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Sports Teams
Begin Playoffs
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NOVEMBER 2021

Ravens RISE High School Football Showdown Adds Excitement To Rivalry



Ravens quarterback Trace McSorley engaged with young fans during the Broadneck-Severna Park football game on October 15.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

With fireworks dotting the sky, a full stadium, and Ravens quarterback Trace McSorley and Baltimore's cheerleaders in attendance, the October 15 football matchup between Broadneck and Severna Park was more than a regular game.

The Bruins seized the win, 48-14, after the teams battled to a 14-14 tie at half, but players and fans of both teams benefited from the experience.

"It was like 'Friday Night Lights' with the Ravens and the fireworks," said Kevin Necessary, Broadneck High School's athletic director. "The Severna Park-Broadneck rivalry tends to bring out the best."

The Baltimore Ravens and *The Baltimore Sun* teamed up this year to present five games from different counties for the Ravens RISE High School Football Showdown. The Broadneck-Severna Park game was chosen by an online vote to represent Anne Arundel County in the fourth of five RISE showdowns.

The atmosphere was electric as the Ravens cheerleaders walked

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Infant Receives Life-Changing Liver Transplant

By Haley Weisgerber

Having a sick child is every parent's nightmare. Sean and Danielle Moore of Arnold were adjusting to life with a 2-year-old and an infant when that nightmare became their reality.

When their youngest son, Jonah, turned 2 months old, his parents noticed that he was starting to look yellow, become fussy and eat less. They brought these concerns to his doctor at his two-month checkup, and the nurses were immediately concerned by his color.

"Our pediatrician did an immediate blood test to check his bilirubin, and that

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Veterans Day Serves As Reminder Of Sacrifices Made Year-Round

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

When Veterans Day arrives on November 11, it will mark one of the few days each year

when Americans collectively think about military members and the sacrifices they have made for civilians here at home.

But just because November 11 serves as a day to honor veterans does not mean it should be the only such day. In that spirit, the *Voice* staff collected some new stories from veterans while also sharing memories from others who were previously highlighted in the newspaper.

Robert and Jonathan Higdon

Following his time at Severna Park High School, Robert Higdon was planning to go to a vocational-technical school to become an auto mechanic. Instead, he learned that a military reserve unit in Baltimore offered a welding program. Following in the steps of his

grandfather, who served in the Korean War, Robert joined the United States Marine Corps.

He was called to active duty in 2004 and was in Camp Fallujah in Iraq by 2005. Following a nine-month deployment, Robert earned a Combat Action Ribbon and then a Navy Achievement Medal. Robert said he saved another Marine's life, but as for the specific details, he prefers not to brag.

Robert said he was part of a civil affairs group that rebuilt schools and brought water to communities.

"Children made that place somewhat tolerable," he said. "In war, things get destroyed, whether by us or by the Taliban. We handed out soccer balls and candy, and we tried to do something positive."

Just a few years after he joined the Marine Corps, his brother, Jonathan, also enlisted. Jonathan ultimately spent most of his time in Japan.

"Being 18 years old and going all around the world was eye-opening," said Jonathan, whose occupation was logistics. "We were basically the UPS of the Marine Corps."

Perhaps the military's greatest gift to Johnathan was the relationships formed with people from all walks of life.

"I had people at my wedding who I would have never met," he said. "You develop relationships and it's a brotherhood that you have for life."

Robert and Jonathan currently work together for a fire protection company.

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Margueritte Mills Volunteer Of The Month

By Haley Weisgerber

Former art teacher Kathy Taylor spent her career serving youth as an educator, so it was only fitting that she would spend her retirement serving the community. For many years, Taylor has provided assistance to families in need by volunteering with SPAN.

In 2015, Taylor was looking for something to do, so she wandered into SPAN. Jennifer Pumphrey, the former director of operations at SPAN, invited her to spend the day at the nonprofit's office. Taylor said the experience changed her life.

"I saw how SPAN helped hard-working people escape an eviction," she explained. "I sat with people plagued with hardships that left their homes without power, and threats of water being turned off. I watched as SPAN paid for a needed prescription or helped with the doctor bill. I listened to stories that brought tears to my eyes."

Since that day, Taylor has been volunteering as an interviewer. Her job is to answer phones, find out what people may need, collect donations and paperwork, and so much more. She spends two days a week at SPAN from open to close. For reference, most volunteers work once or twice a month.

"Some days the phones are ringing off the hook and people are sitting out in the cars waiting their turn," said Taylor. "You might think the same way; you think we live in a very middle class, affluent area and it's hard to realize that there's so many people in our area in need."

Taylor has also become known for taking on extra projects and shifts and for using her expertise as a

Educator Dedicates Spare Time To SPAN



Kathy Taylor was nominated for the November Volunteer of the Month award by Maia Grabau for her dedication to SPAN.

former art teacher to create posters and signs. She also serves as the representative for Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, one of the 13 member churches that support SPAN.

Currently she is supporting the Holiday Caring program. During the holidays, SPAN will provide families in need with baskets of Thanksgiving dinners and assist with Christmas gifts for families with children. This program is open to anyone who received help from SPAN in 2020 or 2021, and families who have a child attending an area school.

As a retiree, Taylor is often asked why she doesn't work part-time. Her answer is simple.

"I get so much pay here. I have friends who retired that took jobs," said Taylor. "I just really wanted to volunteer, and I told them I get paid more than usual."

Taylor was nominated for Volunteer of the Month by Maia Grabau,

the current director of operations at SPAN, who spoke of Taylor's dedication to serving others and the organization.

"What makes her truly stand out is her sincere and deep compassion for people who are hurting," said Grabau. "She truly cares. She does not volunteer at SPAN to feel good about herself. She does not volunteer to fill her time or out of a sense of duty. She volunteers because she genuinely loves people and lives her life to serve others."

Along with her own nomination, Grabau included praise from Pumphrey and Ellen Kinsella, SPAN's former director of development, when suggesting Taylor for the recognition.

"Kathy Taylor exemplifies the spirit of SPAN," said Kinsella. "She often steps forward to volunteer if there is a last-minute opening or a special event requiring extra help. She goes the extra yard to try to help clients by coming up with innovative solutions and alternative resources."

Pumphrey spoke highly of Taylor and her dedication to each individual who comes to SPAN for help.

"Kathy understands that each client is unique," said Pumphrey. "She problem-solves to find the best way SPAN can help with each unique situation. She has educated herself on all of the available resources and policies of those resources so that she can share them with the clients."

Taylor said it meant a lot to her to be nominated by women she had worked with for many years.

"I'm so touched that they felt that way," said Taylor, "because I felt the same way about them, all of them."

SPHS Parents Plan Party For Officer Swartz



Following the retirement of school resource officer (SRO) Alex Swartz, parents of current and former Severna Park High School (SPHS) students have organized a celebration in his honor. All are welcome to attend the party on Saturday, November 20, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Severna Park Community Center.

As parents explained in a joint statement, "For 10 years, officer Swartz has been the SRO at SPHS. He deserves a super big sendoff for all his dedication, hard work, tears and joy for our Severna Park High School students!"



More content at
www.severnaparkvoice.com

There's been a surge in boating, but are stormier waters ahead? Boating, like many other industries, is suffering through item shortages.



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Does Your Child Wear Glasses?

New technologies may help to slow down their changing eyes!



For many people, glasses and contact lenses are an important part of life. It is estimated that roughly 30% of the population has myopia (nearsightedness). It is projected that by 2050, roughly 50% of the world's population will be myopic, with about 10% of the population being highly myopic. High myopia has been shown to be associated with increased risk of retinal detachment, macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma. By catching a child with changing vision and addressing it early, we can try to reduce risk of issues later in life!

As many children get older, their eyes grow too much and develop myopia. Traditionally, glasses or contact lenses are prescribed to correct blurry vision, but they do not stop the progression. By slowing down how much the eyes change, it is possible to reduce the prescription that would be needed as an adult.

The most common methods to slow myopic progression, called myopia control, are multifocal soft contact lenses, orthokeratology, and low-dose atropine eye drops.

Multifocal soft contact lenses are worn just as any other soft contact lens, but with differences in the design to slow progression of the child's



Severna Park
EYE CARE

worsening vision. One new design is the MiSight soft contact lens. This lens is a daily-disposable soft lens, like what many current contact lens wearers already use. This lens is FDA approved for use in children 8-12 years old at the start of treatment. It has been shown to reduce myopic progression up to 59% when compared to conventional soft contact lenses.

Orthokeratology, or ortho-k, is a procedure where one wears special contact lenses at night to gently reshape the cornea. The contact lens is removed each morning and the patient can see clearly, without glasses or contact lenses. Wearing these nighttime lenses is analogous to wearing a retainer for one's teeth. A common example of this is Paragon's CRT lens design.

Low-dose atropine eye drops have also been shown to help slow myopia progression. This method is common in younger children who cannot yet wear contact lenses.

All three of these methods can drastically reduce the prevalence of high myopia, which can be associated with eye disease later in life.

Interested in learning more? Severna Park Eye Care can be reached at (410) 544-7417 or at severnaparkeye.com to schedule a routine eye exam or myopia control consultation.

Anne Arundel County Council Votes To Replace Bay Bridge

The Anne Arundel County Council, by a vote of 6-1 on October 4, called for the State of Maryland to construct a replacement of the current two spans of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge with a single bridge in the same location.

The resolution called for a minimum of eight travel lanes to provide adequate capacity and dependable travel times. One week prior, Queen Anne's County passed Resolution 21.17, which aligns the two neighboring counties in this call to action.

"As the lead sponsor of the resolution, I feel confident that this is a significant moment for Anne Arundel County, a step toward traffic relief on our local roads so residents can move freely again," said Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler, who represents District 5, where the western landing of the Bay Bridge is located. "A third span at the current location, or an alternate location, will not fix traffic in the long term for either Anne Arundel or Queen Anne's County."

The Anne Arundel County Council previously passed Resolution 32-21, which asked the state to pause in the Bay Bridge Tier 1 study before determining a location of a third span. The passage of Resolution No. 49-21 marks support for finalizing the Tier 1 location decision with a full replacement at the existing location and encouraging the urgent funding of Tier 2 of the study, which will determine the scope and size of a replacement bridge. That study will also consider environmental features and state right of way.

"I am pleased with this collaborative



The Chesapeake Bay Bridge currently has two spans. The county council has voted in favor of one bridge.

effort that acknowledges the inevitable need to replace our aging bridge spans," said Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien, who represents District 6. "The proposal also leaves room for transit options that will help us address traffic and environmental impacts of travel across the Chesapeake Bay."

Councilman Nathan Volke, whose Pasadena district was under study for a new span of the Bay Bridge, added, "The challenges of locating a new bridge else-

where in Anne Arundel County are nearly impossible. The council's actions demonstrate a clear desire to protect existing communities throughout the county, at the existing site and beyond."

Resolution 49-21 requests immediate funding of Tier 2 of the Environmental Impact Study, required by the federal government in order for federal funds to be released for a capital project. Governor Larry Hogan is set to announce his budget proposal in January.

Hogan has said that the only solution he will accept is a third span of the Bay Bridge. Michael Ricci, the director of communications for the governor's office, said there is room for compromise.

"We consider this important progress, since it shows that the counties recognize the need to do something about the traffic on the Bay Bridge," Ricci said. "What form that solution takes will be determined down the line through further study."

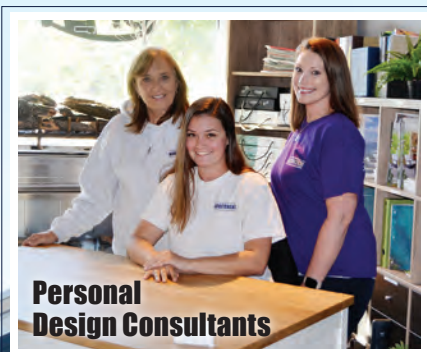


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Veterans Day Serves As Reminder Of Sacrifices Made Year-Round

» Continued from page 1

William Hahn

Roughly six decades before the Higdon brothers joined the Marines, William Hahn served in the United States Navy as a turret gunner during World War II. The Arnold resident and 98-year-old veteran recalled being in a movie theater during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The movie never stopped rolling, but he heard the news from outside.

"I knew as soon as Pearl Harbor, I was bound to go," Hahn said. "I wasn't going to wait to get drafted."

Hahn was stationed on the USS Alabama. The ship eventually led the American fleet into Tokyo Bay on September 5, 1945, after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

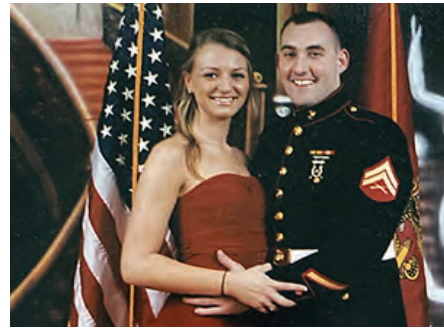
When the war ended in 1945, Hahn finished his obligation with the military and went home to his family.

"I signed up, my rank was seaman first class, and I had a V6, and what that meant I didn't know until way after," Hahn said. "It meant I was obligated for six months after the war. Well, it took that long to get back from Japan. We stayed out there for a while to patrol."

Hahn has not strayed from the water. He worked on a charter boat in Florida for two winters, had a family home on the Magothy River and has been canoeing competitively for 50 years.



Top left: Robert Higdon provided street corner overwatch during a meeting in Fallujah during 2005. **Top right:** Jonathan Higdon attended the Marine Corps Ball in 2008 with his now-wife, Kalli. **Bottom right:** William Hahn was a turret gunner aboard the USS Alabama during World War II.



Earl Daff

Earl Daff was stationed near Frankfurt, Germany, in World War II and was in the 101st Airborne Division during the Korean War. Daff spoke to the Voice in 2020 prior to his 95th birthday party, which was held at his daughter's Severna Park home.

As a member of the Army Reserves, Daff was recalled to active duty, shipping out from San Francisco to North Korea in 1950 after North Korean communist forces invaded South Korea. There, he worked with the 212th Railroad Battalion and the 831st Engineer

Aviation Battalion, helping to transport ammunition to the front lines.

"It was 40 below zero in some places in Korea," Daff said. "A lot of people got frostbite and lost their toes."

Daff earned the World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and Korean Service Medal. He has volunteered with Operation Welcome Home since 2016.

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

Bill Wild

William "Bill" Wild III was aware that his father served in the Marines, but he had his own plans: he wanted to become a police officer. Before that happened, he joined the Air Force in 1985, working on the aircraft security side, and spent 29 years in the Air Force Reserves.

"It doesn't work for everybody," he said. "You miss time with your family while you ascend through the ranks."

His son, William "Taylor" Wild IV, would later decide to join the Marines. Taylor died in 2013 while training for his third deployment.

"Once he set his mind to something, he would do it," Bill said of Taylor. "I could see his conviction."

With Veterans Day in November, Bill observed that Anne Arundel County residents are mindful of the sacrifices military members have made.

"I think sometimes we take our service members for granted," he said. "We have the Gold Star memorial by the B&A Trail and we have the World War II memorial by the Naval Academy Bridge. It's easy to go, 'We should stop by sometime.' In this community, not just Severna Park but Anne Arundel County with Fort Meade and the Naval Academy, I don't think it's taken for granted as much because people see it every day."

To some veterans, like Jonathan Higdon, it's important that people recognize the true meaning of the day.

"Veterans Day is all about people who serve our military and paved the way for the freedoms we have," Jonathan said. "It's a day of remembrance, not a holiday."

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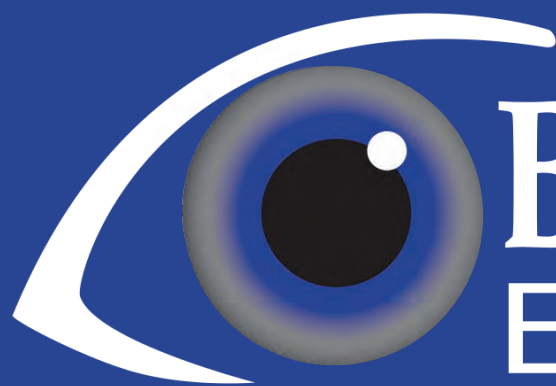
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Library To Kick Off Native American Heritage Month

By Haley Weisgerber

November is Native American Heritage Month, and to celebrate, the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) is hosting a series of virtual events. The first of these events, Native American Spirit, is focused on the way Native American culture embraces the natural world in traditional clothing, household needs, children's games, and storytelling.

The event will be held on November 13 from 10:30am to 11:30am and is designed for children ages 10 and under. Students will hear a story, learn to weave a basket, make a hoop and "bone" toy, and play traditional games. The event presenter, Debbie Wood, is a longtime AACPL partner who specializes in engaging and entertaining events.

"It's a very entertaining and educational program for the little ones, and I really like it," said Eva Fernandez, the programming and outreach coordinator at AACPL. "I've been in a few of her programs. Children absolutely love it, and parents as well."

Wood, who works as the executive director of the Chesapeake Children's Museum in Annapolis, has presented many times with AACPL.

