



Students Hold
Mental Health
Awareness Week
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SEVERNA PARK, MD

MARCH 2022

FALCONS ARE STATE CHAMPIONS



The winter sports season came to an end with one Severna Park team and one individual reaching the pinnacle of success in their respective sports. The Falcons claimed the Class 4A indoor track and field state championship on February 18 at the Baltimore Armory — their first state title in nearly 50 years. On March 5, Patrick Ellis won the Class 3A/4A state wrestling title for the 220-pound class.

Read more about their accomplishments on page 19.



World War II, Korean War Veteran Turns 100

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

When asked about her secret to a long life, actress and comedian Betty White once quipped, “Vodka and hot dogs ... probably in that order.” She was also a self-proclaimed “cockeyed optimist.” Severna Park resident Richard Cilley Bartlett, known to friends and family as Dick C., would likely approve of that approach.

Bartlett turned 100 years old on March 8, attributing his longevity to his optimism, staying active by mowing his lawn, and having one glass of alcohol each night, among other things.

His positive mindset and active lifestyle have served him well since his adolescence. Bartlett grew up in Severna Park and attended Annapolis High School before Severna Park had its own high school. A former naval aviator, he served in both World War II and the Korean War.

“Everyone wanted to go in World War II. It was different than any other war,” Bartlett said, alluding to the sense of patriotic duty that many Americans adopted following the attack on Pearl Harbor. “Being college age, you feel pretty confident you can do anything.”

Bartlett had his choice between military branches, but his preference was never in doubt.

“My father worked for the U.S. Naval Engineering Experiment Station in Annapolis, so the Navy was my first choice,” Bartlett said.

He departed for training in Pensacola, Florida. By June 1943, he was designated a naval aviator and based at Terminal Island in California. Later, he was sent to the Aleutian Islands, which is Alaskan territory, and spent six months



stationed on Kiska Island.

Between his trips, he was married in October 1943, and he returned home in December 1944.

Only six years later, the United States was involved in another international conflict. During the Korean War, Bartlett flew from the USS Antietam aircraft carrier.

“We only flew at nighttime, and we had targets of opportunity,” he said. “Targets of opportunity would be troops traveling on the railway or roads at night.”

One of those targets was part of a mission that earned Bartlett the

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Margueritte Mills Volunteers Of The Month

By Lauren Cowin

When Randy Hoffman first began volunteering for Severna Park High School's Rock 'N' Roll Revival, most of the students involved in this year's production were toddlers.

After watching his eldest son's involvement in the show from afar, so as not to "encroach" on his school life, Randy had an itch to pitch in when his son was a freshman in 2009. Randy had his own past with technical theater. His wife Donna Hoffman joined the effort on the artistic side a few years later. They've been at it ever since.

"After my sons graduated, there were still children I started working with as freshmen that I wanted to keep working with and keep nurturing a little bit through another two or three years of school, and it just keeps on coming. You're like, 'Oh, I remember that kid; I liked working with them.' So it just kind of becomes a continuum," Randy said of his 13-year run.

Randy was initially drawn to help then-technical director Gary Dawes. In his capacity as a technical volunteer, Randy helped Dawes and now aids current technical directors Jenn Nicolosi and Alex Moundalexis to build the sets and teach the kids to do the same.

"I help the kids build the sets and learn how to use tools ... I guess I kind of help them come out of their shell with learning how to do things that are outside of their comfort zone. Like build things or make mistakes and overcome the mistakes and fix them," Randy said.

"[The students] need people who believe in them. When you see them

Hoffman Family A Fixture Behind The Scenes Of Rock 'N' Roll Revival



Randy and Donna Hoffman got involved in Rock 'N' Roll Revival after watching their eldest son participate in the show.

make their way through a problem, some kind of complication and they solve it themselves, it makes them feel good, and it makes us feel good seeing it ... it's important for them to have people backing them up," Donna said.

Donna has put her lifelong crafting hobby to work on the sets, assisting with bringing the artistic vision of the show to life. One project that still sticks out in her mind was from 2016, the last year in the old auditorium. The theme was "Four Seasons," and the artistic director wanted a wall of approximately 500 leaves in fall colors. Donna needed to find a way to get this done in a way the students would be able to implement, and fast.

"That one was honestly kind of crazy," Donna said, but the end result was "phenomenal."

"It was beautiful and swooshy and it looked like leaves blowing in the wind," Randy chimed in.

These days, Randy and Donna have two familiar faces at their side as they work: their youngest son, Lukas, and his wife, Shelby.

"[Lukas] has no fear of heights, so I always lean on him to climb the ladders, climb the scaffolding or something, so when I don't want to do that, I bring him in," Randy said.

Severna Park High School theater director Angie Germanos nominated the Hoffmans for Volunteer of the Month, calling their help "very crucial from the past to present."

Though the Hoffmans are reluctant to draw any attention to themselves, their pride in the show itself and the students and faculty who make it possible year after year (or shall we say, "Time

After Time") is palpable. And there is no hesitation to shine a light on the many students who work tirelessly behind the scenes to bring Rock 'N' Roll Revival to life.

"They're doing the grunt work, they're sweeping the stage, they're cleaning the microphones," Donna said. "They're early to set up, they're there after everybody else is gone, so without them the show wouldn't happen."

At the end of the day, the Hoffmans are fans of the show, like everyone else in the community who soaks in the opportunity to be in the room where it happens.

"There's always some kind of stand-out aspect of the show, some incredible singer, some incredible musician, and people go to see it for those things; they want to be there when they break out," Randy said. "We've seen some numbers that have given us tingles to watch."

World War II, Korean War Veteran Turns 100

» Continued from page 1

Distinguished Flying Cross medal.

"One of the raids we made, we found a target in a whole line of trucks traveling at night and we managed to get him under fire," Bartlett said, adding that he was surprised to be honored with a few medals during his tour in Korea. "It's something you don't think about at the time, but it was nice to know you were awarded for your time."

Bartlett served the Navy for 25 years, reaching the rank of commander and spending his post-Korea days with a training squadron in Monterey, California, and then in Washington, D.C. His family lived in Rhode Island at one point before moving to Annapolis, close to Bartlett's hometown of Severna Park where he now resides.

Retirement afforded him time to become actively involved with both the Annapolis Yacht Club and the Severn Sailing Association. He said he enjoyed "just being out there and letting the wind control where it takes me. Also,

the competitive spirit."

Bartlett passed his love for sailing onto one of his daughters and his son. The veteran had two sons and two daughters from his first marriage to Frances Fisher. One of his sons had muscular dystrophy and died at age 19. Bartlett's wife died in 1987 and he later married his current spouse, Mary Ellen, becoming a stepfather to her two children.

He's been married to Mary Ellen for 33 years. At 93 years old, she is also spry for her age.

Her companionship has helped him in his older years along with his active lifestyle and positive mindset.

"I don't let things bother me that much. I'm a patient person," he said. "I would say I'm quite optimistic. It's worked out well."

Bartlett's father lived until age 93 and his mother lived until age 87. None of his three younger brothers are living.

While genetics may have contributed

to him aging well, many habits likely play a role. His diet is another example. He cooks his own breakfast every day, alternating between combinations of eggs, cereals, waffles, pancakes, bacon, chipped beef with gravy, eggs and asparagus on toast. His lunch usually consists of soup or salad. For dinner, he prefers a balanced meal that often includes steak, seafood or vegetables.

"I've never worried about, 'Oh, you shouldn't eat eggs or you should only have low-fat butter,'" Bartlett said. "We've always just eaten what's around."

"Every evening, I have one drink," he said. "Right now, it's scotch."

As he reflects on his 100-year milestone, Bartlett feels like he has much to be grateful for, including his military career. He has some advice for anyone considering a similar path.

"I had a wonderful career in the Navy and in aviation, so I'd recommend anyone looking for excitement should try it," Bartlett said.

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S(o)uper Bowl Food Drive Brings Super Results With Over 15,000 Items

By Lauren Burke Meyer

“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

So goes the mantra of Good Neighbors Group (GNG), a nonprofit organization in Severna Park that wrapped up its S(o)uper Bowl food drive in February with 15,907 items collected.

“This event is an opportunity for people to have fun while doing good,” said GNG founder and executive director Julie Shay. “The competition is meant to be light, though folks often do take it quite seriously, which only means more items for the pantries.”

Fifty-one neighborhoods in the greater Severna Park and Broadneck areas participated this year. The per-house winning neighborhood was Erin Garth, a street in Severna Park with 15 houses participating and contributing approximately 10.67 items per household for a total of 160 items donated. West Severna Park holds the honor of the winning neighborhood by sheer volume with 935 items.

This was the fifth S(o)uper Bowl food drive held by the Good Neighbors Group. Continuing with tradition, collection began on the Thursday before the Super Bowl, ending with the delivery to food pantries on Super Bowl Sunday, held on February 13.

This year, the event helped to restock four pantries and draw the community’s attention to the need for donations. The pantries included SPAN, ACAN, My Brother’s Pantry and the Anne Arundel County Food Bank.

“Several of these pantries also support other pantries, so the donations



Allison Findley served as the captain of Chartwood neighborhood.

help beyond our own community,” Shay explained.

Additionally, Shay shared helpful stats from over the years, including how since its inception, the S(o)uper Bowl food drive has collected approximately 53,900 items.

“Last year when people were stuck at home and eager to get involved in something, we collected an astounding 20,500 items,” she said. “This year with people more active, we weren’t sure how to gauge what the level of participation would be. We are so excited that this

year is our second best at just under 16,000 items. Absolutely amazing!”

When it comes to food pantries, there are typically big donations around Thanksgiving and Christmas, and then a lot of essentials are handed out. After the new year, there is a gap in donations, which is why GNG started the S(o)uper Bowl event. GNG asks each pantry for a list of its most needed items to let the community know the most useful items to collect. Some of the most coveted items needed this year were box potatoes, canned fruit, pancake mix, pasta sauce, snacks in individual packages, toiletries and yes, even soup.

“Several big collection events have been canceled due to the pandemic, and that impacts donations to the pantries,” Shay said. “In addition, there are caps on how much pantries can buy, so having the community make these purchases — say for diapers, wipes, etc. — is really helpful.”

GNG strengthens communities by sharing opportunities that have a positive social and environmental impact. It connects people through grassroots, charitable activities to strengthen the community and improve the environment. GNG researches opportunities for individuals and groups to volunteer.

In addition to the S(o)uper Bowl event, GNG does blood drives every 56 days, an annual Earth Day festival in April, and Ecotober events where it highlights environmental issues and offers projects to address them in the local area, to name a few.

To stay up to date on the work that GNG is doing and get involved, join the email list at www.goodneighborsgroup.org/join-the-neighborhood and follow GNG on Facebook.

SPAN: Helping People In Crisis, One Action At A Time

Michele Sabean
Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel a sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.”

— MAYA ANGELOU

These days, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless when reading the news. One night in March, my family was discussing what it means to be a refugee, forced to flee home due to war or persecution. We were thinking about Ukrainians and the many Afghans who fled their homes last August. Many Ukrainians will likely arrive here in the future just as in the last few months more than 40 Afghan families were resettled in this area.

Heart for Refugees is a great group in our community working to coordinate efforts to welcome and support these families. There are many ways to help — think of all the ways you would help a friend or family member moving to the area — helping them find housing, doctors and connect with other resources. SPAN has helped by sharing some food with these new members of our community. The more SPAN receives, the more neighbors we can help. For more information, visit “BWI Afghan Welcoming Coordination Efforts” on Facebook or email marylandrefugees@gmail.com.

Although it is not the same as being a

refugee, when I think of people in crisis, I think of SPAN’s clients. Many of SPAN’s clients are dealing with a crisis — cancer or other health issues, abuse, a difficult divorce, death in the family, loss of a job or a broken car. Many of our clients are dealing with multiple issues at the same time and the crises compound. For example, illness can lead to a loss of a job and bills piling up. A broken car means that in addition to the repair cost, it is more difficult to get to work. Emergency situations are exhausting. It is through your generosity that SPAN is able to provide these clients with a carload of food and financial help if they are facing a utility turn-off or eviction.

Although we cannot solve the world’s problems, we can all do something to make things better. This community is such a wonderful example of neighbors working to improve the lives of others. I am continually impressed with the generosity of this community — even some children in the community are doing their part. We want to give a huge shoutout to 8-year-old Mary M. who stopped by recently to donate the \$100 that she had been saving from her allowance — \$1 at a time over several years!

A big thank you also to Oak Hill Elementary, which donated a lot from its school S(o)uper Bowl food drive and to the

Shipley’s Choice PTO, which donated 470 boxes of cereal! It is wonderful to see children involved in helping their community. A huge thank you to all in the community who made the fifth annual Good Neighbors Group S(o)uper Bowl food drive such a success. The amount of food we received was amazing.

On another note, SPAN is planning to get back to holding our Turkey Trot 5k this year. If you are interested in being involved in the planning, please send me an email — there are all sorts of opportunities to help make it happen!

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



SPHS Performers Put On A Riveting Rock 'N' Roll Revival



Photos by Zach Sparks

The 33rd Rock 'N' Roll Revival debuted in front of audiences at Severna Park High School on March 10. With the theme "Time After Time," the show featured songs and dance routines spanning multiple decades. We can't spoil too many details because the show has remaining shows from March 17-19. To see if any tickets are still available, visit www.sphsdrama.com/rock-n-roll-revival.



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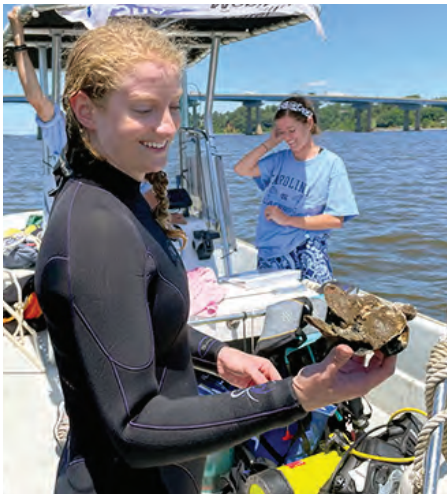


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Oysters In The Severn Thriving, Reproducing



By the Severn River Association

Recent efforts to restore a healthy oyster population in the Severn River are succeeding.

A new report concludes that millions of oysters planted in the river in recent years are thriving and growing, creating healthy oyster habitat and, critically, may be starting to reproduce naturally in the Severn River.

Thanks to a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Severn River Association created a scuba diving team to conduct a formal scientific oyster dive to study the oysters and report on their progress.

The report highlights that oyster populations on three of four restored reefs are exceeding restoration targets of 50 oysters/m². Oyster population density on three of the four reefs were 104 oysters/m² at the Traces Hollow reef; 127.4 oysters/m² at the Weems Upper reef, and 463.5 oysters/m² at the Wade reef.

Evidence of oysters naturally reproducing were found at all reefs studied.

Since 2018, the Severn River Association, the Oyster Recovery Partnership and private donors have planted more than 70 million oyster spat-on-shell to restore oyster reefs in the Severn River.

Round Bay Woman Recalls Ties To Severna Park's Early History

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

On the birth certificate of Mary Pack Hunt, the word "bone" is listed as the birthplace. The misspelling is supposed to say Boone, the name of the town now known as Severna Park.

Born in 1934, Pack Hunt lived her early childhood years in Packtown and later moved to Elvaton. Her dad was a longshoreman, and her mom had a government job at Fort Meade. One of seven children, she attended Asbury Town Neck Methodist Church, which had a two-room schoolhouse.

"We always had an apple on our desks," she recalled. "We would go to a well to pump water into a basin to wash our hands. A lot of older people didn't know how to spell past a third-grade level."

Her grandfather, James Levi Pack Jr., helped found the church.

Along with other students, she walked to school by passing through woods and walking a dirt road that was considered a highway. She also walked to other community spots, such as Goska's for cupcakes, and remembers Dawson's selling lottery tickets. On weekends, her father would



Mary Pack Hunt

take the family to Baltimore, where a loaf of bread could be purchased for 25 cents.

Growing up during segregation, Pack Hunt noticed differences between the way people were treated. Different schools. Different hospitals. Different stores and businesses they were allowed to visit.

Those differences were nothing she couldn't handle.

"White children would throw

stones at us, but I was never fearful of anything," she said. "I was an outgoing person."

Around 1944, her family moved to Earleigh Heights, and her father joined a developer as he built communities around Anne Arundel County. Around that time, Pack Hunt attended eighth grade at Bates Middle School.

"If I didn't do my homework, I got my knuckles cracked," she said with a smile.

Pack Hunt dropped out of school at 15, got married at 19 and later got her GED at 55. Along the way, she worked a combined 32 years at the Naval Academy laundry, the commissary and with a fire department. Feeling a calling, she even pastored.

Throughout her life, she had another hobby.

"I've been a world traveler: Africa, Trinidad, West Indies, California, Florida," she said.

Although her husband died in 2005, she still lives in Round Bay and considers herself a Hunt, a family in which her mom and sister both also married into. The White, Jennings, Cager and Hunt families — all distantly related — have roots in Severna Park.

"We had a good life," Pack Hunt said.

Maryland Hall Appoints Executive Director

The Maryland Hall board of directors has appointed Jackie Coleman as Maryland Hall's executive director.

Coleman, an experienced nonprofit leader and advocate for the arts, most recently served as senior community impact officer at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in Hartford, Connecticut. While in that role, Coleman led the organization's arts strategy and the creation of Catalyst for the Arts, an initiative to help arts organizations develop sustainable programming and operations in response

to the COVID pandemic.

"Maryland Hall's vision of 'Art For All' resonates deeply with me," Coleman said. "I am honored to step into this position and build on the organization's existing legacy while finding dynamic opportunities that bring the arts even further into the community."

Coleman's varied career includes roles in education, administration, leadership and performance, all of which are key to fulfilling Maryland Hall's mission of "Art For All" as a regional arts hub.

