

Spring Sports
Seasons Get
Underway
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St. John Delights
Audiences With
"101 Dalmatians"
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SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

SEVERNA PARK, MD

APRIL 2022

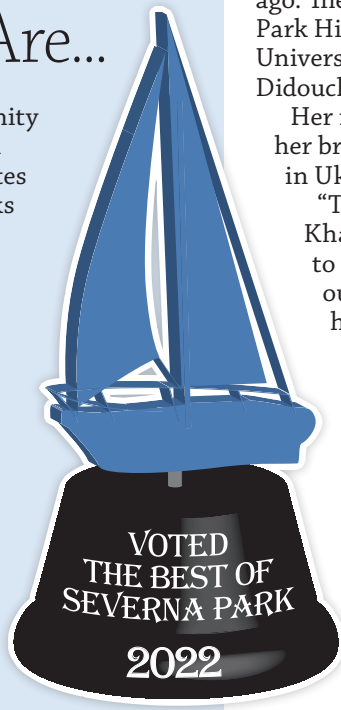
The Votes Have
Been Tallied
And The "Best
Of Severna
Park" For
2022 Are...

The community
has spoken
and the votes
are tallied. Thanks
to the more than
2,500 people who
voted, we have
this year's list of
Best Of Severna
Park winners.

To be eligible,
each business
must have a
commercial
address within
Severna Park,
Arnold or
Millersville
except where
otherwise
noted. Nomi-
nees also needed
at least five votes to qual-
ify. We had only a few categories
that didn't receive enough votes,
and we are listing both the win-
ner and the runner-up in each
qualifying category.

Without further ado...the
envelope, please!

Turn to page 8 to see the
complete list of winners.



Supporting Ukraine From Severna Park

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

In the city of Drohobych, located in Lviv in western Ukraine, Tetyana Khalanych's former school now serves as a refugee camp. Children share the space with people fleeing their homes in Kyiv and Mariupol, targets of the Russian invasion.

Khalanych and her husband moved to Severna Park from Ukraine 17 years ago. They raised their son, Severna Park High School graduate and current University of Maryland student Adam Didouchevski, in Severna Park.

Her father, her brother and her brother's three kids remain in Ukraine.

"They are afraid and anxious," Khalanych said. "They don't want to leave Ukraine. They believe in our victory. My brother said they have just this country and they will fight to the last breath."

Khalanych has been collecting medical supplies and nonperishable food with other members of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, Maryland. Together, they have been "moving mountains" of humanitarian aid by airplane to areas bordering Ukraine.

"Ukraine is full of little ants right now," Khalanych said. "Everyone is working together." One of those "little ants" is her



nephew, Sam, who works for the city municipal guard and helps refugees get settled.

Khalanych checks in with her family several times a day for updates. In times of war, reality can be hard to separate from propaganda. When images emerged from the city of Bucha, showing the bodies of Ukrainian civilians in the street, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the photos as a "forgery" meant to denigrate the Russian army.

But Khalanych does not need the news to inform her when she has family witnessing the carnage firsthand.

"People are hiding underground in basements for weeks," she said. "In some places, they are not given access to humanitarian aid. This is genocide and terror, nothing like military war."

» Continued on page 12



Tetyana Khalanych and her son, Adam Didouchevski, attended a rally in Washington, D.C. to support Ukraine.

Plunge Events Raise \$3 Million

Photo courtesy of Matt Deal

This year, 8,753 dedicated "plungers" went to bear the cold in the Chesapeake Bay and raised \$3 million for Special Olympics Maryland. After rescheduling its February events, Special Olympics Maryland was able to take to the Sandy Point State Park beach from March 24-26. Whether they took to the beach or took a virtual plunge from home, participants supported the 6,102 athletes of Special Olympics Maryland.

See more photos on page 10.



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Margueritte Mills Volunteers Of The Month

Food For Thought: Interviewer Makes Sure People Get Meals And Kindness

By Zach Sparks

During Pat Hunt's long career as a clinical social worker, the job never felt like work because she cared about the people she helped. When she retired 11 years ago, she wanted to fill that void, so she started volunteering.

Hunt is an interviewer for SPAN and for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a St. John the Evangelist ministry that, like SPAN, provides food and financial assistance with utilities.

As a social worker, she helped the homeless, the elderly, people battling addiction and people diagnosed with AIDS. Now, at 80 years old, she helps many people with similar needs.

"The poor are getting poorer," Hunt said. "People can't get to work because the price of gasoline is going up. It's hard to get things they need because food stamps don't cover laundry detergent, soap or other non-food items."

Hunt feels compelled to give back because it's "part of our responsibility in the Catholic religion," but there is another reason: she enjoys helping others navigate tough circumstances.

"I personally love to spend time talking to people, not just handing out a check," she said. "Seeing them come in distressed and in despair, the transformation is amazing."

As an interviewer, Hunt determines the needs of people who come to SPAN or Saint Vincent de Paul for help. She decides what those groups can do and if she should refer a person to another organization for services beyond those provided by Saint Vincent de Paul and SPAN.

"We look at the whole person, and it's usually not just a bill to pay," she said.

She has been an outreach volunteer for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at



Since retiring 11 years ago, Pat Hunt has volunteered at SPAN and with St. Vincent de Paul Society as an interviewer.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church for over 10 years. With Saint Vincent de Paul, Hunt also helps people going into halfway houses.

"Pat's 40 years as a social worker on the streets of Washington, D.C. make her the perfect mentor for our new volunteers," said conference president Cindy Halloran. "Her caring manner and empathy toward those in need make her a comforting presence when she's assisting a neighbor in need."

Maia Grabau, SPAN's director of operations, appreciates how Hunt devotes much of her free time to helping clients in desperate situations.

"She will try to find legal help for clients after hours, for instance," Grabau said. "She will sometimes go to court, for example, with clients facing evictions to help them through the process. She and her family have also helped a few clients in more extreme situations

to move into housing when they previously had none. That is going above and beyond the call of duty, especially at 80 years of age!

"I truly cannot say enough about her. She is a deeply caring and compassionate woman who truly lives to serve others."

Both SPAN and Saint Vincent de Paul are always in need of caring volunteers, not just interviewers but also people to work in the food pantry. Anyone interested in being an interviewer needs to be compassionate, Hunt emphasized.

"It's very hard for people to not be judgmental," Hunt said. "An interviewer might say, 'Oh, this person drives a Cadillac.' Well maybe they are borrowing someone else's car to get here."

Saint Vincent de Paul and SPAN work closely together and share some resources, allowing them to serve more people. "The community is also very involved in helping," Hunt said, noting how supporters will provide more than just nonperishable items, giving fresh produce, milk, eggs, toiletries and diapers.

In addition to volunteering, Hunt enjoys singing for Encore and for the choir at St. John the Evangelist. She has three adult children and six grandchildren. Kindness runs in the family; her daughter is a social worker and deputy director of an opioid program, and her granddaughter is also a social worker.

Even at 80 years old, Hunt hopes she can volunteer "forever long."

"People need hugs," Hunt said. "They need the kindness, empathy and warmth we provide as interviewers."

Helping People Here In This Community

Michele Sabean
Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



In a day and age of strong differing viewpoints, one thing we can and do have in common is kindness and compassion. These days when some topics can be polarizing, I am constantly reminded, through my work at SPAN, that kindness and neighbors helping neighbors are traits we have in common and are the traits that make the community strong.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members," as Coretta Scott King said.

SPAN stands for Serving People Across Neighborhoods. SPAN is about helping those right here in this community who need a little extra help. Sometimes it is an

accident, a health issue, possibly a tough divorce or a loss of a job that has made it difficult to get everything paid. This help and support come from community members in many ways.

It comes from the community member who stopped by our office to drop off a check, which she said is part of her monthly routine. It is the community members who pick up a few extra items to donate when grocery shopping and drop the items at our building, the Severna Park Library or the Severna Park Community Center. It is neighbors donating eggs from their backyard chickens, and I know as the weather warms up, neighbors will share the harvest from their gardens.

This neighborhood help also comes from community groups and businesses. Lately we have had many very generous donations delivered by scout groups with Scouting for Food. A big thank you to Cub Scout packs 918, 885 and 688 and Boy Scout troops 993 and 858. I also want to thank Girl Scout Troop 140, the Severna Park Teen Food Allergy Support and Ad-

vocacy group and our incredible corps of regular dedicated volunteers who did an amazing job sorting the food and moving it into our building. I especially want to thank community members who donated through Scouting for Food.

Another opportunity, if you are looking for a rewarding way to help, is with SPAN's Turkey Trot 5k. After two years off due to the pandemic, our Turkey Trot will be back this fall! To help with this fun community event, please call or email. This is one of those events that requires many hands and there are opportunities for all levels of support and help.

All of us are both givers and receivers at some point and in some way — that is what makes for a good community. How we receive and give help may be different for each of us — it may be participating in a carpool, a shoveled driveway, or it may be help with food or emergency financial assistance. Being part of SPAN is a regular reminder for me of the immense power and impact of neighbors helping neighbors.

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Spring In To Grilled Cheese Month

By Elizabeth Karides
Maryland Dairy
Princess 2021-2022

April: The month we associate with rainfall, Easter, practical jokes and taxes.

But what most people don't know is that in addition to these things, April is also the month when we celebrate one of America's most beloved foods: grilled cheese.

That's right, April is National Grilled Cheese Month. It turns out, we have an entire month to recognize the warm and tasty goodness that comes with this divine dairy treat. Whether preparing this meal with American, muenster, pepper jack, or provolone is your thing, most of us can agree that grilled cheese hits the spot. But what is even more surprising than the fact we have 30 days dedicated to celebrating this heavenly snack? How about the undeniable nutritional value that cheese in a grilled cheese sandwich actually provides?

Did you know that cheese is the No. 2 source of dietary calcium for Americans? This is especially noteworthy if you consider the fact that calcium, an essential nutrient that keeps your teeth and bones strong, is one many Americans are deficient in. The current dietary guidelines for Americans have it labeled as a "nutrient of concern." This is likely because nine out of 10 women and seven out of 10 men aged 20 and up fail to meet their daily calcium recommendation of 1,000 milligrams.

Besides being a supplier of calcium, cheese also increases the amount of other essential nutrients like protein, Vitamin A and phosphorus. But even if dining on grilled cheese isn't your ideal way to gain these essential nutrients, cheese being a food offered in over 300 varieties makes it easy for you to incorporate it into any meal plan! For example, shredded Colby jack in salad and parmesan on pasta are just two ways to incorporate cheese into your diet. There are even options for those who may be lactose intolerant. By choosing harder cheeses like Colby, Swiss and cheddar, they too can enjoy the benefits of this dairy product.

So, there you have it: no matter your needs or nutritional goals, there is a type of cheese for everyone. Thus, the next time you're in a grocery store, don't forget to support dairy farmers and pick up this delicious and undeniably nutritious product.

Earth Day Festival Returns For 20th Anniversary

By Judy Tacyn

Finally returning to Severna Park High School after two years, organizers of the annual Earth Day Festival are thrilled to be back on April 30 to offer new community activities.

The festival strives to teach and inspire people on ways to take care of the planet and its inhabitants. New this year are expanded ideas and opportunities for donation, repurposing and recycling items. Organized by the Good Neighbors Group, the festival is designed to teach the community how to think about the planet, and one another, all year long.

"People should come because there is something for everyone at this event. It's inviting for all ages. It's social and impactful," said Chris Myers, festival co-organizer. "From crafts to artisans selling amazing and creative items, to food, music, animals, collections that unburden stuff from your home while doing good for someone else and the planet, and the opportunity to learn new things and look at the world around us and the things we have a little differently!"

Julie Shay, founder and executive director of the Good Neighbors Group, and festival co-organizer, said there will be more "drop-off" opportunities this year, making it simple for people to re-home or dispose of the things that have been taking up space in their homes, but doing it in a meaningful way by connecting with local groups, and in a way that does the least harm to the environment. There will also be a "free sale" hosted by the Buy Nothing Project.

"People should attend because every year they leave inspired to try something new, a new step toward being



The festival is designed to teach the community how to think about the planet, and one another, all year long.

more conscious of their choices and the impacts of their choices on people and the planet," Shay added. "It's a festive event where you can learn and have fun, and you can also unload the burden of things you no longer need or things you have been holding onto because you weren't sure how to dispose of them or didn't have the chance."

Some of the things that will be collected for recycle or repurpose are:

- Sporting Goods
- No. 5 plastics, like pill bottles and yogurt containers
- Electronics, including TVs
- Styrofoam
- Fluorescent tube bulbs
- Corks
- Pet supplies
- Plastic bags
- Alkaline batteries

Earth Day Festival April 30

10:00am—1:00pm

Severna Park High School

60 Robinson Road

Shay said that the annual festival, and also Earth Day itself, has become much more than recycling.

"It's about making intentional choices about things we need versus things we want and considering the cradle-to-grave pathway of what we acquire," she said.

"Can we borrow or share rather than purchasing new? Can we buy something used? If we're buying something, can it be repaired or have a life when I'm done with it? Can I buy something locally from a small business rather than a chain store? Can I buy one with less packaging or something that can be repurposed or refilled rather than thrown away?"

"It's also about refusing to accumulate more and more things. Some accumulation is inevitable, and we need to practice good stewardship in doing the best we can to dispose of it."

For a full list of event activities and items that can be dropped off, donated or recycled, and the organizations that will be collecting, visit www.goodneighborsgroup.org.

Round Bay Sailing: Prep Flag Up!



Mary Marta
Round Bay Sailing
Association

It's late March as of this writing and Round Bay Sailing Association (RBSA) members and board are preparing for the upcoming sailboat racing season. The first event is the annual skippers meeting set for April 9 in-person and via Zoom.

With April approaching, skippers and crew are busy with their boats. Sails are being repaired, hulls are being waxed, and there is often a need for new bottom paint. For example, Rani Cerny has been sanding and bottom painting the family boat A L'Assaut, a Dufour 40. In addition to other annual maintenance, the Dufour will need teak varnishing once warmer weather sets in. Cerny, an RBSA member for five years, is the former owner of Airborne, a Catalina 27. Many years past, she raced one design on the Chesapeake Bay. She recalled that, like RBSA sailors, the 27 fleet was a friendly group.

RBSA board members are also getting



Rani Cerny sanded the bottom paint of A L'Assaut in preparation for new bottom paint.

ready for the season. The big news is that a different handicapping system will be used this season. Time on Time scoring (ToT) rather than Time on Distance scoring, will start with race one. ToT handicapping calculates a boat's corrected time for a race by multiplying the total elapsed time around the course by the boat's handicap (or time correction factor) and does not consider race distance. While the switch may prove challenging, the board agreed that the new system will be fairer to the entire fleet.

Among many key tasks, board members do maintenance checks on in-wa-

ter race marks as well as replenishing the race kit. While a more mundane task, maintenance of the race kit is critical to the race committee (RC), because it contains everything needed to start and monitor the evening's race; for example, flags, horns, race placards, start instructions and suggested courses. Skippers use the kit every week as they each take a turn serving as RC for their peers.

The first race of the RBSA season is April 20, with three class starts at 6:20pm, 6:25pm and 6:30pm. See you out on the water or at www.roundbaysailing.com.

Calendar

ONGOING

Through May 31: Arundel Federal Savings Bank collects food, clothing and hygiene products. Info: www.arundelfederal.com.

Through June 5: Toby's Dinner Theatre presents "Rocky The Musical." Info: www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

APRIL

April 14-16: Theater at AACC debuts production of "Clue" at the Kauffman Theater. Info: boxoffice@aacc.edu.

April 15-23: Happy Passover!

April 17: Happy Easter!

April 18: Anne Arundel County Council meeting at the Arundel Center. 7:00pm. Info: www.aacounty.org.

April 19: The Zombies perform at Maryland Hall at 7:30pm. Info: www.marylandhall.org.

April 21: Michelle Douglas visits Park Books for discussion at 6:30pm. Info: www.parkbooksmd.com.

April 22: Designer Purse Bingo at Earleigh Heights Fire Company. 7:00pm. Info: 410-972-7378.

April 22-23: Ballet Theatre of Maryland presents "Coppélia" at Maryland Hall. Info: www.balletmaryland.org.

April 22-24: Theater at AACC presents "Clue" at the Kauffman Theater. Info: boxoffice@aacc.edu.

April 22-May 15: The Colonial Players perform the production "Freaky Friday." Info: www.thecolonialplayers.org.

April 23: Cynthia Hammer visits Park Books from noon-3:00pm. Info: www.parkbooksmd.com.

April 23: Shop Local with more than 20 vendors at Rugby Hall Marina. 1:00-5:00pm. Info: info@localcoast.com.

April 23: Shred-It event, free to the community, at the office of David Orso at 8 Evergreen Road. 10:00am-noon. Info: 443-372-7171.

April 23: Community Wellness Day at UM BWMC from 10:00am-1:00pm. Info: www.umbwmc.org/wellnessday.

April 23: Severna Park Community Center gala at 6:30pm. Info: 410-647-5843.

April 24: Earth Day cleanup at Beachwood Park from 9:00am-noon. Info: www.magothyriver.org.

April 24: A Salute to the Gershwin Brothers, Jazz At The Mezz dinner concert series at Cafe Mezzanotte, with shows at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Info: www.cafemezzanotte.com.

April 30: Earth Day Festival from 10:00am-1:00pm at Severna Park High School. Info: www.goodneighborsgroup.org.

MAY

May 1: Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company open house from noon-3:00pm. Info: www.ehvfc.org.

May 1: King Street Bluegrass kicks off the 2022 Spring Concert Series at Hatton Register Green at 4:00pm. Info: friendsofaatrails@gmail.com.

May 1: St. Baldrick's Foundation 14th annual Brave the Shave for Joey Sudo at O'Loughlin's. Info: www.stbaldricks.org.

May 2: Anne Arundel County Council meeting at the Arundel Center. 7:00pm. Info: www.aacounty.org.

May 7: Spring Shop Local Fun Fiesta in the Park Plaza shopping center from 11:00am-3:00pm. Info: 410-647-3900.

May 8: The Spring Concert Series at Hatton Register Green continues with Josette and Bill. 4:00pm. Info: friendsofaatrails@gmail.com.

May 8: Unity Bands holds Mother's Day raffle at Mother's Peninsula Grille to benefit COVID-19 frontline heroes and research. Info: unitybands.org.

May 10: Greater Severna Park Council meeting via Zoom at 7:30pm. Info: www.gspcouncil.org.

May 13: Dublin 5 performs at StageOne at Maryland Cultural and Conference Center from 5:30-8:00pm. Info: www.mc3annapolis.org.

May 15: Karen Collins and the Backroads Band perform at Hatton Register Green at 4:00pm. Info: friendsofaatrails@gmail.com.

May 21: Saturday in the Park Family Fun Festival held by Severna Park Community Center from 10:00am-2:00pm. Info: 410-647-5843.

May 21-22: Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival at Sandy Point State Park for the final time. Info: www.bayblues.org.



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Meet Chris and Chris

As a local architect and artist, craftsman, shameless tinkerer, and ridiculously under-qualified backyard mechanic, Christopher combines the sculptural aspects of space-making with first-hand understanding of practical assembly and construction, as well as an insatiable curiosity to craft beautiful and long-lasting solutions with builders, tradespeople, and other designers. He also volunteers his design energies in the community, designing two of the Jones Elementary fox logos, donating his services to school fund-raising auctions, giving career presentations to all ages, and mentoring local students at the high school and college levels. Having interviewed well over two hundred juniors over the years, you're sure to find him at the Severna Park High School mock interviews every year.

Christina is a 4th generation resident of the community. Her family set their roots here in the early 1940's and have founded and run several successful small businesses in the area, including Magothy Seafood, a popular waterfront seafood restaurant which opened in 1970, where Christina spent much of her childhood and later worked before it closed after more than 40 successful years. Christina also volunteered heavily in the local schools for more than a decade and is an active member of the community. She can often be found helping neighbors in need.

The Chris's, as they've come to be known, are thankful to have raised their two daughters here in Severna Park, both of whom demonstrate the values and positivity that runs with the water here. Happy to cap off 25 years of DC commute, Christopher is even happier to spend more time with the other Chris and their daughters, work where he lives, and do meaningful, thoughtful work in a community he loves. Having played key roles in the design and execution of dozens of buildings under three well-known architects in the DC metro area, Christopher's work has appeared in more than 15 publications and won over 50 design awards, including a national AIA award. Together, Chris and Chris bring you boydarc architects, a local boutique firm rooted deeply in this community. We believe in crafting spaces around your unique lifestyle that will offer you a more fluid interaction with your world.

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boydarc
architects

And The 2022 “Best Of Severna Park” Winners Are...

