for granted," Parisi said. "The thing that I said to those guys in the spring was, 'One day of practice is better than none, and one game is better than none.'"

The Falcons are now eager to return to the field with that message in mind and a full slate of games in front of them.

"I think the kids are just excited to be back and have a sense of normalcy," said Parisi, who is entering his 10th season as head coach.

An experienced group of seniors return to lead the Falcons this fall. Goalkeeper **Brandon Asch** will again anchor the defense along with the help of defender **Brady Denman**.

"I think we've pretty quickly picked up where we left off from a cultural standpoint within the program, which is the biggest thing," Parisi said.

The shortened 2020 season saw Severna Park finish 5-0, including a 4-1 victory over rival Broadneck High School. Then, due to the pandemic, all postseason action was canceled.

Shoring up the midfield will be seniors **Gus Bachmann**, **Joshua Higgins**, **Christian Lenart**, **Kevin Breitering**, **Benjamin**



Photo courtesy of Molly Jefferds

One of this year's returning seniors is Gus Bachmann, who scored two goals during an 8-0 Severna Park win against Southern on March 23.

Nocerito and **Ethan Watson**.

"I'm focused on the next task ahead of us and then going on to the next one. Hopefully we're playing our best as a team come the postseason timeframe," Parisi said.

The Falcons will face River Hill High School on Saturday, September 11, in their final tune-up before in-county action begins. Severna Park opens its county schedule on the road against Crofton High School on Monday, September 13.

Severna Park Girls Soccer Team Primed For Promising Fall Season

By Desirae Martins

The Severna Park High School (SPHS) varsity girls soccer team played a COVID-shortened five-game season in the spring of 2021, and had no playoff opportunities as the postseason was not an option at the time. However, the team is back for a semi-typical high school season this fall and is prepared to play as far into the postseason as possible, aiming for a state championship.

According to head coach **Rick Stimpson**, the shortened spring season was a great way to prepare the team for the fall.

"With everything that went on last season, the players were just excited to be out there playing," Stimpson said.

Despite the lack of a postseason, the senior players finished the spring season strong, and the younger players gained valuable game experience. This season, Stimpson noted, "it will be nice to be back to some sort of normal again, and to have the opportunity to build toward the playoffs."

The team began the fall preseason with a 0-0 tie in a scrimmage against Archbishop Spalding High School in late August.

"They had a great performance," noted Stimpson.

According to the head coach, the team is shaping up well and he is optimistic about their regular season performance and postseason chances. The team will field four seniors this year, but overall has seven returning starters and a talented sophomore and junior class.

"The talent and skill on the team is deeper than it has been in the past," Stimpson said.

According to the three-year veteran coach, there is no skill drop-off with the players coming in off the

bench. Overall, the team is strong, but Stimpson rostered some difference-making players in both the defensive and attacking thirds, as well as in the midfield.

Hanna Verreault (forward/midfielder), **Ava Schultz** (defender/midfielder), **Sofia Espinoza** (midfielder) and **Joi Fleming** (midfielder) have set up the team for success so far. According to Stimpson, the way they play as a group determines play for the rest of the team. Specifically, they are calm in possession, and they do not lose the ball.

"Hopefully they will come through in big games," he said, "but really, they just make everyone better."

Like every season, the team has goals. Currently, they are focused on playing a strong regular season, peaking at playoff time, and competing for the state championship. In Stimpson's mind, the girls varsity team has the depth, talent and skill to realize those goals.

However, the regular season will not be without its challenges. Stimpson recognizes they will face skilled opponents such as the Broadneck High School squad. Nonetheless, he is confident in his team's playoff chances and says a playoff run or state championship is not unrealistic with the team they have. It will be a promising season for the SPHS varsity girls soccer team, but the bottom line is they are happy to be back out on the pitch.

"After what they have been through over the past year, they realized that their season can be taken away quickly. They have an appreciation for that and it shows," Stimpson said.

The team will host an out-of-conference game against Tuscarora High School on September 11. They will open county play at Crofton on September 13.

Broadneck Girls Soccer Looks To Continue Dominance

By Alex Murphy

It's been just a few months since the last time Broadneck girls soccer took the field.

In what became a wild high school sports season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bruins' 2020 season was pushed back to spring 2021 and a reduced schedule.

Broadneck had a strong showing in the spring, but it was just the warmup for the 2021 fall campaign, their first in nearly two years.

Having won state titles in 2015 and 2017, head coach **John Camm** and the Broadneck program have been ready to defend their supremacy in the county and state.

"We tried to make our nine-week spring season as normal as possible," Camm said. "The kids were 100 percent committed. We approached it with one eye on that season and one eye on this fall and I think it's paid dividends."

Success starts from the top, and

for the Bruins, that's their 12-player senior class, the biggest in recent memory and possibly program history.

Team captain **Eva Mowery**, one of the unquestionable leaders on this team and a University of South Florida commit, is fully aware of the short turnover from season to season, but she's as prepared as anyone to get the ball moving on the field.

"I know we didn't have that much time in between seasons," said Mowery, a forward/midfielder. "When the club season ended and we could start practice in the summer, there's been a bunch of girls out there working. We've all prepared super well for this season. I think this is one of the most-prepared teams in program history."

This is a big season for Mowery, who has set lofty goals for herself, including setting the Broadneck girls soccer career assist and goal-scoring records.

However, Mowery welcomes the pressure and challenge.

"It will be challenging, but I feel like I could get it done," Mowery said. "Along with that, my main goal is to be one of the main senior leaders that has come through Broadneck that future players can look up to."

Mowery is going to have an even bigger role as she's the only team captain who will play this season.

Broadneck's other team captain, fellow midfielder/forward **Molly Yeomans**, is sidelined with an injury until presumably the spring sports season.

However, while Yeomans won't be able to contribute on the pitch, she'll help from the sidelines as a high IQ player with fantastic leadership skills.

"I want to be a good role model and leader to my teammates," Yeomans said. "Just having a voice on the sidelines, keeping them

on track. I'm making sure to be open-minded to help motivate my teammates."

She provides just another level of depth to this team that is absolutely loaded with talent, top to bottom.

Camm, like the entire team, is waiting with eager anticipation for the start of this season, and it sounds like despite the weird circumstances of the last 18 months, there's already good vibes and great chemistry forming.

"This is one of the most athletic teams we've had," Camm said. "We have two state championships under our belt, we're aggressive, we got some kinds who can ping the ball around, change fields, and players who can finish well. I'm liking our chances coming in."

Broadneck began their regular season against Calvert on September 7, after the Severna Park Voice went to print.




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Severna Park High School Welcomes New Athletic Director

By Dave Topp

Dave Kauffman has been named the new athletic director at Severna Park High School.

"Dave has a lot of experience in the county," said Severna Park High School Principal Patrick Bathras. "He comes to us with experience as an assistant principal, as an administrator, and assistant athletic director [and] coach."

Kauffman takes over for Kevin Rutledge, who previously served as the Falcons' athletic director. Rutledge left to pursue a new career opportunity in New Jersey.

Last year, before joining the Falcons athletic staff, Kauffman served as an assistant principal at Crofton High School. His career in Anne Arundel County has also included stints at South River, Glen Burnie, Northeast and Meade high schools. In total, Kauffman brings 25 years of work experience within the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system to Severna Park.

"[He] has a true passion for sports and athletics," Bathras said. "I think he's going to be a good fit with all of his knowledge and experience here at Severna Park High School."

It's been a fast start to the job, said Kauffman, whose hire became official on August 23.

"It's been insightful and kind of eye-opening. I came in two weeks into the fall season starting. I kind of had to hit the ground running," Kauffman said. "It's been an awesome experience so far; it's been wonderful. The coaches, the community and the athletes here are just phenomenal. They've been a great help to help me get acclimated."

The opportunity to be an athletic director is something Kauffman always saw himself doing, but timing and other administrative positions steered his career elsewhere until now.

"That opportunity doesn't come open very much. So, when this opened up, I knew it was a position I wanted," Kauffman said. "I'm very blessed and fortunate to get an opportunity to work here."

After the numerous challenges



Since his hire as athletic director at SPHS became official on August 23, Dave Kauffman has enjoyed attending games and meeting coaches and athletes.

that the coronavirus pandemic presented to last year's school calendar, Kauffman is focused on helping students return to a sense of normalcy this fall.

"The biggest expectation for us is just reacclimating our student athletes to being together and participating [in athletics] and giving them positive opportunities out there," Kauffman said. "Your wins and losses are going to come. As we're getting through all this, that's the biggest expectation, that our student-athletes can walk out of a season and know that they had a positive experience. They learned and they grew from it."

Kauffman said the history and pedigree of Severna Park High School well-known, and he is excited to be a part of it.

"Severna Park, growing up in this area, has had a very rich tradition academically and athletically," he said. "The school speaks for itself. When you look at the success that the school has had, you can't measure it."

More information about Severna Park High School athletics, including news, schedules and rosters, can be found at www.severnaparkathletics.org.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Sawyer Knapp
Rugby, Soccer, Tennis

By Alyson Kay

Sawyer Knapp has always been interested in sports. He plays soccer and tennis on Anne Arundel County youth teams. Most recently, Knapp began playing on the Severna Park Green Hornets youth rugby team after his friends recommended that he try the sport.

"We all decided to play together during the summer, and it turned out great," Knapp said.

Knapp has now been playing rugby on the team for three years. He enjoys how friendly the teams are and how much the players get along.

"This is such a friendly sport," he said. "You meet new people on the other team, and you just get along with everyone."

Knapp feels that the rugby teams he plays with also don't get too caught up with the competitive aspect of the sport.

"Sometimes people are too focused on the competitive aspect of it, and it can take away from the fun that everyone's having," Knapp said.

Although Knapp wasn't the most experienced player on the team initially, he established himself with the coaches and boosted his reputation as a supportive team player.

"I try to support them, and they try to support me, and it's just good for everyone," Knapp said.

This season, he stepped up to become team captain for his U16 team. Knapp cited his supportive attitude and the camaraderie that he had with his teammates as factors that helped him as a leader.



Photo courtesy of Kevin and Beth Crowley

Sawyer Knapp served as team captain on the Severna Park Green Hornets rugby U16 team for most of the 2021 summer season.