Coleman earned a Bachelor of Fine

Arts degree in theater at the University of Connecticut, and a Master of Fine Arts in theater from the University of South Carolina. Her career in the arts included serving as director of education at Hartford Stage from 2003 through 2009, and senior executive advisor for the arts at Hartford Public Schools from 2009 through 2014.

"Her breadth of experience as an advocate for and leader in the arts is certain to guide us as we strive to fulfill our mission of 'Art For All' at Maryland Hall," said Maryland Hall board of directors chair Debbie Mayer.

Lauren's Law: The 12-Second Game

Lauren Burke Meyer



I'm not one for reliving the glory days of big games. In fact, my eyes tend to gloss over when someone makes me listen to one of their own athletic stories. However, with March here and the return of spring sports, I can't help but remember the most bizarre game I've ever been a part of. It was a Severna Park High School varsity girls lacrosse game.

"Remember" is a generous statement because I needed to re-read the Baltimore Sun's article to refresh myself on some key details from the

game that took place in May 2004 at the old George Robert's Stadium:

"Twelve seconds."

That's how long the defending Class 4A-3A state champion Broadneck girls lacrosse team will try to protect a one-goal lead and that's how long Severna Park has to score.

Yesterday's Class 4A-3A East region semifinal between the two teams was suspended due to thunder and lightning after two hours were spent waiting in an attempt to complete the game at Severna Park."

The "12 seconds" aspect I remember like it was yesterday. I recall leaving the field and waiting in the old wrestling gym for what felt like an eternity. When we finally went back on the field for a second attempt to finish the game, we were interrupted by thunder again. At this point, the game

was postponed, and we were all set to return the following day to finish.

The next day, the entire school was buzzing about the duration of our game. A 12-second game? How could it be? The school day dragged on and on.

Our hope was to push a few seconds' game into overtime and win. Initially, we practiced our secret play out of sight from the visiting team and fans. Then we moved to the stadium and went through a full warmup, which would be a longer duration of time even if we went to double overtime.

The ball began behind Broadneck's goal they were defending. I was only a junior, so glorified decoy was my role. I booked it through like the lightning we had seen the night before. One of our senior captains received the ball

and got her shot off as planned. She took her best shot. Unfortunately, the ball bounced off Broadneck's goalie and didn't make it in the goal. Time expired. Twelve-second game over.

There's a lot of things from that day that are fuzzy and less than memorable. However, there's one memory that stands out the most. It's my other teammate who went to buy our senior captain flowers to cheer her up for missing the shot. I'll carry this kind gesture with me always. And, when others are low because things didn't shake out as hoped, I'll always try to cheer them up.

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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Partners In Care Launches Free Data Care Program

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The nonprofit Partners in Care (PIC) is offering a monthly program called Data Care from March through June to help people keep their information secure.

Because the program is funded by the Gula Foundation, Partners In Care is able to share the monthly lessons for free.

"The foundation recognizes that with older adults, there is a barrier with technology and navigating it," said Makayla Alicea, the Data Care project manager.

Lesson plans were created by Partners In Care board members who connected leadership to the Gula Foundation.

"PIC is all volunteer based from all walks of life. Some of our members are professors or they have worked for gov-

ernment agencies or in cybersecurity," said Alicea, whose father worked for the National Security Agency.

The program is just one way PIC is educating its members about technology. PIC recently gave 130 tablets to members and showed them how to use the devices, Alicea said.

"This program recognizes this disconnect with older adults and technology is overdue," Alicea said. "Even though scams are more sophisticated than they were 15 years ago, it is our job to bring our members up to speed. We plan to create a network to support our members and new people who will hopefully become members. All we can do is help one another."

Sign up for classes at www.datacare.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Makayla Alicea at 410-544-4800 or datacare@partnersincare.org.

Orphan Grain Train To Host Appraiser Show

Want to find out how much your antiques and collectibles are worth? Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is welcoming certified appraiser Todd Peenstra to its warehouse on March 19 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Appraiser's Road Show will serve attendees on a first-come, first-serve

basis. No reservations are required. Oral appraisals are \$10 per item, and all items to be appraised must be transported because OGT cannot assist for liability reasons.

Parking is available next door to the OGT warehouse, located at 621 East-West Boulevard.

Reminder: Cast Your Votes For The Best Of Severna Park

Best of Severna Park voting is currently underway. Have you taken the survey yet to vote for your favorite places and services around town? Although our print ballot was included in the February edition of the *Severna Park Voice*, our staff is still collecting votes and tallying the online responses from now through Friday, April 1. To share your opinions with us, visit www.severnaparkvoice.com/

bestofsevernapark.com.

All ballots, whether digital or print, must have your name and contact information and should be filled out with at least 10 categories. Print ballots can be mailed directly to Severna Park Voice, P.O. Box 608, Severna Park, Maryland, 21146.

Winners for this year's Best Of Severna Park contest will be announced in our next edition, due in homes and business on April 14.



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Allan Rutzen, MD, FACS



Jacey Hanna, MD



Daniel Cason, OD

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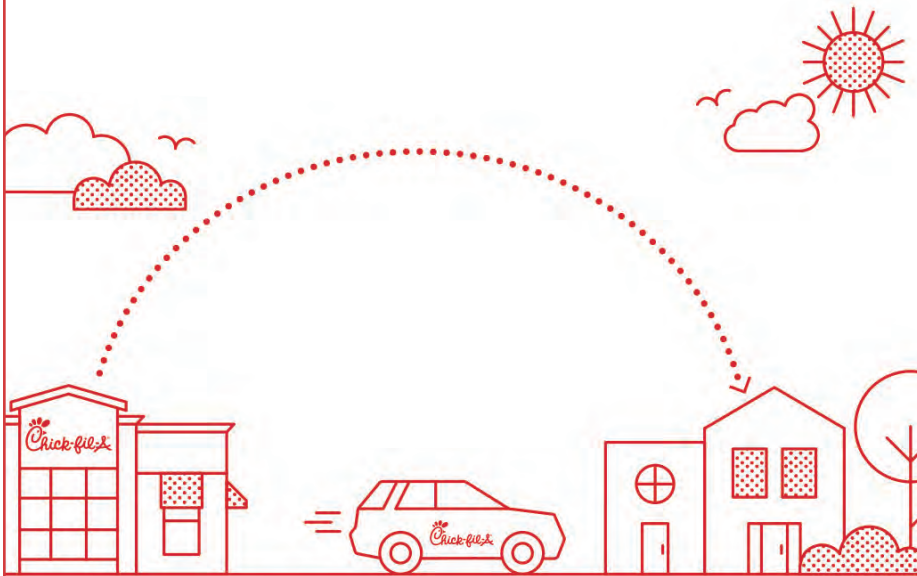
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Community Plunges Raise Money For Special Olympics Maryland

Several businesses around Severna Park participated in Polar Bear Plunge events in March to support Special Olympics Maryland. Garry's Grill (pictured right) raised more than \$9,000 on March 5 thanks to support from the community and the following businesses that spent time in the dunk tank: Mahon Landscaping Maryland and Brendan Mahon, Ryan Parisi of Coerver United, Larry Sells, The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium, Rockwell Fitness and Brian A. Chisholm, Michael Hall of Severna Park Lanes, and The Big Bean.



The Great American Car Wash (pictured left) hosted a Polar Bear Plunge event with the 98 Rock team of Justin, Scott and Spiegel on March 6 to benefit Special Olympics Maryland. The big event for the day was Justin, Scott and Spiegel going through the car wash. Spiegel went in his car, but Justin, Scott and Jim Schmutz of Special Olympics Maryland all decided to take a stroll through the car wash as a type of "virtual plunge."



Above: Matt Wyble of The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium raised money by entering the dunk tank.

Below: Garry's Grill owner Eddie Conway hosted his own Polar Bear Plunge event for the second consecutive year.



The Great American Car Wash hosted a Polar Bear Plunge event with the 98 Rock team of Justin, Scott and Spiegel on March 6.

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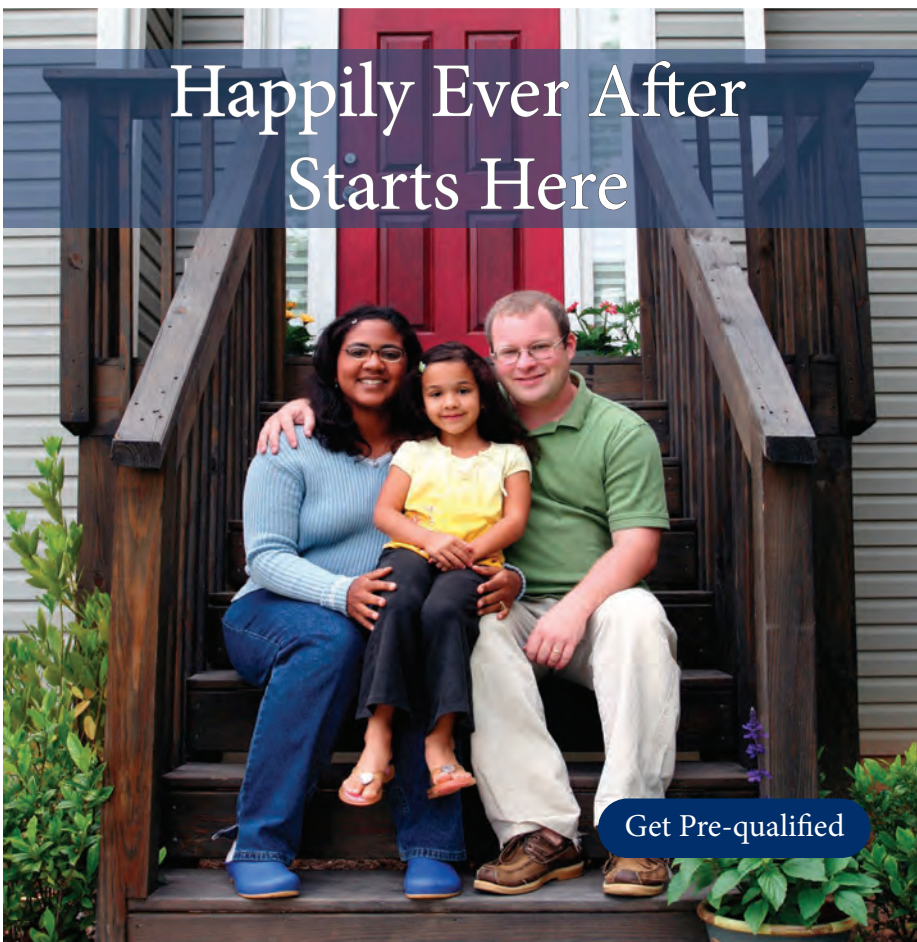
Brightview Resident Watches Granddaughter Compete In Olympics

From her home at Brightview Severna Park, Noreen Lyndsay cheered on her granddaughter, Hayley Scamurra, who competed for the U.S. women's ice hockey team during the Beijing Olympics this winter. The U.S. team made it to the finals but lost 3-2 to Canada on February 17. Lyndsay donned her navy blue Scamurra jersey for every game.

"I'm most proud of Hayley that in any interview, she always says winning is a team effort," Lyndsay said. "Even after a game where she scored the winning goal, she still mentioned her teammates, and I think that is so humble of her."



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You Deserve A Break!

Rachel Muñoz
Delegate
District 33



Tax relief for Marylanders has been a big issue this legislative session. Proposals for how to make Maryland more affordable have come from both sides of the aisle during this election year. Some tax relief measures

There are other more robust tax cuts that have not yet had a chance to be considered. They include House Bill 787 - tax exemptions from the first \$55,000 of retirement income, which would return \$387.5 million to Maryland retirees. Another example is House Bill 597, which would allow a military tax relief return of \$27 million to Maryland heroes. Another wonderful bill proposed this session that would really make a difference for Maryland retirees would phase out all retirement taxes entirely. House Bill 839 would cut income taxes for Marylanders by \$756 million this year alone.

Finally, something I think all Marylanders would like to see passed is House Bill 144 - which would repeal the consumer price index adjustment on gas. This gas tax was passed in 2013. This legislation would stop automatic gas tax increases every year without a vote. Only two other states have a gas tax related to inflation - Florida and New Hampshire. Without a repeal, the gas tax will cost Marylanders a \$37 million tax increase this year and will only continue to rise.

If you would like more information on these proposals, please contact my office at 410-841-3510.

have even passed out of the House with unanimous bipartisan support! I love it when we can work together to make Maryland a better place to do business, work, live, raise a family and retire.

Some examples of legislation that have recently been passed include bills that eliminate the 6% sales and use tax on items such as diapers, toothbrushes, some medical devices (such as thermometers and blood pressure cuffs), and diabetic supplies. These proposed tax cuts add up to \$95.4 million in savings for Marylanders, which equates to just 2% of the historic surplus of \$4.6 billion. Most of these tax cuts that have passed are aimed at reducing costs for Maryland families raising small children.

Behavioral Health And Public Safety Advisory Group Formed

Governor Larry Hogan issued an executive order on March 8 to create the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence Advisory Group. The creation of the advisory group is a recommendation from the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford.

The Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence was created via legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by Hogan during the 2021 legislative session.

The advisory group will work with the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence in the following manner:

- Advise on the development and implementation of the Center of Excellence's action plan that assists in diverting those with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities from criminal justice involvement to appropriate or necessary treatment
- Support the Center of Excellence's Sequential Intercept Model as a planning tool to strategically inform legislation, policy, planning and funding
- Advise on potential federal funding streams that the Center of Excellence can apply for to support the center's mission
- Advise on the creation of reposi-

tories for best practices throughout the state

- Advise on the implementation and continuation of other appropriate duties or responsibilities that are part of the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland

The advisory group will consist of:

- The lieutenant governor, or designee
- Executive director of the governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services or appointee
- Secretary of the Department of Health or their designee (Darren J. McGregor, director, Office of Crisis and Criminal Justice Services, Maryland Behavioral Health Administration)
- Secretary of Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and their appointee
- Maryland Chiefs of Police appointee
- Maryland Sheriff's Association appointee
- A member appointed by the Senate president
- A member appointed by the speaker of the House
- Designee of Mental Health Association of Maryland
- Consideration for federal designee (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or Office of Justice programs)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness of Maryland appointee

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter To The House Environment & Transportation Committee

Magothy River Association Strongly Opposed To House Bill 1218



The Magothy River Association (MRA) stands with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in its strong opposition to House Bill 1218 (HB1218) for the same reasons that we opposed it last year - haul seining would be a disaster for the Magothy River, especially for the yellow perch population, which MRA is working hard to restore.

While the House Environment & Transportation Committee has only a single member from Anne Arundel County, this bill seriously impacts the use of many waterways in our county. The waterways on the western shore of the bay are already under serious stress from the degradations to water quality and aquatic health that result from overdevelopment in their watersheds.

The Magothy River, a river that would be severely impacted by the commercial haul seine fishing allowed in HB1218, is already in such degraded condition from development and stormwater issues that we are warned not to enter the water within 48 hours after a rainstorm. To further reduce the recreational use of the Magothy by allowing expanded haul seine fishing is outrageous and a direct reduction in our quality of life in Anne Arundel County.

Pollution and sediment runoff in the Magothy River watershed have already smothered beds of essen-

tial subaquatic vegetation (SAV), and a haul seine net floating even 15 inches above the bottom will still cause untold further damage to the remaining fragile SAV beds.

The Magothy River Association has worked for many years to re-establish oyster beds on reef balls in the river. Oyster spat cannot survive in water clouded with additional sediment from large haul seines accidentally dropping onto the bottom. Haul seines capture huge volumes of fish with each use. While they are targeting gizzard shad, carp and catfish, their extreme length of up to 1800 feet, over one-fourth of a mile of net 15 feet high, capture every fish in its path as the net is swung around the stake. This "vacuum cleaner" approach to fishing captures every fish within a quarter mile. These commercial net systems will devastate existing rockfish, white perch and yellow perch populations and reduce the recreational value of the Magothy River. The fish that will be caught by haul seines are also very important to the ecosystem of our river. Haul seining would take place in late winter and early spring when many fish are in large schools during their spawning runs. Catching schools of fish that are ready to spawn is extremely detrimental to a sustainable fishery.

Commercial fishermen do not have a "right" to destroy the rivers and fisheries. These are public waters, and as such, should be protected!

This bill is a disaster for the extensive work that has been done by hundreds of volunteers for more than 70 years by the MRA to try to restore the Magothy River. The citizens of Anne Arundel County deserve better than turning our precious rivers over to commercial greed.

Thank you for voting no on HB1218.

Karen Royer
Secretary, Magothy River
Association
Severna Park resident

Share Your Opinion With Us!

We want to hear your thoughts regarding what's happening in the neighborhood. Is there a current issue at hand that you feel strongly about? We know our readers are passionate about their

neighborhoods, schools and more.

Letters to the Editor can be emailed to spvnews@severna-parkvoice.com and may be edited for space, grammar, etc. We encourage you to express yourself, but please be brief - letters should be limited to 350 words, though we occasionally run longer letters.



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Church News

Organized by Woods Church, WoodsWork involves participants building or restoring houses for the homeless; performing other construction-related mission projects; and participating in fellowship, recreation and worship.



Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Offers Scholarships

Attention all high school seniors and college students. It is time again to apply for scholarships offered by Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. Paper copies of the application form are available in the kiosk in the church narthex or can be downloaded online. The Monroe B. Clemmer and Lena

A. Clemmer scholarships are available for students attending a four-year college. The Robert E. Sherman scholarship is available for students attending either a two-year or four-year school. Additional requirements may be found on the application form.

The deadline for submitting the scholarship application will be midnight on Sunday, April 10. Submit applications to office@our shepherd.com.

To download the file for instructions and to fill out the application, visit www.ourshepherd.com.

