



High School Seniors Graduate
 Graduate
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JULY 2022

County Council Takes First Step In Fixing "Road House"



The blue house at 132 Overlea Drive has become a punchline for many Severna Park residents due to its placement by the road. Sitting 1 foot from the right-of-way boundary, the house is located within a drainage easement for a ditch along Earleigh Heights Connector.

A stop work order was placed on the house in 2019.

During the Anne Arundel County Council meeting on June 21, the council voted to approve Resolution 11-22 classifying the property as surplus. The council can now take a second action to fix the house.

"The builder will be required, as part of any deal we strike before the county would surplus this land, to remove a portion of the house that comes right up to that right of way so that they're

» Continued on page 8

Goska's Owner Kevin Sosnoski Chosen As This Year's July 4 Parade Grand Marshal



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Kevin Sosnoski usually misses the Severna Park Fourth of July parade because he is working at Goska's Liquors, the family-owned red store on Leelyn Drive. This year, he has a good excuse to skip a few hours of work: he's the parade grand marshal.

The Fourth of July parade theme this year is "Celebrating Our Rich History," something Kevin knows a bit about; with 92 years in Severna Park, Goska's has become an important piece of the town's history.

Kevin's memories of Goska's go back to childhood.

"This used to be my bus stop when I was at St. John, us and the Barrancos," Kevin said, referring to another family



Kevin Sosnoski is a third-generation business owner, following in the footsteps of his father, Walter Sosnoski, and Walter and Helen Goska.

family in 1930 when it was a general store specializing in fresh cut meats and groceries. Goska Brothers Store also sold kerosene, gasoline, feed and featured an ice house on the property.

With the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the brothers started selling beer and liquor.

"The country store market was falling out of fashion with the addition of commercial grocery stores like A&P and Giant," Kevin said. "They decided

» Continued on page 14

that has called Severna Park home for decades. "I'd always come to the store after school."

Brothers Walter and Alex Goska bought the building from the Kleiss

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Carnival Is Coming To Earleigh Heights

By Conor Doherty

The Fourth of July is drawing nearer, but before the parade starts, another popular tradition will provide entertainment and family fun.

The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company will hold its annual carnival from June 30 through July 9.

Rides, vendors, games and more will all be a part of the

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Margueritte Mills Volunteers Of The Month

*Proceeds Benefit
Make-A-Wish Foundation
In Memory Of
Former Teacher*



By Lauren Cowin

Spend five minutes with Eli Pereira and you'd be hard pressed to describe him as anything but a man on a mission, even at the age of 12.

The Magothy River Middle School student held court at his community marina in Arnold on June 19 as he explained the rules for Fish for a Wish – the fishing tournament he planned, organized and executed for the second year in a row to honor his former teacher, Terri Ball.

"In third grade, my teacher fell to cancer and I wanted to honor her memory, so I started looking for foundations to help people like her," Eli said. "In my search, I found the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and ever since I was young, I've loved fishing, and I've always wanted to host something and be a leader of something, so I put all of them together, and I came up with the Fish for a Wish fishing tournament."

And fish, host and lead he did. After hauling over the supplies and assisting with fisher-kid check-in, Eli took to the stage — a picnic table — to welcome his participants and explain the rules: the fishing would take place for an hour, with a horn announcing the start and finish, and participants were to flag down a referee (who donned orange headbands or wristbands for easy identification) to measure and record the statistics of the catch before it was released back into

Arnold Philanthropist Hosts "Fish For A Wish" Tournament



Magothy River Middle School student Eli Pereira created the Fish for a Wish tournament to honor his third-grade teacher who died of cancer.

the Magothy River. This scoring was crucial as Eli had thoughtfully chosen and purchased prizes for just about every category imaginable.

In the end, every participant caught at least one fish and took home a prize, with 22 total fish caught in the hour.

As for the fundraising, he met that goal, too. Eli had originally aimed for \$1,000 in donations. He ended up raising \$1,335, and thanks to a matching donation from an anonymous business, Eli will present the Make-A-Wish Foundation with a \$2,670 donation — blowing his initial goal, and last year's number, out of the water.

"He has lots of very big ideas," said Anna Pereira, Eli's mom. "It just makes my heart happy. As a mom, that's what you want your kids to do is do good things and give back, so I think it's kind of amazing. Basically, I

just let him go, and whatever his idea is, we try to help him figure out how to make it happen."

"It makes me feel really, really happy. I've just always wanted to help people," Eli said, explaining that it's a trait he believes he gets from his dad, Prem, who spent this Father's Day assisting with the tournament, a proud smile never leaving his face.

When considering his future, Eli hopes to be a blacksmith or commercial fisherman when he grows up. One thing he knows for sure – he intends to host Fish for a Wish for years to come.

"[He] is already mentioning little things he wants to try and do differently and add for next year," Anna said.

For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit www.wish.org.

Fishpaws, Homestead Gardens Toast To Successful Corks For A Cause Fundraiser



By inviting guests to try point wines and food from around the area on June 15, Fishpaws Marketplace and Homestead Gardens again raised funds for the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation with the annual Corks for a Cause fundraiser. The event was also made possible by Next Gen and numerous vendors.