Photo courtesy of Susan Knapp

"It definitely does establish some form of leadership that I have to carry the burden somewhat. But thanks to my teammates, it's not too much of a burden because everyone supports each other in the sport."

— SAWYER KNAPP

"I can uplift everyone without taking away from anyone else," Knapp said.

As team captain, Knapp spoke with coaches and referees about plays and strategies, like which side the team would defend. It also meant taking more responsibility within the team.

"It definitely does establish some form of leadership that I have to carry the burden somewhat," he said. "But thanks to my teammates, it's not too much of a burden because everyone supports each other in the sport."

He also took charge more. "I try to take control

and I try to lead everyone as much as I can," Knapp said.

Knapp feels that the successes of the team this season come down to how the team worked together.

"It's not about the skills of any one player," Knapp said. "It's about the chemistry of the entire team, especially in this sport. It's never about one person. It's about everyone. So don't be fooled if I'm team captain and someone else isn't. Everyone shares the burden."

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

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Green Hornets 11U Baseball Caps Successful Season



The 11U Green Hornets enjoyed a second-place finish in the competitive Ripken Big Kahuna Tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, this summer.

The Green Hornets 11U baseball team played a long season consisting of 54 games from March through July and ended with an overall record of 39-15.

Throughout the season, the team finished as champions of the inaugural Severna Park Knock the Rust Off tournament, the Rogue Freedom Rundown tournament and the CBA Elite regular season. They were runner-up in the Armed Forces Slugfest and the Ripken Big Kahuna Tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

By ending the season in Myrtle Beach against great teams from around the country, head coach **Tim Bowerman** feels the team exceeded expectations.

"These boys love the game," he said. "They spend countless hours with us on the practice field as well as on their own getting better. We are fortunate to have built a relationship with coach **Matt Selmer**, of Indian Creek High School, who the majority of the players go to for private lessons. Coach Selmer is great with the boys, and they love working out with him."

Coach Bowerman led the squad along with assistants **Tim Delobe** and **Jim Viera**.

"[The boys] work hard at practice and put in even more effort on their own to get better each day," coach Viera said. "This results in a hardnose group of young men that grind for each other

when we take the field. What is more important to see as a coach and a parent is the bond they have built as a group that connect each day whether that be on or off the field."

Players included **Tyler Bowerman (1)**, **Brody Smith (3)**, **Nate Peacock (4)**, **TJ Viera (8)**, **Chase Goldman (10)**, **Drew Dupcak (11)**, **Brayden Kiernan (13)**, **Kenny Norris (14)**, **Charlie Delobe (16)**, **Brandon Matta (21)**, **Sebastian Kongas (33)** and **Jon Bullough (34)**.

"When I look at where these boys were at the beginning of the season to where they are now, I am amazed with both the growth in work ethic as well as the achievements that hard work produced," coach Delobe said. "We have ballplayers that focus on continually developing their craft and competing. As coaches, we couldn't be prouder of their fight."

Practice has started for the 12U fall season and the coaches are looking forward to upcoming games. **Tyler Rochon** will improve the team's outfield while also getting playing time at first base and as a pitcher. The team expects to play 23 to 30 games this fall, including five tournaments.

"There is a lot of talent on this team, but what I am most proud of are the young men that they are becoming," coach Bowerman said. "I feel honored to be a part of their life on and off the field."



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River Dogs Are Green Hornets Flag Football Champs



The River Dogs, comprised of fifth- and sixth-graders, captured a flag football championship on July 30 during the inaugural season for the Green Hornets summer sport. During the undefeated season, the team was coached by Brian Wintermyer and David Mack. The players included (pictured) Cole Hoffmaster, Connor Cormier, Emma Vancaster, Evan Williamson, Jack Mazcko, Liam Mack, Luke Raino, Mikey Bodine, Nicholas Wintermyer, Parker Carroll, Patrick Cornwall and (not pictured) Jeffery Landis, Noah Hill and Owen DiMauro.

SPHS Field Hockey

» Continued from page 29

"We are very dedicated to our conditioning and to prove that we are here running 880s in 90-degree heat," said senior captain **Emma Marsh**, who plans to attend Washington and Lee University in Virginia on a lacrosse scholarship in 2022.

Marsh is one of 13 seniors on the squad, which features many players from the Falcons' 4A state championship in 2019.

"We have outstanding team chemistry as many of us have played together since we were 5 or 6 years old," said junior goalkeeper **Charlotte Kramer**, who accepted a scholarship from Boston College.

Garden knows that she has a gauntlet of a schedule this year as she faces Arundel, Broadneck, South River and Crofton. The new high school has a good feeder program from that area, so they may surprise teams this year.

"Hopefully our team speed and conditioning will be an advantage in these games," Garden said. "We want to beat the other team to the 50-50 balls and be faster than the other team in advancing the ball."

Zoe Day, a senior captain, and junior **Ava Drexler** echoed Garden's optimism by recounting all of the team's informal workouts and Zoom meetings during the pandemic. Both the meetings and workouts made the team closer and better prepared for the season.

New athletic director **Dave Kauff-**

man attended summer practices and was impressed by Garden and her assistant coaches.

"Shannon does an outstanding job, and all the players know where to go when drills are changed and what is expected of them," he said.

Kauffman acknowledges that the Falcons have a successful feeder program with the Green Hornets and are fundamentally strong before they enroll in high school.

Garden credited her two valuable assistant coaches, **Kelly Shanahan** and **Ben Pardew**, who instruct during every drill and focus on daily improvement.

Garden and the team captains all remarked that they can't overlook anyone on their schedule and look forward to playing Arundel, the only team they lost to in a shortened season last year.

"I'm excited about this year, and what I love about coaching at Severna Park is that these players are good kids," Garden said. "They are very dedicated to their teammates and their schoolwork."

The Severna Park field hockey team has won 24 state championships. Garden and her dedicated, conditioned and athletic 2021 team will try to bring home another state championship this fall.

Severna Park is scheduled to host Chesapeake on September 9 at 6:00pm. They will head to Arundel for that highly anticipated match on September 13 at 6:00pm.

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Spalding Surges To 44-13 Win Over Broadneck

Photos by Maddy Fangio

Archbishop Spalding came to Broadneck for a matchup between two of Anne Arundel County's best football teams on September 3, and the Cavaliers scored 30 unanswered points in the second half to clinch a 44-13 win. Spalding's offensive line was key in the victory, as was a relentless defense that put constant pressure on the Bruins' dual-threat quarterback, Josh Ehrlich.



SPHS Football Is Young And Energetic For 2021

Falcons Lose 27 Seniors From Last Year



By Kevin Murnane

Last year, the Severna Park Falcons went 3-0 on the strength of a high-octane offense and senior leadership. This year, coach **Mike Wright** has some outstanding returning offensive lineman, quarterback **Seamus Patenaude** and kicker/punter **Trey Smack** to lead the Falcons.

"We changed our offense last year and we averaged about 30 points per game," Wright said. "We lost a talented group of seniors, so this year we're young in some places."

Wright has one weapon that few teams in the region can boast about: Smack. A nationally recognized specialist, Smack recently committed to Florida and competed in the Kohl's kicking academy this summer. He was rated the No. 3 kicker in the competition and the No. 5 punter in the group.

"He was a soccer player as a freshman and his friends kept sending me videos of Trey punting and kicking," Wright said. "I kept pursuing him to come out and he finally did as a sophomore. He's really developed and has done exceedingly well in the kicking camps he's attended."

New Falcons athletic director **Dave Kauffman** has been to numerous practices this summer and is impressed with Smack's skill level.

"He's a gamechanger," Kauff-

man said. "Not many teams in the region can put points on the board with field goals from the 30- or 40-yard lines as well as pin your opponent inside the 10-yard line from midfield or longer. He's a great weapon to have."

Offensively, the Falcons will have a strong and experienced front line led by seniors **Nathan Brand**, **Keon Glick** and **Harry Lentz**. They will protect the athletic, strong-armed junior quarterback, Patenaude, who also has the ability to scramble out of the pocket and run for daylight.

On defense, the Falcons are led by senior defensive back **James Henson III**, junior defensive end **Tatan Livingston** and senior outside linebacker **Caleb Sartalamacchia**.

"Defensively, we are young and enthusiastic," Wright said. "We will greatly improve as the season goes on."

Wright has been impressed by the work ethic of his young squad.

"We're coming together, and we don't have that deer in the headlights anymore," he said.

Wright added that both scrimmages that the Falcons wanted to have were rained out, so they went into the season without any game-situation scrimmages, which would have helped his young team.

The Falcons will have another tough schedule this year and Wright mentions Broadneck as one of the key games. He looks forward to playing the new high school in Crofton as well.

Falcons Fly To 45-0 Win

» Continued from page 29
a great ball."

With 4:54 left in the half, defensive lineman **Rory Jenkins** recovered a fumble for the Falcons. Patenaude scrambled for 21 yards, and with a fresh set of downs, he shuffled to his left, buying time to find Bredeck in the end zone.

"Seamus rolled out of the pocket, and I rolled with him to the corner of the end zone," Bredeck said. "I was open, and he threw another great ball."

Henson put a bow on the performance by returning a kickoff for a touchdown at the start of the second half.

"I was supposed to go inside," Henson said. "I saw my blockers went outside. I had one guy to beat and I scored."

With the win secured, coach **Mike Wright** pulled his starters. Even though the Mustangs were short on players, Wright gave his opponent credit for fighting, and he praised his own team for the well-rounded effort.

"I was really happy with [Henson's] production, really happy with Seamus' production," he said. "Our offensive line did a really good job, and our defense came together. I'm really pleased with all phases."

Bredeck said players are extra motivated because Severna Park's last winning season was in 2006.

"Offseason workouts, a lot of guys were in the weight room working hard," he said. "Seven on seven, we were on the field working hard. We've definitely been working toward this for a while during the summer and it paid off."

The Falcons will host Crofton on September 10 and North County on September 17 before heading to Chesapeake on September 24. As the season progresses, their opponents will get tougher.

They could not be more excited.

"I can't wait to face one of those powerhouse teams like Old Mill or Broadneck," Sartalamacchia said with a smile.

Local Softball Player Represents At Pitch Hit & Run

By Haley Weisgerber

Pitch Hit & Run is a skills competition presented by the Major League Baseball Network for boys and girls ages 7 to 14. Over the years, alumni have gone on to play at universities and were selected in the MLB draft, and this season, 21 alumni are currently playing Major League Baseball. Among this year's skills competition players was Jodi Deaton, a student at Oak Hill Elementary.

