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The Best Food Around Severna Park. Chosen By You

By Lauren Cowin

ach year, the community votes in our Best Of Severna Park contest for their favorite businesses in dozens of categories. With the list in hand, I set off to try some of the winning restaurants. Photos by Lauren Cowin

(afe Mezzanotte

Cafe Mezzanotte had a near sweep of its eligible categories this year, winning Best Overall restaurant, Best Dinner, Best Italian restaurant and Best Special Occasion restaurant, as well as runner-up for Best Seafood.

The menus change seasonally to reflect what's being served in Italy at the time. I'm a creature of habit when it comes to Italian food: give me the pasta with the meat. My eyes went immediately to the pappardelle mignon. A combination of fresh, house made (like all of the restaurant's pastas) wide ribbon egg noodles, seared black angus filet mignon tips, mushroom, roasted red pepper, spinach, gorgonzola and marsala wine demi-glace, my selection was one of the more popular, and it's easy to taste why. The pappardelle mignon is the perfect choice for those diners who can't go to an Italian restaurant without ordering pasta but also need to satisfy a steak craving.

My only regret is not saving more space for my entrée because I filled up on bread, but the olive oil with sun dried tomatoes and Italian seasonings served before my meal was impossible to resist (If I'm being honest, I don't regret it at all).



The pappardelle mignon at Cafe Mezzanotte is a combination of fresh, house-made wide ribbon egg noodles, seared black angus filet mignon tips, mushroom, roasted red pepper, spinach, gorgonzola and marsala wine demi-glace.



The Mexican fried chicken salad at Garry's Grill includes Southwest marinated and tortilla crusted chicken, pico de gallo, black beans, corn, green onions, avocado, cheddar cheese and mixed field greens served with creamy peppercorn parmesan dressing.

Park Tavern

This Park Plaza staple also scooped up a handful of awards, including Best Bar, Best Dessert and Best Kids Menu, taking runner-up in another seven categories.

Any parent of a picky eater appreciates options, and Park Tavern offers just that. I brought in my team of tiny taste testers to help me with this one. One ordered buttered noodles; the other ordered mac and cheese. As is par for the course in our household, one was finished in its entirety and the other ... wasn't. Fortunately, the mac and cheese at Park Tavern is up to adult standards, and it definitely did not go to waste.

As for the adult entrees, I did the unthinkable and tried something new: the Nashville hot chicken tacos. They had me at pickled jalapeno mayo. This dish will certainly be added to my Park Tavern rotation, in part because the large portion of three tacos covered lunch the next day, as well.

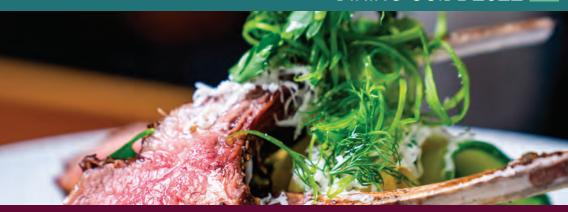
Garrys Grill

The beloved casual eatery in Severna Park Village took three awards this year: Best Lunch, Best Salad and Best Wait Staff, along with runner-up for Best Caterer.

My path here was obvious: go to Garry's for lunch and order a salad! Less obvious, which one to choose. Along with the restaurant's eight entrée salads, there are multiple "make-your-own" options. I settled on the Mexican fried chicken salad. This salad was almost too pretty to eat, but I managed to get past that, especially when I saw the much-appreciated generous portion of avocado. When this salad was placed in front of me, I didn't think there was any way I could finish it all in one sitting, but it was too delicious to leave even a bite behind.

As for the staff, the crew at Garry's takes the phrase "service with a smile" literally. In an era that hasn't been easy for restaurants, I couldn't have asked for friendlier service, and you can tell by their banter that the staff is like a family.

Continued on page 9





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Cover Photo — Art in the Park made its debut at Cafe Mezzanotte in September 2021, offering live jazz music, fine art in the courtyard, and Italian cuisine. The successful event is scheduled to return this fall.



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The Best Food Around Severna Park. Chosen By You

Hellas is generous with its crab cake portions, as this

double crab cake

platter demonstrates.