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Publishers

Dianna Lancione
Lonnie Lancione

V.P., Operations

Brian Lancione

V.P., Business Development

Jonathan Katz

Account Executives

Petra Roche
Larry Sells

Editor

Zach Sparks

Editorial Assistant

Lauren Cowin

Staff Reporter

Conor Doherty

Reporters

Molly Beairsto
Lauren Burke Meyer
Kevin Murnane
John Singleton
Judy Tacyn

Columnists

Mary Cobbler
Liz League
Mary Marta
Michele Sabeau

Contributors

Lisa Bogan-Reohr
David Diggs
Regina Hampton
Jason LaBarge
Stephen Mitchell

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spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com

P.O. Box 608
Severna Park, MD 21146

410-647-9400

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Historic Hancock's Resolution: A Little Farm With A Big Story

By Judy Tacyn

Nestled on just over 26 acres near Bodkin Creek in Pasadena is a historic property called Hancock's Resolution. The original stone main house was built in 1785 by Stephen Hancock Jr. At that time, the property was an approximate 410-acre farm known as a "middling plantation," or middle-class farm.

The property remained in the Hancock family until siblings Mary and Henry Hancock's deaths in the 1960s when it was left to Anne Arundel County to be preserved. The home, outbuildings, and the Hancock family cemetery remain. In October 1975, Hancock's Resolution was named to the National Registry of Historic Places.

"Hancock's Resolution is a unique 1800 century farm with an original farmhouse that has remained unchanged without modern improvements from 1785 to 1962, no electricity or water in the house," said Bill Blanchard, president of Friends of Hancock's Resolution. "Along with many family documents and photographs, Hancock's Resolution gives our visitors today a look at what it was like to live on a farm in this time period."

Stephen Hancock (1638-1701) arrived in Maryland in 1664 as an indentured servant. He moved to Anne Arundel County in 1667. "Stephen and the rest of his family have shown us what can be accomplished through hard work and never giving up," added Blanchard.

Life on a middling plantation required a lot of work by everyone living there. There were gardens for fruits and vegetables, barns for the livestock, and a milking barn for cows and the milk produced.

There is now a display in the new barn/visitor center that features "truck farming" and includes Harry Hancock's 1928 Model T Ford.

Blanchard's wife is Betty Ann Calvert Blanchard, and her great-grandmother, Rhoda Virginia Hancock Cook, was born in the Hancock house in 1866.

"Rhoda asked the family to make sure that the property was preserved for future generations. Betty Ann's family started the effort to save the property and memories of the family in 1966," Blanchard said. "We believe that history is important. The youth of today need to see what previous generations endured so that we might have what we have today."

Hancock's Resolution is located at 2795 Bayside Beach Road in Pasadena. It is 2.5 miles off of Route 173, Fort Smallwood Road. It is open to the public on Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm until the last Sunday in October. Most events are free, but donations are greatly appreciated to help defray the cost of maintaining the property and buildings.

For more information on Hancock's Resolution and a full list of summer events, visit www.historychanceresolution.org.



Hancock's Resolution is a unique 1800 century farm with an original farmhouse, giving visitors a glimpse into how previous generations lived. It is open to the public on Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm until the last Sunday in October.

Upcoming Events

July 3: Celebrating Independence Day with flags, music and interactive programs exploring national symbols.

July 17: "Let's have a PICNIC" and explore local history.

August 21: Remembering the burning of Lion of Baltimore in Bodkin Creek.

September 18: Hancock Family and Friends Day.

October 9: Fall Harvest Festival and Craft Day. Light lunch available. War of 1812 remembrance and honeybee demonstrations.

October 30: Animal Appreciation Day and Pet Parade.



Unity Bands Plans Reggae Night Fundraiser

The Arnold-based nonprofit Unity Bands, which supports COVID-19 frontline heroes and virus research, is planning a reggae night fundraiser at Mother's Peninsula Grille on Thursday, August 25, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The event will feature live music, food and games. Tickets are \$40 to \$50. Early registration is available on Eventbrite. For more information, visit www.unitybands.org.



GRUNGEology performed at the Unity Bands birthday bash in December 2021.

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Severna Park Man To Lead SRA

Former secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Joe Gill has taken the helm as Severn River Association (SRA) president. A Severna Park resident, Gill most recently led the Prince George's County Department of the Environment as its director.



Joe Gill

"I fell in love with the Severn River when I moved to the area 25 years ago, bought a kayak, and first felt the breath of wind over water as I paddled its creeks and coves," Gill recalled. "I accepted SRA's invitation to join the organization in a leadership role because SRA is uniquely positioned to help restore the river's water quality and habitat for living creatures, including oysters, using sound science, engaging its members, and in partnership with county and state governments. I look forward to working with its board, professional staff, and volunteers."

Gill will succeed Mark Lister, who will return to his role as SRA vice president. Aside from participating on the board's presidential search committee to identify a successor, Lister has been instrumental in creating SRA's strategic roadmap and winning restoration grants during his time as president.

RBSA Racers Compete In A2B



Mary Marta
Round Bay Sailing Association

This year's Annapolis to Bermuda Ocean Race (A2B) proved exceptionally challenging. The 753-mile race is one of the longest ocean races on the U.S. East Coast. The course combines an inshore leg down the Chesapeake Bay, and an offshore leg across the gulf stream to Bermuda. Alex, the first named tropical storm of the season, delayed the race start from June 3 to June 4 and promised a rough ride for the competitors. Indeed, many racers, when asked to describe the ride, said "bumpy," but that description is hardly adequate. In fact, of 29 entrants, only 20 finished the race, with nine retiring before the finish. Therefore, merely finishing the A2B was quite an accomplishment.

Being no stranger to ocean racing, Dave Malfroy, a regular with Round Bay Sailing Association's (RBSA) boat Himmel, sailed with Bare Bones, a Sunfast 3600, to Bermuda. Bare Bones sailed with seven crew members, scheduled as two on watch and four off, with one full-time navigator. Malfroy served as watch captain and bowman and reported that crew members were chasing currents to get an extra push to the finish. Bare Bones felt the tail end of Alex, and according to Malfroy, after four times across the gulf stream, this was the roughest. Himmel, a Dehler 39 skippered by Don Snelgrove, RBSA commodore, also finished A2B. Snelgrove agreed the course was challenging.