Jodi, 10, participated in the 2021 Pitch Hit & Run Team Championship competition at Nationals Park, home of the Washington Nationals, on August 21 and claimed third place in the 9/10 softball division for Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. She is no stranger to the Pitch Hit & Run event. In 2019, she competed at Camden Yards and claimed a first-place victory.

"That was my first time being in the Nationals' stadium," Jodi said. "I was a little nervous."

As a fan of the Baltimore Orioles, she said that the event was fun, but she would prefer playing in Camden Yards in Baltimore.

Jodi's mother, Lacy Hare, said it has been amazing to watch her daughter compete in events at this scale.

"Jodi is very competitive and very hardworking," Hare said.

"She tries her hardest and she loves to do it. It's just cool to watch."

On top of playing softball for Maryland Integrity 12 and under with coach Lisa Mills, Jodi is also a cheerleader and runs track for Green Hornets. Although she is busy, Jodi is always

» Continued on page 42

On August 21, Severna Park resident Jodi Deaton competed in the MLB Network's Pitch Hit & Run competition held at Nationals Park. **Bottom Right:** Jodi (right) took home third place in the 9/10 softball division and was joined by her mother Lacy Hare and her sister Laney as she displayed her trophy. **Bottom Left:** Jodi received a ton of support from her Maryland Integrity softball family, (pictured l-r) coach Lisa Mills, Shannon Ford, teammate Avery Ford, coach Caroline Mills and Greg Mills.



St. Martin's-In-The-Field Welcomes Interim Head Of School



Charlie Sachs is the new interim head of school at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School.

By Haley Weisgerber

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School is welcoming Interim Head of School Charlie Sachs from Savannah, Georgia. Sachs is preceding Jamey Hein, who has departed from St. Martin's after seven years.

Sachs' experience with independent schools began early, when he was attending the Hawken School in Cleveland, Ohio.

"It seems like I've been in independent schools my entire life," said Sachs.

During the Vietnam War, Sachs joined the Peace Corps, where he taught English in a small town in Tunisia on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa. When he returned to the United States, he taught English.

"I was an English teacher for about 15 years before I began to gravitate into administration," said Sachs. "I've been in independent schools, exclusively."

Sachs has been the head of school at various independent schools throughout the country since 1994. Recently, he has been accepting interim head positions, which are transitional positions that typically last one to two years or longer, depending on how much work needs to be done before the next head of school comes in.

Sachs found the position at St. Martin's online, and after communicating with the hiring team for a period of six to eight weeks virtually, he came to visit in late March. He was impressed by the dedication of the staff.

"The people that represent the school and the board of trustees love

» Continued on page 43

Boy Scout Demonstrates Love For Bay With Oyster Rehabilitation Project

By Haley Weisgerber

Addison Garrett, a Severna Park High School senior, is the newest member of Boy Scout Troop 450 to complete his Eagle Scout project. Garrett joined Troop 450, which operates out of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, when he was in the sixth grade. Last year, when it came time to start his Eagle project, Garrett knew he wanted to incorporate his love for the Chesapeake Bay.

"I love the bay and everything it provides me and my community," said Garrett. "I wanted there to be a way for me to give back to the resource that we use so constantly."

Garrett worked closely with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to come up



Addison Garrett dedicated his Eagle Scout Project to oyster rehabilitation in the Chesapeake Bay.

"Just seeing everyone come together for a common goal and knowing that it was benefiting the bay, which I just have so much passion for, was great."

— ADDISON GARRETT

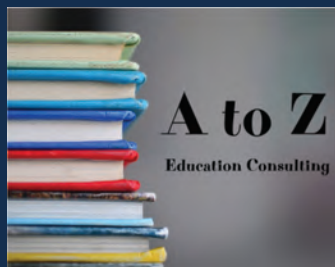
with a plan that would best serve the bay. They agreed the best course of action was oyster rehabilitation. Garrett would bag juvenile oysters, which the Chesapeake Bay Foundation would

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Boy Scout Demonstrates Love For Bay

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peake Bay Foundation will distribute throughout the bay, and once they've matured, plant them in reef reservoirs to restore the ecosystem.

Garrett and his mother, Marianne, set up a GoFundMe page to raise the money needed to complete his project. He raised \$1,050, which was more than enough to complete the project.

"We exceeded the minimum amount I would need to actually accomplish the project," said Garrett. "All of it went to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation."

He is grateful that so many people took an interest in his project and in the well-being of the Chesapeake Bay.

"It was amazing to see all the people on my GoFundMe page, especially family and friends that I haven't seen in a while," said Garrett.

When he began planning in the fall of 2020, Garrett said COVID restrictions were limiting.

"The most difficult part was probably figuring out all the logistics," said Garrett. "Especially in the earlier planning stages with COVID restrictions, that was the most intense part. Thankfully it loosened up closer to the project."

Thankfully, he was able to complete the project outside with a group of about 15 volunteers alongside the Chesapeake Bay Foundation representatives on August 7, 2021. The group formed an assembly line. Some people put the oysters in bags, and others fastened the bags. Garrett's goal was to bag 200 oysters, and by the end of the day, he had exceeded his goal



A group of volunteers helped Addison Garrett and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation bag over 250 oysters to be distributed into the bay.

by over 50.

"Just seeing everyone come together for a common goal and knowing that it was benefiting the bay, which I just have so much passion for, was great," said Garrett.

Garrett said he learned a lot of the Chesapeake Bay and about himself during this process.

"One big thing that I learned was patience," said Garrett. "Patience with myself, other people and just the situation you're in. Because this was a lead-

ership opportunity and that's something I definitely had to consider."

Garrett is currently working on the last few steps in the process of becoming an Eagle Scout and he is excited to see all of the hard work he has put in all these years.

"That rank is going to carry the rest of my life," said Garrett. "I won't say I was an Eagle Scout like 10 years from now. Ten years from now, I will say I am an Eagle Scout. It carries with me the rest of my life."

Local Softball Player Represents

» Continued from page 39

determined to do her best.

"She never gives up," Hare said, "and she doesn't mind putting the work in."

At this year's Pitch Hit & Run, Jodi was one of the youngest to compete in her category, so despite not doing as well as she did in 2019, she was happy with the result.

"My birthday was later in the year, so [the other players] were like a couple months older than me," Jodi said. "I just moved up, and they were already in 12U."

The competition has three major events to test the players' skill as a pitcher, a hitter and a runner. For pitching, athletes were tested on how accurately they could throw a strike; for running, they had to sprint from third base to home plate; for hitting, they had to hit from a stationary batting tee toward centerfield and were tested on accuracy and distance. Jodi said she performed well in the pitching and running events but could have done better with hitting. If she could do it again, she would use her old Louisville bat that she was used to, instead of her new Ghost bat. In the future, Jodi wants to play college softball like Lynsey Meeks, a 4-foot-11-inch infielder for James Madison University (JMU).

"I really want to play with JMU," Jodi said. "But the college is four hours away."

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SPHS Marching Bands Makes Season Debut



The Severna Park High School marching band had a mini season in 2020, but its presence was noticeably missed during football games and competitions. The musicians returned to the football field on September 4 for their first game of 2021, sharing their enthusiasm for a safe and eventful year of performances.



St. Martin's-In-The-Field Welcomes Interim Head Of School

» Continued from page 39

the school," said Sachs. "They are doing it because they are good people and they truly want the best."

He has worked in administration at large schools, small school, boarding schools, and almost every other variation of independent school. He is excited about the size of St. Martin's.

"The school is a great size," said Sachs. "It allows the head to be involved in a variety of different ways. I can be actively engaged with the kids and the teachers."

St. Martin's is up for its Association of Independent Maryland and D.C. Schools (AIMS) reaccreditation, so Sachs will be working on the school's self-study this year.

"My larger goal and responsibility is to ensure that the school is in a good position," said Sachs. "Not just for the accreditation, but also for

the longer-term head that the school will be searching for in the foreseeable future."

Sachs promises St. Martin's parents and the school community that his door is always open.

"I can promise that I'm sincerely interested in their children's best interest," said Sachs. "We will ensure the well-being and intellectual development of their children to make them happy, productive citizens of the United States of America."

Outside of working, Sachs hopes to enjoy the area's water access and paddling in his surf ski. He is currently staying in a Pasadena apartment and looks forward to taking advantage of the direct flights to his home in Georgia from BWI Airport. He and his wife have enjoyed spending time with friends on Gibson Island and eating at The Point Crab House and Grill.

Educators Paddle Length Of Chesapeake Bay To Raise Awareness



Over the span of eight days, Broadneck educators split into teams and traveled six to nine miles each to raise awareness and funds for the Chesapeake Bay.

By Haley Weisgerber

Last year, Chris Hopkinson and Bryan Kent Gomes braved all weather and water conditions and traveled the entire 215-mile length of the Chesapeake Bay to raise money for the Chesapeake Conservancy and the Oyster Recovery Partnership. Inspired by their journey, Broadneck High School educator Stacy Roth coordinated a team of educators from the Broadneck peninsula to embark on their own relay paddle.

Over the span of eight days, with the help of Kent Gomes and Hopkinson, 34 educators split into teams and traveled six to nine miles each to raise awareness and funds for the Chesapeake Bay.

"It's a lot of moving parts to figure out how to get 34 teachers down the entire length of the Chesapeake Bay over eight different days," said Roth.

Over the summer, the educators trained on their own or in small groups to prepare for the trip. Their levels of experience range from seasoned kayakers to people who are excited to try something new.

"I've never done anything like this, so I want to start getting into more of that," said Ross Focca, a teacher at Windsor Farm Elementary School. "Like trying to save the bay."

The waters were unpredictable, especially with Hurricane Ida making its way to Maryland during paddle, so Roth stressed that the educators would not have to do anything that made them uncomfortable. The first group of paddlers left from Havre de Grace, Maryland, at the top of the Chesapeake Bay on August 27, and the final group ended the journey on September 3 at the Atlantic Ocean in Cape Charles, Virginia. On Wednesday, September 1, the remnants of Hurricane Ida kept one group out of the water due to safety concerns, but the paddle was back on the next day.