"She is a storyteller," said Fernandez. "She tells the stories to the little ones, preschoolers and school-aged. She uses lots of objects, she dresses up, she lets the kids experiment and play, and she does crafts with them at the end."

Fernandez said the goal of the event is to educate children about Native American history and culture in a fun and memorable way. She is excited to see Wood engage the students in other cultures.

"We have people from all over the world and different cultures here," said Fernandez. "We want to celebrate them as well. It's again about celebrating their cultures and their traditions."

Since 2017, AACPL has provided cultural representation for all people in the community.

"We want our collection and our programs to reflect the community that we serve," said AACPL's director of marketing and communications, Christine Feldmann. "This is a perfect example of trying to do that because there's so much value, not only for people in those communities to recognize, but to educate others about the beauty and the struggles that come along with perhaps not being as well-known as others."

Registration is required to participate in the event. To learn more, visit www.aacpl.librarycalendar.com/events/native-american-spirit.

More Events

Native American Spirit is the first in a series of virtual events hosted by AACPL for Native American Heritage Month. On November 15, an adult-focused event, Historic St. Mary's Fort & the Native Peoples of Southern Maryland, will begin at 6:30pm. On November 17 at 6:00pm, Contact with Europeans will walk adults through the initial contact with Europeans and how it impacted the Native Americans. On November 20 at 10:30am, AACPL is partnering with the National Museum of the American Indian to present Native Games, an event about Native American games for children ages 6 through 10.

Arnold Infant Receives Life-Changing Liver Transplant

» Continued from page 1

tells you how much bile there is in your system," Danielle said. "They told us right away that, 'By the end of today, you're going to be in a hospital with some kind of surgery.' We just didn't know what."

After the whirlwind doctor appointment, Jonah was diagnosed with biliary atresia, an infant disease of the liver in which one or more bile ducts are damaged or missing, which affects one in 20,000 infants. There is currently no known cure or cause for biliary atresia, which can cause premature cirrhosis and organ failure.

"My husband and I say this all the time when we just have quiet moments where I can't believe this is our life," Danielle said. "You read about other families going through things, and you always say like 'I can't imagine going through that,' and then here we are."

Jonah underwent a preliminary, preventive surgery. A common side effect of that procedure is infection, which Jonah encountered many times in his recovery.

Each infection warranted a two-week hospital stay. Because of COVID restrictions, Sean and Danielle spent the entire summer splitting time between their two children.

"Sean and I pretty much were ships passing in the night," Danielle said. "We did shifts, so we were still both able to see each of the kids separately and also get a night of sleep at home and not in a hospital bed or a cot."

Their 2-year-old son, Caleb, also has to adjust to life with only one parent around most days.

"He has his own exciting milestones that he's only been able to have one parent at because the other one is in hospital with Jonah," Danielle said. "He's had his fair share of sacrifices too."

After Jonah's third round of infection, the doctor ordered a biopsy and discovered that Jonah's liver was deteriorating. Both of his parents were sent for testing to see if they would be match for a living transplant. Miraculously, both parents were a match.

"They did additional testing to kind of help us make a decision if one of us was better than the other from a health perspective, and because I'm just smaller than my husband," Danielle said. "They would only need to take just shy of 14 percent of my liver to fit in Jonah."

The family reached out to Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), an organization that organizes community fundraisers for transplant-related expenses. According to COTA, the average liver transplant costs \$878,400. COTA has been integral in helping the Moore family with planning fundraisers.

On August 19, Danielle and Jonah underwent surgery at MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute. Almost three months later, both mother and son are in recovery. While Danielle's healing has been referred to as "miraculous" by her doctors, Jonah's journey is far from over.

"Really the whole first year, you're focusing on making sure that you are finding the perfect balance of medications to ensure that your body doesn't reject the

new organ," Danielle said.

Jonah has a long road ahead of him, but in the meantime, the family is enjoying spending time together, a luxury they have not been afforded for many months. Danielle's hope for Jonah is that he will grow to live a fulfilling life, accomplish his dreams and encourage others who are experiencing hard times.

"Our faith is really important to us," Danielle said. "I pray that this journey that he is on encourages him through any test that he might face in the future, but also that his spirit encourages others around him to have hope, and that he uses this journey to promote that there is a reason he's going through this."

Danielle has been documenting her family's journey online at www.cotaforjonahsbajourney.com. The family is also hosting its second fundraiser hosted by the Foundation for Community Betterment. The event, Annapolis Bash, will be held November 6 at 7:00pm. For ticket details, visit www.flipcause.com/index.php/secure/cause_pdetails/MTMxNDUw.

Shoptoberfest Brings Spooky Fun To The Park



The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce put a new spin on the Shop Local Festival by presenting the event as Shoptoberfest this year on October 23. Held in the Park Plaza shopping center, Shoptoberfest invited local stores and businesses like The Cottage and Ledo Pizza to set up tables, show off their wares and give away copious amounts of candy to kids. Halloween was celebrated early as a costume contest was held for kids and dogs. To finish off the event, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi gave a demonstration to the crowd.

German Immigrant Reflects On 50 Years In Severna Park

By Haley Weisgerber

Ingeborg "Inge" Chisholm's life has truly been "the American dream." The wife of the late Robert "Bob" Chisholm, Inge has lived for almost 50 years in Severna Park, where she established roots, raised a family, worked and made friends — all as an immigrant.

Inge was born in Bremen, Germany, where she lived with her mother, father, brother and sister. She was a child during World War II.

"You would think that all the German people knew what Hitler was doing," Inge said. "Most of us had no idea what was going on. No one talked about it."

During the war, her father was in charge of guarding a group of French prisoners of war. He would go out of his way to bring the prisoners fresh meat and food. Although he was required to serve, he did not agree with what was happening. Prisoners were frequently swapped between guards, but he became famous amongst the prisoners for his kindness.

"They can only stay with the same people for about two months," said Inge. "They don't want them to get acquainted. Some other guys came and they always asked for dad. He was a very good person. Let's face it, he was the best."

Tragically, her father faced consequences for his heroic actions. He was sent to the frontlines, where he died. Until recently, his gravesite was lost, but it was recently found in Latvia. Inge describes her mother as a workaholic and a strict parent. While she may not have been the most outwardly loving mother, she worked hard to provide for her children.

After the war, Inge worked at the motor pool, where she nearly perfected her English and met her future husband, an American soldier, Bob. The couple was married in the Catholic church in Germany. In 1948, Inge and Bob boarded a boat called the USAT Edmund B.



Above: Inge (bottom left) lived in Bremen, Germany, with her sister (top left) and brother. **Right:** Inge and Bob Chisholm are pictured after their wedding in Germany with family members.



Alexander and traveled for six days to the United States. The newlywed couple spent Thanksgiving and Bob's birthday on the ship. Inge and Bob arrived in New York and made the day-long train ride to Iowa, where Bob's family lived. They lived there for a time and moved to Maryland for the first time in 1951. They spent some time living in Wisconsin, and ultimately chose to settle down for good in Severna Park in 1972.

A friend of the family, Bobby Geddings, was a builder, so he built the home that she currently lives in. In this house, she raised her five children, watched her children grow, and gathered with friends and family. She made her beloved German potato pancakes, sauerkraut, spaghetti with pepperoni, bratwurst and various German desserts. She brought over traditions like opening Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve. Inge's mother-in-law, who was also a German immigrant and spoke German, advised her against teaching her children to speak the language, although she did teach them a few words.

"We learned some German as we were growing up," said Inge's son, Herb

Chisholm. "My mom had index cards and we would learn."

Although Inge adopted German traditions and culture in her household, she rarely missed home. She kept in touch with her siblings, mother, classmates and visited as often as she could with her five children and husband, but Inge made Severna Park her new home.

"She became part of the fabric of the community," said Herb. "She worked in the community and raised five children here."

The Geddings family, which built the house for Bob and Inge, opened a car wash in Glen Burnie called BG's Carwash, and Bob became the manager. Inge stumbled into a job almost by accident.

"I found a job I didn't ask for," she explained. "For the opening, I took a bottle of wine and it started snowing. Barbara Geddings taught me to use the cash register. I had never touched a cash register before that. Next thing I knew, I had a part-time job."

Inge became a second mother to many

of the boys who worked at the car wash. She brought in desserts and treats and became close with regular customers. She even ran into a few fellow Germans. Bob died in 1992, but Inge continued to work there. She retired after 20 years, when she was in her 70s. To this day, she visits the car wash frequently with desserts for the men and women working. Everyone there knows her.

Herb said his mother was strict, but seeing her interact with the boys at the car wash painted a new picture of her.

"As we got older, I would see her and her relationship with those boys at the car wash," said Herb. "I got a very different viewpoint of my mom because she didn't have a good teacher, as far as how to nurture and hug and kiss in love."

And she brought some of that into our relationship, early on. She was very much a disciplinarian, and it was hard to take care of five children."

Inge currently has 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She said that being a grandmother is her greatest joy.

"I enjoy my grandchildren," said Inge. "I never really had time to really enjoy my kids. We were alone out here without relatives. I was the only one to take care of them."

Her daughter, Mary Ann Wroten, said Inge's grandchildren adore her.

"She has truly become the matriarch," Mary Ann said.

Living in Severna Park, Inge frequently ran into other German immigrants. She said this served as a reminder that we all play a role in this community. Herb said that he hopes that his mother's story inspires other immigrants to tell their stories.

"Immigrant' has become somewhat of a dirty word," Herb said. "We are all immigrants. We all come from somewhere."

Lauren's Law: Toy Assembly Gone Wrong



Photos by Lauren Burke Meyer

Left: Lauren's husband, Scott, had the idea to create a new design that Lauren could easily assemble. **Right:** The Toy Insider Mom — Laurie Schacht — was doing an upcoming segment on NBC4 Washington and wanted to feature my Lauren Meyer's client.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

The warnings started weeks ago: begin your holiday shopping now. Shipping delays and supply chain issues have moved holiday shopping up, yet again.

This anxiety-induced feeling has me reliving this season seven years ago. At the time, I was doing public relations for educational companies or organizations, many of which manufactured toys, games and puzzles that fostered learning for children.

The Toy Insider Mom — Laurie Schacht — who always has the scoop on the best toys, called me. She was doing an upcoming segment on NBC4 Washington and wanted to feature my client. There's nothing like live TV to make my stomach flip.

A few days before the taping, my boss put together one awesome toy design with our client's bright-colored magnetic toys that would have even made Kevin McCallister in "Home Alone" proud. However, when I attempted to recreate the design, I struggled. We took photos of the original design. Still struggled. I could not get the metallic ball to successfully go through the maze and shoot out in all its glory. Playing with toys at work was turning out more stressful than I'd expected.

Thankfully and cursedly the taping was on a Monday, so I'd have the entire weekend to practice recreating the design quickly. So, I practiced. Then practiced some more. I got quicker at the assembly, but that pesky ball wouldn't consistently go through the maze. Around this time, NBC4's network received more than 953,000 viewers. That's a lot of people to see a ball get stuck and an unwelcome distraction. Did I mention it would be live? Yeah, OK, I'm harping, so moving on.

So, I did what any typical gal in her 20s without kids and a lawn to mow did. I went day drinking for the Ravens

game on Sunday. Who are we kidding? I had an early wakeup call and white-knuckle drive from Annapolis to D.C. the following morning. I was the designated driver.

Upon getting home late that night, and after a Ravens win for anyone wondering, I did a few more practice runs. Freaking out, I made my husband, Scott, who oversees construction for a living, help. He had the great idea to create a new design that I could easily assemble. Genius. This was a toy for kids ages 1 and older anyhow. Why overcomplicate it? More importantly, why hadn't I thought of that solution days ago? Anyhow, his new design was manageable for me to do quickly and would allow a ball to impressively — and more importantly, successfully — go down a slide. Thus, making parents around the nation reach for their wallets. Or so I hoped.

The next morning, I survived the rush hour drive to the studio and, by the grace of God, didn't get lost. I arrived early. After some time in the green room (the green room guys, how cool), I was brought out on stage (which was even cooler) to prepare the design. My stress about the time allotment had been completely unnecessary. I could have recreated it 25 times because I was there so early. Test runs went smoothly too. The only thing left to pray on was that my boss and client would like the rogue design.

The live taping went beyond smoothly. Technically, it was a toy assembly gone wrong because of the altered design. However, my client and boss were happy with the segment and pleased that I'd made the call to change it for a better display of the product. All those stomach flips were for nothing.

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."

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Ravens RISE High School Football Showdown Adds Excitement

» Continued from page 1

the track, passing in front of the Broadneck student section. McSorley greeted both teams during the coin toss before kickoff. He then made his way to the Broadneck locker room for a pregame speech.

"I think you have to enjoy the moment, enjoy where you're at, and take it in for a second," McSorley said, when asked about his advice for the players. "And then once you get into the game, just one play at a time. It's a big stage. As a high school kid, as a football player, it's what you live for."

That message was appreciated by several players, including Broadneck's Davion White, who also loved the outpouring of support from students and fans.

"It meant a lot to me, seeing the community come out," White said. "[McSorley] was telling us that if he was in high school, he would love to do what we were [doing], so it meant a lot to hear that from an NFL quarterback."

Broadneck quarterback Josh Erlich shared a similar sentiment.

"I play a little like him, a bit of the same style, so it was awesome," Erlich said.

It was also Cape Night, so several Broadneck area youth teams rushed the field at halftime.

Necessary said the event was made



Broadneck's student section went wild throughout the game.

possible because former Broadneck High School principal Jim Todd had moved the Severna Park-Broadneck rivalry from Saturday nights to Friday nights, and along with former athletic director Ken Kazmarek, Todd established separate gates for the home and visiting teams to avoid student conflicts.

Leading up to game week, Necessary had help from Broadneck staff, Ravens representatives and Severna Park High School athletic director Dave Kauffman.

"I also want to thank my administration, which supported us all week;

the Anne Arundel County police officers; and my group of 15 to 20 teachers who come to the games," he said.

Severna Park had its own taste of Ravens week when cornerback Khalil Dorsey attended the Falcons field hockey game at home against the Bruins earlier in the week.

"From the students' standpoint, it was exciting, and the Ravens were incredible with everything they did for our players and fans," Kauffman said. "From a school standpoint and school spirit, it was great for our kids, our school and our community."

Severna Park's varsity football head

coach, Mike Wright, said the Ravens and the atmosphere became a distraction for his players, but he was grateful to the Ravens for taking an interest in both schools.

"I'm very happy and gracious that the Ravens were here and did what they did, but this was one of those games where we needed to fly under the radar altogether, and something like that doesn't help," he said.

Although the Falcons lost, there were plenty of moments to savor. The Ravens gave \$1,500 to each school's athletic department.

"Coming off of a year when there was not gate income or as many fundraisers, this will help us curtail some of the costs for uniforms and upgrades on equipment and facilities," Necessary said.

The players will also treasure the advice they got from McSorley.

"Not one game will ruin a season and not one game will make it, so whatever happens, keep pushing forward and keep moving on and the rest will take care of itself," McSorley said.

Conor Doherty contributed reporting to this story.

Flip to the sports section on page 22 for a recap of the game.

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Bowling Alleys Offer Free Games In Return For Food Donations

As part of its mission to help SPAN and the Anne Arundel County Food Bank serve people in need, Severna Park Lanes is giving one free game of bowling (for up to four people) to every person who donates two nonperishable food items. The offer, which is also available at Annapolis Bowl and Greenway Bowl, is valid through November 30. For more information, call Severna Park Lanes at 410-647-0811.



Scenic Rivers Land Trust Protects 24 Acres In Arnold

Two Families Donate Conservation Easement To Protect Forest, Wetlands



In addition to forest and wetlands, the watershed property includes a pond and stream.

Scenic Rivers Land Trust has permanently protected 24 acres of forest and wetlands in the Severn River watershed. Two Arnold families partnered to donate a conservation easement on their adjoining properties to the county-based land trust, protecting vital wildlife habitat from development.

The recently conserved property is mostly located within the Chesapeake Bay critical area. In addition to forest and wetlands, the property includes a pond and stream. The area is also a known habitat for forest interior dwelling species, such as pileated

woodpeckers.

Elizabeth Rucker and her husband Colby Rucker had purchased their property when their Arnold neighborhood was first being built, with the intent of preserving it from development. Their neighbors, Arthur and Anita Murray, also purchased their adjoining acres of forest for the same reason. After caring for and enjoying their land for many years, the two families partnered to donate a conservation easement on the land to ensure that it remains protected forever. The donated conservation easement extinguishes the development rights on

the properties and is designated as a charitable gift by the Internal Revenue Service.