FOOD/DINING

- Best Restaurant Overall:** 1. Cafe Mezzanotte 2. Park Tavern
Best Wait Staff: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Cafe Mezzanotte
Best Breakfast: 1. The Breakfast Shoppe 2. Garry's Grill
Best Lunch: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern
Best Dinner: 1. Cafe Mezzanotte 2. Park Tavern
Best Kids' Menu: 1. Park Tavern 2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
Best Barbecue: 1. Adam's Taphouse and Grille 2. JB's Severna Park
Best Burger: 1. Five Guys 2. Park Tavern
Best Coffee: 1. The Big Bean 2. Starbucks
Best Crab Cake: 1. Hellas Restaurant and Lounge 2. The Point Crab House and Grill
Best Bakery/Cakes: 1. Cakes and Confections Bakery Cafe 2. Kirsten's Cakery
Best Dessert: 1. Park Tavern 2. Cakes and Confections Bakery Cafe
Best Ice Cream/Frozen Treat: 1. Rita's Italian Ice 2. Bruster's Real Ice Cream
Best Pizza: 1. Squisito Pizza and Pasta 2. Little Carmine's N.Y. Pizza Kitchen
Best Salad: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern
Best Sandwich/Sub: 1. Jenos Steaks 2. Jersey Mike's Subs
Best Seafood: 1. The Point Crab House and Grill 2. Cafe Mezzanotte
Best Wings: 1. Adam's Taphouse and Grille 2. JB's Severna Park
Best Fast Food: 1. Chick-fil-A 2. Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
Best Asian: 1. Ginza Japanese Steak & Sushi Bar 2. Thai Paradise
Best Italian: 1. Cafe Mezzanotte 2. La Posta Pizzeria
Best Mexican: 1. Mi Pueblo II 2. Vida Taco Bar
Best Gluten-Free Menu: 1. Sullivan's Cove 2. April's Table
Best Vegetarian Menu: 1. April's Table
Best Caterer: 1. April's Table 2. Garry's Grill
Best Bar: 1. Park Tavern 2. Severna Park Taphouse
Best Food Truck: 1. Wingman 2. Blendabowl
Best Special Occasion: 1. Cafe Mezzanotte 2. Park Tavern
Best Outside Seating: 1. Severna Park Taphouse 2. The Point Crab House and Grill
Best Restaurant Outside Severna Park: 1. Blendabowl and Two Rivers Steak & Fish House (tie)

BEAUTY & FITNESS

- Best Fitness Club:** 1. Park Fitness 2. RockWell Fitness
Best Hair Salon/Barber Shop: 1. Image Creators 2. The Park Salon & Barber
Best Martial Arts Program: 1. Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi 2. Green Hornets wrestling
Best Place For A Massage: 1. Sass Well 2. Bodyworx Spa & Massage
Best Nail Salon: 1. BellaLuxe Nail Care & Spa 2. Top Nails
Best Spa: 1. Image Creators 2. Bodyworx Spa & Massage
Best Weight-Loss Program: 1. Park Fitness 2. CoreLife

HEALTH

- Best Medical Practice:** 1. Maryland Primary Care Physicians
Best Physician: 1. Dr. Victor Plavner 2. Andre Gvozden
Best Women's Specialty Practice: 1. Bay Radiology
Best Chiropractic Practice: 1. Back and Neck Care Center 2. Fare Chiropractic and Kennard Chiropractic & Physical Therapy (tie)
Best Dental Practice: 1. Severna Park Family & Cosmetic Dentistry 2. Severn River Cosmetic & Family Dentistry
Best Orthodontic Practice: 1. Wright Orthodontics 2. Spivak Orthodontics

Best Eye Care Practice: 1. Severna Park Eye Care 2. Rutzen Eye Specialists & Laser Center

Best Pediatric Practice: 1. Gvozden Pediatrics 2. Annapolis Pediatrics

Best Pharmacy: 1. Park Pharmacy 2. Walgreens

Best Physical Therapy Practice: 1. Patterson Physical Therapy 2. Lynch Physical Therapy

Best Mental Health Care: 1. Arundel Psychological Associates 2. Waypoint Wellness Center

Best Speech Therapy: 1. Budding Voices 2. Kid Connections Therapy

Best Veterinary Practice: 1. Severna Park Veterinary Hospital 2. Bayside Animal Medical Center

Best Senior Living Facility: 1. Brightview Severna Park 2. Sunrise of Severna Park

Best Health Care Provider Outside Severna Park: 1. Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Best Accountant: 1. Gardiner & Appel Group 2. Joanna Kouvaras CPA

Best Insurance Agent: 1. Lee Talbot — State Farm 2. Goosehead Insurance — Lewis Agency

Best Investment Adviser: 1. Jeffrey Wadsworth — Wadsworth Financial Consulting 2. Cassilly Financial Services

Best Lawyer: 1. Paula Darrah — Warfield & Darrah, P.C. 2. Michael Wilsman — The Law Office of Michael L. Wilsman

Best Mortgage Lender: 1. Primary Residential Mortgage Inc. 2. First Home Mortgage

Best Real Estate Agent: 1. Sarah Garza — The PCS Home Team 2. David Orso of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty

HOME SERVICES

Best Fence/Deck Contractor: 1. Fence & Deck Connection 2. W.R. Flater General Contractor

Best Cleaning Service: 1. Always Sparkle Cleaning Service and Park Power Wash (tie)

Best Home Improvement Contractor: 1. W.R. Flater General Contractor 2. Landmark Roofing

Best HVAC Contractor: 1. Cornett Heating and Cooling

Best Interior Designer: 1. Severna Park Kitchen and Bath 2. Jackie D'Amico Designs

Best Kitchen/Bath Remodeling Service: 1. Severna Park Kitchen and Bath 2. W.R. Flater General Contractor

Best Landscape/Lawn Service: 1. Boucher Lawn and Landscape

Best Pool Service: 1. Goudy Pools

Best Home Service Outside Severna Park: 1. Chesapeake Electric

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Best Auto Repair: 1. Severna Park Automotive 2. Magothy Auto Services

Best Bank: 1. M&T Bank 2. Bank of America

Best Car Wash: 1. The Great American Car Wash 2. Mighty Spray Carwash

Best Dry Cleaner: 1. Admiral Cleaners 2. New Cleaners

Best Marine Repair: 1. South Shore Marine

Best Pet Grooming: 1. Lisa's Pet Grooming 2. Mutt & Joe

RETAIL/SHOPPING

Best Overall Customer Service: 1. Park Fitness 2. The Cottage

Best Art/Photography/Frame Shop: 1. Side Street Framers & gift gallery

Best Bicycle Shop: 1. Pedal Pushers 2. Bike Doctor

Best Consignment Shop: 1. Savvy Consignment

Best Florist: 1. Severna Park Florist (also known as Severna Park Flowers and Gifts) 2. Peaceful Petals Flower Shop & Truck

Best Garden Center: 1. Homestead Gardens 2. Providence Center

Best Gift Shop: 1. The Cottage 2. Maria's Fine Art

Best Grocery Store: 1. Harris Teeter 2. Giant

Best Hardware Store: 1. Clement Hardware 2. Rommel's Ace Home Center

Best Home Décor: 1. The Cottage 2. Park Home

Best Jeweler: 1. Marc Todd Jewelers

Best Liquor Store: 1. Dawson's Liquors 2. Goska's Liquors

Best Pet Supply Store: 1. All For The Pet 2. Petco

Best Toy Store: 1. Franklin's Toys

ENTERTAINMENT

Best Place For Family Entertainment: 1. Severna Park Lanes 2. The Ax House

Best Live Music Venue: 1. Brian Boru Irish Pub and Restaurant and Romilo's (tie)

Best Happy Hour: 1. Severna Park Taphouse 2. Brian Boru Irish Pub and Restaurant

Best Place To Watch The Game: 1. JB's Severna Park 2. Mother's Peninsula Grille

Best Place To Take Out-Of-Towners: 1. The Point Crab House and Grill 2. Cafe Mezzanotte

Best Entertainment Venue Within 25 Miles: 1. Rams Head On Stage 2. Live! Casino and Hotel

KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Best Activity Center: 1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. Rolly Pollies

Best After-School Program: 1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. Eco Adventures

Best Children's Dance Company: 1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. The Dance Academy

Best Day Care: 1. Vineyard Child Care Center 2. The Goddard School of Arnold

Best Music Instruction Program: 1. Theater in the Park 2. Music Together Chesapeake

Best Educational Services: 1. Severna Park Tutor 2. Annapolis College Consulting

Best Party/Special Occasion Venue: 1. Eco Adventures and Rolly Pollies (tie)

Best Playground: 1. Kinder Farm Park

Best Summer Camp: 1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. Theater in the Park

Best Sports Facility: 1. Athletic Performance Inc. (API) 2. Kinder Farm Park

Best Youth Sports League: 1. Green Hornets 2. Athletic Performance Inc. (API)

COMMUNITY

Most Desirable Community To Reside: 1. Shipley's Choice 2. Olde Severna Park

Best Community Beach: 1. Olde Severna Park 2. Cape Arthur

Best Community Pool: 1. Whitehurst 2. Severn River Swim Club

Best Club/Organization: 1. Chartwell Golf and Country Club

Best Nonprofit Organization: 1. SPAN 2. Providence Center

Best House Of Worship: 1. St. John the Evangelist 2. Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

Best Pastor/Church Leader: 1. The Rev. Erik Arnold 2. The Rev. Stephen Mitchell

Best School: 1. Severn School 2. St. John the Evangelist

Best Business To Open In 2021: 1. Severna Park Tutor 2. JB's Severna Park

SPCC To Honor David Orso At 20th Annual Gala

By Judy Tacyn

David Orso always knew about the Severna Park Community Center (SPCC), the hub for aquatics, fitness, rentals, community events and more right in the heart of Severna Park, but it wasn't until about a decade ago that a former SPCC board member asked Orso to put his business talents to work and join the board.

Orso did just that and served a six-year term, the last three years as chairman. On April 23, at Chartwell Golf & Country Club, Orso will be the honored guest at SPCC's 20th annual fundraising event entitled Black Tie & Boots.

"When Jean Andrews (gala host committee chair) called to tell me about the recognition, I was totally shocked and blown away," Orso recalled. "I told her I needed to speak to my wife!"

In the Orso household, decisions are always made together. After speaking to his wife and three children, Orso accepted.

"I never got involved for recognition. I got involved because I feel passionately about our Severna Park community and our small businesses, which rely on and fully support each other," Orso said. "I wanted to spread the word about the good work of the community center to broader audiences who could then take over for the next 20 years."

Orso learned from an early age that



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Severna Park Community Center Executive Director Sarah Elder is happy to see the center honor David Orso. A successful real estate leader, Orso uses his work connections as a channel to philanthropy.

family and community are interchangeable words, and one cannot exist without the other.

"Many years ago, Andy Borland (SPCC board of directors, emeritus) told me, 'Whatever you give to this community, you'll get back tenfold,'" said Orso, who added that Borland was his confirmation sponsor when he was a teen. "As I got older, I realized that I wanted to get more and more connected to this vibrant community

and join a bigger communal family."

In his career, Orso is a highly visible and successful real estate leader. He is also active in supporting nonprofits.

"I firmly believe that work, wealth and wisdom are all intertwined," Orso added. Using his work connections as a channel to philanthropy, he added, "God entrusted us with wealth so that we can redistribute to the community."

He and his family have provided

more than financial assistance; they also provide hands-on support to promote organizations in the community making a difference, such as SPCC, Building Traditions Society of Anne Arundel Medical Center, Bello Machre, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, Broadneck Area Youth Sports program, Sarah's House, the Lighthouse Shelter, Backpack Buddies, We Care and Friends, the Ella Foundation, as well as his family's Orso Family Foundation. In 2014, he authored a book entitled "The Unfiltered Truth About Listing and Selling Your Home." All proceeds from the book sales were donated to the Anne Arundel Medical Center Breast Center.

"When Severna Park functions at a high level, it functions like a family. I want my family to be a part of that," Orso said. "Real estate is just a vehicle for me to introduce more people to our community, to connect more people to our community, and to educate more people about our community."

"I'd like to think this honor from the Severna Park Community Center is in recognition of that. Not me and not my business," Orso said.

Guests who attend the Black Tie & Boots fundraising gala will be treated to farm-to-table dinner, live entertainment, open bars, and "western-themed surprises." Tickets may be purchased on the SPCC website (www.spcommunitycenter.org) or at the center's front desk.

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Arundel Federal, BKind To Collect For Those In Need

Now through May 31, Arundel Federal Savings Bank is teaming up with BKind, a Glen Burnie nonprofit that provides food, clothing, and hygiene products to the less fortunate in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Items needed include school supplies; infant, children's, men's, and women's gently used or new clothing; games for kids ("Go Fish," "Uno," Play-Doh, chalk, etc.); infant supplies; towels, washcloths and more. Collection boxes are in all Arundel Federal lobbies in Severna Park, Pasadena, Annapolis, Brooklyn and Glen Burnie.



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Supporting Ukraine From Severna Park

» Continued from page 1

The Russians are destroying houses, destroying churches, destroying hospitals. Two-hundred kids have been killed.”

Her estimate might not be wrong. According to data from juvenile prosecutors in Ukraine, 176 children had died in the invasion as of April 10.

Across Severna Park and Arnold, other people have become inspired to offer their help. Dr. Karina Spivak is collecting children’s clothing and plush toys at Spivak Orthodontics. She is working to find a refugee entry point in Poland or Slovakia where she can

send those items.

“I have a lot of cousins, aunts and uncles in Ukraine, and they are all displaced,” she said, explaining that relatives from her and her husband’s families have left Kyiv, Irpin and Busha to seek refuge in western Ukraine. “Most of them have grabbed just

“

They don’t want to leave Ukraine. They believe in our victory. My brother said they have just this country and they will fight to the last breath.

— TETYANA KHALANYCH



bare necessities when they fled their hometowns.”

The Foundation for Community Betterment, an Arnold-based nonprofit, is aiding a volunteer fire department in Wola Radziszowska, Poland. That fire department is helping refugees get settled by providing lodging and clothes. Former Betterment board member Julie Chamberlain met the fire department president Malgorzata “Gosia” Lubowicka in 2018 during Chamberlain’s trip to Auschwitz, when Miami University hired Lubowicka as its tour guide and translator.

Heather Symons has a brother living in Warsaw, Poland, with his family.

“They have been delivering needed food and other essentials to the Warsaw train station where thousands of refugees are staying on a daily basis,” Symons said.

To help him, Symons and her family have been fundraising in the U.S. — locally through the Jones Elementary School PTA and the “Annapolis Moms” Facebook group. Every cent goes directly to the Ukrainian refugees, she said.

The funds have been used to purchase thousands of pounds of fruit, hundreds of hygiene products and six strollers for an orphanage that took in more than 100 Ukrainian children. They also furnished a safe house used by women and child refugees.

At the national level, UNICEF, the American Red Cross and many other

organizations are helping Ukraine and accepting donations.

Khalanych said the support is keeping Ukrainians resilient. For the sake of her fellow Ukrainians, especially the civilians and children, she hopes the conflict ends soon.

“A family of four kids was brought to our city and they lost their mom in the bombing ... you can’t even describe the horror in the eyes of those kids,” Khalanych said.

“Right now, I would ask the community to help my dear Ukrainians. Please stay united for Ukraine.”

Ways To Help

St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring

Donate at www.standrewuoc.org

The Foundation for Community Betterment

Donate at www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTQ2ODI4

Spivak Orthodontics

Donate in person during office hours at 690 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park

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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

Ella Martin Shines At U.S. Air Force Academy

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Ella Martin — a 2021 graduate of Broadneck High School — has made quite the impression during her first year at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA).

Ella was named to the superintendent's list, along with other cadets who achieved at least a 3.0 GPA. These individuals are recognized by the dean of the faculty and wear a small silver star on their uniform.

Additionally, cadets who are recognized for achievement in military performance by the commandant of cadets wear a silver wreath. Cadets who are recognized for excellence in physical education by the director of athletics wear a silver lightning bolt. Cadets on all three lists are recognized by the superintendent and wear the star enclosed in the wreath between two small lightning bolts. Ella achieved this, making all three lists, in her first semester at the academy.

"Ella is tenacious and driven, which showed as she never quit working to independently earn an appointment to USAFA," said Amy Martin, Ella's mother. "She is sorely missed at home, but we are extremely proud of her accomplishments during her 'doolie' year. She has never settled in the classroom, pool or in military training."

Doolie year is a fourth-class cadet or better known as college freshman.

Before attending USAFA, Ella was a varsity letter winner for swimming at Broadneck High School and received academic honors as a student. She also swam at the Naval Academy Aquatic Club and was a contributing member to

the community in lifeguarding, swim coaching and giving swim lessons.

"Growing up and swimming helped me in a lot of ways," Ella said. "Being mentally tough is extremely important here because USAFA is a stressful environment, and a thousand things are going to make a person want to quit."

Ella said swimming also prepared her physically during basic and in-training sessions throughout the year because she needed to perform physical training at an altitude.

"I didn't know much about the Air Force Academy before I attended a swim camp there during the summer after my sophomore year of high school," Ella said. "Growing up near the Naval Academy, and as a military kid who lived in Colorado Springs when I was younger, gave me a lot of exposure to military life. Academies in general have been on my radar since I was young."

Military service is a big part of Ella's family. Her dad is a retired U.S. Marine, and she has other family members who were in the Army. For instance, her grandmother is a retired lieutenant colonel. Lastly, her mom was a lieutenant in the United States Navy.

"I picked USAFA because of all the opportunities it provides and for the ultimate opportunity to serve my country," Ella said.

She continues to set and work toward goals.

"After graduation, I am not entirely sure what I want to do, but being a pilot is definitely near the top of the list," Ella said.



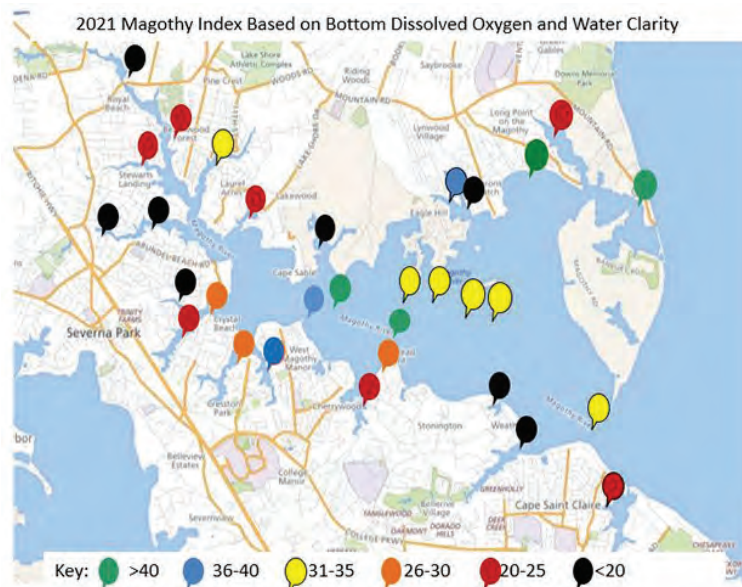
Ella Martin (right) is pictured with her roommate, Cadet 4th Class Flenik Sabino, and Ella's sponsor puppy, Oki.

Magothy River Health Showed Mixed Results Again In 2021

The Magothy River Association (MRA) held its annual State of the Magothy in March, sharing that the Magothy's health has declined.

The findings are based on MRA's annual Magothy River Index, first presented in 2003, which assesses water quality in the tidal river. The index is based on three criteria established by the Chesapeake Bay Program for ecosystem health, and is expressed as percent attainment of a desirable goal and as a letter grade where 0% to 20% is an F, 21% to 40% is a D and 41% to 60% is a C. The criteria are percent attainment of water clarity based on Secchi disk depth of at least 1 meter; dissolved oxygen of at least 5 milligram per liter in the deepest water at each station and achievement of the Chesapeake Bay program goal of 579 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

SAV requires water clarity for growth and provides dissolved oxygen as well as key food and habitat for fish and crabs while reducing the impact of wave action on the shore. Most fish, shellfish and aquatic invertebrates require at least 5 milligrams



per liter of dissolved oxygen in the water column for their growth and reproduction.

In addition to the SAV coverage, this year's index is based on data collected by volunteers from eight open water mainstem sites, two upstream mainstem sites and 20 creek or cove sites sampled from piers. MRA did not include the most upstream site of Cattail Creek in the final index since members do not sample in the headwaters of any of the other creeks. This year's index is 23.4, which is a D.

There was some good news: the river had a robust yellow perch span. But overall, MRA president Paul Spadaro sees room for improvement.

"The takeaway from this year's State [of the] Magothy is that we must do a better job of controlling the nutrients that wash into the river," Spadaro wrote in a statement. "One way of doing this would be to plant more trees in the watershed, which will help absorb these nutrients."

"And we must renew our efforts to control development. Communities that fight back win back. Working together we can and we will restore the Magothy for the generations to enjoy."

Earleigh Heights Invites Community To Open House

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is hosting an open house on Sunday, May 1, from noon to 3:00pm. The station's fire and rescue apparatus will be on display and there will be kids' activities and food. Company members will showcase specialized hydraulic rescue equipment used to rescue people trapped in car accidents and building collapses. Crews will use the powerful tools, known as the "jaws of life," on donated crashed cars. The tools, capable of slicing through a car's frame in seconds, will be demonstrated by cutting open the cars' doors and removing the roofs.

There will also be educational activities for kids to learn about home fire safety, and an opportunity to squirt a hose at a target.

"Over the last two years, the pandemic dramatically reduced our ability to engage with our community," said Dave Crawford, chief of Earleigh Heights VFC. "We're excited to be able to hold this event and share what we do with the people and communities who support us."

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is part of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department's combination of full-time and volunteer firefighters.

"It's a busy station and really serves our community," Crawford said.

Last year, fire crews responded to more than 3,000 fire and medical calls and the station's full-time paramedic crews responded more than 3,500 times.

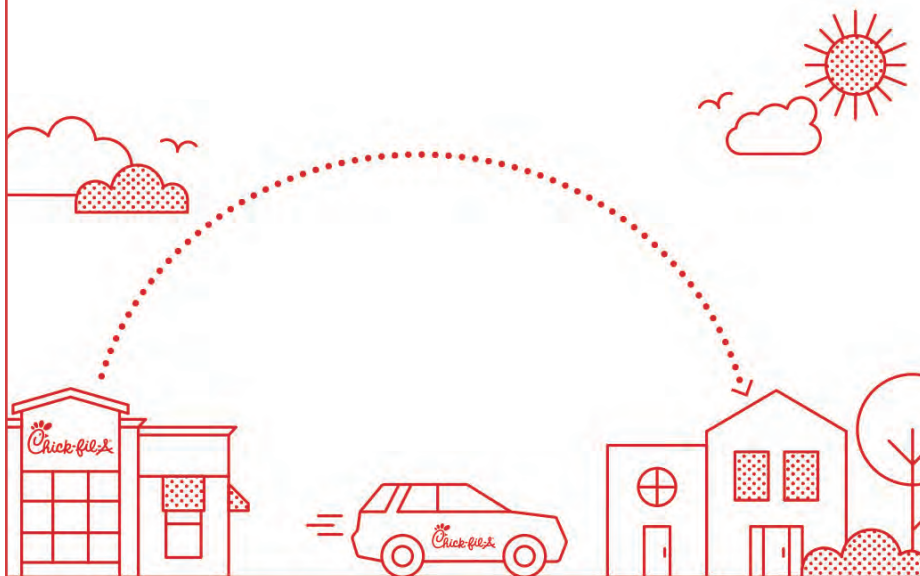
"Our equipment is on the road a lot, assisting the nearby public and supporting other stations throughout central Anne Arundel County," Crawford said. "We have some of the best apparatus in the county — and we're constantly upgrading. We expect to introduce our new heavy rescue squad at the open house. It's currently under construction in Colorado and scheduled to arrive that afternoon. We invite our community to visit the station and see our interesting tools of the trade up close on May 1."