Interviews will be scheduled in late April. Scholarships will be awarded soon after and will be authorized for the fall 2022 semester.

For more information, contact the church office at office@our shepherd.com or David Newell at david.newell918@gmail.com.

Severna Park Baptist Plans Easter Journey

Experience the Easter journey of Jesus through interactive outdoor stations at Severna Park Baptist Church on April 9 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Other activities include a free egg hunt, crafts and a food-for-youth fundraiser.

WoodsWork Plans Summer Mission Trip

The high school mission trip WoodsWork is tentatively planned to take place in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, from June 29 to July 7 this summer. Organized by Woods Church, WoodsWork involves participants restoring houses for the homeless; performing other construction-related projects; and participating in fellowship, recreation and worship.

WoodsWork has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for over 35 years, providing new and refurbished homes.

The trip is open to all high school students. To learn more about volunteering with WoodsWork, contact Vic Marone at 410-349-1459 or vmarone100@gmail.com, or Elizabeth Baril at 804-614-6970 or ebaril@woodschurch.org.

Meet The Pastor: Tunde Gbadamosi Goshen Parish, Redeemed Christian Church of God

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 Tunde Gbadamosi from Goshen Parish, a ministry of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

How long have you been at RCCG Goshen Parish?

I started the church in August 2009 and I have been the lead pastor since that date.

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

While I have had several dreams and revelations of pastoring since 1996, it was on May 4, 2009, that I finally received the heavenly commissioning in a night vision to start the ministry journey. And the journey has been eventful and fulfilling to the glory of God.

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

This happened sometime around April and May 2019. The lease of our church was due for renewal and the former property owner indicated that she was increasing the rent by 30% and would no longer do any repair on the property. This was a tough call for a young, growing church, and we declined the renewal option.



The Rev. Tunde Gbadamosi started an outreach project in 2020 to provide lunch meals and groceries to the Robinwood and Eastport communities in Annapolis.

How long have you been at RCCG Goshen Parish?

Surprisingly, however, on May 4, 2019, the former owner turned around to inform her attorney to prepare documents to transfer the ownership of the property to our church for \$1. The settlement was concluded on May 24, 2019, and we became the owner of the property, free and clear of any encumbrances. For a young, growing church to turn from being a tenant in its place of worship to becoming the owner of the same property was so

powerfully uplifting! This testimony brought our general overseer, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, to visit our church on July 25, 2019. Glory be to God!

Do you cook? What is your favorite meal?

Yes, I like cooking a native African mix of corn and beans meal, and porridge. My favorite meal is pounded yam with fish vegetable soup any day.

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

I like visiting my parishioners to bless them in their homes. Also, I like auto shows. In fact, I'm looking forward to attending the 2022 Washington Auto Show starting Friday, January 21, 2022.

Did you pick up any quarantine projects or hobbies?

Yes, with some volunteers, we started Feed the Community Outreach during the outbreak of the pandemic in April 2020. This outreach project is dedicated to giving out lunch meals and groceries monthly to the less-served communities of Robinwood and Eastport in Annapolis.

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

I'm a more outdoorsy guy than people

get to know. I like to go camping but never had the time to go.

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

A trip to outer space on the back of one of the billionaires so that I can view from high above the majesty of creation by the almighty.

What is your favorite type of music?

I love contemporary gospel music. Kari Jobe, Chandler Moore, Dante Bowe, Josh Baldwin, Chris Tomlin, Tasha Cobb, Travis Greene, Jesse Cline, Maverick City Music and Elevation are my favorites musicians and groups.

What is the best thing about Goshen Parish?

We are a family-oriented church and are committed to sharing the message of the gospel of grace that is in Jesus Christ according to Romans 3:24, in order that everyone may partake in it. We are a Pentecostal church where you will enjoy upbeat music and inspiring messages in a serene environment and you'll simply love being in church. Families, friends and children are welcome. We are passionate about making a difference in the community and in the lives of others.



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Severna Park Boys Indoor Track And Field Wins First **State Title** In Nearly 50 Years



With 55 points, the SPHS boys indoor track team took first place and became Class 4A state champions on February 18.

By **Conor Doherty**

The Falcons dominated from the start of the Class 4A indoor track and field state championships on February 18 at the Baltimore Armory, winning their first state title in nearly 50 years. Severna Park's boys team scored 55 points, 10 points clear of second-place Dulaney and 21 points clear of third-place Broadneck.

Senior **Jack DeBaugh** led the way, winning the gold medal in the 500-meter race, along with finishing fifth in the 300-meter race. The Falcons also won the 4x800 meter relay, along with a bronze medal won by senior **Tyler Canaday** in the 1600-meter race.

"It is an extremely amazing accomplishment for us," DeBaugh said. "It's great that the team overall is so talented and balanced."

Head coach **Josh Alcombright** said it meant a lot to the athletes to "get that elusive state title."

"They talked about the banners hanging in the gym and knowing the last one was nearly 50 years ago was a big motivation for them," said Alcombright, who also talked about how this season had come together for the team. "Honestly, we didn't

» Continued on page 26

SPHS' Patrick Ellis Wins Wrestling State Crown

Two Other Falcon Wrestlers Compete At Finals



By **Conor Doherty**

Standing on top of the podium at North Point High School on March 5, Severna Park senior **Patrick Ellis** knew that the moment was proof that four years of effort had finally paid off. Ellis won the Class 3A/4A state wrestling title for the 220-pound class, beating a previously undefeated wrestler, South River's **Lonnell Owens-Pabon**.

"The title wouldn't mean anything to me if it weren't for how much effort was put in to win it," Ellis said. "This was my first title, and over the past four years, I put blood, sweat and tears into getting it."

Falcons wrestling coach Trevor Bryden saw that hard work firsthand.

"I have always believed that hard work pays off," Bryden said. "But still, with all our hard work and effort, rarely do we reach the pinnacle of our sport. Rarely do we end our season with a string of wins."

Rarely do we find ourselves at the top of the podium. So to have all that time and effort, all that sacrifice and dedication, to see all that come together at the end of the season when it means the most, well it's just something special. And it's not a feeling we and Patrick will ever forget."

Owens-Pabon had beaten Ellis twice this season — once on a self-described

poor decision by Ellis in the final seconds of the match and the second time, Ellis said, during a regionals match that he lost intentionally so he could see how offensive he could be against his opponent.

Those matches allowed Ellis to assess weaknesses Owens-Pabon might have.

"His main weakness was that he would use all his energy early because he was

(L-R) Sophomore Nate Kohler and senior Patrick Ellis wrestled in the Class 3A/4A state tournament in March, with Andrew Trull serving as first alternate and Bobby Howe watching to support his teammates.



used to pinning all of his guys, so I decided to play defensively, and by overtime, he was completely drained of energy," Ellis said. "That and he would go for double underhooks. Everything he did was a transition to an underhook, which he would use to leg trip. This meant that he would try to take a shot and then immediately go straight to underhooks from the bottom headlock position or try to snap me down and then underhook me when I was to recover."

While Ellis said that the support from his coaches and teammates helped him immensely, he felt that what he had learned from **Danny Ives**, his jujitsu coach, was just as important to his success.

"He taught me a lot of foundational techniques that helped me win all my

» Continued on page 26

"The title wouldn't mean anything to me if it weren't for how much effort was put in to win it. This was my first title, and over the past four years, I put blood, sweat and tears into getting it."

— **PATRICK ELLIS, SENIOR, SEVERNA PARK FALCON WRESTLING**

Lady Bruins Knock Off Falcons With Last-Second Shot In Regional

BHS Falls To South River In Region Semifinals

By Conor Doherty

The Lady Bruins and Falcons had played two close games in the regular season, with each team claiming one win. So it seemed fitting that the rubber match between the two schools would take place in the Class 4A/3A regionals on February 25. And it

was the Bruins who moved on after **Lilly Kelley** hit a floater with 35 seconds left to give the Bruins a 30-28 lead. The Falcons never got a shot off as great defense from Kelley and **Nevaeh Dowell** forced a tie-up to end the game.

Like their previous two meetings, it was a game of runs, missed free throws and good defense. The Falcons got out to an 11-5 lead before the Bruins rattled off five quick points to make it an 11-10 score with about 2:30 left in the first quarter. From there, the game saw a nearly seven-minute scoring drought that didn't end until Broadneck scored with 4:17 left in the second quarter. The Falcons didn't score their first points of the second quarter until less than two minutes left in the half and Broadneck took a 15-14 lead into halftime.

The offensive woes continued in the second half as both teams had only scored four points each when the Bruins had a big sequence of plays. First, **Mary Moore** converted a 3-point play and then the Bruins forced a turnover and scored in transition to push their lead to 24-18 as they headed into the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter saw the Falcons put together a furious comeback as their defense forced the Bruins into some bad shots and turnovers, and the Falcons tied the game at 28-28 with 2:40 left in the game. From there, the stage was set for Kelley's heroics.

"The goal was to score but not to force a bad shot," Kelley said after the game. "Taking that shot wasn't any different than taking it in the first quarter. The pressure can usually get to my head, so I just kind of forgot that the game was on the line, and I just went for it."

After the game, Broadneck head coach **Juan McKinney** credited his defense for getting the crucial stop to keep the Falcons from getting a shot off. "Our focus is to keep playing defense," he explained. "We stress playing defense. That last possession, ball pressure forced them to pick up the dribble and we were able to deny the ball getting to anyone else."

For the Falcons, who finished with a 13-10 record, it was a tough loss to end a remarkable season, a season that started 2-5 before the team won 11 of their next 16 games heading into their playoff game against the Bruins. Despite the tough loss, head coach **Kristofer Dean** said that the game is a good experience for his team.

"Playoff experience is like nothing else," Dean stated. "It's good that the girls who are coming back next year got on the floor and got some experience in that sort of game environment."

The Bruins moved on and faced South River in the second round of the regionals, losing 39-35. With that, the Bruins finished with a season record of 9-12. Despite the final record, McKinney saw this season as a big improvement for the program.

"This was my third year coaching this team, including the COVID season last year," he explained. "So to get a playoff win against Severna Park is huge for Broadneck and the program because we are trying to build up to something special."



Photos courtesy of Dennis McGinley

Above, Top to Bottom: The Bruins' Nevaeh Dowell drove to the basket. Nevaeh Dowell fought Severna Park's Hanna Verreault for control of a loose ball. Against stiff defense, Lilly Kelley scored the winning basket on a floater to lift Broadneck over Severna Park, 30-28.

SPHS Boys Basketball Season Ends In Region Semifinals

Falcons Win Playoff Opener Over Leonardtown

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Throughout the 2021-2022 season, the Severna Park boys basketball team was riding high, enjoying their best season since the Falcons won the county championship and earned a school-record 23 wins during the 2013-

2014 season.

The team's 2022 success continued with a home playoff win over Leonardtown on February 25, but ultimately ended against the region's No. 1 seed, the North Point Eagles, who beat the Falcons 56-51 on February 28.

Despite that, there is much for the boys to be proud of, including their playoff win. By limiting the Leonardtown Raiders to 11 second-half points, Severna Park secured a 48-38 victory in their playoff opener.

In the first half, the teams nearly went shot for shot. Severna Park's **Declan Fox** hit a 3-pointer to give the Falcons a 9-6 lead early in the contest. **Bryce Stevenson** added a bucket and a free throw, putting the Falcons up 11-10 after a few scores by the Raiders. On the next possession, Fox made a nifty pass to Stevenson, who buried a shot from the perimeter. Leonardtown's **Landon Windell** answered with his own 3-pointer, tying the game at 14.

Anthony Bocchetta added back-to-back buckets, scoring the second on a reverse layup to put Severna Park ahead 18-16. The Raiders continued the fast tempo, with **Trent Hoyt** hitting a 3 to spark a 9-1 run. Severna Park fought back as **Brendan Abell** and Fox scored to close the gap, giving the Raiders a 27-26 lead at halftime.

Needing to seize control of the game, Severna Park boys basketball head coach **Paul Pellicani** and his assistant coaches changed their defensive approach.

"We made a stronger commitment on how we were going to handle that high pick and roll and also how we were going to defend the wings," Pellicani said after the game.

From there, it was almost all Severna Park. In the third quarter, Bocchetta tipped a Leonardtown shot attempt to himself for a rebound and passed the ball to Fox, who raced down the court and executed a behind-the-back pass to an open Abell, who reclaimed the Severna Park lead, 28-27. Bocchetta added two on a pull-up jumper and then **Michael Bowles** came off the bench to nail a 3-pointer, giving all the momentum to Severna Park.

On the other end of the court, the defense stymied Leonardtown, causing errant passes and contested shots while holding the Raiders to five points in the third quarter.

"I felt like everything was going our way, [like] tipped balls, and just helped us pull out the win," Bocchetta said. "It just felt like we were all in the zone and shots were knocking down."

The Falcons earned the 48-38 win, led offensively by Bocchetta and Abell (11 points each), Stevenson (nine points) and Fox (seven points).

Although the season did not end the way Severna Park wanted, the players have memories to cherish.

"I felt like we had a great group coming into the season that a lot of people weren't expecting," Fox said. "We proved a lot of people wrong and I'm really proud of how well we overcame adversity all year long."



Photos by Zach Sparks

Above, Top to Bottom: Liam Cleary hit two free throws in the fourth quarter. Anthony Bocchetta was a force inside the paint, scoring and grabbing rebounds. Declan Fox drew extra defenders, creating scoring opportunities for his teammates.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Nick Melfi

Severn Wrestling

By Conor Doherty

As Severn wrestling fought its way to winning both conference titles this year, it would be perfectly understandable to give credit to some of the older members of the team for their success. But coach Tom Wheeler said that the team's youth was a major piece to the team's puzzle, with five sophomores and one freshman on the team. That freshman was Nick Melfi Jr.

"I was excited; it was something new, being honored like this," Melfi said after coach Wheeler nominated him as Student-Athlete of the Month. "He is a really good coach, and I'm just happy that he chose me because it shows a lot."

Melfi was a major contributor this season as he finished with a record of 25-5 while wrestling in the 106-pound weight class. Severn won both its conference regular season and tournament titles and for Melfi, it was a great feeling.

"Seeing our team work hard throughout the year and for it to pay off like that, it really meant a lot," he said. "For everybody, it was special. We were all on the bus riding home, just really excited about what we had done."

A multi-sport athlete who also plays soccer,



Nick Melfi finished the season with a record of 25-5 while wrestling in the 106-pound weight class.

Melfi decided that getting back into wrestling would be good for him as he made his way into high school.

"When I was younger, I wrestled and then I took a break, and then I started it back up in high school," he explained. "It's fun, competing for your high school team. Going to dual meets and tournaments with your team is a

“

It's fun, competing for your high school team. Going to dual meets and tournaments with your team is a fun experience.”

— NICK MELFI, SEVERN WRESTLING

fun experience.”

In the postseason, Melfi continued his strong season as he finished fifth in his weight class at the Maryland Independent School State Tournament. That qualified him to compete in the national prep tournament, however, he was unable to compete. But just having qualified, that showed Melfi the potential he had for the coming years.

"I now know what I am capable of doing," he said. "So if I go to national preps next year, I have an idea of what I can do there as well."

Going into next season, Melfi understands that for him to improve, he'll need to work on his technique while also learning how to be better prepared heading into tournaments. Melfi will be a part of a good core of wrestlers for the Admirals next season, and next year will be built upon the great foundation that he and the rest of the team laid this year.

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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Playing A Kids Game: New Adult Wiffle Ball League Debuts In Millersville

By Kevin Murnane

For decades, children have played wiffle ball, the sport with that iconic yellow bat, with their friends and dads for the pure love of the game.

Now, area adults are reliving some of their childhood by organizing adult leagues in many parts of the nation, including Anne Arundel County.

Michael Bishop, who used to play in the county's senior baseball league, organized the Maryland Chesapeake Wiffle Ball League, which has eight teams with players from throughout Anne Arundel County as well as Pennsylvania and the Eastern Shore.

"We play Sunday doubleheaders at the field next to Larry's Tavern in Millersville," Bishop said. "We play seven-inning games on specially-designed fields for wiffle ball."

The game features only four defensive fielders, including the pitcher. There are fences for home runs, but the batter does not run the bases. The dimensions of the fences are 99 feet down the line and 109 feet to center field. The pitcher throws to a target behind home plate, and if the ball hits the target, it's a strike or if the batter swings. The batter is awarded extra bases depending on how far the ball travels within the field.

Walks are part of the game.

"Some of the pitchers throw pretty hard, and in some leagues, the pitcher can throw in the 90s," Bishop said.

The pitchers also have the advantage of making the specialty-designed wiffle ball curve, sink or rise to keep the batter guessing on the ball's trajectory as it approaches the plate.

The Maryland Chesapeake Wiffle Ball League includes several players with professional baseball experience.

Wayne Williams played for the Toronto Blue Jays for seven seasons and **Chris Russ, Christopher Ford** and **David Greenley** played in the minor leagues.

But the majority of players want to simply relive some of their treasured childhood memories and play the game they spent countless hours playing in their backyards.

"I believe I started playing wiffle ball when I was 5, with my dad," said Pasadena's **Patrick Murnane**. "I used to use lineups from the Major League Baseball teams and then I bat left- or right-handed to match the players in the lineups."

Pediatrician **Kemper Steffe** played wiffle ball growing up in Virginia and had simulated World Series games.

"I remember one simulated World Series wiffle ball game that my brother



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Dave Capobianco of Salisbury swung and missed on a curveball by the Cheese Biscuits' Patrick Murnane of Pasadena. There were eight games played on the inaugural weekend of the Maryland Chesapeake Wiffle League in March.

had to miss, and I lost that game, and to this day my brother talks about that game," said Steffe.

Murnane said that he played between 60 to 80 wiffle ball games per summer and even took the wiffle ball equipment on vacation to the ocean so he could play in a best-of-seven game tournament with his dad.