Hellas Restaurant and Lounge

Hellas is one of those places that's been on my "to try" list ever since moving to Severna Park. When Hellas claimed the coveted prize of Best Crab Cake, it was time.

I ordered the double crab cake platter, thinking one is never enough.

I'd obviously never had a Hellas crab cake and was stunned to see the crab cakes were almost as big as my hand. I will happily order this again, armed with the knowledge that one crab cake and a choice of two sides is more than enough for me.



Rita's Italian Ice



This happy customer enjoyed a refreshing cotton candy Italian Ice at Rita's.

No entrees to be had here, but as the temperatures begin to hit the '90s we'd be remiss if we didn't mention our winner for Best Frozen Treat. Situated right in the middle of the Severna Park Village parking lot, Rita's serves its signature Italian Ice with a side of people watching.

On tap for our party this time around were two cotton candy Italian Ice treats, a cherry frozen drink and a peach frozen drink. We look forward to making our way through all of the flavor options this summer.

This is but a small sampling of your 2022 Best Of winners. We hope you have a chance to enjoy all of the greater Severna Park area's dining options soon.

Best Breakfast - The Breakfast Shoppe Best Barbecue and Best Wings
- Adam's Taphouse and Grille

Best Burger - Five Guys

Best (offee - The Big Bean

Best Bakery/Cakes

- Cakes and Confections Bakery Café

Best Pizza - Squisito Pizza and Pasta

Best Sandwich/Sub - Jenos Steaks

Best Seafood

- The Point Crab House and Grill

Best Fast Food - Chick-fil-A

Best Asian

- Ginza Japanese Steak & Sushi Bar

Best Mexican - Mi Pueblo II

Best Food Truck - Wingman

Best Outside Seating
- Severna Park Taphouse

Best Restaurant Outside Severna Park

- Blendabowl and Two Rivers Steak & Fish House (tie)

Summer Merriment In Maryland

By Declan Keefe

arnivals, festivals, parades and outdoor music events. Few words cause as much anticipation for the summer as these. As the weather warms up and the days get longer, the number of activities and events grow exponentially. There are a multitude of experiences to be had this summer in Anne Arundel County, no matter your interests.

Feeling patriotic? Look no further than the

annual Severna Park Fourth of July parade, organized by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Rich History." The chamber is looking for new floats and volunteers. A panel of judges will determine the Best Overall, Best

Theme and Most Patriotic. Kids are a big part of the parade too, and they are encouraged to adorn their bikes with patriotic and creative materials for the decorated bike contest.

Concurrent with Independence Day this year is the annual Earleigh Heights Carnival, held from June 30 to July 9. Run by Jolly Shows, the carnival has an array of enter-

tainment. Adults and kids can glide or spin with high-intensity rides midair or they can enjoy the leisurely merry-go-round or super slide. Games include the duck pond, water race and hoop shoot. Guests can also stroll around the midway to sample the concessions: corn dogs, chicken fingers, pizza, ice cream, funnel cakes, cotton candy and popcorn.

Speaking of food, are you in the mood for crabs? Head to the annual Annapolis Crab Feast.

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce chose "Celebrating Our Rich History" as this year's Fourth of July parade theme.



Photo courtesy of Alex Cheatham

The Maryland Renaissance Festival features jousting knights, kings, jesters and other colorful characters.



Held rain or shine since 1946, the feast is one of the longest-running and most popular summertime traditions in Maryland according to Visit Annapolis. Held every August at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, this all-you-can-eat event invites attendees to enjoy Maryland blue crabs, beef barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs, watermelon, draft beer, soda and more. Need another reason to attend? All of the proceeds of this event will be donated to local community organizations.

Do you love music? Bands in the Sand will come to Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis on Saturday, June 11. Presented by Annapolis Subaru and Urban Grid, this music festival on the beach is a fundraiser for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF).

Since 2006, the event has raised more than \$3.54 million for Chesapeake Bay preservation efforts.

