



Broadneck Girls
Soccer Stays
Undefeated
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Theater And Concerts
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OCTOBER 2021

ASPIRE Recognizes Community Leaders And Heritage Award Winners

The Association for Severna Park Improvement, Renewal & Enhancement Inc. was unable to hold its annual community leadership awards dinner in 2020 or 2021, but the organization still wanted to recognize those who have helped make the greater Severna Park community a better place. Here are the honorees.

ASPIRE HERITAGE AWARDS - 2020

The ASPIRE Heritage Awards recognize individuals and small groups of individuals for playing a significant role in contributing to the character of Severna Park. While the recipients of these awards often demonstrate leadership and a dedication to community service, what sets these honorees apart is that their efforts have noticeably improved the quality of life in Severna Park. The awards may be awarded to living residents (or former residents who have moved away) as well as posthumously. The selection of awardees is made by the ASPIRE board of trustees.

Tom Caraker

Tom Caraker III was known as "the mayor" of the B&A Trail. Caraker was a prominent member of the Trailblazers,
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Chamber To Kick Off Fall With Shoptoberfest

By Haley Weisgerber

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) is kicking off fall and the Halloween season with its annual Shoptoberfest event to encourage the community to shop locally and shop small.

"Shoptoberfest is a Shop Local event organized by the chamber to promote our small businesses and nonprofits to the community," said GSPACC CEO Liz League.

Shoptoberfest will be held on October 23 from 11:00am to 3:00pm in Park Plaza at 500 Ritchie Highway. A section of the parking lot in front of Ledo Pizza will be blocked off for parking.

"We revamped the event a few years ago to take on a 'Halloween' twist, holding it closer to Halloween and adding in the trick-or-treat feature at each exhibitor's table," said League. "It was a huge hit in 2019 and we look forward to another exciting event."

Many local businesses will be present at vendor tables, ready to distribute candy,



Each exhibitor's table at Shoptoberfest will have trick-or-treat goodies.

sell products, hand out food samples and more. There will be a local DJ, a photo booth and games. For children aged 10 and under, there will be a costume contest with categories such as scariest, most original, most creative and creepiest.

Four-legged family members are also welcomed and can also enter a costume contest with the same categories.

"This is a fun, family-friendly event that brings the community together with
» Continued on page 4

Officer Swartz Leaves Beloved Job At Severna Park High School

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Five years into his career as a school resource officer (SRO), Alex Swartz was told in 2016 that his days on the job were numbered.

He was hit by a drunk driver and pinned against his vehicle in 2008, breaking his back, and he was hit by another drunk driver in 2010, breaking his back and neck. Surgery and rehab helped him walk again, but he could not run or look over his shoulder.

Still, when doctors shared the depressing news in 2016, he was not ready to leave the job he loved nor the students and staff he considered family.

"Doctors told me in 2016 that if I continued to wear the gear SROs have, the physical end of the job would eventually wear down the area where I had my surgery," said Swartz, explaining that the gear weighs about 32 pounds. "I loved the job too much to stop."

"As the years went on, sometimes I would turn my head too quickly and I would hear a pop, and that would cause severe headache and vision issues," he



said. "I could always get through it and felt like I was still safe to do the job."

Swartz no longer feels that he can do the job safely. During the pandemic, he was driving and became dizzy. He pulled over, sat for a few hours and vomited.

"I haven't been sick like that since I was 10 years old," Swartz said. "I don't drink and have never done drugs. I'm clean other than chocolate."

Doctors informed Swartz that he reinjured his neck. Swelling surrounded the surgical area by his spinal cord.

"There is pressure on the nerves, causing an equilibrium-type issue," he said. "I haven't been able to ride a bicycle, which, for anyone who knows me, is a big deal."

"It would be selfish of me to be in a career where I am tasked with helping people," he said. "I have always looked at the job as having 2,000 kids, teachers and staff members. I always told myself if I couldn't step into every situation and handle it, I would step away."

Swartz is undergoing "grueling" physical therapy. It's difficult for him to walk in one direction for long without getting dizzy.

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Margueritte Mills Volunteer Of The Month

By Haley Weisgerber

Ann Jackson, an Olde Severna Park resident, was inspired by her own waterfront home to take care of the local waterways. In 2009, she attended the first Watershed Steward Academy (WSA) class to take matters into her own hands. After retiring during the pandemic, Jackson devoted her free time to WSA and saving the waterways.

An organization associated with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, WSA trains members of the community to be Master Watershed Stewards and encourages them to implement change in their communities.

"I always wanted to do environmental projects and I was interested in whatever I could do to help save the environment," Jackson said. "Until I joined WSA, I didn't really have a focus or a group of people to connect with."

She originally became involved when a neighbor recommended the program to her. Now, she is still working with WSA as a member of the Maintenance Corps and, most recently, as a Tree Trooper.

"There's often a lot of talk around what we need to do, but with these two programs, there were actually things I could do," Jackson said. "I could help in a rain garden, I can plant trees, I could remove invasive [plants] and there was a group of people who were also interested in the same thing."

Volunteer Plants Trees To Improve Local Waterways



Ann Jackson, pictured with a bald cypress, was nominated for the Volunteer of the Month award for her work with the Tree Troopers.

As a member of the Maintenance Corps, Jackson follows up on previous projects to ensure that everything is still in good shape.

"We help people who need assistance maintaining their rain garden or conservation gardening project," Jackson said. "A lot of times, these projects go in the ground and they're great projects, but then you also need to maintain them or they start to fail."

Jackson discovered the Tree Troopers, a group of people who plant trees in communities and on residential property to improve the tree canopy

and environmental conditions, just before the pandemic. After the Maintenance Corps slowed down during the pandemic, Jackson dove headfirst into the Tree Troopers.

The troopers plant native and resilient trees including river birch, sassafras, flowering dogwood, magnolia, witch hazel and so many more. Jackson said her personal favorite is river birch.

"The bark sort of peels off and it's just a beautiful tree," Jackson said.

Jackson was nominated for the Volunteer of the Month award by DJ Gile, a fellow Tree Trooper and Olde Severna Park resident, who said Jackson is deserving of the recognition. Jackson said that Gile's own dedication inspires her to continue volunteering. Together with their community, Gile and Jackson planted 200 trees in Olde Severna Park, 50 of which were in Gile's yard. Jackson hopes to inspire the community the same way that Gile has inspired her.

"I hope we inspire the community to plant even more trees because individual property owners, some of them have room for many trees on their property," Jackson said. "It's a matter of recognizing the importance of it and the trees are very inexpensive."

Each tree costs \$20 and will be approximately four to six feet tall when planted. Jackson said it will be hard to find a deal that good anywhere else.



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Calendar

ONGOING

Tuesday: Food Truck Tuesday at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company at 4:00pm. Info: 410-353-2861.

Saturday: Severna Park Farmers Market at the Park and Ride located at Ritchie Highway and Jones Station Road from 8:00am to noon. Info: 410-924-3092.

OCTOBER

Oct 8: Yappy Hour at Severna Park Taphouse from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. All dogs are welcome on a leash. Info: www.severnaparktaphouse.com.

Oct 8: Oktoberfest 2021 hosted by the Severna Park Community Center at Kurtz's Beach in Pasadena from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Info: www.spcommunitycenter.org/oktoberfest.

Oct 9: Fall Fun Day at Kinder Farm Park from 9:00am to noon. Info: www.kinderfarmpark.org.

Oct 12: Greater Severna Park Council meeting at 7:30pm via Zoom. Info: www.gspcouncil.org.

Oct 13: Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark at Severna Park Library from 1:00pm to 2:00pm for children ages 8-12. Info: aacpl.librarycalendar.com.

Oct 13: Virtual Family Bingo at the Broadneck Library at 6:30pm. Registration is required. Info: aacpl.librarycalendar.com.

Oct 18: County Council meeting at the Arundel Center in Annapolis at 6:00pm. Info: www.aacounty.org.

Oct 20: Board of Education public session at 2644 Riva Road in Annapolis at 6:00pm. Info: www.aacps.org.

Oct 21: Book signing with Mary Elizabeth Pope at 6:00pm at Park Books and Literacy Lab. Info: www.parkbooksmid.com.

Oct 23: Shoptoberfest in Park Plaza presented by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Info: www.gspacc.com.

Oct 23: Toys for Tots Halloween Lip Sync Showdown from 7:30pm

to 10:30pm at Severna Park Elks 2482. Info: www.bit.ly/3zuyDTm.

Oct 26: Virtual Monsters Trivia hosted by Anne Arundel County Public Library for all ages at 6:30pm. Registration is required. Info: aacpl.librarycalendar.com.

Oct 29: Guinness Halloween Costume Contest at Severna Park Taphouse from 8:00pm to midnight. Info: www.severnaparktaphouse.com.

Oct 30: Trunk or Treat hosted by St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church from 10:30 to noon. Info: www.bit.ly/2Y2gSOs.

Oct 30: Spook-Tacular Story-Time and Costume Parade at Broadneck Library for children under 10 from 11:00am to 12:30pm. Info: aacpl.librarycalendar.com.

Oct 30: Trick or Treat event at Spring Arbor of Severna Park Senior Living from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Info: www.springarborliving.com.

Oct 30: Ellie's Annual Halloween Party at Ellie's Place in Millersville from 8:30pm to 1:00am. Info: www.bit.ly/3zAF4EM.

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Daughters Of The Revolution Honored



In recognition of Constitution Week from September 17-23, Delegate Nic Kipke presented a citation to the Fort Severn chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. For more than a century, the members of the national Daughters of the American Revolution have dedicated themselves to historical preservation, promotion of education, and encouragement of patriotic endeavor. The Fort Severn chapter has members from Severna Park, Pasadena and all over the region, and its first meeting in 1965 was held at the Wagon Wheels restaurant in Severna Park. The Fort Severn chapter is named after Fort Severn (1808-1909), which was located in Annapolis, currently where the fifth wing of Bancroft Hall at the Naval Academy now stands.



Chamber To Kick Off Fall

» Continued from page 1

the businesses in a very festive atmosphere," said League.

EscapeTime, Severna Park Mathnasium, the Severna Park Community Center, and other small businesses will be present. Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi will have a martial arts demo and two local dance groups will perform.

Many other small businesses are sponsoring the event. There are three levels of sponsorship - bronze for GSPACC members only, silver and gold level. Gold-level sponsorship also includes a 50% donation to a charity of each business' choice and an oversized check to present to the organization.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy," said League. "Come out and meet a few while having a great afternoon and get an early jump on trick or treating."

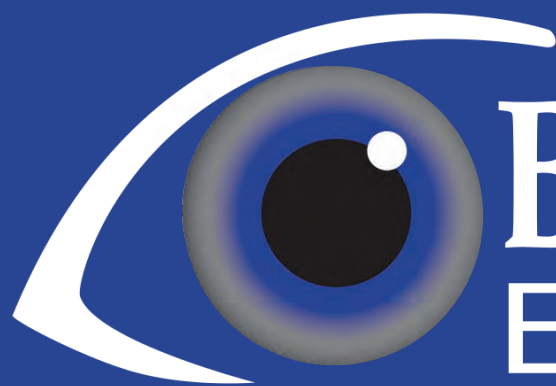
League hopes that this event is fun and entertaining for the community, but also that it inspires people to support the small businesses that make the community great.

"Our motto at the chamber is 'Buy

Local or Bye Local,'" said League. "This is our opportunity to showcase our businesses that give us so much — jobs, desired goods and services, donations and tax dollars that strengthen our local economy. We hope that people will be reminded of the importance of the Shop Local concept while having a great time at the event."

To learn more about the event or to get involved visit www.gspacc.com, call 410-647-3900 or email info@gspacc.com.





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Halloween Event Roundup

By Haley Weisgerber

Halloween is just around the corner and the community is ready to celebrate. Check out these Halloween events that are sure to get you in the spooky spirit.

Toys for Tots Halloween Lip Sync Showdown

On October 23 from 7:30pm to 10:30pm at Severna Park Elks 2482, members of the community are gathering for the ninth annual Halloween party and Toys for Tots fundraiser kickoff. The event is sponsored by many local businesses and hosted by REMAX Executive. Festivities will include an open bar, dinner, dancing and surprise guest performances. Attendees must be over the age of 21. Admission costs \$42.50 a ticket and an unopened toy. Group ticket options are available. To learn more, visit the event Facebook page at www.bit.ly/3zuyDTm.

Guinness Halloween Costume Contest

Severna Park Taphouse is hosting DJ Bob Cherry on October 29 to play everyone's spooky favorites for the Guinness Halloween Costume Contest with Guinness Swag from 8:00pm to midnight. Attendees can have their beer engraved with their picture. A costume contest will take place at 11:00pm. For more information, visit www.severnaparktaphouse.com or call 410-793-5759.

Spring Arbor Trick Or Treat

Parents are encouraged to bring their trunks and their kids to Spring Arbor of Severna Park, a senior living community, for an outdoor trick-or-treat event on October 30 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Decorate a vehicle trunk and then bring the kids in costumes. Celebrate Halloween with the residents of Spring Arbor, located at 345 Ritchie Highway. To learn more, call 410-544-7774.

Halloween Drive-Thru

The Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi will host a Halloween drive-thru on October 30 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Families are welcome to grab a treat bag, bring a can for the nonprofit SPAN, decorate their cars and wear costumes. Jing Ying is located at 1195 B&A Boulevard, Suite 6, in Arnold. The event is free, but attendees must preregister at www.jingying.org.

Trunk or Treat

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church is hosting a trunk-or-treat on October 30. At 9:15am, families will begin to decorate their vehicles with faith-based decorations. The official festivities will kick off at 10:30am and go until noon. The event will feature candy, games, face painting, crafts, music and fun for the entire family. Children are encouraged to dress as saints or wear any other family-friendly costumes. To learn more, visit the event Facebook page at www.bit.ly/2Y2gSOs.

Spook-Tacular Story-Time and Costume Parade

The Broadneck Library is hosting the Spook-Tacular Story-Time and Costume Parade at the Broadneck Library on October 30, for children under the age of 10, from 11:00am to 12:30pm. The event will feature a silly Halloween story-time, treats and other fun activities. There will also be a parade for children to show off their costumes. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. To learn more, visit www.aacpl.librarycalendar.com/events/spook-tacular-story-time-and-costume-parade.

Ellie's Annual Halloween Party

Ellie's Place in Millersville is hosting its annual Halloween party from 8:30pm on October 30 to 1:00am on October 31. The event will feature NOISE PERMIT, a classic hard rock cover band. NOISE PERMIT is known for playing music by KISS, Alice Cooper, Van Halen and more. The event is fun for all ages and costumes are strongly encouraged. To learn more, visit the Facebook event page at www.bit.ly/3zAF4EM.

Hall o Ween Ball 2021

Copper Creek Pub and Ale House is hosting Hall o Ween Ball on October 30 at 9:00pm. The event will feature a performance from Hall Williams Band, which specializes in positive and upbeat music with jazz overtones. Costumes are encouraged. To learn more, visit the Facebook event page at www.bit.ly/2Zlmm7x.



Centenarian Reflects On Fulfilling Life

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Ken Brady's childhood was marked by tragedy, but he credits a series of lucky breaks for helping him live a meaningful life and reach his 100th birthday on October 9.

After his father died from cancer at age 37 in 1929, his mom was left with six young children. Unable to care for them all, she placed Brady and two of his brothers in the Hershey Industrial School, founded by Milton Hershey and his wife, Catherine, who were unable to have children of their own. Even though Catherine died in 1915, Hershey continued to expand the school and take in more orphan boys.

"They were only taking boys from Pennsylvania, but Mr. Hershey must have had pity for us even though we weren't from Pennsylvania," Brady said.

Brady estimates that the school cared for about 300 boys at the time, and Brady and his brothers were placed in different homes.

"He called us boys his children," Brady said. "He would sit down sometimes and have dinner with us. Also, he would come unannounced to check on us and would come alone; he wasn't trying to put on a show. He was concerned about our well-being."

Brady lived at the institute for 11 years, graduating from high school in 1940. He spent three years in the military after being drafted in 1943, two years after the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II. Roughly a year after joining the military, Brady married his girlfriend, Jeanne.



Left: Ken Brady wears a Hershey's hat as a tribute to the famous chocolatier who gave many boys a home. **Middle:** In 1934, 13-year-old Ken Brady dressed for school in knicker pants. **Right:** Ken Brady spent three years in the military.

"When I got to the church, it was filled with people. I thought my wife must have had a large family," he said. "It was D-Day, and people were praying for a successful invasion."

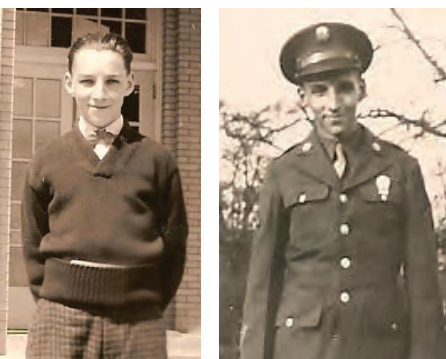
Brady was thankful to not be involved in the invasion — one of the few "life-saving events" to which he attributes his longevity.

"When I was drafted, most young men were being trained as foot soldiers for the invasion," he said. "The casualties were going to be high, and I was hoping I would not be in the Army infantry."

Instead, he was assigned to the Air Corps as an airplane mechanic.

"I wasn't shot down and I wasn't involved in the invasion," he said. "I was very fortunate."

An estimated 2,501 Americans died on the opening day of the Normandy Invasion. Of the 92 people in Brady's high school class, 15 were killed in World War



II, he said. Eight decades later, he still reflects on a train ride that occurred after he was drafted.

"I often think how many men on that train never returned home and how many of the men on the bombers never returned home," he said. "I hope they rest in peace."

Brady was hired by Westinghouse Electric Corporation. BWI opened a plant to manufacture torpedoes for Navy submarines, and his manager asked him to join him in transferring. Brady was promoted to torpedo program quality manager.

"Now I was managing a product, not people," he said.

Brady had three managers during his time at Westinghouse, and he said all three gave him great opportunities. One perk, a trip aboard a submarine, came while he was doing PR for Westinghouse.

"At 5:00am, it took off and it stayed on the surface, and at some point, it dove,"

he said. "I got to watch Westinghouse torpedoes being test-fired. I don't remember anyone else at Westinghouse getting that privilege."

Later he was promoted to the company's inspection division, allowing him to travel the U.S. wherever he desired so long as he produced his airline tickets. He ended his professional career in 1985 after helping to plan conferences in Detroit and Baltimore.

Brady was a Westinghouse employee for 33 years, and the company celebrated his career by throwing a party at La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie.

"I had a very successful career at Westinghouse. Looking back, I'd say it's based on what Mr. Hershey told me," Brady said, noting that Hershey required boys to work on a farm. "Each boy had three cows and the cows were our responsibility. This taught us to be reliable and to be responsible for our actions."

Brady lives in Severna Park, the same town as his son, Keith, and daughter, Michele. His wife, Jeanne, died in 2016 after 72 years of marriage.

"Her good cooking must have been nutritious for me to live this long," Brady said. "She was so nice to me, and we took many good vacations."

In 1985, he purchased as many Hershey's hats as he could. Brady does not want Hershey's philanthropic legacy to be forgotten. "It's amazing how many strangers say, 'I like that hat,'" Brady said. "It gives me a foot in the door to tell them about Mr. Hershey. I want people to know what a good man he was."



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Our Free Guide to Long Term Care & Medicaid Planning explains strategies for long-term care, Medicaid planning, and other legal instruments that can help you avoid a crisis. Planning ahead is critical, especially for the 5 year Medicaid look back requirement. Download the guide or call to schedule a consultation.

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Officer Swartz Leaves Beloved Job At Severna Park High School



» Continued on page 10

"I'm used to being the person there to protect and serve, and now I need people to protect and serve me," he said.

A retirement ceremony was held September 23. It's been an emotional time for Swartz, one full of reflection. A 1989 Severna Park High School graduate, Swartz spent one year as an SRO at George Fox Middle School before coming to his alma mater during the 2011-2012 school year.

"Some SROs can't get too close to students because otherwise they can't do their jobs," he said. "I get that it's hard. I really felt like it was important for the students but also the community as a whole to be able to trust me, not only as a police officer but as a human."

Swartz was honored to be called when help was needed and for students to feel at ease sharing their problems.

"There is the law, but there is also a basic humanity of caring for people," he said. "And sometimes, the law isn't going to fix the problem."

Swartz witnessed that firsthand, spending six years with the police department before he became an SRO. He and other officers could arrest someone and never see a positive outcome.

"I had only 20 minutes with a person when they messed up," he said. "You put handcuffs on them, take them to the station, go through the booking process. You're writing reports and might have 20 minutes to talk to them. A lot of times, I could understand their situation and how they get there, and I could see this was not going to help them. It hurt."