This new league will bring back

those glorious memories to numerous area residents and give those players a chance to take the field, catch fly balls, field grounders and step in the batter's box with visions of their childhood in their minds.

For more information on the Maryland Chesapeake Wiffle Ball league, contact Mike Bishop at marylnd.mcwl2021@gmail.com.

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Swim Teams Struggle At States After Strong Regional Performances



Photos by Conor Doherty

Left: Severna Park senior Tyler Moran placed fourth in the men's 100 freestyle and backstroke, setting new school records for both events. **Middle:** Sara Smith celebrated with Severna Park head coach Emily Bear after Smith finished sixth in the 200 individual medley and seventh in the 100 backstroke. **Right:** Freshman Owen Mahoney (center) was joined by Broadneck assistant coach Julie Andrews (left) and head coach Colleen Winans after finishing seventh in the 500 freestyle.

By Conor Doherty

It wasn't exactly the performance that either team wanted as the Severna Park and Broadneck swim teams struggled at the state swim championship, held at College Park on February 26. The Severna Park boys finished 16th with 25 points while the girls were 12th with 75 points. Broadneck's boys placed 12th with 58 points while the girls placed 17th with 28 points.

Missing some of their top swimmers

due to a conflict with club swimming, both teams had just five podium finishers combined. Severna Park senior **Tyler Moran** placed fourth in the men's 100 freestyle and backstroke, setting new school records for both events while junior **Sara Smith** finished sixth in the 200 individual medley and seventh in the 100 backstroke, for which she also set a new school record. Meanwhile, Broadneck freshman **Owen Maloney** finished seventh in the 500 freestyle.

"No matter how they did, being here at states is an honor in and of itself," said Severna Park head coach **Emily Bear**. "Just being here is great and anything you do above and beyond that is just cake, and we're proud of them for being here."

Broadneck head coach **Colleen Winans** shared a similar sentiment, saying that her team should be proud for scoring points and doing as well as they did, despite not having their best swimmers there.

As Winans emphasized, the Anne Arundel County club swim championships were held the same day as the high school championships, and due to that conflict, almost every team from Anne Arundel went to states without their best swimmers. Winans said this has been an issue for Anne Arundel County schools since about 2014, and when it comes time for states to be held, schools from other counties don't have the same conflict and thus fare much better.

The difference in performance for both schools becomes clearer when looking at the regional championships held the week prior. The Severna Park girls and Broadneck boys both claimed first place while the Severna Park boys finished fourth and the Broadneck girls finished second.

"The girls finishing second at counties made them so hungry to work even harder and win at regionals," Bear stated. "Every failure and success, they got stronger and more supportive of each other. The goal of winning counties and regionals for the boys is not out of sight next year; they will be more than prepared."

With the school season over, many swimmers will focus on their summer teams. Coach Winans said that many of them know what they need to work on to get better for next season.

"Just get on it, work hard, work their technique and turns," she said. "It's working on the little things that will make them much faster. For now, they have nothing to complain about because we got to be here at states in person."

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Patrick Ellis Wins State Crown

» Continued from page 19

matches throughout the past 13 years of my life," Ellis explained. "He's a man I respect a lot and I can't thank him enough for all that he's done for me."

Ellis wasn't the only wrestler Severna Park sent to states. He was joined by sophomore **Nathan Kohler** and junior **Shannon Briggs**, along with senior **Andrew Trull**, who was first alternate but never got the chance to wrestle.

Briggs placed fifth in the girls 190-pound weight class while Kohler was unable to place in the boys 152-pound weight class.

"It meant a lot for me to be able to participate in states," Kohler said. "Even qualifying for the state tournament was far beyond my personal expectations for the season. I was able to create a very strong bond with the team and build meaningful connections. While I unfortunately did not place at states, I'm still

very proud of the progress both I and the team made throughout the season."

With the wrestling season over, the focus now shifts to the offseason. For underclassmen like Kohler and Briggs, shifting focus to the offseason gives them something to work toward.

"I am planning on having fun at the tournaments this offseason to get into a more positive mentality before my senior season," Briggs said.

Coach Bryden considers the offseason to be an important step in helping his wrestlers continue to grow and develop.

"The foundation of success is built in the offseason," Bryden stated. "The only way to get better at wrestling is to wrestle. That is our message to our underclassmen. If they want to be where Patrick was, on top of the podium, or even if they want to be on the podium at all, they need to be actively trying to get better."

Severna Park Boys Win State Title

» Continued from page 19

have much of a season. So they were just excited to be competing. You can always improve and become an even more well-rounded team, so that is what our staff focuses on from season to season."

And that sentiment was shared with many of the runners. Senior **James Glebocki** said that for a long time this season, it was unknown whether regionals and states would even be held because the venue used for those events was turned into a vaccination site.

Thankfully for the Falcons, the season was able to continue and now the focus of the team shifts to outdoor track and field. Having already won their fourth straight state title in cross country back in

the fall, the boys team will now try and go for the state title trifecta. And members of the team, like DeBaugh, think that this title showed that the triple crown is well within the team's hands.

After the outdoor season ends, the group of seniors that includes DeBaugh and Canaday will graduate, leaving behind a legacy of success at Severna Park. And even though they are moving on, it doesn't mean that those seniors won't leave their teammates without giving some last pieces of helpful advice.

"Next year, I think the main thing is to avoid becoming complacent," Canaday stated. "The guys will have to remember to keep working hard and pushing one another."



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Severna Park Coach, Athlete Becomes First Woman Inducted Into Rugby Club Hall Of Fame

By Judy Tacyn

On February 5, the Severn River Rugby Football Club held its annual awards banquet, which included the induction of **Bill Beans, Steve Compo, Tom Guidotti** and Severna Park native **Meredith McAlister Kraus** into its hallowed Hall of Fame. McAlister Kraus became the first woman elected to the illustrious group in its more than 40-year history.

Known to many in Severna Park as the head coach of the high school girls varsity softball team, which in 2018 won the 4C state championship title, McAlister Kraus has a long and storied local sports history. She was a three-sport varsity athlete with the Falcons and went on to play Division 1 softball and soccer at Long Island University.

After college graduation, McAlister Kraus moved to Nashville with a former college soccer player. There the athletic duo couldn't find anything that was truly competitive for female athletes.

"My roommate came home one day with a rugby flyer. We went to practice and loved every aspect of it," McAlister Kraus recalled. "My dad was a football player at University of Kentucky and my brother also played, so I was always a little jealous that no women were allowed to hit people. One of my college softball teammates had played rugby in Oregon and she always told me I'd make a good rugby player. Turns out she was right."

When McAlister Kraus returned to Anne Arundel County in the mid-2000s she looked for a rugby club and would travel to Baltimore to play. Realizing there was a strong pool of athletes in Anne Arundel County to start a new women's team, McAlister Kraus, along with two teammates and her coach, approached the Severn River Rugby Football Club about expanding to add a women's team. The organiza-

tion, founded in 1976 as a men's club, saw its first women's team take the field in 2006.

"Support and acceptance of us as athletes on the pitch was pivotal in the development of our women's team," McAlister Kraus said. "We would not be where we are without the vision of one club. I am extremely grateful for the men we have in the Severn River family, both then and now, because that tradition continues, and it is very lovely to witness the vision that the leadership board had set out to accomplish."

A former teammate of McAlister Kraus said that when the women's team was formed in 2006, the goal was never about playing rugby.

"That was part of it, but she wanted to create a community, a family that loves rugby, and really loved being together and supporting each other on and off the pitch," said former teammate **Kate Fitzgerald**. "Meredith is so much more than a rugby player or a rugby enthusiast. She's a community builder. She's done that throughout her tenure in the Severna Park High School athletic programs and simply extended that to the broader community through the rugby club."

To get their team going, the women spent a lot of time recruiting players. They formed alliances with universities that had women's clubs, and managed to pull players from Salisbury, Towson and University of Maryland, Baltimore County. They even put up flyers in pubs and restaurants in downtown Annapolis.

As a player with an athletic frame and a fierce, competitive glare, McAlister Kraus was intimidating on any field, but opponents were foolish to think she was "soft" when they saw her oversized hair bow. The tradition started when she was in high school, where the hair



Photos courtesy of Diane Hickok

As a player with an athletic frame and a fierce, competitive glare, Meredith McAlister Kraus was intimidating on any field.



bows fed into the kind of team unity every squad strives for. Plus, it made her grandmother happy.

"My grandmother was blind, so she never got to watch us play," added McAlister Kraus. "My mom was talking to her on the phone and described a picture of me and mentioned the hair bow. Grandma Pat was very traditional, and the description painted a picture of a very pretty female athlete."

"It was important to her, so I kept wearing it," said McAlister Kraus, noting that the hair bow also became a superstition. "I started saying, 'No one likes getting hit by a girl with a bow in her hair.' And it's the truth!"

Teammate **Rachel Priddy** said, "Any team that knew her avoided contact with her and any team that didn't know her soon regretted their 'I've got the back with the stupid bow in her hair' comment. We'd laugh and say, 'Yeah, you go get that girl with the bow. Let me know how that works out for you.'"

Fitzgerald described McAlister Kraus as "an absolute force on the rugby pitch."

"[She] also cares deeply about the people she plays with and [supports] each person through all of their pur-

suits," added Fitzgerald. "For that alone, no one deserved more than her to be the first woman inducted into the club's Hall of Fame."

McAlister Kraus has earned numerous awards for her play and leadership on and off the field. Though she is no longer playing, the women's team is thriving. She twice was nominated to the Hall of Fame, both times turning down the offers.

"We were starting the Hall of Fame for the 40th anniversary gala, which was a huge celebration for our club. Our men's team had been in existence for 40 years, while our women's team had only been around for 13 years," McAlister Kraus explained. "You can't come into a club with that much history, where they are advocates for you and not understand that there is history and traditions that far outreach anything you have done. I look up to and respect those men immensely and it was important to honor them first."

To learn more about the new Hall of Fame members, McAlister Kraus' role in the development of the women's team or the Severn River Rugby Football Club, visit www.severnriverrugby.org.

Green Hornets Team Wins Arlington ASIST Tournament



The 2009 boys Severna Park Green Hornets White team won the Arlington ASIST Tournament on February 26 and 27. The team scored 19 goals and had zero against, and they won a tough final, 3-0, against Barca Academy of Northern Virginia. Players included Shay Allison, Tyler Baker, Ryan Buckley, Connor Cormier, Bennett Cowden, Jonah Downey, Ryan Fisher, Jake Frost, GianFranco Gonzalez, Jacob Lovejoy, Domenic Maguzu IV, Alex Martinez, Avery Merolla, Ethan Riberio, Cash Schneider, Leo Sobocinski and John Wolf. Not pictured is coach Dave Filo.

Green Hornets Club Basketball Crowns Champions

By Conor Doherty

In early March, the Greens Hornets held their program playoffs for all age groups from third/fourth grade up to scrub (grades nine through 12).

Third/Fourth Grade The third/fourth grade group was also divided into two brackets. The A bracket was won by the Hornets. Coached by **Brain Vetter** and **Joe Cinosky**, the Hornets had an undefeated 8-0 season. "Coach Cinosky and I had one rule this season: smile when you are out on the court," Vetter said. "When you smile, you release a genuine sense of joy, happiness and excitement. We pushed our boys to make mistakes, have fun and compete."

In the B bracket, the Raptors won that group, coached by **Michael Oleru** and **John Fitzmaurice**.

Fifth/Sixth Grade The Cavaliers won the fifth/sixth grade A bracket, beating the Bucks in the championship game, finishing with a 6-2 record. Head coach **Jimmy Biello** and assistant coach **Ben Lynn** were both proud of the boys on the team. Meanwhile, the Suns won the fifth/sixth grade B bracket; that age group was divided into two brackets due to the number of teams in the league. The Suns were coached by **Darrick and Sally Moran**, along with **Josh Cornett**.

Seventh/Eighth Grade Coached by **Roy Bowerman III**, the Suns won the seventh/eighth grade bracket, finishing with a record of 12-5. Bowerman put a lot of emphasis into the team's mantra of "family" as the season progressed. "They truly gelled as a family unit and it showed on the court," Bowerman stated. "They had a lot of fun throughout the season and worked really well together. It was almost like they knew what each other was thinking during the games."

Scrub The Pacers, coached by Rich Singleton and Don Horgan, won the scrub league after beating the Pelicans in the championship, finishing with a 15-2 record. Charlie Wilemon had 14 points to lead the team in scoring, with Michael Singleton adding 12 points of his own. According to Barry Herman, scrub coordinator, the Pacers were also helped by "tenacious defense and key baskets" hit by several players, including Garrett Taylor and Ryan Minton. As for the Pelicans, their scoring in the championship was paced by Spencer Shwetz and Braden Roush who each had eight points.

Severn Wrestling Claims Conference Title, Finishes Second At States



The success of Severn School's wrestling team this year was due to a group effort.

By Conor Doherty

The Severn School wrestling team capped off a great 2021-2022 season, winning the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) B Conference regular season and tournament titles and finishing second overall in the Maryland Independent School (MIS) state tournament.

Along with the team's overall success, many individual wrestlers had great seasons.

Senior **Ryan Money** finished first at the MIAA tournament and second at states in the 145-pound weight class. Sophomore **Reid Gills** was third at MIAA and fourth at states at 170 pounds, and freshman **Nicky Melfi** was fourth at MIAA and fifth at states at 106 pounds. All three qualified for the national prep tournament.

Head coach **Tom Wheeler** couldn't have been prouder of how his team did.

"It was a big deal to win the dual meet title and the conference tournament

for us," he stated. "Those are both team accomplishments and we wouldn't have seen that type of success without contributions from everyone on the team."

Wheeler said that this season had more uncertainty surrounding it than even the 2020-2021 season as they dealt with cancellations and postponements.

"Assistant coach **Shane Fraser** did a great job of motivating everyone in the wrestling room and his dedication was a big reason that we were able to finish the season strong," Wheeler said. "It was a testament to our guys and coaches to be able to maintain focus and put in the work without knowing what the next week might bring."

"This is a young team, so we have a good foundation to build on and a lot of untapped potential, along with a talented incoming freshman class," Wheeler said. "We should get off to a good start next season. Putting in some work in the offseason is going to be key to taking another step."

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Pythons Wrap Up Winter Season



Basketball was back this winter. The SPGH Pythons had a fun and COVID-free season competing in the Severna Park Green Hornets' middle school league. The team included (top row) Olivia Sudano, Ava Cosler, Hannah Young, Cassidy Barstow, Cari Davis and (bottom row) Ava McPhee, Stella Bocchetta, Anya Diggs, Morgan Rausch and Buket Kuzkaya.

SPMS Plans Magical, Mischievous, Miraculous Show



The cast features talented actors and singers who hope to bring comfort and hope to audiences during their three-day run of "Matilda the Musical Jr."

The streets will be filled by the smell of rebellion in April when The Spartan Lyrical Society and Severna Park Middle School (SPMS) present Roald Dahl's "Matilda the Musical Jr." Based on the beloved book by Dahl and adapted from the award-winning full-length mu-

sical, it tells the story of an extraordinary girl who dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

Elle LaBrier, the talented sixth-grader who plays Matilda, has enjoyed being in her first production at SPMS. "Matilda is such a fun character to play because

she is a kid but is strong and powerful like adults," Elle said. "She stands up for what is right! I also love working with the talented directors and cast members and have made so many new friends!"

Destiny Felder, who plays Matilda's mom, Mrs. Wormwood, shares Elle's

enthusiasm and joy in being a part of this production. "It's wonderful to be back onstage. It feels like life is getting back to normal," she said. "I love working with so many amazing actors and singers; you won't believe their phenomenal voices

» **Continued on page 36**

SPHS Students Spearhead Inaugural Mental Health Awareness Week

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Students at Severna Park High School took the issue of mental health into their own hands during the week of February 28 to March 5, planning the school's inaugural Mental Health Awareness Week.

"Historically, we [as a society] don't like talking about mental health," said sophomore Eric Lin, an executive staffer with the school's Student Government Association (SGA). "We wanted to let students know it's OK if they're not feeling OK."

Eric and co-student leader Bella Hodnett Ortiz worked with SGA advisor Christine Bowman to plan the week's activities. Monday featured Fun Falcon Blocks. Instead of the usual 30-minute period when students seek academic support, 15 teachers agreed to offer their Falcon Blocks for relaxation time, drawing, coloring, dancing and other activities. Kahoot! Tuesday helped the students debunk mental health myths.

On Wear Green Wednesday, students distributed green pins and wristbands to match their green attire. After-School Cookie Baking Thursday allowed teens to de-stress. Courtyard Connections Friday

featured a fair-like event with food, drinks, self-care tips and music from a band led by student Parijita Bastola.

Senior Addison Garrett explained how every day of the week offered activities that made students feel good.

"They weren't about competition or meeting expectations," Addison said. "They were simply ways to laugh and find a release throughout the day with others. In a community with such a high standard, we need to continue to incorporate these little moments of freedom to take a look around and see all the goodness around us."

The week of activities ended with a walk on Saturday to raise awareness. Eric estimated that 75 to 80 students attended the walk.

"There is much more we need to do, but I hope this one act will cause change," said junior Isabella Suhar, who was responsible for gathering food and drinks for the participants. "I am so thankful to our local Starbucks and Donut Shack for their donations!"

The week was made possible by many students and business partners.

Sophomore Athena Vangraefschepe was tasked with connecting the SGA to



On March 5, 75 to 80 local students attended a walk around the community which concluded Mental Health Awareness Week.

the organization Burgers & Bands For Suicide Prevention and making sure the wristbands got made.

"I feel like the whole message of the week is so important today and everyone's always talking about how we need to take more action to help our mental health, and nobody really does much about it," she said.

Sophomore Samira Ibrahim got involved to "bring to light a situation that is often concealed."