The open house is an outdoor event and there is no rain date. For more information about the open house and the fire company, visit www.ehvfc.org.



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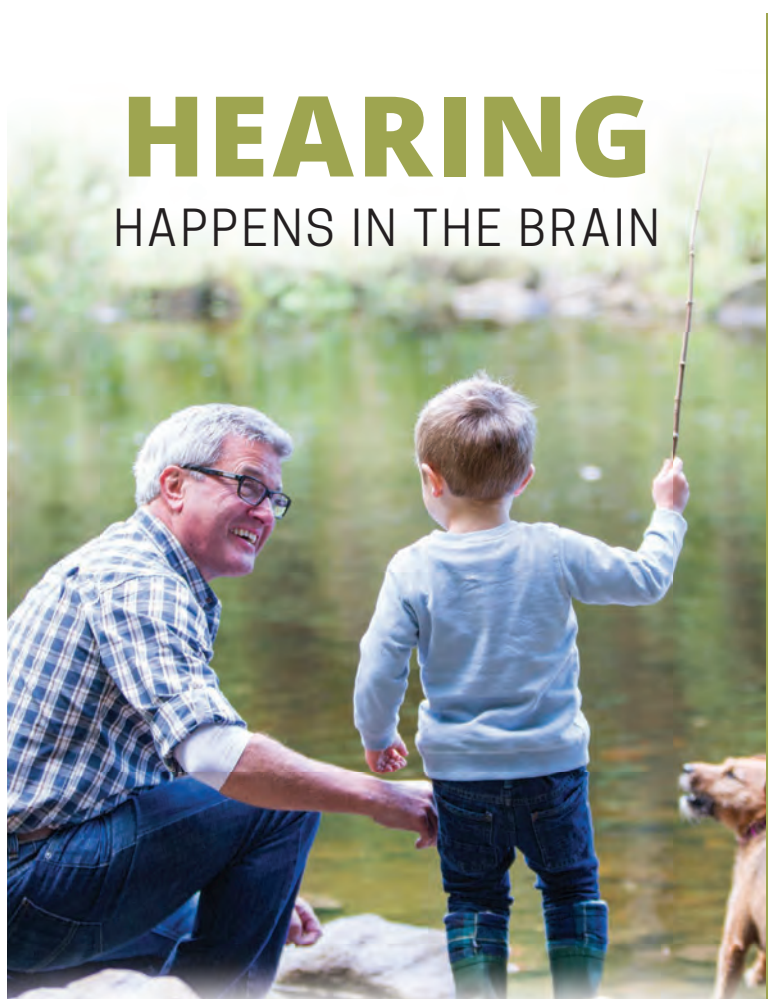
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A Guide To Public Water Access In 2022



Photos courtesy of Lisa Arrasmith

Left: The Koontz family enjoyed a brisk Sunday morning while fishing from one of Fort Smallwood Park's three new fishing platforms on April 10. **Right:** The Weinberg Park beach on Rock Creek is an excellent site for a "pocket change" kayak launch, according to the Public Water Access Committee.

Spring arrived in March, and although many days have been cold and rainy, warmer days are on the horizon. Anne Arundel County offers plenty of options for anyone who wants to enjoy the weather while on the water, from kayak launches to boat ramps.

Mayo Beach Park

4150 Honeysuckle Drive in Edgewater
Hours vary

Mayo Beach Park open days are free and available for canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing and paddleboarding. The park will open expanded hours, including weekdays, in 2022.

"It's wonderful that people who work weekends can now enjoy the county's best public swimming beach," said Department of Recreation and Parks advisory board member Mike Lofton.

The first public open day of the year is Monday, April 25. See the full schedule at www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/mayo-beach-park-public-open-days.

Spriggs Farm Park

965 Bayberry Drive in Arnold
Open from dawn to dusk (subject to change)

Windsurfers fly from Spriggs Farm Park on the lower Magothy. Spriggs also has a kayak launch, a beach for wading, waterfront picnic tables, birdwatching at a tidal pond, and trails through the woods. A kayak cart is useful for the steep hill down to the beach.

Spriggs is a gated park. Get the gate lock combination here: www.aacounty.org/locations-and-directions/spriggs-farm-park-on-the-magothy.

Spriggs Farm Park may undergo construction this summer, so check the website for updates.

Beachwood Park

8320 Beachwood Park Road in Pasadena
Open from dawn to dusk

Located on the upper Magothy River, Beachwood Park has a kayak launch, shore fishing, trails through the woods, and benches for daydreaming by the water. A kayak cart is handy for the hill down to the kayak beach.

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park

1543 Fairview Beach Road in Pasadena
Open from dawn to dusk

This wooded 235-acre park has a wading beach on Rock Creek, trails through the woods and shore fishing on a tidal pond. The outer gate and parking lot are open only on weekends. Park along the road outside the gate on weekdays and walk in.

Mark Bange, a kayak angler and author of the book

"Fly by the Seat of Your Kayak," said a small monetary investment in Weinberg Park could make a big difference for water access.

"I have launched from Weinberg Park in its present rustic condition," he said. "It was a tough, long trek through an overgrown path in the woods during my last visit and the launch site was strewn with bricks and other building debris. I have not returned.

"Its location is ideal. It offers even closer access to Rock Creek than the new launch at Fort Smallwood. I do not believe there is a need for a highly developed, costly launch site there similar to Solley Cove and Fort Smallwood. Clearing the path and providing a simple soft-landing launch with either sand or gravel would satisfy most kayakers."

Fort Smallwood Park

9500 Fort Smallwood Road in Pasadena
Open from 5:30am to dusk

The Department of Recreation and Parks opened a second kayak launch last summer near the restored historic concession stand. Located on the west side of Fort Smallwood, the new sheltered launch provides easy access to Rock Creek and White Pond, with the Weinberg Park beach only a short paddle away. The public beach and kayak launch on the east side of the park, closed in 2021 for an erosion control project, reopened in early April. Fort Smallwood also has a public boat ramp and 380-foot fishing pier.

"The benefit of the new kayak launch at Fort Smallwood is that it provides closer access for kayak anglers to reach both the White Rocks and Rock Creek," Bange said. "The new launch enters into a protected cove, which offers leeside relief from winds and resulting waves that can make the original kayak launch into the larger Patapsco River problematic.

"There is another benefit to the new launch. Kayakers can now head north in the Patapsco or northwest to Rock Creek without paddling past the shore anglers who frequent Fort Smallwood Park. Many of those anglers cast far from shore, making the possibility of kayakers tangling with their lines a real concern."

Bange said the waters that border Fort Smallwood Park are relatively shallow. "Even 150 yards from shore, the depth rarely exceeds 10 feet," he said. "Many kayakers troll paddletails on jigs or crankbaits for stripers near the park and do quite well, especially in the fall. Kayak anglers who prefer to cast lures and flies can target structure along shorelines near the park or the White Rocks themselves for white perch and stripers."

Downs Park

8311 John Downs Loop in Pasadena
Open from 7:00am to dusk

Downs Park, on the Chesapeake Bay and Bodkin Creek in Pasadena, has two kayak launches, a

wading beach, a dog beach and a 328-foot fishing pier, along with an osprey telescope, waterfront picnic pavilion and trails along the bay and Locust Cove.

The east kayak launch, right onto the open waters of the bay, is not far from the fishing pier. The sheltered west kayak launch is on Locust Cove off Bodkin Creek. Ask the Downs staff at the park entrance kiosk to open the west side gate for access.

Casual paddlers should start with the more sheltered Bodkin kayak launch. Even though both launches are a flat carry from the parking lot, a kayak cart is still good to have, especially after paddling. There is also a Canton Kayak Club docking station (kayak rack) by the Bodkin launch. CKC is a cooperative kayak club. Pay an affordable annual membership fee, get trained and then use kayaks at about 10 CKC locations from Pennsylvania to Annapolis to go kayaking anytime from May 1 to October 31.

Green Haven Wharf

7720 Outing Avenue in Pasadena
Open from dawn to dusk

Green Haven Wharf is the only public water access point on Stoney Creek. It's well-used and well-loved for shore fishing, launching kayaks and standup paddleboarding, nature watching, and docking big boats. A renovation of Green Haven will begin May 1 and is expected to be completed by August.

Valerie Fox, president of the Green Haven Improvement Association, urged the county to make the improvements, specifically railings for added safety.

"The wharf is in disrepair," she said. "It's not safe and it's not [Americans with Disabilities Act] compatible. The Green Haven Wharf is really all we have left in our community since the skating rink closed."

She had help from Delegate Nic Kipke, Councilman Nathan Volke and County Executive Stuart Pittman in getting the project funded.

"The kayak area had eroded away," Fox said. "Just by clearing the beach area and the shoreline, it will create better water access at the wharf."

Solley Cove Park

7360 Carbide Road in Curtis Bay
Open from dawn to dusk

This park boasts a free public boat ramp and a kayak launch that is especially popular with kayak anglers. Paddle up Marley Creek to discover a marina and Brewers Island, a private island with two houses accessible only by water. Boaters and kayakers going up Furnace Creek can stop at Duke's Tavern, The Beach Bar and Rams Head Dockside. Paddlers going to Curtis Bay will find the burned wreckage of wooden ships from World War I and a sunken tugboat outside the I-495 bridge. American Legion Post 277, an inholding in the park, welcomes the public to its waterfront tiki bar after a day on the water.



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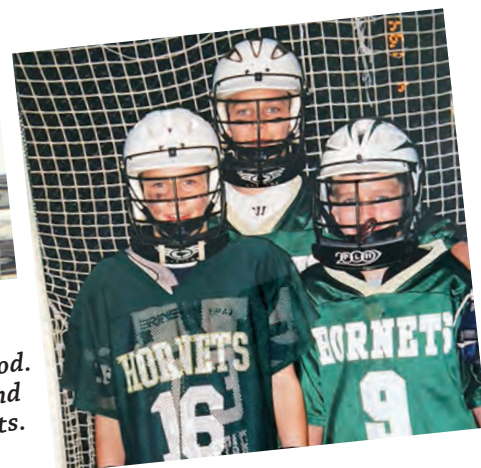
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National Siblings Day Brings Back Memories



Above Left: (L-R) Tara Gardner, Julie Gardner Seiferth and Kendyl Gardner Whiteley fondly recalled their childhood.
Right: (L-R) Chris Hunt, Ben Hunt and Connor Hunt played for Green Hornets.



Lauren Burke Meyer



With National Siblings Day taking place on April 10, I find myself reminiscing about my own cherished or funny memories with my older brother and older sister.

For one, playing football inside with my brother, Joe Burke. Freshly cleaned and folded socks were our football and our end zone was unintentionally our fish tank.

Another favorite? My sister, Kristen Burke, hitting her own parked car while driving my car. I was riding shotgun. With zero damage, we could laugh our heads off.

So, in the spirit of National Siblings Day, I asked some other Severna Park natives — who still live in the area — to share some of their favorite sibling memories.

Tara Gardner

Growing up in Round Bay, Tara Gardner is the oldest of three girls and her younger sisters are Julie Gardner Seiferth and Kendyl Gardner Whiteley. Tara shared that when playing lacrosse and field hockey at Severna Park High School with middle sister Julie, there was never a dull moment.

“For lacrosse, I played defense and Julie was offense,” Gardner said. “We’d mark up against each other in practice and give each other a hard time. I’d grab her jersey and make it difficult for her to get the ball. However, when it came time for a real game, we loved being on the same team. As I cleared the ball upfield, I’d always look for Julie in the midfield, and it was so rewarding to see her score a goal.”

Gardner later played lacrosse at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore and Seiferth played at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. They played against each other in college, but Gardner would always think back to their days on the high school field together.

“We kept each other motivated by staying in shape in the offseason and working on skills outside of practice, which added to our connection on the field,” Gardner said.

Ben Hunt

The oldest of three boys, Ben Hunt grew up in Arnold. His parents still live in the same house on one of the last streets within the Severna Park school district, or else the boys would have gone to the rival Broadneck High School.

“Our dad played lacrosse at Fairleigh Dickinson University, so naturally we all played lacrosse as well,” Ben said.

Ben shared that being the oldest brother came with its advantages and disadvantages, but he wouldn’t change his birth order if presented the opportunity.

“Advantage, I never played goalie in the backyard and my two younger brothers would have to take turns jumping in the cage,” he said. “Disadvantage, my younger brothers, Chris Hunt and Connor Hunt, could sit back, watch and learn from my mistakes.”

When asked for his favorite sibling memories, Ben enthusiastically replied: “Family bike rides up the B&A Trail into town; Severna Park Green Hornets practices and games at Cypress Creek and Kinder Park; fearlessly flipping off the best high diving board in Anne Arundel County, in our opinion, at Severn River Swim Club; Severna Park High School lacrosse state championships and boating raft ups on the Severn River.”

Meghan Latonick Bertram

Meghan Latonick Bertram is one of four and technically the third born of her family with two older brothers, Mike Latonick and Matt Latonick, as well as Katie Latonick, an identical twin sister born 17 minutes after her. She grew up in Shipley’s Choice and recently moved back.

When asked to share a funny memory from growing up in a home with four crazy athletes, Bertram said, “It has to be from one of mine and my sisters Severna Park travel softball games. I remember it was a tight game and an important one as there was a lot of pressure going into my twin sister Katie’s at-bat. On the second pitch, she ended up getting hit in the leg and had to step out for a minute.

“Ironically, since we were twins, I just threw on her jersey and finished the at-bat for our team. Luckily, I got a hit, but I’ll never forget the coaches calling me Katie as I rounded the bases!”

This National Siblings Day, take a moment to reach out to your siblings. They not only make the best of friends; they help make the best memories to tell again and again.

Around Our District

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



The early signs of spring bring feelings of renewal and new beginnings. The darker, less colorful days of winter are in the rearview mirror as the flowers bloom and the birds begin their summer songs.

There have been other signs of renewal, new beginnings and normalcy all around us, and for me, these things conjure up similar feelings of excitement for what is on the horizon, while not forgetting the road we have traveled, and those who have been with us along the way.

As your councilmember, I have three roles. To legislate, to be the final fiscal authority, and to provide responsive constituent services. I want to shine some light on the latter and what I have had the privilege to see in the past few months. These are the moments that are so full of what “community” means and why I chose to call this district home.

It wasn't that long ago that I was answering daily emails and phone calls from business owners who were struggling to survive the shutdown. Some made the difficult decision to close their doors forever. Others were able to pivot, and pivot dramatically, to stay in business. There were few ribbon cuttings to welcome new businesses or celebrate milestones. It was dark and dreary, much like winter.

In the last two months, I have seen activity behind retail spaces that sat vacant. The weeks are starting to fill again with new businesses and revamped businesses ready to cut the celebratory ribbon and kick off their hopeful future as a business in Anne Arundel County. This should serve as an incredible reminder of how much each local business makes up the colorful fabric of our community and our economy. It is truly an honor to be part of grand openings and ribbon cuttings, presenting a citation to each business owner, as they fulfill a personal dream.

I often share these moments as an example of how our local economy works and the role of the council as the final fiscal authority, with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who are working to earn a badge, one that requires an interview with a local elected leader. For the last two years, I have been welcomed into the living rooms, kitchens and dining rooms of scout groups all across our district, as we discussed local government in our assigned boxes on a virtual meeting screen. Having an opportunity to educate these young people about local government is truly incredible.

Children in our county were the passion of Anne Arundel school board member Candace Antwine, who served on the school board from December

2018 until her unexpected passing in July 2021. Candace gave so much of her time and attention to children and families in our school system, with a special focus on military families. As a mother and U.S. Navy veteran, Candace knew too well the needs and challenges military families often face. Her death was an incredible loss to her family, her community and our county. I applaud the school board members' desire to continue the spirit of Ms. Antwine's work through the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award. The funds raised through this initiative will help young service members as they start their “new beginning” serving our country.

Military, like other services, is a calling. In the past four years, I have had the opportunity to meet many veterans, active service members, teachers, pastors, detention officers, firefighters and police officers. Each person has their own story of their “call” to serve. Each of these service-focused professions have had incredibly challenging times in the past two years. It has been humbling to hear their perspectives and get to know some of these men and women who serve our county in critical ways.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with a group of our Eastern District police officers at the second Coffee With A Cop event in District 5. Coffee With A Cop (waffles have also been included) is a community outreach opportunity organized by our Police and Community Together (PACT) officers. Unlike the public Police-Community Relations Council (PCRC) meetings held monthly at the Eastern District Police Station, these coffee sessions bring our officers right to you for a casual conversation and opportunity to ask questions or share concerns. Getting to know the men and women who protect and serve our families and neighborhoods is an incredible opportunity and strengthens our community.

Service is a calling, and one that found me. Legislation is complex, and the details critical. Weighing competing needs in a budget, while being cognizant that each budget is built with your hard-earned dollar, is something I do not take lightly. Working on constituent matters with families, business owners, employees, scouts, military service members and public service members gives me a deep appreciation of the incredible framework that makes up the district that we call home. It is an honor to serve you.

The council will soon deliberate the Fiscal Year 2023 budget following the budget proposal presentation by the county executive on April 29. You can follow this and all other bills on the Anne Arundel County Council website at www.aacounty.org/departments/council.

For any questions, concerns, or to sign up for the District 5 newsletter, please email me at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

Taking Stock Of The 2022 Session

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33



It's hard to believe we are once again at the end of another legislative session, the final session of my first term. By the time of this publication, we'll have adjourned Sine Die and we'll know a few things — we'll know if Maryland has the will to finally end child marriage, if we are ready to at last repeal the spousal defense for sexual assault, and if we are going to make record investment in behavioral health services.

We'll know how much money we are bringing back to Anne Arundel County in capital projects, school construction and local nonprofits. For many of us, we'll know the fate of our bills currently in the hands of the Senate, which bills the governor will veto, and which he will sign. At the time of this writing, with just one week left in the session, these and so many other questions remain unresolved, so impactful is the final week of ses-

sion. As a theater maker by trade, this feels quite familiar because, often, a show or even an entire festival comes together not during the months of planning and rehearsal but in the final week of tech.

There's a lot we do know already. We know we've passed the largest investment in adult dental care for low-income Marylanders in our history, something which required years of work and will have a tremendous impact on the health, lives and livelihoods of so many. We know we've passed tax relief for seniors, working families, businesses, parents, veterans, and low-income Marylanders while leveraging state and federal dollars for widespread investment in infrastructure, education, cybersecurity and health care. We know we passed comprehensive policies to recruit, expand, retain and protect our health care workforce, as well as collective bargaining for more of our Maryland industries. We passed a comprehensive climate action policy, which will put us on track not only to be a leader in clean energy but also to provide serious buying power in sustainable infrastruc-

» Continued on page 20

The Parental Bill Of Rights

Rachel Muñoz
Delegate
District 33



As a proud graduate of Severna Park High School and a mother of soon-to-be five children here in Severna Park, I care deeply about the education of the next generation. Our children need to be prepared to compete in the new global marketplace. That's why I have been following closely the many pieces of legislation about education and parental rights.

Since the pandemic hit over two years ago, parents have had to be far more involved in their children's education. That's a good thing. Children receiving parental involvement tend to succeed. However, the at-home learning exposed what was being taught in the classroom. While many parents want their children to learn the basics, a political agenda was being forced upon students.

To get politics out of the classroom, both governor candidates Kelly Schultz and Dan Cox have presented the Parental Bill of

Rights as part of their platforms. In my own Judiciary Committee, Republicans were shocked that Cox's Parental Bill of Rights was the only bill all session that was voted out of committee with an unfavorable report despite the overwhelming support of parents.

Delegate Kathy Szeliga proposed a simple amendment on the House floor that would simply have required county school boards to post the family life and human sexuality curriculum for each grade on the school websites. This amendment was voted down along party lines.

I respect the hard work that our teachers do day in and day out to educate our children. We are so blessed to have some of the best education in the country here. I also respect parents' rights to be intimately involved in the education of their children. As we move forward, I strongly believe that there needs to be more transparency and cooperation between schools and parents, which will only benefit our children. Working together will ensure that our children receive the absolute best education possible and will make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Inflation: Who's To Blame?

Everywhere you turn, prices are going up. Our grocery bill, electric bill, and now, to add insult to injury, gas prices are also skyrocketing. It makes me wonder: who is to blame for all of this?

At first, if you remember, we were told it was due to the laws of supply and demand. We were told that because of the pandemic, goods could not be manufactured fast enough, and we were told there were not enough workers. All the country's ports were littered with loaded cargo ships due to a shortage in manpower. But even as COVID cases came down drastically and people went back to work, prices kept going up. The U.S. inflation raged on.

Still I ask, who is to blame for all of this? The president and the current administration told us that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is what sent the global oil market into a frenzy. Therefore, we, the American consumers, have to pay more at the pump. Joe Biden called it "Putin's

inflation." Most recently, the president and the progressives claimed that oil and gas companies are essentially engaging in price-gouging tactics at the detriment of the American people. They are now the new boogeymen.

Seriously, this inflation is at almost 8% now. This is higher than it's been in decades. I do not think for a minute that this is a "COVID inflation," a "supply and demand inflation," "Putin's inflation" or the "oil and gas companies' inflation." I believe this inflation is a direct result of poor policies, incompetence and lack of leadership directly from the president. Luckily, this is election season. I am urging you, my fellow Marylanders who are bearing the burden of this crushing inflation, to go out and vote this November and vote for change. If we sit this one out, we will have no one else to blame but ourselves.

LaToya Nkongolo
Severna Park

Taking Stock Of The 2022 Session

» Continued from page 19

ture. We passed a policy to expand and protect our national parks.

As we begin the process of writing our end-of-session letters, we'll have time to take stock of all we've accomplished this session and that which fell short.

I often say legislation is a last, not first, resort. I have a three-tiered strategy to problem solving: collaboration, regulation, legislation. In my theater world, a character breaks into song when mere words fail to express all they are feeling, all they need to convey. Good legislation is not dissimilar; it is the action necessary when all other efforts cannot adequately address the problem.