The team raised more than \$14,000, which will be split equally between the Chesapeake Conservancy and the Oyster Recovery Partnership.

"This is a cool opportunity to raise money and have fun and enjoy the sights of the bay as a team," said Diane Casey from Broadneck High School. "I

hope the kids see that they don't have to do the traditional soup kitchen; they don't have to do a GoFundMe. I hope it kind of makes them start thinking inside the box."

Roth stressed four important lessons that she hopes the community and students take away from this paddle: mental preparedness and wellness, physical preparedness and preparing for the elements, the importance of environmental stewardship and the importance of community service. All of the educators agree that alongside raising awareness and money to benefit the Chesapeake Bay, bringing these lessons back to their classrooms and inspiring their students is the goal.

"It's an intimidating process and it seems like a really cool connection for them to learn about it," said Erin Gosman of Belvedere Elementary. "We can inspire them to not be afraid to sign up for activities that are on the water, and to improve the health of that water."

The team is excited to talk to their students about their experience. As residents of the Broadneck peninsula, these waterways are all around them, so they want the students to know the importance of protecting it.

"Experiencing something for yourself is the best way for students to have that real-life connection to something that's so important," said Nik Jones from Belvedere Elementary. "We can tell them we've been in the bay, and this is why it's important that we keep it healthy."

Anyone who is interested in meeting the educators who braved these waters to raise awareness and teach their students the importance of environmental stewardship is welcome to stop by The Point Crab House and Grill on September 13. The educators will share stories from the paddle and talk more about the missions of the Oyster Recovery Partnership and the Chesapeake Conservancy. A portion of the sales from the night will benefit the team fundraiser. To follow along with more events and updates from the teacher team, check out the "Broadneck Peninsula Paddler" public Facebook group. To learn more about the Bay Paddle, visit www.baypaddle.org.

Get Back On Track With Your Health

Joshua Starr, M.D.
University
of Maryland
Baltimore
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Primary Care



backburner is our health.

As a family medicine physician, I see many patients who have ignored their health for some time and the consequences of this can sometimes be grave. If this is your situation, I encourage you to get back on track with your health and that starts with a preventative health appointment (also known as an annual physical).

During this visit, your family medicine physician can assess your general health with a significant focus on preventative health care. The goal is to identify potential problems early in order to reduce future health consequences either through treatment or lifestyle modification.

Conditions like hypertension and diabetes often do not have any signs and symptoms early on. However, the long-term effects (such as increased risk for heart disease, stroke and kidney disease) have already started. This is why it's very important that a management plan is begun early. Your doctor will discuss with you management through lifestyle changes (dietary changes, exercise, weight reduction, etc.) and possibly the need to start medication. It cannot be stressed enough how important early management is in avoiding long-term complications.

Another important aspect of a preventative health visit is to make sure screening guidelines are met and vaccinations are up to date. Cancer screenings, such as mammograms for breast cancer and colonoscopies for colon cancer, are extremely effective in identifying early signs of cancer. This means that treatment can start early and result in a much better outcome. Similarly, vaccines such as pneumonia and the annual flu vaccine are also important to prevent serious illness.

Lastly, be proactive with your health. Talk to your doctor about a silly issue that's been bothering you. Talk about weight loss and quitting smoking. Schedule a preventative health visit with your physician.

Dr. Joshua Starr is a family medicine physician with UM Baltimore Washington Medical Group – Primary Care at Pasadena. For an appointment or to reach Dr. Starr, please call 410-553-2900.

What Is Glaucoma?

Eugene Salvo Jr., M.D.

*Glaucoma Specialist
Barenburg Eye
Associates*



When I'm asked that question, I'm tempted to go into a long explanation that would probably put people to sleep. I'll try not to do that, but I will say that glaucoma is an eye disease that causes a loss of vision when the pressure level in the eye does not allow the nerves of the eye to get the flow of blood and other growth factors they need to stay healthy. The nerves will then slowly atrophy and die. Glaucoma nerve damage can occur at any level of pressure, but the higher the pressure, the more likely and the more quickly nerve damage can occur.

An analogy that I like to use compares the nerves of the eye to a garden. A hose goes to the garden and brings water to the plants. If someone puts pressure on the hose, slowing the flow or cutting off the water, the plants wilt and eventually die.

What is glaucoma?

In the eye, the nerves depend on a flow of blood and nutrients. If the pressure of the eye gets to a level that slows or stops the flow of these nutrients, the nerves will atrophy and possibly die, one by one.

Every eye needs to have some pressure, just like a basketball or tire needs to have some pressure inside. It's when this pressure becomes higher than the nerves can tolerate that we say a person has glaucoma.

How do we diagnose and treat glaucoma? First, we look at risk factors. These include family history, older age, African descent, diabetes, near-sightedness, hypertension, steroid use, and trauma.

A complete eye exam, including a measurement of the eye pressure, is performed. If glaucoma is suspected, further tests are done to look for changes that indicate the presence of nerve damage. These are noninvasive and painless tests like nerve scans and visual fields, along with examination of the part of the eye where the fluid of the eye drains, called the "angle," to determine whether the drain is open, narrow or closed completely. If the angle is very narrow or closed, then the glaucoma is considered to be of

the "narrow angle" type versus the more common "open angle" type. Both forms of glaucoma have no symptoms early on and can be diagnosed only during an eye examination.

Narrow angle glaucoma is usually treated with a simple laser procedure that effectively enlarges the drainage angle, restoring normal fluid flow out of the eye and preventing "angle closure," which is a sudden medical emergency that requires immediate treatment to lower the eye pressure, which will be so high that nerve damage can occur quickly. The normal range of eye pressure is about 10 to 21, with an average of about 16. In cases of angle closure, the pressure may go as high as 70 or 80.

If it is believed that the patient does have glaucoma, the treatment is always going to be to lower the eye pressure. This is done through eye drop medications, lasers, and perhaps surgery if the other methods are not successful at slowing the disease progression.

So, if you have not had an eye exam, and especially if you have any risk factors for glaucoma (or any eye disease for that matter), schedule a complete eye examination soon.

The Facts And Myths Associated With COVID-19

Dr. Victor Plavner

*Maryland Primary
Care Physicians*



This article below has been modified from a memo that I sent to all of my staff at Maryland Primary Care Physicians (MPCP) at the Arnold location, when our entire company of Maryland Primary Care Physicians

mandated that all employees have to be vaccinated. There was some angst from a few employees, but I am happy to report that we are 100% vaccinated except for those who have medical or religious exemptions.

To all the MPCP Arnold employees:
I know a lot of people are upset about the new directives from employers, businesses, government and others mandating the COVID vaccine immunization. Although there are allowances for medical or religious beliefs, the reality is that those entities are trying to keep everyone safe from the COVID-19 virus. All of us breathed a sigh of relief when the vaccinations began in January. By June, most people who wanted to be vaccinated were able to receive the shots. I think the U.S. society as a whole relaxed a lot and socialization exploded over this summer. I don't think we all realized the seriousness of the delta variant's transmission and we also didn't learn the lessons from our European countries where the delta variant produced havoc even among those vaccinated.

The Facts

1. Hospitalizations have increased in Anne Arundel County.
2. Incidence of COVID-19 infections have increased in both vaccinated and unvaccinated populations.
3. Less serious illness and side effects from those vaccinated people who have had a breakthrough Covid 19 infection.

Facts vs. Myths

Myth: a widely held but false belief or idea; synonyms: misconception, fallacy, fantasy, fiction.

Among the many reasons COVID-19 vaccination rates in the United States peaked earlier than experts hoped are myths that took hold among the unvaccinated and solidified as their reasons not to get the shots. The vaccine will make women sterile; the vaccines are too new; the shots have a microchip in them; the vaccine itself will give me COVID; I'm immune because I had COVID; breakthrough cases prove vaccines are useless.

There are more. And none of them are true.

But no matter how convincing and irrefutable the science and the data about the COVID-19 vaccines are, misinformation spreads so easily and quickly — largely through social media networks — that it has become a major barrier stopping the United States from reaching higher levels of vaccination (190 million people, or 57 percent of Americans, have received at least one shot) that would bring us closer to herd immunity.

MYTH: The COVID vaccines were not rigorously tested, which is why they have only emergency authorization approval

and not full Food and Drug Administration approval.

FACT: "Vaccine developers didn't skip any testing steps but conducted some of the steps on an overlapping schedule to gather data faster." — Johns Hopkins Medicine

There is a perception that things moved fast, but we want to underscore that the technology being used now was being studied for a decade. The main difference between emergency use versus full FDA approval is that you need two months of monitoring rather than six months. When you look at the history of vaccines, if patients were to develop side effects, these occurred within two months. We are now over six months into our experience with these vaccines. We have not seen anything that would make us believe that the risks outweigh the benefits. And vaccines have saved so many lives.

The development was more rapid than many other vaccines. But it used the same process of phase one and phase two trials following appropriate safety measures. Stage three trials were large-scale trials done rigorously with very clear outcome definitions. The safety measures and approaches taken are standard for clinical trials. They just did it more rapidly than usual. The full process review is ongoing, and we are already hearing that Pfizer will have full FDA authorization by September and Moderna soon after.

MYTH: The technology used to create the COVID vaccines is too new to be safe.

FACT: The technology used, called messenger RNA, or mRNA, is not new. Re-

» Continued on page 45

Facts And Myths

» Continued from page 44

search on it began in the early 1990s, and two diseases that are close to COVID — SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in 2003 and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) — helped bring the mRNA vaccine development to present-day use. The reason this is called SARS-COV-2 is that there was a SARS-1, the original one, and scientists were working on this vaccine. So when this pandemic arrived, they had already developed a lot of the science. A decade of work was actually going on.

MYTH: Breakthrough cases prove that even if I get the vaccine, I might still get COVID. So why bother?

FACT: While information on breakthrough events is still limited and incomplete, this analysis of available state-level data indicates that COVID-19 breakthrough cases, and especially hospitalizations and deaths, among those who are fully vaccinated are rare occurrences in the United States. Moreover, this data indicates the vast majority of reported COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S. are among those who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated. These findings echo the abundance of data demonstrating the effectiveness of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines.

Moving forward, particularly as the more transmissible delta variant is now the dominant strain of COVID-19 circulating in the U.S., more robust state-level data will help to monitor ongoing vaccine effectiveness and inform discussions about booster vaccinations.