"We were given the opportunity to not only help the community but also ourselves and give us an outlet to have fun and share experiences, which I feel is

often forgotten about," Samira said. "It was an enjoyable time with people who cared and wanted to make a difference, which was what made these events so important and touching because anyone could have needed those days to help them out."

Students plan to host Mental Health Awareness Week again next year, but in the meantime, they want their peers to know that help is always available.

"If they ever have issues or want to talk to someone, they should reach out to a counselor, a parent or someone they can trust," Eric said.

» **Continued on page 36**

Q.

Question of the month

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

What is your favorite food and why?

I like rice because it is just something super easy to make when my parents are busy, and it's delicious!

Abby D.

Steak is my favorite food because I love how many ways you can make it, like steak salad, tacos and plain!

Cara W.

My favorite food is Chick-fil-A because their fries are so good, and their chicken

nuggets are good as well.

Carlee S.

My favorite food is tuna casserole. I like this because I love tuna and it has a special name in my immediate family, Tuna Nuna.

Caroline B.

Pizza is my favorite food because it has cheese on it and I like cheese.

Carter Z.

My favorite food is French fries because I like salty foods better than sweet foods.

Cayden B.

My favorite food is Italian

lasagna. I like this food because it's a mixture of flavorful sauce, smooth cheese, and crumbly Parmesan cheese, all in one piece of tasty lasagna.

Cole T.

My favorite food is a chicken Caesar salad. I like this food because it is good for you and tastes great together.

Elin E.

Cucumber sushi is my favorite food because it's healthier than regular sushi, and it always makes me happy when I eat it.

Emerson B.

Tacos are my favorite food. They come in different varieties and are very tasty.

Gavin O.

My absolute favorite food is called "chicken cutlets." Chicken cutlets are like an Italian chicken tender, and they are really thin, coated with bread-crumbs, and fried in oil.

Gianna T.

My favorite food is tacos. I love them because I've had tacos since I was little.

Harper G.

My favorite food in the world is steak! I like it because

there's different things you can put it with, such as tacos, rice, burgers, empanadas and many more.

Iverson C.

I like Skittles because they are sweet.

Jack G.

I like pizza because there are so many toppings you can put on it and it is delicious.

Jackalyn H.

My favorite food is fruit of the sea, which my dad makes. I love it because it has my favorite seafood in it.

Jackson S.

My favorite food is Skittles because they are easy to eat and they are cheap.

John Paul L.

My favorite food is fettuccine alfredo. I love the sauce and I love pasta.

Macie R.

Mashed potatoes are my favorite food because they are so creamy and fluffy. You can also use potatoes for so many things like French fries, tater tots and more!

Madison G.

Pizza is my favorite food because there are a variety of options.

Mary L.

I think sushi is the best food because there is a good sushi place in Annapolis. Another reason is because I like to catch fish.

Ryan S.

I like cheeseburgers because they taste and smell delicious and they are very good with almost any sauce.

Troy W.

My favorite food is tacos. They are very delicious, and I love putting hot sauce on them.

Violet G.

My favorite food is fried pickles. They are my favorite food because I love pickles on their own, but when they are fried fresh, they are very crispy and warm.

William B.

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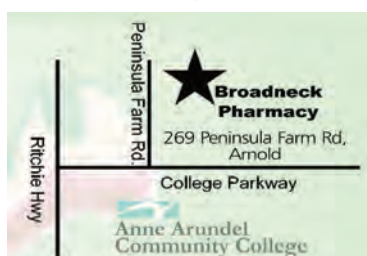
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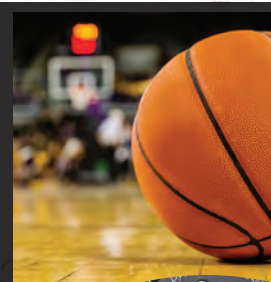
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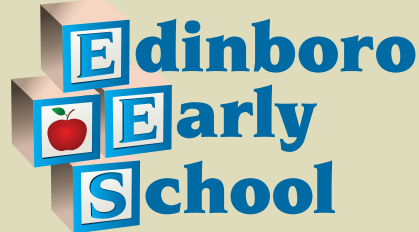
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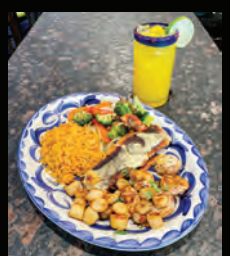
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New BSA Troop Seeks Girl Scouts

BSA Scout Troop 1983 is forming now in Severna Park. It is Severna Park's first and only Boy Scouts of America troop for girls and puts them on the same path, with the same training of so many Eagle Scouts before them. They will learn key skills in leadership, planning and outdoors skills, all while giving back to their community. This is a great opportunity for girls to experience camping, canoeing, horseback riding and getting back to nature, all done in a safe and controlled environment.

The new troop is looking for the leaders of tomorrow to join its ranks and set themselves apart. Troop 1983 is open to girls ages 11-17 and will meet Wednesday nights at Woods Church in Severna Park. For more information, email troop1983sp@gmail.com.



Severna Park Tutoring Honors National Reading Month



Community members enjoyed literacy games, crafts and activities for the whole family when Severna Park Tutoring held its National Reading Month celebration on March 5 at Boone Station Hall.



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Benfield Teacher Named AACPS Educator Of The Month



Susan Moskios (center) received her Educator of the Month award from Anne Arundel County Board of Education member Dana Schallheim and Superintendent George Arlotto.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

“It takes a big heart to shape little minds.” – Abbie Burke C.

Literacy teacher and testing coordinator Susan Moskios was named the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Educator of the Month in March for her work at Benfield Elementary School.

Moskios was surprised by the award, for which she feels “extremely honored” to receive.

“Teaching a child to read is the most rewarding experience there is, and I love that I get to do that every day,” she said. “In addition, I am fortunate to work and collaborate with the most remarkable group of educators I have ever known.”

Benfield Elementary Principal Sue Myers praised Moskios for her knowledge of how children learn to read and for imparting that knowledge to the classroom teachers.

“She regularly plans with teachers in grade-level teams to unpack the curriculum and plan opportunities for enrichment,” Myers said. “She goes above and beyond to ensure teachers understand the standards and that daily lessons are engaging and challenging. She begins her workday early in the morning, often an hour or more before her official start time. Susan does this to get her other job responsibilities done so she can provide 100 percent support to teachers when they arrive.”

“When challenges arise, Susan is the first one to offer support,” Myers continued. “She is quick to respond to parent questions and has an amazing ability to identify what needs to be done to support students. Her calmness, intelligence and dedication to students is outstanding.”

While Myers and the teachers feel grateful to have Moskios as part of their team, the Educator of the Month feels equally blessed to be at Benfield Elementary.

“The students, staff, and community are what inspire and motivate me to be the best I can be,” Moskios said. “I feel fortunate and proud to be a part of Benfield Elementary School.”

Mental Health Awareness Week

What They Said

I’m very grateful that a light has begun shining on mental health; this is long overdue. Mental health is a cause I’ve always been passionate about, and I believe it deserves much more attention in this community. It’s inspiring to see students take matters into their own hands after this issue has been swept under the rug for far too long.

– Kate Myers, Senior

By getting involved, I knew that I could create a week where students could let go a little and not feel as overwhelmed. From fun activities during school to our walk through the community, the week was an amazing opportunity to bring students closer together! My role in planning and leading the event was working with my co-leader, Eric, to create the themes for each day of the week, get staff involved, increase student participation, plan the activities, and much more.

– Bella Hodnett Ortiz, Senior and Co-Student Leader

Mental health is something that everyone struggles with, especially teens, especially in Severna Park where we have a disproportionate amount of death by suicide. And I feel like right now, it’s largely needed in a semi-post-virtual schooling environment. A lot of freshman and sophomores are not taking the jump from middle school to high school well, juniors are being catapulted into a year full of rigor and life-determining steps they didn’t have to think about before COVID, and seniors have to deal with college applications and acceptances where, before COVID, they didn’t necessarily have to figure it all out.

For a lot of people, it feels like they’re in quicksand, and still, the more they work or push themselves, the faster they fall. I have dealt with that feeling, and as a succeeding junior at Severna Park High School, I wanted to tell them that there are resources right under their noses that could help them. I guess my purpose was to tell my fellow students that these thoughts are totally normal, but still worthy of help.

– Jayna Monroe, Junior

SPMS Plans Magical, Mischievous, Miraculous Show

» Continued from page 31 and abilities! And I have to say we have the best team to guide and teach us: our fantastic director Mr. [David] Merrill, music director Mrs. [Sara] Metcalfe, and choreographer Mrs. [Elysia] Merrill.”

“Matilda Jr.” features a book by Dennis Kelly and music and lyrics by Tim Minchin. The show opened on the West End in 2011 and made its Broadway premiere in 2013. The musical earned seven Olivier Awards, including Best New Musical, and five Tony awards, including the Tony for Best Book of a Musical.

Matilda, a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers, lives with cruel parents who find her to be a nuisance, a lousy little worm, and a bore. When Matilda enters her first term at school, she captures the attention of Miss Honey, a kind teacher, and the two form a wonderful friendship. Unfortunately, the school is ruled by a tempestuous and mean headmistress named Miss Trunchbull, who hates children and delivers cruel and unjust punishments to all her charges. Matilda is determined to change her story, but will her cleverness and courage be enough to withstand the reign of Miss Trunchbull?

David Merrill has the huge undertaking as the director this year and answered a few questions about the show.

Q: Why did you choose Matilda?

A: “Matilda Jr.” will be the first “live” production at Severna Park Middle School since COVID, and everyone is so excited to experience the magic once again. And what better show to kick off this new season than “Matilda Jr!” It has beautiful music directed by Sara Metcalfe, incredible choreography, choreographed by Elysia Merrill, beautiful sets, stunning costumes, oh, and not to mention, some incredibly talented kids! And that is what this show is about it - it’s about kids having the chance to just be kids, which is something they have sort of missed out on these past two years.

We wanted to give these kids the opportunity to be part of a community once again, and this show encapsulates that — community. It’s a community of young people that come together, and stand up for one another through adversity, through bullying, and through challenging times.

It’s a show about teamwork, kindness, friendship and yes... magic! And even though the character of Matilda develops amazing magical abilities throughout the show, moving cups with her eyes, and creating words with her mind, the true magic lives on through each one of these actors and actresses, who have waited so long to light up the stage once again. These kids are just incredible, as is said in the musical, “Even if you are little, you can do a lot!” — and they sure do!

Q: What do you think the audience will connect with the most about the musical?

A: The first thing audiences will connect with is the joy of being back in the theater at Severna Park Middle School. The Spartan Lyrical Society (SLS) is an incredible booster program at the middle school, and I know for many, having SLS back will give a feeling of normalcy to the community. Having the opportunity to mount a musical theater production again is what we’ve all been waiting for! Musical theater is a part of all of us, it brings magic into our hearts — and this show, in particular, is incredibly magical.

I truly hope people will connect with this magic. It could be the physical magic of Matilda on the stage, maybe the magic of seeing young people perform, or simply the magical chills of sitting in the audience waiting for the curtain to open. Whatever it may be, when the audience walks through those doors, they will experience this magic, which will bring light into the darkness and create a world of awe, mystery, excitement and wonder. I hope the magic of Matilda connects to our audiences and brings them comfort and hope — something that we all so deserve. Many thanks to these young people, and everyone who is working so hard in bringing this magic to the stage at SPMS.

Q: How proud of this cast/crew are you?

A: These young people are amazing. I mean they’re not just talented, with beautiful voices, but they’re kind, considerate and respectful. It speaks wonders of the environment and education that Severna Park Middle School is providing our young people. The teachers at SPMS should be truly commended on their incredible job, nurturing and educating these kids. I know when the show goes up, and we turn the show over to be completely run by the middle school students, we will be in great hands!

Q: What type of reaction do you expect from the audience?

A: Hopefully there will be quite a few belly laughs. But more than laughs, I hope, when the curtain first opens, that the audience is in awe and notices the amount of work that went into creating this experience. Of course, every show that is put on anywhere requires an immense amount of work, but SPMS is different; they do their best to offer an excellent and professional experience for all involved. With 48 actors/actresses on the stage, I hope the audience acknowledges the team behind each of the aspects: costumes, makeup, hair, set, lights, dance, music, props, paint, publicity, etc. SPMS makes sure the experience, in all aspects of theater, is excellent and rewarding for all involved.

The Spartan Lyrical Society and Severna Park Middle School will present Roald Dahl’s “Matilda the Musical Jr.” on April 1 at 7:00pm, April 2 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, and April 3 at 7:00pm. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.spmssings.org.



Anne Arundel County Celebrates Nutrition Month



A healthy diet can help kids with academic achievement and social skills.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

County agencies kicked off Nutrition Month on March 1 with a panel discussion on food insecurity, and it wasn't all good news.

"About 33 percent of the adults in the county are obese, but I think more concerning is 17 percent of the kids in this county are obese," said Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman, Anne Arundel County's health officer.

Thirteen percent of Anne Arundel County residents live in areas with poor access to healthy food, he said.

"One of the key things to understand is that obesity is quite tightly

linked to poverty and has to do with types of foods that are available for people," Kalyanaraman said.

According to Kalyanaraman, those numbers are in line with Maryland's average, which leaves room for improvement.

Pam Brown — executive director of the Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families — explained how hunger in children can lead to not only health issues but also aggression, low achievement and a lack of good social skills.

"For me, food is part of a package of things that we really need to address as we think about raising all of our children to be ready for school."

Karrisa Kelly, director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities, talked about access to transportation and other barriers for the elderly population. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank and the other experts shared their thoughts about how the pandemic affected food insecurity and how their agencies adapted to meet the needs of county residents.

Those subjects covered only a portion of the full meeting, which can be viewed on the Anne Arundel County Food Bank's YouTube page.

Here are some other notes from the meeting:

- For each person who signs up for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank

» Continued on page 39

Researchers Uncover How The Human Brain Separates, Stores And Retrieves Memories

By the National Institutes of Health

Researchers have identified two types of cells in our brains that are involved in organizing discrete memories based on when they occurred. This finding improves our understanding of how the human brain forms memories and could have implications in memory disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

The study was supported by the National Institutes of Health's Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative and published in *Nature Neuroscience*.

"This work is transformative in how the researchers studied the way the human brain thinks," said Jim Gnadt, program director at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the NIH BRAIN Initiative. "It brings to human neuroscience an approach used previously in non-hu-

man primates and rodents by recording directly from neurons that are generating thoughts."

This study, led by Ueli Rutishauser, professor of neurosurgery, neurology and biomedical sciences at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, started with a deceptively simple question: how does our brain form and organize memories? We live our awake lives as one continuous experience, but it is believed, based on human behavior studies, that we store these life events as individual, distinct moments. What marks the beginning and end of a memory? This theory is referred to as "event segmentation," and we know relatively little about how the process works in the human brain.

To study this, Rutishauser and his colleagues worked with 20 patients who were undergoing intracranial recording of brain activity to

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Cancer And Nutrition: How To Use Food To Reduce Cancer Risk

Joanne Ebner
Luminis Health
Anne Arundel
Medical Center



When it comes to cancer — both fighting and preventing it — healthy food is one of your best defenses. Fueling your body with nutritious food helps reduce the risk of cancer developing or returning. If you're being treated for cancer, a healthy diet helps boost your immune system to lower your risk of infection. Smart food choices can also help you recover from treatment and lay the groundwork for living well and cancer-free.

What does food have to do with your risk for cancer?

Family history and growing older are two cancer risk factors we can't control. But there's one risk factor we can directly impact: poor eating habits that hinder our ability to maintain a healthy weight. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control, about 40% of cancers diagnosed in the U.S. are related to excess body fat, increasing risk for several types of cancers, including:

- Breast
- Colorectal
- Esophageal
- Kidney
- Pancreatic
- Uterine

So, how does excess fat increase your risk for cancer? Common hormones are the culprit. Fat makes the body produce more estrogen and insulin, which are hormones that stimulate cancer growth. The bottom line? More fat unleashes more hormones, which creates a greater cancer risk.

What is a healthy, cancer-fighting diet?

With so much conflicting dietary information out there, knowing what the healthiest cancer-fighting diet is can feel overwhelming and confusing. But reducing cancer risks with a healthy diet is simpler than it seems: eat food that provides good nutrition.

Contrary to what the internet may want you to believe, there isn't a specific food or food group that's been proven to prevent cancer. But plant-based diets are the champs at reducing cancer risks.

Experts agree (and research too)

that a plant-slant diet provides the most cancer-fighting foods. Colorful fruits and vegetables are loaded with phytonutrients, natural compounds that help prevent cancer, along with other chronic diseases.

Remember, a healthy diet doesn't have to be complicated. It just comes down to eating more of some types of food and less of others.

Stock up on:

- A colorful variety of vegetables and whole fruits (fresh, canned or frozen without sugar)
- Beans, such as black, red or pinto, chickpeas, lentils, tofu
- Healthy fats, such as those found in olive and canola oil, avocados, seeds and nuts
- Water
- Whole grains such as oatmeal, quinoa, whole wheat bread and pasta

The good news: You don't have to stick with only organic (more expensive) fruits and vegetables since there's no evidence that shows lower pesticide versions are "safer" than conventional versions. There is also no present consensus that organic foods contain more vitamins and minerals. Buy what's affordable and just eat more of them. To learn about which foods are best to buy organic, visit the "dirty dozen" list from the Environmental Working Group.

Cut back on:

- High-fat dairy products
- Fried or heavily breaded foods
- Processed meat such as deli meats, sausage, bacon and hot dogs
- Red meats such as beef, pork and lamb
- Refined and processed foods with added fat or sugar, such as chips, crackers, baked goods and boxed convenience foods
- Sugar-sweetened drinks, such as sodas, sports and coffee drinks

Eliminating certain foods always and forever isn't realistic, and more often than not, will only leave you feeling defeated. Instead, make "once in a while" your moderation motto. That nightly bowl of ice cream? Pick a regular time (how about the monthly full moon?) to splurge with a few spoonfuls of your favorite treat. You'll enjoy it just as much — maybe even more since it's a special treat.