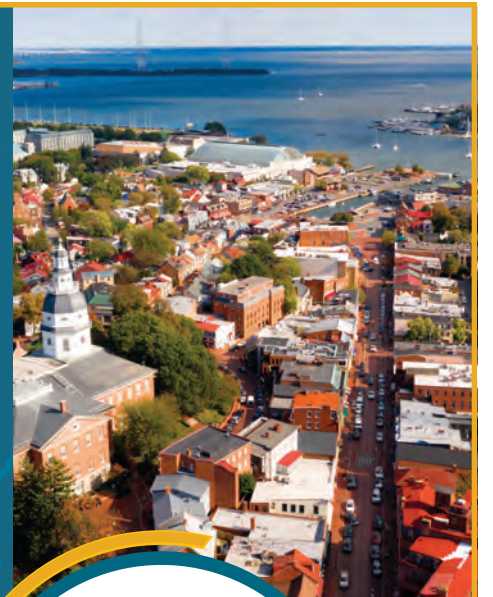
"It has been a pleasure to work with these conservation-minded neighbors to protect land that has been in their families for more than 50 years. They love their forest, and it really shows," said Scenic Rivers Land Trust Executive Director Sarah Knebel. "Donated conservation easements and all of the environmental and health benefits that can be tied to them are truly a gift to our entire community. We need more private landowners to consider conserving their land."



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Finding Dependable Staff

**Karen
Adams-Gilchrist**
President and CEO
Providence Center



The workforce crisis is a topic of daily conversation for area businesses of all sizes and industries. As business owners, CEOs and managers, we all know how vital good, dependable staff

members are to our success.

But here is a lesser-known fact: many people are seeking employment right now and organizations like Providence Center can make the connection between a ready workforce and a business' staffing needs.

Providence Career Services has been partnering with area businesses since 1989 to job-match and support employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Employees work in a variety of industries including — but not limited to — grocery, retail, health care, hospitality, cleaning services, education, automotive and senior living. We support courtesy clerks, child care assistants, sandwich makers, office assistants, stockers, janitors, bussers, mail clerks and many other job positions.

Providence Center is one of several providers offering supported employment in Anne Arundel County to meet the workforce needs of our fellow community businesses, and businesses throughout the area are benefitting from a diverse workforce that is increasing productivity, building teamwork, fostering creativity, and growing the customer base. The challenge, however, is often just getting a foot in the door.

Jessica Holman, our assistant director for Providence Career Services, acknowledges that there is sometimes hesitancy on the part of businesses regarding the hiring process, but organizations like Providence Center work closely with the employer to help train staff, provide job coaching for the

employee, and provide support along the way when needed.

"Our approach is developing strong relationships, one employer and one employee at a time," Jessica said. Prospective employees submit resumes, take part in interviews, go through the onboarding process, and are direct employees of the employer and part of the team.

Jessica notes, "Our goal is to help each business increase their efficiency and bottom line, while providing each employee with real work experiences and pay and the chance to build a career in their chosen profession by matching a potential employee's interest and skills with an employer's needs."

Joseph Robinson has worked as a dishwasher at Brightview Senior Living in Severna Park for the past year. He said, "They make it easy to work for them. My job is fun, I'm well paid, my

co-workers are helpful and the food is great! The dishwashers and chefs work well together, and the chefs will pitch in to help us when it's busy. We have each other's back."

Joseph is a valued member of the Brightview team.

"Joe is a great help," said Gene Lampione, Joe's supervisor. "He comes to work when we need him. He shows up and does a really good job."

One of our priorities is to better inform the business community about the workforce we support. There are talented and dependable people who are looking to build their career and contribute to their community through jobs and careers they enjoy. It's a matter of getting the word out now and connecting the right people to the right employers.

For more information, contact Jessica Holman at Providence Career Services at jholman@providencecenter.com, visit the Maryland Department of Disabilities employment page at mdod.maryland.gov/employment or the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services at dors.maryland.gov to see a list of providers who support people with disabilities in employment.

"There are talented and dependable people who are looking to build their career and contribute to their community through jobs and careers they enjoy."

— KAREN ADAMS-GILCHRIST

ACAN To Provide Thanksgiving Meals

Asbury Church Assistance Network (ACAN) will once again hold its Thanksgiving food drive this year.

"We started with 20 families. This year, we are prepared to give out 300 meals," said Shaka Pack de Flores, who was appointed ACAN's interim executive director in September.

Shaka said the ACAN baskets will have turkeys, "all the fixin's" and, hopefully, fresh vegetables.

Thanksgiving baskets will be dis-

tributed to families on November 17 from noon to 5:00pm at 429 Asbury Drive in Severna Park. Anyone in need can register online at www.acansevernapark.org or by calling 410-647-7667. In their message, people should leave their name, phone number, zip code and family size.

"While it seems like we are coming out of the pandemic, the need has not decreased," Pack de Flores said. "Our donations are six times above pre-pandemic levels."

Bay Bridge And Bus Updates

Amanda Fiedler
County Council
District 5



The resolution was adopted by the Anne Arundel County Council on Monday, October 4, days after the Queen Anne's County Commissioners passed a nearly identical resolution, unanimously.

The two existing bridges that connect the Eastern Shore and Western Shore of Maryland are no longer capable of handling the number of vehicles while facilitating reasonable and reliable commute times for residents. Despite warning signs for decades that the Route 50 corridor approaching and crossing the Chesapeake Bay was nearing a breaking point, there was no action at the state level until Governor

Resolution 49-21 called for the state and federal government to begin the next phase of the Bay Bridge study calling for a full replacement bridge, not a third span.

Larry Hogan allotted \$5 million for Tier 1 of a Bay Bridge crossing study in 2016. This is the first step in a multi-step process that could lead to construction.

As Tier 1 of the study inched closer to a final environmental impact statement that would recommend a location for a new bridge, or a third span, site options were leaked to the public. With rapid response, jurisdictions along the shores of the bay replied in opposition to locations that would bring a bridge to their county. The potential sites were whittled down to three, all within Anne Arundel County. Pasadena, Broadneck (at the current location) and Deale, with the governor publicly stating the only location he would support would be the current location of the existing bridges.

In June 2021, the Anne Arundel County Council passed resolution 32-21, asking that the Tier 1 bay bridge study be paused in order to revisit the intended outcome of the study before finalizing a location decision. The resolution stressed the need to review the approaching corridors to ensure that capacity

» Continued on page 16

New Start Times Coming Next Fall

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



At long last, all Anne Arundel County Public Schools students will reap the physical and mental health benefits from healthy, safe, age-appropriate school start times. During its October 20 meeting, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County voted *unanimously* to implement new start times starting in fall 2022. This vote follows a recommendation by Prismatic Services Inc. to delay the shift until the fall as opposed to implementing new start times this January.

Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, schools will move to a bell schedule where elementary schools will begin between 8:00am and 9:00am, middle schools will begin between 8:30am and

9:15am, and high schools will begin at 8:30am. The development of school-specific start times is in the works and will be released in the coming months.

There is an avalanche of research detailing the benefits of healthy start times. School systems across the country that have made this change have witnessed amazing results including improved attendance, student mental health, test scores, and graduation rates as well as no negative effects when it comes to athletics and student jobs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), not getting enough sleep is common among high school students and is associated with several health risks including being overweight, drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco and using drugs, as well as poor academic performance. One common reason our adolescent children do not get enough sleep is early school start times.

For decades AACPS, like many American school systems, has chronically imposed bell schedules for high school well before the 8:30am or later start time recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics since 2014. There are also many extremely late starting elementary schools which begin as late as 9:40am each morning. I feel both extremes are damaging. Not only do our current start times force our children to walk to or from school or a bus stop in the dark; our teens are not getting the sleep their developing brains and bodies require. Our late-starting elementary schools also leave little daylight during the winter months for students to play outside after school and place a huge burden on working families to secure both before and after care for their children.

A study of 28,000 elementary, middle and high school students — published in *SLEEP* by Oxford University Press — revealed significant benefits of later school start times for middle and high school students' sleep schedules and the percent of elementary school students reporting sufficient sleep duration, poor sleep quality, or daytime sleepiness did not change over the course of the study. Participating elementary schools started 60 minutes earlier, middle, 40 to 60 minutes later, and high school started 70 minutes later. The benefits of later start times were similar across racial and socioeconomic groups.

Researchers from the University of Washington found later school start times to be associated with reduced sleepiness, increased aca-

» Continued on page 19

Muñoz Nominated To Fill Vacancy In District 33



The Republican State Central Committee Of Anne Arundel County voted on October 25 to nominate Rachel Muñoz (center) to Governor Larry Hogan to fill the vacancy in District 33 in the Maryland House of Delegates. The vacancy was created when Michael Malone was selected to fill a seat on the Anne Arundel Circuit Court.

Muñoz is a Severna Park High School graduate, a wife and a mother of four. She studied at the University of Maryland School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctor. Muñoz has been active in her children's school, on her community homeowners association board, and as a Severna Park Republican Women's Club board member.



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Bay Bridge And Bus Updates

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could be added for a third span, which would run in conjunction with two existing spans, without compromising the quality of life of residents impacted by traffic backups on local roads. While County Executive Stuart Pittman supported this resolution, he was also vocal about supporting the “no build” option.

We were at a stalemate. The summer chugged along and so did traffic, often at a snail's pace. With the standing resolution to pause the study, and no feedback from the state, progress was delayed only because we had not found common ground and a way forward. The next day, I picked up the phone and asked for a meeting with Commissioner Jim Moran in Queen Anne's County.

The state has been clear. There will be one bridge built. The size, and scope of the bridge will not be determined until Tier 2 of the study, which will require funding from the state. This second phase of review cannot begin until the completion of Tier 1.

The existing bridges are at, or 20 years over, their 50-year life span, requiring major maintenance work every year to maintain their safety for travel. Maintenance that causes miles of traffic delays in the off-season and millions of dollars in funding by the state. A third span won't fix the inadequacies of these bridges. A third span in another county won't miraculously shift conditioned commuters or erase the five decades of use that requires regular work.

It became clear that the best path forward for our counties was to support a replacement bridge for the current two spans. That is what Resolution 49-21 called for: an eight-lane replacement bridge for the existing five lanes, adding three more lanes to maintain traffic flow during increased travel times, poor weather conditions, when there are disabled cars and emergency response, and while utilizing the gate system that is currently under construction.

State and federal governments control all actions going forward. The Tier 2 study, if funded, will take an estimated three to four years to complete and will evaluate everything from underwater marine life in the bay to the infrastructure potential on 21 miles of the corridor approaching the bridges. Upon completion of the second tier, funding for construction of the proposed bridge would then be necessary.

Buses

As we recover from the daily challenges of summer traffic, we have confronted another transportation dilemma. The school bus driver shortage in Anne Arundel County, like most jurisdictions in the state and across the country, has created an additional stress for parents and families, and created traffic backups in communities.

On November 15, the Anne Arundel County Council will consider Bill 88-21 that will appropriate \$7.4 million to Anne Arundel County Public Schools from the chief administrative officer (CAO) contingency fund to increase bus driver pay by \$5 per hour. This fund is typically used for one-time unanticipated uses, like snow removal. While the bill proposes a one-time funding source, the \$7.4 million will be rolled into the overall expenditure that the county made toward Anne Arundel County Public Schools for the 2022 Fiscal Year. In other words, this increases the minimum expenditure for the school budget by \$7.4 million, outside of the annual budget process, for a recurring expense.

Will a \$5 per hour increase in pay bring back the commercial driver's license (CDL) drivers who were recruited to major retail delivery providers in 2020? Will a \$5 per hour increase in pay incentivize retired drivers to return to the workforce? These are the details I will consider as we discuss this bill in the coming weeks.

Federal Grant Money

Funding oversight is an important function of the legislative branch. As the final fiscal authority for the county, the council weighs in on the annual budget and many other fiscal matters, including grant funding.

In 2008, the county council passed legislation that created section 4-11-114 of our code and the handling of grant funding. The conditional appropriation of the unanticipated grants section was created in cooperation between the then administration and auditor. At the time, any unanticipated grant fund, even as small as \$5, required approval by the county council. This created a significant amount of legislation and visits to the council. Since the passage of that legislation, grants have been appropriated, without council approval, so long as certain conditions are met.

Until 2020, it was unusual for an unanticipated grant award to the county to be above \$250,000 and rare to be above \$500,000. Federal COVID relief funds changed that. The most recent American Recovery Plan Act gave Anne Arundel County over \$112 million in federal dollars. The council receives a monthly report of the expenditures and is only notified outside of that report timeframe if the expenditure is over \$500,000. The council does not have the ability to publicly discuss or vote on the use of these funds.

On November 15, the council will hear and vote on my legislation, Bill 92-21, that would require council approval on any grant appropriation over \$300,000. Fiscal responsibility is important.

You can review these and other bills on the council website. For any questions or to sign up for the District 5 newsletter, email me at amanda.fiedler@acounty.org.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Republican Women's Club Gets Award



The Severna Park Republican Women's Club (SPRWC), founded in 1964, was recently awarded the Diamond Club Award for Achievement by the National Federation of Republican Women in Orlando. The award is given to clubs that excel in active support of Republican candidates; promoting conservative values in their communities; increasing club membership and participation in local politics; and providing volunteer hours to make their communities a better place to live. SPRWC President Amy Leahy (left) accepted the award from Ann Shockett, president of the National Federation of Republican Women. The SPRWC welcomes new members. Learn more at www.sprwc.org.

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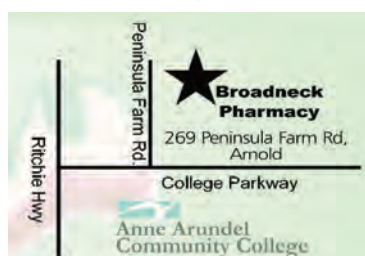
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County Executive Submits Green Infrastructure Master Plan

Plan Aims To Conserve 5,000 Additional Acres By 2030

Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman has submitted the Green Infrastructure Master Plan to the county's planning advisory board. The revised plan provides a roadmap for county officials to work with landowners to voluntarily conserve an additional 5,000 acres of green spaces by 2030, while expanding green spaces in urban communities.

"Nature heals us, but only if we allow it to thrive," Pittman said. "This Green Infrastructure Plan is our roadmap to a greener and a healthier future for ourselves, our children and the many species that we share this land with. I thank everyone who worked on the draft plan and made comments to improve it."

The Green Infrastructure Master Plan is a guide for conserving the most significant natural lands remaining in Anne Arundel County through voluntary actions. Over 70 percent of the network has already been conserved through actions by community organizations, land trusts, farmers, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and individual landowners. This work is accomplished primarily through voluntary conservation easements, which permanently protect lands and provide tax benefits for landowners, as well as through county acquisitions of land for new parks.

"Preservation of woodlands, agricultural land, and expansion of greenways

has always been a top priority of the department when we seek the acquisition of new park property. This new plan challenges us to conserve 5,000 new acres before the end of the decade," said Jessica Leyes, county director of recreation and parks. "Preserved lands are vital pieces of every community's infrastructure, and we are excited to expand the public green spaces throughout the county."

The revised plan is the result of months of stakeholder input and public review. Thousands of residents visited the project's website and provided hundreds of comments over a 45-day comment period.

"This is what continued transparency in land use planning looks like," said Steve Kaii-Ziegler, the Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning officer. "Residents were given the opportunity not only to review a plan but to provide comments on an online, interactive green infrastructure map. They could zoom into a parcel in their neighborhood, and tell us why that parcel should be added or removed from the network."

The revised plan and map are available for viewing at www.aacounty.org/greeninfrastructure. Residents will have an opportunity to provide testimony on the plan and map during a Planning Advisory Board meeting on November 10. The board will provide recommendations later this winter. The county council has the final authority to adopt the plan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Opposed To Race Theory

We hear a lot about critical race theory, but still, few know exactly what it means, how it started and how it came to be. Based on several law journals and books that I've read, here is my understanding:

Critical race theory emerged in the 1970s by several founding scholars, most of whom are not of African descent, and as an African American woman, does not represent me or anyone who looks like me. Critical race theory believes that racism is normal and describes the everyday experience of most people of color in America. It also believes that you are oppressed if you are of Asian descent, Latino descent, of the LGBT community and/or a woman. Essentially, if you identify with any of these groups and live in America, you are doomed!

Critical race theory has triggered an intense reaction among parents of all backgrounds — including myself — because schools are considering teaching this "theory" to our children. When I was growing up, I remember being taught history in a way that made me feel that America was just as much my country as anyone else's; however, I also realize that there were many parts of history that were left out. We need to teach America's history

of slavery, Jim Crow and racism as we know it, but we also need to teach our children the efforts America has made and continues to make to right these wrongs.

History should be true, informative and should leave a child feeling as if he or she can be on the right side of history moving forward. As a parent of a recent Anne Arundel County Public Schools elementary school graduate, I, as well as most parents, want to protect kids from biases and any form of education that tells them they can't before they realize that they can. Critical race theory sends a message to children of color that despite how hard you work in America, the system is rigged against you. It teaches non children of color that because of the color of your skin, you have a natural advantage.

I don't want my children, or any child, left feeling that they are second-class citizens or that their efforts are in vain based on the color of their skin. So, let's ban critical race theory, because it is doing just that. This theory is psychologically detrimental to our children and goes against America's core values.

LaToya Nkongolo
Severna Park

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New Start Times Coming

» Continued from page 15

ademic performance, and an increase in punctuality and attendance in disadvantaged populations, which “could decrease the achievement gap between low and high socioeconomic groups.”