Read the rest of this story at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

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County Council Passes FY2023 Budget

For the first time in the last four years, the county budget got enough bipartisan support for a 6-1 vote on June 14. The \$2.1 billion Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023) budget prioritizes education, funds a new 911 call center, allocates money for a new firing range, offers a modest tax cut and more.

The tax cut will reduce the income tax rate on the first \$50,000 of taxable income for every taxpayer while setting the property tax rate further below the cap than ever before in county history.

Pasadena Councilman Nathan Volke, who has been critical of previous budgets presented by County Executive Stuart Pittman and his staff, had praise for this budget.

"We have been calling for tax cuts and this budget does that," Volke said. "We have been calling for the elimination, not creation, of structural deficits; this budget eliminates the structural deficit. We've been calling for maximization of our rainy day funds; this budget does that.

"I certainly believe that down the road, we may see some recession or even economic hardships if it's not exactly a recession, but I think having the rainy day fund at the level that we've put it in this budget and with the increase to 7 percent, we've really put the county in a good position to be protected in the event there is a downturn," Volke said.

District 7 Councilwoman Jessica Haire, who is running for county executive, cast the sole vote against the budget.

"I would not sell this budget as a tax cut," Haire said. "The budget is giving back essentially pennies on the dollar for that was imposed in year one of this administration's budget. So while I am glad to see money going back, I mean you're taking \$10 out of your left pocket and putting \$1 back in your right pocket and saying, 'I gave you a tax cut.' That's not accurate."

The biggest budget winners may be the students and parents of Anne Arundel County.

The FY2023 budget fully funds the Board of Education's capital budget request and adds 119 new special education positions, 29 new social/emotional learning positions, 48 new pre-k positions to convert half-day programs to full-day pre-k classrooms, 20 new English language development positions, three new bilingual facilitators and 140 new classroom teacher positions, including the final year of staffing required to fully open Crofton High School.

Through supplemental amendments, the county will also provide funding for hiring and retention bonuses for school bus drivers and crossing guards, as well as one-time pay equity funding for Anne Arundel Community College.

"I've been on this council for eight years. I was on the Board of Education, I've been involved probably 20 years in different things, and the capital budget being funded completely, also the amount of teachers being added and staff, I really think it's going to make a difference for our future," said Andrew Pruski, District 4 councilman and council vice chair.

Public safety departments will receive several investments including a new 911



call center, which will combine police and fire call-takers into a single, unified operation under the Office of Emergency Management. The county's police department will get a new firing range, relocated indoors, a \$24.9 million renovation. As Anne Arundel County Police Chief Amal Awad explained during a May 4 council meeting, the current firing range is "aged, it's dilapidated, and quite frankly, it's a safety hazard."

Haire supported the 911 call center and maximizing the rainy day fund, but she considered the budget overall to be fiscally irresponsible.

"The Spending Affordability Committee specifically noted its concern that the sort of repeated, large increases in spending year over year is going to drive the need for future taxes and fees in the upcoming years. That's a huge concern that I share," Haire said. "They also noted that a lot of the greater-than-anticipated revenues that the county executive and the administration discusses now are from temporary sources, and we need to be very careful about using that in any way to predict future revenue."

District 5 councilwoman Amanda Fielder was disappointed that some amendments did not get more support, but she was pleased with most items in the budget.

"It is time for our officers to have a safe [firing] range that they can use in all weather, and the joint 911 call center is something that Mr. Pruski and I have stated it is time for Anne Arundel County to move in that direction," said Fielder, one of three Republicans on the

council. "This is a budget that is more in line with what we've been trying to do in the minority party for four years."

The FY2023 budget includes two new parks — Tanyard Springs and South Shore — alongside investments in Bacon Ridge at Forney, Odenton Library Park, Deale and the new Brooklyn Park Center, plus water access site improvements totaling \$7.8 million in investments.

The budget also provides \$3.5 million to restore a building on the campus of the future Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park, to allow the building to become the Crownsville Health and Wellness Center, an incubator that will house emerging nonprofits, offer services to residents of the treatment centers operating nearby, and be a temporary home for the county team that will manage the restoration of the site.

In a written statement, Pittman thanked councilmembers for their collaboration and a nearly unanimous vote.

"In the midst of partisan conflict in Washington, growing economic hardship across the country, and attacks on the basic institutions of government, here in Anne Arundel County, we showed today that our two political parties are able to come together and support a budget that delivers the services that our residents depend on," Pittman said. "Delivering a bipartisan budget, just three months after receiving our first-ever Triple-A bond rating from Moody's, sends a strong signal to our residents that we can and will move forward together — united to make our county the best place for all."

Members Chosen For Police Accountability Board

By law, Anne Arundel County had to create a Police Accountability Board (PAB) by July 1. The following members were approved during a county council meeting on June 25.

- Dr. Shawn Ashworth, educator and nonprofit leader
- Barney Gomez, retired special agent and Vietnam veteran
- Kymberly Jackson, attorney and law professor
- Sarah Kivett, employee conduct investigator and former law enforcement officer
- Dr. Kenneth Moore, pastor, professor, and retired firefighter
- Jeanette Ortiz (chair), law and education policy expert
- Daniel Watkins, board-certified

nurse executive and behavioral health professional

- Anne Williams-Kinard, local business owner

During the 2021 General Assembly session, the Maryland legislature passed House Bill 670, mandating that counties establish PABs. The boards are designed to provide policy advice through meetings with law enforcement agencies, review disciplinary matters stemming from public complaints, receive complaints of police misconduct filed by members of the public, and more.

The PABS will replace the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, which guaranteed certain procedural safeguards to law enforcement officers.