As an SRO, he had four years working with most students.

"How cool is it — with a freshman, you have four years to help that person see the error in their judgement and show them a way to fix it," he said. "There were moments I could charge some of them, but what good would that do? It would go on their record and hold them back."

He practiced that philosophy during school dances. When he saw intoxicated students who could hardly stand, he often called their parents and had a discussion instead of charging the student for possession of alcohol.

"In those first few years, I carried a few kids out and had to put them in their parents' cars," he said. "I have sons and I have daughters. I allowed myself to feel the way a parent would feel about every one of the kids at Severna Park High School."

Swartz is grateful to the Severna Park High School staff and also the patrol officers who would call him outside of school hours if a student had done something wrong. "And I was fortunate I had a wife who was supportive of that," he added.

"Most of the time, I could keep a kid from being charged at that moment and I could deal with it at school," he said.

He walked the fine line of being supportive but also firm when necessary.

"Kids would sometimes say, 'You're my best friend,' and I would say, 'No, I'm definitely someone you can trust, someone you can lean on, but I'm your SRO.'"

Being a police officer did not mean he had to appear intimidating.

"I like being nice," he said. "I like smiling every day."

Coming to the job at age 33, he had life experience in the Army and building houses.

"I understood the ups and downs of life before coming to the job. That made it easy to understand people," Swartz said. "For kids, I could understand their mistakes and truly explain where their decisions would lead them. Just because I didn't drink or do drugs doesn't mean I wasn't around it."

Not only was Swartz willing to share advice but also simple greetings to make everyone feel important.

"If you give, you're going to get back," he said. "A simple 'good morning' to someone can make their day. I could see in the students' eyes that some were excited to be at school and some weren't. But if someone can just acknowledge they are there, it can make a difference."

Swartz recalled one such encounter that was brought up years later while he was at Chipotle. A former Severna Park student had just learned that his mom asked Swartz to do something after her son had tried drugs and was "going down a bad road." At school, Swartz addressed the boy by his name and said, 'Good morning.' The boy was scared Swartz knew about his activities, and so he started making better decisions.

"I just want to make a difference, so for this young man to tell me that I did, that's pretty cool," Swartz said.

During his time as an SRO, he also enjoyed taking pictures with students during football games, especially the band members who were "working their butts off" and often getting less recognition than the athletes.

"When I was in high school, I didn't fit in anywhere," he said. "I wore a jean jacket and high-tops. I had long hair and terrible skin. Severna Park was more about polo shirts and nice hair. I played lacrosse, but I didn't party or dress preppy, so I didn't fit in."

"As an SRO, I saw kids who were different, and I wanted them to embrace it. I told them to 'keep being you.' I like seeing people live their lives the way they want, as long as they aren't hurting themselves or others."

Swartz will miss the chance to give students that positive reinforcement and to be involved as the county develops programs to discipline students without charging them with an offense.

"Anne Arundel County is so far ahead of the curve as far as policing," he said, citing the crisis intervention team as one example.

Long-term, his plans are unclear. For now, he is assisting his wife, Elizabeth Werner, a guest host on QVC.

"I'm her cameraman, set designer and toy builder," he said. "We film from our house."

"I'm fortunate to have a spouse who I love every moment of life with, and I look forward to running into graduates in the future," he said.

Whatever he does next, he hopes it will be as exciting as being an SRO. When he was in the Army, he jumped out of airplanes. For seven years, he raced motorcycles. And for about a decade, he gave his all to being an SRO.

"Every time a kid came in with a problem, it was like jumping out of a helicopter," Swartz said. "A child is about to tell you something, about to dump their emotions and fright on you. It was a whirl of emotions that whack you. I'm going to miss the students and staff."

SPHS Community Shares Memories

We asked our Facebook followers to share some of their favorite memories involving Alex Swartz.

On my 18th birthday, I was driving back to school for practice. As I was driving, I heard the sirens of a cop car go off behind me. Officer Swartz had pulled up behind me and got on the loudspeaker to wish me a happy birthday. When I arrived back at school, he pretended to arrest me and put handcuffs on my friend and I. It was quite funny and he even let us take a picture of it.

Officer Swartz truly cared about all of the students who went to Severna Park. He was always someone to chat with and I'm grateful to have had him as a prominent figure at our school.

Katie Posko

Two years ago, our daughter had a bad interaction with a coach and she was walking through the school in tears. According to her, Officer Swartz saw her and took the time to let her settle down in private so that she could pull it together while waiting for us to pick her. We will always be in his debt for his reaction.

Sloan Farrell

Back in 2014. My little brother Ben was graduating from SPHS. I had just graduated the year before and knew both officer Swartz and Principal [Patrick] Bathras well. Officer Schwartz came to take a photo with us, so I placed my purse on the ground. Principal Bathras walked up to hop in the photo, but stumbled on my purse, stepped on it, and popped a tiny tube of sunscreen all over officer Schwartz. The two of them were caught between laughing, apologizing, and trying to pick up the pieces for the next few minutes. It was very funny and a memory I will chuckle over forever.

Bethany Studnick

Senior year of high school, I worked with Swartz as part of the Students Taking Actions Responsibly (STAR) committee on a program called

Arrive Alive Drive Sober. Throughout the process, Swartz offered his time and attention, while utilizing resources to obtain a smashed car to be placed out front of the school. This car would serve as a warning to students to not drive under the influence around the time of prom.

That was him — always finding ways to assist students and members of the community in any way he could. The Severna Park community is losing a great leader and resource to many of our youth and their families. It's not often that a community can find such a valuable and dependable resource as Swartz has been. I'm confident that he's left his mark on the community — and for that, I am grateful.

Nick Plummer

Senior year, Alexander Weatherford and I had to do a statistics project and we reached out to officer Swartz to see if he wanted to help us out. We wanted to measure the mean speed of traffic on Benfield right in front of the school with an officer visibly present, and then with him hidden behind a bush. We had a great time for sure!

Allyson Wesley, I will also never forget the RnR moment when he went around handcuffing the dancers; that was pure gold.

Michael DeMaio

I'll never forget when he surprised everyone in Rock 'N' Roll Revival by coming out on the stage in the middle of the song "The Heat is On" and putting handcuffs on the dancers! Our drummer almost stopped playing because we had no clue what was going on! I was dying laughing while also trying to play trumpet.

Officer Swartz cared about every student in that building and supported everyone and their passions — arts included — which is not something I can say about everyone in that building. He was an amazing officer to have in SPHS and I'm so glad I attended the school while he was there.

Allyson Wesley

October Is For Orthodontia Memories

Lauren Burke Meyer



October is National Orthodontic Health Month, a time dedicated to celebrating healthy smiles, learning about orthodontic treatment and promoting good oral health. I'm sure you all celebrate

annually. Unfortunately, I personally celebrated for five years in a row with various forms of metal in my mouth.

I know what you're thinking; that seems rather long. In fact, I would go through three schools before completing my regimen: elementary, middle and high school. Two years seems to be the average braces stint. However, my large teeth and small mouth led to the longer sentence.

I would begin wearing an expander in fifth grade. I can still hear the song "Everybody Hurts" from the time it was installed in my mouth. There was a key to crank the expander daily for what was pure torture as it slowly widened my jaw. Sounds like a mechanic's work, but I assure you it was my orthodontist's doing.

Have you even survived puberty if you haven't cried while eating a Tastykake Butterscotch Krimpet after getting some type of metal put in your mouth?

Next came braces for my top teeth only. Those would come off after the typical two-year stint and in their place was a retainer with a metal bar. To all the lucky Invisalign wearers, you may have avoided social embarrassment. Yet, even I accidentally threw away my gray, sparkly retainer twice. If I'd had clear braces, I would have had a weekly lunch date with my middle school dumpster.

Following the retainer and the pulling of two baby Dracula teeth with the longest roots ever, I got my braces on *again*. This time, the bottom braces were also added. To all my fellow braces wearers, I see you and your many class photos where your mouth is shut.

To my daughters, one who has an adorable Michael Strahan gap, and the other with her baby teeth already so close together, I can almost self-diagnose your impending metal mouth moments. I have only one thing to say: I'm sorry.

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

SPAN Benefits From This Generous Community

Michele Sabean
Director of Development,
SPAN Inc.



"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

- Edward Everett Hale

This quote resonates with me when I think of SPAN, which is blessed by so many who do something, and together, we do so much!

SPAN had its 30-year anniversary in 2020 and we were not able to fully celebrate. SPAN was started in 1990, when a group of churches decided to pool their resources and have a centralized way to help those in the community needing food and emergency financial assistance. How many of us living in this community have memories of SPAN going back many years, perhaps decades?

Maybe you took part in a collection for SPAN with your church as a child and now your kids participate. Perhaps over the years you have donated with your colleagues at work or your neighborhood group or like so many dropped off food and or money when you have been able. Have you been part of SPAN's Turkey Trot 5k? Or helped

provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and gifts? Maybe you have been one of the many who have given of your time - our volunteers are the heart of what SPAN does. Or, maybe SPAN has been a resource for you in critical times, like the client who came in 2011 when she was in a car accident and again recently when she had COVID and was not able to work. We are so grateful for the many people, over the last 31 years, who have done something, and those "somethings" add up to a lot.

One of the results of all of the "somethings" this generous community continues to do is that SPAN has been prepared throughout the pandemic, ready to help. Now as we transition out of the pandemic, SPAN is ready for the added numbers in need of emergency financial assistance. At the end of August, when the Supreme Court ruling ended the eviction moratorium, SPAN was ready for the increase in number of clients who arrived the next business day. The eviction process had been on hold, so when it quickly started back up, the process was moving faster and individuals often have had less time to gather resources. To help SPAN respond to this new most pressing need in the community, SPAN's current greatest need is financial donations.

Thank you for your help; together we are making a difference every day. So many are doing the something that they can do and together we are doing so much. Thank you!

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ASPIRE Recognizes Community Leaders And Heritage Award Winners

» Continued from page 1

the yellow-vested, safety-advising and information-providing volunteers on the Anne Arundel County trail system. He consistently racked up the most volunteer miles per year and was the ambassador known to regular users and visitors on the B&A Trail.

Caraker was also the top promoter of the Anne Arundel County Lifeline 100 bicycle event offering rides for all ages and abilities, starting and ending at Kinder Farm Park each October. He rode in the October 2018 Lifeline 100 at age 84 before succumbing to cancer later that year.

A project in Caraker's memory is planned at Severna Park's central gathering place behind The Big Bean on the trail. Support the project by contributing through Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails at www.friendsofatrails.org or Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County at www.bikeaaa.org.

Hammond "Skip" Carr

Skip Carr was known to many as "the mayor of Severna Park." During World War II, Carr joined the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and later served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He married Beverly Scott and they raised three sons. In 1981, she died, and he married Janey Cloud in 1983.

Carr began a successful career in real estate. He served on the board of the Anne Arundel County Association of Realtors and also the Maryland Association of Realtors, becoming its president in 1986. He also served nine years on the board of the National Association of Realtors. He was Realtor of the Year for both the Maryland and Anne Arundel County associations.

Severn School was fortunate to have his time and efforts toward many improvements. For years, he gave time and money to save the local YMCA and its pool, which is now a part of the Severna Park Community Center. He was also a church leader and an important part of the Severna Park Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Severna Park Council.

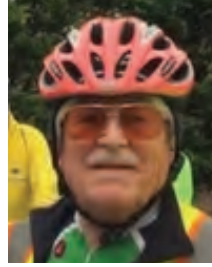
He died in 1996, leaving a legacy of accomplishments that are still enjoyed and appreciated by the community of Severna Park.

Carl Rogge

Carl Rogge was a longtime resident of Severna Park, not only by the people who knew him but also by many pets who received his care at his veterinary hospitals. His career spanned 45 years and the pets he saw included not only local dogs and cats but also horses at the Hanover Shoe Farm and the Virginia Equine Center in Charlottesville. He provided care for sled dogs in 10 Iditarod races in Alaska along the 938 miles of arctic wilderness trail.

Rogge and his wife, Brenda, had three sons: Chad (deceased), Jeff and Kyle. Many organizations benefited from Rogge's service including the Severn River Commission, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (including the Noah's Ark Ministry), a cancer research group in Anne Arundel County and the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce.

Rogge died in September 2019, but he will long be remembered by many in Severna Park.



Tom Caraker



Skip Carr



Carl Rogge



Clinton Wallace



Newth Morris



David Orso

ASPIRE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS – 2020-2021

ASPIRE honors community leaders who have been selected by a local organization for sustained, positive and visionary leadership with the organization, with the goal of serving the greater Severna Park community.

ACAN (Asbury Church Assistance Network) – Clinton Wallace

ACAN began in 1990 under Reverend Roland Ward, who approved a food ministry program that was led by Clinton Wallace and Linwood Jackson. They went to Food Lion, Giant and other stores and asked them to join in this project. Wallace was strategic in making connections with Food Link, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, United States Naval Academy, BWI Airport and others that donated food, which was given by ACAN to needy families, individuals and senior citizens.

Anne Arundel County Police – Detective Michael Moorhouse

Detective Michael Moorhouse has been a member of the Anne Arundel County Police Department since October 2011. He has been assigned to patrol, the detective unit and the heroin fatal overdose unit in the Eastern District. Moorhouse is a member of the conflict negotiation team and civil disturbance unit. He also volunteers for other activities such as Badges for Baseball and the annual Blue Angels detail.

Berrywood Community Association – Molly LaChapelle

Molly LaChapelle took a leadership role in the restoration of Cattail Creek. Since 1971, LaChapelle has raised her family on Cattail Creek and witnessed its steady degradation. She completed training as a Master Watershed Steward and planned this restoration as her capstone project in 2015. With excellent skills and persistence, she gained community support and obtained grants of more than \$1 million from the Department of Natural Resources and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and almost \$400,000 from Berrywood. The restoration project is nearing a successful completion.

Greater Severna Park Council – Bill Lippincott

Bill Lippincott has been a resident of Severna Park since 1999, living in Kensington. He has served as a board member of that association and heads its architectural committee. Lippincott has been Kensington's delegate to GSPC for over 10

years and has served on the GSPC board of directors.

He volunteers with Boy Scout Troop 993, with which his son, Aaron, made Eagle Scout. Lippincott was a firefighter in Montgomery County and retired as a captain with 34 years of service. He is now a school bus driver. He and his wife of 40 years have two grown children, Courtney and Aaron.

Greater Severna Park & Arnold Chamber of Commerce – Michael Hall

Michael Hall and his family have owned and operated Severna Park Lanes, Annapolis Bowl and Greenway Bowl in Odenton for over 20 years. They have partnered with Anne Arundel County Public Schools for in-school bowling, which serves 30,000 kids per year. Through the allied sports program, students with disabilities can now participate in these activities.

Hall has donated thousands of dollars worth of bowling packages to local charitable events. He and Larry Sells of The Voice Media created a colorectal cancer fundraiser called Strike Out Cancer, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars.

Magothy River Association – Lise Crafton

Lise Crafton, who lives on the Magothy River, has focused on the floating garden project and, along with Anne Arundel Community College and the Providence Center, the organization has obtained trays of plants for this project. Crafton is also the Magothy River Association representative to the environmental program at Broadneck High School, where she works with students to develop new tray designs. She is also the editor of the floating garden newsletter, which updates people on the kinds of plants to use in these gardens.

MRA is grateful that Crafton brings her expertise, leadership and her love of nature to all that she does for the organization.

Olde Severna Park Improvement Association – Newth Morris

Newth Morris was active in the community for many years. He served as president of the Severna Park Jaycees and later as Maryland Jaycees president. He was key in the development of the B&A Trail in Anne Arundel County and was chair of the B&A committee. At the time of his death in 2018, he was serving as president of the Olde Severna Park Improvement Association and had previously served two terms as president.

He was also a man of action, and during his three terms as president, the community saw major improvements in the beach and community property.

Orphan Grain Train – Norm Giguere

Orphan Grain Train, an all-volunteer Christian charity, enables people who *have more than they need* to share their abundance with *those in need*, both domestically and around the world. To do so, the charity needed a warehouse to store many items. This demands a person with the ability to store items but also the know-how to repair anything from a hospital bed to a bicycle.

Norm Giguere, a volunteer for 12 years, is a former school principal who showed incredible dedication, earning him the moniker of Quasimodo without the hump.

Partners In Care – Dick Kemezis

Dick Kemezis has been a member of Partners In Care since 1999. He started as a driver, taking members to appointments and for supplies. He also interviews potential members and trains new interviewers. With experience doing taxes for AARP members who could not afford help, he now helps PIC members with this service.

During his membership with PIC, he has completed over 2,000 hours and logged thousands of miles. He is also involved with Kiwanis of Crofton. He is a great advocate for older adults and for Partners In Care.

Severna Park Community Center – David Orso

As chairman of the board for SPCC, David Orso has served the center and his community with thoughtful guidance and genuine care for those around him. His vision and leadership for the center have helped to propel this local community asset forward through its 25th anniversary year.

Orso lives in Anne Arundel County with his wife, Dawn; his son, Max; and two daughters, Olivia and Amelia. He has been active with the SPCC, the board of Chartwell, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, and Building Traditions Society of Anne Arundel Medical Center. He works full-time as a real estate broker.

Severna Park Elks Lodge 2482 – John Stokes

John Stokes has made a significant impact on the lodge's community service outreach. He won three grants from the Grand Lodge to do the following projects: a brunch for Severna Park teachers and also donating school supplies; providing 121 fully stocked backpacks for needy children; and supplying drawstring bags filled with essential toiletries for over 100 veterans. He also distributed holiday food baskets to needy families.

Round Bay Golf Tournament Raises \$3,000 For Earleigh Heights

The Round Bay community held a golf tournament on September 9 to raise money for the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company.

"We as a community appreciate the hard work and tireless efforts of our first responders at the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company," said Erin Gruver, a member of the Round Bay golf committee. "These heroes risk their lives every day in order to keep our communities safe. We simply wanted to express this appreciation by giving back in a meaningful way."

The goal of the tournament was to raise \$1,500 for the fire company, but that goal was far exceeded with a check for \$3,000 being donated at the tournament and nearly \$2,000 more being donated by Round Bay families at the end of the event.



Round Bay golf committee members Korky Onal, Erin Gruver, Dan Flagler and Howard Carolan presented a \$3,000 check to Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company President Joseph Angylof (center).

Family Hosts Record-Breaking Golf Fundraiser

Nick Crivella, a Severna Park resident, and his family raised over \$100,000 for Casey Cares Foundation during this year's Crivella Family Golf Tournament on September 11 at Musket Ridge Golf Course in Myersville, Maryland.

The tournament started over 15 years ago and this is the most money raised at one tournament. Nick's father, Vince Crivella, and uncle, Bart Crivella, both from Potomac, Maryland, are part of the family tournament, and together, they chose Casey Cares as they had lost their sister to

cancer when teenagers and liked the fact that Casey Cares provided uplifting activities to children with all types of critical illnesses, including those who suffer from cancer.

Founded in 2000, the Casey Cares Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides little moments and lasting memories for families with critically ill children by organizing family-centric events such as tickets to sporting events, concerts and museums, group parties, vacation getaways, birthday surprises and more. For more information, visit www.caseycares.org.



Carter Crivella, Nick Crivella, Chad Crivella and Spencer Neal golfed to raise funds for Casey Cares Foundation on September 11.

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Severna Park Taphouse Hosts Heather's Hope Fundraiser



Photos by Larry Sells

After learning that Catonsville resident and 44-year-old single mom Heather Bond had breast cancer and was hampered by medical bills, the Severna Park Taphouse staff stepped in to host the Heather's Hope Rockin' Fundraiser on October 3. Attendees enjoyed music by cover bands, including Big Infinite and Left of the Dial, along with an auction, raffles, food and beverages.

The fundraiser was the latest in a long list of events hosted by Severna Park Taphouse to benefit people in need or the community overall. Just one week prior, the restaurant partnered with the Life of Joy Foundation to host Raise the Roots, an all-day music festival and fundraiser for holistic mental health and suicide prevention.



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County Food Bank Selects New CEO From Severna Park

After a three-month extensive search process completed by a search and transition committee, the board of directors of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) has chosen Leah Aiello Paley to be the new chief executive officer.

Paley brings demonstrated nonprofit leadership experience to AACFB, most recently serving as the executive director of Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services Inc. (LARS) for the past six years, and as deputy director and director of emergency and homeless services four years prior.

The Voice asked Paley about her nonprofit background and her goals with AACFB.

Q: When did you discover your passion for community service?

A: Community service has been a part of my life since I was a child. I grew up in Albany, New York, and participated in numerous community service opportunities as a child and teen, including volunteering at the local food bank.