MYTH: The COVID vaccines can affect a woman's fertility.

FACT: This rumor started after a report claimed, inaccurately, yet circulated on social media, that the spike protein on this coronavirus was the same as another protein called syncytin-1 that is involved in the growth and attachment of the placenta during pregnancy. It was quickly debunked as false by the scientific community.

Scientists have compared the pregnancies of women who have received COVID-19 vaccines and women who have not. The reports show that these women have had similar pregnancy outcomes.

MYTH: I already had COVID, therefore I don't need the vaccine. I'm immune.

FACT: "After people recover from infection with a virus, the immune system retains a memory of it," the National Institutes of Health explains. While that's good for the immune system, it also means that even after you recover from COVID, it's still inside your body and can resurface. -National Institutes of Health

Reality

COVID-19, just like the influenza virus, is here to stay. We will never be rid of it. Yearly vaccinations, just like the flu vaccine, will be required and hopefully we can get some kind of herd immunity as soon as possible. Booster vaccinations will be approved soon for those already vaccinated. In the near future, vaccines will be developed and safely tested for our young children. Vaccines help the world be a safer place.

Water Safety In Dogs



Dr. Meghan Kapilevich
Associate Veterinarian
VCA Calvert Veterinary Center

Many dogs have been taking to the beach for some summer-time fun. While splashing in the water can be fun for your pets, here are a few ways to keep that fun as safe as possible.

Don't allow pets to go in deep water

When pets start to swim in deeper water, it can make them more prone to inhaling some water. This can lead to pneumonia, coughing, or drowning.

Avoid letting pets eat sand

When pets eat a large amount of sand, it can result in a clump forming in their intestines. When this happens,

it blocks food from being able to pass naturally through their intestines, and can lead to constipation, dehydration, vomiting, or in worst cases, emergency surgery to remove the blockage.

Do not allow pets to eat the marine life

There are several types of toxic marine animals that can result in life-threatening sickness in pets. One of the more common marine toxicities around us is from dark false mussels, which can cause liver failure.

Bring lots of fresh water for pets to drink

It is important for pets to remain hydrated while they are playing in the summer sun, but make sure they are drinking only clean, fresh water! If they drink salt water, it can lead to dangerous salt toxicity in dogs. If dogs are allowed to drink fresh sitting water, they are more exposed to other infections, such as leptospirosis, a bacteria that can cause liver or kidney failure.

If you do have any concerns about your pet in water, contact your local veterinarian. VCA Calvert Veterinary Center has been serving the Pasadena community for over 17 years. The staff members are "your other family doctor." To make an appointment, call 410-360-PAWS.

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A 1996 U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a distinguished U.S. military medical professional, Dr. Masterson served as a Navy urologist in Yokosuka, Japan; Bethesda, Maryland; and Jacksonville, Florida before joining Chesapeake Urology. Dr. Masterson is excited to return to Annapolis to serve patients throughout Anne Arundel County and beyond.

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Warriors In The Park: Concert Will Honor Military Heroes, First Responders



Headlining the concert is VEER, a hard rock band from Annapolis, founded in 2016 by Ronald Malfi, Jon Malfi, Ryan Fowler and Christian Mathis.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

For some people, music is a form of medicine because of its potential to heal the soul.

The Maryland Cultural and Conference Center (MC3) and Warrior Music Foundation are partnering for Warriors in the Park, an Annapolis festival on 9/11 from 1:00pm to 9:00pm, and Michael Caimona hopes that the concert is a remedy for veterans and first responders in need.

"I have lost friends to suicide and really felt compelled to do something to address the problem," said Caimona, who started the Warrior Music Foundation four years

ago. "I had been involved in music and thought that was a way we could help."

Although people have organized concerts on behalf of the organization in the past, Warriors in the Park is the first concert put on by the foundation.

Headlining the concert is VEER, a hard rock band from Annapolis, founded in 2016 by Ronald Malfi, Jon Malfi, Ryan Fowler and Christian Mathis. The International Singer Songwriters Association just recognized VEER with the bronze award for U.S. Band of the Year. VEER has been direct support for several national acts, including Buckcherry,

» Continued on page 52

Erika Robuck Brings Local WWII Spy To Life In New Thriller



Photo courtesy of Nick Woodall

A Severna Park native and history buff, Erika Robuck released her seventh novel, "An Invisible Woman," in February 2021. She took audience questions and signed books on September 2 at Park Books & Literacy Lab.

By Judy Tacyn

Erika Robuck has always loved a good story. Whether it was her father's daily ghost stories en route to school dropoff, or her aunt's frequent gifting of books, Robuck was a voracious reader and writer at an early age.

Beyond the story itself, Robuck was enthralled with the history of the characters and the time in which the story was set.

Along the way, Robuck learned a quote by one of her favorite authors, Toni Morrison: "If there's a book you really want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it."

Robuck accepted Morrison's challenge and in February 2021 released her seventh novel, "An Invisible Woman," a historical fiction novel about a real Baltimore woman who was a spy in Nazi-occupied France during World War II. On September 2, Robuck held a Q&A and book signing for the public at Park Books & Literacy Lab in

» Continued on page 54

Dining Out



Savoring Severna Park Crab Cakes

Photos by Mary Cobbler

Below Top: Hellas' crab cakes are huge, with minimal filler and seasoning. "Rich" is the best word to describe them. **Below Bottom:** Sullivan's Cove crab cakes have light filler and traditional Maryland crab cake seasoning for a burst of flavor in every bite.



By Mary Cobbler

When people think about Maryland, they often think of crabs.

This month, we checked out two restaurants that you, the readers, voted as your favorites for crab cakes during the last Best of Severna Park contest. Those favorites are Hellas Restaurant and Lounge in Millersville and Sullivan's Cove in Severna Park (The Point Crab House and Grill was the top vote-getter, but the restaurant is not currently serving crab cakes).

Marylanders are passionate about their crab cake preferences. Some people want their cakes to be basically all crabmeat with just barely enough filler to hold it together, giving them the experience of picking crabs without all the work. Others enjoy the texture more filler provides (make no mistake, though — no self-respecting Marylander would want more filler than crab meat).

Hellas and Sullivan's Cove are good examples of each type.

Customer service matched the quality at both restaurants for my carry-out orders. The Hellas bartender smiled and greeted me warmly, as did the young hostess at Sullivan's Cove. Little extras like that go a long way, don't they?

I purchased both crab cakes the same afternoon. Both were jumbo-sized and steamy hot, and the incredible aroma made it hard for me to get them home before taking a bite.

Hellas' crab cakes are legendary. Jam-packed

» Continued on page 52

Art In The Park Presented By Jazz Beyond Borders

A new jazz festival called Art in the Park will be held in Severna Park on Sunday, September 19, from 1:00pm until 5:00pm. Created as an annual community event, the attraction features top-shelf jazz groups and fine art in the courtyard and interior of Cafe Mezzanotte at 760 Ritchie Highway.

The event rain date is September 26. Parking is free and plentiful.

The courtyard and gardens will open to ticket holders at 1:00pm, giving attendees an opportunity to view and purchase fine art and gift selections from Benfield Gallery, Gallery 564, McBride Gallery and Side Street Framers. Festival food and wine tasting stations will be available, and the restaurant will offer its full Mediterranean menu.

The master of ceremonies for the event is WRNR radio host Michael Buckley, known as the host of the long-running radio program "Sunday Brunch." Music begins with Amoroso as the opening act. The global jazz trio features some of Anne Arundel County's most influential and beloved players: Annie Award winning multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Elizabeth Melvin (Wooden Hands, Mama Jama, Caribbean Art Jazz Ensemble), guitarist and vocalist Richard Rausch and Dick Glass, who plays flugelhorn in this concert.

The festival headliner is The JoGo Project. Led by international saxophonist and former Chuck Brown protege Elijah Jamal Balbed, the band combines jazz and go-go music in one highly entertaining band consisting of vocalist Paul Spires,



Above: Elijah Jamal Balbed, Steve Arnold and Julian Berkowitz will perform a soothing set of jazz and Brazilian music during Art in the Park at Cafe Mezzanotte on September 19. **Left:** During the afternoon event, McBride Gallery will sell several pieces including Vova Piven's giclee "Sunset Glow."

trumpeter Brad Clements, guitarist Zachary Cutler, bassist Delorean Fullington, drummer Willie Howell and percussionist Lewis Mike Burney. Set highlights include originals such as Balbed's "One for Pops," a composition dedicated to his mentor Chuck Brown, and jazz standards such as Nat Simon's "Poinciana," written in 1936.

Before the afternoon's festivities are over, Balbed will also appear during a soothing set of jazz and Brazilian music with the Balbed/Arnold/Berkowitz Trio. Joining him are bassist Steve Arnold and drummer Julian Berkowitz.

Art in the Park grew out of the Jazz at the Mezz series begun by Paulina Phillips and Theresa Sise of Jazz Beyond Borders in Severna Park.

The idea to create an annual community event arose as they watched their jazz audience swell in numbers. To produce the new festival, they partnered with Jonathan Katz of the *Severna Park Voice* and Cafe Mezzanotte owner Kosmas "Tommie" Koukoulis and began gathering volunteers, who like them, had a history of volunteering with cultural festivals.

Koukoulis owns and operates Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park and Uncle's Hawaiian Grindz in Fallston, Maryland. Both restaurants have long supported The Food Project, a center in southwest Baltimore that uses food, music and art to motivate and inspire city youth. Part of Art in the Park jazz festival proceeds will benefit The Food Project.

Tickets for Art in the Park are on sale now. Admission is \$40 after September 1. Purchase tickets at www.instantseats.com/aitp.



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Severna Park's Skribe Opens For Darius Rucker In Virginia

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnarparkvoice.com

When Aaron Yealdhall was 14, he attended the Wolf Trap music venue in Vienna, Virginia, to see Ani DiFranco on her "Little Plastic Castle" tour.

"Her set blew my mind; I had no idea that an acoustic guitar could sound so strong and heavy," he said. "That was the first live music experience that really connected with my soul."

Twenty-three years later, Yealdhall, now known as the singer-songwriter Skribe, had a different view of Wolf Trap on September 4. This time, he performed as the opening act for country musician and former Hootie & the Blowfish lead singer and rhythm guitarist Darius Rucker.