In a study published by *The Journal of School Health* — which reviewed 38 reports examining the association between school start times, sleep, and other outcomes among adolescent students — found that later start times also generally correspond to improved attendance, less tardiness, less falling asleep in class, better grades, and fewer motor vehicle crashes and found no changes in number of hours engaged in athletics, extracurricular activities, and homework.

Change is never easy. Successful implementation of this system-wide change will require significant collaboration between the Board of Education and Dr. George Arlotto and his staff, careful choreography between the school system and the county, child care providers, our many bus contractors, and every bargaining unit as well as plenty of communication with our families. I very much look forward to seeing this positive change fully implemented and am committed to hearing your concerns at every step of this process. I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org.

Keep These Holiday Safety Tips In Mind

Jim Fredericks
Anne Arundel
County Sheriff



As we dive into another holiday season, I want to remind you of good safety habits to protect you both physically and financially. You should always practice these helpful

tips, but this time of year seems to provide a target-rich environment for criminals and scammers seeking to capitalize on the shopping season and giving spirit.

Protecting your personal safety can be as simple as making yourself less of a target. Criminals look for signs that might make their crime and getaway easier.

First, when you are out in public, be aware of your surroundings and conditions around you. Pay attention if you have seen someone multiple times, at multiple locations, or if someone is standing near your car as you approach it. Don't forget to use the horn or alert buttons on key fobs to draw the attention of others to your vehicle.

Second, try not to be visibly distracted with electronic devices. A distracted target is an easy target. Instead, keep your head up and pay attention. It is certainly OK to be on

the phone, but be aware and make eye contact when you can to let would-be criminals know you see them. The last tip for your personal safety is to keep your distance from people you do not know. Staying a few feet away from others in public areas certainly is not a new concept in this time of COVID-19, so moving away from someone should not seem too offensive.

When you make purchases for the holidays, you want to keep thieves from getting their hands on your property. When you are out and about, protect packages left in your vehicle by covering them, keeping them out of view, and always lock your vehicle! Many people now make purchases that are conveniently delivered right to their door. Sadly, the well-known “porch pirate” may be lurking in your neighborhood, following delivery vehicles so they can steal packages recently delivered to a home. But you can fight back against these lawbreakers using technology or good old face-to-face networking.

Door cameras and home security cameras are great devices, but if you do not have them, consider speaking with neighbors to create a porch-watching partnership. Having a friendly discussion to engage neighbors to watch out for deliveries to neighboring houses can go a long way to either prevent thefts or help solve them when they occur. If you really want to keep people from stealing de-

livered packages off your porch, take time to go out and shop local!

Scammers operate at every facet of our daily life, from incessant phone calls to annoying email and social media messages, and even face-to-face contact. The most important rule to spot a scam is whether or not you initiated the contact. If you did not solicit information about a service from a person or business that contacts you, it could be a legitimate cause, but it could be a scam.

Often, scammers will misrepresent themselves as government officials or law enforcement officers. If you are contacted by someone representing themselves as a sheriff's deputy, but they are not in uniform, call our office at 410-222-1570 to let us know. Always know that you can ask for identification and make a call to the agency or business to verify the identity of a representative. If the representative is unwilling to verify their identity, be alert and beware of a potential scam.

Finally, it is incredibly important to be aware of the stress that can come with the holidays. Take care of yourself, take some time, even if only a few minutes, to destress and calm your mind. If the stress of the season is too much, you can call the Anne Arundel County crisis response system community warmline 24 hours a day at 410-768-5522 to speak to a friendly voice for support and referrals. Stay safe, drive cautiously, be friendly and enjoy the holiday season.

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Meet The Pastor: Shawn Brandon Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church



**Pastor
David Brown**

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 the Rev. Shawn Brandon from Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church.

How long have you been at Gloria Dei!? I came to Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church in February of 2014 after having lived in Washington, D.C. for five years and in Minnesota for nearly 40 years.

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

Having not grown up with any particular faith tradition, I was drawn more deeply into faith and into the church when, after having graduated from college with a music degree, I was hired as a choir director in a Lutheran church. After serving various churches in the areas of music and education and then serving as a secretary to a bishop, I sensed the call to serve in word and sacrament ministry and, following seminary, was ordained in 2003.

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

While singing in a Christmas concert at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, I heard a piece of choral music by Paul J. Christiansen titled "Thy Kingdom Come." The piece intertwined the choir singing, the reading of passages of scripture and the praying of petitions of the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace). I recall this as the moment I truly heard the gospel, the good news about Jesus and about God's love for all people and God's desire for peace, justice, and well-being for all people.

Do you cook? What is your favorite meal?

I do cook. But it's a pretty limited menu in that, being from the woods and waters of Minnesota, I don't really venture much beyond my understanding of a meal: meat, potato and vegetable. And given my Norwegian heritage, the less spice the better. Salt and pepper is OK in great moderation.

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

If I'm not at home, church or an estate sale, I am likely walking the paths of the Bay Hills neighborhood of the peninsula. I can also be found kayaking on the Severn River!

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

I both grew up and served for seven years as a pastor in Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota — the northernmost county in the contiguous United States. It's also known as the walleye capital of the world!

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

Visiting the Taizé community in France is something I have wanted to do for a long time. It is the source of such beautiful and contemplative music which we often use in worship. I suspect being immersed in the community's worship and music life would be a deeply spiritual experience. I also hope to visit Scotland someday!

What is your favorite type of music to listen to?

My favorite type of music to listen to and sing is choral music. However, I am also a big fan of classic rock from the '70s and music from the '80s. I just found the first album released by the Eagles and am pretty excited about that! Given my deep love of music, however, I can find something to appreciate in just about every genre.

What is the best thing about Gloria Dei!?

When I arrived at Gloria Dei! I found a family in faith that I described as radically welcoming, deeply spiritual and intensely serving. It is a description I continue to use today. The congregation welcomed me and my husband (obviously not something every congregation would do) and, in fact, welcomes all no matter what their family looks like or where they are on their faith journey. It is a reflection of the radical welcome to God's love, strength and leading that Jesus embodied for all people.

Worship and music are integral to the congregation's spirituality, which clearly resonates with me. And there are just so many ways in which this congregation lives out its mission to be the hands and heart of Jesus for one another, our community and the world. Of course, being located in this most lovely part of God's creation known as Maryland and among the people of this place is also a very good thing about Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church. We are blessed! And it is an incredible blessing for me personally to serve this congregation, which, as its name implies, does everything for the sake of God's glory and for which I continuously say — thanks be to God!

A Hidden Gem Serving The Community



Photo by Lauren Burke Meyer

The Woods Counseling & Care Center is a quaint, white building surrounded by a labyrinth and rock garden.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

The Woods Counseling & Care Center has quietly provided counseling services since it opened in 1993, when it was originally housed in Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park.

"The need for the center emerged as there was only one other pastoral counseling center in the area and Woods wanted to provide professional mental health care to the community, as well as offer therapy that could include attention to spiritual issues should clients want to pursue that," said Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church associate pastor Nancy Lincoln, a clinical psychotherapist.

There were only two therapists at the time, Lincoln and the late Rev. Dr. Jon Williams, a clinical psychologist. The counseling center grew over the years and now retains four therapists. Along with Lincoln, the other therapists include M. Lou Applebaum, John Gibbons and Tanise Stevens.

In addition to its growth, the Woods Counseling & Care Center has moved across the parking lot to a building surrounded by tranquility. The quaint, white building that houses the center is surrounded by a labyrinth, which can be

used for reflection, prayer or meditation; a children's garden; and a rock garden that follows the "take a penny, leave a penny" philosophy with painted rocks. The labyrinths and gardens, which are open to the public at all times, are a true metaphor and literal space for healing and growing — like that of the center. Somewhat of a hideaway, the quiet building includes a private entrance and plenty of parking.

Both counseling and care are offered through the center, which houses two programs dedicated to facilitating the growth and wellness of individuals, couples, families and systems in a setting that offers nurture, enlightenment and counseling.

The counseling center offers psychotherapy, marriage counseling, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment, and grief and bereavement counseling. Other focuses include faith and spirituality concerns, suicide prevention and more.

To obtain help or recommendations for organizations or support groups, contact 443-261-3289 or generalinfo@woodsgcc.org.

This story was edited due to space limitations. Read the full version at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

Local Author To Release Second Edition Of "Clergy Burnout"

The Rev. Fred Lehr, a resident of Severna Park, wrote a book titled "Clergy Burnout," published in 2007. Now, due to the impact of COVID-19 and rising social issues, the burnout phenomenon is even more intense.

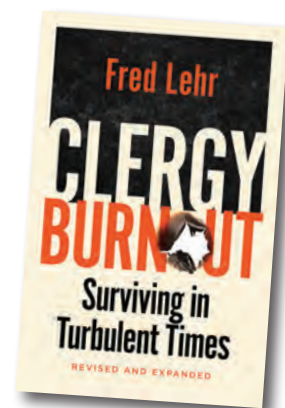
As a result, Lehr has updated "Clergy Burnout" with a second edition to be released in January 2022. He revised the earlier edition and expanded it with more content relevant to current times.

"Being honest with today's pressures, there are important ways we can do better self-care and increase our ability to make a positive impact," Lehr said.

A book valuable for more than clergy,

Lehr's work can help individuals in the helping professions; social workers, nurses, teachers and many more will identify with the stresses and struggles identified, he said.

Lehr said "Clergy Burnout" is a great companion with his 2020 book "Power Currency: How to Grow, Enhance, and Stop Squandering Your Personal Power."



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IN HOMES
NOVEMBER 19

The *Severna Park Voice* will publish its annual **Holiday Gifts & Events Edition**. This special edition magazine will be filled with information on holiday events, shopping, local traditions, gift ideas, Santa appearances and more.

Holiday Gifts & Events



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The Falcons Are Field Hockey County Champions



Photos by Will Stumme

Left: During Severna Park's 2-0 county championship win over Old Mill on October 27, the Falcons' Ava Drexler-Amey protected the ball from Elaina Creekmore. Center: Emma Marsh of Severna Park tried to block Brook Martz of Old Mill. Right: Ava Drexler-Amey fired a shot on goal. Below: The Falcons celebrated their win following the final horn.



Smothering defense and second-half goals by Delanie Abere and Katelyn Haufe lifted Severna Park to a 2-0 win over Old Mill on October 27 as the Falcons secured the county championship.

With a 12-2 record, the Falcons closed the regular season as Maryland's No. 2 field hockey team, behind Archbishop Spalding, according to MaxPreps.

Severna Park was scheduled to play Meade in the regional semifinals on November 1 after securing a first-round bye in the playoffs. The *Severna Park Voice* went to print before the game was played, but fans can find updates on the team's postseason run by following @SPVoiceSports on Twitter or by visiting www.severnaparkvoice.com.

SPHS Wins Cross Country County Championships

By Conor Doherty

The Severna Park Falcons cross country teams capped off a great regular season by winning both the boys and girls county championships on October 26. This was the 10th consecutive county championship for the boys while the girls were able to repeat as county champions after coming in first last season.

Led by senior **Tyler Canaday's** second-place finish in the boys 5K run, the Falcons dominated the boys championship, winning with 24 points. The domination was so complete that Broadneck came in second and they had 117 points. Points are given in finish order, so first gets one point, second gets two, etc. Half of the top 20 runners and eight of the top 10 were from Severna Park, with the lowest Falcons runner finishing in 20th place.

Meanwhile, the girls team was helped by junior **Mallory Trutenko's** third-place finish as the Falcons beat second-place Broadneck by three points, finishing with 39

"It really is special to see all the hard work, dedication and passion that these kids put into the sport and the program pay off for them."

— **JOSH ALCOMBRIGHT**
SPHS GOLF COACH

points to the Bruins' 42. The Bruins came close to winning due to the effort of senior **Mollie Fern**, who won the 5K by more than 17 seconds.

Falcons coach **Josh Alcombright** was thrilled with how the teams finished the season. "It really is special to see all the hard work, dedication and passion that these kids put into the sport and the program pay off for them," Alcombright said. "It is really gratifying to the coaches to be able to share this achievement with the entire program, past and present."

The Falcons will take part in the 4A East regional championships on November 4, with state championships on November 13.

Six Severna Park Golfers Qualify For State Tournament

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park golf coach **Pete Buck** described his golf team as "a snake in the grass, ready to bite" as they prepared for the state high school golf tournament at the University of Maryland.

"We are very proud to have all six of our golfers make the state tournament," said Buck. "We have a chance to be a very special team as we approach the state tournament."

The team did not make the final round, but a few golfers had solid performances. **DA Regala** finished 10th among the boys and **Ingrid Wells** finished 18th among the girls.

Severna Park's golf team was comprised of four seniors and two juniors, and they had Wells, the girls county champion.

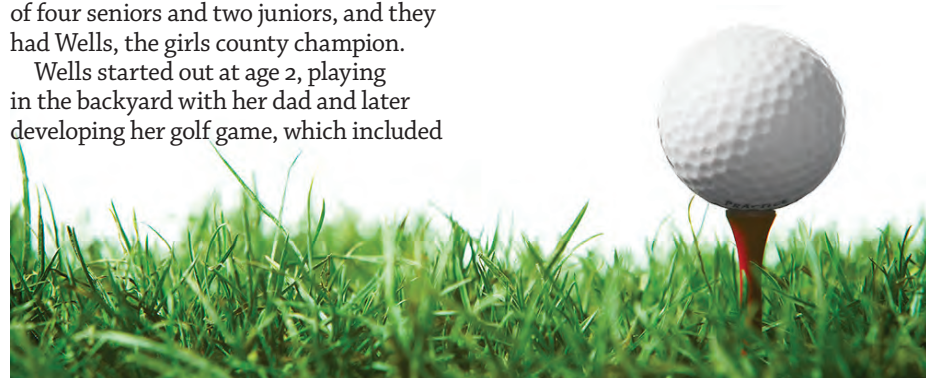
Wells started out at age 2, playing in the backyard with her dad and later developing her golf game, which included

playing at Chartwell Country Club as she got older. She enjoys the competition and being part of the Falcons golf team. She also had to follow in the footsteps of her brother, Addison, who won the boys county championship in 2018.

When asked about how she felt about winning the girls county championship, Wells remarked, "I wasn't really happy with my score, but after I found out, I was speechless."

Wells credits coach Buck for improving her mental approach during matches. "Coach Buck knows me very well and knows when I'm upset," she said. "He will talk to me and make me smile again so I can forget about a bad shot or hole."

» Continued on page 31





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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Joi Fleming

Severna Park Girls Soccer

By Conor Doherty

Standing on the sidelines, Severna Park's Joi Fleming wishes that she could be out on the pitch, playing alongside her teammates. But the Falcons senior midfielder and team captain suffered a season-ending ACL tear in her left knee on September 30. However, that hasn't stopped Fleming from supporting her teammates as much as she can during this season.

"I make sure everyone is organized. I'm kind of like the organized leader," Fleming said. "I make sure everyone knows what color we're wearing, brings everything to the game and practice. I try and make sure everyone feels included, make our chemistry feel good and make sure everyone has a ride to team dinners and other events."

Despite being relegated to the sidelines, Fleming has tried her best to make

her voice heard on the field.

But that wasn't always the case. Before her injury, Fleming was a quiet teammate, not making herself heard too much during her first three years with the Falcons. "I was not the one who was loud, talking on the field," she stated. "Other seniors kind of took that role and they did it really well, so I didn't feel like I had to be loud."

Even though Fleming wasn't vocal back then, she still made teammates feel like they could come to her if they had any issues or concerns.

Now that she is a team captain, Fleming knows that she has the support of her teammates just as much as they have her support. She said that it meant a lot to be chosen as a team captain before the season started.



Photo by Conor Doherty

Despite being sidelined by an ACL tear, Joi Fleming has been actively supporting her teammates on and off the field.

"Knowing that they felt that I would be a good leader for them made me

“

I've been trying to be a very vocal hype person, cheer my teammates on. I try to cheer them on, make them feel the energy from the bench and from the sidelines so then they're playing their best on the field.”

— JOI FLEMING

feel good and happy to know that my teammates see me that way," she explained.

Fleming described herself as a defensive midfielder, not the type of player who scores a lot. For her, that made being named team captain that much more meaningful.

She has shown she isn't letting her injury stop her both from supporting her team and from trying to play soccer at the collegiate level next fall. She walks up and down the stairs at the Falcons stadium as exercise and there isn't

a noticeable limp when she walks. While she has shown mental toughness getting through this, it wasn't easy for her knowing her last season as a Falcon was over.

"It was really tough that first week after it happened, especially when I got the confirmation the day before senior night," she said. "It really was depressing, seeing as this was my last season and I wouldn't be able to spend it out there playing on the field. But right now, I'm trying to stay positive and reliable for my teammates. For now, I'll keep bringing the energy and make them feel supported out there on the field."