After graduating from Providence College, I was selected for an AmeriCorps VISTA position in a Baltimore City elementary school. I had a phenomenal experience building relationships with the students, staff and also with community partners. This service experience motivated me to pursue a master's degree in social work and eventually led to my being hired by Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services to oversee their emergency and homeless services program.

Q: You've helped people with some of the same needs as those served by AACFB. How will that help as you transition to your new role?

A: I am coming to AACFB from an organization that addresses food and housing insecurity in the greater Laurel area, which includes Anne Arundel County residents in Maryland City. I am familiar with county resources, funding streams, and have extensive experience in strategic planning, fundraising and program development. During my tenure at LARS, our operating budget doubled, fundraising revenue from individuals and private foundations increased by 50 percent and the organization piloted an evidenced-based self-sufficiency program that is now in its fifth year of operation. I look forward to putting my expertise to work at AACFB as we build out our services.

Q: What does future growth look like at AACFB?

A: AACFB has experienced exponential growth over the past five years and the pandemic has further exacerbated the need for our services. AACFB



has distributed 7.7 million pounds of food throughout Anne Arundel County since the pandemic began, helping meet the needs of 64,000 monthly visits to our partnering food pantries.

Although the need was always high, experiencing rapid growth for our services in such a short time has led to exciting opportunities for AACFB. I am eager to work with the board and staff to build upon the successful foundation they have laid. We will continue to build and strengthen community partnerships and work closely with our government officials to make sure everyone in this county who is experiencing food insecurity has access to food.

Q: AACFB has a critical need for donations right now. How can people help?

A: Anne Arundel County is one of the wealthiest counties in Maryland, and Maryland is one of the wealthiest states in our nation. To hear that 10 percent of the county's population doesn't know where the next meal is coming from is alarming and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that all county residents have access to food.

The best ways to help us meet the need in our county are by hosting a food drive or making a monetary donation. Monetary donations to the AACFB allows us to stretch your dollar by purchasing at bulk rates that are much lower than the retail prices. However, when we purchase in bulk, we end up with large quantities of the same item. Food donations from individuals and food drives improve the variety of foods available to the people we serve. It's our goal to have items that meet a variety of dietary restrictions, cooking abilities, and preferences. Individuals can also support our work by purchasing items from our Amazon and Target wish lists, which can be found at www.aafdbank.org/donate.

Q: And you live in Severna Park?

A: My husband and I moved from Baltimore to Severna Park six years ago. Our two children attend Oak Hill Elementary School and are active in the local recreational sports league. We love living here and are proud to be members of such a philanthropic community. I always think of the Mr. Rogers quote, "Look for the helpers." I know so many helpers in my community who pay it forward regularly, and it's been beautiful to witness the generosity of these helpers. I look forward to partnering with members of the Severna Park community to ensure that all Anne Arundel County residents have access to free and nutritious food.

How Much Auto Insurance Is Enough?

David V. Diggs
Esquire



do if you're injured in a crash and the other driver has the minimum in insurance or, worse, no insurance at all?

A little in-person investigation at the scene can help answer some of these questions. Of course, it's important to gather as many facts as possible. Do not trust your memory. Write down the name, address, telephone number, license plate number, driver's license number, date of birth, owner of vehicle (if different from driver), employment information (if other driver is working), insurance carrier, with policy number, and any other available information with respect to the other driver. The law requires that a driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance carrier information be shown by persons involved in a collision. Make sure to obtain the name, address and phone numbers of any witnesses. The

Maryland law requires that licensed drivers carry at least \$30,000 in vehicular insurance. In a serious collision, the hospital bill for a single day might surpass that threshold. So, what do you

police report number, if any, will be most important. If circumstance allows, photographs of the scene, vehicle and your injuries should be taken.

We all maintain insurance to protect us and our families from financial ruin should we be involved in a collision. Insurance also protects us from similar catastrophic losses, should the at-fault driver be uninsured or underinsured. Liability insurance pays for the damage caused by you. This includes vehicle repairs, medical bills, lost wages and non-economic damages. Uninsured motorist coverage reimburses you for these losses when caused by a driver lacking insurance.

Maryland insurance minimums are \$30,000/\$60,000/\$15,000. The first number, \$30,000, represents the maximum benefits payable under the policy to a single injured person. The second number, \$60,000, is the total payable to all injured persons, regardless of the number. The final figure represents the maximum payable under a minimum policy for property damage, which is \$15,000 in Maryland.

As noted above, \$30,000 could be the first day's bill for emergency care in a bad collision. Accordingly, you need to think about how much insurance you should cover to protect your assets, like house, investments, savings and, most important, you and your loved ones.

I recommend at least \$300,000 in liability and uninsured motorist coverage. Your uninsured motorist coverage should match your liability coverage. Consider higher limits should your assets exceed that figure.

If you are injured in a car collision, you will have many questions. You should consult with an attorney who is familiar with

this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is experienced in all facets of tort litigation. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 302, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1189 or by emailing david@diggsllaw.com. The staff is fully vaccinated.

United States Sailboat Show Comes To City Dock

From October 14-18, sailors from around the globe will gather on miles of docks in downtown Annapolis to celebrate the United States Sailboat Show. Boat show-goers will enjoy the opportunity to board and inspect new models from virtually every

major sailboat manufacturer, make side-by-side comparisons, talk to industry representatives, and see the latest in boating products and services. Enjoy a weekend full of boats, exhibits, shopping, drink tastings, and education.

Show Times

- Preview Day, Thursday, October 14 10:00am-6:30pm
- Friday, October 15 – Sunday, October 17 10:00am-6:30pm
- Monday, October 18 10:00am-5:00pm

Ticket Pricing

- Preview Day: \$35
- Preview Day Combo: \$50
- General Admission: Adults - \$20
- Two Day Combo: \$35
- General Admission: Children ages 7 to 12 - \$10
- Children under 6 are free

Fighting Mental Illness And Addiction

Sid Saab
Delegate
District 33



ing members of the Chrysalis team.

For those who are unfamiliar with the work of Chrysalis House, it is one of just a few programs in Maryland that allows women to have their children with them during residential substance abuse treatment.

I was surrounded by many women who are on their journey to recovery. I heard testimony from a few of the residents who have fought this battle. Not only are these former residents sober, but they came back to Chrysalis House to help others. I left

On September 28, I had the pleasure of participating in the groundbreaking campus expansion of Chrysalis House, along with Lieutenant Governor Rutherford and outstanding

this event inspired. I'm proud to say that our Anne Arundel delegation was able to help secure funding for this staple in our community.

September was National Recovery Month. It's important to spread awareness and to learn about mental and substance abuse disorders and, of course, to celebrate those who fought it. Substance abuse disorder is an illness that can affect anyone. You should never feel ashamed or be afraid to reach out and ask for help, for you or a loved one. Substance abuse and addictions are often not discussed because of the shame and judgement associated with these topics, yet it's the shame and stigma that cause substance abuse and addiction to persist.

I have always been a huge advocate for finding creative solutions. It's important for policymakers to consider individuals' level of access to these programs. Although this pandemic has taken away resources from many industries, it has also raised aware-
» **Continued on page 20**

The Mental Health Access Initiative

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33



At last, we have arrived in October, and many of the bills which we passed in the General Assembly become law. Among the many laws that went into effect October 1 was a bill that came from this community, the culmination of two and half years of work, research, education, advocacy, debate and compromise: House Bill 132/Senate Bill 41, the Mental Health Access Initiative.

As most readers of the Voice are aware, in 2019, following a high-profile suicide, a group of students from Severna Park High School organized and established an advocacy group called Our Minds Matter to lobby for suicide prevention, destigmatization of mental illness, and greater access to mental health resources.

They asked for a meeting, and after we met and talked through some of the challenges they identified in the aftermath for the mental health and wellbeing of themselves and their classmates, we got to work on the Mental Health Access Initiative. Through our research, we identified a disparity in the health occupations licensure in how we address substance use disorder and mental illness for our adolescent populations.

Many of you have heard me speak at length on this bill, which provides an access point for mental health care for adolescents who, for whatever reason, do not wish to seek parental consent to speak to a licensed clinician. To address the opioid crisis, substance use disorder (SUD) has no consent age for services and treatment in statute, meaning a young person who suffers from SUD can receive treatment and services immediately without having to seek parental consent, so long as they are determined to be mature and capable of informed consent, a recognized standard in the health field.

However, mental health treatment requires parental consent until the age of 16 despite the reality that these can be co-occurring, and often, the same provider offers services because they fall under the behavioral health

“I cannot even say how grateful I am to all the stakeholders, the advocates, my extraordinary colleagues and my Senate partner who helped usher this bill into law, but I am humbled by the bravery of five students from Severna Park High School who knocked on my door looking for answers.”

umbrella, creating confusion for providers and adolescents and greater stigma around mental health.

When we began to work on this issue, none of us could have foreseen that we would have an entire population who survived a pandemic, and two years of virtual and hybrid learning, but we were already dealing with a rising suicide rate. In fact, according to the governor's commission on suicide prevention, in 2016, suicide was the leading cause of death for minors age 10 to 14.

The Mental Health Access Initiative lowers the age of consent for mental health services (excluding medication) from 16 to 12, so long as a licensed provider can determine the minor to be mature and capable of informed consent. It does not require a provider to offer services nor does it provide for reimbursement of services without parental consent but instead provides flexibility to providers to act in the best interest of the minor.

Every provider will tell you that family involvement is always preferred as it provides better outcomes, but there are circumstances in which consent may be detrimental to the minor but which do not rise to the level of crisis intervention when consent does not apply nor Child Protective Services intervention. Until this law passed and because it applies only to the licensure of providers under the health occupations statute, essentially any adult could speak to a minor about their mental health except one who is licensed and trained to help them.

» **Continued on page 20**

Comptroller Releases FY2021 Closeout Report Showing \$2.5 Billion Fund Balance

Enormous Revenue Growth Driven By Federal Stimulus Aid



Comptroller Peter Franchot announced on September 29 that the State of Maryland closed its books on Fiscal Year 2021 with an unassigned balance of the state's general fund of \$2.5 billion, which represents more than five percent of the state's \$48 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

The massive fund balance is driven by much larger-than-expected revenue growth that is a direct reflection of federal stimulus funding, which significantly increased personal and business income and expanded consumer spending.

“Even with this great financial news, we still have a tale of two Marylands,” Franchot said. “In one Maryland, there are hundreds of thousands of residents facing dire circumstances. Those without a job see their unemployment benefits expiring. Renters are facing homelessness since rental relief funds are not being disbursed quickly enough and the eviction moratorium has been lifted. Parents

returning to work are struggling to find and afford day care. Small businesses who couldn't access federal relief funds are struggling to rebuild.

“In the other Maryland, which is about two-thirds of our population, workers are able to do their jobs remotely, invest their wealth in the markets, and run businesses that not only carried on throughout the pandemic, but in fact, did very well,” he said.

Franchot said the state's surplus is a “once-in-a-generation opportunity” to invest in programs that lift all Marylanders and help stabilize housing and other critical expenses for lower- and middle-income families.

“In order to accomplish this, we should put most of the surplus in the state's rainy day fund and create a proper structure for addressing these urgent needs that our current systems are failing to do effectively,” he said. “We must deliver this money quickly to those who need it most and not into the hands of fraudsters.”

The ongoing general fund grew 9.9 percent over Fiscal Year 2020, a number that may be artificially inflated due to the “economic shut-
» **Continued on page 20**

Comptroller Releases FY2021 Closeout Report

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down” for roughly three months in the spring of 2020. Perhaps a better comparison, Maryland’s general fund is up 11.3 percent over the pre-COVID Fiscal Year 2019 numbers.

A significant share of the additional balance is attributed to better-than-expected results for tax year 2020. Even in a year where 14 percent of employed Marylanders lost a job — and six percent remained unemployed at the end of the year — state personal income tax collections for tax year 2020 grew by roughly 7.3 percent. This indicates that taxpayers with business income and capital gains experienced robust income growth during 2020.

More recently, wage growth

and sales tax collections outperformed expectations for the final six months of the fiscal year. It seems apparent that many Marylanders received bonuses or significant wage increases in early 2021. Those wage increases, coupled with bolstered savings levels derived from the height of the pandemic and stimulus efforts, are driving better than expected results for the sales tax.

Additionally, the corporate income tax delivered better than expected results. It seems likely that larger firms were well positioned to economically benefit during the pandemic — driving profits by capturing additional market share from weaker competitors, increased sales from federal stimulus, and cutting expenses.

Got An Opinion? Share It With Us!

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

Letters to the Editor can be emailed to spvnews@severna-parkvoice.com and may be edited for space, clarity, grammar, spelling, etc. We encourage you to express yourself, but please be brief — letters should be limited to 350 words, though we do on occasion run longer letters. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Mental Health Access Initiative

» Continued from page 19

I cannot even say how grateful I am to all the stakeholders, the advocates, my extraordinary colleagues and my Senate partner who helped usher this bill into law, but I am humbled by the bravery of five students from Severna Park High School who knocked on my door looking for answers.

Two and a half years later, those brave students who met with me before they could vote — who testified, who lobbied and fought, and organized, and have moved onto college and careers — will see their bill become law.

As my colleague Majority Leader Eric Luedtke very eloquently

stated during the debate, “It is an act of bravery to ask for help.” This law will ensure that if and when an adolescent takes that brave step, someone who is licensed and trained will be there to help them.

This will likely remain one of my favorite bills, not only because it will save lives, not only because it came from students too young to vote, who saw a need and got to work to solve a problem in their community, but also because it proves the adage by Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Mental Illness And Addiction

» Continued from page 19

ness about the epidemic and rise of mental illness and substance abuse. The fact remains, this epidemic never went away, and we must continue to be proactive. I implore the county to redirect the \$5.2 million vaccine bonus, paid by taxpayers, to this worthy cause. The county can use Federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to not only pay for the incentive but also fund much-needed treatment.

I’ll continue to work with community leaders and substance abuse researchers who advocate for access to prevention and treatment services

that are notably more challenging for individuals who have socioeconomic disadvantages, child care responsibilities, justice system involvement, foster care involvement, and/or co-morbid mental health challenges, as well as those who are pregnant or live in rural areas.

Let’s not wait for next September to learn about this. Today, I encourage you to be mindful of your relationships with yourself and others. Healthy, responsible choices start with you. If you know someone who has been sober from this or that, let them know that you’re proud of them.

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Local Churches Partner To Sell Pumpkins

By Sharon Mager

Severna Park Baptist Church (SPBC) and Life Connection Church (LCC), with the significant support of Community Bible Church (CBC) in Manassas, Virginia, are partnering to sell pumpkins to raise funds for missions. Over 7,000 pounds of pumpkins are scattered across the field at SPBC's lawn. In addition to raising funds, the project gives churches a chance to meet people in the community.

The Rev. Martin Bennett (LCC) said the pumpkin project originated with his friends John and Luci Clark. Bennett and his wife, Demetra, used to serve at CBC with the Clarks. Martin was the youth minister, and John was a lay leader. The friends kept in touch through the years, but Martin was surprised when John called, offering him literally tons of pumpkins.

John and Luci were inspired by the story of Jason Brown, a former NFL defensive lineman making mil-



The Rev. Marty Bennett (left), the pastor of Life Connection Church, and Dave Brown, the pastor of Severna Park Baptist Church, are working together to sell pumpkins to raise funds for mission projects.

lions of dollars. Brown, feeling led by God, walked away from football to start farming to feed the hungry. Inspired, the Clarks decided to do

likewise. The Clarks now run a 160-acre farm they call Harvest of Hope in Virginia in addition to John's job as CEO of the National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children. Like Brown, the Clarks use their farm to support local food banks, help those in need, and support missions, ministries and churches.

Martin was thrilled at the pumpkin possibilities, but their church worships in a warehouse facility — not conducive to creating a Snoopy-worthy pumpkin patch. But he knew who he could call for help. "Pastor Dave Brown and I have partnered for years on mission trips, and we've become good friends," he said.

Brown is the senior pastor of SPBC. Those ongoing mission projects provide food and medicine in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. The churches also collaborate on missions projects in the Caribbean. A joint pumpkin sale was a natural extension of the partnership and will provide funding for future trips.

Of course, it also helps that SPBC
» Continued on page 22

Many volunteers helped upgrade the Woods campus, removing grass areas and invasive plants.

The invasive plants, bushes and trees were replaced with native plants to create a barrier to slow runoff.



Woods Tackles Environmental Issues With Campus Restoration Project

By Judy Tacyn

Woods Church welcomed members and community friends to its campus on September 12 to highlight the church grounds, which were recently upgraded to an earth friendly, pollinator friendly and people friendly habitat. The event was nearly four years in the making.

"The little church on the hill," built in 1912, is no longer little and its hill is eroding. Now known as Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, it has a four-acre campus that is massive and includes many buildings and expansive parking lots. Sitting high atop property near the intersections of Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard and McKinsey and Cypress Creek roads, the church has experienced growth impacting not only the wooded areas of its campus but also the Magothy River, as thousands of gallons of roof and parking lot runoff water quickly finds its way to Cypress Creek after each wet-weather or snow event.

Partnering with Maryland ecology groups, the Woods Church gardening group of the property management ministry had several goals when planning the upgrades:

- Redirect storm runoff to wooded areas on campus.
- Replace grass areas with native plants to mitigate lawn maintenance expenses, including chemical fertilizer use, and save 5,000 gallons of water used for irrigation.
- Replace invasive plants, bushes and trees with native plants to create a barrier to slow runoff. Create year-round habitat for bees, birds and small critters.
- Reconfigure landscape slopes to mitigate erosion around sidewalks and other human-made surfaces.

The fruits of the year's labor were evident in September with prevalent butterflies and bees happily flying about, and plants that bloomed in the summer are starting to show

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The interior of Woods Church was upgraded with LED lighting.

Meet The Pastor: Erik Arnold - St. John The Evangelist

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 Father Erik Arnold from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

How long have you been at St. John the Evangelist?

I've been here for just a little over two years. I arrived in July of 2019.

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

I had a big conversion, during my senior year of college. And so it was about a year after I graduated when I felt the call to enter seminary.

What is your favorite thing about being a priest?

The best part of it all for me is helping to lead people closer to Jesus. I know that may sound a little trite, but that really is the best part of it. But then in that, doing that especially through the celebration of the sacraments.

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

This one goes back to when I was in seminary. In most of my years of seminary, I was studying in Rome in Italy. All of the classes, everything, was all in Italian. I went over, not knowing or speaking any Italian. So, just being in a totally new environment, and not being able to rely on



Pastor Erik Arnold

myself the way that I had been used to, that was a time of a lot of spiritual growth in terms of learning really how to rely on the lord. That was a huge one.

And then the more recent thing would be just during all that we went through with COVID and seeing the deep faith of the people in our parish who, even during the shutdown, were doing everything that they could to stay connected to the lord and to the parish. That was so inspiring. That was just a source of a lot of growth from my own faith, going to great means to stay connected to the parish and to the lord during that stretch of time.

Do you cook? What is your favorite meal?

I do enjoy cooking, and my favorite stuff to cook in general would be Italian. I love cooking pasta.

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

The best way for me to relax, and especially to get rid of stress, is hiking. So [recently] I was able to get away for a day down into Shenandoah to spend the day hiking. So that's where I would love to be on a day off, outside, hiking and just enjoying the beauty of nature.

Did you pick up any quarantine projects or hobbies?

The biggest thing I learned was how to livestream. So, we scrambled to get the church online. My undergrad degree was in computer science. So, I'm comfortable with technology but had never done any livestreaming. So, the biggest hobby I learned during the quarantine was having a livestream so parishioners could stay connected.

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

Growing up, my mom had her own catering business and I would assist with her on a lot of the jobs, but she ended up kind of in a very particular niche kind of area. Most of her work was catering for film shoots and commercial shoots in the Baltimore-Washington area. That was when I was in later high school, and I worked with her throughout college. There were lots of commercial shoots that were done, that I was just behind the scenes as we were just feeding the crew. But I'm not sure if that's so much of a fun fact that it is just something I've always found really interesting just to see all of those things behind the scenes.

Do you follow sports? What is your favorite team?

Yeah, I do follow sports. My favorite has got to be the Ravens with football.

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

This one is a combination of both hiking and my faith. In Spain, there is that long pilgrimage trail, called the Camino de Santiago, which in English is "the Way of St. James." There's the shrine of St. James that is in northwest Spain, and there are pilgrimage trails from all over Europe that, over the centuries, pilgrims would walk on to make their way to the shrine. But there's a really beautiful one that begins in Southern France. So, it's about a month-long hike on the trail to get to the shrine of Santiago. So my bucket list would include being able to hike the Camino as an act of faith, but also just the journey of doing that month-long hike.

What is your favorite type of music?