Skribe opened for The Last Bandoleros at Wolf Trap in 2018, a visit that made an impression on the crew, because they booked Skribe for the Darius Rucker show after the opening act was canceled last minute.

His return to the venue was "absolutely incredible."

"I was expecting about half capacity when I started my set at 8:00pm — people mingling around chatting, getting drinks and waiting for Darius' set. I was wrong," Skribe said. "I walked up to the back of the stage and peeked out to see a packed house with everyone eagerly anticipating showtime. I was feeling super confident all day and then bam, all of

Photo courtesy of Shawn Shakya

Skribe (left) played to a packed crowd at Wolf Trap on September 4 in support of Darius Rucker, the country musician and former Hootie & the Blowfish lead singer and rhythm guitarist.

the sudden, I feel like Evel Knievel getting ready to jump the Grand Canyon or something."

The crowd roared and then later cheered after Skribe sang a line from his song "Wicked Charm" — "I don't watch baseball, but I hate the Yankees."

"It is such a beautiful venue; it's really a piece of art," he said. "... The crew there is so dang friendly, and so dang good at what they do. It was an honor to play Wolf Trap for sure."

After the show, Rucker's head of security invited Skribe to lounge with the band, crew and VIP ticketholders.

"Darius made an effort to speak to every single person that was hanging out," Skribe said. "I thanked him for the opportunity to share the stage and told him that it was the biggest show of my career. He looked me right in the eyes and said, 'Just keep doing it.' Right to the point."

To see photos and videos from the show, visit www.skribestudios.com or find Skribe on social media. He also has an upcoming show on September 11 at 49 West in Annapolis. Daphne Eckman is opening.



Author's Book Urges Readers They Are "Built To Belong"

By Judy Tacyn

Natalie Franke is, in every sense of the word, a success. She graduated with honors from an Ivy League school, married her high school sweetheart, and was thriving in her own wedding photography business. From the outside looking in, Franke was living a wonderful life as a creative entrepreneur. But as her network widened, her relationships narrowed. Franke often found herself behind a computer screen, reaching the world by clicking her keyboard, but not really connecting to anything or anyone.

In her first book, "Built to Belong: Discovering the Power of Community Over Competition," Franke shares poignant, personal and professional experiences to demonstrate that humans long of connection and cannot thrive without community. The concept of the book was six years in the making, and ironically, the isolation of the worldwide pandemic provided the opportunity for the first-time author to pen her remarkably journey, backed up with evidence-based facts and global sociological and psychological studies.

In January 2020, Cigna released a report that showed an astonishing 60 percent of Americans feel lonely, misunderstood, or excluded. Feelings of loneliness and a lack of companionship are a major factor in depression. And this report came out before a worldwide pandemic that required isolation.

At a time when the world is more digitally connected than ever before, and technology is more accessible than ever before, why are more and more people feeling isolated? Using her own life as an example — success and challenges — Franke used "Built to Belong" to break down the social media filters of perfection, dissolving competition and bringing us back where we belong, together.

Franke is a founder of the Rising Tide



Natalie Franke is a founder of the Rising Tide Society, an alliance of more than 70,000 global small-business owners who, since 2015, have come together in the spirit of community over competition.

Society, an alliance of more than 70,000 global small-business owners who, since 2015, have come together in the spirit of community over competition (#communityovercompetition) with a strong belief that people, businesses and economies rise together, not individually. The society now holds more than 400 monthly worldwide events that take professionals away from their computers to come together and share expertise, creative ideas, successes and failures, and most importantly, relationships, to support one another in their unique passions and visions for success.

The exponential growth and success of the Rising Tide Society and the small businesses within solidified Franke's

"In a culture of fierce competition, this book is just what the world needs! Natalie has created a movement that helps shift the mindset from, 'Oh she's winning; now I'm falling behind' to 'If it can happen for her, it can happen for me.' Natalie speaks of creating meaningful relationships where we all can succeed while collaborating with others."

— BONNIE TAYLOR

"I've followed Natalie for years and have always admired and deeply appreciated her work. But I was still just blown away by this book! As I dove into reading, I realized that building community has never been more important and applies to way more than just in business. Building communities where everyone belongs is vital in our parenting, our neighborhoods, our churches, our schools...everywhere!"

— KRISTY MEINHARDT

understanding of the benefits of community over competition to drive success and fulfillment. Franke — like all of us — is not immune to life-changing challenges in her personal life. With each challenge, she again found that there is comfort in community.

In late 2019, Franke put her thoughts to paper in the form of a proposal. By January 2020, she was pitching her manuscript. She signed a book deal on March 5, 2020, two weeks before the world came to a screeching halt.

"I don't think anyone could have ever imagined a global pandemic," said Franke, "and that only fueled my fire to write this book."

Sitting on the banks of the Magothy River at her parents' home in Pasadena, Franke began writing. "In many ways my book had become even more relevant than it was in 2019," she said.

The isolation of the pandemic didn't change the course of "Built to Belong" much. She said that she added more emphasis on digital togetherness and

the imposition social distancing put on conversations with friends.

"Built to Belong" confronts "preconceived notions of what being 'connected' means," said Franke. "Today we are more connected than any other generation, but we are not connecting ... we are watching each other from a distance. Our brains are wired to thrive in communities that no longer exist."

"There is a cost we pay for living this way. We have to acknowledge this cost and make a deliberate attempt to not just return to 'normal,' but to return to something even better," said Franke.

"Built to Belong" is a book of hope for business owners and individuals.

"We are now in a new season of life. We need to continue to push innovation and leverage technology for good," said Franke. "Community makes the impossible possible."

"Built to Belong" was released on August 24, 2021, and is available on Amazon, at Barnes and Noble, and at other bookstores.

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Warriors In The Park

» Continued from page 47

Sponge, Fuel, Puddle of Mudd, Trapt and 40 Below Summer.

"We are very excited to have our first show in 18 months be for such a great cause," Jon Malfi said. "We love what Warrior Music Foundation stands for, and all the good they do! This is a perfect event to kick off our next string of show dates."

Caimona said his foundation has widespread support from area bands and VEER was at the top of his list.

"Jon Malfi has been a partner of mine and has done a lot of marketing for Warrior Music," he said. "Ryan Fowler runs one of the studios where we offer music therapy."

Sarah Paige, 1Identity and Mac & Blue will also perform during Warriors in the Park. Other activities include a silent auction, multiple food and drink vendors, and information on other local veterans and arts organizations.

There will also be an evening candlelight ceremony to honor the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

"September 11 was the catalyst of a lot of people joining the service," Caimona said. "This anniversary of 9/11 is an important part of the lives of military members and first responders. I think it's important that we all recognize what that day stands for."

Caimona did 10 years of active duty

and served as a military contractor. His nonprofit primarily serves Maryland and western Pennsylvania, but it expanded its online outreach during the coronavirus pandemic.

"With the online platform, there is no geographic boundary anymore," Caimona said.

The Warrior Music Foundation offers free music therapy and music lessons with the goal of improving mental health, one person at a time. The beneficiaries are active-duty military members, veterans and their families as they deal with the complexities of service to include post-traumatic stress, depression, traumatic brain injuries, physical disabilities and financial hardship. The foundation also offers services to law enforcement and first responders.

"We collect a lot of data, and we know that around 95 percent of people with a pre-existing condition who come to us have found a benefit," Caimona said. "We have had veterans who tell us that this helped them find their voice."

The concert and candlelight vigil will be held at StageOne at MC3, located at 3 Park Place, Suite 4, in Annapolis. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased on Eventbrite by searching for "Warriors in the Park." To learn more about the organizations featured in this story, go to www.mc3annapolis.org and www.warriormusicfoundation.org.

Savoring Severna Park Crab Cakes

» Continued from page 47

with lump crabmeat, they deliver an experience that felt nothing short of decadent. I was amazed at the size — a huge serving. The crab cakes are broiled until slightly golden on the outside, leaving the inside tender. There's hardly any filler and minimal seasoning, allowing the meat to be the star.

My husband said the best word to describe these crab cakes is "rich." I agree. Hellas has some kind of magic ingredient infusing these tasty treats with that deep, rich taste. The French fries I chose as a side were hot, classic and no-frills, but delicious.

The Sullivan's Cove crab cakes were fried to slightly crispy perfection. Jumbo, but not as big as Hellas, and they boasted more of an expected Maryland crab cake taste. With light filler, this classic had the traditional local style seasonings but not enough to overwhelm the flavor of the crab, rather elevating it. Each bite was a burst of flavor to savor, and the texture was satisfying. Once again, I ordered fries, and they too were classic, no-frills, but hit the spot.

They were both delicious crab cakes. I like a little bit more filling and spice to the bare crab experience, but my hubby was more of a purist and preferred the hint of seasoning and no filler. It's all a matter of preference.

Due to the current crab shortage, crab cakes will hit your wallet harder than last season, but at least at these two restaurants, you won't mind too much.

The cost for a Hellas platter, with one crab cake and two sides of choice, was about \$32.

Sullivan's Cove charges \$33 for a platter with two crab cakes and includes fingerling potatoes, roasted corn and roasted tomato. But once again, Sullivan's Cove crab cakes are smaller.

The price evens out, and you can't go wrong with either of these offerings.

Both restaurants, however, are listing "market price" for their crab cakes, so verify the prices on the day you choose to place your orders.

While I didn't dine in on these occasions, focusing mainly on the food itself, both restaurants looked appealing for a night out. Hellas offers Mediterranean and mid-Atlantic cuisines, in a relaxed, casual neighborhood bar and grill atmosphere. Sullivan's is comfortable too, but with modern decor and a chic vibe. The staff prides themselves on "modern comfort food."

It's fun to have so many choices in both food and venue in Anne Arundel County.

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Sorry To Burst Your Bubble, But “Candyman” Falls Short Of Being A Horror Classic



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

The housing projects of Chicago's Cabrini-Green neighborhood serve as the backdrop for horrifying events in “Candyman.”

By Audrey Ruppert

I had high expectations for “Candyman.” Jordan Peele, who essentially invented a new genre of cerebral, racially focused horror, co-produced this film. It is the sophomore effort of Nia DaCosta, whose directorial debut (“Little Woods”) was met with wide critical acclaim. The cast is full of up-and-comers, and the film itself is the “spiritual” sequel to the legendary 1992 slasher of the same name. Unfortunately, under the weight of all these expectations, “Candyman” falls a little flat.