Council Takes Step To Fix "Road House"

» Continued from page 1

in compliance with all the other setback requirements," said Pete Baron, director of government relations for County Executive Stuart Pittman.

The county administration wants to fix the setback problem, but there is also a title issue, Baron said.

Posing a question that many Severna Park residents have also pondered, Councilwoman Amanda Fielder asked, "How was this only identified at this point in time and not prior?"

Representing the Anne Arundel County Office of Law, Christine Neiderer said that when the county started working with the builder to solve the right-of-way encroachment issue, the county learned it might have rights to the property.

"It wasn't a property necessarily that the county has had an interest in or a need for, obviously ... so it was never brought to our attention until this issue with the encroachment happened, so we are trying to work with the builder to resolve the title issue ... separate from resolving the encroachment except that we are not going forward with disposing of the property until that issue is resolved," she said.

With the council voting unanimously to approve Resolution 11-22, Pittman's administration can now work with the builder to fix the house.

Carnival Coming

» Continued from page 1

carnival, with the fire company also providing food and drinks. Hours for the carnival are 6:00pm to 11:00pm except for the Fourth of July, which will be 3:00pm to 10:00pm. The carnival will be closed on Sunday, July 3.

But the rides aren't the only thing to get excited for this year as the fire company will hold a \$10,000 raffle. The winner gets \$6,000, second place gets \$3,000 and third place gets \$1,000. Individual raffle tickets are \$3 or buy three tickets for \$8. The winners of the raffle will be announced on a Facebook Live event that will be streamed on the final day of the carnival, July 9, so there will be plenty of time to buy tickets.

"We'd just like to see people come out and support us," said Andrew Price, the carnival's coordinator. "With the community's support, that's how we pay for our equipment. So, any help and support we can get, the better."





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Biker Visits 48 States In Less Than 10 Days

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnarparkvoice.com

Brian Conrad is no stranger to long motorcycle rides. This May, he completed a new challenge: an Iron Butt ride that took him through 48 states in less than 10 days.

An Edward Jones financial advisor who works in Severna Park, Conrad often swaps out his business attire for a jacket and helmet as he enjoys his longtime passion. In 2018, he traversed the country from Jacksonville, Florida, to San Diego, California. That ride was completed in less than 50 hours.

"I like long-distance riding," Conrad said. "It's about the journey as opposed to the destination."

At 4:57am on May 13, Conrad departed from Pasadena, Maryland, on his 2020 BMW R1250 GSA. He returned nine days, four hours and 13 minutes later on May 22 after traveling 8,371 miles.

Posed as a challenge by the Iron Butt Association, the ride had strict requirements. Conrad had to show a photo "receipt" every 250 miles.

"People think you have to speed to do them or that they are a race, but they're not," Conrad said of the Iron Butt rides. "You're just efficient."

Although he did not have much time to appreciate each state, Conrad said the ride was full of memorable moments.

"I got to cruise down the Vegas strip and got that classic shot in front of the 'Welcome to Las Vegas' sign," he said.

He also stopped in Wall Drug, South

Dakota. "The world-famous Wall Drug store has doughnuts and five-cent coffee," Conrad said.

Conrad stopped at the residence of a friend who he met during his days as a Washington state trooper. In Spokane, Washington, he encountered a snowstorm. Just east of Bozeman, Montana, he was surrounded by a whiteout and followed another vehicle to safety. Fortunately, he came prepared for cold temperatures, clad in an electric jacket that he wore from days six through eight, from Montana to Sturgis, Michigan.

On his last full day, which started in Sturgis, he tallied 1,400 miles. But there was one more snag. A hotel operator told Conrad that due to a Garth Brooks concert in Boston, all hotels within a 75- to 100-mile radius were booked. So, he kept riding until he reached Rhode Island around 1:00am.

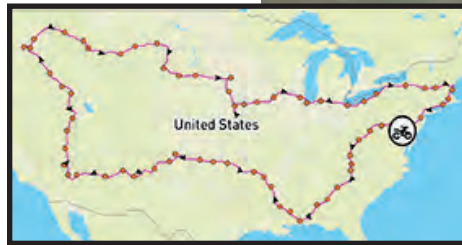
As he returned to Pasadena on May 22, he removed his helmet, a crease parting his hair. He was greeted by his supportive wife, Christine, a fellow rider.

For his effort, Conrad received an electronic certificate along with a patch and a pin. It was a satisfying moment for Conrad, who has been involved in many rewarding events as a biker.

He has helped sick kids through the AngelRide, which raised money for the



Brian Conrad traveled 8,371 miles on his 2020 BMW R1250 GSA motorcycle.



hospital outreach program at Hole in the Wall Gang Camp until 2018. With the Face of America Ride, he was able to help veterans.

Now that he's completed the 48 states ride, Conrad will soon plan his next adventure. The Iron Butt Association has border-to-border rides that encourage participants to start in either Canada or Mexico and reach the other border within 24 or 36 hours.

The Iron Butt Association has well

over 100 ride variations that challenge bikers to visit state capitals, national parks, complete 1,000 miles in less than 24 hours (SaddleSore 1000) and visit other sites.

Conrad is still savoring his newest experience.

"I covered all four seasons," he said. "It was 108 degrees in Needles, California, and 116 degrees when I came into Las Vegas. And then I had the snowstorms. It was a bucket list item, so I'm happy I did it."

Aziza Howard, Ms. Maryland, Brings Awareness To Military Members

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Aziza Howard is so much more than a beauty queen. The Severna Park resident and Queen of the World (QOW) 2022 Ms. Maryland titleholder is also a United States Army combat veteran. Howard served from 2006 to 2014 with multiple deployments and unique assignments.