The 2022 Summer Spirit Festival is at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia on Sunday, August 7, for the event's 15th anniversary. A stacked lineup includes Erykah Badu, Anthony Hamilton, Method Man and Redman, Marsha Ambrosius, Junkyard Band and J. Brown.

Huzzah! As the summer comes to an end and the autumn wind brings a chill, the Maryland Renaissance Festival invites guests to put on their costumes and step back in time to the village of Revel Grove. The 2022 season begins on August 27 and continues for nine weekends of merriment. The second-largest renaissance festival in America, this 27-acre annual attraction sees about 300,000 visitors every year.

Continued on page 15



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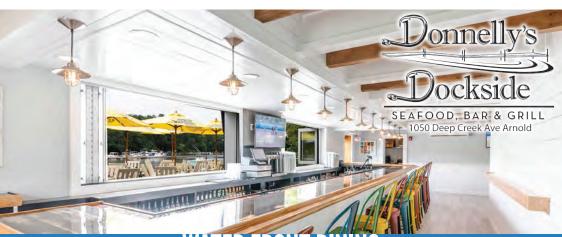
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Summer Merriment In Maryland





Photos courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Bands in the Sand will come to the Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis on June 11.

Continued from page 10

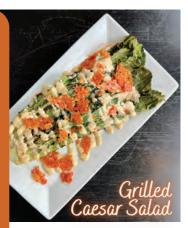
Baltimore's renowned celebration of the arts, Artscape will sadly continue its hiatus this summer. The celebrated event will return in 2023, along with a preview of next year's fest this coming September. As the official website states, "The origin of Artscape was to have a positive economic impact on the artists and makers throughout the city. Baltimore is overflowing with creative talent, and we set out to reimagine Artscape in the tradition of the world's great art festivals. A new Artscape promises to draw art enthusiasts from around the country and the world, ensuring that Baltimore becomes a world-class center of artistic excellence."

There is an event for everyone this summer, no matter their interests. So, grab the hat and sunglasses, put on some sunscreen and head out to one of the many events in the area for some summer fun.













Challenges, Camaraderie Await At Activity Centers Around Town

othing interrupts the dullness of a routine like trying a new experience or finding time to enjoy a once-beloved activity. Luckily for residents of Severna Park, Arnold and Millersville, there is plenty of variety within a short drive.

Looking for a new hobby? Annapolis Home Brew carries supplies to help you make your next perfect batch of beer, wine, mead, hard cider, kombucha or soda. The shop also carries cheese-making kits and ingredients as well as fermented vegetable supplies.

"This is not just dad's den; this is a place the whole family can enjoy," said store manager Steve Bolton. "It's a great activity for couples and we have a lot of solo female brewers; it certainly is not just a guy hobby."

Another activity for the whole family: bowling. Experienced and new bowlers can head to Severna Park Lanes, which has 16 tenpin lanes and 16 duckpin lanes. To keep younger children happy and their bowling balls out of gutters, there are bumper bowling lanes too. For extra fun, come for galaxy bowling where normal lights are turned down, the music is turned up and special effects lighting transforms the place into a party atmosphere.

If you're looking to engage a party of friends, family members or coworkers in a collaborative exercise, EscapeTime Escape Rooms has locations in Severna Park and Annapolis. Teams of two to 10 people enter a themebased room and have 60 minutes to solve the clues.

Owners Jose Matos and

Russell Paterno opened the Severna Park location in 2018.

"Our rooms are generation three level," Matos previously told the Voice. "A lot of places are generation one, which are just locks. Generation twos are locks and regular puzzles. Generation three, the level of technology here and props ... we have a command center where someone is watching, giving clues."

It doesn't take many clues to find the target in our next recommendation. Ax House Annapolis, located in Severna Park, challenges guests to hit targets using any of the following tools: hatchets, ninja stars, knives, throwing cards, tactical axes, custom axes, tomahawks, shovels and two-handed axes. No experience is necessary, but reservations are required.

For a different kind of thrill, check out Eco **Adventures.** The Millersville facility houses over 100 native and exotic animals and features a simulated rainforest full of animal exhibits and a glowing volcano, an "Underwater Pier" discovery room, an outside sluice and fossil dig, and an outside field and classroom that neighbors the Severn Run wildlife area.