The premise is simple: a series of Black men throughout history, who lived in what is now the Cabrini-Green area of Chicago, found themselves victimized by white people in various ways. The original Candyman fell in love with a white woman and was lynched as a result. The most recent Candyman was murdered by police who wrongly suspected him of putting razor blades in the candy of white children. These vengeful spirits can be summoned by anyone who says “Candyman” into a mirror five times.

In the modern day, an artist named Anthony learns about the Candyman “legend” and begins to create art centered on said legend. Anthony’s girlfriend, Brianna, is an art curator and features his work at a local art show — thus inadvertently bringing the Candyman back to Cabrini-Green.

I don’t want to be like the white, snotty, arty critic who looks at Anthony’s work and essentially labels the artistic representation of Black pain as “too literal” or poorly done — I acknowledge I am not of this community and therefore my opinion should be taken with a grain of salt. That being acknowledged, my opinion is as follows: “Candyman” just doesn’t pack the same punch that any of Peele’s previous work has.

“Get Out” tries to lure viewers into a false sense of security, with sinister undertones creeping in the background, until the climactic end where the full horror of the exploitation of Black labor, Black people and Black artistic achievement is laid bare. “Us” is a surreal, easter-egg-packed, horrifying metaphor for the two Americas that have existed since the foundation of our nation, and before. “BlacKkKlansman”

is witty, biting, thought-provoking and compelling throughout. “Candyman” feels like a slightly more intelligent version of “Halloween.”

The characters feel quite thin, though I suppose this is slasher tradition. The only character I am vaguely invested in is Nathan, Brianna’s brother - but he only appears briefly at the beginning and then rarely makes an appearance after that. The impact of films like “Get Out” stem from their ability to make you empathize with the protagonist, step into his or her shoes, only to be betrayed by characters you thought were trustworthy. “Candyman” doesn’t take us on the same ride, and thus, we are less horrified when its characters die or become sinister.

Social commentary seems to be peppered in rather than artfully woven into the plot. Gentrification, police brutality, echoes of the case of Emmett Till - these are alluded to and then forgotten, without any of the threads making a huge impact. The way the new Candyman is created makes little sense as well — we see the new Candyman borne out of the insane plotting of a Black man set on vengeance, rather than borne out of white supremacy, like all the other candyman. Is Candyman supposed to be an anti-hero in this film? One who will only wreak vengeance on racist people? That theory could make sense, perhaps, but Candyman’s intentions seem to be rather inconsistent, with victims all across the board, and of multiple races.

Tonally and visually, the film is beautiful, but the thematically it is inconsistent. It’s also not that scary. We get a couple visceral kills, either onscreen or offscreen, but it doesn’t have that same underlying sense of dread or impending doom that you’d find in a film like “Us” or “Hereditary.”

Perhaps “Candyman” doesn’t need to be consistent or even that impactful - considering the horror Black people have historically been through in this country, it’s surprising there aren’t more legends of Black, Mike Meyers-style ghosts who come back to haunt us during blockbuster season. If you want something a bit more elevated and intelligent than your run-of-the-mill slasher film, then “Candyman” is for you.

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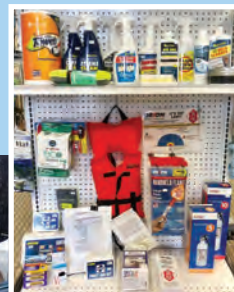
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Photos courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography

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features large doses of comedy, creative storytelling and an eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville to gospel, all helping deliver the timeless messages of kindness, tolerance and love.

Visit www.tobysdinnertheatre.com for ticketing information and current COVID-19 procedures.

Robuck Brings Local Spy To Life

» Continued from page 47
Severna Park.

Robuck's passion for history drives her fascination of the lesser known, or unknown, people who played a prominent yet silent role in getting us to where we are now. After publishing "Hemingway's Girl" and "Call Me Zelda," which were about the muses of famous men, Robuck set out to find a strong female lead for her next title.

"I am constantly haunted by characters with something to say and a story to tell!" said Robuck. "Subjects find me."

While reading a Smithsonian Magazine article, Virginia Hall, a Baltimore woman turned World War II spy, and retired Central Intelligence Agency agent, popped up right before Robuck's eyes.

A Severna Park native and lover of all things Washington, D.C., Annapolis and Baltimore history, Robuck wondered why she had not heard of Virginia Hall.

"It was just a very brief mention," said Robuck, "but I was intrigued." That chance encounter in a Smithsonian Magazine started a research project that not only unearthed a fascinating protagonist for her next book but also an unexpected yet lovely meeting with a Hall decedent.

"Virginia left me breadcrumbs!" explained Robuck. "I'd exhaust a lead which produced a little information, but then I'd find another breadcrumb."

"The Invisible Woman" is set in France in March of 1944. Baltimore native Virginia Hall was enchanted with all things

Parisian. When France, her second home, fell to Nazi occupation, Hall was recruited as an Allied spy and would give her life to defend the countries she loved.

Robuck's attention to detail is exquisite. Even if the reader has never read a World War II novel before, Robuck's writing will paint a vivid picture so clear that the reader feels as if they have traveled to Europe dozens of times. Her characters are expertly written, each with intricate personalities and motives, and readers never know how one chapter will end and the next begins.

In addition to "The Invisible Woman," "Hemingway's Girl" and "Call Me Zelda," Robuck is the national bestselling author of "Fallen Beauty," "The House of Hawthorne" and "Receive Me Falling." She is also a contributor to the anthology "Grand Central: Postwar Stories of Love and Reunion."

Her upcoming novel, "Sisters of Night and Fog," due March 2022, once again will capture the stories of amazing women during World War II in Europe. This time, the story features Virginia d'Albert-Lake and Violette Szabo.

Park Books & Literacy Lab will welcome Robuck back on September 30 at 8:00pm to discuss "The Invisible Woman" as part of the bookstore's monthly book club gathering.

To read more about "The Invisible Woman" and to reserve a spot at the book club gathering, visit Park Books at 555 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard (in the Garry's Grill plaza) or online at www.parkbooksmd.com.

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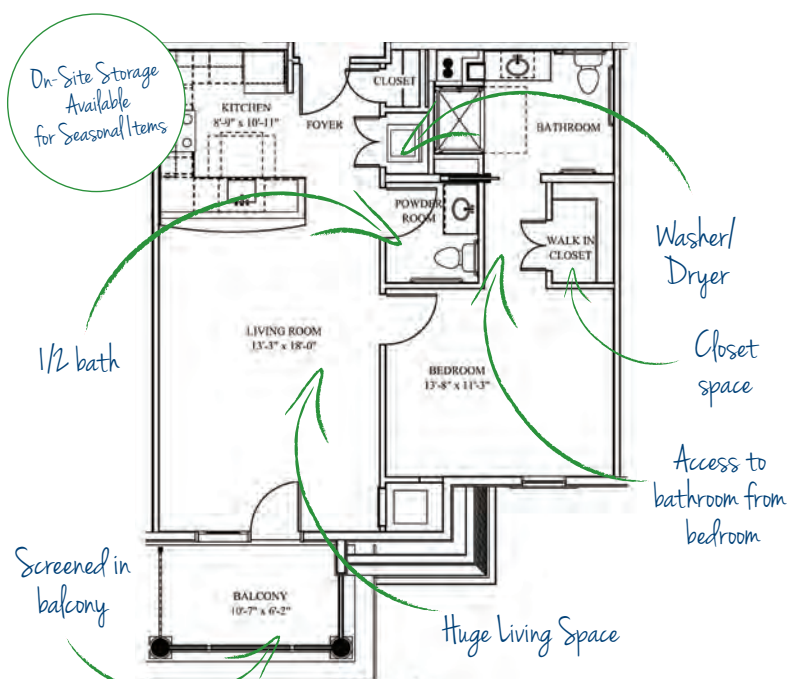
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Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
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Home Mortgage – Tanner Greenwalt, Sweet Piggy Baking Company, United States Cybersecurity Magazine and Transworld Business Advisors. And we thank all our renewing members for keeping us Chamber Strong!

On the first Tuesday of August, our community held the annual National Night Out at the **Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company.**

The wonderful event was organized by **Sandi Parrish of the Pasadena Business Association; Sara Gannon, legislative assistant to Councilman Nathan Volke; Joe Angyelof, president of the fire company; Sam Tanner,**

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members: **Garten, Idea Weaver Promotions Inc., Leave Dinner to Lettie Personal Chef, Effectv, A Comcast Company, First**

PBA board member and owner of the Entrusted Group LLC of Keller Williams; Beau Breeden of the Delmarva Financial Group; Nancy Greer of the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi; Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler; and others. It was hosted by the **Eastern District Police Station, the Pasadena Business Association, the Greater Severna Park & Arnold Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Severna Park Council, the Broadneck Council of Communities and the Cape St. Claire Improvement Association.**

Paulette Morris, owner of **Idea Weaver Promotions Inc.,** held an informative workshop on crafting a powerful “elevator speech” at **Romilo’s Restaurant and Bar in Severna Park.** Paulette is a charter member of the Toast of Severna Park Toastmasters Club, past president of the club, area governor and distinguished toastmaster.

We held a ribbon-cutting on August 30 for the grand opening of Chick-fil-A’s new location at Anne Arundel Community College. Owner Chris Schenck has been with the company since 1986, starting
» **Continued on page 59**

The October Surprise

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
at Premier
Planning Group



Those who follow politics closely will undoubtedly recognize the term “October surprise.” Perhaps some of you remember the George W. Bush DUI of 2000, or the Osama bin Laden video that boosted Bush’s campaign in 2004. These are examples of October surprises that impacted presidential elections, and in some instances, carried enough weight to determine who became the president of the United States.

The stock market has had its share of unique October surprises as well, which can be thought of as major market corrections all happening in October. Two infamous dates (October 28, 1929, and October 19, 1987) were both October surprises that fell on a Monday — coining them the term Black Monday — and happened to be two of the most well-known stock market crashes in history. Some analysts

are projecting that the market could be in store for a surprise this October.

Aside from the delta variant and the current crisis in Afghanistan, the three main problems facing the market are inflation, increase in taxes and interest rate hikes. Any one of these variables’ influence alone can create a negative turn to the market, but all five together could spur some major impacts. August usually ends where it began and September is used as an evaluation period, while action is taken in October. In 2021, it seems that we are following that parallel.