"It is my proudest achievement serving in the United States Army as an airborne special operation soldier," Howard said. "As one of the toughest jobs out there, let alone one of the most strenuous jobs in the Army, it requires willpower, integrity and an unwavering commitment to selfless service."

Howard was deployed to the combat zone, earning a Combat Action Badge. In 2022, she was inducted into the Military Women's Memorial Museum Repository in Arlington, Virginia, under the HERstory Collection, which honors and explores the lived experiences of women veterans through American history.

So how did an Army veteran get her start with pageantry? Three years ago and at the age of 41, Howard met Maria Beall — a former Mrs. Virginia — who proposed the idea.

"I felt flattered, but I really didn't think I could do it," Howard said. "I was a tomboy most of my life, and I was no longer in my 20s."

Beall explained that there was more to pageantry than what we see on television. There are so many divisions and systems for every age group, where accomplished



Severna Park resident Aziza Howard won the 2022 Ms. Maryland title presented by Queen of the World. She uses her platform to advocate for wounded warriors.

women can inspire, shine and give back. Beall soon became Howard's coach.

"During my time under her mentorship, I learned about fashion, how a pageant queen stands, walks, waves and talks," Howard shared.

On Howard's journey to Ms. Maryland, she had to first earn a local city title, raise funds and build a platform and community support for her respective cause. As a contestant, she was required to participate in the following competitions: interview, swimwear and evening gown, with photogenic, fashion, ambassador, community service and print model competitions being optional.

"I was Miss Annapolis for America and my advocacy has been wounded veterans," Howard said. "Winning Miss Maryland for America was a big surprise as winners are rarely first-timers."

With her day job, she holds a career within the public sector as an analyst. Howard likes that she still gets to be around military personnel and make a difference in soldiers' lives by offering guidance, on-the-job training, and leadership support. It also affords Howard the opportunity to continue with her passion of assisting veterans, as well as her charitable work on behalf of Wounded Warrior Project (WWP).

"I want my story to inspire every woman, in particular female veterans, to pursue their path to greatness, whether that is achieving their vision of the American dream or in respect to any other endeavor," Howard said.

Knights Of Columbus Hosts Local Heroes Lunch

By John Singleton

Recognizing excellence is a tradition for the Severna Park Knights of Columbus council.

“Heroism begins at the local level,” said Brad Zell, newly elected leader of Council 3413. “Good deeds are first experienced personally, individually, but they can grow to have a profound impact.”

On June 4, a host of heroes, including teacher Susie Hughes of Divine Mercy Academy in Pasadena, were honored at the Columbian Center on Ritchie Highway.

“Divine Mercy Academy is designed for making saints,” said Ali Ghaffari, founder of Divine Mercy Academy.

“Susie’s love of faith and eagerness to share it with her students and among her faculty peers has made an enormous impact on our school.”

At Divine Mercy Academy, a classical curriculum is used to help students “read well, speak well and think well.” Before arriving at Divine Mercy Academy from School of the Incarnation in Gambrills, Hughes taught math for 15 years. She now teaches humanities to fifth- and sixth-graders, as math is integrated into a larger curriculum that sharpens reasoning skills and promotes an understanding of order and harmony in the natural world.

“I’m very grateful to Divine Mercy Academy for allowing me to celebrate my Catholic faith in the classroom,” Hughes added.

Lieutenant Robert Simonds of the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Com-



Photo by John Singleton

Teacher of the Year honorees Tim Feeney (middle, white jacket) and Susie Hughes (middle, black-and-white dress) were surrounded by family and friends at the KOC local heroes lunch on June 4 at the Columbian Center.

pany was recognized as Firefighter of the Year.

“I’m grateful to the Knights of Columbus for continuing their tradition of honoring public service,” Simonds said. “It’s a pleasure and an honor to serve this community and be an example for the next generation.”

Simonds has been with the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company since 2019. He attended North County High School and is a full-time firefighter for Baltimore City.

“Rob’s dedication to the development of our new firefighters, as well as teaching seasoned firefighters new tricks, is thoroughly appreciated every day,” said fire chief Dave Crawford.

Placing a premium on teaching honors, the Knights also recognized a teacher from the area’s newest classical high school.

“Four and a half years ago when the idea of Chesterton Academy in Annapolis was just beginning, Tim Feeney had just converted to Catholicism,” explained Azin Cleary, executive director of the Chesterton Academy. “He’s been the bedrock of our faculty ever since.”

Before teaching at Chesterton, Feeney worked at Rockbridge Academy, a classical Christian school in Millersville, where he taught theology and history from 2001 to 2015. At classical schools like Chesterton, the use of technology in classrooms is minimized, increasing

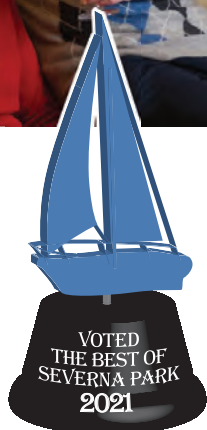
attention span and reducing isolation. The conversation-based classroom environment not only supports enriched learning, but it also encourages friendship and community.

“The Catholic faith provides an ages-old roadmap in how to go through life,” Feeney summarized. “I feel privileged to help students recognize the truths of the faith. Not just on Sunday morning but through the study of history, literature, math and science.”

Other awardees included Erzebet Nemeth of St. John the Evangelist School for Teacher of the Year, Sydney Keplinger for EMT of the Year, and Corporal Charles Burgess for Sheriff’s Deputy of the Year.