A note about supplements

It is better to get nutrients through food and not rely on supplements.

» Continued on page 39

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Cancer And Nutrition

» Continued from page 37
ments to reduce cancer risk. Some people may benefit from supplements for specific health reasons, but the benefits of a healthy variety of foods has been shown to be far more beneficial in reducing cancer risk. Speak with your health care provider regarding advice for your specific need for any supplements.

What about alcohol?

Many people are surprised to learn that alcohol is a known cause of cancer. Ethanol is the type of alcohol found in all alcoholic drinks. In the body, ethanol converts to a chemical that can damage DNA inside cells and keep your body from repairing the damage. The cell can grow out of control and create a cancer tumor. According to the American Cancer Society, alcohol causes about 6% of

all cancers in the U.S. Alcohol use is linked to cancers of the:

- Breast
- Esophagus
- Mouth
- Colon and rectum
- Liver
- Throat
- Voice box (larynx)

It's best not to drink alcohol at all. When you're trying to fuel your body with the most nutritious foods and drinks possible, it's clear that alcohol doesn't make the cut. If you're going to drink, the American Cancer Society recommends limiting it to no more than two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women.

About the author

Joanne Ebner is manager of the Cancer Prevention Department and Nicotine Dependence Program at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center.

Nutrition Month

- » Continued from page 37
e-newsletter, Porsche of Annapolis will donate \$2. Sign up at bit.ly/349Dr7g.
- Check out other Nutrition Month activities by visiting www.aafoodbank.org/nutrition.
 - Learn more about Healthy Anne Arundel at www.healthyanne-arundel.org.
 - Call the Department of Aging and Disabilities customer service line

for all needs: 410-222-4257. Callers will receive a "live" answer and with no wait for assistance.

- Anne Arundel Community College is seeking projects with local organizations as a part of its coursework. To coordinate a project, contact Tresa at tmballard1@aacc.edu.
- Need help finding food resources? Check out this food pantry resource list: www.aafoodbank.org/need-help.

Researchers Uncover

» Continued from page 37
guide surgery for treatment of their drug-resistant epilepsy. They looked at how the patients' brain activity was affected when shown film clips containing different types of "cognitive boundaries" — transitions thought to trigger changes in how a memory is stored and that mark the beginning and end of memory "files" in the brain.

The first type, referred to as a "soft boundary," is a video containing a scene that then cuts to another scene that continues the same story. For example, a baseball game showing a pitch is thrown and, when the batter hits the ball, the camera cuts to a shot of the fielder making a play. In contrast, a "hard boundary" is a cut to a completely different story — imagine if the batted ball were immediately followed by a cut to a commercial.

Jie Zheng, postdoctoral fellow at Children's Hospital Boston and first author of the study, explained the key difference between the two boundaries.

"Is this a new scene within the same story, or are we watching a completely different story? How much the narrative changes from one clip to the next determines the type of cognitive boundary," Zheng said.

To read the full story, visit www.nih.gov.

DOH Offers Opioid Overdose Response Training

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health offers free training and a free naloxone kit to community members on the use of intranasal naloxone, a prescription medicine to reverse an opioid overdose and prevent death. The training is for at-risk individuals, family members, friends and the associates of any individual who is using and at risk of overdosing on heroin or prescription pain medications. The training is also for anyone who works with the public and is recommended for treatment, recovery and transitional housing staff. Teens under 18 may take the training if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Virtual Zoom links will be provided for each scheduled training. After completing the training, participants will receive a free kit that contains naloxone to administer to victims of an opioid overdose. Naloxone cannot be used to get "high" and is not addictive. Participants may pick up kits at the Department of Health or a safe meeting location. The time and location will be determined at the training. If an individual lacks transportation access, the Department of Health may arrange to mail the naloxone kit safely.

For more information, call the naloxone training line at 410-222-1937, Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 4:30pm.

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Annapolis Film Festival Returns To In-Person Event For 10th Anniversary



By Lauren Burke Meyer

Cinephiles rejoice! After two years of being remote, the Annapolis Film Festival (AFF) is back with a four-day festival, taking place from Thursday, March 31, through Sunday, April 3, at four primary screening venues in the Annapolis Arts District.

With a planned showing of more than 70 films from around the world, the festival is expected to draw a large crowd of

film enthusiasts including some as young as high schoolers all the way to retirees.

"We're the largest and most diverse arts event all year," said AFF director and co-founder Lee Anderson. "We have a great amount of diversity. It was intentional from the beginning 10 years ago."

To be clear, this diversity Anderson talks about rings true not only with the films showcased year after year but with
» Continued on page 48

Authors And Illustrators Kick Off 2022 With New Releases

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

From a dystopian sci-fi novel to a children's picture book, several new works are being published by authors and illustrators who live in or near Severna Park.

Rebecca Evans

"Alone Like Me"

Publication Date: April 12

With her newest picture book "Alone Like Me," Severna Park author and



illustrator Rebecca Evans covers social issues, a new topic for her. The heart-felt story

is about a young girl named Liling whose family moves from a farm to a big city in China where she longs to find a friend.

Evans was inspired by a trip to China, where she adopted her 9-year-old son.

"We toured the city and saw the beautiful architecture," Evans said. "While I was there, the people rode bicycles a

lot; there were thousands of bicycles. A little girl was perched on a bicycle in a crowd of bicycles. I just imagined, in my head, that memory of the girl sitting on a bike. Everyone asked me, 'What's this little girl's story? She looks so alone.'"

Evans explored the girl's story through her fictional tale. Because of Chinese law, Liling can't go to school and instead spends her days with Mama or Baba at work. At the playground, other children throw sand at her and tease her about her old red coat and dirty shoes. But one day, she has a bright idea: to draw a picture for the girl who lives in an apartment beneath hers.

Paired with watercolor illustrations, the story explores universal feelings of loneliness, fear and displacement. With the story set in China, Evans consulted sensitivity readers for accuracy.

"I wanted to honor my son's heritage and culture and do it in a beautiful way," Evans said.

Evans plans to host an April book launch party at Park Books & LitCoLab. For updates, check the store's website: www.parkbooksmd.com/events. In addition to Park Books, "Alone Like Me" can be purchased from IndieBound and Barnes & Noble.

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DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK

Photos by Mary Cobbler



The Nutella waffle is a treat — for a special breakfast or a dessert.

Brussels sprouts complemented this tender salmon, which was topped with spicy mustard sauce.



The French fries with Old Bay were hand-sliced, not over-seasoned, and perfectly crunchy.

The Jamaican grits were the best of all — cheesy and flavorful with a hot kick.



Blue Rooster Café — Great Name And Great Food

By Mary Cobbler

Who can't like a restaurant with a name like Blue Rooster Café? It's a combination of cozy and chic, with an eclectic décor that puts customers at ease. It's also got a warmth both in style and from the kind, helpful staff.

You can miss the café if you're not watching for it. It's located at 1372 Cape St. Claire Road, in a busy strip center.

My dining companion and I arrived about 3:45 on a Tuesday afternoon. Breakfast and lunch are served all day. The kitchen closes at 4:00pm, so I called ahead with our order, and the staff had it hot and ready and served it to us upon our arrival (after the kitchen closes, the café is still open until 9:00pm for ice cream and

coffee — a great place to hang with friends).

To start, we picked the coconut shrimp and fries seasoned with Old Bay.

The hand-breaded shrimp might be the best I've had in the county. Crunchy with shredded coconut on the outside and well-done on the inside, they alone were super, but the sweet chili sauce, with a touch of heat, is delicious — the kind of dip with an aftertaste that is even better after the first bite.

For our main dishes, my companion chose the Louisiana shrimp and grits. I ordered the spicy salmon and also the Nutella waffle, deemed one of the restaurant's most popular dishes (to give you more of a sampling).

I tasted grits about 20 years ago in Dallas, where everyone urged me on — "You just have to try 'em." That

was a one and done — no sir, not my cup of tea by any stretch of the imagination. But these — oh, these were a whole different story. I didn't know grits could taste that good. The Louisiana grits were warm and cheesy with tender shrimp, peppers, onions and tomatoes. The sauce was smooth and flavorful without overdoing the heat. Bits of hot sausage pleasantly punched up the kick. Sliced scallions added another layer of crunch and taste (yes, this was my companion's dish, but I stole several bites. She loved it too).

Turning to my dish, the earthy taste of the collard greens complemented the tender salmon, drizzled with spicy mustard sauce, all on a bed of rice. I liked the mix of flavor and textures. It's good to give the

» Continued on page 45



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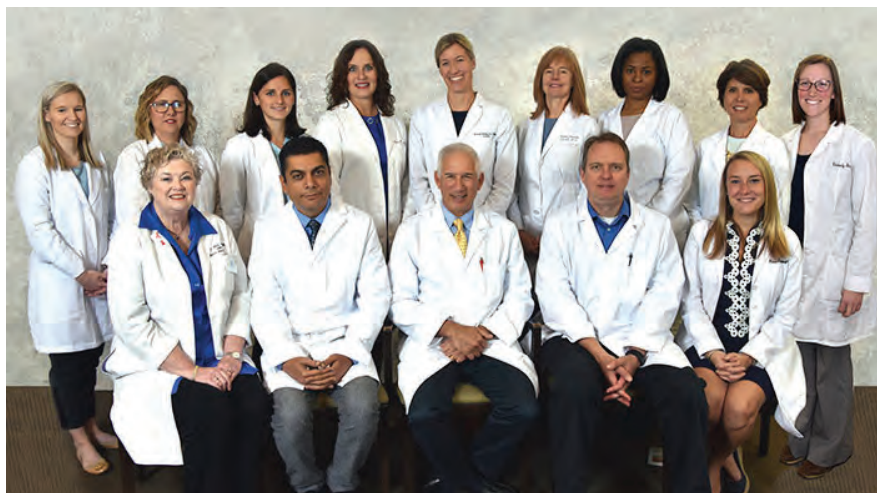
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“The Batman” Is Not Your Typical Superhero Flick And That’s A Good Thing

By Audrey Ruppert

I can’t tell you how tired I am of the superhero flick — I am still baffled as to why the Marvel Cinematic Universe seems to be America’s most successful international export. An increasingly long list of filler films hit our screens every year, and I often feel I am behind on my “homework” when I drag myself to the latest one — will I understand the newest Avengers flick if I didn’t see some five-minute lore that was tacked to end of the “Ant Man and the Wasp” movie? Why do I care again?

In an age of seemingly pointless reboots of grown men in spandex fighting caricaturist evil, “The Batman” was the reboot we needed. Some reboots breathe new life into tired, old material — but “The Batman” is just as weary as the rest of us are in a time of systemic corruption, a rising cost of living and growing international conflict.

“The Batman” has a nearly three-hour runtime, but it is well worth it — it feels like two separate films. The first film, so to speak, is a Los Angeles noir style detective mystery. Batman spends less time fighting and more time trying to get to the bottom of a complex web of corruption and deceit. It’s a layer cake film in terms of the number of characters and motives the audience has to follow.

Robert Pattinson reads as a tired, emo Batman — and a true emo, far removed from the performative, substance-less, emo vampire that made Pattinson famous. Pattinson’s Batman seems to be barely holding it together from one crime scene to the next, dragging himself out wearily whenever the stupid bat signal is in the air again, forcing himself to bother to take a shower when Alfred makes him conduct a meeting as Bruce Wayne now and again, and he’s not at all attractive — he’s not even trying to be. Can’t we all relate to that a little?

“The Batman” doesn’t try to insult our intelligence with the typical reboot reveals. There’s no Hans Zimmer horn or dramatic flair whenever we see a familiar face reintroduced. The filmmakers seem to be saying, “Come on, you know who the Riddler is. You know what the Penguin is about. Let’s just get on with the story already.”

In a time where income inequality is worse in the United States than it was during the Gilded Age, not as many people want to root for the billionaire playboy. The tone around figures such as Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk has shifted from capitalist reverence to cynical mockery. “The Batman” tackles this problem head on in the second half of the film. Bruce is forced to question his own privilege, his moral imperative, and



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Olley/DC Comics and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

In the film, the morally ambiguous Selina Kyle (played by Zoë Kravitz) must decide whether to work with Batman (Robert Pattinson).

his place in the complicated matrix that is Gotham’s political infrastructure. In many ways, Batman is fighting the same corrupt institutions the Riddler is beefing with, but Bruce is also intrinsically woven into the fabric of what made Gotham a dark place to begin with. He is only one step away from a full-blown identity crisis at any given time. Aren’t we all?

Familiar characters are beautifully reimagined, and they provide a rich background against which Bruce’s motivations and actions can be contrasted. There’s the morally ambiguous, headstrong Catwoman, played by a compelling and stunning Zoë Kravitz. Andy Serkis was a surprising choice for Alfred, but he made the character his own. Colin Farrell is unrecognizable but persuasive as the Penguin, and Paul Dano’s performance is worthy of the hall of fame of “perturbingly unhinged but frighteningly sympathetic” Batman villains (no Jared Leto, you’re not invited). Everyone’s acting is very, very good — and hopefully Pattinson, like Kristen Stewart, can finally shake off the specter of “Twilight.” They have both more than earned the right to be called serious actors.

“The Batman” may not be the fun superhero film we deserve, but it’s a film we need right now, in these times. This iteration of the Bat seems to be telling us, “Yes, life is a frustrating and seemingly endless slog at times, and your best efforts can feel like a drop in an unmoving ocean — but there’s always hope, and you have to do the right thing when you can.”



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Friday, April 1, 7:00pm
Main Chapel — general admission
Doors open at 6:30pm
Tickets: \$19, Children \$8

Spring Organ Concert

Friday, April 8, 7:00pm
Main Chapel — general admission
Doors open at 6:30pm
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Musician Danny Burns Climbs The Music Charts



Danny Burns, who spent his childhood in Ireland, has performed on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. He now calls Annapolis home.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Americana musician Danny Burns has traveled the globe — from Ireland to Nashville — but for his last gig, he did not have to go far. The Annapolis musician performed at Rams Head On Stage on March 8.

Burns treated the audience to several songs including tunes from his 2019 debut “North Country” and 2021 EP and sophomore project, “Hurricane.” The newest of the two albums peaked at No. 10 on the Billboard bluegrass album chart, was No. 1 among contemporary folk albums on Amazon, and reached the No. 1 spot on Roots Music Report’s country album chart and also on its

Americana chart.

“We started with the beats and we built it from there,” Burns said of the songwriting process. “I knew it was going to be more of an Americana sound ... We wanted to keep all the acoustic instruments up front.”

The intimate setting at Rams Head was perfect for Burns’ new songs and listener favorites like “Let It Go” and “Great Big Sea.” Not performed was “Many Moons Ago,” a haunting ballad that was recorded with Grammy-winning singer Sarah Jarosz on vocals as well as octave mandolin.

“I’ve played in that room a gazillion times and it’s one of my favorites,” Burns said of Rams Head On Stage. “It

lends itself to moody ballads, but you can also rock out.”

Gigs across the world have helped Burns experiment with his sound and develop a style that mixes the folk traditions of his native Ireland with diverse American influences. The 40-year-old musician has been playing in bars and pubs since he was 15 years old.

For “North Country,” Burns teamed with some of the biggest names in Roots music: Dan Tyminski, Tift Merritt, Holly Williams, Mindy Smith, Cara Dillon, Tim O’Brien, Critter Fuqua and Chessboxer.

Burns’ music and life journey has taken him and Aine O’Doherty — his wife and also a respected musician — all over the country. They lived in New Orleans and in Nashville before returning to Annapolis.

“Living in Nashville, it’s like a bubble,” Burns said. “It’s that way for a lot of cities — New Orleans, Chicago, wherever. I like being able to run to Philadelphia for a show or to Baltimore for a show. It’s all accessible.”

Burns is working on a full-length Americana project that he hopes to release in the summer. Over two decades into his career as a musician, he is still humble and grateful for the opportunity to pursue his dream all over the world.

“Sometimes a big break comes from getting a song on the radio or collaborating with someone on a song,” Burns said, when asked about paying his dues as a musician. “But yes, if Stephen Colbert or Jimmy Fallon wants to have me on their show, I’d be excited to get that call.”

Blue Rooster Café — Great Name And Great Food

» Continued from page 40

taste buds a little excitement now and then with something new! This was also a wholesome, healthy dish — one of those dinners you enjoy and feel virtuous about!

My extra-large, light, fluffy waffle was drizzled with Nutella (a cocoa hazelnut spread) and topped with frosted candied hazelnuts and finished off with a dollop of whipped cream. I asked for extra whipped cream (a dollop didn’t do it). The waffle was warm and sweet, and the hazelnuts, almost like candy, gave it an extra pop. This was a filling, satisfying treat, great for a special weekend breakfast or even as a dessert, accompanied by a strong cup of coffee.

Out of all of the delicious food, the Louisiana shrimp and grits was the star, in my opinion (if you read my reviews often, you’ll notice that I always like what my companion gets better than my own dish — that, my friend, is human nature, right?)

We chose to accompany our meal with one of the \$10 bottle wine offerings, a rose — surprisingly good for the cost.

We finished it off with ice cream. I chose chocolate in a waffle cone, and my companion got a cherry Nutella in a cup. Though it was good, it did taste a little stale, like it had been in the freezer too long — but since the weather was still cool, and not a lot of people are running in for ice cream, it’s understandable.



Blue Rooster Café in Cape St. Claire is eclectic, cozy and chic all rolled into one.

There are several other dishes I want to try — grilled Reuban, crispy Brussels sprouts, a breakfast burrito, and a serving of cinnamon custard French toast.

Cocktails, local beers and wines are also available.