Gosh, it's pretty eclectic. Everything from Christian worship to classical, and even to contemporary folk. The last concert that I was at, this goes back years, but it was Alison Krauss and Union Station. That was obviously much more on both the folk and on the bluegrass side.

What is the best thing about St. John the Evangelist Church?

The best thing here is the people. We have just a really loving, warm and welcoming parish family. That has been the best part of this, just the people that I get to serve.

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Woods Restoration Project

» Continued from page 21

their ripening berries to the delight of the many species of birds that came to nibble.

The project was supported by many volunteers including teens from Woods scouting and youth groups. The native plants have been labeled so that visitors to the grounds may take note and know which plants to add to their own properties.

Grants were provided by the Unity Gardens organization, Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Tree Trooper program. Volunteers from the church community, Bay-Wise (from the University of Maryland), Maryland Master Gardeners, high school environmental and honor society clubs, and retired persons, and others, assisted.

As stewards of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Woods and other Anne Arundel County faith congregations are coming together to care for shared watersheds through the One Water Partnership. Cool Congregations (www.coolcongregations2021.org) awarded Woods with its Sacred Grounds Award for the campus restoration.

Woods' members Karen and Bob Royer serve as co-project managers. Members of the community are welcome to come walk the grounds at Woods.

To learn more about this project, check out a YouTube video by Chesapeake Bay Media and take a YouTube video tour of the grounds via Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy.

Local Churches Sell Pumpkins

» Continued from page 21

has a large front lawn along Benfield Road. Brown, always seeking ways to engage the community, readily welcomed the pumpkin patch idea.

Friends and members of LCC moved the pumpkins from Virginia to Severna Park and prepared them for sale. Bob Jurick donated his truck and his pop-up trailer and helped with the setup. Edward Overton, John Kinsey, Meric Bennett and Martin's son drove to Virginia, loaded and unloaded the pumpkins, and Kenya Christian helped unload.

John Clark also helped transport and unload the pumpkins. "He loves seeing the pumpkins from seed to selling," Martin said.

Volunteers from LCC and SPBC are working on a rotational schedule to greet their neighbors and sell the pumpkins.

Pumpkins are available on Fridays from 2:00pm-6:00pm, Saturdays from 8:00am-4:00pm, and Sundays from 1:00pm-5:00pm. The cost ranges from \$3 to \$9 each. The sale will continue until the pumpkins are all claimed.

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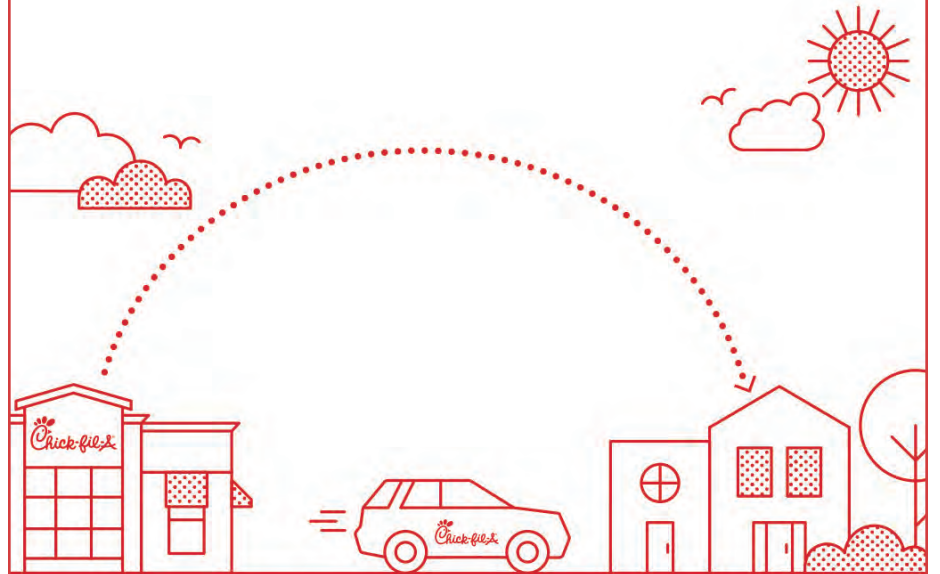
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SPHS Field Hockey Rides Defense To 2-0 Win Over Broadneck



“They’re very fast, and I said in the preseason that Broadneck was going to be our biggest competition. The bad news is we have to play them again, so you can’t really celebrate any kind of victory when you know that they are a very good team and on any given day, who knows what the outcome is.”

— SHANNON GARDEN
HEAD COACH, SPHS FIELD HOCKEY

By Conor Doherty

The Severna Park Falcons field hockey team got off to a quick start, scoring twice in the first half and then withstanding shot after shot from Broadneck to win 2-0 on September 21. Junior **Ava Drexler** provided the spark for the Lady Falcons, scoring the opening goal less than halfway through the first quarter.

“Scoring the first goal gives our team confidence,” Drexler said after the game. “It really boosts our energy, and we play a lot better knowing that we have the lead, and we keep pushing through the rest of the game.”

And that boost of energy was apparent when **Sydney Rowe** extended the lead, scoring on a pass into the circle during a quick counterattack by the Falcons in the second quarter. Broadneck’s defense was unable to set up properly and Rowe was able to slide into the circle on the backside of the defense for a nice goal that gave the Falcons more breathing room going into halftime.

“It’s great to know that our team has the speed and skills to dodge girls on the field and know that we can just dribble the ball in and score without any corners,” said Drexler.

In the second half, the Bruins turned up the pace, using their speed to continuously push and keep the ball in the Falcons’ half of the field. Falcon’s goalkeeper **Charlotte Kramer** was sharp, kicking away several close shots as the Bruins

» Continued on page 32



Top Left: Despite several shot attempts, Severna Park’s best asset was defense. **Middle:** Arden Huntman made a shot attempt early in the game. **Right:** The Falcons celebrated in the second quarter after Sydney Rowe scored on a pass into the circle.



Bruins Soccer Clips The Falcons’ Wings In 3-2 Road Win

Photos by Conor Doherty

On September 30, the 6-0 Falcons hosted the 6-1 Bruins — but despite two goals from Jeffery Chukwu (right), who provided a spark off the bench for Severna Park, scoring his second goal off this header, the Bruins escaped with a 3-2 victory.



By Conor Doherty

Broadneck junior **Jaden Smith** scored his second goal of the game with 18 minutes left in the second half and the Bruins held off a furious barrage of Severna Park shot attempts in the closing minutes to win 3-2 on the road on September 30.

The Bruins started the game strong, jumping out to a 2-0 lead just 13 minutes into play. The first goal came on a long throw-in that bounced past the Falcons

defense and was cleaned up by Bruins senior **Jeremiah Rodriguez** on the far side of the goal from the throw-in. Less than four minutes later, Smith took a shot that hit the Falcons’ goalie in the hands, took a Bruins’ bounce and went into the goal to extend their lead.

But Severna Park showed great resolve, as sophomore **Jeffery Chukwu** came off the bench and scored both goals for the Falcons to tie the game before halftime. Chukwu showed great athleticism on

both goals, scoring his first on a long pass down the sideline and singlehandedly dribbling past several defenders before slotting the ball into the top left corner of the net. On his second goal, Chukwu benefited from the Bruins’ goalie coming too far out from the goal and was able to bounce a header in.

“I thought that they dominated the first half; Severna Park absolutely dominated us,” Bruins head coach **Scott Tettermer** said. “We were lucky to score two goals

against the run of play; we needed them, and I thought that we played much better in the second half.”

Falcons head coach **Ryan Parisi** said that his team didn’t let the deficit get into their heads too much.

“I’ve got guys that have belief for the whole time, so they’re not going to get phased by a singular moment in the game,” Parisi said. “They’re going to continue playing the game, play as hard

» Continued on page 32






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Speed And Size Propel Spalding's Football Team To 6-0 Record

Successful September Has Spalding Ranked No. 3 In Maryland



By Kevin Murnane

Archbishop Spalding's football team uses an axiom of mammoth offensive lineman and an athletic and fast back seven of linebackers and defensive backs to dominate its opponents.

The Cavaliers went undefeated in September with outstanding victories, including over Broadneck and Gonzaga, and outscored its opponents 161-26 during that month.

The success is multifaceted. Spalding has strong senior leadership, quick linebackers and defensive backs, and an offensive line whose weight averages close to 300 pounds.

Spalding's September opened with Broadneck, which has state playoff aspirations. The two teams battled to a 14-13 score at halftime with the Cavaliers clinging to a one-point lead. The second half was controlled by Spalding as they used a crushing ground game to dominate the Bruins, scoring 30 unanswered points in the second half.

After the game, coach **Kyle Schmitt** gave credit to Spalding's punishing



offensive line. "They're the heart and soul of our team," Schmitt said. "Our size was able to wear them down in the second half." Schmitt gave credit to Broadneck and especially quarterback **Josh Ehrlich** for his athleticism and ability to escape from the pocket.

The following week, Spalding used the

Photo by Maddy Fangio

Nick Gutierrez, pictured in a game against Broadneck, has threatened defenses with both his arms and legs this season for the Cavaliers.

same mantra of size and speed to shut out St. Vincent Pallotti of Laurel, 48-0. That home victory had a college atmosphere as there were about 50 players from the region's youth football leagues standing on the sidelines for pregame warmups. Schmitt, who was a highly regarded offensive guard at Maryland during the Ralph Friedgen era, likes to invite as many youth teams as possible to the Severn campus to continue the influx of players who will compete in Spalding's annually strong schedule.

"We've been fortunate to have players from all over the region come to Spalding," Schmitt said. "The entire school recruits in every facet of the school's academics, sports and the arts."

After the Pallotti game, Schmitt again praised the back seven of the defense.

"By using our speed, we want to make the other team uncomfortable," Schmitt said. In the Pallotti game, the Cavaliers' defense smothered the Panthers, forcing an interception returned 68 yards for a pick-six. The defensive play was made by

defensive back **Lavain Scruggs**, who has committed to Maryland.

Schmitt also went on to praise his offensive line, which controlled the line of scrimmage and did not let Pallotti have many opportunities on offense.

One of the main cogs of that formative offensive line is Severna Park native **Jim Fitzgerald**. The 6-foot-7, 315-pound athlete enjoys the physicality of Spalding's offensive philosophy. "We want to dominate the line of scrimmage and beat the opposing linemen off of the ball," said Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald went to Severna Park High School his first year but visited Spalding and liked how the Cavaliers practiced and Schmitt's background of being an offensive lineman.

"Coach Schmitt pushes us every day in practice and always stresses 'master the mundane' so that those repetitions help you in game situations," Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald has numerous collegiate offers and colleges following him this year including University of Connecticut, University of Virginia, Penn State, NC State and Mississippi State, which he has traveled to this fall for a game. He plans on going into a ROTC program and becoming a Marine.

The next game on Spalding's September schedule was at Archbishop Curley, and the Cavaliers shut out the Friars 49-0. The Cavaliers used a balanced attack and scored numerous touchdowns through the air.

That game came at an opportune part of their schedule because it enabled the Cavaliers to expand their offense as Spalding's next game was against Washington annual powerhouse Gonzaga.

This game had an overflow crowd and was highly spirited from both sets of fans. Gonzaga was ranked fifth in the state by Max Preps and was trying to upset the then No. 2 ranked Cavaliers.

This game was filled with outstanding individual plays as quarterback **Nick Gutierrez** ran for multiple long-yardage gains and scored the winning touchdown in overtime.

The other great performance was by linebacker **Kellan Wyatt**, who made tackles from sideline to sideline and put pressure on Gonzaga's quarterback.

After the game, Schmitt praised his coordinators, **Tyrone Forty** (defense) and **Troy Gibson** (offense). When asked about the big victory over a perennial Washington powerhouse, Schmitt fought back tears and said this was the best victory in his nine years of coaching at Spalding.

He singled out Gutierrez, who he called "a special player" and praised Wyatt as "the best defensive player in Maryland."

Wyatt has committed to Maryland and Schmitt said he will play right away for the Terps. "Maryland is getting an incredible player," Schmitt said.

The Cavaliers improved to 6-0 by defeating Calvert Hall 37-14 on October 1.

Schmitt is now focusing on the remaining part of the team's 10-game docket and competing for the MIAA conference title. They have a formative schedule ahead with games against McDonogh, Gilman and Mount St. Joe.

Falcons Open Football Season 4-1



Photos courtesy of Mandy Shepherd

Severna Park's varsity football team won its first four games of the season before falling to Annapolis 12-7 on October 1. The Falcons opened with shutouts over Meade (45-0 on September 4), Crofton (41-0 on September 10) and North County (39-0 on September 17) before earning a win on the road at Chesapeake, 36-17, on September 24. October will bring matchups against South River, Broadneck, Glen Burnie and Old Mill.

Severna Park Unified Tennis Takes On Chesapeake And South River

By Conor Doherty

The Severna Park coed unified tennis team played against Chesapeake and South River on September 21. Severna Park did not share final scores, as the emphasis is more on the experience for the athletes. Falcons head coach Nadine Hendler spoke about the goal of coed unified tennis and what it has meant to her to coach the team.

"I was asked to take over all the unified sports programs (tennis, bowling and bocce) by our previous athletic director Dave Lanham," she explained. "It has been one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. Unified sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by the principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding."

Hendler said that Severna Park has followed that principle over the past several years and she is glad to have helped so many students along the way. "Students have made the most of their time on the courts, lanes and fields," Hendler stated. "They have developed lifelong friendships that they may not have had the opportunity to make without their association in these sports."

Hendler hopes that the unified sports teams continue to grow and gain support in Severna Park. "It is truly an honor to interact, not only with the Severna Park students and families, but the students and families from all over the county and state during tennis, bowling and bocce," she said. "I hope that more people come out to support the teams in the county because it is truly a unique and wonderful experience."



Photos by Conor Doherty

Gabby Rosati (top) and Lacey Strom (bottom) competed in Severna Park's home unified tennis matches against Chesapeake and South River on September 21.



Eva Mowery's Hat Trick Helps Bruins Top Falcons



Photos by Zach Sparks

The visiting Broadneck girls soccer team relied on the stifling defense and three goals by Eva Mowery to beat Severna Park 3-0 on September 30.



Where Are They Now? Sander Beck

By Conor Doherty

If someone looked up towns or cities that have produced the most Major League Baseball players, Severna Park probably wouldn't be at the top of the list. After all, only a handful of players who grew up in the Severna Park area have ever been drafted, let alone made "The Show."

However, when the San Diego Padres drafted SPHS shortstop Jackson Merrill in the first round of the MLB Draft in July, it marked the first time a player from SPHS was taken that high. Just five players from SPHS have ever made it to the majors and only three were drafted. Josh Banks was drafted in the 34th round in 2000 while Mark Grier went in the 26th round in 1975. Of course, the two most famous baseball players from Severna Park, Gavin Floyd and Mark Teixeira, were drafted No. 4 and No. 5 in the 2001 MLB Draft, but they both went to Mount St. Joseph in Baltimore.

Nearly a decade before Merrill, another player from the Severna Park area was getting a considerable amount of interest from the major leagues. Sander Beck, a right-handed pitcher from Millersville who attended Severn School and then the University of Maryland, knows exactly how dreams of a long baseball career can end quickly.



A University of Maryland pitcher, Sander Beck was selected by the Orioles in the 33rd round of the 2011 draft. He returned to school and later joined the Orioles as an undrafted free agent.

First drafted out of college as a junior by the Orioles in the 33rd round of the 2011 draft, Sander decided to return to school, and after his senior year, signed with the Orioles as an undrafted rookie free agent. But

just two seasons into his time in the Orioles system, he was released. Beck said that was tough, but that like everything else in life, you have to be ready for such an event.

"For me, it was having a plan and then a backup plan," he explained. "I was ready to experience something different, though it was incredibly sad when I was released because I wasn't expecting it at all. So while I wasn't expecting it, I had sort of gotten my foot in the door at Under Armour as a potential backup."

While it is always important to have a backup plan in case things don't go right, Beck said an equally important aspect for young players to keep in mind is their actions on and off the field. "Control what you can control," Beck stated. "Show that you're a good teammate, even if you're struggling. It's important to remember that scouts aren't there just to evaluate how good of a player you are but what kind of a person you are. [Scouts] call it the good makeup." Sander continued, saying that he has friends who are scouts now who are always most impressed by the high school kids who show maturity on the field.

"I've certainly learned a lot of valuable lessons playing baseball," said Beck. "Being humble was one of them, keeping my ego in check. It's doing a little a lot, not a lot a little, that will help you go a long way."

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Bella Rubino

Broadneck Volleyball

By Conor Doherty

For Bella Rubino, volleyball is her passion and also the activity that has allowed her to grow the most as a person. This past spring, as Anne Arundel County gave fall sports an abbreviated season due to the pandemic canceling all sports in fall 2020, Rubino began to take on more of a leadership role. And that role has morphed into being a team captain as a junior for a Broadneck team looking to succeed this year.

"It's very important that I have my teammates' trust, and if they can trust me, I can trust them and that doesn't mean just on the court but off the court as well," said Rubino. "I'm very 'lead by example,' very 'team before me.' Like, 'What can I do to make you better? How can I help you?' It's really exciting and really important to me to have this role and so that I can be there to support my teammates."

So far, Rubino has done just that, helping lead Broadneck to two straight shutout wins over Meade and Severna Park to start

"I'm very 'lead by example,' very 'team before me.' Like, 'What can I do to make you better? How can I help you?' It's really exciting and really important to me to have this role and so that I can be there to support my teammates."**"**

— BELLA RUBINO

the season. And she believes that Broadneck can go much further this season, especially with the team being able to play more games compared to the five games the team played this past spring.

"As a player and as a team, I really want to go to states, because I think we can do it," she stated. "But beyond that, as a leader, I definitely want us to grow as a team. It's very important to me that we are all bonded, we're all best friends. I want everyone to just reach a new level of playing that they haven't before."



Bella Rubino helped lead Broadneck to two straight shutout wins over Meade and Severna Park to start the season.

Rubino's leadership became clear when she said she most wanted a great season so that the sophomores who were freshmen during the shortened season get to experience fun and success on the court like she has

experienced.

Due to that shortened spring season that Anne Arundel County gave fall sports earlier this year, Rubino was challenged in a way she wasn't expecting. While she was a part of the Broadneck team, she also played club volleyball, competing alongside many players she would otherwise face during the high school season. Rubino welcomed and thrived with that challenge.

"Flipping back and forth between two different teams was very mentally challenging, but I think it helped me grow as a player and as a leader," she said. "Because when you do have to flip back and forth, lead this team, switch your brain around and then lead the other team, it helps you adapt to certain situations that I probably would have never been able to deal with if it weren't for the pandemic."

Rubino was happy to see all of her hard working paying off and being recognized for it. "I do try really hard in practices and games, off the court and on the court, to be there for my teammates and to see that be recognized is really important and really fun," she said.

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

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Meteoric Rise Lands Local LAX Player On National Stage

By Judy Tacyn

Only four years after picking up her first lacrosse stick, Severn School's 15-year-old **Tiana Griffin** has been named to the U16 USA Lacrosse team. Griffin earned one of the 22 roster spots after a competitive and comprehensive national tryout against 2,000 players for the opportunity to represent the United States in USA Lacrosse's National Fall Classic, from October 15-17, to be held at USA Lacrosse headquarters in Sparks, Maryland. Griffin and her team will face off against Canada and other international teams.

It's hard to imagine Maryland without lacrosse. Schools like University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, Salisbury and Loyola, as well as many others, are perennial nationally ranked Division I and III lacrosse programs. But growing up in Prince George's County, Griffin said the attention on lacrosse is nothing like it is in other parts of the state.

"I really never heard much about lacrosse," said Griffin, who was playing field hockey in a Davidsonville recreational league after moving to Anne Arundel County. Ironically, it was through field hockey that Griffin was introduced to lacrosse.

"My team was playing St. Mary's and I received my first-ever yellow card," said Griffin of the official's warning. "A lacrosse coach approached me and suggested I try lacrosse. And that's how it started!"

After just two years of recreational lacrosse, Griffin made the move to Integrity Lacrosse in eighth grade, and



Photo courtesy of Cap City Drones

Left: Tiana Griffin earned one of the 22 roster spots on the U16 USA Lacrosse team after a competitive and comprehensive national tryout against 2,000 players. **Right:** Griffin recently enjoyed coaching a group of young lacrosse players at Severn School.



ed, "as well as allow her to utilize her strengths to build confidence and succeed."

Griffin is also thriving on the Severn lacrosse team.

"Since the moment I first met Tiana on the lacrosse field, I could tell that she was a grinder. To me, the term grinder means a student-athlete who is willing to put in the work when no one is watching, and I truly admire her work ethic," said **Kathy Rudkin**, Severn School lacrosse coach.