Why do I mention this? Because the bills we see, the laws we pass, are the culmination of years of effort, bridge building, stakeholder meetings, recommendations for solving a problem, or as I like to say, an opportunity, which finds no resolution in mere collaboration or regulation. It is exciting to see a bill pass into law, but it is just as exciting to find another way, so I wanted to share some of the "other ways" which I've found because they'll never make the headlines, but they are just as important.

I'm most proud of the work that you'll likely never see; the hundreds of ribbon cuttings and events where I joined businesses as they celebrated the birth of their dreams

or the fruit of their labors; the over 600 constituents who we helped navigate our unemployment system; the good faith work with our state agencies to establish better, more timely constituent communication from the State Highway Administration, or to put the institutional knowledge of policy experts from the Department of the Environment front-facing on their website as homeowners and community volunteers try to understand the complicated permitting process of shared shoreline and riparian rights. I'm also proud of our assistance in navigating the health care and insurance system, helping small businesses find grants and stabilization programs, our collaborations with our county and federal partners, meeting with students to talk about the legislative process, and meeting with community leaders to hear about their concerns and needs for their communities. This really is how the sausage is made.

These 90 days are just the public-facing culmination of a year-round effort to provide a better future for Marylanders. If you want to know more about any legislation, please email my office at heather.bagnall@house.state.md.us to request the end-of-session letter, but always remember that my door is open first and foremost to serve the needs of District 33 year-round.



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Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



In the wake of Candace Antwine's untimely passing in July 2021, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County quickly looked for a way to continue her legacy of service to our nation and community, and her caring for military dependents and the needy students in our schools, by creating the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award. Ms. Antwine was the first duly elected District 1 member of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County and fought tirelessly to expand opportunities and remove barriers. The Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award aims to do just that.

This award will be given each May to AACPS students who have committed to enlist in the U.S. military upon graduation. This award aims to remove financial barriers to enlisting by including a monetary award that can be used to help with costs that occur over



the course of basic training.

It is a common misconception that all costs are covered when enlisting to serve our country in the military. In fact, over the course of basic training, required supplies may cost hundreds of dollars. The cost for some supplies may be deducted from a new service member's paycheck while other supplies are required as part of a packing list that are brought to basic training. This is the only award of its kind in the region, and we are honored to be able to do this in Candace's memory.

It's past time we elevate those students who elect to enlist to serve our country in the U.S. military after graduation. This choice should be as normal as attending a two- or four-year college or attending trade school. The com-

mitment these students are making to serving our country is honorable, should be enabled, and must be celebrated.

Applicants for the inaugural Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award must intend on enlisting in the Air Force and Army after graduation. A review panel will evaluate all applicants, interview finalists and submit recommendations for awards to the board this month. All applicants will be celebrated during an awards reception in May.

If you would like to help us fund the Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Award to benefit our students this year and in future years, donations of any amount can be made by visiting www.antwine.givesmart.com or by texting "Antwine" to 76278.

As always, I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org or by phone at 443-534-2660.

Reform And Body-Worn Cameras

Jim Fredericks
Anne Arundel
County Sheriff



For the last three-plus years, I have worked diligently to bring the sheriff's office up to modern law enforcement agency standards in safety, efficiency and technology. The office has made great strides to protect citizens involved with our court system and the public in general through security enhancements and innovative community outreach programs, such as the Sheriff's Mobile App and Safe Surrender.

Police reform laws passed by the Maryland legislature in 2021 put a heavy administrative burden on the sheriff's office, which has to create new processes in order to properly comply with reform requirements. These requirements include new programs, policies and accountability measures, reporting to the future Police Accountability Board, annual physical testing of deputies, along with psychological testing of deputies every two years. A heavy lift for smaller agencies with little to no staff for such tasks. Despite lagging administrative support to properly fund sheriff initiatives, we are moving forward to provide a safer environment for all sheriff's office employees and improve our service to the citizens of this county, all while being frugal with your tax dollars.

The sheriff's office has made a significant effort to enhance technology for deputies for better safety and efficiency. This includes improvements with

smartphones, in-car laptop computers, mobile printing technology, improved computer-aided dispatch, and software improvements for criminal research and warrant tracking. But perhaps one of the best technology upgrades to protect citizens and deputies alike is a body-worn camera (BWC) program, which Maryland now requires all law enforcement agencies to have by 2025. Recently, the sheriff's office sought and received grant funding to implement our BWC program, which should be up and running by late summer of this year. My office secured state grant and county funding, and we received approval for new positions to bring a robust BWC program to the agency.

The sheriff's body-worn camera technology is the same as that utilized in the county police department, thus creating a greater common network of camera footage when working with our police partners. This technology will allow the sheriff's office to more readily respond to concerns over law enforcement interactions and provide a level of accountability the office has not had in its history. Fortunately, this program works to not only hold deputies accountable for their actions but also to support them when they act properly and within the law. Although the sheriff's body-worn camera initiative is just underway, we are already looking into even further advancements in technology, structure and policies that will keep the office moving forward.

For more information about the sheriff's office and our programs, download our mobile device app through Apple or Google Play by searching for "Anne Arundel Sheriff." Or you can go online to www.aacounty.org/sheriff.

Peter Franchot
Maryland
Comptroller



During my 15 years as comptroller, I've always made it a priority to help Maryland taxpayers in any way I can.

As part of our agency's efforts to lessen the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, I decided for the third year in a row to extend the due date for state individual income and quarterly estimated taxes to July 15. Even as a "post-pandemic normal" has emerged, many of our friends and neighbors have yet to fully recover. Some may have left their jobs to care for children and drained their savings. Others were forced to change careers and are still trying to get back on even footing.

Whatever the reason, providing taxpayers three more months to file their returns can be enormously helpful and comes at virtually no cost to the state.

Taxpayers are also reaping the benefit of a 30-day state gas tax holiday, which runs through April 16. Although I was disappointed that the General Assembly and Governor Larry Hogan didn't heed my call for a 90-day suspension, I was pleased that legislators worked with our agency to adopt several critical amendments. This, combined with my team's efforts to keep roughly 2,300 gas station owners and industry organizations apprised of how the tax holiday would work, has ensured smooth implementation and across-the-board compliance that has, at least temporarily, eased the pain at the pump.

In total, the 30-day holiday will return \$100 million to Marylanders' wallets and has provided immediate economic relief for motorists without penalizing small business owners who are the beating heart of our

A Helping Hand For Marylanders

state's economy.

We can offer this type of reprieve in Maryland because of our unprecedented financial position. The Maryland Board of Revenue Estimates, which I chair, has adjusted the state's revenue forecasts by \$7.5 billion during the past 18 months.

Knowing the state has the means to help, I renewed my call for a second round of economic stimulus to benefit low-wage earners, small businesses, and child care providers who continue to feel the fiscal squeeze.

This would include a \$2,000 emergency survival check for our low-wage earners and Earned Income Tax Credit recipients. These funds are especially important as global supply chain issues and inflation have significantly impacted cost-of-living expenses and basic necessities like food, rent and transportation.

It would provide \$500 million in aid for our small businesses, particularly our minority-owned and women-owned businesses that were hardest hit by the pandemic and disproportionately left behind by pandemic assistance programs designed to help everyone equitably.

Additionally, \$500 million should go to support our child care providers — hundreds of which shuttered for good due to the pandemic — at a time when the cost of affordable, reliable child care continues to be out of reach for thousands of Maryland families.

As Maryland's chief financial officer, I know we have the means to provide this kind of help and still have enough money to bolster the state's Rainy Day Fund. The latest Board of Revenue Estimates report reinforces that notion.

We must remember that this is not politicians' money. This is the people's money. And those of us entrusted in public office should invest this surplus for the taxpayers who pay our salaries.

Peter Franchot is the 33rd comptroller of Maryland.

Easter Worship Services

Churches are preparing for Easter with a host of worship services and activities. For those who celebrate, here is a list of Holy Week services around town.

Anchor Baptist Church

320 West Pasadena Road, Millersville
Easter Sunday: 10:00am
Info: 410-647-9614

Broadneck Evangelical Presbyterian Church

235 Bay Dale Drive, Arnold
Good Friday: 6:30pm
Easter Sunday: 9:30am
Info: 410-626-8122

Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church

461 College Parkway, Arnold
Good Friday: 7:00pm
Easter: 6:15am Ecumenical sunrise service (Cape St. Claire), 9:00am, 11:00am
Info: 410-544-3799

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

400 Benfield Road, Severna Park
Good Friday: 7:30pm
Easter Sunday: 6:15am sunrise service, 8:30am traditional service, 10:00am family service (30 minutes), 11:00am traditional service
Info: 410-647-1658

Severna Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church

110 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena
Good Friday: 7:00pm
Easter Sunday: 6:30am and 9:30am
Info: 410-544-5013

Severna Park Baptist Church

506 Benfield Road, Severna Park
Good Friday: 7:00pm
Easter Sunday: 9:00am and 10:45am
Info: 410-647-0765

Severna Park United Methodist Church

731 Benfield Road, Severna Park
Easter Sunday: 6:30am sunrise service, 8:00am early service, 9:00am contemporary service, 10:30am festival service
Info: 410-987-4700

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

375 Benfield Road, Severna Park
Good Friday: Noon and 7:00pm
Holy Saturday: 10:00am and 7:00pm
Easter Sunday: 6:00am, 8:00am and 10:30pm
Info: 410-647-6248

St. John the Evangelist

689 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
Good Friday: 3:00pm liturgy with communion
Holy Saturday: 8:00pm Easter vigil
Easter Sunday: 6:30am, 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm
Info: 410-647-2283

Trinity Bible Church

99 Truck House Road, Severna Park
Good Friday: 7:00pm
Easter Sunday: 7:30am sunrise service, 11:00am
Info: 410-647-4561

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park
Good Friday: 7:30pm Tenebrae service
Easter Sunday: 6:30am, 9:30am, 11:00am
Info: 410-647-2550

Easter Means Hope

Pastor Stephen Mitchell



The other day, I headed into the grocery store and ran into one of my favorite workers who I used to have regular conversations with. He was stocking food when we recognized each other, and it was like a mini reunion. It had been quite a while since we talked, and you could say a few things have been going on in the world since we last

had a deep chat. Let's see, we've had a pandemic, an economic crisis, a mental health crisis, racial tensions and protests, a highly polarizing presidential election, record-breaking inflation, and now the outbreak of war in Ukraine that has put the west on edge of the worst confrontation with Russia in decades.

We talked about how crazy the last two years have been, how it has been like a trip through "Jumanji," and you worry about what is coming next. We speculated on different solutions for all the world's problems. Yet, what stuck in my mind the most from this conversation was the sense of helplessness and hopelessness that can easily take over the lens through which we view this life and the world around us. But then I got to share with my friend at the grocery store that there is an answer to all our problems. There is peace, joy, hope and help that can be found, and it is found in one event, one weekend, in one word: Easter.

For most of us, Easter is barely a blip in our calen-

dar; it is usually a time to get together with family, get dressed up, go out to eat, and, just maybe, go to church. But if we truly grasp the meaning and the message of what Easter is about, it should change everything. It should change how we view what really matters in life, it should change our perspective on how we face death and the loss of loved ones, it should change how we view evil and suffering, it should change how we view ourselves, how we view God and how we view this thing we call history.

Easter means that there is a God, a God for whom and with whom we were made to have relationship with, without which we are empty inside and incomplete. Easter means that the light of life triumphs over the shadow of death. It means good defeats evil, God beats Satan. As the late Billy Graham used to say, "I've read the last page of the Bible, and everything is going to be alright." Long before "Star Wars," Easter means that there is hope, not just a new hope, but a living one. Does this hope live in you today?

We struggle to find solutions to the many problems we face. The world is a mess, we are a mess, and we have a habit of making messes. The Bible says that the real problem in our society, the real problem in us is something called sin. As one commercial said, "we love stuff," and it's true, we do. We just often love the wrong stuff.

We do not love our maker. From the dawn of time, we have chosen the Frank Sinatra mantra and tried to do it our way. We told God we did not need or want him, and we built a wall bigger than the Great Wall of China or the one that used to stand in Berlin. Sin separates us from our creator because while he is loving, he is also holy and just. How could the movie we call history have gone?

God could have washed his hands and with us, he could have given the world over to death, hell and

destruction with no alternative. But he didn't. Before time began, He arranged a rescue plan. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Easter means that God cares about us. God loves you today regardless of whether you will ever love him back or accept him.

Easter means that our hearts can be full of peace, love, joy and hope. It means that we don't have to do things the same way we did before. We don't have to just survive; we can thrive. It means that we can have hope for tomorrow, not because we know what tomorrow holds but because we can know who holds tomorrow.

You may have heard about him. You may even believe certain things about him, but do you really know him? Hope has a name, and his name is Jesus, the Christ. There is a reason that Jesus of Nazareth remains the most controversial, influential, recognizable figure of all time. If Jesus was a silly bedtime story to help us all feel good about the cold realities of life, why did the proclaimers of the message of Easter willingly die for declaring that Jesus was alive? Something happened on Easter morning over 2,000 years ago that changed cowards into martyrs and that something that happened can change your life, if you would be willing to believe and receive.

Easter is not about getting religious; it is about having a life-changing relationship with a living God. Easter leads all of us to ask ourselves one question: Where do you get your hope?

"Because he lives, I can face tomorrow." - Matt Maher

Stephen Mitchell is the senior pastor of Trinity Bible Church. He also is the host of a weekly podcast, "Real Christian Talk with Pastor Steve," available on all major podcast platforms.



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Hot Streak Continues As Bruins Baseball Team Starts 7-0



Photos courtesy of Dennis McGinley

Above Left: Broadneck belted two doubles in the seventh inning to cap a comeback win over Chesapeake on April 8. **Above Center:** Jack Holmes started on the mound for the Bruins in the matchup against the Cougars. **Above Right:** Anthony Cirrincione made a diving catch in right field to keep the Bruins in the game.

Broadneck Gets Wins Over Severna Park, Chesapeake



By **Conor Doherty**

Through six innings, the Chesapeake baseball team held Broadneck scoreless on April 8, but that deficit was erased quickly. **Anthony Cirrincione** drove in one

run with a double. **Calvin Cook** then hit a two-run walk-off double to cap the Broadneck rally, giving the Bruins a 3-2 win. Cirrincione also made an outstanding diving catch in right field. That win pushed Broadneck to 7-0 on the season.

The win over Chesapeake came weeks after Broadneck beat Severna Park, which was in the 4A state championship game last season. The dominating 12-0 win over the Falcons

on March 30 ended in the fifth inning due to the mercy rule.

Broadneck took the lead early in that game with one run in the first inning before blowing the game open in the second. The Bruins scored 10 runs in the inning, punctuated by Cirrincione's grand slam. From there, Bruins starting pitcher **Sean Murphy** baffled Falcon hitters. Murphy was excellent, giving up just four hits and one walk in five innings of work while tossing just

68 pitches.

"It's a good way to start the year early on," said Bruins head coach **Matt Skrenchuk**. "Each game, we're building a bit more confidence. Despite this, we still need to improve every day, especially our at-bats. We took a lot of fastballs today."

Bruins starting second baseman **Josh Ehrlich**, who drove in four runs and scored in the second inning, said » **Continued on page 35**

SPHS Softball Rides Big Third Inning To Beat Broadneck, 9-2



Photo by Christopher Fincham Photography
Falcons pitcher Christina Ballagh hurled an 84-pitch complete game win against the rival Bruins.

By **Conor Doherty**

Relying on timely hitting and a strong pitching performance, the Severna Park Falcons strung together a five-run third inning to take the lead and eventually beat the visiting Broadneck Bruins 9-2 on March 30.

The Lady Bruins got things started with a bang as just three batters into the first inning, **Sam Waters** hit a two-run home run to dead center field. The Falcons responded with a run in the bottom of the second when **Addison Bianco** scored on a passed ball by the Bruins catcher.

In the bottom of the third, the Falcons broke the game open as they batted around, getting five runs on five hits in the inning. On the mound, Falcons pitcher **Christina Ballagh** hurled an 84-pitch complete game win. Once Ballagh got out of the first inning, she allowed just one more hit the rest of the game, a double to **Addie Cornelius** in the top of the seventh inning.

Ballagh was backed up by solid defense from the Falcons, who turned two double plays on the day, including a highlight play by senior third baseman **Livi Driver**, who dove to catch a line drive and then tagged out Cornelius, who had come off the bag, to end the game.

"We put a couple players in dif- » **Continued on page 35**

Lady Bruins Score Early And Often, Beating Crofton 17-2



Photo by Conor Doherty
Broadneck's Olivia Orso scored two goals versus Crofton.

By **Conor Doherty**

The Lady Bruins last lost a home lacrosse game on April 25, 2019, giving them a 1,071-day home winning streak. It would have been a cruel April Fool's joke for that streak to end against Crofton, and so the Bruins made sure that didn't happen, beating the Cardinals 17-2 on April 1.

Broadneck started off strong, as senior **Lilly Kelley** scored just 25 seconds in the game. Junior **Julia Sokolowski** followed Kelley's lead, scoring 29 seconds after that. Less than one minute in, the Bruins were up 2-0.

The Bruins went into halftime leading 11-0 as Crofton was often unable to stop the Bruins' shifting and pick-setting offense. Nine Bruins scored on the night, with Lilly Kelley scoring four goals to lead the team while sophomore attacker **Olivia Orso**, **Sienna Miller**, junior midfielder **Mary Moore** and sophomore midfielder **Lily Trout** each scored two goals.

With the game in hand in the second half, freshmen and other backups like Miller were able to get valuable playing time.

"We try to set some goals within » **Continued on page 35**

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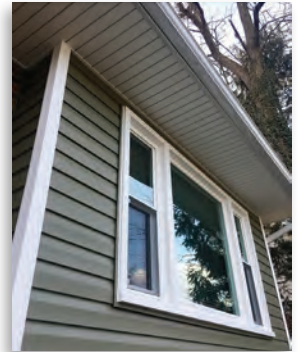
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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Michael Wiley

Severna Park Ice Hockey

By Conor Doherty

“I would like to think I lead through example, whether it be off-ice, focusing on our next game, or on the ice, giving it my all.”

— MICHAEL WILEY, SPHS HOCKEY

Looking back at the season the Severna Park Falcons ice hockey team had, Michael Wiley couldn't have felt more honored to have been chosen by his coach as the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month.

“With knowing how many great players there are on the team, I am truly flattered to have my coach recommend me,” Wiley said.

A senior, Wiley was used at multiple positions for a Falcons ice hockey team that made it to the state semifinals, where they were defeated by Winston Churchill, finishing with a 9-0-2 record.

“He has been a starting center for a couple years,” Falcons head coach Eric St. Lawrence explained. “Although listed as a forward when coming into Severna Park hockey, we used him as a defenseman his



Photo courtesy of Christopher Fincham Photography

Michael Wiley was used primarily as a defenseman during his freshman and sophomore years, but he was Severna Park's starting center the last two years.

freshman and sophomore years. We were lacking on the blue line, and he is a very strong skater with good size, a high level of physicality and great stick skills.”

Beyond Wiley's versatility to play different positions, St. Lawrence also pointed to Wiley's intangibles as a key piece to the Falcons' success.

“Mike's hockey sense, abilities and competitive level also had him being utilized for power plays and penalty kills,” St. Lawrence said. “His efforts during the regular season when we were undefeated in conference play had him as the second-highest player in scoring totals at 15 points (five goals and 10 assists) with a 1.35 average points per game. On top of that, he played in all 11 conference games, two conference playoff games and three state playoff games without serving a single penalty minute.”

Despite being one of the team leaders this season, Wiley was not one to lead through his words but rather with his actions.

“I wouldn't consider myself very talkative with the team,” he said. “But I would like to think I lead through example, whether it be off-ice, focusing on our next game, or on the ice, giving it my all.” Looking ahead, Wiley plans on playing for University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). “I do wish the team luck and to beat Winston Churchill in states next year,” he said.

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

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Falcon Boys Lax Begins Quest For Sixth Straight State Title

“We are excited to be 6-0 at this point in the season. We have been working on the little things necessary to be successful and are getting better every day.” — **DAVE EARL, SPHS BOYS LACROSSE HEAD COACH**



Photos by Christopher Fincham Photography
Severna Park's season started with a 16-1 win over Glenelg on March 22. The Falcons continued to win, reaching 6-0 by mid-April.



By Conor Doherty

The Falcons' quest to continue their dynasty has gotten off to a roaring start, as they started 6-0 after beating Southern on the road 19-6 on April 8. So far, the team's closest game was an 11-7 win over Springside Chestnut Hill Academy, of Pennsylvania, on April 6.

Head coach **Dave Earl** has returned to coach the team after a season away, during which time assistant coach **Travis Loving** took over and led the team to their fifth state championship. Earl is glad to see the team doing so well and not having to deal with any issues from the change in coaching.

“We are excited to be 6-0 at this point in the season,” he said. “We have been working on the little things necessary to be successful and are getting better every day.”

The Falcons' offense has been rolling thus far, scoring 97 goals in those six games, with five of the games having double-digit margins of victory. They have been led by senior attackers **Joaquin Villgomez** and **Nolan Zborai**, with 23 and 21 goals respectively. **Mark Durling**, **Jack Fish** and **Camden Webb** have won over 65 percent of all faceoffs for the Falcons while junior goalie **Ashby Shepherd** has 34 saves.

As the season progresses, Earl's only expectation for his players is that they “give 100 percent at every practice, game, in the classroom and in the community.”

Broadneck Boys Lacrosse Dominates Crofton, 19-2



Photos by Conor Doherty

Above: Broadneck's Tyler Hicks wound up to shoot, scoring the first of his four goals on the day. **Below:** Nick White passed the ball forward after advancing it from the defensive side of the field.



By Conor Doherty

Facing off against a Crofton Cardinals team that is in its first year of varsity lacrosse and traveling to Broadneck for the first time, the Bruin boys didn't hold back, winning 19-2 on April 1.

The Bruins jumped out of the gate, scoring exactly one minute into the first quarter. From there, the floodgates opened as the Bruins led 11-0 after 12 minutes of play.

In the first quarter alone, sophomore attacker **Tyler Hicks** scored a hat trick and senior midfielder **Kyle Pierce** added two of his own goals as eight Bruins players scored.

“The level we're playing at, I think, is really high and we're only going to go up from here,” Hicks said after the game.