Another outdoor experience awaits at **Scoring** Zone Golf in Arnold. Playing lessons help golfers learn the rules of the game, understand their shot

> options, read the greens and get the most out of their range time.

With a 19,000-square-foot indoor arena, Benfield Sportscenter gives Anne Arundel County residents a place to play futsal, soccer, baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, dodgeball and kickball. Featuring a large viewing lobby with

Comcast video, Wi-Fi and a snack bar, Benfield Sportscenter is also a great location for birthday parties.

Children eager to take on a long-term commitment and earn a gratifying reward can try a variety of hobbies. The Maryland

Performing Arts Center, for example, educates girls and boys in the genres of dance, conditioning, acrobatics and vocal training.

For all ages, Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Arnold offers beginners dance lessons, wedding dance lessons, ballroom dance lessons and dance classes.

Whatever piques your interest, hopefully this list helps you discover a new activity or rekindle an old passion.

Benfield Sportscenter gives Anne Arundel County residents a place to play a wide variety of sports.



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Local Performers Anchor Severna

By Judy Tacyn

or musicians and those who love live music, Anne Arundel County, and specifically Severna Park, is filled with great options covering the spectrum of musical styles and genres. In popular spots like Brian Boru Irish Restaurant, Sullivan's Cove, Severna Park Taphouse, Mother's Peninsula Grille, Garry's Grill and so many more, talented local musicians entertain guests every night of the week.

For Park Life duo Joe Comer and Ray Gauss, music is a relaxing escape from their overly analytical professions. Comer is a physicist and Gauss is C-suite technology executive.

"Performing scratches a different part of my brain," Comer said.

Park Life came about in 2016 as a couple of West Severna Park guys wanting to play acoustic music on the beach. Though they had been in bands before, the flexibility of having a community band was perfect for these two working professionals with young families.

Comer said that during the pandemic, small outdoor opportunities really started to pop up. "It's real easy for two guys to unpack and play under a tent," said Comer, who added that the duo prefers modern rock "before rock got angry. The songs are some that everyone knows the words and can sing along."

Dave Tieff, the frontman for Laughing Colors, started to play more house concerts and private parties during COVID, something he called "one of the silver linings" of the pandemic. He's also been inspired to write his own music lately. He has his weekends booked with gigs and is an online businessman during the week. He grew up a Broadneck Bruin but has called Severna Park home for the last decade.

"Most people know me from the band Laughing Colors, and we started way back in 1991. I went to high school with Corey Hall, the guitar player, and Dan Welsh, the bass player, who are also Broadneck alums," Tieff said. "We set out to conquer the world [after high school] — or at least Anne Arundel County — shortly thereafter."

George Evans started as a drummer in 1984, playing heavier music like Metallica, before studying classical guitar in college. Along his music journey, he picked up bass guitar and saxophone. He now plays solo gigs and as part of a

duo and a band.

"The singing has developed over the last eight to 10 years as I've had to become more reliant on playing solo," he said.

Comer and Gauss love being able to come into a gig with a general idea of what they are going to play, but then allow the crowd to respond and interact, saying the vibe with an engaged audience is a feeling like none other. In addition to Severna Park spots, the duo also like the Rumor Reel in Pasadena, the vibe of playing dock bars, and gigs on the Eastern Shore.

Laughing Colors loves to play The Recher theater in Baltimore, Rams Head Live! and Pier Six Pavilion, the 9:30 Club, and Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis, to name a few.

When he's playing with Laughing Colors, Tieff said, "It's all about the high energy, and I love that. It's loud guitars and drums and bass and organized chaos. When I play solo, it's more mellow, and I do everything at my own pace, which can also be very rewarding."

Whether that's with the full band or him playing solo, Tieff said he's always felt extremely blessed to be able to do what he truly loves to do. "I love to entertain people," the guitar-player frontman said. "I love to see them dance or sing or move or get smiles on their faces when they hear music."

Park Life has performed with Burgers & Bands, the Severna Park based fundraiser for suicide prevention held at Severna Park Taphouse, for several years, an event they said they thoroughly enjoy.