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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Boys Soccer Teams For BHS, SPHs Start Playoff Runs



Photos by Christopher Fincham

With the county championship game between Broadneck and Severna Park getting canceled midway through play due to lightning on October 25, the Broadneck boys soccer team entered the playoffs with a first-round bye as the top team in the 4A East Region II. As the No. 3 seed, the Falcons battled High Point on October 27 (photos at top), getting a 4-0 win. In the second round of the playoffs, the Bruins beat Annapolis 2-0. Severna Park had yet to play its second-round game against Leonardtown when the Severna Park Voice went to print. A Falcons win would pit them against the Bruins in the region championship on November 2.

Lady Falcons Advance To Soccer Region Finals



Photos by Christopher Fincham Photography

A late goal by Hanna Verreault helped Severna Park girls soccer beat North Point, 1-0, on October 30 to advance to the 4A East Region II finals. Mal Scheimreif added three saves for Severna Park. The win set up a showdown between the No. 2-seeded Falcons and the No. 1-seeded Broadneck Bruins on November 2.





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JV Squads For Severn School, Spalding Compete



The Cavaliers showed good passing throughout their their matchup with Severn, helping them to a 3-0 win on October 12.

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

A tight contest resulted in a 3-0 win for Archbishop Spalding against Severn School on October 12.

“It’s nice to play against a team that has great stickwork and good communication,” Spalding JV coach **Amy McKusky** said. “[Severn] is a great team. I know the coaches; we used to coach together, so I knew the competition was going to be great. So, a great battle and we were able to come out on top.”

Spalding came into the game without a loss. McKusky said her team stayed loose and played with focus despite the high expectations that come with being a then-undefeated team.

“They’re so motivated to play well and just to be here and to play hockey,” she said. “We have a lot of athletes who love

the game. We have maybe one game during the week; they’re out there early. They stay late.”

Archbishop Spalding JV head coach **Emily Wombly** said Severn School presented one of her team’s biggest challenges all season.

“We played Mount de Sales and that was an emotional game for us as well,” Wombly said. “We got a little too hyped in that game. I’m proud of [the girls] because this time, they were able to hone that energy and really work the ball and come together. They left it all on the field.”

“If you look at the season from the beginning to now, they are different girls and I’m so proud to see them develop and not only improve individually but improve as a team to where they’re clicking, they’re communicating and they’re amping each other up.”

Spalding Clashes With Severn En Route To Playoffs

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Archbishop Spalding’s varsity team earned a 7-2 victory over Severn School on October 12, as both teams prepared for the playoffs.

Following that win, Archbishop Spalding head coach **Leslee Brady** identified a few areas Severn (10-1) could still improve upon.

“Utilizing the empty space that is available on the field,” she cited as one example. “I think every team has a tendency to want to push the ball forward instead of laterally. We’re going to work more on our lateral movement, transitioning across the field to get to the empty space on the other side.”

MaxPrep’s No. 1 team in Maryland, Archbishop Spalding showed that even the best teams can improve, defeating Notre Dame Prep 6-0 in the IAAM quarterfinals on October 28. That win set up a semifinals match against McDonogh School on November 3. A victory against McDonogh would propel Spalding to the IAAM finals over the weekend of November 6.

Severn School was not as fortunate. The Admirals lost 1-0 to McDonogh School on October 28 in the first round of the IAAM playoffs.



On October 12, the Archbishop Spalding and Severn School field hockey teams battled it out on the field. The Cavaliers came away with a 7-2 victory.

Photos by Zach Sparks

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Broadneck Explodes To Beat Severna Park, 48-14

*Both Teams Ranked Atop
Respective Regions
Heading Into Playoffs*



By Conor Doherty

One of the most anticipated games in a long time between bitter rivals Broadneck and Severna Park turned into a rout, as the Bruins scored 41 unanswered points, becoming an avalanche as Broadneck head coach **Rob Harris** described them, winning by a final score of 48-14 in the Ravens RISE Showdown on October 15.

A full capacity crowd of over 3,000 fans came to see not just the Bruins and Falcons play but all that the Baltimore Ravens had done to make the evening that much more fun. Ravens quarterback Trace McSorley and Ravens cheerleaders pumped up the crowd while fireworks went off during the national anthem.

Evidently, those fireworks inspired the Bruins as they struck first, scoring on a 55-yard touchdown pass from quarterback **Josh Ehrlich** to wide receiver **Eli Harris** midway through the first quarter. But the Falcons responded in the second quarter, first tying the game on a 1-yard run by **LJ Cooper** and then taking the lead when the Bruins secondary left receiver **Chad Brown** wide open with quarterback **Seamus Patenaude** finding him for a 34-yard touchdown pass.

"We had a nice game plan, and we followed that game plan," said Falcons head coach **Mike Wright**.



The Falcons came in as underdogs, having lost 12-7 to an Annapolis team that the Bruins had beaten 42-0, so as coach Wright put it, the Falcons "were playing a little bit with house money." Many of the players knew that as well.

"We went into the game with an underdog mindset," said linebacker **Brayden Flynn**. "We went in there knowing it was going to be a battle." Unfortunately for the Falcons, the house came for its money. After letting the Bruins quickly tie the game going into halftime, the Falcons fell flat in the second half while the Bruins came out swinging.

Bruins running back **Davion White** scored a rushing touchdown in the third quarter, but Severna Park stopped the Bruins on fourth-and-goal a drive later. Backed up against his own end zone, Patenaude forced a pass that was intercepted by Broadneck defensive back **Albert Pasa**,

Photo by Zach Sparks

The Bruins struck first, scoring on a 55-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Josh Ehrlich to wide receiver Eli Harris midway through the first quarter.

Photo by Conor Doherty

Broadneck's Albert Pasa made a critical interception as the Falcons were backed up near their end zone during the third quarter.



who returned it inside the 2-yard line. One play later, White scored again, and the rout was on.

"We started slow, but I'm proud of the guys for fighting through it," said Ehrlich. "The offensive line especially, they had a great game." And that statement was proven true late in the fourth quarter when **Machi Evans**, helped by some great blocking, took a jet sweep up the left side of the field for an 88-yard touchdown run to punctuate the Bruins' win.

While the game ended great for the Bruins, coach Harris felt it could have started off better. "There was a lot of excitement [at the beginning of the game] and the atmosphere was out of control," Harris stated. "We made a lot of silly mistakes [at first], but I think our starters became more disciplined over time."

For the Falcons, it was a tough outcome, but many of the players were proud of how

the team came out to start the game. "I'm proud of my team for giving it their all, and I could never ask for a better group of guys to compete with," Patenaude said.

The loss dropped Severna Park to 5-2 on the season while Broadneck improved to 6-1, with their only loss being to Archbishop Spalding, the third-ranked team in Maryland, according to MaxPreps.

Since then, Broadneck beat Old Mill 41-25 on October 22 in what, essentially, was the county championship game. Severna Park rebounded with a 35-7 win against Glen Burnie on the same night.

Heading into the playoffs, Broadneck earned a first-round bye as the top team in the 4A East, awaiting the winner of the game between Parkville and Glen Burnie. Severna Park was ranked the top team in the 4A/3A East. The Falcons will face either North Point or Leonardtown on November 12.

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Hornet Middie A Girls Are County Champions



The Green Hornets field hockey Middie A team capped off an amazing season October 31 with a 2-1 victory over the Broadneck BAYS to clinch the county championship. Goals by Sophia Weber and Piper Desjardins were scored early on while a dynamic defense held down the rest of the game.

“

I couldn't be prouder of these girls. They have worked all season to improve and play as a team and that's exactly what they did.”

— MEREDITH WEBER
HEAD COACH
GREEN HORNET MIDDIE A
FIELD HOCKEY TEAM

Green Hornets Football Celebrates Homecoming



Photos by Conor Doherty

The Green Hornets youth football program held its annual homecoming games over two Saturdays, October 16 and October 23. The split was due to the higher-than-expected number of teams Green Hornets fielded this season. The program had 11 teams this fall and doubled the number of kids playing compared to last year's pandemic-shortened season. **Above:** Members of the 11U A team posed for pictures with their families before their homecoming game on October 16. **Below:** (Right) The Green Hornets 14U A team got ready to run out of the tunnel before their homecoming game (left) vs. the Upper Queen Anne's Lions on October 23.



Broadneck Volleyball Dominates Chesapeake 3-0



The Bruins' Bella Rubino served the ball during the third set of Broadneck's 3-0 victory versus Chesapeake on October 21.

By Conor Doherty

Editor's Note: The Bruins played Arundel in the county championship game on November 1, after the Severna Park Voice went to print.

Broadneck's domination against its fellow Anne Arundel County schools continued when the Bruins shut out the Chesapeake Cougars 3-0 on October 21. The Bruins controlled the game from the outset, winning the three sets by scores of 25-5, 25-11 and 25-6.

Bruins head coach Tracey Regalbuto

said that the team played well as the playoffs drew closer. "We've been spending this whole season tightening things up, every part of our game," she said. "Now that we're getting close to the playoffs, I feel like we're starting to look sharper and more put together. We're excited for the playoffs."

And Broadneck looked sharp, led by Bella Rubino, who had 16 service points, along with 12 aces or serves that directly resulted in a point, and Natalie Luscomb, who had 11 kills in the game.

"A win like this proves the fact that we are a good team, and we play good against any team, no matter what level they are," said Luscomb. "We're always playing our best game, no matter what, and that's really for us."

Rubino said the team has been working on hustle and free ball plays, the type of plays that can cost teams points when the ball takes an unexpected bounce. "When those plays happen, we've been working on just staying in the game, no matter what the other team throws at us," Rubino stated.

As the playoffs approached, both Rubino and Luscomb admitted that the team had not avoided talking about the goals they have for this season. "You have to believe in yourself to do anything and to win this; we have to have faith in ourselves," said Luscomb. "We definitely understand that each game is so important to us, because it leads up to regionals, counties and states."

Rubino said, "We had a team talk and we regrouped everyone's mindsets. We said, 'Here are our personal goals. We're going to get to our big goal, which is winning states.'"

That confidence is warranted based on how dominant the Bruins have been this season. The Bruins had lost just six sets on the season through the game against Chesapeake. And the only team that had pushed the Bruins to play a full five sets in a game was Arundel, who did it both times the schools played. Arundel was also the only school to have beaten the Bruins through October, beating them in the second game of the year. The Bruins had a 10-1 record heading into the last week of the season.

SPHS Golfers Qualify For States

» Continued from page 22

Buck said his role as golf coach is multifaceted. "I try to help their mental approach to the game. As a coach, I try to outline their game-day analysis, research the golf course and break down each hole," Buck said. "There's no timeouts in golf to regroup, so I need to have them prepared."

This was Buck's sixth year as the golf coach for the Falcons. He is also a physical education teacher and assistant baseball coach at Severna Park.

Senior **Liam Mahoney** also credits Buck for helping to improve his game.

"Coach Buck has really helped me with the mental part of my game as he offers strategies to help me forget a bad hole and focus on the next shot or hole," Mahoney said.

Mahoney is another Chartwell member and developed his game in the Chartwell junior program. He plays at least four times a week during the summer. His strengths are his wedge game and keeping his drives in the fairway.

Severna Park lost by one stroke for the county championship to Crofton but rebounded to have the entire team qualify for the state tournament during the district tournament, in which they placed second.

As with many high school students, both Wells and Mahoney have great memories of the fun at practices, team dinners and the competition. Wells hopes to continue her golfing career at the University of Tennessee and major in criminal psychology.

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Keenan Kopf Approaches Eagle Scout Rank Though Project At SPCA

By Judy Tacyn

As a child, Keenan Kopf declared he'd never be without a dog in his life. Now a senior at Chesapeake High School, and with a menagerie of furry and scaled family members at home, Kopf has always known his Eagle Scout project would help rescue animals in some way. On October 24, Kopf moved a step closer to earning Eagle rank when he and several members of Troop 450 out of St. John the Evangelist Church built much-needed shelving at the SPCA of Anne Arundel County in Annapolis.

"Being able to help the SPCA in supporting their mission was a very good feeling," Kopf said. "Being able to do it with some younger scouts was very rewarding."

Kopf is passionate about animals and calls those who help them live their best lives "heroes." After 11 years in scouting, and preparing for the Eagle rank, he contacted the SPCA of Anne Arundel

County in Annapolis to inquire about the needs of the shelter. He learned the SPCA was in dire need of new, sturdy shelving to support the hundreds of pounds of donated pet food and supplies made available for pet owners who may have difficulty purchasing food for their own pets.

He contacted local building and supply stores for the wood, paint and other materials to create multiple shelving units. His grandfather, a carpenter, also assisted. "We really enjoyed working with Keenan. Over the years, we have always had good experiences with Eagle Scouts and Keenan was no exception," said Kristen Nimmo, administrative coordinator for the SPCA of Anne Arundel County. "His professional demeanor and commitment to quality work made it a pleasure to work with him."

Troop 450 scoutmaster
» Continued on page 38



Photo by Judy Tacyn

(Clockwise) John McCone, Jordon Douglas, Sam Cook, RJ Washington, Brandon Calvert, Keenan Kopf and Asher Kopf partnered to build shelves for the SPCA of Anne Arundel County.

School Board Approves Plan To Shift Start And Dismissal Times

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County has given its stamp of approval to shift to new school start and dismissal times when the 2022-2023 school year begins next fall.

The board had previously requested a plan that would implement new start times in January 2022. In a unanimous vote on October 20, however, the board accepted the recommendation by Prismatic Services Inc. to delay the shift until the fall. Schools will move to a bell schedule where elementary schools will begin between 8:00am and 9:00am, middle schools will begin between 8:30am and 9:15am, and high schools will begin at 8:30am. Exact start and dismissal times of individual schools will not be known for several months.

"This board, based on mountains of research, committed in June to change to healthier school start times and the big question still out there had been when that would happen," said Melissa Ellis, Anne
» Continued on page 38

Teen Becomes Second Marylander To Achieve Trail Life Freedom Award

By Haley Weisgerber

Trail Life USA is a church-based, Christ-centered and boy-focused organization, similar to Boy Scouts, in which children from kindergarten through 12th grade are taught by male mentors to grow in character, develop leadership skills, earn badges and serve their community. In the Anne Arundel community, Severna Park Baptist Church proudly hosts Trail Life USA Troop MD0152, which is celebrating the great accomplishment of one of their own.

On October 3, Drew Funderburk, a member of Troop 152, became the second Marylander ever to be awarded the Freedom Award, the highest honor in Trail Life USA. Drew has been involved with Trail Life for six years, four of which he completed in Texas, where his family lived before moving to Maryland.

"Trail Life is for men who want to go out on adventure and learn about God's creation," said Drew. "It's also where you can earn badges, go camping, go hiking, and you can practice your leadership skills to carry out the mission."

The Freedom Award is similar to the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout, according to Drew. He had to achieve 15 required and 10 elective badges and complete a project.

"I set some goals and worked hard to achieve them," said Drew. "I wanted to achieve this goal and earn this badge. I feel like I learned a lot by working hard and never giving up."

Drew's project involved a nonprofit organization based in Columbia, Maryland, called Free Bikes 4 Kidz.

"I chose it because I thought it would be a good thing to help kids get bikes for Christmas," said Drew.

Together with his troop and his family, Drew collected 125 bikes. As part of his project, he also provided bike maintenance to the donations. Stacey Benning, the wife of Trail Life leader Darrin Benning, said this project was no small feat.

"The project took several weeks of planning and preparation," said Stacey. "There were three different working sessions with volunteers to collect, organize, clean and repair the bikes. There was one day for handing out the bikes."



Drew Funderburk (left), who earned his Freedom Award on October 3, said his father, Scott, is his biggest supporter.

Stacey and Darrin Benning, alongside Trail Life leaders Jim Benson and Daniel Novak, were extremely supportive according to Drew. No one, however, has been more supportive than Drew's father, Scott Funderburk. Scott said he is proud of his son for winning the Freedom Award.

"He's got a strong character, very innocent heart, and he cares for others and wants to serve others," said Scott.

"That was a big part of not only just the service project, but that's one of the main themes of Trail Life."

Scott, a former Boy Scout, said Trail Life USA has been an important way for him to bond with his son.

"I am very much involved and super active in his progress," said Scott. "It was gentle encouragement and nudging along; seeing him do what he can do and be successful was really rewarding."



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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 Windsor Farm Elementary School answered the question:

What are you thankful for?