"She is a leader through the way in which she gives 100 percent effort and I'm excited about her bright future in this sport."

According to NCAA rules, college coaches are not allowed to contact Griffin until she is a high school junior, which will be next September, but she's already thinking about a college playing

career and beyond. The aspiring attorney said she's interested in the United States Naval Academy, Johns Hopkins, Princeton or possibly another Ivy League school, all of which have powerhouse lacrosse programs.

As for the upcoming tournament, Griffin said she's most excited about "running out of the tunnel, wearing the red, white and blue for team USA with my teammates who have the same skills and same dreams. I cannot wait!"

Though Griffin is ecstatic to wear the USA jersey, she hopes it's not the last one she will earn.

"Lacrosse isn't an Olympic sport ... yet," Griffin said. "But when it is, I want to be wearing the USA uniform. Playing for the United States in the Olympics is my ultimate goal."

that is where her skill level massively increased.

"In a way, I surprised myself," Griffin said, "but I put in a lot of extra time on my fitness and conditioning, and my speed and agility."

Peck Burmeister, head coach of Griffin's current club team, M&D 2024 Red, first noticed her at a tournament. "I quickly noticed her style of play and felt like she was a player to watch. That same scenario occurred on several other occasions," Burmeister said, "and I felt like she was probably one of the better players in our area and would be an asset to any team."

Griffin made the switch to M&D earlier this year.

"As her club coach, my job is to facilitate her growth by promoting an environment where she can learn the game in a broader depth and understanding," Burmeister add-

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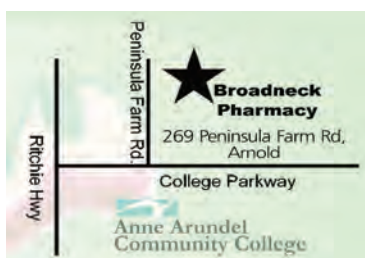
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Severna Park And Broadneck Sports Calendar

Cross Country

Oct 9: Maryland Invitational at Shawan Downs. 9:00am

Oct 16: Gunpowder Invitational at Jerusalem Mill. 9:00am

Oct 26: County championships at Chesapeake. 4:00pm

Nov 4: 4A East regional championship at Arundel. 3:00pm

Nov 13: 4A state championships at Hereford. 9:00am

Field Hockey

Oct 12: Broadneck at Severna Park. 6:00pm

Oct 14: Arundel at Severna Park. 6:00pm

Oct 14: Broadneck at South River. 6:00pm

Oct 19: Severna Park at Crofton. 6:00pm

Oct 19: Annapolis at Broadneck. 6:00pm

Oct 21: Annapolis at Severna Park. 6:00pm

Oct 21: Chesapeake at Broadneck. 6:00pm

Football

Oct 8: Severna Park at South River. 6:30pm

Oct 8: Broadneck at Annapolis. 6:30pm

Oct 15: Severna Park at Broadneck. 6:30pm

Oct 22: Glen Burnie at Severna Park. 6:30pm

Oct 22: Old Mill at Broadneck. 6:30pm

Oct 29: Severna Park at Old Mill. 6:30pm

Oct 29: Broadneck at Glen Burnie. 6:30pm

Golf

Oct 27: State championship at the University of Maryland. 8:30am

Oct 29: State championship at the University of Maryland. 8:30am

Soccer (Boys)

Oct 12: Severna Park at Old Mill. 5:00pm

Oct 12: Southern at Broadneck. 5:00pm

Oct 14: Severna Park at Arundel. 7:00pm

Oct 14: South River at Broadneck. 7:00pm

Oct 19: Annapolis at Severna Park. 5:00pm

Oct 19: Broadneck at Glen Burnie. 5:00pm

Oct 21: Severna Park at Northeast. 7:00pm

Oct 21: Broadneck at Annapolis. 7:00pm

Soccer (Girls)

Oct 12: Severna Park at Old Mill. 7:00pm

Oct 12: Southern at Broadneck. 7:00pm

Oct 14: Severna Park at Arundel. 5:00pm

Oct 14: South River at Broadneck. 5:00pm

Oct 19: Annapolis at Severna Park. 7:00pm

Oct 19: Broadneck at Glen Burnie. 7:00pm

Oct 21: Severna Park at Northeast. 5:00pm

Oct 21: Broadneck at Annapolis. 5:00pm

Unified Tennis

Oct 12: County championship at Annapolis High School. 2:30pm

Oct 14: County championship at Annapolis High School. 2:30pm

Volleyball

Oct 11: Archbishop Spalding at Severna Park. 5:30pm

Oct 12: Meade at Severna Park. 5:30pm

Oct 12: Southern at Broadneck. 5:30pm

Oct 14: Arundel at Severna Park. 5:30pm

Oct 14: Broadneck at Northeast. 5:30pm

Oct 19: Severna Park at Dulaney. 6:00pm.

Oct 21: South River at Severna Park. 5:30pm

Oct 21: Chesapeake at Broadneck. 5:30pm

Oct 26: Chesapeake at Severna Park. 5:30pm

Oct 26: North County at Broadneck. 5:30pm

Oct 28: Severna Park at Northeast. 5:30pm

Oct 28: Broadneck at Crofton. 5:30pm

Bruins Clip The Falcons' Wings

» Continued from page 24

as they can through the final whistle, and they know that those singular moments don't define the full outcome of the game."

In comparison to the fireworks of the first half, the second half was a defensive struggle with turnovers on both sides.

"In the second half, we just tried to follow our tactics, shut down their key players that they always try to play, and then

play from the back out and try to get the goal that we needed to win," Smith said.

After Smith's goal retook the lead for the Bruins, Severna Park tried in vain to level the score, but Bruins goalkeeper **Matt Tetterer** made several key saves to preserve the lead.

With the win, Broadneck moved to 7-1 on the season, with their only loss being to Bowie. This was Severna Park's first loss of the season, dropping them to 6-1.

SPHS Field Hockey Rides Defense

» Continued from page 24

attempted to claw their way back into the game. Broadneck put 11 shots on goal and attempted five corners on the night but were unable to get past Kramer.

For Severna Park head coach **Shannon Garden**, Broadneck's breakneck pace was an issue and something that the Falcons will have to contend with again. "They're very fast, and I said in the preseason that Broadneck was going to be our biggest competition," said Garden.

And while the Falcons were able to score twice, they were unable to score playing out of set pieces. "Sometimes, no matter how much you practice going into

a game, the ball will just not bounce your way on a corner," Garden stated, referring to the four corner attempts the Falcons were unable to capitalize on.

Garden felt that her defense was the key to the win, being able to hold Broadneck scoreless despite so many shots on goal. "Our defenders and goalie were outstanding," Garden said. "They were taking away Broadneck's opportunities, played very smoothly and confidently and they were very smart."

With the win, Severna Park moved to 4-0 on the season. They followed the win against Broadneck by beating South River 2-1 on September 28.

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Maryland Judiciary Announces Conflict Resolution Bookmark Art Contest

The Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) is inviting students to promote peacemaking by submitting artwork for the 16th annual Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest. The contest is open to all Maryland students in kindergarten through eighth grade to celebrate Conflict Resolution Month in October and Conflict Resolution Day on October 21. Entries are due by Thursday, November 4.

Students are asked to create bookmarks with the theme of resolving or preventing conflicts. Topics include peer mediation, apologizing, respecting differences, talking things out, solving problems together, listening, tolerance, diversity, inclusion, building peace, and alternatives to violence. The contest allows for teachers, parents, and students to discuss ways to resolve conflicts peacefully.

"The annual Conflict Resolution Day bookmark contest is a wonderful way to engage children in learning through art about resolving conflicts appropriately and peacefully," said Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Joseph Getty. "The contest has garnered more than 10,000 entries over its 16-year history, and I encourage

students from schools throughout Maryland to participate as a way to foster important discussions with their peers, teachers, and parents about best practices for conflict resolution."

Winning students and their families will be invited to an awards ceremony in December 2021.

Submissions will be judged on both artistic merit and their conflict resolution or prevention message. Student originality is welcomed. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place in three age groups: kindergarten through second grade, grades three through five, and grades six through eight. For each age group, the prize awards will be \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. A selection of winning entries will be printed and distributed throughout Maryland to promote conflict resolution. Winners whose bookmarks are selected for printing will receive copies of their own printed entry.

Visit MACRO's bookmark contest web page, www.mdcourts.gov/macro/eventsconflictresolutionday, for more information, including the template, instructions, and delivery information, or watch the bookmark contest video to learn more.

Teen Starts Nonprofit For Families With Autistic Children

By Haley Weisgerber

Ryan Mescher, a Severna Park resident and junior at Gilman School in Baltimore, is determined to make life safer for families with autistic children by creating Boomers Inc., a nonprofit and a product that helps autistic children who elope to get home safely.

Elopement is a serious issue within the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) community where people with ASD run or wander away from caregivers. According to the National Autism Association, 49 percent of individuals with ASD have a tendency to wander. While many people are found unharmed, many cases result in death or require medical attention.

"Knowing 50 percent of autistic children will elope, I think this product is necessary because it helps eliminate the dangers and the stress on parents for those children that elope," said Ryan.

In 2017, Ryan was playing in his front yard with his siblings when his younger brother, Anderson, who has autism, wandered off. Anderson was found safe in a neighbor's home, but Ryan has feared his brother would wander off again ever since.

Inspired by this moment, Ryan created Boomers, boxer briefs that save lives. The idea is to conceal a tiny GPS in a discrete location, underwear, a garment the children will always have on. Products like this exist in the form of bracelets and jewelry, clothing or backpacks,



Ryan Mescher

but these products are not used all hours of the day, every day of the year.

"I am hoping through this product I will be able to lower the injury and fatality rate of those children who elope," said Ryan. "In addition, I hope to decrease the stress for the families and allow kids to have more independence."

Ryan and Anderson's mom, Liz Mescher, said this product is perfect for families like theirs.

"As a mom with a son who has special needs, this product is a real solution to a very real problem," Mescher said. "Current solutions on the market have not been successful for our son. Living close to the water, we are always worried. These boxers provide families, like ours, with

» Continued on page 36

Spirit Week Unites Students At BHS



Photos by Madeleine Stern

Students at Broadneck High School seized the opportunity to be creative and fun during Spirit Week from September 27 to October 1, dressing up for Pajama Day, Character Day, College and Career Day, and Theme Day.

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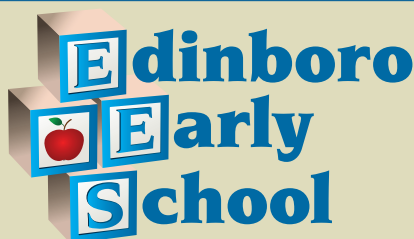
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Q.

Question of the month

Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Ms. LeBlanc's class at Jones Elementary School answered the question:

What are you most excited about this school year?

This school year, I am most excited for the school play! Because I'm in fifth grade now, I might get a lead role, or at least a bigger role than last year (I was The King and The Rapids. No, I am not a boy, and no, I didn't have a lot of lines.) I'm also really excited to see my friends again! The main reason for that is talking with my friends at recess. We talk about lots of things, such as, but not limited to, little sisters, "Genshin Impact," anime, moms, Klee and many other random things. The last thing I'm excited for is all the cool experiments and field trips we're going to do!

Alexis B.

I am excited to meet new friends this year. I hope that I can get to know more about everyone. I hope I can find someone who likes football like me. I'm also excited to see how this year goes because I have a good feeling that it's going to be awesome. I can see it! I'm also excited because now I'm in a new school, so new school equals new friends. Last but not least, I'm looking forward to meeting new teachers and new counselors.

A'mir D.

I am most excited to learn big things in math! It will make

me feel like I can now do all the math in the world. I am also super excited to be a role model for the whole school. We are now in fifth grade, so we have to be big role models for the rest of the school because some kids might be new, and we can welcome them into the school and let them get to make new friends! So far, fifth grade has been so much fun and I cannot wait to see what is next!

Berkley L.

I'm looking forward to helping reorganize the library with my friends. I hate having book series out of order; I also hope to complete the 40 book challenge! Another thing I'm excited about is writing essays/stories for school, especially fantasy stories.

Cece N.

I am excited for a lot of things for fifth grade. I think it's going to be a lot of fun, but here are a few things I'm excited for. I am really excited to finish the 40 book challenge. If I do, I get to have an ice cream party with my class. And I'm super excited for field day because at the end of field day, the fifth-graders get to play alien ball against the teachers. Fifth grade is going to be awesome.

Emma D.

I am excited for the fifth-grade alien ball game at the end of the year when we get to battle against the teachers. The game objective is to throw a ball

toward a ball of hula hoops. There are three of these balls; if you knock all of your opponents down, you win. And it is super fun.

Harrison N.

The first thing I am excited for this school year is alien ball. Alien ball is where you and your team set up hula hoops to look like an alien spaceship. Then you and your team try to knock down the other team's ship and defend yours. The next thing I am excited for this school year is paperwork. You might say "seriously?" But I want to do paperwork because last year we were all virtual. But when we went back to school, I was happy to do paperwork. The last thing I am excited for this school year is seeing my friends. You might say, "You could see your friends last year." But I couldn't because of virtual school! The only time I could see my friends was on a square on a computer. I am so excited for this year!

Jake C.

I am most excited for alien ball. It's teachers vs. fifth grade and you try to knock down the other team's hula hoops. I am most excited for alien ball because I can play a game that I watched the fifth grade do before and it looks fun! Also, it is on field day and field day is very fun too! Alien ball is in the gym and is only for fifth grade and the teachers. Alien

ball is on the second to last week of school or the last week of school.

Kylie L.

I am most excited to learn more about my classmates. Since this is my first year at Jones Elementary, I do not know much about my classmates. I am also excited to learn more about the teachers at Jones. I am really excited for the ice cream party at the end of the year if we complete the 40 book challenge. The 40 book challenge is that we have to complete a log with 40 boxes in it. Each box has a different genre. If we fill in all spots by the end of the year, we can participate in an ice cream party.

Leila G.

I like school.

Maicon H.

I am most excited for the end of the school year. At the end of the school year, there will be field day, and during field day, there will be a lot of fun activities (some including water). Also, summer will come, and in the next school year, I will be in sixth grade! Finally, we will play alien ball. I'm not sure if I'm right because I've never seen it in person, but here is what I know about it: 1. It will be fifth-graders vs. teachers. 2. Each team had to protect a "hut," and if the other team knocked it down, they got a point. The team with the

most points wins!

Matthew L.

I am looking forward to helping Mrs. Bigelow, our media teacher. I look forward to helping her by making sure that all the books are in good shape and in order, and just organizing the library in general. That is one thing I am looking forward to this year.

Sophia E.

I am looking forward to helping our school's librarian, Mrs. Bigelow, with the library (organizing books, etc.), the 40 book challenge, and seeing my friends, since we are in the same class. I am also looking forward to the annual teachers vs. fifth-graders game of alien ball (a very fun game).

Sophia W.

I'm most excited for Halloween this school year because on Halloween, we always do fun Halloween stuff in school. Even though I wish we had no school on Halloween, it's still a very fun day.

Tanner C.

I am excited for field day because we get to play fun games and we get Popsicles. Field day is a day when we play fun games outside before the end of the school year. Also, we play alien ball when you try to throw a ball at a hat made of hula hoops and we battle the teachers.

Umer A.

This month, students from Ms. LeBlanc's class at Jones Elementary School answered the question, "What are you most excited about this school year?"

I am most excited for the 40 book challenge this school year. The reason I am excited for this challenge is because if we read 40 books by the end of June, we get to have an ice cream party! For the 40 book challenge, you read 40 books. But not just any 40 books. On the piece of paper, you get 40 boxes, and in each box, there is a genre. You read a book and then find which genre or box it goes in. If you just read picture books, you would fill it up pretty fast and it wouldn't be much of a challenge. Also, you have to read all of the 40 books. I am really excited and confident for this 40 book challenge. Do you think that you would be able to complete the 40 book challenge if you had to do it?

Vesta B.

I'm excited to see all the teachers and meet them. I'm going to have a newborn sibling and I'm going to find out at this school. This is my first year and I'm making a lot of new friends. I can't wait to do the announcements. I can't wait till I get on a new football team. That's what I'm really excited for. I can't wait till the baby is born. If it's a boy, I'm going to tell him all my secrets; he's going to be my BFF and also my brother. I can't wait to see my big brother; on one of the breaks, we are going to have so much fun.

Wyatt V.

Teen Starts Nonprofit For Families With Autistic Children

» Continued from page 33

peace of mind that they have another way to keep their child safe."

Boomers have a designated pocket to hold the GPS tracker. The tracker, called a Jiobit, will be linked to an app that can be downloaded to any phone. If an emergency occurs, the app will highlight the current location so that caregivers can locate the individual immediately. It allows caregivers to create a custom "geofence" and alert their phone when their loved ones wander too far from them, and the app also

updates location in real time.

Ryan's goal is to help as many families with ASD as possible with Boomers. At this time, Ryan is accepting applications for a free, one-year package, which includes five pairs of Boomers, a Jiobit tracker, and a one-year subscription.

The application is need-based and not based on income. The purpose is to ensure that the product will be used correctly. Eventually, Ryan would like to be able to provide the product to all families, but while the organization is growing, he is

limited. In the next five years, Ryan is hoping to achieve just that.

"I hope to raise as much money as possible through fundraising, donations and grants so that I can get Boomers into the hands of as many families as possible," said Ryan.

The goal of Boomers is to provide a 24/7 solution to caregivers of people with ASD who struggle with elopement and to eliminate the issue of elopement. Ryan is excited to build this organization.

"We are extremely proud of Ryan," said Liz. "He has such a big

heart and is very thoughtful. It is incredible to us that he thought of a solution to such a big problem and saw the idea through. He is not only helping our family but others as well."

To learn more about Boomers, visit www.theboomers.org. You can also connect with Boomers on Facebook at @BoomersInc and Instagram at @boomers4autism. Ryan has filed a 501(c)(3), but as of early October, the status is still pending. He hopes to have it approved by the end of January 2022.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools Briefs

Board Of Education Approves \$193 Million Capital Budget Request



At the new Old Mill West High School, core instructional programs will be organized within a three-story academic bar. Two glazed curtain-wall corridors will link the academic bar to the main building housing the media center, gymnasium, cafeteria and administration. An outdoor courtyard formed by the corridors will offer students and teachers a place to learn, gather and study.

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education unanimously approved a \$193 million Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) capital budget request on September 22, setting in motion the process to acquire state funding for construction and maintenance projects across the county.

The board made no changes to Superintendent George Arlotto's recommendation, which contains construction funding for six major school projects and design funding for a sev-

enth. The plan contains \$128.2 million for major capital projects that include construction at the following schools, in priority order:

- **Quarterfield Elementary School**
\$5 million
- **Hillsmere Elementary**
\$5.7 million
- **Rippling Woods Elementary School**
\$6 million
- **Old Mill West High School**
\$44 million
- **West County Elementary School**
\$21.6 million
- **Old Mill Middle School South**
\$40.6 million

Dr. Arlotto's recommendation also contains \$5.3 million for design of a new Center of Applied Technology — North, which is scheduled to be constructed on the current Old Mill High campus.

The board's request also includes \$30 million for building systems renovations, \$10 million for classroom additions at Southgate Elementary School and Crofton Middle School, and \$3.5 million for athletic stadium improvements.

The plan will be submitted to the State of Maryland for funding consideration. It will also be part of the school system's overall FY2023 budget request, to be forwarded to County Executive Stuart Pittman in February 2022 after the board holds additional public hearings. The Anne Arundel County Council will review that plan and adopt a final capital budget for the school system by June 2022.

AACPS Discusses Solutions To Bus Driver Shortage



AACPS is facing a shortage of 60 bus drivers, leaving kids to suffer long delays.

A bus driver shortage has affected Severna Park and neighborhoods nationwide. During a September 22 Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Board of Education meeting, officials discussed plans to address the problem.

"While the reasons are many, the facts remain that our shortages represent 9 percent of our driver workforce, about 60 bus drivers, which is in line with the 10 to 15 percent shortage that has been widely reported in the press nationally within the news," said AACPS Chief Operating Officer Alex Szachnowicz.

The best solution, he said, is to have more certified bus drivers long-term, but right now, the school system is making these incremental changes:

- Putting everyone who is certified, including substitute drivers, on the front lines to drive on a daily basis.
- Working with bus contractors to examine all runs to see where routes can be combined to lessen the impacted routes.
- Lending seven AACPS licensed drivers to contractors to cover their routes.
- Training and processing new CDL (commercial driver's license) drivers while working on recruitment and retention strategies.