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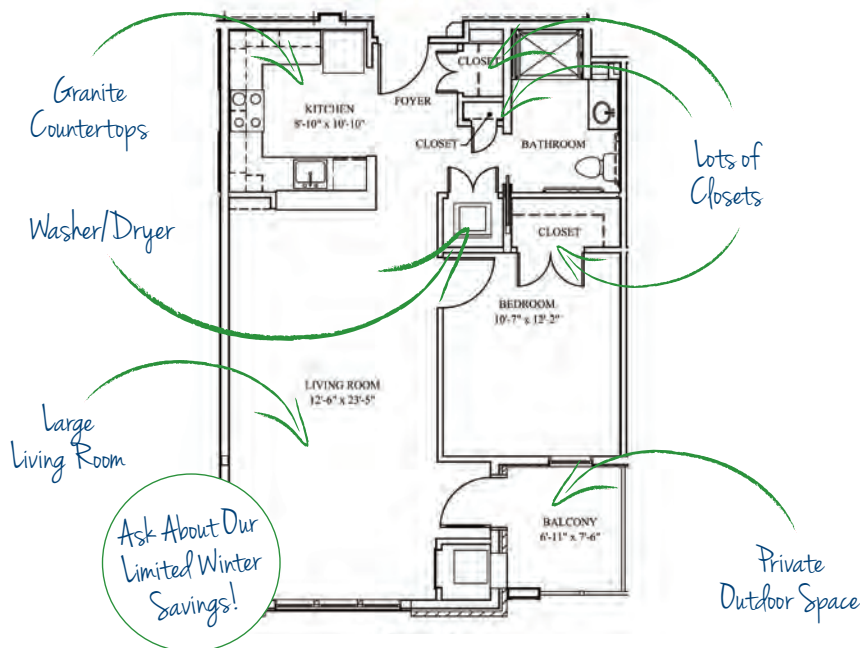
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Youth Are Giving Back To SPAN In Meaningful Ways

Michele Sabean
 Director of
 Development
 SPAN Inc.



Some preschool-aged children recently delivered food donations that they had collected in their neighborhood. On another day, a teen came to our door with a bag of toiletries that her grandmother asked her to donate. I love the intentionality when families involve their children in giving back.

Although our regular hours overlap with school, there are plenty of ways that youth contribute in meaningful ways to SPAN. We have many who, through their scout groups, youth groups or on their own, have done a food collection for SPAN or put together birthday or other types of snack bags. We have lots of students who create beautiful and inspirational cards that we include with the food. We have students who help at our community events such as the Fourth of July parade. Our annual Turkey Trot 5K fundraiser is a way for youth to contribute both in the planning and participating.

It is great to see youth giving back. There are lots of ways we encourage this in our children – some of the best methods are to model and to provide opportunities.



“Children are great imitators, so give them something great to imitate.”

— ANONYMOUS

I love to see families show up together, bringing produce from their garden, or eggs from their chickens to donate. It is wonderful how many families choose to work as a family to put together the meals and gifts for families in our Holiday Caring program. At Easter, we could see evidence of family involvement with the sets of meal boxes beautifully decorated with stickers and drawings. With the many donations we receive, I know there are many parents out there giving their children great hab-

its to imitate – picking up a few extra items for others when at the grocery store or bringing items to the SPAN collection boxes at their churches, the Severna Park Library or the Severna Park Community Center.

All of the youth who contribute to SPAN are great reminders for me of how much children contribute and what great role models they have. Thank you all!

On another note, if you are an adult looking for a volunteer opportunity on the front lines, we are looking for additional volunteers to work as interviewers with our clients. Our interviewers assist people who need food or financial help. There is a training process involved. It can be quite fulfilling because the interviewers are directly involved with people in need.



SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is an independent nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills, and food since 1990. SPAN serves 14 zip codes in Anne Arundel County. SPAN is located behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Road in Severna Park. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00am-1:30pm. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit www.spanhelps.org. Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off anytime using the storage bin behind SPAN's building. Please “like” SPAN on Facebook!

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Premises Liability And Landowners' Responsibility For Injuries

By Lisa Bogan-Reohr, Esq. and David V. Diggs, Esq.

It's summertime in Anne Arundel County: time for swimming pools, boating, running through sprinklers and snowballs! No, not the snowballs of winter play, but the powdery shaved ice that's drenched in brightly colored flavored syrup and, if you're willing to spare another 25 to 99 cents, draped in marshmallow fluff for extra yumminess.

But beware the accidents of summer: the child who is not properly supervised at the community swimming pool, an ankle twisted on a mossy boat ramp, the Amazon delivery person who trips on the hose to the sprinkler, or maybe a slip and fall on a spilled and melted snowball!

To attorneys, these are premises liability cases, involving a category of law that governs one's injury on someone else's property. These causes of action are based upon the concept of negligence or carelessness, and they arise from the duty an owner of real property owes to a visitor. The standard of care owed by the property owner depends on the status

of the person injured: an invitee, social guest, licensee or trespasser.

A customer at a business is an invitee. Invitee status may be proven in two ways: either the customer and business engage for a mutual benefit, or the invitee has an implied invitation to be on the premises. For example, a customer at a grocery store or restaurant would fall into this category. In these cases, a business has a duty to use reasonable and ordinary care to maintain the premises safely. If there is an unsafe condition, the inquiry will focus on whether the business owner knew or should have known about the hazardous condition, and whether or not the business owner had sufficient time to correct it. If the answer to these two questions is yes and the business failed to correct the problem, then there may be a case for premises liability.

A social guest is invited onto the property; these are your family members, friends and neighbors. The duty of care a property owner owes to a social guest is less than that owed to an invitee: it is to warn the social guest of an unrea-

sonable risk of harm about which the property owner knows and the guest would not be expected to discover. For example, if you are hosting a cookout and a wooden plank in your deck is rotting, please let your guests know!