"It's so great to perform in such an intimate setting," said Comer, speaking of the inside acoustic stage at the Taphouse. "It's also great to be able to hang out with so many great musicians that we ordinarily wouldn't be able to see perform. It's an all-day event, so we can sit down with other musicians and have some great conversations."

Evans is also a regular at Burgers & Bands at Severna Park Taphouse. He also performs at Sullivan's Cove in Severna Park, Beefalo Bob's in Pasadena, Sunset Back Bar in Glen Burnie and he gets recruited for private parties. As for his go-to songs, he likes to perform the original tune "Adrian" and covers including "Danny's Song" by Loggins and Messina, and anything by The

Park Music Scene

Doors, Dave Matthews Band, Foo Fighters, and many other tunes.

He is always incorporating new songs into his set to keep the audience engaged and to perform different songs at different venues.

"A bar that has an older crowd, you probably want to play classic rock," he said. "If you play some Pearl Jam, you might lose them."

Adding more layers of excitement to his shows, Evans likes to make concert posters with original artwork and also give young musicians the chance to open for him so they get needed experience.

"It's a competitive market, but you need to stay friendly," Evans said. "It's good to have a scene you can be a part of, and this scene has sprung

a lot of side projects. It's fun to see these other artists start to develop."

For people who play music and people who love music, the Annapolis area is a rare gem, Tieff said.

"You'd have to travel far to find such a closely knit community of people who truly love music," Tieff said. "There are tons of extremely talented musicians, many of whom I've been

blessed to play with over the years."

From community beaches to Pier Six, for these local musicians performing all comes down to the energy created with a live audience.

"Playing live music will always be the biggest rush for me. There's something about the circle of energy that goes from the performer to the audience and back again that is highly addictive," Tieff added. "It's not something I will ever get tired of."







Top Left: George Evans is a regular performer a<mark>t Burgers & Bands at Severna Park</mark> Taphouse. He also plays at Sullivan's Cove and Beefalo Bob's.

Middle Left: For Park Life duo Joe Comer and Ray Gauss, music is a relaxing escape from their overly analytical professions.

Bottom Left: Dave Tieff, the frontman for Laughing Colors, started to play more house concerts and private parties during the COVID pandemic.

The Performing Arts Scene Offers Comedy, Music And Intrigue

aptivating stories, beloved songs and exciting dances aren't limited to big and small screens. The following venues and organizations have a variety of upcoming live shows that are sure to engage audiences.

Classic Theatre of Maryland

Formerly known as Annapolis Shakespeare Company, Classic Theatre of Maryland is performing "The Servant of Two Masters" in Annapolis now through August 30. This hilarious play tells the story of a hungry servant who, realizing that working for two masters could ensure him more food, tries to do the job of two men while working desperately to conceal that fact from both employers. With a zany plot featuring lost love, mistaken identity, ravenous servants, and lots of letter mixups, Goldoni's classic comedy is rollicking fun. The show is presented weekly on Tuesdays in the outdoor courtyard at Reynolds Tavern.

Classic Theatre has another show, "As You Like It," coming to the Gresham Estate from July 7-24. One of the bard's most beloved comedies about flirtation, friendship and mistaken identities takes a lighthearted look at the fickle and passionate nature of love. The character Rosalind is considered one of Shakespeare's most fully realized female characters. Director Sally Boyett sets the production in the 1930s in the Cumberland Gap region of the Appalachian Mountains, with nostalgic bluegrass music performed by the cast, an ensemble of eight seasoned professional actors.

Ticket information is available at www.classictheatremaryland.org.

Talent Machine Company

The music of Elvis will come alive in "All Shook Up," coming to Anne Arundel Community College from July 8-17. Inspired by Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," "All Shook Up" follows a small Midwestern town that is thrown into a frenzy with the arrival of Chad, a motorcycle-riding roustabout who rides from town to town with a guitar on his back, blue suede shoes on his feet, and a song in his heart. "All Shook Up" is a rocking, heartwarming tale about following dreams, opening up to love, and the power of music.

Learn more at www.talentmachine.com.