Warren Buffet recently commented, “We’re seeing very substantial inflation ... I mean, we’re raising prices. People are raising prices to us. And it’s being accepted ... the costs are just up, up, up ... it’s almost a buying frenzy ... there’s more inflation going on than people would have anticipated.”

Billionaire investor Stanley Druckenmiller agreed, saying, “My overriding theme is inflation relative to what the policymakers think. Basically, the play is inflation” (Stansberry Research 2021). I do not need to hear these visionaries tell me
» **Continued on page 56**

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Chesapeake Urology Helps Patients Solve Personal Issues

By Zach Sparks

From kidney stones to cancer, a range of personal health conditions are treated by urologists. At Chesapeake Urology, a team of specialists treats those issues with their extensive experience, cutting-edge treatments, and compassion.

“It’s a great feeling to help patients improve their quality of life,” said Dr. James Masterson, who joined Chesapeake Urology in August. “People often see an improvement right away. For example, they had to run to the bathroom because of urinary urgency or a burning sensation and now they don’t anymore.”

Operating out of Chesapeake Urology’s Annapolis office, Masterson focuses on all areas of general urology in men and women, including benign prostatic hyperplasia/enlarged prostate, erectile dysfunction, hematuria, bladder cancer, prostate cancer, low testosterone, infertility and kidney stones.

A 1996 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Masterson has traveled all over the world, from Yokosuka, Japan, to Bethesda, Maryland, to Jacksonville, Florida.

He is excited to be at Chesapeake Urology, where patient comfort and convenience are both priorities.

“We want to deliver a superior experience to the patient,” Masterson said. “We’re providing quality care, highly-trained physicians, and accessibility; we have an ambulatory surgery center and our office in one location to maximize efficiency.”

People don’t have to go to the hospital operating room since Chesapeake Urology has equipment for same-day surgeries.

When people visit Chesapeake Urology, they can check in with a QR code. The pandemic also inspired the team to make other changes that they will continue to offer for each patient’s benefit.

With telehealth, for example, they can provide same-day care for problems like urinary tract infections, so patients get the care they need when they need it.



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While patient convenience and compassion are vital, so is the quality of each doctor. Urologists are also surgeons, and at Chesapeake Urology, doctors are at the top of their field, with many of them fellowship-trained and involved in furthering medical research.

Chesapeake Urology has a robust clinical trials program, which benefits patients through access to new and innovative treatments and therapies.

For example, doctors are monitoring progress on water vapor therapy for patients who have an enlarged prostate.

“It’s almost like having an academic center in a community setting, because of the level of expertise,” Masterson said. “Chesapeake Urology builds these little centers of excellence. We also had 10 new doctors in Maryland alone this year, so the company is strong and growing.”

Chesapeake Urology has offices in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Carroll, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Wicomico and Worcester counties and in Baltimore City and Sussex County, Delaware.

The Annapolis office is located at 810 Bestgate Road, Suite 235. Office hours are 8:00am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. For more information, call 443-231-1500 or visit www.chesapeakeurology.com.



Left: At the Chesapeake Urology office in Annapolis, doctors and staff provide a comprehensive array of urologic services to patients. **Above:** James H. Masterson, M.D. recently joined Chesapeake Urology in Annapolis and following a distinguished career as a urologist in the U.S. Navy, brings a broad range of expertise to the team.

Plan Ahead Before Joining The “Great Resignation”

Brian M. Conrad
CFP, Financial
Advisor



It's been called the “Great Resignation” — the large number of Americans voluntarily leaving their jobs. If you plan to be part of it (ideally with another source of employment lined up), you'll need to make the financial

moves necessary to keep making progress toward your long-term goals.

Here's some background: After a year in which the pandemic caused so many people to lose their jobs, the economy is opening back up, but the “quit rate” — the number of jobs people have voluntarily left — has been breaking records. Some economists say this high quit rate is because people are confident of getting better jobs, with higher pay and more flexibility to work at home, or because they are preparing to start their own business or join the gig economy.

If you're thinking of joining this temporary migration from the workforce, how can you help ensure that you'll be financially stable and can continue to make progress toward your long-term goals?

Your first move is to look clearly at your

financial situation. As mentioned above, it's best to have new employment in hand before you quit your job. Alternatively, perhaps you have a spouse or life partner who earns enough to sustain the two of you, or you've built up an emergency fund that gives you a cushion.

However, if your short-term income is less than you previously earned or you need to go without a paycheck for a while, could you still pay your bills? If you are strapped for cash, you might be tempted to tap into your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But this move will generally result in taxes and, if you are younger than 59 and a half, a 10 percent penalty as well. Because of this, and because your retirement accounts are designed to be a financial resource after you retire, think twice before dipping into these funds if you leave your current employer.

If your employer allows it, you can leave your money in the 401(k) so you'll still be accumulating resources for retirement. You also have the option to roll those funds into an individual retirement account (IRA) or a new employer's retirement plan.

And if you plan to work for yourself as a freelancer, consultant or business owner, you'll still want to save toward retirement. Possible retirement plans for the self-employed include an “owner-only” 401(k), a SEP-IRA or a SIMPLE IRA, all of

which may be relatively easy to establish and offer tax benefits. A financial advisor can help you find a retirement plan that's appropriate for your needs.

Here's something else to keep in mind — an emergency fund. As mentioned above, if you already have one, you'll have some breathing room if you're thinking of leaving your job and might have a temporary gap in income. But as the name suggests, an emergency fund is there to help cover unexpected costs, such as a major home repair, without forcing you to take out a loan, or cash out part of your longer-term investments. So, if you are planning to tap your emergency fund, work to restock it as soon as possible.

If you're participating in the “Great Resignation,” it means you're feeling positive about your future employment prospects, which is great. But you'll want to support that optimism with a strong financial foundation.

Brian M. Conrad is a certificated financial planner and financial advisor with Edward Jones. His office is located 479 Jumpers Hole Road, Suite 202, in Severna Park. To learn more, call 410-544-8970, email brian.conrad@edwardjones.com or visit www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

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The October Surprise

» Continued from page 55

there is inflation. I can feel it at the gas pump and the grocery store. I wouldn't qualify this as an October surprise, but it is a major contributing factor if we do have a market correction.

An increase in taxation is something that could qualify as an October surprise to me. However, I don't see Congress doing this because of the immense problems it would create. The Fed announced earlier this year that it is accelerating interest rate increases to 2022. Originally, it was projected that we would start to see increasing rates in 2023, but experts are now anticipating that rise well before then.

Interest rates and inflation have gone side by side the past two years since rates have been so low and everyone is refinancing or buying a home. All that activity is contributing to inflation. I don't think interest rate hikes would qualify as an October surprise, unless we see a significant rated increase in near future.

The two biggest candidates creating a potential surprise are the delta variant and the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan. It's unknown if we will experience large shutdowns like we did in 2020, and obviously a shutdown as such would create economic problems.

The complicating part of a shutdown is that it creates market downturn, but once the market is down, the anticipation for the opening of the country has shown to create growth on the upside of the economy's turning. It remains to be seen how the market responds to any future shutdowns, but another one would certainly qualify as an October surprise for our economy and markets.

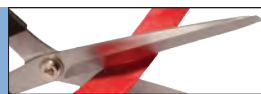
News has been surfacing regarding the situation in Afghanistan, and I am certainly not an expert in military affairs, but the ongoing problems in Afghanistan certainly constitute as an October surprise and have major ramifications. Afghanistan is a major supplier of imported minerals, and experts have revealed that the country is sitting on nearly \$1 trillion worth of rare minerals (CNBC, 2021). The Taliban's control will undeniably have serious effects on the markets in the US. Lithium is used in everything from cellphone batteries to computer semiconductors, and a major source of this rare, critical resource is Afghanistan. How the Taliban handles things certainly impacts the market.

The point is not to identify or anticipate what will happen in October or the near future; the point is to recognize that the current market bull run may not continue. I have identified several examples of factors that could create a correction and it's not important which one is accurate.

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RIBBON CUTTING



Chick-fil-A Mooves Into AACC



Photo by Petra Roche

Chick-fil-A Severna Park owner Chris Schenck opened his newest location on August 30 when he cut the ribbon at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold. Members of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce and elected officials joined Schenck in the college's Health and Life Sciences building for the ceremony.



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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 55

out at the Annapolis Mall. He worked his way up to purchase the location at Marley Station years ago. He has owned the Chick-fil-A in Severna Park for eight years and is excited about the new location.

On the last Friday of the month, we held our Fly-by-Friday cookout at the chamber. The event was sponsored by the Wednesday Business Connectors group, which includes **Daniel Downer of Daniel Downer, Attorney at Law; Ken Menzies of Kenneth G. Menzies Jr., PA; Robin Torrence of ATG Title Company; Carlyn Lowery of Excep-**

tional Homes at eXp Realty; Justine Baker of First National Bank; Bill Regan of C&F Mortgage Corporation; and Mimi Shea of Caring Transitions. We also enjoyed popcorn from **Pam Negron of the Negron Farmers Insurance Agency**, and ice cream from **Bruster's Real Ice Cream.**

In September, we are resuming our committee events, which include monthly meetings organized by the wellness committee, the Learn and Lead committee, the Successful Women in Business committee, and the pet committee.

We are looking forward to a great golf tournament to be held at the **Chartwell**

Golf and Country Club on September 27. Sponsors include **Live! Casino and Hotel**, our tournament sponsor; **Emerald Financial Partners, The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium; Chick-fil-A Severna Park; Moran Insurance; Rosso Commercial Real Estate Services; Alexander Animal Hospital; Steak 'n Shake; the Bank of Glen Burnie; Fellner Legal Services; M&T Bank; Meridien DermSpa; PERSICO Asset Management; SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park; Arundel Federal Savings Bank; Passanante's Home Food Services; Landmark Roofing; Bernward**

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We are planning a spectacular Shoptoberfest, which will be held in Park Plaza on October 23 from 11:00am-3:00pm. The event will feature local entertainment, a photo booth, a Halloween costume contest and much more.

Please visit www.gspacc.com for more information about the chamber and our activities. You can also email me at ceo@gspacc.com or call 410-647-3900. Remember to shop local, give local and support local!

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