The Bruins then slowed down the game, scoring three times in the second quarter to lead 14-0 at halftime. The second half saw more of the Bruins' backups on the field getting valuable playing time. Junior attacker **Jackson Shaw** scored two of his goals in the second half, also giving him

a hat trick for the game after scoring in the first quarter, while Hicks scored his fourth goal late in the third quarter.

Hicks said that his four-goal performance was due to his teammates pushing him. “They do a lot for me; they keep me accountable, working on and off the field,” he said. “It's all on my teammates.”

Sophomore **Graham Hartman** was excellent on faceoffs, winning 16 out of the 18 that he took.

“It's huge as the second half was our focus today where we just wanted to keep our foot on the gas,” said Bruins head coach **Jeff McGuire** with regard to putting his backups in the game. “I was really impressed with how we pushed transitions — that was something we had been working on as well. So getting everybody a little bit of love really keeps all these guys tight and just staying disciplined and doing our stuff, not just going for goals.”

With the win, the Bruins moved to 4-0 on the season. Since then, they moved to 5-0 after a close home game versus Kent Island, 10-9, on April 5.

Pickleball's Popularity Propelled By The Pandemic

Severna Park Residents Enjoy Fastest-Growing Sport In America

By Kevin Murnane

The pandemic made area residents stay inside, work from home, and not go to the gym. But for two Severna Park residents, **Jake Baxter** and **Brian Nichols**, the "cabin fever" of the pandemic was overwhelming.

"We used to play a lot of tennis before the pandemic and Jake went down to Florida to visit his parents and tried pickleball," Nichols said. "Jake came back and taught me the game, and we loved it and began getting other friends involved. We started with six people and now the league has snowballed to 60."

Pickleball is a combination of tennis and Ping-Pong. The game is played on smaller courts and is easy to learn. The game's history originated in 1965 in Washington, where a family on vacation needed some activity to keep everyone entertained. They used Ping-Pong paddles and a plastic ball and a makeshift badminton net. The name pickleball comes from the pickle boat races where leftover rowers from the



Jake Baxter and Brian Nichols started a pickleball league with six people and now have 60 participants.

crew race for fun.

That creative family game has become a sport that has its tournaments on ESPN, has a national following and has 50,00 people in the USA Pickleball Association.

"It's a great game and it only takes about an hour and a half to play and is very inexpensive," Nichols said.

Baxter said, "Most of us are from

Severna Park and played high school sports. This is a way we have reconnected with old friendships and rekindled that competitive flame."

Some of those old high school rivalries have been re-established as many players are former athletes from Severna Park, Spalding, Severn and St. Mary's.

They have had three tournaments so far and each tournament has grown in

participants. The league has grown by word of mouth and social media platforms.

"We have even converted some golfers to pickleball because it's less time-consuming and a much better workout," Nichols said.

They play all doubles, with games going to 11 points, and they are best-of-five matches.

"We're competitive but not cutthroat," Nichols said. "All you need is a paddle and pickleballs and you can get those at sporting goods stores or Amazon."

There are many pickleball courts in the area including Cypress Creek, Lake Waterford and Elvaton and private courts in Chartwell, Shipley's Choice and Glen Oban.

Pickleball has become one of the positive and healthy stories out of the pandemic and has served as a reunion-like community activity for those who want to renew old friendships and make new friends in the Severna Park community.

For more information, email Jake Baxter at jakelbaxter@gmail.com or follow the Instagram account [@kympl_aa.co](https://www.instagram.com/kympl_aa.co).

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Severn School Alum Is Helping Draw Navy's Path To Success



In one year at USC, Maddie McDaniel was named First Team All-Pac-12 after scoring 19 goals and serving as the team's draw specialist. McDaniel is now an assistant coach for the Naval Academy women's lacrosse team.

By Conor Doherty

Just down the road from where she once dominated as a member of Severn lacrosse, class of 2016 graduate **Maddie McDaniel** is the newest member of the Navy women's lacrosse team, hired in January as a volunteer assistant coach.

"Around December, I was interested in getting back into lacrosse, whether through coaching or broadcasting," McDaniel explained. "Then **Cindy Timchal** (Navy's head coach) reached out to me and it was the perfect scenario and I just couldn't say no."

Hiring McDaniel made sense due to

her success playing lacrosse at both the high school and college levels.

At Severn, McDaniel was a two-time All-American, *USA Today* All-USA third team selection, three-time All-County selection and had many more honors. In her last two years at Severn, she scored 110 goals and won 288 draws, which are the women's lacrosse version of the faceoff.

From there, McDaniel took her talents to James Madison University (JMU) where she was a two-time team captain, scored 95 goals, won 187 draws and won the 2018 national championship. McDaniel then attended the University of South-

"I've always wanted, in the back of my mind, to at least try it out, being a coach. I've been able to give a lot of my time to the team, but I'm also able to do my other work, and it's been great to try and find that balance but then also explore whether I want to do coaching full-time."

— **MADDIE MCDANIEL**

ern California (USC) where in her one year playing there, she was named First Team All-Pac-12 after scoring 19 goals and served as the team's draw specialist, winning 149 draws, leaving her ranked fifth in USC history for career draws.

Given her expertise with the draw, it makes sense that McDaniel primarily works with the players on how to win and control a draw.

"Not everyone takes the draw or really understands the dynamics and what you need to work on to get better at it," she said. "As the past few months have gone on, developing relationships with these girls has made me realize how badly they want it and how badly they want to work hard to be successful. That has motivated me to be able to tell them what to do because I want to win; they want to win."

Beyond that, McDaniel feels that her

time playing for two successful schools in JMU and USC, along with her relationships with her fellow Navy coaches, have made her a better coach.

And when she isn't on the field coaching, McDaniel works in marketing for the Dr. Susan Love Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, helping to promote and bring attention to studies and research. She started as a marketing intern when she was attending USC for her master's degree.

"I always wanted to do something that I was good at, and also able to make some sort of difference," she stated. "Obviously, I'm not doing the research, but I'm promoting it and helping others find out about it. I saw this as such a cool opportunity to work with a foundation like that and it's been really nice to feel like I'm making a difference and trying to help other people learn about breast cancer."

For now, McDaniel is OK with balancing her time between coaching and working for the foundation. Coaching for Navy has given her a chance to try something new.

"I've always wanted, in the back of my mind, to at least try it out, being a coach," McDaniel stated. "I've been able to give a lot of my time to the team, but I'm also able to do my other work, and it's been great to try and find that balance but then also explore whether I want to do coaching full-time. It's been really great learning from coach Cindy and all the other coaches, and going forward, I'm going to remember a lot that she has taught me."

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Jackson Merrill Plans To “Keep Grinding” Through Padres Minor League System

By John Conniff

PEORIA, Ariz. — The San Diego Padres selected Severna Park High School shortstop **Jackson Merrill** last year, making him the first Marylander to be picked in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft since 2002. Merrill, whose draft stock improved substantially during his senior year, decided to forgo his scholarship to the University of Kentucky to start his professional career.

Like most prep players taken in the first round, Merrill compiled high school numbers that resembled something more from a PlayStation console than an actual playing field. He hit .500 in his senior year with 12 home runs and 37 RBI as he led Severna Park to the state championship game before losing 5-4 to Sherwood.

After being drafted by the Padres, Merrill signed relatively quickly and went into the furnace-like conditions of the Arizona Complex League in Phoenix, where he hit .280/.339/.383 over two months and 120 plate appearances.

For Merrill, just focusing on playing baseball after dealing with college recruiters and pro scouts was a relief.

“Obviously, not having classes and dealing with any school work is really helpful,” said Merrill on some of the changes in his life. “Just focusing on only baseball has made things much simpler.”

“The best thing was the family that I made with the guys on my team,” Merrill said about his first year. “Coming in, I had no idea how things would be; they were all really good guys.”

Through his first 20 games as a professional, Merrill hit .338, but he faded late in the summer and a minor hip injury finally ended his season.

“The hardest thing for me was my mental game. Coming from where I did in high school, I didn’t fail a lot, but it was different and even humbled me.”

Merrill believes he will be better prepared for struggles this year.

“Don’t expect failure, but don’t be surprised by it,” he said. “Get up the next day and keep grinding.”

Mark Conner, who headed amateur scouting at the time and now is the Padres’ minor league field coordinator, discussed the decision to take Merrill.

“Our guys did some work early in the preseason when he was practicing to get around him,” Conner said after the draft. “From game one, we started flooding the looks, and most of our staff got a chance to get in there even though it was a short year.”

The one thing that did become apparent to the Padres quickly after signing him is that Merrill really likes baseball.

“He has a good head on his shoulders, and when you talk to him, you can see how much he loves the game and learning about the game,” said **Eric Junge**, who is managing the Low-A Lake Elsinore Storm, Merrill’s team for the start of the 2022 season. “I’m a former pitcher, and he enjoys telling me about the base running aspects, infield defense, and it’s already been an exciting give and take.”

Merrill, who seems to think that hours in the day were created to get better at the game, has fully embraced his new life and spent nearly all of the

Photo courtesy of Jerry Espinoza

Jackson Merrill spent nearly all of the offseason at the Padres’ complex in Peoria, Arizona.

offseason at the Padres’ complex in Peoria. Because he is not on a 40-player roster, his offseason work was not impacted by the lockout.

“I loved it out here, nice and warm. I could get my ground balls in, and the weight room is perfect; I could do anything there.”

“It was much more baseball-type training than when I lifted myself, like a bodybuilder. Here they have me doing more explosive exercises that I can feel when I am out in the field.”

After entering his freshman year of high school at around 5-foot-5, he is now 6-foot-3 and about 200 pounds. The main focus of the left-handed hitter will be improving upon his ability to hit professional baseball velocity, something he struggled with last season.

San Diego has played him only at shortstop, and most people in the organization believe that he has the lateral quickness to stay in the infield and hit for more power than he showed last season.

“That type of velocity I didn’t see a lot of in high school, but I worked on that this offseason, and I’m not going to miss those pitches this year,” Merrill said.

What also attracted the Padres to Merrill and his physical attributes is what they have seen on the field.

“We are all legitimately excited by the tools that he brings to the ta-



ble, but he also has those leadership qualities in his ability to communicate on the field that coaches like to see,” Junge said.

Even as Merrill moves away from Maryland, there’s one thing he won’t change, thinking of eating crabs from anywhere other than the Chesapeake. “No, not even close.”

John Conniff is the publisher of Mad-Friars, an independent media outlet that covers the Padres’ minor league system.

A Dream Come True: Former BHS Pitcher Now Hurls For Hartford University

By Kevin Murnane

Former Broadneck Bruins pitcher **Nick Gatton** had an outstanding senior season in 2019, accumulating a 5-0 record with a 1.30 earned run average (ERA) with four shutouts.

Gatton was named Anne Arundel County Baseball Player of the Year in 2019 while recording over 27 scoreless innings.

After that sensational senior season, Gatton received a scholarship to Stevenson University but opted to attend Chesapeake Community College in Wye Mills.

The pandemic interfered with his true freshman year, but Gatton had a noteworthy redshirt year by posting a 4-1 record in nine starts with three complete games in 2021.

With many scouts visiting the Wye Mills campus last year, Gatton received the attention of Hartford’s University regional recruiter, Trey Stover. The Hawks offered Gatton a



scholarship from the Connecticut school, which plays in the America East conference.

“It’s a dream come true to play Division I baseball,” Gatton said. “I was speechless when they offered a scholarship and enabled me to play at the highest level of collegiate baseball.”

Hartford has changed Gat-

ton’s pitching style to a three-quarters delivery that takes advantage of his 6-foot-5-inch frame. The new style also gives Gatton more deception and movement of his pitches.

“Nick is a tireless worker,” said Hartford’s coach, **Steve Malinoski**. “He’s been a great addition to the pitching staff, is a super-competitive kid and fields his position very well.”

Gatton is currently being used as a relief pitcher, and with his new delivery, he has pitched against high-level college competition.

Hartford has created a formative schedule this spring to include powerhouses like Clemson, University of Connecticut, and Bryant. The Hawks also play a rigorous schedule in the America East conference, which includes Univer-

sity of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Gatton appreciates all the support of his Anne Arundel County supporters, which include teammates from Broadneck and his other youth teams throughout the county. His dad, Chuck, travels to as many games as possible and was his coach for many of his teams growing up.

“It means a lot to see my dad at the games, and I appreciate all of the sacrifices my family has made for my baseball career,” Gatton said.

Gatton has two years of eligibility left and he hopes to garner attention from professional scouts. He is also a criminal justice major with a 3.43 grade point average and has made the dean’s list.

Hartford has had many noteworthy baseball players come through its program including Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell and first-round pick Sean Newcomb. Gatton will continue to chase his dreams and hopefully gain attention from professional scouts.

Photo courtesy of Steve McLaughlin



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Lady Bruins Score Early And Often

» Continued from page 26

the game to try and keep our players in line in terms of being disciplined," said Bruins head coach **Katy Kelley**. "We love assisting on goals, so keeping it to goals where they were working together, working on draw control, things like that to keep them engaged and working toward getting better. It's nice to see Kaitlyn, our backup goalie, go out and make some saves and some freshmen attackers scoring and assisting, because you have to build for what's next. I think it's important for them to have that time on the field, just for them to stay engaged and to stay confident and understand how important they are on the field. I think, cohesively, if we can get everyone out there, it's definitely a better night."

With the win, the Lady Bruins improved to 4-0, and then 5-0 with a win over Annapolis on April 8. Their next game came against Kent Island on April 11, after the *Severna Park Voice* went to print.



Photo by Conor Doherty

Lilly Kelley, who scored the opening goal in the win over Crofton, advanced the ball upfield.

SPHS Softball Beats Broadneck



Photo by Christopher Fincham Photography
Severna Park head coach Meredith McAlister congratulated third baseman Livi Driver during the team's 9-2 win over Broadneck.

"That's what happened to us against South River: we were up 5-2, we let them come back and we lost 8-5," she explained. "So it was nice today to go down, come back and continue

to put it away, keep the pressure on."

For Bruins head coach **Beth Mackel**, it was a disappointing loss. "We made a lot of mental errors," she said. "We just got in our own heads and we just couldn't get a batter out in the third. But going forward, our team had good enthusiasm, they never gave up and continued to have good at-bats. We just have to work harder."

With the win, the Falcons improved to 2-1 on the season. They followed it with a 12-11 loss to Arundel before beating Old Mill 9-7 and Meade 14-1 to get to 4-2.

The Bruins fell to 2-2 with the loss to Severna Park.

» Continued from page 26

ferent spots, and I think it paid off. They made some really big plays," said Falcons head coach **Meredith McAlister**. "Offensively, we used our speed and we really hit the ball hard in key situations. We were really working on the bases. Speed is a factor some people forget about, so I think it was necessary to take extra bases."

While this was a great win for the Falcons, McAlister said that going forward, her team needs to "keep throwing the hammer," essentially making sure that they keep pressure on their opponents and don't let them come back.

Bruins Hot Streak Continues

» Continued from page 26

that this kind of performance is huge for the team. But like coach Skrenchuk, he felt that both he and the team can keep improving.

"We have a month and a half left of baseball so we're just going to keep working every day in practice and hopefully it's going to be a fun year and end with winning that state championship," he said.

For the Falcons, there weren't many highlights as they had only four hits, committed two errors on defense and

issued seven walks to Bruins hitters. "Free bases killed us," said Falcons head coach **Eric Milton**. "We have to throw strikes, make the routine plays and we didn't do that today. We gave them 10 free baserunners and they're going to score."

The Bruins kept winning after that game. As for the Falcons, they have since beaten Arundel 3-2, lost to Mount Saint Joseph 11-8 and won 5-3 vs Old Mill to take them to 4-2 on the season before games against Meade and Southern.

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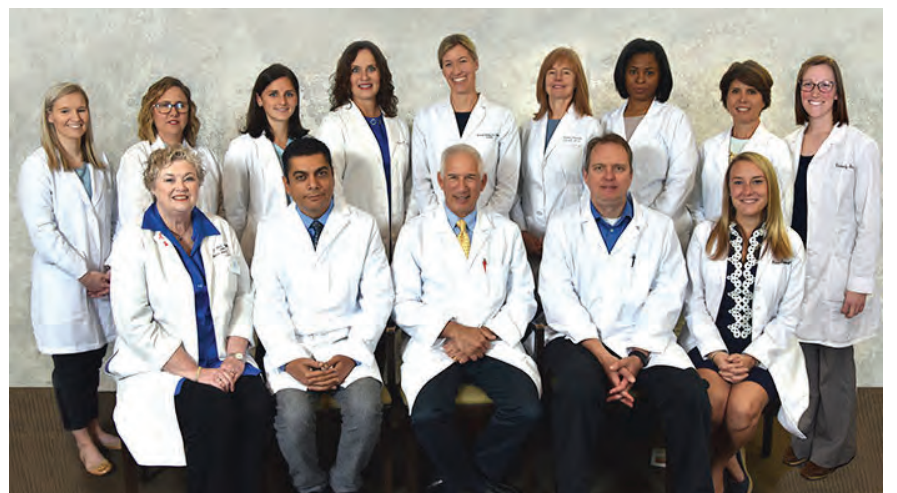
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Students Earn Prestigious STEM Awards



(L-R) Lily McCallister, Charles Larson and Emily Ernst took home the most awards during the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Science and Engineering Expo.

By Judy Tacyn

Annapolis High School hosted the 2022 science and engineering awards and recognitions ceremony on March 8, showcasing nearly 90 outstanding student scientists and engineers recognized for their research in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Science and Engineering Expo in February.

Winners were chosen after a stringent review process by 150 judges from professional and community organizations. The *Severna Park Voice* caught up with three students, including grand award winner Emily Ernst from Broadneck High School, Lily McCallister from Severna Park High School and Charles Larson from Magothy River Middle School.

Emily Ernst

Broadneck High School

Title: **"The Power of Tides: The Relationship Between Tides and Enterococci"**

- First Place, High School: Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Anne Arundel County Regional Science and Engineering Expo Grand Prize Award Winner
- American Meteorological Society Certificate of Outstanding Achievement
- Josef Wonsever STEM Award
- Society for In Vitro Biology Certificate of Outstanding Achievement
- Stockholm Junior Water Prize

"I have grown up in an area where water contamination is a constant concern," said Emily, a junior. "I wanted to better understand the factors that influence when it's safe to swim

in coastal waters. I hope to continue this line of research in college. The study focused on water conditions at a coastal inlet in South Florida (Jupiter Inlet in Palm Beach County) where my grandmother lived and where I vacationed as a child."

Emily hypothesized that enterococci contamination at coastal inlets will be greatest during periods of outgoing and low tides, and lowest during periods of incoming and high tides. And, during incoming tides, enterococci contamination at coastal inlets will decrease over time until reaching its lowest levels at high tide, and at outgoing tides, the enterococci contamination will increase over time, reaching its highest levels at low tide. Both hypotheses assumed incoming ocean water is less contaminated by runoff than water coming from inland sources.

The study found strong support for her first hypothesis, and partial support for hypothesis two.

"In the future, it would be interesting to study if the findings were replicable in other coastal areas, such as the Chesapeake Bay," Emily said. "Additional research is needed to explore the dynamics of enterococci contamination at the end of tidal phases."

As a grand award winner, Emily received an invitation to attend the 2022 International Science and Engineering Fair from May 7–13 in Atlanta.

"I like the idea of exploring the unknown, especially questions related to the environment that have human health impacts," she added. "For me, science is just about asking why and seeing where the answers lead. It is a journey."

» Continued on page 44

Uniquely Abled Students Gain Experience In Local Businesses

Photos by Kami Barth
Natalie Recor gains experience and she loves meeting new people at Park Books.

By Sharon Mager

Eighteen-year-old Severna Park resident Natalie Recor, a junior at Severna Park High School (SPHS), has a variety of interests — horseback riding, unified bocce ball, swimming and spending time cuddling with her French bulldog, Cooper. Her favorite SPHS class is Walking Wellness, but the best part is getting to volunteer outside of the classroom at Park Books in Severna Park, where she spends an hour and a half each week restocking and light cleaning.

Natalie is in SPHS's Enclave program for students with disabilities. A transition specialist works with students ages 14 and older to assist them as they begin moving into adulthood, supporting Enclave training and em-

ployment in the community.

"The Enclave program involves students who follow our alternative curriculum pathway," said Bob Mosier, chief communications officer for Anne Arundel County Public Schools. "It en-

» Continued on page 43



Three Local Dancers Earn All-State Honors



Josie Dike



Danil England



Faith Kiger

Danil England and Faith Kiger of Broadneck High School, along with Josie Dike of Severna Park High School, were presented with awards at an all-county dance gala in March.

These three young women were among 11 from Anne Arundel County, and 25 statewide, to earn this designation. Though a live competition had been scheduled, COVID concerns this winter forced the contest to a virtual format. The dancers submitted a show-

case video to be evaluated by a panel of judges. Criteria for the designation of all-state included technique, musicality, professionalism, performance, attitude and likelihood of future success in dance. Additionally, the dancers must have had a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher, exhibit leadership at their schools and have a record of service to their local dance program.

Photos are courtesy of Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

St. John Delights Audiences With “101 Dalmatians”



Photos by Zach Sparks

Alexa LaChapelle starred as Cruella De Vil in the St. John production of “101 Dalmatians KIDS” from April 1-3. The cast featured more than 50 students.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Who let the dogs out? St. John the Evangelist Middle School did, entertaining audiences during the weekend of April 1-3 with its production of Disney’s “101 Dalmatians KIDS.”

The show featured stellar acting, charming characters and beloved musical numbers including “Kanine Krunchies,” “Cruella De Vil” and, of course, “Who Let The Dogs Out.” The enthusiasm from the cast was infectious.

“I always enjoy being able to go onstage with my friends and it was a lot of fun, especially for our families,”

said Rowan Layman, who played the soft-spoken yet confident Roger.

Sharing that thought was Morgan Anderson, who played Perdita, one of the puppies’ parents.

“I always look forward to the middle school show,” Morgan said. “With ‘101 Dalmatians,’ there were a lot of really good roles ... we all put a lot of hard work into the show.”

Morgan was also thrilled to perform with her best friend since first grade, Alexa LaChapelle, who starred as Cruella De Vil. Alexa previously performed in “Seussical the Musical” with Theater in the Park. With St. John, she has acted in “Go Fish” and a Christmas

production. This year’s show at St. John presented a different challenge.