I am thankful for having many friends. **Aidan M.**



My family because they are always going to be there for me in tough times. **Allison M.**



I am most thankful for my family because they feed me, they give me shelter and they love me. **Anson T.**



I am thankful for my family because they make me feel loved and safe like nobody else. **Bianca K.**



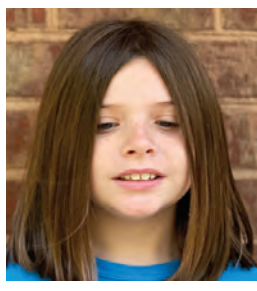
I am thankful for my parents because they put food on the table so I don't get hungry and they care for me when I do sports or when I am having a hard time. **Bradley D.**



I am most thankful for gifts from God because he gave me a home, a horse, a new puppy, food, money, fun, good family and great life. I love God because I am Catholic. **Charlotte C.**



I am thankful for all the kind and thoughtful people in the world who are caring for the people who don't have food for themselves and their families. **Charlotte D.**



I love air conditioning and communicators; they are the best. But I am most thankful for my country because I love freedom. **Corey H.**



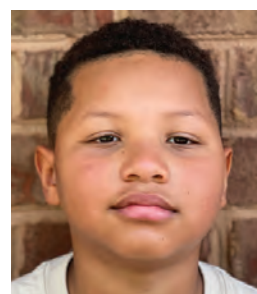
The thing I am most thankful for is my parents because they love me, feed me and give me a home. **Felipe B.**



I am thankful for the opportunities I have to succeed in the world. **Grace V.**



I am thankful for my family because they give me what I want and what I need all of the time. If I want to do sports, they always pay for it. I'm so thankful for them because they always support me no matter what. **Kileigh P.**



I am grateful to my little brother because he plays with me when I get home from school and supports me with my homework. **Malcolm R.**



A life to live. **Mark W.**



I am thankful for being alive and born because without myself being born, I would not be here or be participating in anything. I would have no friends or family. And that is why I am thankful for being alive. **Mia S.**



I'm thankful for music since it's relaxing, enjoyable and really good to listen to. **Jacob N.**



I am most thankful for a lot of things, but the one thing I am most thankful for is my mom. She would do anything to make us happy and healthy. She can be tough and loving at the same time. **Nahla H.**



I am most thankful for having a guardian angel. **Owen G.**

Severna Park Schools Lead Harvest For The Hungry Fundraising

To keep kids engaged in the Harvest for the Hungry campaign, Folger McKinsey counselor Michael Kahn organized several activities, including a silly string initiative.

By Diane Lewis

The annual Harvest for the Hungry campaign has become a virtual fundraising event instead of the traditional collection of canned goods and nonperishable foods by individual public schools in Anne Arundel County.

Despite the change of fundraising tactics, Severna Park High School and Folger McKinsey Elementary are once again this year's top earners for the campaign. SPHS collected \$2,760 during the first week of the drive. As of late October, Folger McKinsey had raised nearly \$4,000 so far. The latter amount is particularly impressive since the elementary school has roughly 600 students and the high



school's student body is approximately 1,800. Both schools have used spirit week as the main motivational tool to engage students in the fundraising process.

"Michael Kahn, the school counselor at Folger McKinsey, has a wonderful rapport with the children that is so easygoing and entertaining to them," said Valerie Shinnamon, PTO past president at Folger McKinsey Elementary. "Kahn is an extremely humble man who also goes above and beyond his duties to do things that help students feel at ease when he's around. He is funny and does silly things that kids easily relate to and want to participate in."

Spirit week is a particularly hilarious time for the kids. "I try to entertain the kids by doing progressively sillier things or planning fun activities for each fundraising goal we reach," Kahn said.

Examples include kids smashing pies in his face or reading to different classes while wearing a sumo wrestler costume.

"Mr. Kahn easily motivates the students to 'help feed kids just like themselves,'" Shinnamon said, add-

ing that Kahn's excitement and silly actions make the kids want to share what he is doing with their parents and the rest of the community.

Elizabeth Meadows, a math teacher at SPHS is a member of the Key Club that organizes and runs the annual Harvest for the Hungry fundraiser. She said the high school raised \$14,800 last year. This year's goal is \$20,000.

"The Student Government Association has already hosted a virtual bingo night and sold candygrams," Meadows said. "Students have also collected money at home football games."

The high school is also working on having a restaurant week and the students keep thinking of new ways to reach out to the community.

Harvest for the Hungry runs until November 23. Visit 63610.thankyou4caring.org/harvest and select the school of your choice to donate funds.



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Whimsical "Willy Wonka Jr." Coming To Stage & Screen

Visit a world of pure imagination by visiting Stage & Screen Studios for "Willy Wonka Jr." Showtimes are at 7:00pm on November 5, 2:00pm and 7:00pm on November 6, and 2:00pm on November 7.



Produced in the spring of 2018, "Willy Wonka" was the first main-stage production at Stage & Screen Studios and holds some attendance

records. Stage & Screen is located at 215 Najoles Road, Studio A, in Millersville. For tickets, visit stagescreenstudios.ticketleap.com/wonka.

It's Almost Time For "Freaky Friday" In Severna Park

Severna Park High School will present "Freaky Friday the Musical" on November 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 7:00pm and on November 14 at 3:00pm. Based on the 1972 novel by Mary Rodgers and the Disney films, "Freaky Friday" follows an overworked mother and her teenage daughter

as they magically swap bodies. The musical is comedic yet heartfelt as the mother and daughter learn to appreciate each other's struggles and form a bond.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.sphsdrama.com or at the door for \$15.

School Board Approves Plan

» Continued from page 32

Arundel County Board of Education president. "We now have that answer. Our families and our students will have healthier school start times in the fall. This has been years in the making and there is more work to be done between now and then, but the certainty is that change is coming."

AACPS contracted with Prismatic Services Inc. to assist in developing bus routing for new school start and dismissal times in March 2021 following the board's action two months earlier to implement healthier school hours for all students. The firm had provided two updates prior to the final recommendations in October 2021.

Prismatic's work to date shows that the shift can be accomplished at little to no additional cost, but the school system may need as many as 32 more buses to address existing overcrowding issues. The plan will create efficient

in current bus routes by consolidating some bus routes and bus stops. Prismatic is spending approximately four weeks meeting with AACPS transportation department officials to continue to optimize the plan.

Implementation of the plan — which will bring about significant change for all schools, employees and families — will require renegotiation of agreements with bus contractors, shifts in school meal and athletics schedules, and changes to child-care operations throughout the county. Superintendent George Arlotto has already begun assembling an implementation team to oversee the project and work through the various logistical aspects of this change.

"Our board remains committed to gathering input from stakeholders in order to support the community through this transition and to improve the lives of our students with healthier school hours," Ellis said.

Kopf Approaches Eagle Scout Rank

» Continued from page 32

Jake Miller explained how the project is an important step on the path to the rank of Eagle Scout.

"The project is an opportunity for a scout to demonstrate the leadership skills they have learned in scouting and an opportunity to give back to the community that supported that scout on their journey to Eagle," Miller said. "I am proud of Keenan and his work with the ASPCA. His efforts will have an impact on the residents and pets in the community. I look forward to seeing Keenan continue to work toward his Eagle Scout rank as he completes this part of the journey."

The shelving units will make a world of difference to the SPCA of Anne Arundel County, Nimmo said. "We require a great deal of supplies to provide care to so many animals, and the shelving units will enable us to use our space more efficiently," Nimmo said. "We are so very grateful for all of Keenan's hard work and thank him for all he does for the SPCA of Anne Arundel County."

Kopf lives in Severna Park with his parents, Andrea and Pat, both of whom are active in Troop 450. He is a member of the Chesapeake High School varsity soccer and wrestling teams. Kopf plans to attend college and study computer science.



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Seasoned Runner Tackles “Magical” Boston Marathon

By Judy Tacyn

After being canceled in 2020, the 125th Boston Marathon returned on October 11 to the delight of Bostonians and runners from around the globe. Christina Morganti from Severna Park was one of the 20,000 athletes gathered under the partly cloudy sky and mid-60s temperatures for the first staggered start in race history.

The 2021 Boston Marathon wasn't Morganti's first marathon; she had run in several over the years but said it had been about a decade since her last one. In 2019, she ran the qualifying marathon for the 2020 Boston Marathon, which was ultimately canceled.

“I just love Boston, and the marathon is the oldest in the U.S. with lots of tradition,” Morganti said. “It's kind of cool because you have to qualify, so it's a nice goal to aim for.”

Her training for the Boston Marathon began in June, during which time she suffered a broken little toe and “a couple sprained body parts after a fall.” She admits it wasn't

the best for training, but said, “No way was I going to miss this; it was supposed to be April 20, 2020.”

Now at an age where injuries could slow her down, Morganti, an orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist, is acutely aware of her body and makes sure to listen when it hurts. “If I get a little ache or pain, I'm all over it ... ice, taping, stretching, and a day off until it cools off,” she said.

“I try to keep my running consistent and take few days off. I do take at least one day

a week off when I don't really exercise,” Morganti continued. “I try to make sure I do my strength training and stretching, eat healthy, and change out my running shoes every few months.”

She added that she loves being outside, moving and being in shape. Running provides her with some needed “alone time,” but she has also forged great friendships through running.



Despite posting one of her worst race times, Christina Morganti really enjoyed running in the Boston Marathon on October 11.

“There's no better way to get to know someone than to run with them. So many of my friendships were made from running,” Morganti added. “I'm lucky I can still do it; lots of stuff can happen that makes it hard to run.”

Held every year on Patriots' Day, a Massachusetts state holiday when schools and many businesses are closed and locals come to watch the marathon, the race was surrounded by a “magical” atmosphere, Morganti explained.

“It was all so positive, you would not believe it,” she added, noting that she thinks even more people have come out in support of the runners and the

city of Boston since the 2013 bombing near the finish line. “And with it canceled last year, there was a lot of pent-up excitement. Everyone we passed would yell, ‘Welcome back!’”

Morganti said her finish time was the worst time she ever posted and the earliest that she had “crashed.” However, “probably the most fun I've ever had because of the totally awesome positive vibe,” she added. “Hopefully my time was good enough to qualify for next year so I can go back and have fun but still run decent.”

Two Shots At Once?

It's Safe To Get COVID And Flu Vaccines Together

By Jean Murray

Director of Infection Prevention and Epidemiology, Luminis Health

Last year, we had a mild flu season; a combination of stay-at-home orders, mask mandates, travel restrictions, and other COVID-19 control measures kept flu cases at bay. In fact, there was a 98% decrease in the number of hospitalizations between October 1, 2020, and January 30, 2021, compared to the same time the previous year. That seems like a good thing, right?

While it certainly helped get us through an already difficult time, it may have done us a disservice for this upcoming season. You see, every time we're exposed to the flu virus, our bodies get a little better at fighting it off. But because so many of us didn't get sick last season, we're left a little more vulnerable to the flu than in years past.

And researchers believe we're likely in for a rough flu season – on top of new COVID-19 variants that continue to spread rapidly through our communities. The solution? Get your flu shot. Even better, get your COVID-19 vaccine (or booster) at the same time. It's safe, effective and convenient.

The History Of The Flu Shot

Vaccinations against the seasonal flu first became widespread in the U.S. in 1945 – nearly 12 years after the influenza virus had been identified and 27 years since the Spanish flu swept across the country. Those vaccinations continue to save lives and prevent serious complications. From 2019 to 2020 alone, the flu vaccine prevented:

- 7.52 million influenza illnesses
- 3.69 million doctor's visits
- 105,000 hospitalizations
- 6,300 deaths

If you're still on the fence about a flu shot, consider:

Experts are concerned this flu season could be particularly bad. Natural immunity may be down. Mask mandates and most travel restrictions have been

lifted. School and workplaces are shifting back to in-person hours. This combination could lead to an especially busy flu season for health systems already caring for many COVID-19 patients.

Flu shots are safe and effective. The numbers alone tell the story of how effective flu shots are at preventing serious illness. The most common side effects — a sore arm and tenderness at the injection site — are worth getting an illness that can cause symptoms for a week or longer.

Most individuals are eligible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that almost everyone, ages 6 months and older, receive an annual flu vaccine.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Is Safe

If you've been hesitant to get a COVID-19 vaccine, it's OK. Here are a few reasons you can be confident that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective at preventing serious illness:

- **185 million individuals have been vaccinated in the U.S.** (a number that continues to climb every day). Serious side effects have been very rare, and research continues to prove the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **6.34 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been given around the world.** As more countries and individuals have access to the vaccine, that will grow even more.
- **The COVID-19 vaccines are effective.** Vaccines' effectiveness among adults without immunocompromised conditions ranged from 93% to 71%. Those numbers are significant; one study found that the flu shot reduced the risk of hospitalization by 41% in a primarily older population.

Save time. Get the COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot at once.

No one likes the idea of getting one shot, let alone two. So why not get it all over with at the same time? After all, the CDC suggests that getting a flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time is perfectly safe. You may have two arms sore instead of one, but in just one trip, you can be on your way to staying healthy and strong this flu season.

Maryland Residents Invited To Virtual Alzheimer's Conference

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will host a free virtual Alzheimer's educational conference for Maryland residents on Thursday, November 18, from 10:00am to 12:30pm as part of its 2021 national Educating America Tour. The conference, which is open to everyone, will allow participants to learn from, and ask questions of, health, caregiving and long-term care experts. To register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour.

“Knowledge is a useful and powerful tool that can help make any situation easier to navigate, especially something as challenging as caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease,” said Charles Fuschillo Jr.,

AFA's president and CEO.

Dr. Mehmet Oz, host of “The Dr. Oz Show,” will be a guest speaker and share his family's personal Alzheimer's story regarding the diagnosis of his mother, Suna Oz. Dr. Oz will also share tips to promote good brain health and healthy aging.

Sessions during the AFA virtual conference will include:

Legal Issues for the Alzheimer's Patient

Having the necessary legal documents in place is vital when a family is confronted with a dementia diagnosis. Morris

Klein, esquire, will talk about legal issues faced by many people who are living with Alzheimer's disease, including Medicaid eligibility, special needs planning, guardianships, and drafting essential documents such as powers of attorney, health care advance directives, trusts and wills.

Putting Your Health Care Team Together

Having a strong network is essential for caregivers to reduce stress, prevent burnout, and ultimately provide the best care possible. Mari Baxter, chief operating officer of Senior Helpers Franchising, will

offer important tips on how to build that support structure to aid in caregiving.

Symptoms, Treatment and Research on Alzheimer's

Paul Fishman, a clinical professor of neurology at the University of Maryland and chief of neurology with the VA Maryland Health Care System, will provide an overview of Alzheimer's disease, explain the warning signs, and discuss ongoing Alzheimer's research and clinical trials.

For more information or to register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour.

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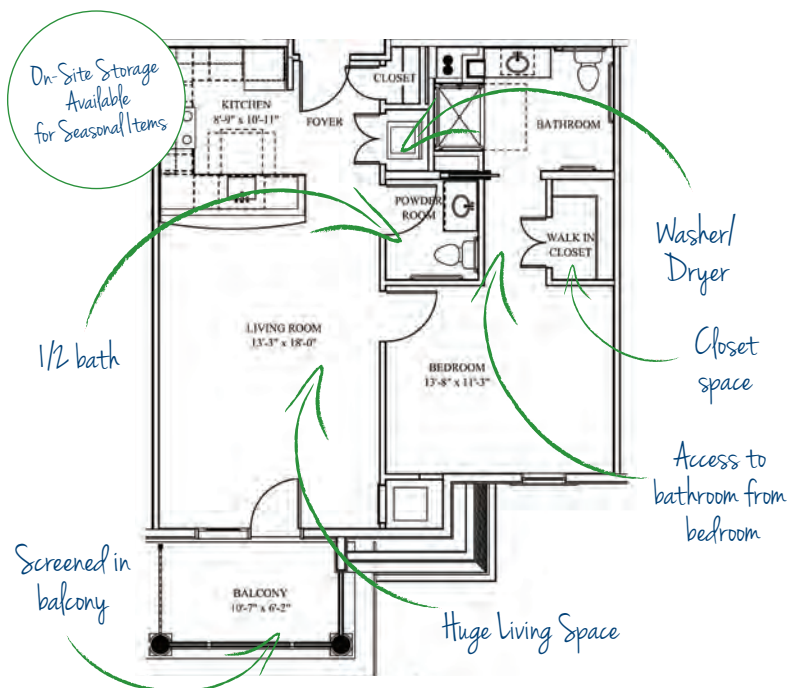
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From “The X Files” To “House Of Cards”

LA Costume Designer Feels At Home In Severna Park

By Jane Seiss

Stacey Ferrence describes herself as a true “valley girl.” She grew up in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County in the ‘80s. Today, after moving to Maryland in 2012, Ferrence calls Severna Park home. Ferrence has 30 years of clothing and costuming experience. She is enjoying friendships and life here, and she is channeling her creative and costuming background into two unique entrepreneurial pursuits.

From a young age, Ferrence knew she would follow a creative path. “I wanted to be a fashion designer when I was a kid,” she said. “I used to sew with my grandmother and make clothes.”

Ferrence earned a Bachelor of Science
» Continued on page 46

Photo courtesy of Maureen Porto Photography

After serving as a costume designer for several TV shows and films, Chartwell resident Stacey Ferrence now runs a boutique in Annapolis.

New Director Raises Curtain On Live Performances At Ballet Theatre Of Maryland

By Judy Tacyn

Nicole Kelsch retired as a ballerina in early 2020. As the new artistic director of the Ballet Theatre of Maryland, she’s excited to help guide the careers of up-and-coming dancers.

“My last performance was ‘Swan Lake’ in March 2020,” said Kelsch, noting that the responsibilities of running the company would be too great to balance while continuing to dance. “I have no regrets, though; I had a long career and danced principal roles in many more ballets than I ever thought I would. As artistic director, I get to help the next generation of dancers realize their artistic potential. I find that extremely fulfilling.”