The bill came to a little over \$70 before a tip — reasonable for the amount of food we bought.

One of our waitresses said that people often use the café to relax and do their work or eat and read. It’s a lovely place for a casual date or a catch-up with a friend.

I will return to this charming café, and I urge you to make time to stop and check it out. You won’t be disappointed.

Where To Find BLUE ROOSTER CAFÉ

1372 Cape St. Claire Road
Annapolis
410-757-5232

Toby's To Present "Rocky The Musical"

ROCKY
THE MUSICAL

**Show Runs March 26
Through June 5**

“Rocky” is not simply the story of a small-time boxer’s rise to fame but one of the best love stories ever told, and it’s coming to Toby’s Dinner Theatre in Columbia from March 26 through June 5. This powerful musical, based on the Academy Award winning Best Picture, tells the story of Rocky Balboa gaining the confidence he needs to take on heavyweight champion Apollo Creed. Finding something and someone worth fighting for, he shows Adrian that she is a strong, confident and beautiful woman. “Rocky the Musical” features the famous theme “Gotta Fly Now” and Survivor’s “Eye of the Tiger,” and will have you rooting for romance and the underdogs!

Learn more about the show by visiting www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

Fat Tuesday Jazz Cats

*Copper Creek Pub & Ale House Hosts Weekly
Jazz Jam Just In Time For Mardi Gras*



(L-R) Bill Freed, Kwame Amponsem, Michael Weber, Cesar Ulsano and Gary Hendrickson performed during a jazz jam.

By Liz Grier

If you're looking for a low-key evening of music in the Severna Park area, look no further than Copper Creek Pub & Ale House. Every Tuesday from 8:00pm to 11:00pm, local musicians put on a somewhat impromptu jazz jam. Guitarist Bill Freed along with Kwame Amponsem (bass), Bob Acton (piano) and Greg Reaves (drums) often serve as the jam session's house band and support any outside musicians who wish to join in on the fun.

The jazz jam initially came together at The Corner Lounge in Upper Marlboro, which hosted the group once a week from 2015 to 2020. Even during the pandemic, the jazz jam managed to set up shop in the parking lot and continue to entertain audiences. When inquiring how the jam session changed locations, organizers Bill Freed and "Magic Ray" became aware of Copper Creek's open mic night held on Thursdays and were inspired to ask if they could re-establish their weekly jazz jam at the new location.

What started as a small following grew into a substantial organization of talent. The jam on March 1, held at Copper Creek, seemed to be one of the largest turnouts the group has had to date. The night happened to be a Mardi Gras themed event that featured New Orleans inspired tunes, which somewhat deviated from the group's more traditional jazz and swing numbers. From the smooth guitar riffs to the unmistakable wail of horns, listeners were immediately transported back to the golden jazz age of the 1920s and 1930s.

Trumpet player Gary Hendrickson who is known for his work with The Centuries and more recently, Gene

Vincent and the Cadillac Cruisers, was a featured player in addition to New Orleans' own Mike Weber on trombone. Other impressive saxophone and horn players from the local area were also featured performers.

What's interesting about this lively group of musicians are their various musical backstories and how they came together as a group. For most of these musicians, a lot of their playing skills are self-taught, and one could say that's one of the reasons the jam is such an exciting and uniquely collaborative experience. When listening to the group perform, audiences can see the fascinating dialogue that unfolds between musicians.

After discussing the appeal to the genre, Freed explained the freedoms that go hand in hand with jazz such as "the give and take of playing and the room that is created for experimentation." The notion that each song is somewhat of an open-ended conversation, that the songs are often never played quite the same way, is another reason why one could argue their love and passion for jazz.

Most importantly however, for any newcomers or musicians interested in getting involved is the group's safe and unassuming atmosphere. Anyone is welcome to sit in with the band and everyone is encouraged to express themselves creatively with solos. Don't be deterred if you don't play a "traditional" jazz instrument. At one point, a bluegrass fiddler was thrown into the mix, which made for an interesting and enjoyable experience.

More information on the jazz jam can be found by visiting the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/coppercreekjazzjam.

Authors And Illustrators Kick Off 2022 With New Releases

» Continued from page 40

Erika Robuck

"Sisters of Night and Fog"

Publication Date: March 1

Historical fiction author and former Severna Park resident Erika Robuck centered her new novel's plot on the true stories of an American socialite and a British secret agent whose stunning acts of courage collided in the darkest hours of World War II.

In the 1940s, Virginia d'Albert-Lake is staying in occupied France with her French husband. Desperate to fight the Nazis, 19-year-old Violette Szabo discovers Britain's secret war organization — the Special Operations Executive. As both women navigate resistance, their clandestine deeds come to a staggering halt when they are brought together at Ravensbrück concentration camp.

"Sisters of Night and Fog" can be purchased from several sellers including IndieBound, Rakuten Kobo and Penguin Random House. To see the full list, visit www.erikarobuck.com.

Troy Suesse

"Maximum Capacity"

Publication Date: February 15

In a dystopian world, for every baby born, another human must die. The good hunt the bad. A monumental struggle to survive on a dying planet Earth intensifies. This is the conflict created by Pasadena author Troy Suesse in his novel "Maximum Capacity," which was inspired by "The Hunger Games," "The Purge," "Waterworld" and "The Running Man."

"While those tales were captivating in their time, I sensed that sci-fi fans everywhere were hungry for a new wave of dystopian intrigue," Suesse said. "I created a society, set 1,000 years into the future, where Earth becomes dreadfully overcrowded and its resources abysmally depleted. This adventure takes place in the vicinity of the Chesapeake Bay!"

To control the population growth, society's worst offenders — those with the highest "violation counts" — are forced into giant cages for fight-to-the-death competitions, which take place before live, interactive audiences.

Suesse also incorporated his fascination of deep-space travel and discovery into the storyline.

"I was born July 20, 1969, the very day

that man first walked on the moon," he said. "I was given the middle name Armstrong — after the first moonwalker, Neil Armstrong — to commemorate the event. Thus, I became an avid space enthusiast. Given the incredible size and complexity of the universe, it's quite possible that another habitable planet (an exact duplicate of Earth, in fact) exists out there somewhere. This was all the inspiration I needed to devise a parallel plot line, which takes the reader on a journey of deep space travel and discovery."

Although "Maximum Capacity" is a plot-driven novel, it includes a "deliberately impactful cast of characters," Seusse said.

"Original concepts and unexpected twists combine to create a captivating plot that is as fascinating as it is frightening," he said. "Even the most magnificent story, however, is much more spellbinding with a cast of varied and likable characters. In this novel, carefully generated prose conjures up vivid images of the lead protagonists and antagonists."

Seusse's main goal is to entertain readers and, one day, movie audiences. However, there is an underlying message.

"When Earth's finite supply of resources becomes inevitably depleted, it's quite reasonable to conceive our population reaching a critical point, causing panic and distress," Seusse said. "Until scientists discover that distant land which can save us from extinction, may we all strengthen our efforts to preserve the bounty of our incredible planet. May we redouble our commitment to treat each other with kindness and respect. And lastly, may we all work very diligently to ... eh-um ... keep our 'violation counts' low (wink)."

The 284-page paperback was published by Morgan James Publishing and is available through Barnes & Noble and other retailers.

Nilah Magruder

"Wutaryoo"

Publication Date: January 25

Pasadena native Nilah Magruder has authored and illustrated an array of work, from comics and picture books to young adult fiction. Targeted toward kids and recent



graduates, "Wutaryoo" is a picture book about "telling your own story and finding your own truth."

"What are you? Where are you from?" These are questions that this mysterious creature has been asked all her life — and she has no idea how to answer. The rabbit was born from a planter's hole; the wolf was born from moonlight. All the animals know their origin stories, so why doesn't the creature now known as Wutaryoo know her own? Confused and tired of not knowing who she is, Wutaryoo sets off on an adventure to discover her own ancestry.

"Wutaryoo" is available through Barnes & Noble and other retailers.

Skribe Releases Limited Edition Cassette, "Garage Folk"

For his latest EP titled "Garage Folk," musician Skribe (also known as Aaron Yealdhall) recorded seven tracks to be released on translucent yellow cassettes. He recorded the songs at Battle Tapes in Nashville, Tennessee, last October.

"I booked one 10-hour session and set up as if I were playing a show. The idea was to get raw live takes of the one-man garage set that I've been honing for years," he explained.

So why cassette? "I've noticed that all of my favorite local record shops like KA-CHUNK!! in Annapolis have a tape section," Skribe said. "You will see a bunch of classic user titles alongside new releases. I bought the new Phoebe Bridgers and Lord Huron record on tape, and I don't even have my tape play-

er set up."

Jeremy Ferguson at Battle Tapes has worked with Cage The Elephant, Joshua Hedley and Pujol, to name a few artists. To keep the Nashville energy going, Skribe had the EP mastered by John Baldwin, who has worked with Neil Young, The Rolling Stones, The White Stripes, Ricky Skaggs, Adrian Belew, Motley Crue and others.

Join Skribe for the cassette release party on Saturday, April 16, at Cult Classic Brewery in Stevensville, Maryland. The tapes each feature a foldout poster and lyric sheet, plus an exclusive track that won't be included on the streaming release.

"I designed the sleeve to be a fold-out poster with a note to the supporters who buy the tape," Skribe said. "And I also added a secret song

that's not listed. I only made 300 tapes and I kind of think of it as an art piece. A collector's item.

"I am lucky to say that Skribe has a large number of supporters who will buy the physical album to support the cause, even if they don't have a turntable or a tape player," he added. "I try to make it a limited-edition collector's item by adding secret tracks or putting in some extra effort on the artwork."

The musician will offer limited edition Skribe Bluetooth Walkmans at his merchandise table for anyone who does not have a cassette player.

For more information about the cassette release party, visit www.simpletix.com/e/skribe-cassette-release-party-tickets-102019. Skribe's music can also be found at www.skribe.bandcamp.com.



"Garage Folk" features seven tracks on cassette, which Skribe hopes will become a collector's item.



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apply within 48
hours of your tour!

Annapolis Film Festival Returns For 10th Anniversary

» Continued from page 40

attendees too. She and her fellow AFF director and co-founder Patti White spoke about the state of the Annapolis community before the festival began.

"Annapolis had a reputation of being separated — 'a tale of two cities' was what people said," White explained. "The thing we're the most proud of is that we've built something that has forever changed the fabric of the community that we live in and work in. In a good way. At a time that has made the world feel more divided, this has brought everybody together."

"The Big Picture"

The theme for the 2022 Annapolis Film Festival is "The Big Picture" — honoring AFF's 10th anniversary of bringing independent films to one of Annapolis' premier events.

White shared how "The Big Picture" theme has two parts. For one, seeing things on the big screen is the obvious part.

"The part that's not obvious is how we're looking at these stories," White said. "We're looking at them through different lenses. We're looking at big stories and big issues through a more intimate lens and looking at smaller stories through a larger lens."

Opening Night

Opening night will take place on March 31, and it will be as glamorous as you'd imagine with a red carpet, VIP sponsored pre-party, film showing and afterparty. Everything will conveniently take place at Maryland Hall at 801 Chase Street in



Lee Anderson (left) and Patti White are the co-creators of the Annapolis Film Festival.

Annapolis.

The highly anticipated film will be "To Olivia" — the true story of the tumultuous marriage between famous author Roald Dahl and actress Patricia Neal. The setting is in England during the 1960s. Neal tried to get her career going as an actress, so there's a touch of old Hollywood. Dahl and Neal go through a child-related tragedy, which unfolds during the film. "To Olivia" is directed by John Hay and

stars actress Keeley Hawes and actor Hugh Bonneville.

"We really wanted something hopeful for people coming out of this dark time with COVID-19 ... there's grief in the film and normal human emotion, but there's an overall theme of finding the childlike themes that inspire you again," Anderson said.

Attendees will see "To Olivia" ahead of its release date in theaters this April.

"Our entire programming is based on intention; every single thing we choose, we're choosing for a reason," White said. "We're curating this festival and selecting films intentionally that our audience should be seeing or films they'll love."

Other Anticipated Events

In addition to the 70-plus film screenings, the pitch competition and "Coffee Talks With..." are highly anticipated events.

Emerging filmmakers who participate in the pitch competition will have the opportunity to have their pitch critiqued by judges. The audience is a portion of the final decision, and the judges decide on the ultimate winner. The lucky winner receives a production package complete with camera package, sound and lighting package, and post-production services — approximately \$30,000 worth of goods and services to make a high-level short film that will premiere the following year at the festival.

Hosted at Rams Head On Stage on West Street in Annapolis with coffee and tea complements of Baltimore Coffee and Tea Company, "Coffee Talks With ..." will take place from 9:00am to 10:00am on Friday, April 1, Saturday, April 2, and Sunday, April 3.

"These are candid conversations that you have with a filmmaker that you might not typically have at a panel," White said.

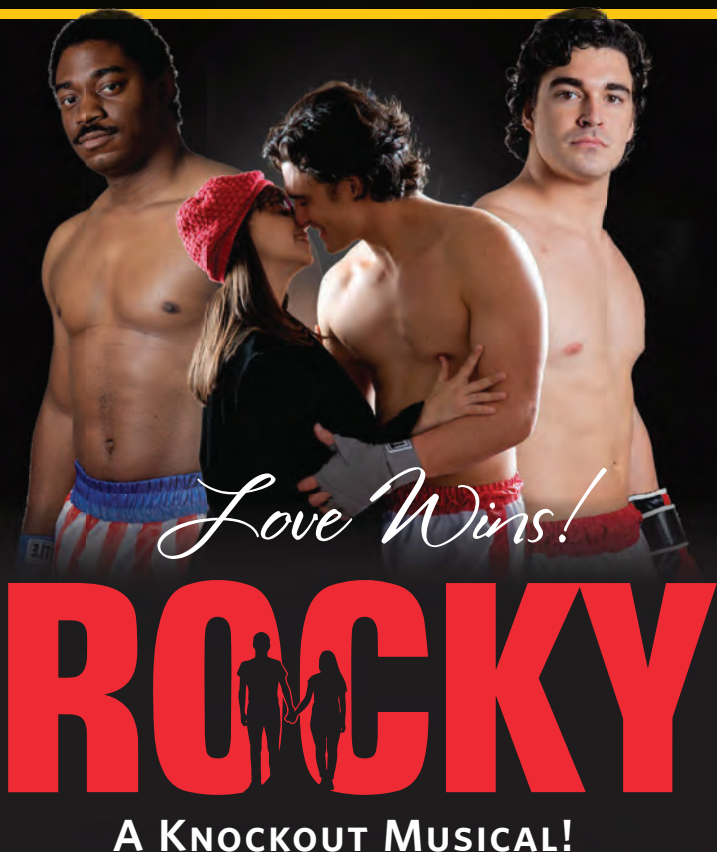
COVID-19 Protocols

There's nothing quite like movie magic of seeing a film in a crowded theater. With that in mind, AFF is taking COVID-19 precautions seriously and doing everything possible to promote the safety of attendees. Currently, the AFF intends to request vaccination cards and photo IDs. For the unvaccinated, proof of a PCR test within 72 hours of attending the festival is needed. Indoor masking will be required at theaters.

Passes and Tickets

AFF pricing ranges from shorts passes (\$100), student passes (\$100), industry passes (\$150), general passes (\$195 or \$175 for Annapolis Film Society members) and premium passes (\$350). For more details on these packages and to purchase individual tickets for most shows, "Coffee Talks With...", special conversations and opening night, as well as links to where to stay or how to support or sponsor the Annapolis Film Festival, visit the AFF website, www.annapolisfilmfestival.org. Check back often as the site will be updated on a regular basis.

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REAL ESTATE EDITION Coming In April

The Voice will publish its annual Real Estate magazine with the April edition. This special edition will highlight everything you need to know about homeownership — including area real estate for sale, new developments, realtors and agents, home remodelers, home financing options and much more, with information provided by local experts.



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Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



small business, founded in May 2021. It performs Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security background investigations, threat assessment investigations, social media investigations, forensic cyber security investigations, security guard and patrol services (unarmed and armed), and the company is a certified and authorized dealer of LiveView Technologies' surveillance camera security systems.

Kelly Cornwell – Dream Vacations – Whether you are looking for U.S. destinations, all-inclusive resorts, ocean or river cruises, holy land tours, or excursions with your family, friends, church group, or organization, Dream Vacations handles all the planning and management. They do everything but the packing.

Snyder Bradshaw Group of Monument Sotheby's International Realty – The Snyder Bradshaw Group is led by

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members:
1351 Investigations LLC – 1351 Investigations is a veteran-owned, certified Small Business Administration

two real estate veterans who partnered to create an unmatched real estate experience for their clients. Their extensive real estate knowledge and unique approach have forged an elevated level of customer service that benefits their selling clients and buyers alike.

Cassie McGovern Insurance Services – As an Allstate agent in Severna Park, Cassie knows many local families. Her knowledge and understanding of the people in this community help her provide customers with an outstanding level of service.

W.L. Staton Plumbing, Heating and Cooling – This full-service plumbing, heating, and cooling company has been serving Anne Arundel and Howard counties for over 38 years. It's about skilled, professional and caring technicians doing the job right the first time.

Vintage Views Bar – This mobile bar service offers beverage catering, charcuterie tables, bar service and vintage rentals. The team makes events easy and memorable.

Tai Chi Bubble Tea – First opened in 2015, Tai Chi Bubble Tea has been growing across the United States. The owners hope to bring the best bubble tea, healthy poke bowl, and tasty ramen to people from all over the world. A new location is opening in Severna Park.

Melaleuca, Carolyn Smith – For more
» **Continued on page 53**

What Does The Ukraine Dilemma Mean For Our Economy?

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



Vladimir Putin. I didn't know anything about Vladimir Putin other than what I have heard from the mainstream media. What I learned about him you might find surprising.