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Rock On For John Team To Raise Funds In Honor Of Millersville Native



John Fritz is remembered for many things, including his love for the outdoors. He ran in two marathons, two half marathons and two Tough Mudders, which are 10-mile obstacle course races.



By Alyson Kay

In early June 2020, 25-year-old Millersville native John Fritz died of a rare heart condition. A year later, his friends and family are coming together to walk in his honor.

John was an avid outdoorsman. He was both a Cub Scout and Boy Scout who enjoyed camping and hiking. He played rugby growing up and ran cross country all four years he attended Severna Park High School.

After graduation, he continued to compete, running two marathons, two half

marathons and two Tough Mudders, 10-mile races through trails that can contain up to 30 obstacles.

His cousin, Maggie Fritz, went to both Tough Mudders and enjoyed watching him run the difficult races.

"He was consistently energized and jazzed about the whole thing," Maggie said. "He loved how hard it was, which was really cool as a spectator as well. It was just fun to get someone be so passionate and excited about something."

Maggie and John were close, even though Maggie lived in California and John lived in Maryland. They'd play outside together on family vacations.

"We spent a lot of time just making up games outside and it was really special and really fun," Maggie said.

John was also social and gregarious. He was proud to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, and he was a tour guide while he studied electrical engineering. He convinced several people, including Maggie, to attend the college as well.

"He was really involved with his community and loved to connect with lots of people," Maggie said.

John also connected with music. With little to no formal training, he learned to play acoustic and electric guitar. He participated in his school band and formed a rock group called Ded Walrus with his high school friends.

"He picked up a guitar wherever we were," Maggie said. "Whenever we were on vacation with our family, you could always hear him playing guitar in the background; [he] played a lot of Foo Fighters. It was just a great soundtrack to the whole experience."

When he died, his family couldn't hold a big funeral or celebration of life due to the pandemic. In 2021, with things starting to look more positive with COVID and the vaccines rolling out, Maggie thought it would be good for John's friends and family to do something special together to honor him sometime in summer or fall.

Maggie works in nonprofit fundraising and donor relations and is connected with the nonprofit community in Baltimore. She saw that the Greater Maryland Heart Walk was happening in October and spoke with her family about starting a team in John's memory.

"We felt like it was going to be a really good memory to him and there was a lot of potential for this to become something where people could really get together and celebrate his life," Maggie said.

Maggie originally toyed with the idea of holding a memorial run but found the walk to be more inclusive and accessible.

"So many more people are able to join us for an outdoor walk," Maggie said. "My 88-year-old grandparents are going to join us."

Another campaign in John's mem-

» Continued on page 41

Tips For Returning To A Family Routine

By Jennifer Williams
Luminis Health

Family routines are everything our current COVID-19 times are not: consistent, predictable and reassuring.

While you may not consider yourself a "creature of habit," you've likely hoped for a sense of normalcy to return to daily life. But for everything you're feeling, your children are likely suffering more significant effects.

Learn how routines can help

Our children are in a constant state of development as they grow. New information and experiences shape and reshape how they see the world — even before coronavirus came our way. Familiar routines can help kids find stability and a sense of security in good and bad times.

Research shows family routines can support essential building blocks for kids, including better sleep, improved resilience during times of crisis, and success at school and in social situations.

Know where to start

Where to start depends on your family's needs. Play back your last few days and think about any stressful situations

that developed. Was it getting your kids out the door in the morning? Putting dinner on the table? Getting everyone to bed? Chances are, you'll notice patterns, and developing routines that address your family's stressors can bring calm to critical transition times, such as before school, after school, bedtime and weekends.

Start small. Setting little "constants," like doing homework every night right after dinner, reading a book together before "lights out" or remembering to lay out school clothes, may be just what your family needs.

Around mealtimes, you might try:

Family scheduling. If you're answering daily questions about when things are happening or always rushing to find a soccer jersey, library book or birthday present, established routines make it easier to stay on the same page. Put a family calendar where your kids can see it and check it together daily, preferably at the same time every day. Knowing what to expect can be comforting to your kids and avoid confusion.

Meal planning. You don't need to reinvent the wheel to feed your family every day. We suggest writing down three to five wholesome meals and making them every week until you can serve them with your eyes closed. These will

be your go-to meals on weeks when you get busy. To simplify your meal schedule (and resist buying not-so-healthy or more expensive takeout options regularly), you might:

- Batch cook and freeze grab-and-go family favorites, like sausage-and-egg breakfast sandwiches or black bean burritos.
- Prep kids' lunches the night before, or wash and cut up fruits and veggies for them to find easily.
- Try recurring weekly meals, such as Taco Tuesdays, Pizza Fridays or Soup on Sundays.

Plan for periods of high stress

When your family is especially busy or you're dealing with stressful events — like COVID, a life transition or illness in the family — it can be easy to let things slide around the house. But quick daily routines can help you feel in control. They can also help keep your home running smoothly and mean you won't have to face a mountain of household tasks at once later. You might try:

- Cleaning up dishes after every meal
- Getting up a half-hour earlier in the morning
- Running a load of laundry every day

- Running the dishwasher every night

The great thing about routines is that once you've established them, you don't have to think about them: they will become more automatic the more you do them.

Make time for special moments

It's important to make sure you're savoring the good stuff — the kind of everyday special moments that keep your family feeling connected. Once a week or month, you could consider scheduling:

- **A date with your partner.** Having time scheduled on the calendar is an excellent reminder to take time for your relationship, even when things are hectic.
- **One-on-one time with each of your kids.** You could let them pick a game to play or a park to visit together.

You don't need to keep up with your routines perfectly for them to work. Aiming to hit them most of the time will be enough to have an impact. And if things fall off track, it's never too late to start again. Start small — and just keep building from there. You've got this.

Jennifer Williams is a licensed clinical professional counselor for Luminis Health.

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Of the American population affected by hearing loss, more than 19 million are ages 45 and up — but three out of five older Americans (65-plus) and six out of seven middle-aged Americans with hearing loss do not use hearing aids, creating a gap in communication and social activities that affects many individuals at a deeper level than their loved ones may understand. Many with hearing loss choose not to engage in social activities because the stigma associated with it is embarrassing or they need help reconciling the fact that they have a hearing loss.

Individuals who cannot understand or hear what others are saying sometimes choose to avoid social situations entirely, rather than ask others to repeat themselves or nod as if they follow the conversation. Avoiding social outings with friends and family begins the process of social isolation that contributes to loneliness and depression.

Over the past 15 years, research on the subject has become prominent. Dr. Frank Lin, an assistant professor and researcher for Johns Hopkins University, examined data spanning from 1999 to 2006 to determine a cross-sectional association between social isolation and hearing loss. Results showed that social isolation and hearing loss were found to be especially significant in women ages 60 to 69, when cognitive impairment occurred faster by an estimated three years.

Another survey of 2,300 adults 50 and older, performed by the National Council on Aging (NCOA), found that those with untreated hearing loss were more likely to report depression, anxiety and paranoia, and were less likely to participate in organized social activities compared to those who wear hearing aids. Seniors who did not wear hearing aids reported feelings of sadness or depression that lasted two or more weeks in the previous years, and the perception that other people got angry with them for no reason — an indicator of paranoia — increased. Among those with severe hearing loss, the difference was even greater.

This survey, much like Dr. Lin's research, also examined social behavior and found that people who don't use hearing aids were much less likely to participate in social activities. Some effects

of hearing loss on the quality of social life are more obvious than others. Understanding trivial elements of conversation becomes more difficult. Individuals focus more energy on what a person is saying, and on watching the speaker's face and body language for cues; so much energy is spent focusing on what is being said, and less energy can be spent thinking of a reply. Those with hearing loss usually sit closer to the speaker in order to hear key elements. Communicating with friends and loved ones becomes an exhausting, frustrating exercise, and avoiding them altogether seems a better option for some.

Another significant component of the NCOA study was that 2,090 close family members or friends of the hearing impaired were asked a parallel set of questions, both before treatment and after treatment. Benefits of treatment with hearing aids were significant, offering improvements in many areas of life:

- **Relations at home improved by 56 percent according to the user, 66 percent according to family and friends.**
- **Self-image improved by 50 percent according to the user, 60 percent according to family and friends.**
- **Life overall improved by 48 percent according to the user, 62 percent according to family and friends.**
- **Relations with children and grandchildren improved by 40 percent according to the user, 52 percent according to family and friends.**
- **Mental health improved by 36 percent according to the user, 39 percent according to family and friends.**
- **Sense of safety improved by 34 percent according to the user, 37 percent according to family and friends.**

Through continuing community education, and specialized treatment, better hearing can help to eliminate social isolation. Despite misconceptions and the realities of wearing hearing aids, treatment of hearing loss has many benefits, in addition to improving the quality of our social life and overall mental health.

A Day In The Life Of Exotic Pet Medicine

Dr. Monica Capella
Associate
Veterinarian,
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



What is an exotic pet? For our practice, any animal that is not a dog or cat gets labeled as an exotic appointment. This can include small mammals, birds, reptiles and more. The conversations I have with clients about every

exotic pet I see mainly revolve around the same general principles. In this column, I will highlight the key aspects of care to consider when getting any exotic pet, easily accessible resources for caring for your pet, and avenues to obtain an exotic animal.

If you are thinking about getting an exotic pet, the first step I recommend is checking out a great website called **EMODE pet score**. EMODE is a program that was created by 18 scientists and veterinarians with expert backgrounds in public health and animal welfare science. You can search each individual animal on the website, and this will give you a pet score. For example, searching a "veiled chameleon" yields a score of "difficult to expert" to care for; searching "hamster" yields a score of "moderate." Here is the link to the website: www.emodepet-score.com/get-your-pet-score.

For any exotic pet, some general points I discuss with owners are:

Appropriate Housing, Enclosure And Temperature/Humidity

Enclosure can vary significantly between each individual species in a group (for example, housing for a chameleon is different than a snake although they are both reptiles) and the equipment required for setup can also vary in cost. Humidity and temperature are important especially for reptiles but should be considered for all species. These can also vary between individuals (for example, a northern blue tongue skink requires a different humidity than a Merauke blue tongue skink). Obtain a hygrometer to measure humidity



ty and a non-contact temperature gun to measure any point in the enclosure. It is important also to consider when monitoring temperature and humidity that the area the animal spends time in, within the enclosure, is likely not the same temperature/humidity at the top of the enclosure, so placing a measuring device there could lead to false results.

Diet Recommendations

Each species is different in this category, so thorough research prior to obtaining your pet is critical. There are lots of brands out there for different diets, so if you ever have a question about which to buy, please consult your veterinarian. Some companies have had more detailed nutritional analysis performed for their foods to ensure they meet the needs of the pet and are therefore preferred by veterinarians. Diet also plays an important part in disease prevention; for example, rabbits need hay as the main portion of their diet due to their type of gastrointestinal tract and that their teeth grow continuously.

General Health Conditions

Being familiar with common conditions seen in exotic animals can help you take the steps to prevent them if possible and also know the signs to look for regarding illness. Many exotic animals that are prey species will hide illness until they are sick, so picking up signs early if you can truly makes the difference. For example, guinea pigs are predisposed to feet problems due to their body conformation, so ensuring appropriate bedding and maintaining a good weight can help prevent pododermatitis.

Rabbits that stop eating for 12 to 24 hours are already considered critical due to their type of gastrointestinal tract and need immediate medical attention. Most reptiles need calcium supplementation, and if they are not provided this in their diet, they will put this calcium from their underlying bones, making their bones weak and susceptible to fracture.

For more information about scheduling an appointment for your pet, call for an appointment at 410-360-PAWS (7297) or schedule online at www.vaccalvertvet.com.

Rock On For John Team To Raise Funds

» Continued from page 38

ory helped Maggie see the potential for the heart walk fundraising team. A week after John died, some of his close friends from college decided to hold a casual fundraiser through PayPal for a memorial tree to be planted at the University of Maryland. They needed around \$2,500 to do it and they reached their goal in about a half a day. The tree will be planted this fall.

"That was a good indication for me that we weren't crazy in thinking we might be able to raise a lot of money for the Maryland Heart Association," Maggie said.

They launched the fundraiser in July,

hoping to raise at least \$11,000, a reference to John's birthday on January 11.

They called it Rock on for John, in honor of his love for music. While Maggie's experience in fundraising has helped make the process easier, getting people to support the cause has not been difficult.

"Simply telling people that we're doing it has garnered a lot of interest," Maggie said.

In just over two months, the campaign reached its original goal with over 35 people on the team. A new goal has been set at \$14,000.

"Everyone is coming out in support of this cause in whatever way they can," Maggie said. "It means so much to me and

I know it means a lot to everybody else on the team."

One of John's close friends, a yoga instructor, hosted two back-to-back donation-based yoga classes in Baltimore for the effort and was a key part of the team reaching the original goal. Maggie attended one of the classes.

"It was so much like community, really good vibes and a wonderful way to remember him," Maggie said.

The walk will be held on October 16 from 8:00am to noon at the Camden Sports Complex in Baltimore. Registration is free, but donations are appreciated. To join or donate to the team, visit www2.heart.org.

Ballet Theatre Of Maryland Announces 2021-2022 Season



Photo courtesy of Joanne Marie Photography

The 2021-2022 season at Ballet Theatre of Maryland includes a romantic classic, "Giselle," a holiday favorite, "The Nutcracker," and more.

Annapolis' Resident Ballet Company Announces Return To Live, In-Person Performances



For the 2021-2022 season, Ballet Theatre of Maryland will return to live, in-theater performances with joy and thanks. This season features the romantic classic "Giselle"

in October. Other mainstage works include holiday favorite "The Nutcracker," a mixed repertory of works in "Momentum" and the family friendly classic "Coppélia."

"Performing last season required a lot of flexibility to continue dancing while also protecting our company and community," said artistic director Nicole Kelsch. "We adapted to our changing situation by providing a range of outdoor, prerecorded and

» Continued on page 50

"No Time To Die" Is A Stellar Farewell For Daniel Craig's Bond



Photo courtesy of MGM Studios

Daniel Craig reprised his role as James Bond in the latest 007 film, "No Time To Die."

By Audrey Ruppert

Until now, I had always believed 2012's "Skyfall" should have been the last of the Daniel Craig/James Bond films, as there was narrative room to end his story there, and "Spectre" was an unnecessary and muddled mess. I have changed my mind: there could not have been a more poignant, respectful and fitting end to Craig's rendition of Bond than "No Time to Die."

The film opens with Bond spending time with Madeline Swann in a romantic Italian town — it seems he has left his philandering behind and is ready to finally retire and settle down with Swann. Inevitably this peace is disturbed, and Bond is forced to return to work for one final mission.

Somehow, despite a whopping two-hour-and-43-minute runtime, the film never drags and holds your attention. It pays respect and makes nods to the films that came before, without being a

» Continued on page 46

Dining Out



At Squisito Pizza And Pasta, Variety Is King



Photos by Mary Cobbler

Above Top: At Squisito Pizza and Pasta, Mary Cobbler's group liked having the option to choose from a variety of pizza slices, subs and pastas. **Above Bottom:** The interior of the restaurant is modern, cool and comfy, with high ceilings and roomy booths. The new Squisito is located in the Magothy Gateway shopping center.

By Mary Cobbler

Craving an authentic Italian dinner but only have the time and budget for a quick lunch or carryout? Make Squisito Pizza and Pasta Restaurant in Severna Park your go-to destination for tasty pies, hearty pasta dishes and fresh, tasty subs.

I visited Squisito on a Thursday afternoon with a few family members. The interior of the restaurant is modern, cool and comfy, with high ceilings and roomy booths. Food can be ordered at the counter and the friendly wait staff will bring it to your table. A variety of pizzas — including traditional crust, deep-dish and thin-crust pizzas, along with white pizzas and toasty calzones — beckoned us from behind the glass. The full menu boasted a variety of other foods:

soups, salads, seafood dishes, traditional Italian pastas and more.

Our group was hungry, and we wanted to sample a few flavors, so we chose the Squisito slice, a bacon-and-chicken white pizza, a deep-dish sausage and pepperoni, and classic pepperoni. We also got an order of ravioli, an Italian cold cut sub, some drinks, tiramisu and a gluten-free cheese pizza.

The Squisito features a classic hand-tossed crust with tomato sauce topped with meat and veggies. It was a nice vegetable flavor medley. I could really taste the sweet notes of caramelized onions, peppers, and mushrooms coupled with the sausage and pepperonis — quite a flavorful burst. The sauce leaned a bit sweet, but it balanced out

» Continued on page 50

Art In The Park Creates A Buzz At Cafe Mezzanotte



Photos by Haley Weisgerber

The inaugural Art in the Park festival drew a crowd to Cafe Mezzanotte on September 19. Attendees filled the courtyard, with their tables socially distanced, as they enjoyed live music, food and wine, and art from Benfield Gallery, Gallery 564, McBride Gallery, and Side Street Framers & gift gallery.

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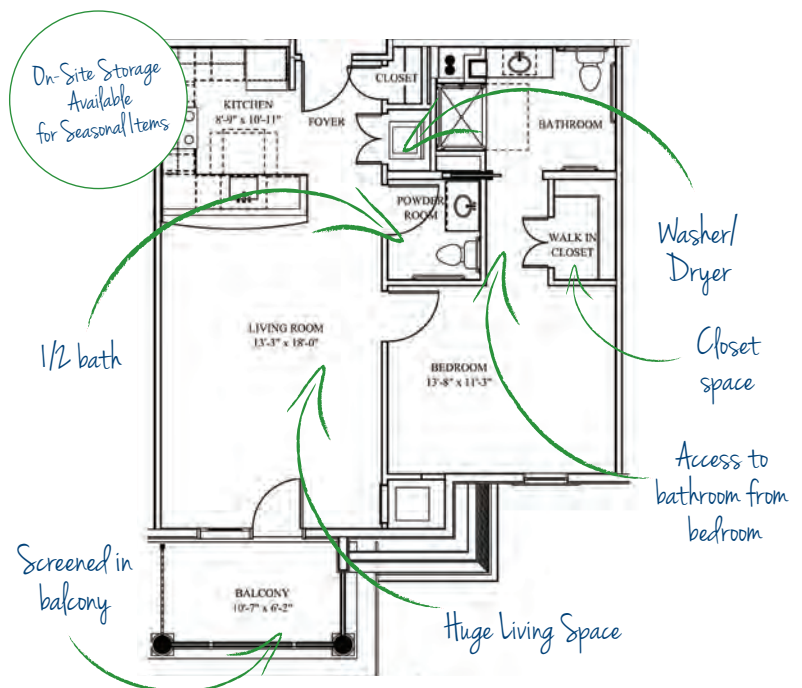
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Quilter's Masterpiece To Display At International Festival

By Judy Tacyn

I Dream in Orange and Blue," a handmade quilt by Arnold resident Julie Antinucci, has been selected into the International Quilt Festival to be held October 28-31 in Houston. To be accepted into the International Quilt Festival, quilters must apply and supply two photos. Antinucci said the field of quilts considered this year was especially large because the show was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

"This [festival] is the Super Bowl of quilting," said Antinucci, who has been quilting for nearly 20 years. "This is my first time having a quilt there but hopefully not the last."

To create "I Dream in Orange and Blue," Antinucci first had to develop an original pattern. After the initial sketch, which required a lot of math calculations, she often made modifications along the way. The finished quilt was first displayed at that Annapolis Quilt Guild Show in 2019, where it earned numerous awards including Best in Show.

"This quilt was just something for me that had been in my mind for a while," said Antinucci. "I make most quilts for other people, but this one is mine to keep."

The bright 55-by-55-inch work of art took two years to make. Antinucci also makes memory quilts, which are less intricate and take only a few weeks. She primarily works in bright colors and modern fabric, like



Julie Antinucci's handmade quilt was first displayed at the Annapolis Quilt Guild Show in 2019, where it earned numerous awards including Best in Show.

Kaffe Fassett, whose designs are colorful and funky.

Antinucci is an active member of the Annapolis Quilt Guild. For decades, the guild has held a June quilt show at Annapolis High School. Due to restrictions on large gatherings at public high schools, the

guild is looking for alternative venues in 2022.

To learn more about the International Quilt Festival, visit www.quilts.com/quilt-festival. To learn more about the Annapolis Quilt Guild, shows and membership, visit www.annapolisquiltguild.org.

The Triumphant Return Of Live Shows In The Area

By Liz Grier

After a long hiatus, live music and performances have returned. These are some of the most anticipated shows coming to the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area this fall.

Dave Grohl: The Storyteller

— October 7

Rock and roll royalty and 16-time Grammy award-winning musician Dave Grohl (Foo Fighters, Nirvana) will be at the Lincoln Theatre in Washington D.C. on October 7 in support of his new book, "The Storyteller." The book focuses on Grohl's life on the road as a musician and chronicles his impressive coming-of-age story that begins with his childhood, growing up in Springfield, Virginia, and follows his musical journey to becoming one of music's most influential and recognizable icons. Tickets are available at www.thelincolndc.com.