Kelsch earned a degree in ballet performance from Point Park University in Pittsburgh. Following graduation, she danced for companies in South Carolina, Georgia and Connecticut before joining Ballet Theatre of Maryland in 2006. She danced with the company for 14 years and ran the Ballet Theatre of Maryland Conservatory of Classical and Contemporary Dance for 10 years.

In July 2020, Kelsch officially took on the role of artistic director. Her first major task was to do everything she could to keep performances happening under COVID restrictions.

“We managed to hold a full season and keep the dancers employed last season through a lot of creativity,” said Kelsch.



Nicole Kelsch
Artistic Director
Ballet Theatre Of
Maryland

“We performed outdoors several times, in a hotel ballroom, and had a drive-in ‘Nutcracker,’ where the dancers were inside on a basketball court that we converted and livestreamed the performance to the audience outside in a near-by parking lot.”

Kelsch added

that there were times when only 10 or 15 dancers were in the studio at a time because of restrictions and everyone else had to be on a Zoom call.

“That was hard on the dancers’ morale because they thrive on their time in the studio and theater,” said Kelsch. “The positive was that we realized that we are very adaptable, and I’ve certainly seen that these alternative models can provide opportunities to evolve the dancer and audience experience with dance.”

“Giselle” was performed at the Ballet Theatre of Maryland in October, and Kelsch reported that the dancers were thrilled to be back in the theater with a live audience.

“We livestreamed from a theater last
» Continued on page 46

DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK



Photos by Mary Cobbler

Top Left: The pulled pork sandwich was a perfect balance of sweetness and tang. **Bottom Left:** The “all-American” bacon burger was juicy and flavorful.



Top Right: An appetizer, the cheesesteak egg rolls were a good choice — crispy on the outside, soft on the inside, and filled with a shaved beef and cheese mix. **Bottom Right:** JB’s lava cake was warm and decadent with a molten middle.



JB’s Delivers On Promise Of Bites, Brews And Ballgames

By Mary Cobbler

Looking for a casual, fun spot to chill with friends or a place to treat the team after a game? Check out JB’s at 566 Ritchie Highway. The much-anticipated newbie on the block, JB’s is a classic sports bar and restaurant with a modern feel. Open and airy with colorful designs, and about 30 televisions, it’s got pizzazz.

My companion and I were pleased to see Severna Park school sports logos and local and national sports team banners featured throughout the restaurant.

Our young waiter was fantastic. Nate was friendly and efficient, and quick to offer suggestions.

We started with one of Nate’s “abso-

» Continued on page 44





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JB's Delivers On Promise Of Bites, Brews And Ballgames

» Continued from page 41

lute favorites" — cheesesteak egg rolls. An excellent starter to share, the four rolls were crispy on the outside, soft on the inside, filled with a shaved beef and cheese mix, and served with queso blanco. The ingredients blended nicely for a savory mouthful. This was comfort food to the max, especially when topped with the queso. Our only "beef" on the beef was a bit of gristle.

My companion chose pulled pork on a brioche bun, served with coleslaw and macaroni and cheese, for her entree. I picked the fish and chips with coleslaw and fries.

Nate alerted us that the coleslaw was not the usual mayonnaise variety but had a vinegar base, and we agreed to try it. After all, we all need adventure now and then!

Our food arrived quickly, and Nate and other members of the wait staff were

attentive to our needs.

The pulled pork was the star, with a perfect balance of sweet and tang. Add the spicy coleslaw to it, and it was a hit. The roll was fresh and the perfect accompaniment.

My fish and chips (fries) were served piping hot, always a plus! Crispy on the outside and perfectly cooked on the inside, the haddock was tender and flavorful. The batter was strongly seasoned but not spicy hot. The batter didn't appeal to me, but that is definitely a matter of taste. I enjoyed the fish under the batter. My husband, who got most of the dish as leftovers, loved it and said the seasoning was unique and flavorful.

The fries were not overly salted, which we appreciated. The coleslaw was a good choice. It was tangy, not overly sweet, and perfectly crisp and tender. The macaroni and cheese tasted like a slightly altered version of the box variety, but not bad.

We ended the meal with a lava cake served with vanilla ice cream. The spoon was chilled. That put a smile on our faces. It's the little things that count, right? Though Nate said JB's doesn't prepare its desserts in-house, they purchase the good stuff. The chocolate was warm and decadent with the molten middle. The combination of the hot cake and ice-cold vanilla ice cream had us making some "oohing" noises.

We took more food home for later, including an "all-American" bacon burger and another pulled pork sandwich. I, of course, sampled the burger. The sizeable patty was topped with crisp, not limp (important) bacon, a liberal amount of American cheese, lettuce and tomato. Bacon, of course, enhances any burger. It was juicy, tender, beefy. In the words of my husband, "This is a really good burger!"

On the way out, we noticed a room with four or five arcade games. Kids and the

young at heart will have a blast hanging out in there, perhaps while waiting for a table (we had no wait, but we went in the afternoon).

The large bar offers a variety of choices. My companion sampled an orange crush and declared it sweet and a bit tart in a good way and said it seemed to taste even better the more she drank. Go figure.

The total came to \$83.99. Portions were good sized, and you can't beat the service.

Plan a visit soon to check out this new Severna Park restaurant.

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"Dune" Breathes New Life Into Frank Herbert's Source Material



Photo courtesy of Chiabella James

Left: In "Dune," Timothée Chalamet (left) stars as Paul Atreides and Rebecca Ferguson plays Jessica Atreides, while Josh Brolin portrays Gurney Halleck, who is pictured lifting Paul Atreides to protect him from danger.

By Audrey Ruppert

It's a real shame that Hollywood was not capable of producing cinema that would do "Dune" justice when the books, written by Frank Herbert, were first published in the 1960s. Those unfamiliar with the series might be tempted into thinking the 2021 adaptation has plagiarized from many stories we have seen before, including "Star Wars," "Avatar" and "Game of Thrones" — when in reality, all of those stories took inspiration from "Dune." The unfortunate result is that the average viewer will have seen much of this story before — from desert worm creatures, to warring political houses, to imperial occupation and

exploitation of foreign planets — when Herbert actually pioneered many aspects of modern science fiction and fantasy.

Nonetheless, "Dune" is an immersive and enchanting experience. You truly do feel whisked away into a new world; most of the movie is just world building. We are introduced to Paul, the son of the duke of house Atreides and a woman of the Bene Gesserit, a pseudo religious order. The emperor of the universe recently ordered the planet Arrakis to be taken away from the Atreides' enemies, the Harkonnen, and given to the Atreides instead. Arrakis contains a substance called "spice," which has many uses and is key for interstellar space travel - making

spice the most important substance in the universe.

The result is inevitable political tension between the two houses and the native occupants of Arrakis, known as the Fremen. Most of the 155-minute runtime is spent explaining key concepts of the "Dune" universe, and the viewer is left waiting in anticipation for the sequel, where it seems most of the action will occur.

I feel that the film struggles at times with its hefty, almost unwieldy source material. "Dune" certainly deserves an HBO TV series in line with "Game of Thrones" — though it's not impossible to do justice to an intricate fantasy

through film, as the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy shows.

Many book fans felt some of the casting choices were questionable. In the books, Paul is 15 years old and is lonely, as there are no other children on the planet his own age and everyone treats him with extreme deference. Timothée Chalamet, who is 25, reads more like a moody, almost sultry, emo teen — I'm not sure he does the best job of conveying the original character's reluctance to be the hero he is destined to become, but he will certainly bring viewers to the cinema as he is distractingly attractive throughout. Jason Momoa as Duncan Idaho, a mentor to Paul, is also questionable — he acts like Paul's buddy throughout, which would be considered inappropriate and above station in the Dune universe. Nonetheless, I feel the film does a decent job of capturing the overall vibe of "Dune" while enticing the unfamiliar into the movie theater with its star power.

I can see why some would accuse the film of "white saviorism," but I would urge viewers to wait until they have completed the whole series to make any judgements. While the original story did come out in the '60s, Herbert was a progressive visionary for his time and Paul is the most unwilling of saviors.

I am hopeful this adaptation will cement "Dune" as a cornerstone of pop culture, and that it will achieve Marvel or "Star Wars" status. Hans Zimmer's score really sets the tone throughout, and I highly recommend seeing "Dune" in a theater to get the full experience.

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Jeff Nelligan Writes Satire Featuring Historical Figures

By Alyson Kay

The idea for Jeff Nelligan's latest satire book came to him while on a date with a woman he'd met on Match.com.

While discussing the site, the woman talked to Nelligan about how many of the men's profiles she'd seen on Match were similar.

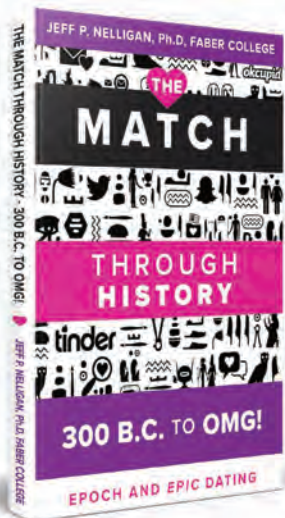
"She said, 'But if they were smart, they would say something more,'" Nelligan said. "And this was like a lightning bolt to me."

Drawing from his love of history and education, Nelligan used his book, titled "The Match Through History - From 300 B.C. to OMG! Epoch - and Epic - Dating," to imagine what historical figures might put on their dating website profiles, their modern interests and hobbies, and messages that they'd write to one another.

He researched people throughout history, focusing on well-known figures, likely to be recognized by most people, before deciding on the 21 featured in the book.

"I just went through hundreds and hundreds of historical figures and thought, 'Which one can I really try to make funny,'" Nelligan said.

Nelligan started writing as a journalist for publications including National



Review before working in writing and communications in Congress and as a presidential appointee before taking a career job at the Food and Drug Administration to allow him time to raise his three sons. When his sons went to college, Nelligan decided to write books to fill the extra time.

He wrote two books about parenting and his career in politics before writing his first satire about "Caddyshack," a

faux Ph.D. thesis for Faber College, the fictional college in Animal House.

Nelligan started to write satire for the challenge.

"It's really tough to write something that's funny, just like it's really tough to say things that are funny that people get, and I've been a fan of satire writing my entire life," Nelligan said.

Nelligan got the idea for the abstracts at the beginning of each profile after his friend suggested a short section of general information at the beginning of each profile to jog people's memory about each person. He made them part of the gag, making them fictional excerpts from publications like Aristotle's LinkedIn page, a section on "Paris Vogue" about Joan of Arc and a "Town and Country: Roosevelt Edition" on Eleanor Roosevelt.

With the book, Nelligan hopes to reach people who have used dating websites and people who enjoy history or satire, or just looking for something funny.

"These are the times when people are looking desperately for a laugh," Nelligan said.

New Director

» Continued from page 41

season and had live audiences when we were outdoors and in the hotel ballroom, but nothing compares to the feeling of being onstage in a theater with a live audience and feeling their energy during the performance," said Kelsch. "During the dress rehearsal for 'Giselle,' one of our principal dancers was so choked up about being back that she actually forgot a few of her steps! She said she had thought it was possible she would never perform in a theater again and was just very thankful."

Kelsch said she has a lot of ideas to implement for the future of the company.

"I want to bring in new choreography while also bringing more classics into the repertoire. 'Giselle' was the start of that," she said. "I want us more involved in the community and I am working on ways to make our shows more accessible so that cost is never a barrier to any member of the community who wants to enjoy dance."

The performers have been rehearsing for "Nutcracker" since August, even while preparing for and performing "Giselle," which closed on October 24.

"We're looking forward to audiences having the magical experience that has become a holiday tradition live and in person again," added Kelsch.

"Nutcracker" opens on December 11. To learn more about the Ballet Theatre of Maryland or to purchase performance tickets, visit www.balletmaryland.org.

Severna Park Coach Releases Fantasy Sequel "Kingdom's End"

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Inspired by the lands of Hogwarts, Mars and Mordor, Severna Park High School swimming coach John Bachkosky released his fantasy debut, "The Last Wizard," in 2020. Roughly a year later, he's back with the sequel, "A Kingdom's End."

"The first book ended on a bit of a cliffhanger, and it wasn't a common cliffhanger," he said. "It was more of a 'how did that happen?' So, I felt like I should explore what happens next."

Set in the world of Kyros, the first book involved tyrannical ruler King Gjanion, who convinced his subjects that he was the last wizard. While seeking to crush the rebellion that had risen against him, Gjanion encountered Mara — the true last wizard. Fearing the exposure of his lies, the king tried to silence Mara, who fought to protect those she loves. Her adoptive parents, Zhira and Gant, used alchemy to support her journey, to find the rebellion, and to help end the king's reign.

Bachkosky said some characters return for "A Kingdom's End" while others have been added to help flesh out the world he built through his storytelling.

"Very few characters are purely good or purely bad. I think that's relatable," he said. "It's compelling because you are rooting for them to turn the corner. You hope there is a resolution that helps them see the right choice."

Bachkosky took the writing process slower this time, getting feedback from more beta readers and watching YouTube lectures by author Brandon Sanderson and others to improve his craft.

He has plans for a third book, but



"A Kingdom's End" cover art was created by Anthony Celli.

it won't be part of "The Last Wizard" world. In the meantime, he is recording music with his band, The Bards, which he describes as folk rock inspired by progressive rock and metal. The band's debut album is set for release in December.

The Bards can be found on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram @ TheBardsBand.

He hopes music fans will enjoy The Bards and that readers will not only become immersed in his fictional world but also be inspired to pursue their own dreams.

"I was an engineer growing up, and here I am writing fantasy books," he said. "I want to inspire anyone else to do what I have done. You just have to pick up a pencil."

From "The X Files" To "House Of Cards"

» Continued from page 41

degree in fashion design and took a senior internship in the garment industry in Los Angeles. "In school, I had a lot of exposure to the entertainment industry. It was part of the culture of growing up in LA," she said.

A costume designer hired Ferrence to work on a movie. "I was hooked after that," she admitted.

Ferrence spent many years working in film and television. While working on the "X-Files" television series, she met her husband, Chris, and they started a family.

The family moved around the country while working on television productions. In 2012, they came to Maryland. Chris was working on the hit Netflix series "House of Cards." During season three of the show, Ferrence was hired to work with the show's costume designer. The family settled here, moving to Chartwell in 2014.

"It was a great show and experience," Ferrence said of her time at "House of Cards." She was a key costumer for the production, primarily clothing background people — sometimes hundreds of them in a scene. She researched clothing and uniforms, got the items in house, and did fittings for some of the characters. Scenes could be elaborate and included a

state dinner and an inauguration.

Show costumes were housed and organized on racks in a warehouse. Every actor had a huge closet, and the stock of clothing grew over time. When the show ended in 2018, Ferrence estimated that there were 500 racks of clothing.

According to Ferrence, much of the collection went to an auction house, and some pieces worn by Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright — as main characters Frank and Claire Underwood — were given to the Smithsonian. The show's actors kept a few of the costumes they liked, and the crew on "House of Cards" bought some.

In 2018, Ferrence and a business partner acquired the rest of the collection and opened a costume rental house in Glen Burnie. Mid Atlantic Costume rents clothing to the film, television, and entertainment industry up and down the East Coast. Items on offer include military, police and pilot uniforms; contemporary clothing; and designer ball gowns.

Life changed overnight for Ferrence and her two daughters in November 2019 when her husband, Chris, died unexpectedly. Neighbors and the community embraced the family.

"I love Severna Park," Ferrence said. "I have many friends here. When my husband died, we had so much support. It was powerful the way so many people took care of us. I realized this is home. This is a wonderful community. We had a meal train every day for three months."

During the COVID pandemic, business at Mid Atlantic Costume dramatically slowed. In 2020, Ferrence began acquiring contemporary apparel and started offering pop-up shopping to friends and locals. Word spread, and Ferrence's fashion sales became popular. In 2021, she opened a retail store, Stardust Deluxe, in Annapolis Town Center. The shop is a traditional boutique that offers contemporary women's clothing, vintage shoes and bags, and a unique designer collection from "House of Cards" and other shows.

"I'm passionate about growing my business so that maybe someday my kids will want it, or I can sell it because it has value," Ferrence said. "I'm really enjoying the entrepreneurial process. I'm loving the flexibility I can build into my business."

Stardust Deluxe's website is www.stardustdeluxe.com, and the shop is on Instagram at @stardustdeluxeboutique.

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Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
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America just got a raise. People who know me know that my grandmother, Marcella, meant the world to me. She is a big reason why I went into financial services. She lived the stereotypical 1950s existence.

My grandparents were not wealthy at all, so she worked hard to provide for her four children. She cooked, cleaned, and made sure her children were at church on Sundays. My grandfather, Frank, handled the finances for the most part. He farmed and did whatever else he could to earn money for the family. He wasn't very successful, so when he died unexpectedly in 1982, it left my grandmother in a complicated financial situation.

My grandmother went back to work at the local university to help support herself. She even played bingo to try and win big. Like most Americans, when she turned 65, she turned on her Social

Security and that became her primary source of income. Fortunately for me, she lived another 30 years and had a positive impact on my life, and I am thankful for that. Unfortunately for her, that meant she lived off Social Security for 30 years, and a 5.9% raise would have been a big deal to her.