“I’m always the good character, so this is different; kids boo me sometimes,” she said with a laugh, referring to her time spent in character. “It’s also fun because I get to be out of my comfort zone. Cruella is very different from my personality.”

Although smaller in stature, the younger performers — many of them dressed as puppies that foiled the plot of Cruella and her bumbling henchmen — were just as big a presence in the show.

“It was good to be back onstage,” said second-grader Mary Grace Lenares. “We have waited such a long time.”



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Educator Of The Month

Kate Lepovsky



Folger McKinsey Fifth-Grade Teacher Was An AACPS Teacher Of The Year Honoree

By Jane Seiss

Kate Lepovsky knew she wanted to be a teacher since high school.

"I really liked and enjoyed working with children," said the Folger McKinsey Elementary School 2022 Teacher of the Year. "Looking back, I always loved my elementary school. All the teachers made me smile. It was so fun and engaging. They made me happy and made me want to learn."

Having a positive experience and good role models convinced Lepovsky that she would like to do the same as a teacher. She grew up in Bowie, where she went to Rockledge Elementary School. After graduating from high school, she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Salisbury University.

This is her 12th year at Folger McKinsey. She has taught third, fourth, and fifth grades at the school — staying with fifth for the last few years. Previously, Lepovsky taught at elementary schools in Prince George's County and Carey, North Carolina.

Lepovsky enjoys fifth grade because her students have emerged from third and fourth grades as independent learners who still need academic, social and emotional help.

"The kids are so bright. It is fun to work with a classroom of diverse thinkers," she said.

Lepovsky finds the fifth-grade curriculum content interesting. She teaches math, science, and social studies on a four-teacher fifth-grade team. Lepovsky said that students

“The Folger community is amazing. We get such support from the parents, and the students are hardworking and fun — they're the best!”

— KATE LEPOVSKY

grow over the year and are ready for middle school when they reach elementary school graduation.

When it comes to fostering an effective classroom environment, Lepovsky admitted that academics are important, but she added that building relationships with students throughout the year is critical.

"Get to know them and how they learn, their likes and dislikes," she said.

Lepovsky works to build trust and establish a supportive environment so that students feel confident to learn and even think outside of the box. She is a proponent of cooperative learning and encourages her students to work together by engaging with and listening to one another, necessary life skills students will rely on as they continue through school and enter the work world.

"This is my first year getting to know Mrs. Lepovsky, and I have really enjoyed working with her," said Folger McKinsey Principal Jason Otte.

"She is a dynamic teacher who uses relationships as a foundation for good instruction. Not only does she utilize engaging instructional strategies to grow her own students; she also holds many leadership roles in the building, such as the intermediate lead, grade level team lead, leader of the math and STEM committee for our school improvement team, and she holds a critical role on the principal's leadership team."

Lepovsky credited Folger's administration for facilitating her success.

"They shaped a path for me to learn and grow as a teacher," she said.

"I have learned the most from my peers," she added, citing her colleagues as influential in her development as a teacher. "The Folger community is amazing. We get such support from the parents, and the students are hardworking and fun — they're the best!"

Lepovsky acknowledged that being apart from her students during the pandemic was difficult. "To have them back means the world," she said.

Kate Lepovsky will be honored at the AACPS Teacher of the Year event in April.

"I am grateful for all that Ms. Lepovsky does for our school, community and students," Otte said.



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Q.

Question of the month

Belvedere Elementary School



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

What are you looking forward to about spring break and why?

I am looking forward to seeing my horse every day because if the bay gets a little warmer, my family and I might be able to take him out for a swim for the first time ever.
Alex G.

I am looking forward to hanging out with my new stepmom and playing games, going shopping and enjoying spring break in general.
Ben C.

I am super excited about spring break because my parents have set up a mystery trip. My mom has given me clues,

and I think it is Florida!
Cora G.

What I'm most looking forward to about spring break is spending time with my family and friends.
Connor M.

I am looking forward to spending time with my family, my friends and my dog! I am looking forward to that because I love spending time with family and friends and doing fun things.
Dia S.

I'm excited for spring break because I finally get a long break from school, and the weather should be nice, so I can read good books outside and go on bike rides with my friends.
Ella C.

I am excited for spring break because I am going to dye my hair. It is also

around my mom's birthday. Last, we are going camping with a bunch of friends.
Ellen C.

I am looking forward to going to my aunt's house, when we will go to SeaWorld.
Izabelle N.

I am looking forward to staying up and having more freedom from school. Although I will still have practice, I will get to play with friends.
Jade H.

I am looking forward to catching up on lost sleep because I'm a teacher's son and I have to wake up very early.
Joey K.

For spring break, I'm excited about my dad's birthday because my aunt, uncle and cousins are coming over.
Kai D.

I am looking forward to spring break because I get to see my dad.
Logan B.

The thing I am looking forward to during spring break is no school so I get to sleep in and not have to wake up super early and go to bed super early, and I can do whatever I want for a week.
Madison M.

I am looking forward to spending more time with my family and friends because that's what makes me happy.
Mallory W.

I am looking forward to my 15 sports games because I get to hit dingers in baseball, block shots in goal, and splash 3-pointers.
Micah G.

I am looking forward to spring break because I get to see all my family

and friends, and also, it's my brother's birthday.

Mya S.

What I am looking forward to about spring break is going to Virginia and hanging out with my family because I like to travel.

Nessa J.

For this year's spring break, I am greatly looking forward to going to Universal Studios. I have been told it is an amazing amusement park.

Owen W.

I am looking forward to riding four-wheelers with my cousins. We have a lot of fun. They have a big piece of land where we ride around their house!

Raelyn S.

I'm excited about no school and the warmer weather because you can do more things compared to when you do have school. I also love the warm weather because you can do more activities than when it's cold.

Rez Z.

I am excited for a lot of sleepovers. We are going to play tackle football and wrestle on the trampoline.

Sam B.

This spring break, I am looking forward to not traveling! Now, that might sound weird, but it's nice to just stay home and chill around. There are plenty of cool things to do here, especially with my friends and family close by.

Stella E.

I am looking forward to spring break because my mom is looking forward to graduating with her master's degree. Also because we are booking a trip to D.C.!

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Eagle Scout Leads Bike Rack Project In Cape Arthur

By Conor Doherty

The Cape Arthur community swimming pool had a problem, one that the community wanted to find a way to mitigate. Kenny Coleman, a member of Troop 993, operating out of Severna Park United Methodist Church, felt that he could help.

According to Kenny's father, Steve, an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 993, "Kenny wanted to make an impact in the community anyway he could and this project allowed him to do that."

"We had this epidemic of bikes being stolen around here, which was a big problem," Kenny explained. "So [community members] wanted a bike rack; we've had them before. They felt it would be a really productive thing to get done and stop the bikes from being stolen. And we chose the spot outside the pool because the lifeguard can also look over the bikes."

Once Kenny chose the project idea and location, the next step was to secure funds to buy materials. Some scouts will try and get the support of a local business to provide funds or materials, while others, like Kenny, hold fundraising events.

As part of the project, red bricks would outline a patio that the bike rack would sit on top of. To raise funds, Kenny found a website that engraved bricks, so he sold the bricks to members of the community who then had personalized messages put into the brick.

"That kind of raised everything for the project," he stated. "The rack, the rest of the bricks, a lot of the supplies that we



Photos by Conor Doherty

In March, Kenny Coleman (above) completed his Eagle Scout project with the assistance of the scouts and scoutmasters from Troop 993. Coleman's Eagle Scout project consisted of a bike rack, brick patio underneath and a parking sign.

needed. We were able to raise enough money to cover the entire project."

Getting through the entire Eagle Scout process was a long journey for Kenny, made even longer by the pandemic. In fact, the brick outline for the patio has a cornerstone that says "2021" engraved in it as he had originally hoped to finish the project last summer.

"Our troop wasn't doing as many Eagle Scout projects, and it was hard to get people to come out because the troop wasn't having any meetings, so I couldn't get the word out there," he said. "On top of that was the typical Eagle Scout project litigation, getting signatures and

approvals, so the pandemic just made those aspects more drawn out than they already usually are."

Now that Kenny has finished his project, the final steps are to have a scoutmaster conference where his history in scouting is discussed, followed by the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. However, the biggest step has been completed and, for Kenny, it signaled the end of his scouting journey and the fulfillment of everything he had learned along that journey.

"It's enormous because ever since I was a Cub Scout in the second grade, this has always been a goal of mine," Kenny said.

"It didn't always feel attainable. Even as a new scout before I had reached any ranks, I was like, 'There is no way I'm ever going to do an Eagle Scout project, get all of these merit badges.' It just kind of seemed too far out there. But what I learned is that patience is probably your best friend with this whole process."

"On top of that, what I wanted to do was lead by example, but it's more leading by delegation, and throughout my project and being a part of other Eagle Scout projects, you learn that there are a lot of different forms of leadership and it's really important to know which form to apply and at which point."

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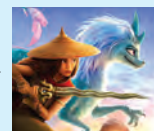
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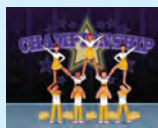


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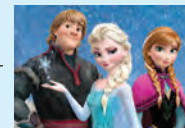


Week 2 June 27 - July 1
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Students Gain Experience

» Continued from page 36

ables them to get out of the classroom and into a workplace environment.”

He said the program benefits students in the classroom and beyond, and it helps prepare them for the workplace they will enter as adults.

“It’s a ‘win-win’ really,” said Kami Barth, Natalie’s mother. “Volunteering at Park Books has been a positive experience for Natalie.

“She gains experience and she loves meeting new people. It really helps her self-esteem. Natalie wants to be helpful and do something — she wants to work.”

Park Books owner Melody Wukitch said three high school students volunteer in the store, and a senior at The Harbour School in Annapolis has a paid position as part of a job training transition.

Wukitch, a former kindergarten through grade 12 reading specialist, praised the program and said it has been positive for her and her store. She has the enthusiastic desire to encourage and help the students. Families appreciate that she’s a teacher, she said.

“They know they’ll get some additional instruction and support. It’s in our nature,” she said with a smile.

Park Books additionally supports the community through LitCoLab, a learning lab with certified teachers and others who help those who struggle with literacy. They also help with math, touch typing and more for neurotypical individuals and for those with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other uniquely abled individuals.

A job coach accompanies the volunteer students. Sometimes, an occupational therapist will be at the store to work with Natalie on her fine motor skills and provide tasks that meet her needs.

Natalie especially enjoys shelving and straightening items, particularly the “warmies” — stuffed animals that can be heated in the microwave for comfort and warmth. Her favorite stuffed animal? “A hippo,” she quickly responded.

Asked what she would like to do for a permanent job, Natalie answered, “work in a hospital.” Kami laughed and said her daughter enjoys watching “The Good Doctor” and “Chicago Med.”

“She likes to help people,” Kami said.

Martin Gorman, the owner of Ledo Pizza in Severna Park, has contacted the school’s program coordinator and is looking forward to welcoming students to his restaurant.

“I have a son with special needs,” Gorman said. “Even though he is not old enough to work yet, I fully understand the importance of being able to provide a job, a purpose and create normalcy for these kids.”

Gorman said students could help with counter duties, assist in simple prep work and put together orders.

He’s excited about the possibilities of helping students and says it creates goodwill in the community. In fact, Gorman reached out to the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce to encourage other local businesses to open their doors to uniquely abled individuals and this school program.

Severna Park Middle Students Build Oyster Cages To Benefit The Bay



Photos by Zach Sparks

More than 50 students at Severna Park Middle School used their early dismissal time with the Oyster Recovery Partnership on March 30 to build oyster cages as a service project for National Junior Honor Society. Another 50 students participated on April 7. The cages are meant to give oysters more exposure to oxygen and plankton so they grow faster. An oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.

Area Middle Schoolers Win At County History Day

Local middle school and high school students competed in the regional History Day competition. Congratulations to the following students from Severna Park schools who won special awards or placed first or second in their categories and will represent their schools at the state History Day contest April 30.

St. Martin’s-In-The-Field Episcopal School

Jonah Kadlec – First Place

Documentary Individual and Special Award: Project Best Representing a State History
“*Debate and Diplomacy: Chesapeake Bay Bridge*”

Sarina Muto – Second Place

Individual Exhibit
“*Animal Testing, Necessary Evil?*”

Kirsten Seidler – Second Place

Individual Performance
“*Nina Braunwald: The First Woman Cardiac Surgeon*”

Severna Park Middle School

John Blank – Special Award
Project Best Representing Global Connections
“*The Tanker War*”

Ciara Cronin – First Place

Group Website
“*The Voting Rights Act of 1965*”

Breanna Foreman – First Place

Historical Paper,
“*The Annexation of Hawaii: An Exercise in Debate and Diplomacy*”

Brooklyn LaBrier – Special Award

Project Best Representing Service
“*Photojournalism and The Vietnam War*”

Samantha Lavallee – Second Place

Individual Documentary
“*The Cypriot Conflict*”

Isabelle Maly – First Place

Individual Website
“*Electric Cars*”

Marlee Woolsey – First Place

Group Website
“*The Voting Rights Act of 1965*”



Severna Park Middle School eighth-graders won big at the county History Day contest. They will represent their school at the state History Day contest.

Students Earn Prestigious STEM Awards

» Continued from page 36

Lily McCallister

Severna Park High School

Title: **"Clearing the Air"**

- Second Place, High School: Environmental Engineering
- High School Viewer's Choice Award
- American Meteorological Society Certificate of Outstanding Achievement
- Clean Air Partners: Air Quality and Climate Change Award
- Society of Women Engineers Outstanding Engineer Award

A freshman at Severna Park High School, Lily has been excelling in STEM activities since elementary school. Her latest project, "Clearing the Air," tested air purifier filter styles to determine which one trapped more airborne particulate matter.

Lily said she came up with the idea to test different air purifiers due to the COVID pandemic when people were purchasing air purifiers to help stop the spread of the virus. The COVID pandemic got her curious whether a homemade purifier could perform better than a store-bought air purifier.

"If a homemade air purifier has four HEPA filters sucking air from four sides, it will filter air at a faster rate compared to the expensive store-bought Honeywell 300," Lily reasoned. "The homemade air purifier will compete better at collecting more air particles because it has greater surface area."

After her experiment, results proved that the homemade purifier covers more surface area because it drew air in from all four sides, while the Honeywell took in air only from the front.

"The homemade air purifier is more effective than the Honeywell air purifier in filtering," she explained. "The homemade air purifier cleaned at a faster rate, significantly reduced the airborne particles levels, and is more cost effective. It is only effective at filtering out particulate matter, not the virus."

Charles Larson

Magothy River Middle School

Title: **"Tracking Lost Library Books"**

- First Place, Middle School: Systems Software
- Broadcom MASTERS Outstanding Middle School Project Award
- INCOSE – The Chesapeake Chapter Young Systems Engineer Prize
- Lemelson Early Inventor Prize
- AFCEA First Place Middle School Award

"I built a GPS tracker using a Raspberry Pi and attached it to my book with an elastic headband," said Charles, a sixth-grader at Magothy River Middle School. "The Raspberry Pi is a computer the size of a credit card. I coded it so that it would talk to the GPS tracker and an IoT [internet of things] dashboard. The IoT dashboard recorded the location of the book within about 150 feet. The device was attached to the book with a headband, so you won't lose your book, or your page!"

Other Science And Engineering Expo Winners

Broadneck High School

Maddison Carew

Title: **"Plants: Death and Regrowth"**

- Second Place, High School, Plant Sciences

Fiona Clarke

Title: **"Quantum Mechanics at Home"**

- Honorable Mention, High School, Physics and Astronomy

Jeremy Elliott

Title: **"Quantum Mechanics at Home"**

- Honorable Mention, High School, Physics and Astronomy

Peter Kandra

Title: **"Tree Distribution by Soil Type in a Bornean Rainforest"**

- Honorable Mention, High School, Earth and Environmental Sciences NASA Earth System Science Award

Ashley Ireland

Title: **"How Does Decreasing pH Levels in Saltwater Impact Oyster Shells?"**

- Third Place, High School, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Kendall Miller

Title: **"How Does Population Affect the Water Quality of the Chesapeake Bay?"**

- Honorable Mention, High School, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Society of Women Engineers Outstanding Engineer Award

Kara Pollock

Title: **"How Does Decreasing pH Levels in Saltwater Impact Oyster Shells?"**

- Third Place, High School, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Zachary Robinson

Title: **"You're Killing Your Computer"**

- First Place, High School, Systems Software, AFCEA Second Place High School Award

Laney Smith

Title: **"Tree Distribution by Soil Type in a Bornean Rainforest"**

- Honorable Mention, High School, Earth and Environmental Sciences, NASA Earth System Science Award

Cailin Snider

Title: **"Erosion Experiment"**

- First Place, High School, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Association for Women Geoscientists Award

Severn River Middle School

Muhammad Omer Mastoi

Title: **"How Does Temperature Affect Magnetism?"**

- First Place, Middle School, Materials Science

Sam Sheesley

Title: **"Composting Material: What Breaks Down Organic Matter the Fastest?"**

- Honorable Mention, Middle School, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Trevor Shey

Title: **"How Much Weight Can Your Boat Support?"**

- Honorable Mention, Middle School, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Olivia Takash

Title: **"Race of the Liquids"**

- First Place, Middle School, Chemistry

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Fox 45 Meteorologist Visits St. Martin's Students



Photos by Lauren Cowin

Right: Fox 45 Chief Meteorologist Jonathan Myers demonstrated to St. Martin's preschool and kindergarten students how to make a tornado in a bottle. **Left:** Third-grade students Watson Klenner and Lucia Padussis helped with an experiment while classmates looked on and offered advice.

By Lauren Cowin

St. Martin's In-the-Field Episcopal School students had a special visitor in March — Fox 45 chief meteorologist and Severna Park resident Jonathan Myers.

The preschool and kindergartners, along with third and sixth grades, learned about the rigorous math and science education required to study weather, the truth behind the weather maps you see on TV (hint: they're green screens with nothing on them in

real life!) and participated in weather-related experiments such as making a tornado and clouds in a bottle.

"Probably the most surprising part [about what I do] is that I don't see what I'm pointing at on the green screen," Myers said.

Kindergartner Riley Johnson agrees. "The weatherman's screen is all green! He was standing there with no

“It was awesome! His car had lightning on it!” — LIZA ROWLETT

picture, but when we saw him on the screen, he did have a picture; it was so creepy!" Riley said, adding, "It was my favorite day ever."

Others were more impressed by the Chevy StormTracker.

"It was awesome! His car had lightning on it!" said kindergartner Liza Rowlett.

Myers, whose interest in weather

started around fifth grade when he moved to Monroe, New York, and got to experience snow days for the first time, encourages kids to follow whatever they love all the way to a career.

"Sometimes there's nerves, sometimes there's anxiety, but it's always therapy for me when I go in because it literally is a hobby for me, and I'd say if that's something that you feel is a hobby that you think you can pursue or make a career out of, I say go do it," Myers said.

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The Importance Of Physical Activity In Older Adults



By Brandy Sears and Mark Fleming

Three-2 Health & Fitness Studio

As we age, our bodies begin to break down and start to function inadequately. Our endurance to do small things decreases. We start to lack strength to perform certain tasks we could once do with ease. Our balance becomes unstable and our bodies grow stiff, lacking flexibility, leaving us feeling uncertain of our abilities to prevent falls or injuries.

The key to slowing down the aging process is to become more physically active in our daily lives. When our bodies feel pain or discomfort, we tend to become more sedentary, which in turn worsens our conditions. Learning the im-

portance of actively incorporating endurance, strength and flexibility, as well as balance exercises, into your daily life will help you live a more fulfilling, mobile and pain-free life.

The first pillar that should be a part of your physical activity regimen is endurance. It plays a crucial role on the cardiovascular system as well as the muscular fibers in the body. When we live a sedentary lifestyle, our endurance starts to decline over time. The longer we live that kind of lifestyle, the harder it becomes to rebuild. Regularly performed endurance exercises such as walking up and down stairs, bike riding, or swimming can create refinements in your

» **Continued on page 49**

Traumatic Brain Injury And Hearing Loss



TBIs affect people playing contact sports or just hitting their heads in other ways, such as in falls or car accidents.

Mariya Hutto
Hearing Aid
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including hearing and balance, so we're sharing some important tips to know.

About 1.6 million to 3.8 million traumatic brain injuries tied to sports and recreation happen each year in the U.S., per the most recently available Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Now that football season is over, many of us are thinking about traumatic brain injuries — also known as TBIs, head injuries, or concussions. These serious conditions can affect other critical aspects of your health,

annualized estimate. TBIs aren't limited to football players; the injuries also affect people playing other contact sports or just hitting their heads in other ways, such as in falls or car accidents.

The force of TBIs can damage the smallest bones in the body, which are located in the middle ear. TBIs can also damage areas of the brain that process sound, as well as the vestibular organs located in the ears. Several people who experience TBIs also report hearing a persistent ringing or buzzing sound, which is called tinnitus, and they sometimes report hyperacusis or hypersensitivity to sound.

Many TBIs resolve on their own over time, but some may require surgery if bones have been damaged or if there is another serious physical injury. With connections also between traumatic brain injury and hearing loss, it's addi-

» **Continued on page 49**

The Secret Hack For Your Health

Joe Bocek
Park Fitness



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They pull you in, promising to give you exactly what you are looking for, the easiest way possible to do whatever you are looking for.

Often, there are no true shortcuts for the important stuff. Sure, YouTube and TikTok can show you all kinds of ways to have a cleaner bathroom or a better way to pack your suitcase.

But when it comes to important matters, from your health to financial freedom, there rarely are true magic bullets that do the work for you.

That doesn't necessarily mean there aren't better ways to do things. My girlfriend recently shared with me a parmesan container top hack for a mason jar as well as a wooden spoon trick to lay on top of a boiling pot to prevent boil over. These are all super cool.

But what about something as important as your health and quality of life?

For instance, just the other day, I was sitting down with someone who asked about a secret weapon when it came to health and fitness. Now, overall, you have to do the work, whether that's being active and doing a workout or being mindful about nutrition.

But it got me thinking, if there truly is one thing that I have seen firsthand over

23 years of fitness coaching that makes the most impact and change, it has got to be consistency.