Maryland Hall

This Annapolis venue has a packed schedule including the United States Navy Band on June 17, a Juneteenth parade and celebration on June 18, a "Beatles For Kids" concert on July 23 and more. For the full slate of events, go to www. marylandhall.org.

Pasadena Theatre Company

After a hiatus, Pasadena Theatre Company is back with "Happy Days," which runs July 8-17 in Anne Arundel Community College's humanities recital hall. The musical is based on the book by Garry Marshall and the Paramount Pictures television series, with music and lyrics by Paul Williams.

For more information, visit www. ptcshows.com.

Toby's Dinner Theatre

The Columbia venue will be transformed into the undersea town of Bikini Bottom during "Spongebob The Musical" from July 10-31. The stakes are higher than ever in this dynamic stage musical, as SpongeBob and all of Bikini Bottom face the total annihilation of their undersea world.

Chaos erupts. Lives hang in the balance. And just when all hope seems lost, a most unexpected hero rises up and takes center stage. The power of optimism really can save the world!

Adapted from the iconic Nickelodeon series and nominated for 12 Tony Awards, the dynamic score features original music by Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Yolanda Adams, Sara Bareilles and more.

Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster or by calling 410-730-8311.

Ballet Theatre of Maryland (www.balletmaryland.org) and Children's Theatre of Annapolis (www.childrenstheatreofannapolis.org) have concluded their 2021-2022 seasons. Check each organization's website to see what is in store for 2023.

Theater in the Park (www.theaterinthepark.net) and Stage & Screen Studios (www.stagescreenstudios.com) have shifted their focus to summer camps.





floor, & audio-

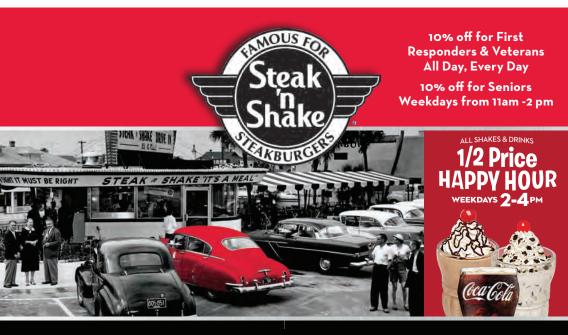
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Danielle Stracke 🔵 Event Coordinator 410-360-3535 Events@TwoRiversSteak.com









We could go on and on about our *proud history*. or you could just have it *for dinner*.

Rainy Day Activities



hey're finally here: those glorious months when outdoor activities reign supreme. The kids get more fresh air and exercise, less screen time and our homes don't have to take such a beating from their youngest inhabitants.

Insert a rainy day. What's a parent to do when the great outdoors are a no-go and you've hit the limit on how many times you can watch the "Encanto" movie? We have a few ideas.

Annapolis Mall

There are multiple avenues for children's entertainment at the Westfield Annapolis Mall without even opening your wallet.

For the little ones (42 inches and shorter to be exact), there is a playground on the first level, near Pottery Barn, where a tiny tot can run and climb until their heart's content.

If you're looking for lower-key fun, and if your allergies allow, take the family to visit the SPCA's Paws at the Mall. Have fun playing and cuddling with sweet animals ready for adoption.

2002 Annapolis Mall. Annapolis www.westfield.com/annapolis

Anne Arundel County Public Library

The Broadneck and Severna Park branches of the public library offer story times for babies, toddlers and preschools many mornings each week - a great low-maintenance and free option for getting out of the house. Along with copious amounts of books from which to choose, every branch also has a "Discovery Dock" play area where children can play and learn.

Broadneck: 1275 Green Holly Road, Annapolis Severna Park: 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park www.aacpl.net

Rolly Pollies

Four days a week, Rolly Pollies offers an open gym hour when families can drop in for \$12 per child. For fully potty-trained children ages 3 to 8, parental supervision is optional.

476 Ritchie Highway Unit D. Severna Park www.rollypolliesmaryland.com/severnapark

Severna Park Lanes

Whether you need to kill an hour or the better part of a day, Severna Park Lanes can keep the whole family happy. Grab a lane for tenpin or duckpin. If bowling's not on the docket for the day, you can still squeeze out plenty of fun at the arcade and hit up the snack bar.