A licensee is a person who has permission to be on the property but is there for his or her own purposes. A property owner only has a duty to refrain from "willfully and wantonly" injuring a licensee and to refrain from creating a source of danger without warning the licensee.

As for a trespasser, this person intentionally enters another person's property without permission. A property owner owes no duty to a trespasser to keep the property in a safe condition. The owner must only refrain from "willfully or wantonly" injuring or entrapping a trespasser.

The exception to this trespasser standard is that sometimes children are treated differently if you have what is considered an "attractive nuisance" such as a swimming pool, tree house, trampoline, etc. If a child is drawn to an item on

the property and is injured, that could be considered a premises liability case.

Maryland is one of four states that still abide by the common law concept of contributory negligence. As such, if the injured person is even 1% responsible for his or her injury, then that negligence is a complete bar to recovery, meaning the injured has no path for legal recourse. Additionally, if a person is aware of a dangerous condition, but intentionally and voluntarily exposes himself or herself to this danger, that assumption of risk is a complete bar to recovery.

If you or someone you know suffers an injury as the result of the carelessness of a property owner, or if you are a property owner and someone is injured on your property, you should consult with an attorney familiar in this area. The attorneys at The Law Office of David V. Diggs are experienced in all legal facets of personal injury and death.

If you need further information, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1171 or by emailing david@diggsllc.com.

Lauren's Law: Domestic Blues



Lauren Meyer

To most normal people, Memorial Day weekend brings thoughts of beach trips, pool openings or barbecues. Not for my husband, Scott, and I. With two toddler daughters keeping us busy,

three uninterrupted days without work, toddler soccer or other engagements means one thing. Productivity.

I began the weekend and several days proceeding it by trying to weed the jungle in our backyard. Scott soon began laying down mulch to combat the weeds. We ran out of mulch. For the second time. As I write this, many of the weeds have grown back. They're taunting me from my window.

However, running out of mulch was the least of our frustrations. Our fire alarm started going off in 15-minute increments. There was no fire, though. After attempting to reset all alarms with no luck in stopping the nonstop alarms, we called the fire department to rule out a carbon monoxide leak.

Despite it being a holiday, the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company arrived in no time. They quickly determined there was no issue with the air in our home or any mystery fire, but they advised us to change all of the batteries for the smoke detectors. Fifty dollars later and batteries changed in all smoke detectors, the alarm sound began again.

A quote from the 2004 romance film "The Notebook" immediately came to mind.

"He took a good look at what he'd accomplished, got rip-roaring drunk for 10 days, thought seriously about setting it on fire."

Like Noah, we didn't set our home on

fire. Thankfully, we did learn that one of the smoke detectors was malfunctioning. Problem finally solved.

In between running out of mulch and dealing with fire alarms, Scott was also painting our front door. After picking out paint samples, one light pink and one brighter pink, Scott was sanding down the door. Not long after, we (shockingly) agreed on the brighter pink sample. Working strategically around two pool trips and a family barbecue — yes, we still had some fun — Scott went to put the door back on the hinges before the long weekend was over. There was still some painting needed, but great progress in a short amount of time.

However, one big step forward would take us several steps backward. Scott accidentally dropped our door in a front window.

"At the end of a holiday weekend working on home projects, my net worth is having to fix a window," Scott said.

I wasn't even mad because, let's be honest, if anyone would normally break a window, it's me. My klutz nature must be wearing off on him.

For the next week, we had a newly painted pink door with a cardboard-taped window to the left of it. Classy.

This Fourth of July holiday weekend, we'll learn our lesson and put the household chores on hold and only have fun. Hope you can all do the same!

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



Goska's Owner Kevin Sosnoski

» Continued from page 1

to focus more on beer, wine and spirit sales as so much competition came into town."

When Walter Goska died in 1957, his wife, Helen, continued to run the shop with the help of her sister, Eva Schwartz.

Kevin's father, Walter Sosnoski, nephew to Helen and Eva, relocated to Severna Park from Arbutus in 1959 and helped run the store. Walter brought some much-needed insight to the financial side of operations.

"Basically, they never had a checking account before then and everything was paid for with cash," Kevin said. "That was during the '70s and early '80s. You have to grow up with the times, so with the suppliers doing business a different way, you had to follow suit."

Walter also worked full-time at Bon Secours Hospital as a pharmacist. Kevin remembers his father being mild-mannered, never seeking praise.

"He was named Pharmacist of the Year," Kevin said. "That was back when pharmacists were making pills, not just taking them out of a bottle and counting them. He worked seven days a week and kept our family together."

Now, Kevin runs the store with the help of several employees and family members including his mom, Emilie; sister, Carol; and his brother-in-law, Tim Mullen. Kevin's brother, Michael, and Michael's wife, Debbie, have retired.

"We're very fortunate to maintain a good employee base," Kevin said. "Being an established family business, we work every bit as hard as our employees as opposed to

being a silent partner."

New beverages have come and gone, but Goska's focus on customer service has never changed.

"We greet customers and let them know they are appreciated," Kevin said. "There's competition, so they could choose to go somewhere else, but they come here."

Throughout the years, his family has persevered as have so many others.

"We're very fortunate that we have a number of families who have been here: the Diehls, Clements, Barrancos, Cor-

wells, Winkelmeyers, Listmans," Kevin said. "There is also Kim Lawson and her daughter at Fishpaws Marketplace and Side Street Framers. You have Danny and Nick at Dawson's [carrying on the business] for

Ed Polk. There is a camaraderie. Even though we're competition, we get along and I think we're friendly in a genuine way. It makes our Severna Park town a little more special than most and they see the importance of donating to charity.

"And then you have Magothy River Association president Paul Spadaro and the Black families who have been important to this area: the Whites, Coates, Jennings, Johnsons, Smiths, to name a few. Many people have been so important to this community."