Not perfection or perfect consistency, but just keeping at it. Largely, we find that consistency even tops intensity. And this consistency creates momentum.

It doesn't have to be 22 days in a row or six workouts a week either. Rather, whatever you are doing, keep doing it.

If you want to be successful, find momentum. To help with this, here's three things you can do to find and keep momentum:

Find A Preceding Event

Often, it's the thing we do beforehand that matters more. For example, telling a friend we will meet them at the park to go walking. Or booking an appointment at the gym. That preceding event sets the stage for the bigger thing you are trying to do.

Find what often triggers you to do the thing you are aiming for. And keep doing it.

Shrink It

The smaller the habit, the easier it is to build into your life. If you are trying to go to the gym six days a week, that's a big habit. Especially if you are starting out.

Something we use is a scale of 1-10. Ask yourself, on a scale of 1-10, how confident do you feel in doing this new habit? If the number is low then there's a good chance shrinking the habit, or making it easier, could help you stick with it.

This can also be done by shaping your environment to help with your new habit. Adding an accountability buddy for instance, joining a supportive group or hiring a coach can also help with making

» **Continued on page 49**



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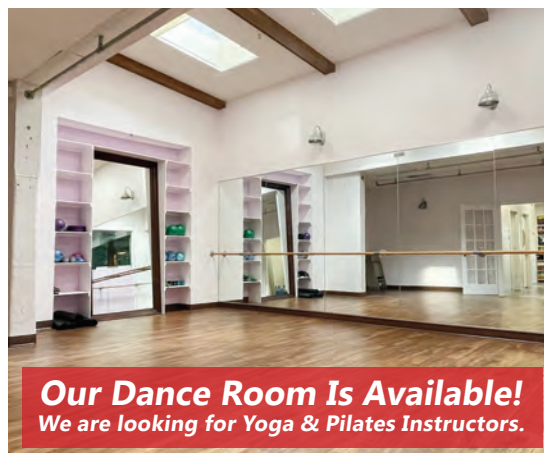
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The Secret Hack

» Continued from page 46
the new habit more manageable.

Rebuilding

Inevitably, we are going to have a lapse or break in momentum. A vacation, life event or limitation/injury at some point will arise.

This is a main reason why finding smart and experienced fitness coaches can be so helpful. The fastest way to lose momentum, and regress, is to get hurt.

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I know it sounds a bit simple and even basic, and that's because it is. But that also doesn't mean that it's not powerful; even life changing. Find your momentum and then do what you can to keep at it.

It might not sound as cool as turning your cereal box into its own bowl or making your jeans look more 1980s-like, but if there's anything we've learned these last couple of years, it's how important our health really is. And anything we can do to invest in our health, and possibly improve it, will pay us the greatest returns.

Traumatic Brain Injury

» Continued from page 46

tionally important to keep the following steps in mind:

Always see a doctor immediately if you have sustained a head injury. The doctor will likely order CT scans and MRIs to detect any brain bleeding or other internal damage. The scans can also give more information about physical damage to the ear.

See an audiologist for a hearing evaluation, especially if you have any symptoms such as tinnitus, hyperacusis or hearing loss. Hearing loss related to TBI often improves over time but can be permanent if there is cochlear damage. It's important to evaluate and monitor any hearing loss over time to determine the stability of the loss.

See an audiologist if you're experiencing any balance or dizziness problems associated with the TBI. When appropriate, the audiologist can perform vestibular testing to help determine the cause of the problems and explore possible treatment options.

Wear a helmet when playing contact sports and other recreational activities. In addition, make sure to have good outdoor lighting at your home and sturdy handrails for wet or icy conditions. Sturdy handrails are also important inside the home, especially in stairwells and bathrooms, as those are the most common places for household falls.

If you suspect hearing loss or want to learn more about connections between TBIs and hearing health, don't wait. Contact the experts at Chesapeake Hearing Centers by calling 410-695-6246.

Eagle Title And Chesapeake Real Producers Host Blood Drives



Photos by Lauren Cowin

Eagle Title and Chesapeake Real Producers teamed up in March to host two blood drives for the Luminis Anne Arundel Medical Center Blood Donor Center. The Eagle Title team (top right) enjoyed supporting Luminis. Eagle Title Vice President Tom Simmons and Severna Park resident Heather Lawson both donated blood.

Luminis Health AAMC Ranked Among Nation's Best Hospitals By Newsweek

Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center (LHAAMC) has been named one of the best hospitals in the United States. Newsweek's World's Best Hospital List recognized only 414 hospitals across the country.

"We're honored to be ranked among the top 100 hospitals in the nation," said Sherry Perkins, president of Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center. "Our teammates in every role

demonstrate exemplary knowledge and caring care in every mission of care. We thank our community for the trust they have put in our hospital for 120 years."

Newsweek collaborated with Statista Inc. to rank leading hospitals, based on three data sources: medical experts, patient experience surveys and medical key performance indicators including patient safety, hygiene measures and quality of treatment.

"The responses from our patients mean the world to us caregivers," said Dr. Stephen Cattaneo, president of the medical staff at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center. "This recognition highlights the level of care and compassion shown by our team members, and demonstrates the ongoing commitment of our mission, which is to enhance the health of the people and communities we serve."

The Importance Of Physical Activity In Older Adults

» Continued from page 46

muscular system. Some of the benefits include physical capabilities of being able to perform a task for an extended period of time and increasing respiratory capacity of the slow and fast twitch muscle fibers.

The second pillar needed in your weekly regimen is strength training. There are countless benefits that include increasing muscle mass, increasing bone and heart health, and enhancing brain health.

These are just some of the many reasons to make strength training a priority.

The third pillar is flexibility. Tighter and less pliable muscles lead to higher

chances of injuries. Some reasons for flexibility include improved posture, better balance, increased range of motion, and reduction in muscular tension — all of which can lead to less chance of injuries and improve your overall quality of life.

Finally, the fourth pillar is balance. Unfortunately, as we age, we tend not to include balancing exercises in our routines and then fall into the cliché expression of "use it or lose it." Everyday tasks such as walking across a room, walking down the stairs, rising from a chair, or carrying an object to and from one place to another

require good balance. If our balance slips to the wayside, we increase our chances of potentially disabling falls and increase our chances of serious injuries. In order to remain upright and steady, our daily tasks should include some activities that test our balance. Some examples include standing on one foot when you brush your teeth, stepping up on a bench with one foot, and single leg lifting while standing erect.

In closing, having a well-rounded physical activity regimen that includes these four pillars will improve your quality of life and overall well-being.

Filmmakers Set Out To Make “A Comedy And A Tragedy”

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Parker Rouse and Jake Binstock have big dreams as filmmakers, but they are starting small, with a micro-budget feature called “A Comedy and a Tragedy.”

The film combines aspects of two Greek plays, a comedy called “The Wasps” by Aristophanes and a tragedy called “Prometheus Bound” by Aeschylus. The first part of their feature is called “The Wasps.”

The idea came after Binstock, a Severna Park High School graduate, read all the Greek drama he could find. Even though he and Rouse, a Severn School graduate, were used to writing their own material, adapting the works by Aristophanes and Aeschylus was practical for their first feature film because they could create a film with a low budget and narrow scope.

“A lot of these plays were minimal settings, minimal cast list, but were still
» Continued on page 56



Jake Binstock (left) and Parker Rouse have been making films together since they were 13 years old.

Artist Brings Slice Of Chinese Culture To BWI Art Exhibit



Photo by Conor Doherty

Pearl Shen often creates artwork based on common Chinese iconography such as flowers and landscapes.

By Conor Doherty

If you are traveling through BWI Airport in the next month, be on the lookout for new art being displayed. The artwork is part of a solo exhibit by Shipley’s Choice resident Pearl Shen, with the exhibit curated by Jack Rasmussen, director and curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit will consist of 14 works created by Shen, with some of them utilizing Gongbi watercolor, a new art form for people in this area to see.

Born and raised in the Chinese city of Hefei in the province of Anhui, Shen grew up loving art, drawing on whatever surface she could find.

“When I was young, I liked to draw everywhere, on the wall and on the floor of my home,” she said. “I would even carve drawings on the wood desks at school. When we learned different art styles, I liked to practice a lot at home.”

She then attended Anhui Normal University where she received her bachelor’s degree in fine arts with a focus on oil painting in
» Continued on page 55

DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK

Photos by Mary Cobbler



Above Top: The baked tots are smothered in homemade chili, cheddar cheese, chopped onions and crispy bacon, all topped with diced tomatoes and a dollop of sour cream. **Above Bottom:** The Kinder Park Shrimp and Do is topped with tender shrimp, crispy bacon, and sweet and tangy sauce.

Bring The Whole Pack To The Dog House

By Mary Cobbler

Hot diggity dog, there’s a new restaurant in town, and you’ll want to put it on your “let’s go” list. Pour Dog House combines craft beer and hot dogs and serves them in style. And honestly, it just has a fun, jazzy feel!

Located at 722 Generals Highway in Millersville, the bright red “house” is hard to miss. It reminded me of a caboose. While I wasn’t sure what to expect inside, I was pleasantly surprised by the beautiful décor — polished wood chairs and tables, a sleek bar, sophisticated hanging lights, and dog art.

The service was outstanding. Shah, our server, who I later discovered was the owner and general manager, greeted us immediately with a huge smile and went out of his way to take care of us.

Asked to recommend a great low-alcohol beer, Shah immediately suggested Mango Cart from Golden Road Brewing. He described it as refreshing, and he was right. A lovely caramel color and zingy citrusy smell and taste made this a great choice.

We decided on the crowd-favorite loaded tater tots for our shared appetizer. These baked tots were smothered in
» Continued on page 58



Located at 722 Generals Highway in Millersville, the bright red restaurant is hard to miss. Inside, the restaurant features polished wood chairs and tables, a sleek bar, sophisticated hanging lights, and dog art.



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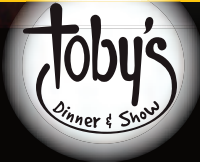


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Michelle Douglas Pens Self-Help Guide With Lessons For Young Adults

“It’s about being true to yourself and not denying your authentic self. I felt like that if you’re wearing shoes you can’t walk in, you’re denying the opportunity to be who you really are and that you won’t make it to where you’re trying to go.” — MICHELLE DOUGLAS

By Alyson Kay

Annapolis resident Michelle Douglas helps people and organizations communicate and find their purpose while she works in a variety of roles in advertising, marketing and most recently, as author of the self-help book “Don’t Wear Shoes You Can’t Walk In: A Field Guide for Your Twenties.”

Douglas grew up in Florida, surrounded by creative people who worked with a variety of mediums.

“I often joke that my dad’s a carpenter, my brother’s a graphic designer, my mom’s a piano teacher, and that as a writer, I might be the least creative person in my family,” Douglas said. “But I feel very blessed to have grown up in a creative environment.”

Douglas was inspired by her brother to go into marketing. She grew a talent for writing and communications and turned to advertising to use those skills in a business environment.

“It felt like advertising was a really fun way to kind of still be in business but use some creative skills,” Douglas said.

She went to the University of Florida to study advertising. Out of college, Douglas moved to Georgia, where she worked for an ad agency working for larger for-profit companies. She started a journal to write down and remember some of the lessons she was learning as she navigated her first job and living in a new city. She also started to think about passing on the lessons she was learning to help people.

“I kept wishing I had a guide, like someone who had been where I was and who could possibly tell me what would come next,” Douglas said. “So, I started journaling in part to record my own learnings, but also with the hope of helping someone else out in the future.”

She soon learned that she wanted to use her skills to help people and found her dream job working for a sports nonprofit called the Atlanta Track Club. Having always loved sports, Douglas found a passion in working to help the organization in its work organizing running programs for people of all ages.

“I got to see how sports can truly impact an individual and I feel like at the youth level, it gives everyone a chance regardless of their circumstance,”



Douglas said.

She continued her work in sports and nonprofits, eventually ending up in Maryland to work for the Ulman Foundation and Under Armour. While working for Under Armour, she got the idea to start her own business to get back into nonprofits, while not necessarily working for only one nonprofit.

She felt that she could find a niche helping organizations and companies define their reason for being and share that in their mission values.

“I feel like a lot of priority is given to brand identity in a visual space, but I really wanted to help organizations with their brand voice,” Douglas said. “So, I started Ladder to really just help these organizations develop a strong foundation with which they could communicate to their audiences.”

While she started her business in 2018, the idea of possibly using the lessons in her journals to help people started to take shape. Originally, she thought that a future child or a family member might read the journals sometime in the future, but it occurred to her that if she wrote a book, she didn’t have to wait to share her lessons.

“I could share this with everyone because there might be someone who could benefit from it now,” Douglas said.

She started working more seriously to organize the contents of her seven black moleskin journals around themes such as love, personal growth and



practical adult life, which eventually became “Don’t Wear Shoes You Can’t Walk In.”

The title lesson came from a time when Douglas borrowed a friend’s shoes to wear to a job interview. The heels were too big for her and she got blisters on her feet. She didn’t get the job and wondered if one reason might have been that the interviewers read her discomfort as a lack of confidence. But the lesson she took from the experience wasn’t just about shoes.

“It’s about being true to yourself and not denying your authentic self,” Douglas said. “I felt like that if you’re wearing shoes you can’t walk in, you’re denying the opportunity to be who you really are and that you won’t make it to where you’re trying to go.”

Although the book is geared toward graduates and people in their 20s, Douglas hopes that the lessons found in the book will resonate with anyone.

“A lot of the lessons are relevant well beyond your 20s,” Douglas said.

Douglas will participate in a book discussion held at Park Books on April 21 at 6:30pm. She will talk about the book, answer questions and sign books. Park Books asks that people interested in attending RSVP and reserve a copy of the book at www.parkbooksmd.com/michelle-douglas.

Author Cynthia Hammer To Visit Park Books



Cynthia Hammer

“Who Is At The Door?” follows caregiver Sheila Price as she takes on a deadly case in the heart of New York.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

When she penned the book “A Good Case” in 2016, author Cynthia Hammer did what she thought no fiction author had done before: write about the challenges of caregiving. With her fourth book “Who Is At The Door?” — published in February — she revisited the story of character Sheila Price, who was introduced in “A Good Case.” Hammer will discuss the new book, a murder mystery, during an event at Park Books on April 23 from noon to 3:00pm.

“Senior care is a huge conversation,” Hammer said. “I didn’t know how big it would be. I knew it needed a voice.”

In between those two books, Hammer released “The Seven Rivers,” a

story about seven teenagers growing up on the waterfront along the Severn River, with a racial divide looming in the background.

Hammer is not just an author but also an actress and host of the “Hammer Away” radio program. She has acted in one Hallmark Channel film and three Lifetime movies including “Old Flames Never Die.”

The former Crownsville resident now splits her time between Los Angeles and South Carolina. A fan of Shakespeare, Hammer enjoys tales that have many layers, offering more upon a second or even third read. She thinks “Who Is At The Door?” does that while also bringing attention to the needs of caregivers.

“A lot of us are caregivers without having to put on a uniform,” Hammer said.

“The Bubble” Is A Mess Of A Comedy

By Audrey Ruppert

“Jurassic World Dominion” was mid-shoot in March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic swept the world. Quarantine protocols were put in place in a hurry, as the studio had spent too much money for the film to be tabled. I vaguely remember some news articles discussing whether it was appropriate to put the actors and crew through such risk to make yet another blockbuster installment of a mediocre franchise (I said it).

I imagine that like much of the rest of the world, the filmmakers struggled to adapt so quickly to the unknown and that aspects of filming must have felt like a fiasco. I wouldn't be surprised if the likely chaotic production became an industry joke, and this inside joke was the impetus for the creation of Judd Apatow's “The Bubble,” now streaming on Netflix.

The premise of “The Bubble” is full of promise: a set of actors is called to a Downton Abbey-esque mansion in London to quarantine, then film “Cliff Beasts 6,” a fictional franchise that is clearly modeled off the Jurassic Park franchise. There's a lot to be satirized here: actors and how out of touch they are (remember that awful “Imagine” Zoom call?), complaining about the pandemic from inside a literal mansion with staff. There's the relatable pandemic stuff that we rarely see in film and television despite it being our reality for so long — the constant swabbing, testing, masking and wiping things



Photos courtesy of Laura Radford/Netflix

(L-R) David Duchovny, Via Das, Pedro Pascal, Karen Gillan, Keegan-Michael Key and Harry Treadwell headline the cast of “The Bubble.”

with Lysol.

The cast of characters was also ripe for comedic gold. You've got the 18-year-old TikTok star who was pulled into the movie for clout and thinks millennials are boomers, the washed-up action star who is doing too many drugs, the D-list actor turned guru who espouses toxic positivity (and probably is running a cult), and the on-again off-again couple who foolishly adopted a teenage child

they have no intention of raising properly. There's other characters and stereotypes, likely meant to appeal to industry insiders — the director who has “such vision” and “won Sundance” making a movie about tiles at Home Depot (and is now directing a blockbuster for some reason), and the annoying actor who keeps trying to rewrite the script to be more environmentally friendly, when nobody cares. Unfortunately, despite

all the promise in the world, this film is nearly unwatchable, and I really struggled to finish it.

“The Bubble” could have worked as a series of quick sketches or skits, and it's at its best when it embraces the bizarre — cue the lead actress crying, exercising, reading, Zooming and screaming in the space of a few seconds in a representation of what many of us went through in quarantine. Even the casting was bizarre and could have really added to comedic effect (Keegan Michael Key, Daisy Ridley, James McAvoy and Pedro Pascal in the same movie? Uh, OK).

At two hours and six minutes however, the film really lags. Some of the characters, like the overzealous cockney security guard who brings lasers to the mansion, are unnecessary and are not funny. The film isn't remotely cohesive — so many subplots are dropped halfway through and are never resolved or explained. And while moments of self-awareness poke through, generally the actors are so irritating that I'm not laughing at how insufferable actors are supposed to be — I'm actually suffering.

Perhaps Apatow was aware of how muddled his project was toward the conclusion of filming. He ends the film with a character remarking something to the effect of, “Don't worry how the film went, at least you had a strong ending. That's what people remember.” Because much like “Cliff Beasts 6,” “The Bubble” had a strong beginning and end, but was a bumbling, seemingly unfinished mess throughout.

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Artist Brings Slice Of Chinese Culture To BWI Art Exhibit

» Continued from page 50

2004 and then got her master's degree in fine arts with a focus on watercolor from the same university in 2009.

Shen first came to the U.S. in 2010, having been granted an extraordinary green card, and just two years later, had her first solo exhibit — held at the Foundry Gallery in Washington, D.C. — before fully immigrating in 2014. Since then, she has received several awards for her artwork, including “Best in Show” for her piece titled “Early Autumn” at the “Less is More: Small Works in a Great Space” exhibition held at St. John’s College in 2013 and the 2019 Maryland State Arts Council’s Individual Artist Award.

Since arriving stateside, she has continued to improve her craft, taking classes at Montgomery Community College and the



Maryland Institute College of Art.

Specializing primarily in the watercolor and oil painting techniques, Shen often creates artwork based on common Chinese iconography such as flowers and landscapes.

“I want people to feel peaceful, clear their mind and have some joy in that moment when looking at my art,” she ex-



plained. “My painting has a lot of roots in ancient Chinese paintings, from the Tang Dynasty to the Shang Dynasty.

“Ancient Chinese liked to draw using a lot of layers of color. It’s a big difference compared to contemporary watercolor, which has layers but not as many. When you want to get a very bright color in one place, you have to use a lot of very thin

“Apple Blossoms” (left) was made with colors on rice paper. “A Propitious Omen is Approaching” (right) was made by colors on rice paper.

paint layers. Despite that, you can see through the paint. When you look at the painting, look at that area, it is breathable, light and feels airy.”

Shen’s exhibit at BWI is free to visit and is located near Security

Checkpoint D/E and is pre-security. A reception for the exhibit will be held on Thursday, April 21, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan and BWI CEO Ricky Smith will attend, along with members of the Maryland and Anne Arundel art councils. The exhibit will continue to be on display until May 27.



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Let's Go To The Movies... *Annapolis Film Festival's Opening Night*

Photos by Lauren Burke Meyer

Below: *Annapolis Film Festival* co-founders and directors Lee Anderson and Patti White were thrilled to welcome audiences in person this year.

Right: *"To Olivia"* producer Donall McCusker and director John Hay participated in a Q&A.



By Lauren Burke Meyer

I haven't seen a movie in a theater or group setting outside my home since February 2020. To say I was anticipating — like many others — the Annapolis Film Festival (AFF) is an obvious statement. What's not obvious is the unbelievable electricity radiating throughout the opening night festivities on March 31 after two years of back-to-back virtual festivals. Emotions were strong with it being the AFF's 10th anniversary.

The pre-party was exclusive to VIPs including premium, gold sponsor and industry passholders, which included mostly donors and filmmakers. A front lawn tent was the hub for both parties complete with Tito's Handmade Vodka, Coppola wines, Rabbit Hole bourbon



and Annapolis' own Forward Brewing from beverage sponsors. The Naptown Girl Crush band warmed this crowd up during a brisk early evening.

Tiny tea sandwiches with miniature Union Jack flags and deviled eggs were in abundance as a nod to the opening night film's setting in the English countryside.

Following the pre-party, old Hollywood glamor was in full effect with a red-carpet step and repeat, where the opening night film *"To Olivia"* director John Hay and producer Donall McCusker were all smiles. Demonstrating classic British humor, the gentlemen playfully held up their identifying name signs while being photographed before ditching the behind-the-scenes identifiers for slightly more serious photos.

Presented by Synergics Films, *"To Olivia"* examines the relationship of two award-winning artists of the 20th century: Roald Dahl (starring Hugh Bonneville of *"Downton Abbey"* and *"Notting Hill"*), the eccentric British children's author, and his wife Patricia Neal (played by Keeley Hawes from *"Bodyguard"* and *"Finding Alice"*), an accomplished American actress.

"We're trying to share stories that have some glimmer of hope in them," Anderson said. "So even though this was a story about grief and loss, look what good came out of it for both of them. It was a small slice of a well-known story."

There were two firsts for Hay. One being the first time at the Annapolis Film Festival, and two, the director had never seen the film with an audience. Filming ended in December 2019 and post-production was done via laptops due to COVID-19 protocols.