840 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park www.gobowlingsevernapark.com

Thrive Gvm

For children 5 and under, Thrive hosts an hour of open play four days a week at its Annapolis location and once a week in Arnold.

451 Defense Highway, Annapolis 1244 Ritchie Highway, Arnold www.thrivegym.org

Totsville

Take a little drive to Glen Burnie and you'll find the aptly named Totsville. Slides, crawl tunnels, an obstacle course and a ball pit all provide a great outlet for practicing those gross motor skills and releasing energy.

For the sensory-seeker who prefers a calmer vibe, there is a separate room featuring a large sandpit and toys — like a day at the beach minus the water and sunburn.

Totsville offers open play daily for \$12.50 and posts those hours on its Facebook page.

7497 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Glen Burnie www.totsvilleplayground.com



Unique Food And Drinks Around

By Zach Sparks

everna Park and the neighboring communities are home to an array of locally owned restaurants, which means foodies can try several dishes and drinks that they won't find at their average chain restaurant.

FOOD



Blue Crush Blendabowl 8221 Ritchie Highway 106 in Pasadena

At Blendabowl. the Blue Crush is marketed to anvone who desires a toxin

flush or muscle endurance, and for good reason. One of several all-natural blends on the menu, the Blue Crush includes spirulina, a blue-green algae that was used by the Aztecs and is known for its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. But this blend isn't just spirulina; it also has pineapple, banana and unsweetened almond milk, along with a choice of two of these toppings: coconut shavings, chia seeds, almonds, bee pollen, cacao nibs, hemp hearts, honey, hazelnut spread or almond butter.

Warning, the Blue Crush is not recommended for those who are pregnant, nursing or have an autoimmune deficiency.

The Bunker Hill



Founders Tavern and Grille 8125 Ritchie Highway in Pasadena

Named after a Revolutionary War battle, the Bun-

ker Hill features two half-pound Angus burgers with American cheese and Founders' seasoned corned beef brisket piled high on top, all served on a homemade sweet roll and smothered in a special sauce. The burger is so big that it's staked with a knife.

"This historical aspect is a big part of Founders' identity and brand, and one of the many menu items that have fun historical play," said Janet Sumner, who owns Founders along with her husband, Steve. "Our food gets back to the basics - principles the founding fathers used, freshest ingredients grown closest to you, slow cooked and made fresh to order."

As for the historical significance, the British defeated the U.S. forces on the Massachusetts battlefield on June 17, 1775. Despite their loss, the inexperienced colonial forces inflicted significant casualties against the enemy, and the battle provided them with an important confidence boost during the Siege of Boston, according to Smithsonian Magazine.

El Molcajete

Mi Pueblo II 554A Ritchie Highway in Severna Park

This dish combines grilled rib-eye, chicken, shrimp, Mexican sausage, and jalapeño poppers on top of melted cheese and chipotle sauce - served with a side of rice, beans, lettuce, guacamole and sour cream. What sets it apart? Two things. It includes cactus and it has a unique presentation.

It's served on a molcaiete, which is kind of like a bowl, but the Mi Pueblo II staff describes it as a "lava rock." Warning, this meal is served hot.

DRINKS

Lavender Field

Smashing Grapes 177 Jennifer Road in Annapolis & 2383 Brandermill Boulevard in Gambrills

Blackwall Hitch 400 Sixth Street in Annapolis The Blackwall Barn & Lodge 329 Gambrills Road in Gambrills



The Smashing Grapes menu features the Lavender Field. This beverage mixes Monkey 47 Gin, lemon juice, honey syrup, and egg white for a slightly sweet, slightly citrusy finish.

The Park

Massive Mary



Titan Hospitality's signature Bloody Mary, the Massive Mary combines lime, lemon, celery, olives, pickles, crabmeat, Old Bay shrimp, and bacon for a one-of-a-kind brunch cocktail.