"Romeo and Juliet"

— October 8 to October 31



Classic Theatre of Maryland is back this October with the quintessential Shakespeare classic "Romeo and Juliet."

Formerly known as the Annapolis Shakespeare Theatre, Classic Theatre of Maryland is back this October with the quintessential Shakespeare classic "Romeo and Juliet." A fresh retelling of the beautifully complicated tragedy runs from October 8 through October 31. Tickets can be purchased online at www.classictheatremaryland.org or by calling the box office at 410-415-3513.

New Found Glory

— October 9

Pop-punk band New Found Glory will play at Baltimore's Rams Head Live! on October 9. Kids of the early 2000s can happily relive their angsty youths with one of the era's most popular bands. With songs like "Hit or Miss" and "My Friends Over You," New Found Glory has been a staple in the pop-punk scene for over two decades. Tickets can be purchased at www.axs.com/events/403480/new-found-glory-tickets.

"Hadestown"



Photo courtesy of Matthew Murphy

The critically acclaimed musical "Hadestown" will grace the stage at the Kennedy Center this October.

— October 13 to October 31

Winner of eight 2019 Tony awards including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy award for Best Musical Theater Album, "Hadestown" will grace the stage at the Kennedy Center this October. The critically acclaimed musical follows the epic love story of Orpheus and Eurydice and their journey to the underworld, where they encounter King Hades and his wife, Persephone. Singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell and director Rachel Chavkin's masterpiece will run from October 13 through October 31. Tickets for "Hadestown" can be purchased at www.kennedy-center.org.

Trevor Noah

— October 15

Comedian Trevor Noah will perform at

Capital One Arena in Washington D.C. on October 15. Host of "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central, Noah is well known for his political commentary and will do his standup act in support of his "Back To Abnormal" tour. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster.

All Things Go

— October 16

The All Things Go Music Festival is back this fall at Merriweather Post Pavilion. Headliners include female heavy hitters Haim, St. Vincent, and Charlie XCX. General admission tickets are available for both the lawn and under the pavilion. The festival will have 16 artist performances stretched across two stages, including Merriweather's unique Chrysalis stage that sits nestled into Columbia's Symphony Woods. All Things Go will take place Saturday, October 16. Tickets are available at www.allthingsgofestival.com/tickets.

The Marshall Tucker Band

— October 25

Southern rock group The Marshall Tucker Band will perform at Maryland Hall in Annapolis on October 25. MTB, having formed in 1972, have an impressive catalog of music that spans across more than 20 studio albums and several live releases. Typical setlists include "Heard It In A Love Song," "Can't You See" and "Fire On The Mountain." Tickets are available for purchase through the Rams Head box office at 410-268-4545 or online at www.ramsheadpresents.com.

Shovels and Rope

— November 3

Folk rock duo Shovels and Rope will perform at Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis on Thursday, November 3. Fans of rootsy Americana music will be pleased with this husband-and-wife act. Tickets are available by calling 410-268-4545 or by visiting www.ramsheadonstage.com/events.



Fans of rootsy Americana music will enjoy husband-and-wife act Shovels and Rope at Rams Head On Stage.

John Fogerty

— November 14

Creedence Clearwater Revival's John Fogerty will come to Washington, D.C. on November 14. The show will take place at The Anthem. Back in January, Fogerty released "Weeping in the Promised Land," which sounds like a protest song. This is the first single released by the CCR leader in over eight years and follows Fogerty's 2020 family band album of covers, playfully titled "Fogerty's Factory." Tickets for John Fogerty at The Anthem can be purchased at www.theanthemdc.com.

Dinosaur Jr.

— November 16

Grungy alt-rockers Dinosaur Jr. will take the stage on November 16 at DC's 9:30 Club. Fans will be happy to celebrate the release of the band's 12th studio album, "Sweep It Into Space," which features the original trio J Mascis, Lou Barlow and Murph. The band also recently released a documentary, "Freakscene," which documents the long and tumultuous career of the band through the grunge scene of the '90s and the aftermath of breaking up and ultimately reuniting. Tickets for the show can be acquired at www.930.com.

With different restrictions throughout the area, attendees should be prepared to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and/or negative COVID-19 test results within 72 hours of the event, in addition to any mask mandates.

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Faith's Palette Art Studio Brings Flair To Cape St. Claire



Faith's Palette Art Studio, located on East College Parkway in Annapolis, hosts classes, workshops, themed birthday parties and other events.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Opening a business during a pandemic isn't always a recipe for success, but Faith's Palette Art Studio has found a niche in Cape St. Claire.

Kimberly Bryson and Jeff Thropp, parents of a 13-year-old daughter named Faith, opened the studio when they found a need in the community.

"We wanted to have a creative arts venue in the community because people can go to Chinquapin Round Road or Maryland Hall, but there is nothing in Cape St. Claire," Thropp said.

The studio hosts classes, workshops, themed birthday parties and other

events, with the goal of bringing color to the community.

"We want to encourage young artists and we ask them what they want to do," Thropp said. "It's more of an open theme. Maybe you don't want to paint that island scene. We had one event where the teens wanted to paint shoes."

One of the couple's long-term goals is to offer the 3,200-square-foot studio as a space where youth can perform in theater productions. Until then, artists of all kinds can explore their natural talents in a safe and fun environment. The studio also has a game room with an air hockey table and games.

To learn more, visit www.faithspaletteartstudio.com.

A Stellar Farewell For Bond

» **Continued from page 42**

self-congratulatory nostalgia fest. There are island views and a mad scientist/terrorist with vague plans of world destruction, reminiscent of the very first Bond film, "Dr. No." There are the standard gadgets, the souped-up Aston Martin, the animated opening sequence set to haunting music (Billie Eilish sings a sad, languishing tune that pairs beautifully with Sam Smith's "Writing on the Wall"). There's the incredulous, hurried plot with a thousand moving pieces, though thankfully it was remotely followable this time — a welcome contrast to "Spectre." However, it was the new and surprising moves from director Cary Fukunaga that will make "No Time to Die" so memorable.

We are presented with a raw and vulnerable Bond we have never seen before. Craig's rendition of Bond has always been, in my opinion, the most realistic one — a damaged man who has experienced serious trauma and the loss of those most important to him, a man who has stoically buried his pain, a man who has "spent a lifetime running." I imagine that only a person with few personal attachments and little left to lose would take on the dangerous and demanding job of being an MI6 agent. Finally, Bond is forced to reconcile with his past, for good — we first saw hints of this in "Skyfall," but for the first time, we see Bond having to come to terms with who he is and who he loves, finally resolving unspoken betrayals that trace all the way

back to "Casino Royale," the first of the Craig Bond films.

There have been rumors that the next 007 will be a Black woman, and this has been met with much consternation in Britain. Without giving anything away, "No Time to Die" laid down sufficient narrative runway for there to be a female 007 in a way that is believable, and I am excited to see whether the franchise chooses to build on that groundwork. Craig had also done press conferences where he discussed Bond in the "Me Too" era — and I questioned how this would work. Bond girls are an integral part of Bond lore, and I wasn't sure how to exactly remove the underlying sexism without completely altering the character. Somehow, "No Time to Die" snuck in a Bond girl without the misogyny and I didn't notice until after I left the theater.

In this way, the film manages to modernize Bond in such a subtle and artful way that the audience hardly even realizes it is happening. The core of Bond's character remains, but the tone has shifted — even the black and white, good vs. evil, British vs. the bad guy strand has become more modern. M laments in one monologue that it's hard to even tell who the enemy is anymore — everything has become so amorphous.

"No Time to Die" manages to be hokey, funny, nostalgic, groundbreaking, and deeply moving all at the same time, and is a fitting tribute and end to the era of Daniel Craig.



Comic-Con Returns To Baltimore

By Dave Topp

“America’s greatest comic book convention” returns to Baltimore this month. The 2021 Baltimore Comic-Con is set to take place October 22-24 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Preparing for its 21st year in Charm City, the famed comic book convention was canceled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Represented among the many invited guests are some artists with ties to Maryland.

Frank Cho, who grew up in Beltsville and now resides in Ellicott City, is better known for his creation and illustration of “Liberty Meadows.” Cho has also worked with Marvel Comics on titles including “Hulk” and “The Mighty Avengers.”

Famed comic book writer Frank Miller will join the convention exclusively on Saturday. Miller, who was born in Olney, has worked on comic series such as “Daredevil,” “The Dark Knight Returns,” “Sin City” and “300.”

Westminster native Mark Wheatley has worked on several series, namely “Songs of Giants,” “Doctor Cthulittle” and “Tarzan and the Dark Heart of Time.”

Comic book and superhero fans will have over 100 guest artists to meet, purchase work from, sign autographs and take pictures with. It should be noted that certain artists are available only through additional ticket purchases.

This year’s convention will also welcome media guests Susan Backlinie, from the original “Jaws” film, and Noah Hathaway from “The NeverEnding Story” and “Battlestar Galactica.”

Tickets to the convention are available at www.baltimorecomiccon.com and may be purchased in person at the Baltimore Convention Center. The convention center is located at 1 West Pratt Street in Baltimore.

In coordination with the Baltimore City mask mandate, all attendees will be required to wear an approved mask or face covering, as well as provide proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of admission.



Photos courtesy of John Milewski

Comic book and superhero fans will have over 100 guest artists to meet, purchase work from, sign autographs and take pictures with.

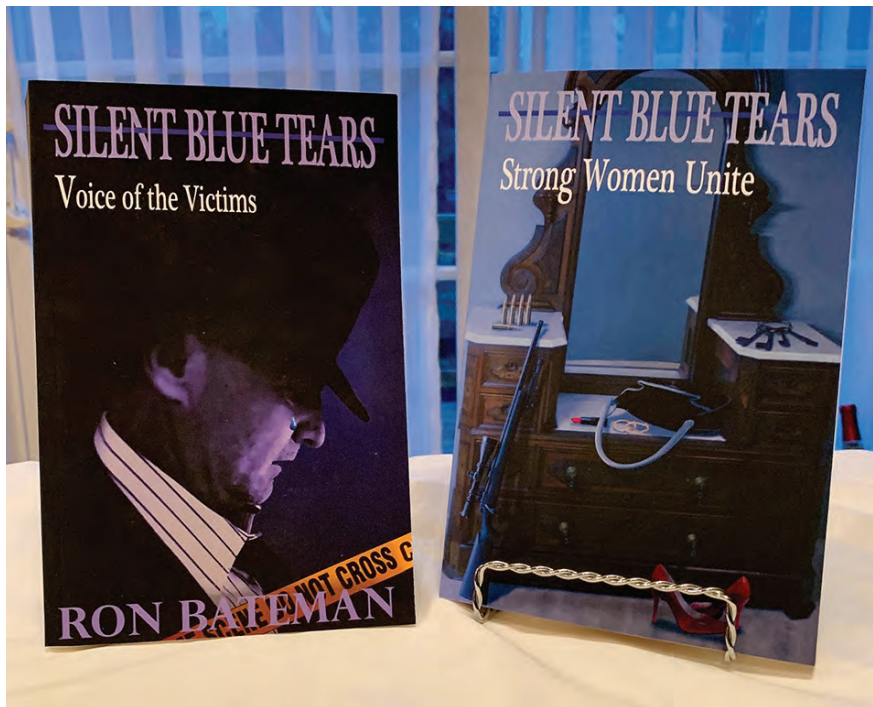
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Former Sheriff Publishes Sequel To “Silent Blue Tears”



Following resounding five-star reviews on Amazon and social media, retired homicide detective and former sheriff Ron Bateman released the second book in his “Silent Blue Tears” crime fiction series. “Strong Women Unite” finds Detective Ronnie Michaels and his colleagues from the elite homicide unit in a spellbinding joint investigation with the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division. What begins as a horrific attack on the Fort Meade Army base turns into a senseless murder off military property to silence a victim. Good old-fashioned police work, coupled with modern forensics, brings both agencies together as they pursue the same suspects. In the end, strong women persevere and make a difference.

The Final Stage Of France-Merrick Performing Arts Center Construction

Revitalization Project To Renovate M&T Bank Pavilion Set To Begin This Fall

The Hippodrome Foundation Inc. (HFI) is commencing with a \$18.6 million renovation and revitalization project of the M&T Bank Pavilion at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center in Baltimore. The M&T Bank Pavilion project marks the final phase of the renovation of the complex and will convert the currently underutilized space into one of Maryland’s newest state-of-the-art, flexible community event and performance spaces.

Construction is expected to commence this fall and will take 13 months. When complete in early 2023, the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center – home to the new M&T Bank Pavilion and the Hippodrome Theatre – will seat more than 3,200 people, collectively, host hundreds of events per year, accommodate a number of touring and regionally produced productions and become a center for community events.

“The Hippodrome Theatre has provided millions of quality-of-life experiences for Maryland residents by bringing Broadway close to home, providing

an economic boost for the state and city and serving as an arts education anchor for the tens of thousands of students we’ve helped over the past 16 years,” said Wally Pinkard, chairman of HFI. “Virtually all of these opportunities have been provided at no cost to the students. This new space will allow the foundation to provide even more educational programming and diverse arts presentations while offering an accessible, more affordable rental space for smaller cultural organizations. It’s a winner.”

HFI has selected Whiting-Turner as the construction company of record, and major contributors include the State of Maryland, the France-Merrick Foundation, the Abell Foundation, M&T Bank as well as several local foundations, corporate and individual supporters.

“The new M&T Bank Pavilion will be the perfect complement to the crown jewel that is the Hippodrome Theatre,” said Olive Waxter, executive director of HFI. “We’re thrilled to have a new space to expand our services to the community.”

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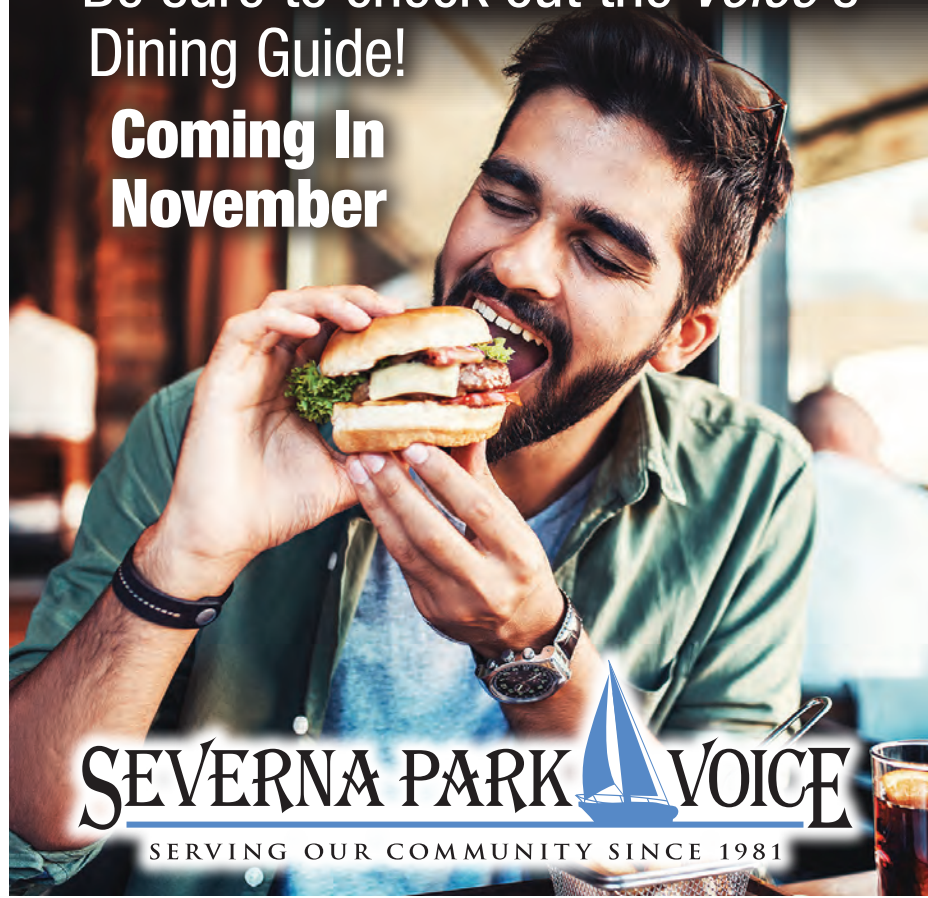
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Squisito Pizza And Pasta

» Continued from page 42

the veggies and meat well.

The bacon and chicken with white sauce was more savory and quite flavorful. The meaty flavor was enhanced by the rich undertones of the creamy white sauce, so the pizza felt like more of a decadent experience. My meat-loving husband would approve of this one.

You'll get filled up quickly after one slice of the deep-dish sausage and pepperoni pizza. The crust is perfectly brown on the bottom and pillowy soft on the inside, exactly what you want from a deep-dish pizza. I didn't feel like there was as much flavor with this pizza, but the sweet sauce did compliment the meats well.

The real issue with all three slices was the temperature — the slices were lukewarm, not bubbling hot. This left the vegetables a bit on the soggy side; I believe this could be easily remedied by asking the front wait staff to heat it up more (something I plan to do on my next visit).

Actually, our final slice was pepperoni, and it was put in later (one of the kids decided he wanted old-fashioned pepperoni). This slice came out much hotter than the others, and it made a huge difference in the taste and texture; it seemed the first few pieces were taken out a little too soon.

Our salad was a standard house variety — nothing special but not lacking either. The colorful, crunchy vegetable array included lettuce, pepperoncini, olives, cucumbers, red onions, tomatoes and a tasty house vinaigrette.

I've always felt that you need a side salad when you're enjoying Italian food — probably to atone, in some small way, for all the carbohydrates you down during a visit like this.

The ravioli will give you the classic cheese and marinara fix you're looking for. They are what I would describe as a "standard" pasta dish — soft dough filled with ricotta and mozzarella and covered in marinara sauce (the sauce on this dish didn't seem as sweet as the sauce on the pizza, so if you like a different kind of sauce, you may go for this).

Our Italian cold cut sub was outstanding. The crunch of onions, sweet peppers, shredded lettuce, tomato, and (at my request) extra hot on top of sliced deli meat hit the spot. The bread was chewy and crusty in the best way. This was one of the best subs I've had in a long time; it took

me back to my teen years when I used to walk to the local deli in Pasadena.

We wrapped up our meal with a creamy Italian favorite, tiramisu. Layers of fresh, sweet cream atop mouthwatering espresso-soaked ladyfingers made me feel like I was having dessert in an expensive downtown Italian restaurant. I am very particular when it comes to my tiramisu (so many restaurants serve it soggy or overly sweet), but this one exceeded my expectations.

Lastly, I want to comment on the gluten-free pizza. I have a grandson with Celiac disease, so eating out at any restaurant, especially at a pizza place, can be a challenge. Fair warning, there is no guarantee that cross contamination will not occur (just like in any restaurant). I called ahead of time to make sure that the staff would be able to prepare and cook this specialty item separately. After consulting with a manager, they promised they would be careful and handle everything separately.

My grandson has had some bad experiences with gluten-free pizza before, but he said he really liked it this time. It came in a distinct aluminum pan, so I felt confident that the staff designated all the gluten-free ingredients to be separate. We usually choose to go to places like this at off-times when he is with us, as the staff has more of a chance to keep ingredients separate from flour-contaminated items.

I went back to order a whole Squisito pizza to take home and asked them to bake it a bit longer, which they were happy to do. The pizza was perfect, and my son said it's the best pizza he's had in a long time.

The entire bill came to about \$85, not bad for that amount of food. We enjoyed our food, our time together, and leftovers for a couple of days. What more can you ask for?

Where To Find SQUISITO PIZZA AND PASTA

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Ballet Theatre Of Maryland

» Continued from page 42

livestreamed programming. This season, we are thrilled to continue offering a stream-from-home option as we return to mainstage productions in traditional theater venues."

Providing a streaming option to both season subscribers and single-ticket holders allows BTM to maintain arts accessibility no matter an audience member's comfort level. For in-person performances, dancers and audience members will continue to follow all local and venue safety guidelines.

The season opened September 12 with a variety of classical pas de deux during "An Afternoon of Romance" at Hammond-Harwood House. From October 22-24, the curtain will rise at

Maryland Hall for "Giselle," one of the most popular romantic ballets of all time. "The Nutcracker," with choreography by former artistic director Dianna Cuatto, will provide magic and wonder to the holiday season December 11-12 and December 18-19 at Maryland Hall.