There is a pro and a con for everything, and the way I see it, one of the benefits to a dictator is that he or she can take a long-term view and implement a long-term plan that leaders of Western democracies, like those of the United States, cannot. Our presidents win the election, and they are almost immediately required to start planning the next one. Biden is Putin's fifth U.S. counterpart! Think about that. Putin has been in control since President Bill Clinton was in office! That kind of time affords you freedom, and I found in the interviews, Putin could think in terms of decades and not in terms of four-year

Let's talk about Ukraine. A few nights ago, I watched a television show on Showtime called "The Putin Interview." It's a four-part documentary where Oliver Stone interviewed Russian President

increments. Clearly, one of those long-term plans was Ukraine.

I don't have the bandwidth to understand fully why Putin is doing what he is doing, but clearly, he has been planning this for quite some time as evidenced by stockpiling gold, equipment and armaments. The real question here, however, is how this impacts us here in Maryland. Unfortunately, it's difficult to say how we are directly impacted, but certainly the last month in the market has revealed that the response is negative to all of this.

Fortunately, we have seen this movie before. This is not the first country Putin has invaded. In 2014, Putin invaded Crimea and while the market responded negatively initially as well as during the campaign, just 12 months later in March 2015, the S&P was up 15 percent. To compare that to an American military action, the S&P was up almost 30 percent a year after the Gulf War in 2003, according to Reuters. Clearly our local markets respond better to U.S. campaigns than they do international campaigns, but either way the market responds positively to military actions historically. Does that mean that past performance is an indication for future results? That is yet to be determined.

The indicator to watch in all of this is corporate earnings and oil. Corporate
» **Continued on page 55**

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Severna Park Native Sells Her Hometown



Ashley Earle, Realtor for Stahley Thompson Homes of TTR Sotheby's, is a fifth-generation Severna Park resident.



TTR

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

By Lauren Cowin

If the definition of a dream job is one in which working doesn't feel like work, then Ashley Earle, Realtor for Stahley Thompson Homes of TTR Sotheby's, is living the dream.

A lifelong passion for all things houses and decorating coupled with an affinity for her hometown made real estate an obvious choice for the second act of her career, following the time she took at home to raise her three children.

"It was just kind of a natural segue for me to think, 'This is really what I should be doing because I'm already helping all my friends and family do it anyway,' and I just love it," Earle said.

A fifth-generation Severna Park resident, Earle and her husband, Jimmy, found their current home in 2017.

"We walked in and thought, 'We kind of feel like we already live here,'" Earle said. "I couldn't be happier with where we are."

These days, her focus is making sure her clients get that same feeling when they find their own dream home.

"You can almost see that on their face. You can tell when someone really loves a home and they feel it, and I always tell them that — I want you to have that. I want you to have

that feeling. I want you to be that excited about your house. It's an emotional process," Earle said.

Entering the real estate world at a time when the market is exploding may intimidate some, but not Earle, who joined Stahley Thompson Homes of TTR Sotheby's, led by Jennifer Chino, shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"When I started, it literally went from zero to 100," she said. "It has been so busy and so much fun."

It doesn't hurt that her areas of expertise — Severna Park, Annapolis, the Eastern Shore and beyond — are widely appealing and engrained in the fabric of her family.

Earle's maternal step-great-great-grandfather was Frank Churchill Woods, co-founder and original minister of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. Decades later, Earle would get married and have her children baptized in the same church.

On her father's side, Earle has roots in Eastport, with many family homes now part of historic downtown Annapolis.

Aside from the obvious draw of the water, Earle calls Severna Park, "this perfect little triangle between three cities: Baltimore, Annapolis and [Washington] D.C."

"It's been a really good fit for me. I love it," Earle said.

On The Green Celebrates 25 Years



Adam Colgan employs a team of more than 30 members, with his wife, brother and longtime friend assisting him at the helm.

What started as a part-time job in college mowing lawns has become a story of local entrepreneurial success for Anne Arundel County native Adam Colgan, as his lawn care company celebrates its 25th anniversary.

In 1997, Colgan incorporated his business On The Green Inc. At the time, he had a handful of employees and the company focused primarily on landscaping and hardscaping.

As the company grew and his knowledge base and certifications expanded, Colgan shifted the business model to comprehensive lawn care and pest control. Today, Colgan employs a

team of 30 plus, with his wife, brother and longtime friend assisting him at the helm.

"We really pride ourselves in using quality, top-line products and customer service — our referrals are what really grows our business," said Dawn Colgan, who handles human resources and accounting for the company.

And grown they have. On the Green Inc.'s client base not only encompasses Anne Arundel County but also extends to Prince George's, and Howard counties, as well as the Eastern Shore.

Colgan's crew provides the community with more than just lawn care. Along with donations to the American

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), sponsoring local youth sports teams and the Bowie Baysox, the leadership team of On the Green Inc. has a strong connection to the military community through their families. As such, it offers free lawn maintenance to military spouses during deployments through Project Evergreen.

"That's close to our hearts, so we want to make sure we take care of those people," Dawn said.

When he's not busy running and growing his business, Colgan enjoys hunting, fishing and attending his three kids' school and athletic events.

Jon McGowan Named Partner At Liff, Walsh & Simmons



Jon McGowan

Liff, Walsh & Simmons, a full-service business law firm, has promoted Jon McGowan to the position of partner with the firm.

McGowan is a member of the business law, commercial finance, and estates and trusts practice groups. His business practice focuses on assisting clients in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance and securities, and general corporate matters. In addition, he counsels individuals and families to help develop custom estate plans and business succession plans that address clients' specific needs to help protect and impart their legacy. His commercial practice touches areas of acquisition, development, leasing and lending in the representation of buyers, sellers, and private and commercial lenders.

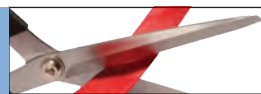
"On behalf of my partners at Liff, Walsh & Simmons, it is with great pleasure that I announce Jon's promotion to partner," said Jay Walsh, managing partner of Liff, Walsh & Simmons. "I applaud his devotion to becoming an exceptional attorney, particularly his tenacity. Jon began his work at Liff, Walsh & Simmons as a law clerk and has served the firm for over a decade. He is a trusted advisor to our clients and has earned the title of partner through his tremendous hard work."

McGowan is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, Anne Arundel County Bar Association, Crofton Chamber of Commerce, and the Anne Arundel County Estate Planning Council. Additionally, he has received recognition as a Rising Star by Maryland Super Lawyers.

He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from the Helms School of Government at Liberty University with a focus in Western Legal Traditions. He went on to obtain his Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law, where he graduated in the top 6% of his class. While in law school, McGowan was an honoree of the Royal Shannons House Honor Society and served as a member of the University of Baltimore Law Forum and the Real Estate Law Association.

McGowan grew up in Crofton, Maryland, where he and his family currently reside. He enjoys volunteering and serving in various community activities.

RIBBON CUTTING



DeMaio Family Chiropractic And Physical Therapy Opens New Office In Severna Park



Photo by Jonathan Katz

With a ribbon-cutting ceremony in February, Dr. John DeMaio and his team opened their fourth location of DeMaio Family Chiropractic and Physical Therapy. The new office is located at 456A Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. Other locations include Gambrills, Odenton and Bowie.

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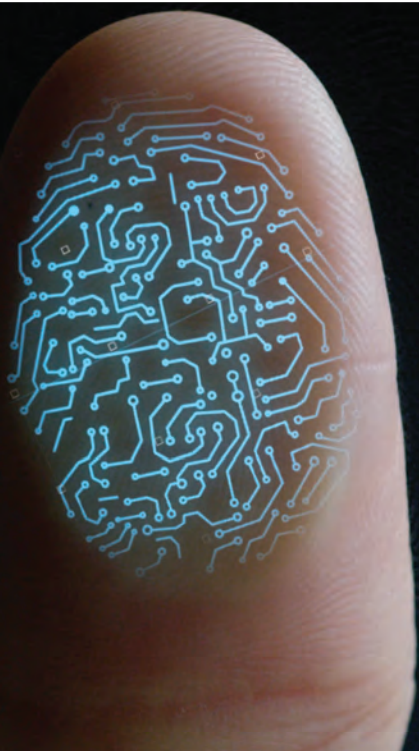
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Area Stores Oppose The Addition Of Robinson Liquors

Fishpaws Marketplace owner Kim Lawson is one of 18 liquor store owners opposing a new store that could be coming to the Robinson Crossing shopping center.

A proposed 22,000-square-foot liquor store could be coming to Severna Park — a move that is pending a decision from the Anne Arundel County Board of License Commissioners, which held a public hearing on March 8 at the Arundel Center in Annapolis.

If approved, Robinson Liquors will occupy the space at 466 Ritchie Highway, a portion of the site formerly occupied by Food Lion. Eighteen liquor stores are opposing the new store, saying it will have detrimental consequences for small businesses.

"When you look at the average size of liquor stores in the area, they are around 3,000 or 4,000 square feet," said Kim Lawson, the owner of Fishpaws Marketplace in Arnold. "This is the equivalent of about seven local stores. That is significant. This is not going to generate new business, but it will take away from existing businesses."

That sentiment was shared by Donald MacMurray Jr., whose family owns Port Tack Ltd. Wine & Spirits in Arnold and Harbour Wine & Spirits in Severna Park.

"The area is not really growing, because the residential spaces are pretty set," he said. "[Robinson Liquors] said they are going to bring new customers from 30 miles away, but that will bring



more traffic here."

The owners of the potential store say that Robinson Liquors is not a corporation. "We are a small business liquor store which happens to be big," the website states. "We would like to make a large footprint store to give space to better customer experience, with aisles wide enough to maneuver and large product selection."

For Goska's Liquors owner Kevin Sosnoski, the threat is "not as much the square footage as it is just adding another license. In the last two years, two have been added [in the greater Severna Park region]."

For the Board of License Commissioners to issue a liquor license, a business must meet several criteria. Under Maryland law, the licensing board must consider the public need for the license, the number and location of existing licenses, the potential effect on existing license

holders, the commonality or uniqueness of services and products to be offered, and other factors.

Lawson does not think the new store can meet each of those criteria, but if they do, she plans to take the issue to court. If Robinson Liquors is built, she will have to cut staff because small liquor stores have a low profit margin, she said.

"We support local charities and participate in local community events and are members of the [Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce]," Lawson said in a message intended to garner community support. "We respectfully request you support the local stores and oppose this new non-local mega store."

During a previous hearing for another business, potential Robinson Liquors owner Andrey Nikolaev said he was a resident of Montgomery County and owner of another liquor store in Prince George's County. He could not be reached before the *Severna Park Voice* went to print, but

"We want customers to have a great shopping experience and to have good memories of that experience. It's important to know where your retailers live. If you want to keep Severna Park small-business friendly, keep supporting us."

— KEVIN SOSNOSKI
OWNER, GOSKA'S LIQUORS

during the hearing on March 8, he said he will consider moving to Anne Arundel County if he is granted the liquor license.

Sosnoski said he and many other liquor store owners live in the Severna Park and Arnold communities they serve. They see customers at grocery stores and at community events, giving them more reason to do what's best for customers.

How Can You Cope With Market Volatility?

Brian M. Conrad
CFP
Financial Advisor



These are unsettling times for investors. Even before the geopolitical crisis involving Russia and Ukraine, the financial markets were facing headwinds due to higher inflation, the anticipation of rising interest rates and the continuing effects of the pandemic. As an individual investor, should you take some type of action?

It's helpful to put today's headlines in perspective. While the Federal Reserve probably will raise interest rates, they are doing so from a point where these rates were at or near historic lows, so the new, higher rates may not drastically deter businesses from borrowing to expand their operations. Also, higher interest rates can be good for savers, who can earn more on their savings. As for inflation, many economists expect it to cool down in the second half of 2022 as supply chain bottlenecks start to clear. And the pandemic's effects, both on our health and on our daily lives, may be fading, though, of course, we all should be cautious when it comes to making predictions about COVID-19.

The Ukraine situation is one more unpredictable event — and one thing that financial markets dislike is uncertainty. Russia is one of the world's largest oil producers, so a conflict that could affect oil prices can have a ripple effect on many market sectors. Until the state of affairs in Ukraine calms down, market volatility may continue.

Even in this context of uncertainty, though, investors shouldn't lose sight of other factors that can affect the investment climate. The U.S. economy has been growing at a fast clip, and corpo-

rate earnings — usually a key driver of stock prices — have also been strong.

In any case, instead of reacting to external events — negative or positive — you'll help yourself by pursuing an investment strategy based on your goals and risk tolerance. Sticking to that strategy will be easier if you follow these steps:

- Take a break from checking your statements. When the market goes through a rough patch, you may find yourself constantly checking how your portfolio is doing. But this can cause stress and lead you to make unwise decisions.
- Take steps to protect your long-term investments. If you don't really need the money right away, you shouldn't have to worry excessively over the short-term movements of the financial markets.
- Get some help. When you're facing the ups and downs in the markets, you can benefit from some assistance. A financial advisor can discuss your concerns and illustrate some scenarios that can result if you make certain moves — thereby helping you make better informed decisions.

We're living in challenging days. But instead of agonizing over things you can't control, concentrate on those that you can — such as making investment choices appropriate for your needs and capable of helping you meet your goals.

Brian Conrad is a certificated financial planner and financial advisor with Edward Jones. His office is located at 479 Jumpers Hole Road, Suite 202, in Severna Park. To learn more, call 410-544-8970, email brian.conrad@edwardjones.com or visit www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad.

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 49

than 35 years, Melaleuca has been known for its innovative natural formulas. It is a Melaleuca hallmark: natural ingredients fine-tuned for the best results.

Carrie Baquie', Chronic Illness Coach, Advocate and Educator – Carrie is a chronic illness coach helping women transform their experience of fear, isolation and overwhelm into hope, healing and thriving through online courses, group coaching, and 1-on-1 coaching.

Coale's Automotive – Located in Millersville, Coale's is a family-owned business that has been serving Anne Arundel County for three generations. The family prides themselves on excellent repair work and customer service.

JK Organizing LLC – Owner Jessica Terenyi is a professional organizer and certified life and health coach. She helps people achieve balanced, time managed, and organized lives.

Dotty's Skincare Spa at Aura Salon – Owner Dotty Holoubek believes in creating a partnership with you and your skin. This partnership includes utilizing ingredients that the skin recognizes, maintaining the epidermal barrier while focusing most of our attention on the dermis, virtually eliminating inflammation during repair, and feeding the skin through increasing blood flow.

Human Interest – Previously, only large companies offered employee retirement plans, leaving more than half of all working Americans without a path to a secure financial future. Human Interest offers an array of affordable retirement

plans to make them accessible to all.

We also thank the many members who have renewed. We are so proud to have you in the chamber family.


Plans have begun for our fabulous **Independence Day parade**, to be held on Monday, July 4, from 10:00am to noon. The theme is "Celebrating Our Community's Rich History," and our grand marshal is Kevin Sosnoski of Goska's Liquors, the oldest operating business in Severna Park.

Plans are also underway for our **Shop Local Fun Fiesta**, to be held at Park Plaza on Saturday, May 7, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. This "fun for the whole family" event features entertainment, demonstrations, wonderful local businesses, food and more.

On February 17, we held our new officer installation and general membership dinner at the newly renovated **Romilo's Restaurant and Bar in Severna Park**. Judge Cathy Vitale performed the official swearing-in ceremony, and many other volunteers and committee chairs were recognized. The winner of the Harmony Award for outstanding public service was **Eddie Conway, owner of Garry's Grill** in Severna Park. Over the past year, Eddie has raised much-needed funds for over 100 nonprofits!

As always, please check out our website calendar for upcoming events (www.gspacc.com) and our Facebook page. You can reach me at ceo@gspacc.com or 410-647-3900. Thank you for buying local and supporting our wonderful small businesses and nonprofits.

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What Does The Ukraine Dilemma Mean For Our Economy?

» Continued from page 49

earnings will dictate how the market reacts to the situation. Sanctions implemented on Russia will certainly have an impact on the international marketplace, and how Russia responds also plays a role. A retired colonel of the U.S. Army, Jeff Hartman is the associate professor of Russian way of war at the George C. Marshall Center (and is also a friend). Jeff thinks that the oil market in Europe will be impacted by this invasion. In fact, Jeff told me that we will see the U.S. impacted in the follow-

ing manner:

“This is already affecting oil markets, which will push inflation for all agricultural and manufacturing goods in the U.S. It will affect worldwide grain marketing, which will further increase U.S. agricultural prices. In the long-term, this will affect European supply chains due to far higher energy costs in Europe. We will also see market uncertainty due to euro depreciation caused by European Union borrowing.”

Colonel Hartman has written extensively on this topic and has devoted his

career to the military operations in this area of the world, and we should all be grateful to him for his service. I, on the other hand, am not an expert in the specific details, but looking at history, a study of 29 geopolitical events since World War II shows a general trend in short-term losses in the first weeks and longer-term gains over months. History doesn’t always repeat itself, but it often rhymes, and I believe that it’s a fair expectation that the way the markets have responded historically will guide how they perform moving forward.

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— Jessica

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

★ **County Council - District 7**

It is a privilege to represent District 7 on the County Council.

★ **Attorney**

I represent companies that build vital infrastructure, such as water treatment facilities and public schools.

★ **Civil Engineer**

I graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and began my career working for a local engineering company.

★ **Volunteer, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**

As a mother, I fully embrace CASA's mission to help abused and neglected children obtain safe, permanent housing.

★ **Former Commissioner, Anne Arundel Co. Women's Commission**

A resource and advocacy group dedicated to helping enrich the lives of women and families in Anne Arundel County.

★ **Former Legal Counsel, Maryland Republican Party**

I was responsible for all legal matters for the Maryland Republican Party. I successfully defended Governor Hogan's power to make vacancy appointments before Maryland's highest court.



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