House Cocktails

The Social 139 Ritchie Highway, Suite A, in Severna Park



OK, maybe this seems like breaking the rules to list a whole portion of the menu, but that's the unique part. In addition to beer, patrons at The Social will find cocktails on tap.

Of the cocktails, two of the most intriguing, according to managers, are the walnut old-fashioned and the Sunny Delight, which is a blend of vodka, blood orange, rosemary syrup and club soda.

The Red Queen

Level — A Small Plates Lounge 69 West Street in Annapolis

The talented mixologists at Level have created several spring cocktails including The Red Queen, made using tequila, lime juice and demerara syrup, with red wine floated on top.

Season aside, locals will appreciate The Bourbonapolis, a combination of Woodford Reserve, lemon juice, black tea syrup and a blackberry/balsamic shrub.

OTHER ITEMS TO TRY

These menu items may seem more common, but they each have something that sets them apart.

Breakfast Bomb



Garry's Grill 553 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park

An original creation from a Garry's Grill chef, the Breakfast Bomb combines a sausage patty, apple-wood smoked bacon, scrambled eggs and American cheese stuffed in a buttermilk biscuit, battered and fried, served with country gravy and hash browns or a choice of other sides.

Pizzas

JB's Bar & Grill 566 Governor Ritchie Highway in Severna Park

Pizza at a sports bar might not sound like a unique item, but this entry is all about the ingredients. JB's uses fresh house-made dough to create 12- and 16-inch varieties of cheese, pepperoni, meat lover, Mediterranean veggie, buffalo chicken, Hawaiian, margherita, sausage, and barbecue chicken pizzas.



Museums Offer New Exhibits For All

By Conor Doherty

useums are changing what they display all the time, adding and removing items or even entire exhibits. This summer, if you're looking for something fun and educational, visit these museums and witness some of the exciting new exhibits they have to offer.

MUSEUM OF HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS

If you want to see Annapolis and how its growth over the years has mirrored America, check out "Annapolis: An American Story." Opened earlier this year, this exhibit looks at how the city has changed throughout its centuries of existence. With the museum located near City Dock, you're that much closer to all that Annapolis has to offer. Book tours at www.annapolis.org/historic/americanstory.

Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park

Just down the road from the Museum of Historic Annapolis is the city's maritime museum where a photography exhibit by Jay Fleming is currently on display. It's an ever-changing exhibit as Fleming provides new photos from his trips journeying around the Chesapeake Bay. To experience a fun time on the bay, you can purchase tickets for a ride on the Skipjack, the museum's sailboat. You can even privately charter the boat for events. Buy tickets online at www.amaritime.org or at the door.

Maryland Center for History and Culture

The Maryland Center for History and Culture is immersing visitors in the ongoing fight for Black civil rights with "Passion and Purpose: Voices of Maryland's Civil Rights Activists." The installation highlights the voices of Maryland's civil rights activists through oral histories and photojournalism.

The center has other events planned for the summer: "Contextualizing Juneteenth in Maryland: Emancipation or Freedom?" (a virtual event on June 16), "A Ride to Remember" (in-person on July 23) and "A Conversation about Oral History — the What and Why" (a virtual event on August 11). Learn more about these free events at www.mdhistory.org/events.

THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM

The Walters Art Museum is transporting visitors back to the Victorian era now through August 7 with the exhibit "Majolica Mania." Featuring immersive installations on each floor of Hackerman House, the exhibit includes a recreation of a Victorian parlor complete with faux plants and foods. Learn more at www.thewalters.org/ exhibitions/majolica.

The Smithsonian

Located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the Smithsonian is home to over 150 million items across its 19 museums, 21 libraries and a zoo. Here are some of the new exhibits on display:

National Museum of Natural History: To see unusual and memorable pictures of animal behavior, observe the "Unforgettable Behavior: Wildlife Photographer of the Year" exhibit. From a monkey checking Facebook while in a hot spring to flies fighting, there are dozens of unique photographs on display. The exhibit lasts through summer of this year.

Museum of American History: One of the newest exhibits in the Smithsonian, "Really BIG Money" showcases big money, whether in size, denomination or even quantity, such as an origami goose made out of Venezuelan banknotes.



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