In 2022, "Momentum" will feature a mix of newly commissioned and existing classical and contemporary works on February 25 and 26. Lastly, the company will perform the sentimentally comedic "Coppélia" on April 22-23. To reserve tickets to all these productions at a discounted price, purchase a season subscription for in-person or streamed viewing. Visit www.balletmaryland.org to learn more about BTM's season and its subscriptions.

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



renewing members for keeping us "Chamber Strong!"

Our wellness committee presented "Creating a Work/Life Balance When Caring for a Loved One with Alzheimer's" with guest speaker Ellen Torres, program director of the **Alzheimer's Association of Greater Maryland**. Ellen provided invaluable advice on handling this difficult life situation.

Our monthly cookout at the chamber was sponsored by the **SPACC Business Builders Group**. This 30-members-strong group meets weekly to build relationships, provide referrals and support one another. In addition to the members of the group, a special thanks goes to **Bruster's Real Ice Cream** for providing dessert, **Leave Dinner to Lettie** for the delicious salad and baked beans, and Pam Negron of the **Negron Farmers Insurance Agency** for the freshly popped corn.

On Monday, September 27, we held our annual Driving Force for Business golf tournament at the gorgeous **Chartwell Golf and Country Club**. The weather was perfect, and the greens were in superb shape for this sold-out event. The tournament was sponsored by the wonderful **Live! Casino and Hotel**.

Golfers were treated to **Chick-fil-A** breakfast sandwiches upon arrival and enjoyed libations at the **Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium** hospitality tent. At noon, play began with a "shotgun" start, and as golfers made the rounds, they enjoyed snacks from sponsors **Bank of Glen Burnie** and **Meridiem DermSpa**, and drinks from sponsors **PERSICO Asset Management** and **SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park**. Freshly grilled hot dogs were provided by **Emerald Financial Partners**, and ice cream and beer by **Fellner Legal Services**. Around the corner was the **Reliant Management** tent providing more libations.

Specialty holes included the lon-

gest drive, closest to the pin, best overall (first, second and third) and the putting contest.

Chick-fil-A provided its giant inflatable cow on the driving range for a contest, offering 15 sandwiches to each winner who "hit the cow." **M&T Bank** had a closest-to-the-pin contest and gave away a signed football by a Ravens player.

Wilkins Buick sponsored a hole-in-one contest offering a new car to the winner. No lucky person this year, but someday someone will score!

Eagle sponsors included **Alexander Animal Hospital**, **KMA Law Office**, **Steak n' Shake**, **Garry's Grill**, **Moran Insurance**, **Rosso Commercial Real Estate** and **Chick-fil-A**. Sponsoring the foursome photos was **Barranco Funeral Home and Cremation Services**, and the photographer was Laura Weigmann of **Laura's Eyes Photography**. Our sign sponsor was **Signarama**, **Glen Burnie**, and our goodie bag sponsor was **Bernward Construction Mechanical**. Par sponsors included **Severna Park Lanes**, **Griswold Home Care**, **Arundel Federal Savings Bank**, **Broadleaf Tobacco** and the **Severna Park Community Center**.

Landmark Roofing sponsored the pro shot, where golfers could purchase the opportunity to use a shot hit by the pro rather than their own. Proceeds benefited the **Wellness House of Annapolis**, a nonprofit helping people who are living with cancer. Over \$1,500 was raised at the tournament, and **Landmark Roofing** gave a matching donation.

Fabulous volunteers included Tommy Sommers of **LogoZone Promotions**, Crystal and Robert Gazic of **Severn Bank**, Lou Facciponti of **Lighthouse Insurance**, Faith Burns of **Mid-Atlantic Settlement Services**, Selby Scaggs of **MWE Partnership**, Dana Eckert of **The Bank of Glen Burnie** and Kevin Murnane of **SERVPRO**.

Thanks to Chartwell for making this a fantastic event enjoyed by all!

Congratulations to the tournament winners:

First Place –

The Voice Media

Second Place –

Charter Financial Services

Third Place –

Moran Insurance

A ribbon cutting celebration was held for **SPAN** as the recipient of a new porch roof from

» Continued on page 59

Kitchen Encounters Marks 40th Year In Annapolis



Cindi and Mark White, owners of Kitchen Encounters, have won many awards over the years, and this year they are celebrating their 40th anniversary.

A family owned business since 1981, Kitchen Encounters is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Situated in the heart of the Annapolis Design District, Kitchen Encounters has earned a reputation for exquisite designs and exceptional customer service, boasting a staff of National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) certified kitchen and bath designers (CKBD) and certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designers.

Mark White, who was born and raised in Annapolis, established Kitchen Encounters in 1981. After four decades as a small business in the Maryland capital, the enterprise is still known for quality products and unique, creative designs, having received many design awards and having projects appear on HGTV and featured in national and regional publications.

"It's hard to believe it's been 40

» Continued on page 55

Breaking Down The 529 Plan

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
at Premier
Planning Group



in the world. My parents, on the other hand, were trying to figure out ways to help me pay for my college experience. One of the tools were loans. In fact, I just paid off my student loans!

While I am proud of this accomplishment, there are other ways to foot the bill — 529 plans are used now to help my clients pay for their children or grandchildren's college. They've been used in this capacity since 1996. The idea is simple. You put a certain amount of after-tax dollars away into the 529 for a period of

I love the fall because of football, and it reminds me of going back to college and how exciting of a time that was after a summer of hard work. I loved driving back to college in late August without a care

time and it grows tax-deferred using mutual funds or other investments. When it comes time to pay tuition, you can withdraw the fund — including the gains — tax-free if it's used for qualified educational expenses. If not used for educational purposes, the withdrawal will be taxable and incur a 10% penalty.

Congress has expanded the definition of qualified educational expenses to not only include college tuition, room and board, course books, etc., but now you can use the funds for private elementary, middle and high school tuition. You can even use 529 money to pay off student loans. In addition to traditional education, you can use the funds for cooking classes, language classes, or even train for a new career from an accredited institution. There is a new exception where if a child is awarded scholarships, one can withdraw the equivalent 529 amount and not incur the 10% penalty.

Most people are aware of these 529 basics. An additional opportu-

» Continued on page 55

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Three-2 Health & Fitness Trainer Brandy Sears Helps Clients Feel Their Best

By Zach Sparks

Brandy Sears almost pursued a career in nursing because she has a strong passion for helping people. Instead, she ventured into health and fitness, another passion that also allows her to make a daily difference in the lives of others.

"I have been a certified personal trainer for six years and I have always been driven as far as health and fitness," Brandy said. "I love helping others to achieve their goals and helping to change their mindsets."

Helping older individuals is especially rewarding for Brandy.

"I enjoy building connections with all of my clients while helping them build confidence in themselves," she said. "Evaluations from my clients emphasize their appreciation for my way of training as well as my communication skills. My clients compliment my way of training as well as my communication skills, which are very important in this position."

When she is training with her senior clients especially, Brandy states, "It's important to make it a priority in reminding older clients that it isn't about what they can't do, rather, finding what they are capable of."

"A client may come into the studio firsthand, feeling uncertain of their fitness abilities, but they will always leave feeling secure and confident in what they've accomplished," she added.



Brandy starts new clients with a baseline assessment. Modifications are then made to design individualized exercises to meet their needs.

"Classes start with the basics and then we go from there," Brandy said.

A maximum of three people are in a group, offering each client individual time to address their needs. A small group naturally creates a fun atmosphere for everyone. No matter each person's prior fitness experience, Brandy can

help them reach their short-term and long-term goals.

The senior program focuses on flexibility, mobility, and functional training.

"Some trainers have very specific methods," Brandy said.

"Amongst all the different ways to train, these classes focus on functional training. We never have the same workout twice, and we always focus on the whole body. It's not about how much weight you can push or move but how functional your body is in motion."

"It's fun, positive, creative and upbeat," she said. "We work hard but can also have a good time."

Three-2 Fitness is located at 770 Governor Ritchie Highway, Suite W11, in Severna Park. Contact Brandy Sears for availability and to book a session.

To learn more, visit www.three2healthandfitness.com or follow the trainers on Facebook and Instagram @three2healthfitness.



Certified personal trainer Brandy Sears helps individuals adopt a positive mindset, allowing them to reach their health and fitness goals.

Himmel's Specializes In Customer Service And Community Support

By Haley Weisgerber

Elizabeth Elliott had the unique experience of knowing what she wanted to be when she grew up while she was working at one of her first jobs as a young adult. She worked at Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center and quickly realized that one day she would love to own the business.

"I was always fascinated by it," said Elliott. "I started working here and came to realize that I love plants, I love landscaping, and mostly, I love creating relationships with my customers."

She was inspired to start her own landscaping business, Sunnyscapes, and then spent 18 years in the corporate world. Almost 20 years after Elliott left Himmel's, Steve, the founder, called Elliott because he was interested in selling and remembered her dream of one day taking over. On August 1, 2018, Elliott officially achieved her goal of owning Himmel's.

"We are 100 percent woman owned and operated," said Elliott. "And we are all very proud of that. We have a lot of women employees here, including some of our landscape install crew. Two of them are women!"

Elliott now works hard to ensure that Himmel's is a valuable asset within the community. Himmel's partners with many nonprofits such as ClearShark H2O, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Anne Arundel County Public Library, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, and so many more.

"It's very important to the foundation of this business that we're not just here to sell plants," said Elliott. "We are here to improve the community and create meaningful relationships."

Himmel's has two departments — retail and landscaping. The retail department offers bulk and bagged mulch and soils, sod and seed, stone and concrete,

Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center owner Elizabeth Elliott credited her staff for the business' success. Himmel's has all types of plants, from native trees and shrubs to perennials, annuals and even succulents.



garden decor and seasonal decorations. The center has all types of plants, from native trees and shrubs to perennials and annuals and even succulents. The landscaping department offers full-service design and installation, maintenance, restoration, patios, fire pits, custom-built garden beds and chicken coops, and more.

"Some of our customers have very unique and even outrageous ideas, and we do whatever we can to help bring their vision to reality," said Elliott.

One of the most important things to Elliott is encouraging the use of native plants for pollinators and for improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay and local waterways.

"Our landscape design incorporates plant material that will be deer resistant, drought tolerant, wind tolerant; specimens that will survive and thrive here in our environment," said Elliott. "The bay-friendly landscape design concept is something that we're really focused on because the small steps truly impact the health of the environment on a larger scale."

Elliott said that what sets the landscaping depart-

ment apart is the crew's commitment to executing each installation with courtesy, professionalism, and attention to even the smallest details. She started with seven employees and has grown her team to include 31 employees. Elliott said her staff manager, Rudy "The Legend" Rivenburg, has taken a group that was already fantastic and transformed them into a close-knit team dedicated to Himmel's goal to foster healthy plants and contribute to a happy community. She said all the businesses' success is thanks to the staff.

"People come in here and say that I've transformed this place, or that it looks amazing," said Elliott. "It's not me. It is my employees working tirelessly to not only make the place look beautiful, but to create a welcoming atmosphere every single day."

Elliott wants Himmel's to be the first place that comes to mind for all garden and landscaping needs.

"I want everyone in Anne Arundel County to know about Himmel's. To know that they can come here and have all their landscaping and gardening needs met," said Elliott. "Whether it's a first-time gardener who wants to try just a pot of herbs or a gardener who's been doing it for decades, we welcome everyone to share in our mission of creating a better world."

Himmel's is located at 4374 Mountain Road in Pasadena. For more information, visit www.himmelsgardencentermid.com or call 410-324-2064.



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By HHHunt

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Breaking Down The 529 Plan

» Continued from page 51

nity with 529s can be used in estate planning. "It's probably the most underutilized estate planning technique," Bruce Weininger, a Chicago certified public accountant and financial planner, said in a Barron's article. "It is essentially a revocable, irrevocable gift."

The gift tax exemption is \$15,000 per person per year, and the law allows for each 529 account owner to pay up to five years' contribution up front without triggering gift taxes. As a result, a couple can contribute up to \$150,000 per beneficiary in one fell swoop. There is no limit to the number of 529s you can have. In other words, if you have 10 grandchildren, you can open an account for each grandchild with \$150,000. The annual gift tax is currently set at \$11.7 million per person, so a family with an estate at \$13 million could put \$1.3 million in 529 accounts to be below the gift tax exclusion and the beneficiaries for those accounts pay zero tax if used for qualified educational expenses.

A major benefit to all of this is that you could easily change the beneficiary on 529s if the new beneficiary is in the same family. In other words, you could transfer beneficiary from brother to sister or cousin to cousin. Since you can use the account now for educational expenses beyond higher education, you have essentially established an educational trust for your heirs, all tax free.

President Joe Biden and his administration are considering raising taxes, and the estate tax is certainly a topic up for discussion. I have heard estimates lowering the estate tax exemption to \$5 million or even as low as \$3.5 million. What does that mean? That means every dollar above those thresholds is eligible for an

estate tax at your death. The current threshold is at \$11.7 million, which, for most Americans, is more than enough not to qualify for estate taxes. If that's lowered to \$3.5 million, that will cause millions of Americans to look for ways to lower their estate. The 529 is a great way to do that.

In my opinion, the key to all of this is the fact that Congress has expanded how 529s can be used. I have many clients who worry about their children or grandchildren getting scholarships, going into the military, attending trade schools or even no college at all. With the rising cost of a university education, many are wondering if it's even worth it. If the 529 is not used for qualified expenses, you pay income tax and a 10% penalty on the withdrawals. What tax bracket is a college-age person going to be in? My guess is that it would be fairly low, so if the 529 accounts are withdrawn and they are in a 15% tax bracket along with a 10% penalty, they would pay a 25% tax to access these funds. That still is a fairly low tax rate to gain access to potentially millions of dollars. Coming from my middle-class background, that sounds like a pretty good deal to me.

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Kitchen Encounters Marks 40th Year In Annapolis

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years since I started Kitchen Encounters as a small custom countertop shop in a rented basement," White said. "My first delivery was in a 1967 Volkswagen microbus on which I stenciled 'Kitchen Encounters' over gray primer. I moved into selling cabinetry a year or two later and have loved it ever since. The most important thing to me has always been to do everything we can to make sure our clients are happy with the Kitchen Encounters experience."

White has many lifelong ties to the community. His great-grandfather owned a home goods store locally for many years, which is how White learned that building strong relationships with clients and other businesses would be a key to success.

"We have worked hard to build and maintain these relationships and our reputation of being one of the best in our field in Central

Maryland," he said. "I'm proud we have survived through years that included many ups and downs. I owe it all to the support of my family and friends."

The Kitchen Encounters team bases its designs on the simple premise that client-involved designs lead to greater satisfaction.

"Our interactive design process, developed by Mark, ensures that comfort, beauty and function merge successfully in the remodeling or new construction experience," said Cathy Terranova, sales manager at Kitchen Encounters. "By using numerous sketches to illustrate design possibilities, clients are able to identify features that fit their lifestyle. When working with Kitchen Encounters, our clients work with the entire team, not just an individual."

For more information on Kitchen Encounters, visit www.kitchenencounters.biz.

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Ranking Your Goals: A Smart Move

Brian M. Conrad
CFP, Financial
Advisor



Like most people, you may have several financial goals. But can you reach them all?

It would be simple if you had great wealth. But you'll likely need to rank your goals in terms of their

importance to your life and then follow appropriate strategies to achieve them. By doing so, you may end up getting close to covering each of your objectives, in one way or another.

When prioritizing your goals, consider following this process:

Identify goals as "must have" or "nice to have." Making sure you don't outlive your resources is a must-have goal, so you need to be as certain as possible of achieving it. On the other hand, a nice-to-have goal might be something like buying a vacation home. If you don't attain the money needed for this goal, you do have room to compromise, perhaps by scaling down to a smaller home in a different area or just renting a place for a few weeks a year. Having this flexibility can provide a psychological benefit, too. Since this goal doesn't have an

either-or outcome, you won't have to feel that you failed if you don't get the big vacation home — instead, you can still enjoy the results of your investment efforts, even at a more modest scale.

Put "price tags" on your goals. You need to know what your goals will cost. Even if you can only make an estimate, it's essential to have some figure in mind. As time goes by, you can always revise your projected costs. To arrive at these price tags, you may want to work with a financial professional who has the tools and technology to create hypothetical illustrations and scenarios.

Follow an appropriate strategy. The nature of your goals and their estimated cost will drive your investment strategy. So, for example, using the must-have goal mentioned above — the need to avoid outliving your money — you'll want to balance your growth objectives with your comfort with risk, as well as maintain an appropriate withdrawal strategy when you're retired. However, for a nice-to-have goal, such as your large vacation home, perhaps you don't need the same urgency — consequently, with part of your portfolio, you might be able to take more risk in hopes of greater returns. And if you fall short, you can always go with Plan B — for example, the smaller home or the rental experience. But if your "nice to have" is closer to a "must have"

in this area as well, you might want to focus less on achieving greater returns and instead look at ways of adjusting your budget to save more.

Monitor your results. As you pursue your goals, whether must-have or nice-to-have, you'll want to check your results regularly. If you think you're not making enough progress toward your desired goal, you may need to adjust. But don't overreact to short-term swings in the financial markets or in the value of your portfolio, or take on an inappropriate amount of risk. When trying to reach your goals, you can alter your path, but it's usually not a good idea to change directions altogether.

The decisions involved in iden-

tifying, prioritizing and achieving your goals can be somewhat involved. But by following a well-designed process, you can help yourself get to where you want to go.

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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Redmond Named Partner At Frame & Frame

Frame & Frame Attorneys at Law has recognized Erica Redmond, esquire, as a partner of the firm. For over 65 years, the law firm of Frame & Frame



Erica Redmond

has been serving the legal needs of the community, providing services, often to several generations of the same family, for thoughtful planning and during times of crises. Over the past seven years, Redmond has made significant contributions to the firm in a variety of roles. She will utilize this diverse experience to oversee day-to-day operations, lead firm growth initiatives, and nurture a strong culture of core values established by the firm. Redmond will continue to handle legal matters involving probate and estate administration, guardianship, family law, and auto accident cases.

"I am so pleased to recognize Erica as a partner in our firm," said Tara Frame, managing partner and CEO of the firm. "She embodies our firm's longstanding reputation, our commitment to the community and our core values. She brings a unique perspective to us for serving the needs of the next generation, many of whom are millennials and GenZ clients."

Redmond reflected on her legal career, saying, "When I first began

law school, I had my sights fixed on being a business lawyer. After an internship at the Baltimore Department of Social Services and at the U.S. Attorney's Office, I realized I would never be happy unless I could practice law in an area that I could help people. My experience at Frame & Frame has provided me unlimited personal and professional fulfillment and enabled me to truly make a difference in people's lives."

Frame & Frame Attorneys at Law has a rich local history. Vernon Frame, the founding partner, believed in helping the families in his community. Today, the firm practice areas include estate planning, probate and estate administration, elder law and personal injury.

"Our goal is to help safeguard peace and harmony in families by providing our clients with a smooth and seamless journey through their legal matter," Tara Frame said. "Erica really cares about her clients and treats them as part of the Frame & Frame family. She is kind and compassionate and able to put her clients at ease, often during the most difficult times of their lives. She has consistently excelled in terms of service excellence, her contribution to the firm's growth, investment in people, and expert knowledge. I look forward to continuing the rewarding work we do by helping guide families and acting as their lawyers and trusted advisors. It is a true privilege to work alongside Erica, knowing that she aligns so well with our core mission."

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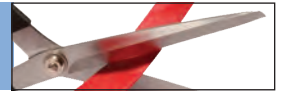
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JB's Bar & Grill Brings Brews And Bites To Severna Park



Photo by Larry Sells

A new family friendly sports restaurant and bar, JB's, held its official open house on September 16, welcoming the community to enjoy good bites, brews and ballgames. After a long process of getting county approval, the establishment was finally able to open in the Park Plaza shopping center at 566 Governor Ritchie Highway. Hours are 4:00pm-11:00pm Monday through Thursday, 11:00am-midnight Friday through Saturday, and 11:00am-11:00pm Sunday.

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 51

Landmark Roofing. What a great example of a local business supporting a community organization that helps people in need.

A ribbon-cutting was held in September to celebrate the opening of **JB's, Severna Park**. Owner Don Kelly told us about his vision to create a place for families to enjoy,

and the restaurant boasts 44 TVs for watching so many sports. We are so excited to have this new venue in our community!

A multi-chamber Successful Women in Business was held at **Yellowfin**. The keynote speaker was Linda Penkala, author of a book on women's heart health. Many thanks

to Jennifer McAndrews of **Synergy HomeCare** for sponsoring the event.

Plans are underway for our upcoming Shoptoberfest, to be held on October 23 from 11:00am to 3:00pm at Park Plaza. We will have entertainment, a costume contest for kids under 10 and dogs, a photo booth, games and much more.

Come out for a fun afternoon and meet the local business owners who make this the best place to live, work and play!

As always, 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.

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