After remarks from AFF president Emil Gallina, Annapolis mayor Gavin Buckley gave a warm introduction, saying, "We love you Patti and Leel!" Both White and Anderson made their entrance to a packed theater of an approximately 600-person audience and standing ovation.

Per Anderson's request, all the volunteers, donors and staff stood up. Roughly 250 volunteers participated in this year's Annapolis Film Festival.

It wasn't long before the film began to roll that laughter ensued. Following the film, Joe Neumaier — a former critic for the *New York Daily News* — moderated a

Q&A with Hay and McCusker. Hay shared how he had a personal connection to the story, losing his own sister at a young age. The audience also learned that the film was shot in 25 days and in November, the month that Olivia had died.

"If anything you can take away from me, it should be how we come to terms with the death of those we love, and how we can use that to move on and still respect their memory," Hay said.

U.S. distribution of *"To Olivia"* is in discussion and the film is due for a spring or summer release date.

One of the true highlights of the evening was when the band For the Road played. After such a grim two years with COVID-19, it was incredible to see all types of people brought together in celebration of film. White and Anderson previously shared with me the importance of diversity from day one at the AFF, diversity of films and attendees. Ten years later, this mission stands strong.

"We felt supported and embraced by the community last night, and we're grateful for that," Anderson said. "We didn't know if people would show up in a post-COVID world — and they did. We built it, and they came back. That's very reassuring in terms of being able to continue to do this again and continue to get the kind of support that's required."

Filmmakers Set Out To Make "A Comedy And A Tragedy"

» Continued from page 50

incredibly evocative and the characters were incredibly rich," Binstock said. "And then how they come together, the one comedy and one tragedy. They both capture the extreme ends of what survives in the farcical and political but have really human characters who still feel three-dimensional today. And then there is *'Prometheus Bound,'* which is deeply esoteric and has the feel like it's out of this world and was written by someone who wasn't a human."

Even though the plays are old, some of their elements are timeless, Rouse said.

"*Prometheus Bound*' takes place right after the fall of the titans and it's in a purely mythical landscape with a god tied to a rock for the entirety of the play," Rouse said. "And then *'The Wasps'* takes place in what at the time was present day and is about just normal Athenians with different everyday domestic concerns between father and son."

With a two-part structure and a blending of genres, the film is in their wheelhouse.

"The stuff that we've always been writing, the style we've developed over the years, has been a blend of this high

tragedy and really lowbrow humor, so the tragedy of *'Prometheus Bound'* and the lowbrow humor of *'The Wasps,'* put together, really felt succinct with our voice," Binstock said.

Rouse and Binstock have been developing that voice since they were in seventh grade at Indian Creek School in Crownsville. They started making short films at 13 and both had stints in film school — Rouse at Emerson College in Boston and Binstock at Temple University in Philadelphia.

But they experienced the most growth while working on their own.

"The only way to learn how to make films is by making films, and actually making a film outside of the structure of film school is like one of the most hardcore lessons in hustle and the reality of the business," Rouse said. "I would say for anyone who wants to make films, there is no better lesson than just doing it on your own."

Rouse was later selected for an internship in Austin, Texas, with the office of Richard Linklater, the director of *"Boyhood,"* *"Before Midnight,"* *"Dazed and Confused"* and other films. Rouse parlayed the internship into

a job as one of Linklater's art assistants and Binstock soon followed his friend to Texas.

"I think we were drawn to [Richard Linklater] because he is a director who has been dancing in and out of the mainstream his whole career," Rouse said.

"People know his films, but he's always been subversive in a way that has kept him from that huge mainstream notoriety because he will do a film like *'School of Rock'* and then do *'A Scanner Darkly.'*"

Binstock said, "He goes back and forth between really great arthouse pieces and great stuff that is easy to tap into."

'School of Rock' is a movie I've loved as a kid and watched on family road trips and getting older and going to see some of his more intellectual, highbrow stuff — he can just operate on both modes and even at the same time."

Linklater has been a mentor to the filmmakers and contributed funding for *"A Comedy and a Tragedy."* Rouse and Binstock are shooting the first segment in May and the second in October.

They have had help from longtime friends, such as producer Andrew Caplan, who left a full-time job to work on the project. Also part of the team is

composer Luke Turner, a Severna Park High School graduate.

Since the crew is working pro bono, Rouse and Parker are seeking funding to keep the crew fed, pay the cast, and transform their backyard into ancient Athens.

Once the film is complete, they plan to submit it to all notable film festivals.

"Some of this material gets lost in translation in that it seems obtuse to modern readers, but if you find the right translation or interpret it right, what is most striking to me is how modern the material seems and how timeless it seems," Rouse said. "We want to show that to people and bridge the divide in time between 2022 U.S. and 426 B.C. Greece."

They hope this kickstarts a long career.

"We have countless scripts in a drawer that we would love to make, all different types of budget ranges, from what we're doing now, which is micro-budget, all the way to a \$30 million musical," Binstock said. "So wherever we go, we plan to make movies forever."

To learn more, visit www.gofund.me/d871383e or find the filmmakers on social media @thewaspsfilm.



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Spring Concert Series At Hatton Regester Green

May 1: King Street Bluegrass

A 2021 Wammie Award finalist, King Street Bluegrass has blues, folk and country influences. The members have rural, farm and coal miner family roots from the mountains of West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Southern Virginia. The band has regaled audiences with familiar bluegrass, country, Americana and original tunes since 2008.

May 8: Josette and Bill

Josette and Bill are two local artists playing a variety of covers from the last several decades. They have played in a variety of shows from restaurants and bars to festivals. Their acoustic music is designed to appeal to the masses.

May 15: Karen Collins and the Backroads Band

Listen to traditional country music with passion. Karen writes honky-tonk songs about subjects ranging from

heartaches to traffic jams, showcasing an upbeat and authentic country sound.

May 22: OMHS Steel Drum Band

Students from Old Mill High School perform in their steel drum band under the direction of Mike Miller. They play all kinds of music from reggae to rock.

May 29: Guava Jelly Trio

This Annapolis-based acoustic duo/trio plays a mix of reggae, pop, rock and country music. The band is a Caribbean-infused trio whose reggae vibes are woven throughout the fabric of the band's wide diversity of music.

All concerts start at 4:00pm and run approximately two hours. Hatton Regester Green is in Severna Park at the intersection of B&A Boulevard, Evergreen Road and Holly Avenue. Parking is limited. Please feel free to bring a blanket and/or chairs. In the case of rain, concerts will be canceled. For more information, contact friendsofatrails@gmail.com or David Greene at 443-994-8074.

Bring The Pack To The Dog House

» Continued from page 50

rich homemade chili, cheddar cheese, chopped onions and crispy bacon, all topped with diced tomatoes and a dollop of sour cream. You can't go wrong with that combo — so many different tastes and textures. The tomatoes added a fresh-from-the-garden taste to the dish.

For an entree, I took Shah's suggestion and ordered one of the monthly specials, Kinder Park Shrimp and Dog. "Hmm, shrimp with a hot dog — that sounds like an odd combination," I told Shah. He chuckled and said he knows it doesn't sound good but assured me it is.

My dining companion ordered a Pour Dog Classic, a hot dog topped with relish and chopped onions.

Now, these aren't your everyday hot dogs, folks. They're pure beef with no pork, veal or fillers. Plus, they're huge.

We just about gasped and then laughed when we saw the size of our dogs — probably triple the size of an average frankfurter.

When I was a child, my Sunday afternoon highlights were stopping after church for a chili dog with onions. My Kinder Park Shrimp and Dog left my old favorite in the dust. So big that I could only eat half, my frank, topped with the tender shrimp, crispy bacon and somewhat sweet and tangy sauce was tender, juicy, flavorful and incredibly filling. The dog came with what my husband called "beefy" chips (he got the leftovers), thick-cut with a dusting of Old Bay (just the right amount).

My companion's classic was a hot dog topped with relish and chopped onions. Think Independence Day variety, with more juice and flavor and twice to triple the size. There wasn't anything fancy about this one, but it does scratch the itch when you want a basic hot dog.

If hot dogs aren't your thing, you can choose wings, chili, hamburgers and other offerings. There's also a

kids menu.

What tops off a decadent hot dog dinner? How about Dog Gone Deep Fried Oreos? The cookies were batter-fried, though not crispy on the outside, and ooey-gooey chocolate on the inside, sprinkled with powdered sugar. They were overly sweet and honestly too much of a good thing for me at the end of the meal (note that is a preference). Maybe next time, I'll pick Shah's favorite — Woofing Fried Twinkies.

When the weather is warm, you can chow and drink with Fido in the outdoor area. In fact, Old Fido can have a pint of his own — dog beers! As you guzzle or sip, your Snoopy can choose (well, let's face it — you choose for him) from Good Boy Session Squirrel, IPA Lot In The Yard, Crotch Sniffin' Ale, Mailman Malt Lick, and more. Don't worry, these mugs aren't going to give baby a buzz. They're made with broth, vegetables and other healthy ingredients (but don't tell your furry friends).

There's so much to like about this fun place.

Check the website for upcoming events, including happy hour, music bingo, and trivia nights. Pour Dog House also supports local charities and hosts an annual brewery festival to benefit the local humane society and SPCA chapter.

The bill came to about \$65 for three hot dog platters (I bought one to go), the tater tot starter, and drinks. We had stuffed doggie bags (what else?) — good for the next day's lunch!

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“Rocky The Musical” Delivers A Knockout At Toby’s



Photos courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography

The story of a small-time boxer’s rise to fame, “Rocky” opened at Toby’s Dinner Theatre in Columbia on March 26. Audiences have enjoyed the Toby’s adaptation, which shows Rocky Balboa gaining confidence as he prepares to battle heavyweight champion Apollo Creed, thanks to support from the beautiful Adrian. The show runs through June 5. To learn more, visit www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

Area Rock Band Is Poised For Breakout Year

After releasing their debut album “Apocalyptic, Baby” in December 2018, hard rock band VEER burst onto the music scene with a bang. They were named Best Rock Artist at the Maryland Music Awards that month; started getting airplay on stations domestically and abroad; and have been a support act for national recording artists including Puddle of Mudd, Fuel, Sponge, Eve to Adam, 40 Below Summer, Trapt, Buckcherry and more.

Now, the band is building on that momentum by performing songs from their upcoming sophomore album “Soft Machines” and partnering with Baltimore-based distillery Old Line Spirits for the VEER Rock n’ Roll Vodka.

“I know I can speak for everyone in the band when I say that we are really excited to start performing again on a regular basis,” said drummer Jon Malfi. “We had a lot of time off during the pandemic to figure out different ways to keep VEER

moving, and we were lucky enough to team up with the awesome people over at Old Line Spirits to bring our idea to fruition! The VEER Rock n’ Roll Vodka is the first release of many ideas that we have worked on, including our sophomore album release, ‘Soft Machines,’ which will be out later this year. There is a lot of amazing stuff that will be happening with the band, and I know we can’t wait to share it with the world.”

VEER will have a soft release of the vodka on Friday, May 13, prior to it being available in stores and restaurants, at the distillery, located at 200 South Janney Street in Baltimore. The event will begin with a cocktail hour before VEER takes the stage for an intimate acoustic performance. Tickets for the May 13 event are \$40 apiece, and include a bottle of the vodka, a “lush pack” of merchandise, and a ticket to the band’s May 28 concert. They can be purchased directly from the band’s website: www.veerband.net/tickets.html.



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Chamber Update

Liz League
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1st Financial Inc./Mark Belcher – Mark and 1st Financial Inc. offer a variety of affordable home loan options, competitive interest rates, and an easy online application process.

Park Home – Now owned by Brittany and Ted Meade, Park Home offers unique home and garden décor and furnishings at affordable prices.

Severna Garage Door Repair – A full-service garage door company in Severna Park with years of experience in residential, industrial and commercial garage door repair, garage door installation, and garage door maintenance seven days a week.

C2 Education, Severna Park – The tutors at C2 Education deliver personalized support to improve test scores, enhance GPAs, and build winning college applications while offering consistent support during remote school and other academic disruptions.

Alpha Charlie Realtor/Adam Chubbuck – Adam helps people buy or sell their homes as quickly, and for the best price, as possible. As a veteran, he understands the specific needs of military members and their families.

Infascapes Property Management LLC – A family owned and operated landscape company in Anne Arundel County for more than 10 years. Infascapes specializes in both residential and commercial landscape maintenance, hard-scaping, lawn maintenance, and much more.

First Home Mortgage/Scott Palmer – Whether you are looking to buy your first home, second home, vacation home, an investment property, completing a renovation project, or doing any type of refinance, you can turn to Scott to help you get the job done effectively and efficiently.

Keller Williams Integrity/Trish May – This experienced real estate consultant has a demonstrated history of quickly selling homes above market value. She is skilled in the areas of home valuation, targeted marketing, contract negotiation and customer service.

Law Office of Jeff Gauges – An experienced real estate attorney serving clients in Anne Arundel County.

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

There were two ribbon-cutting celebrations in March. The first was for **Unity Bands**, a nonprofit founded by John Schirripa to raise funds for COVID research. The organization sells unique, customized wristbands and merchandise to support COVID-19 response and research.

The second ribbon cutting was for the grand opening of **Trillium Wellness** in Severna Park. Owners Carol Heckman, Lisa Manning and Jill Madey are a unique team of health and wellness practitioners promoting integrative wellness and a relationship-centered approach.

Our Successful Women in Business group recently had a field trip to **Pic 'n Paint Pottery** in Pasadena. Owner Mary Orzano helped us navigate the beautiful collection of items to paint and the unique collection of paints. We had a wonderful time and could have stayed for many hours. Pic 'n Paint has a large room for
» Continued on page 63

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Turf & Landscape Management Provides Comprehensive Landscaping Services



Jeff Probst has expanded his services from basic lawn care to more comprehensive landscaping.

By Lauren Cowin

When Jeff Probst started Turf & Landscape Management in 1991, he was a soon-to-be dad with a handful of employees.

Thirty-one years later, he's expanded his services from basic lawn care to more comprehensive landscaping in the Severna Park/Annapolis/Davidsonville area — with 12 trucks on the road and about 20 employees, including two of his own children.

"Right now we're kind of in our sweet spot," Probst said.

Though he didn't set out to create a family operated business, Probst has to admit that it's working. Turf & Landscape Management has clients who have been with them since year one.

"Some of the little things that are the easy things to do — return a phone call or get an estimate out to somebody — seem to be work for some people. That's the easy part of this job; doing the work is the hard part," Probst said, "I've always been really hard on my kids about that. Every phone call needs to be re-

turned daily. If you run an estimate, you should get that out to them the same day too, and I think that's gotten us where we are now."

These days Probst finds himself enjoying the construction side of the business more, such as pool decks, patios and fire pits.

"Green grass doesn't turn me on anymore," he said, adding that his son Mark handles the lawn portion of the business now. "I like building things and knowing something's going to be around for quite some time — doing a big tree planting job or reforestation because that'll be there longer than you're going to be here."

That's not to say he doesn't appreciate a well-maintained lawn, though.

What catches Probst's eye is "a lawn or landscape that is manicured, has seasonal color, and is organized. And organized means there seems to be rhyme and reason for the way things are planted."

There are some steps homeowners should take now to set the stage for a successful growing season, Probst said. Specifically, pre-emergent weed control for crab grass and mulching to retain moisture and prevent weeds should be laid in April or by early May at the latest. Additionally, now is the time to go through those flower beds to pull weeds and any other plant debris left over from winter storms.

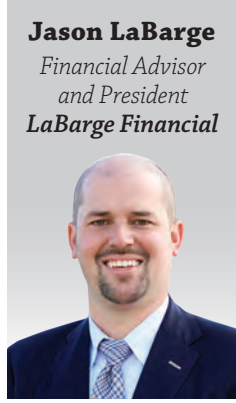
Looking back on his three-plus decades in business, Probst appreciates far more than the transactions and services rendered.

"It's been an interesting career in that I've made a lot of friends through customers over the years," Probst said. "I've had some long-term employees that have been with me for 10-plus years. Seeing them grow, grow families buy a house — knowing that we're not just going out there and cutting someone's grass, we're providing a job that employees can benefit from and grow themselves into."

To learn more about Turf & Landscape Management, call 410-881-6256 or visit www.turfandlandscape-management.com.



A First Quarter Review



Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial

There's an old expression on Wall Street that says, "So goes first quarter, so goes the year." When considering 2022, let's hope this expression does not reflect what's to come. The first quarter has been ugly. As of early April, the S&P is down 8 percent, the Dow Jones is down 2 percent and the Nasdaq is down 11 percent, according to the Washington Post. I want to talk about the reasons why I don't think this expression rings true for 2022. It would be easy to point to Ukraine and blame the first quarter's ugly numbers on Putin. While the war in Ukraine certainly plays a role, the bigger reason the first quarter is down is due to interest rates and inflation concerns. The market started to go down in January, well before the Ukraine issue started.

A client of mine told me they sold their house this past January for \$130,000 above the list price. For those selling a home, this could not be better news, but for buyers and investors, this could not be worse news. The housing market is proof that things are abnormal. Supply is so high because of low interest rates; there's not enough demand to meet it, so buyers are forced to pay crazy high premiums to secure homes. This needs to change and the Federal Reserve is trying to determine the best way to implement steps to do so. In early January, everyone had an opinion on what the interest rates were going to do. I'm not talking about my or your opinion either. I'm talking about the opinions of the biggest financial companies, and they expressed an opinion that caused market uncertainty. Another famous Wall Street expression goes, "Buy on the rumor; sell on the news." The rumor is that rates were going to go up, but nobody knew by how much and for how long. This uncertainty led to the market selloff that precipitated the first quarter numbers I mentioned earlier. Since then,

we have seen the Fed raise rates in order to stabilize things. I do not think they are finished, but it's hard to tell where it will end and what rate they will ultimately keep it at. I agree wholeheartedly, however, that they need to continue raising rates because markets won't improve until they do. Ukraine adds a fascinating element to all of this. I was in a high school economics class when I first realized that war is good for our economy. I remember it like it was yesterday. You could make an argument that it was the day I became an adult — the moment I realized that something as awful as war can have a positive impact on a 17-year-old kid in South Dakota. Without Ukraine, the Federal Reserve's action to increase rates could have had more of a negative impact on our economy for a variety of reasons, but it's possible that this was the thing the world needs to get things going again. It wasn't Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal that got us out of the Great Depression; it was World War II. All of this is terrible to think about when you consider the

plight of those in Ukraine, but that's the unfortunate thing about our economy: war is good for business. If there is a silver lining in this Ukraine crisis, it's that it will have a positive impact on the quarters to come. Maybe not in the near term, but in the long term. Countries all over the world are trying to aid Ukrainian citizens and doing so has a positive impact on many industries. Let's hope that impact can lead to a positive result for those directly at risk in Ukraine. I pray that it does.

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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Trillium Wellness Follows A Holistic Path



Owners Carol Heckman, Lisa Manning and Jill Madey gathered with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce and community leaders to celebrate the opening of Trillium Wellness at 156 Ritchie Highway, Suite 100, in Severna Park. Trillium Wellness offers a holistic approach to issues and ailments.

New Owners Settle Into Park Home




Ted and Brittany Meade have taken over as owners of Park Home, reopening the store on April 2 following the transition in ownership. Brittany comes from an interior design background, and along with Ted, she has been bringing in fresh inventory. A ribbon-cutting event is set for April 28 at Park Home, which is located at 568E Ritchie Highway.

Neighborhood Barre Brings Fitness Variety To Town



With a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 2, the team at Neighborhood Barre officially joined the Severna Park community with hopes of offering workouts that are dynamic and inventive, yet approachable for all skill levels. The studio is located at 790 Ritchie Highway, Suite E32, in Severna Park.

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 60

parties, bridal showers, girls night out activities, family nights and fun! We then headed over to the Hysteria Taphouse for dinner.

The Wellness Coalition held a Zoom event with keynote speaker **Patrick Lee** of the **Chesapeake Think Tank**. Patrick talked about the business benefits of a healthy workforce. A healthy workforce increases productivity, lowers absenteeism, improves talent acquisition and retention, and more.

Registration opened for our Shop Local Fun Fiesta, to be held at Park Plaza on Saturday, May 7. The event will feature businesses and nonprofits, entertainment, music, food and more. Our gold sponsors are **Mike's Pharmacy**, **Landmark Roofing and the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi**. Each will select a charity and present a check for \$500 at the event.

Shop Local exhibitors include **EscapeTime's Mobile Escape Room**, a face painter at Mike's Pharmacy's

booth, a fun photo booth provided by **Angie D Entertainment**, a doggie costume contest celebrating Cinco de Mayo, and other entertainment. You can also purchase great Mother's Day gifts at the festival!

Registration is open for the 2022 Independence Day parade, to be held in Severna Park on Monday, July 4, from 10:00am to noon. Parade applications are coming in steadily. We are especially encouraging neighborhoods to put floats together for the parade. For a little

encouragement, we are offering a \$500 cash prize for each of the top three categories: Most Patriotic, Best Theme and Best Overall. Start planning now and get your volunteers together for this beloved community event.

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 shopping small!

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Jessica

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for COUNTY EXECUTIVE ★ ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Republican Primary ★ July 19, 2022

MEET JESSICA HAIRE

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— Jessica

WHY I'M RUNNING ...

★ **I Will Cut Taxes and Fees**

The current Administration increased spending by nearly \$300 million over the last three years and increased your taxes to pay for it. I have fought to cut taxes and fees on the Council, and as your County Executive **I will cut taxes & reduce fees!**

★ **I Support Open Schools**

The current county Administration arbitrarily closed schools, businesses and churches. **I support open schools, open businesses and open churches.**

★ **I Support Our Police**

Police morale has been undermined, police recruitment is significantly down, and residents don't feel safe in their communities. **I will support our police and I will support transparency by posting crime statistics on the County's website.**



FRIENDS OF JESSICA HAIRE

www.JessicaHaire.com ★ ElectJessicaHaire@gmail.com  [ElectJessicaHaire](https://www.facebook.com/ElectJessicaHaire)
P.O. Box 1782, Edgewater, MD 21037 ★ 443-607-2434 ★

Authority: Friends of Jessica Haire, Kelly Rosenthal, Treasurer.

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