On October 13, the United States government announced that it is increasing Social Security checks by 5.9% for 2022 payments to retirees, military members, people with disabilities and a few other groups. This is the largest increase since 1982, ironically the year my grandmother started Social Security.

This increase has created quite a stir around the country. Many clients have asked me if this applies to those who have yet to start taking Social Security. It does not. This applies only to Americans currently receiving Social Security benefits.

Each year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) releases a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) based upon the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. They look at this index from July through September of the current year to determine the

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Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members: **Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office**, **Betsie Russell Real Estate Consulting**, **Kick Connection Inc.**, **Heart To Beat LLC**, **Strong. Bold. Healthy.**, **Lisa Dickstein LLC**, **Macaroni KID Pasadena/Severna Park**, and **Neat Wall TV**. Thank you to our renewing members for keeping us "Chamber Strong!"

We began the month with a ribbon-cutting celebrating the launch of the newest venture from **Lisa's Cake-pops** — cake pop decorating kits. There are six themed kits available: monster, mermaid, birthday, galaxy, unicorn and princess, and are great as crafts, gifts and more. And they are deliciously gluten- and nut-free.

We also kicked off the month with a multi-chamber fall bash held at the lovely **Walden Country Club**. Guests enjoyed great food and a beautiful evening. Proceeds from the cornhole tournament benefited the **Life of Joy Foundation for Mental Health**.

Our next ribbon-cutting was for **Rockbridge Academy in Crownsville**. The ceremony was in honor of the

unification of the school to one campus, and the new basketball court that was donated by parents.

We then held a ribbon-cutting celebrating the grand opening of **Kick Connection's** new location in Millersville. Owner **Carlos Patalinghug** introduced his entire family including his talented adult children who are the professional singing group **JAGMAC**. After their performance, we enjoyed several martial arts demos.

The Learn and Lead Committee, headed by **Jenn Triplett of Tree-branch Group** and **Larry Sells of Larry Sells Consulting**, hosted a "Center Stage" event profiling **Stacey Cassidy of Savvy Consignment**.

It was so interesting to get to know Stacey and her reasons for starting her successful business (left the corporate world), her challenges (staffing), and how she has helped other consignment shops with their business plans.

Ashely Reed, owner of **Face It! Salon and Spa** hosted a First Cup Club coffee at her beautiful salon in Severna Park. The Successful Women in Business group enjoyed a tour of the space and saw the salt room, her massage and treatment rooms, and learned about her eco-friendly products for hair and skin care. Stay tuned for her big plans for expansion!

A ribbon-cutting was held to celebrate the grand opening of **Eagle Title's** new office in Severna Park. Ea-

» Continued on page 52

Landmark Roofing Donates Roof To SPAN



In September, Landmark Roofing gave SPAN a roof so that volunteers and clients can be shielded from rain.

By Haley Weisgerber

Landmark Roofing is looking to save the world one roof at a time. The local company, known for its community service efforts and emphasis on customer service, just donated and installed a new roof for SPAN.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, SPAN has closed its lobby and has been leaving food packages on the back porch for people to pick up. After hearing of the conditions, Larry Sells reached out to the co-owners of Landmark, Rob Calhan and Artie Hendricks.

"You have a lot of these volunteers just pushing food onto the deck," Calhan said. "There's no roof, and they're getting rained on all the time. Larry brought it to my attention, and then I met him over there, and then that's when the ball started getting on with that."



Rob Calhan (left), Landmark Roofing co-owner and president of sales, and Artie Hendricks, Landmark Roofing co-owner and president of operations, gave \$500 to Anne Arundel County CASA Executive Director Rebecca Tingle during Shoptoberfest on October 23.

"We didn't think it was that big of a deal. But when they started crying, it was this really cool thing you just want to do again."

— ROB CALHAN
CO-OWNER AND PRESIDENT OF SALES
LANDMARK ROOFING

Referring to the completion of the SPAN roof.

After analyzing the existing porch, the Landmark team decided the project was doable and quickly got to work. In September, the roof was completed. After the project was done, Hendricks and Calhan returned to the site and were greeted by a group of people crying and thanking them for what they had done.

"We didn't think it was that big of a deal," Calhan said. "But when they started crying, it was this really cool thing you just want to do again."

Giving and donating has been a part of Landmark's mission since the business was started.

"I was raised that your character is what you do when nobody's looking," Hendricks said. "We really try to put that into the business. All that stuff that we do here, the donations, we don't do it for the glitz and glamour."

The company's first experience with service was the inaugural roof giveaway, which has become a yearly tradition. They put the contest out on social media and chose a winner. When they contacted the winner, she was brought to tears by Landmark's generosity.

"The first year we did it was really rewarding for us," Hendricks said. "It was fun. We brought the family to the Christmas party. It was great."

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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Chesapeake Urology Welcomes Patients To New Office



Chesapeake Urology's COO Michael Azzaro (left) and President Dr. Brad Lerner were joined by staff to cut the ribbon during the official grand opening of Chesapeake Urology's Annapolis location on Bestgate Road on October 27.

Lisa's Cakepops, GSPACC Celebrate New Product



Lisa's Cakepops was joined by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce on October 1 as the business celebrated the launch of its new cake pop decorating kits. The kits include different designs and themes including birthday, monster, unicorn, galaxy, mermaid and princess — available in chocolate or vanilla.

Eagle Title Lands New Office In Severna Park



An attorney owned and operated company, Eagle Title hosted a ribbon-cutting on October 19 to welcome the community to its new office at 485 Ritchie Highway, Suite A101. The team was joined by Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz League, along with elected officials. Eagle Title can assist in closing transactions in all 50 states through its national underwriter. The business handles both residential and commercial transactions.

Local CEO Is Looking To Change The Operating Room

By Conor Doherty

Jeremy Clark hasn't let a single story affect his company or its goals of changing the medical industry. Clark, cofounder and CEO of Tigon Medical, was recently named one of Forbes' Next 1000 Entrepreneurs for 2021.

His company focuses on manufacturing orthopedic implants approved by the Food and Drug Administration, with an emphasis on making non-disposable medical equipment, especially equipment and implants used to operate on sports medicine injuries, such as ACL or Achilles tears.

"When [doctors] come into an operating room, they're bringing in a mountain full of boxes and then disposing of the plastic handles, the shafts, the boxes that the equipment comes in; everything goes into a huge garbage can and they have to dispose of all of that



Jeremy Clark

Clark believes medical facilities and medical device companies need to eliminate waste and reduce the carbon footprint in the operating room.

"In sports medicine, the bigger companies in that world are pushing disposable, disposable, disposable," Clark said. "Well, we're going the opposite way. We're going non-disposable. And anyone

in a certain way," Clark explained. "The thing that kind of makes us unique is that we use non-disposable, ergonomic handles that use a small implant. One, it's cost-effective, and two, it eliminates the carbon footprint."

can say they're going non-disposable, but our designs, our implants, we feel like they're better designs and we're eliminating that footprint."

For Clark, this has been a journey over five years in the making. He started the company in 2016 and worked closely with a friend from Johns Hopkins to come up with the designs for Tigon's equipment. In 2018, Tigon was given FDA approval to begin making its equipment and implants, and the company started using that equipment in surgeries starting in 2019. Since then, the company has seen nothing but growth, with sales doubling every year. Tigon recently opened Threadstone, which will be its manufacturing site, located down the road from its offices.

As for the Forbes story, Clark isn't sure who nominated him, but it does not matter. "One of the things we've been

pushing is green repair, green repair, green repair, so we've actually had that as part of our marketing and we've had a lot of people reaching out, asking 'What is this green repair?'" Clark said. "So I think it might have been one of those people who called us, asking what we do, that nominated us."

And with the Forbes story has come more pressure for Tigon. "It has put some pressure on us now; we are in the limelight now," Clark said. "This was something we weren't expecting ... People are looking at you now and I think that all of the people interested in us are interested because of the story we are telling. But we are very humble around here. People might think it's not humble with the Forbes story coming out, but it might be good for the medical industry because we are doing something different."

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Landmark Roofing Donates Roof To SPAN

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Landmark Roofing also just matched donations at a Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) golf tournament. Landmark's \$1,400 donation brought the total money earned to \$2,800 for the Wellness House in Annapolis, an organization that provides support for families of cancer patients. Hendricks and Calhan first encountered the Wellness House many years ago when someone they knew asked them to build a banner for the organization.

"Fast-forward four or five years after that, my brother-in-law passed away from stomach cancer," Hendricks said. "So Austin, one of our project managers and my nephew, actually went to the Wellness House when he was a kid because they help out with everything."

Landmark's community service is not limited to those two efforts. Alongside Chick-fil-A in Severna Park, Landmark donated signs to all of the 2020 Severna Park High School graduates. They also made donations to prom and athletics

and went to local schools to give demonstrations on everything from shapes to changing a tire. Landmark was even contacted by a Girl Scout recently for two shingles to put on top of a Little Library she was building.

"It's everything from a Little Library roof, to donating shingles to the Magothy River Association where they needed one for one of their trails," Hendricks said.

Landmark's efforts have not gone unnoticed. This year, the company won the GSPACC's Harmony Award for its

philanthropic success. Hendricks and Calhan agree that Severna Park is the ideal location for their business, so it just makes sense to give back to the community that is to thank for their success.

"I said at the beginning, I don't think we would have had the success we had if we did not set up here," Hendricks said. "It's a close-knit community and they wanted to use a local company. The Severna Park community wants to work with local businesses, which you don't see that very often anymore."

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Donations Collected At Himmel's Garden Center Doubled For Anne Arundel County Food Bank



Elizabeth Elliott (center), owner of Himmel's Landscape & Garden Center, and former county executive John Leopold (third from right) donated a combined \$1,850 to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

From late September through October, Himmel's Landscape & Garden Center in Pasadena collected donations at the register for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) to raise awareness of the issue of hunger in local communities as well as raise funds to provide critical food distribution throughout Anne Arundel County.

On October 28, the donations raised at the register were matched by a former county executive, John Leopold. In addition, Himmel's Garden Center pitched in additional donations to bring the total to \$1,850 donated to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

"Helping our neighbors build a healthier and more beautiful world is our mission

at Himmel's," said owner Elizabeth Elliott during the check presentation at Himmel's. "Our employees are very passionate about our mission, and we always love to give back to our community."

Donations were collected during Hunger Action Month, which happens every September and is a national effort to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger.

Donations like these come at a critical time for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Since March 2020, AACFB has seen a 482 percent increase in the number of people seeking assistance at food pantries and, in response, distributed nearly 8 million pounds of food throughout Anne Arundel County.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 47

gle Title is owned by the lawyers of **Liff, Walsh and Simmons LLC**, and is one of the fastest-growing title companies in the mid-Atlantic region.

We were overjoyed at the turnout for our Shoptoberfest shop local event, held at Park Plaza on October 23. We started with rain, but the clouds opened, and the sun shone most of the day.

The event featured 56 local businesses and nonprofits, and families poured in to meet them, do a little "trick-or-treating," and take in music, martial arts demos, and more. Our gold sponsors were **Landmark Roofing, the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, and Kogen Dojo**. Each gold sponsor donated \$500 to their charities of choice. Landmark Roofing presented a check to **CASA, Maryland**. CASA is Court Appointed Special Advocates, and it helps abused and neglected children find safe and permanent homes. The Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi donated to **The Bernie House**, a nonprofit that provides a single transitional home for women leaving situations involving abuse. Kogen Dojo donated to

Burgers and Bands for Suicide Prevention, a popular nonprofit founded by Ann and Ethan Brennan.

Silver sponsors were **Griswold Home Care** and **Spring Arbor of Severna Park**. Bronze sponsors were **Franklin's Toys, M&T Bank** and **Fieldstone Animal Inn**. Many thanks also to **Continental Realty/Park Plaza** for their event sponsorship.

Save the date for our tree lighting and open house event at the chamber on Friday, December 3. We will have entertainment, cookies and warm cider, Santa, the Grinch and more.

We are working on the fantastic Taste and Sip event, to be held at the Chartwell Golf and Country Club on December 9 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. This event features our restaurants, caterers, liquor stores and bakeries all under one roof. The presenting sponsor is the **Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium**.

As always, 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. And remember to shop local and give local.

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Join Re/Max Experience: Support Harvest For The Hungry

By Lauren
Burke Meyer

The ongoing pandemic has left many people wondering where to find their next meal. Since the pandemic began in March 2020, Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) has witnessed a 482 percent increase in people seeking assistance at food pantries. Not only has the need increased, but food donations have decreased by 73 percent, making it more difficult to serve the needs of the community.

Cue Re/Max Experience Pasadena — a real estate franchise that opened its doors in January 2016 — to help AACFB collect, purchase and distribute food to over 60 nonprofit organizations in Anne Arundel County. In September, Re/Max Experience Pasadena launched a campaign to coincide with Hunger Action Month, a time filled with activities to take action in the fight against hunger.

"Many businesses, real estate offices and the Anne Arundel County public schools are hosting food and fund drives this fall," said Melanie Kincaid, marketing and communications manager at AACFB. "However, Re/Max Experience Pasadena has taken it to the next level and worked hard to connect with the community over the past two and a half months.



A group of Re/Max Experience Pasadena colleagues are collaborating on a Harvest for the Hungry food drive to support the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Donations are being accepted throughout November.

They've used social media, special events and their own business connections to spread the word about their food collection efforts."

Re/Max Experience Pasadena's recent social media campaign is structured upon the Bring It On Box Challenge. To participate, a Re/Max Experience Pasadena employee starts a box chain by filling the box with nonperishable food. The box is signed with a message and then given to another friend, neighbor or business to fill and then pass on again. The box can be passed a limitless number of times, increasing the donation structure from one donor to several.

To further increase donations, agents distributed bags around their neigh-

borhoods with instructions on how to schedule a pickup or where to drop off donations once the bags are full. Eight locations throughout Pasadena exist. Finally, the campaign invites donors to text AACFB107 to 71777 to donate funds directly to AACFB through the Re/Max Experience Pantry Packers donation page.

The 14-person office has made quite the impact. Re/Max Experience Pasadena has distributed roughly 1,000 collection bags. Additionally, the community response to their efforts has resulted with one of their office rooms being half-filled with donations and collecting over \$1,000 so far.

"We are thrilled with the response and generosity from businesses such as Maryland Home Inspections and the many

individuals who contacted us for a porch pickup all throughout the area," said Catherine Cook, concierge/community liaison for Re/Max Experience Pasadena. "Bella Napoli, Mr. Pizza & Subs, and Carini's Pizza on Fort Smallwood Road are just a few of the small businesses who joined together in our advertising campaign by handing out flyers for the food drive with their carryout and pickup orders."

The food collection drive will continue through November 13 and culminate with a stuff-a-truck event on November 14 at Pas-

adore's Plaza shopping center from 1:00pm to 6:00pm.

During the event, Re/Max Experience Pasadena will collect food and monetary donations for the food bank. There will also be food trucks, music, games, crafts, a tree lighting at dusk, silent auction and the opportunity for pictures with Santa or the Grinch.

Donate nonperishable food items now through November 14 at Re/Max Experience Pasadena's location at 3820 H Mountain Road or call 410-255-0000 for a donation food pickup. Want to get more involved? Visit www.aafoodbank.org/food-drive to organize your own AACFB food drive or donate at www.aafoodbank.org/donate-today.

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The Largest COLA Increase In 40 Years

» Continued from page 47

next year’s increase. The average retiree is receiving \$1,565 per month and will get a \$92 increase because of this COLA adjustment, boosting the payment to \$1,657.

AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins said in a statement, “Social Security is the largest source of retirement income for most Americans and provides 90% or more of monthly income for one in four seniors.” This is a stark difference from the 1.4% average increase SSA has paid over the past 10 years. To put that in perspective, Social Security recipients have lost 32% of their buying power since 2000, according to USA Today.

Clearly, this is good news for Social

Security beneficiaries, but it does indicate concern. In previous articles, I have noted that inflation is a primary concern of mine as we look to the future. This is a clear indicator that inflation is here — and isn’t something that could potentially be here — it’s here. When you are paying more at the register for the same basket of goods, that does not reflect positively on the economy. That is particularly true when you do not see wages go up.

In the case of Social Security, we are seeing wages go up, but the trick is to determine the net impact on your payment. Medicare Part B premiums are deducted from Social Security checks, and we have seen significant increases to Part B premi-

ums over the past several years.

On October 4, my wife and I welcomed our fourth child and first daughter into the world, and we named her Marcella Varee LaBarge. She was named after my grandmother because of the tremendous person that my grandmother was and the positive impact she had on my life. I am thankful that she had a Social Security check each month so she could live independently and not with one of my aunts or uncles who lived out of state.

I’ll never forget the checks she used to write me for \$5 or \$10 from “bingo winnings,” and the checks would be a little bigger in the years she would receive larger Social Security payments because

of COLA. Perhaps this year, I’ll write a check for 5.9% more to Marcella’s college fund in remembrance of my grandma.

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