With the parade approaching, Kevin feels thankful for the grand marshal honor bestowed upon him by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce.

"I thought 'why me,' but in a good way," Kevin said. "A lot of people could have gotten this honor. My family has been in Severna Park for 92 years, so it's a privilege and an honor. As long as you maintain your family's name, that's very important."

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Candidates Discuss Their Plans For Office

In our May edition, we featured a Meet the Candidates segment with bios on the people running for office. With early voting for the primary election starting on July 7 and Election Day scheduled for July 19, we asked the candidates about their priorities and experience. While not every candidate could respond, we hope the responses we collected will inform voters headed to the polls this month. Some responses have been edited due to space limitations.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Fernando Berra III

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

First, I will work on short-term solutions to address those problems immediately — focus on a long-term vision to implement real, long-lasting solutions to these issues without wasting money and resources.

My platform revolves around “We the People,” ergo, I will address what the Anne Arundel citizens consider to be the most pressing issues: crime, drugs and the economy.

For crime, and drug interdiction, I will reallocate some of the funding from the 2023 county budget to hire more police officers and increase police presence in our communities. I will ensure that our schools are secured and have police presence in every school. Lastly, I will make sure that all law enforcement agencies have the tools necessary to perform the job that they have been entrusted to do.

For the economy, I will explore the ability to provide zero-interest loans to small businesses as well as zero-interest loans to Anne Arundel students for them to complete their degree. An investment in our local small businesses and students is an investment in our community.

Parallel to addressing those, I will work to remove all laws, statues and codes that violate our constitutional rights; our Anne Arundel codes and regulations need to be revised as they are old and antiquated. I will apply engineering skill sets to reconfigure our county government to make it more efficient and more cost-effective, thereby minimizing the cost associated with a large county government — freeing budgetary money to address other county issues such as hiring more teachers, firefighters and EMS personnel.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

The biggest challenge is going to be removing all the bureaucratic processes in our county and challenging those same processes at the state level, processes that in some cases violate our U.S. constitutional rights. However, I accept the challenge as this is the very reason as to why I am running for the county executive office.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

I consider myself to be driven and innovative, a critical thinker preferring to use an “outside of the box” approach when searching for solutions to complex problems — whether technical or programmatic. In my field, problems are opportunities waiting for the right solution.

I have a bachelor’s degree in engineering (BEEE) and a master’s degree in systems engineering (MSESE). Systems engineering is the management of complex engineering projects — from cradle to grave — that includes the management of personnel, operations and budget.

I have worked for the last 27 years with many United States government agencies — including the Department of Defense — on matters of national security and military weapons systems. In that time, I have expanded my management and mitigation skills to address complex issues. I have many proven successes in managing complex projects and delivering quality products within the constraints of schedule, technical complexity, and more importantly, within budget.

Chris Jahn

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

There are quite a few priorities that my administration will have to address. More than we can discuss in this forum. I would invite you to visit my website, www.chris-jahnqaaco.com, for more detailed positions. Below are my top three priorities.

A Healthy Business Community

A strong business community is vital for all of us. Helping businesses to start up, come back from closing and growing existing businesses is truly a win-win for everyone. How do we ensure our business community flourishes? County government needs to remove some of the barriers that make it hard for companies to start and compete. Twenty percent of all businesses fail in the first two years. By minimizing startup fees, we will be able to help new businesses thrive during that critical time.

The County Budget

Having spent nearly 30 years in management and customer service, I am very bottom-line oriented. In this case, our customers are the taxpayers, and the bottom line is our tax dollars. We need to get the most out of those dollars every single day. I believe that those in leadership positions, those with direct budgeting accountability, can do a better job making sure that tax dollars are not spent needlessly.

Fighting Crime

I will work with the legislative branch to ensure that we have laws that make sense, work for everyone, and have penalties that fit. I will work with the judicial branch to ensure that those who break the law are held accountable. I will work with the chief of police and the sheriff to ensure that our law enforcement officers have the tools and resources they need to enforce the law. While I believe that people make mistakes and deserve a second chance, I also believe that a person needs to be held accountable for their actions.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

I believe my greatest challenge will be winning the hearts and minds of the existing department heads. In almost three decades in management and leadership, I have been a part of change in leadership at all levels. I have seen change in leadership in levels above me, I have been the new leader taking over and I have worked with new managers as they take over in their new leadership position.

There are those leaders who will start their new position by removing all department heads and replacing them with “their” people. I do not fall into this category. While there will be a certain amount of turnover in key positions such as chief of staff and so forth, most of our department heads are simply hardworking men and women trying to do a difficult job to the best of their ability. The more turnover at the top of an organization, the more uncertain and unsteady that organization will become.

There are also leaders that will step into their new role and simply try to fit in. They do not want to rock the boat, so they keep steering the boat in the same direction. I do not fall into this category either.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

I believe that my extensive background in management and leadership will separate me from my competitors. For the past 15 years, I have worked for a franchise of Valvoline Instant Oil Change. With this organization, I have managed an individual retail location for several years as well as worked as an area manager, overseeing the operations of as many as 12 locations. Supervising 12 managers taught me that what works for and motivates one person does not necessarily work for or motivate another. At that level, you need to vary your management style to fit the person you are leading.

This is a critical difference between my leadership experience and the leadership experience of my competitors. The county executive office is a management and leadership position. While most of the competition has more legislative experience, I have almost three decades of real-world management and leadership experience.

Eight years as an area manager has led me to where I am today as the corporate recruiter. I have learned countless lessons from the company that I currently work for. Live your value system and you will prosper, for one. Train and develop your team. Doing so will ingrain loyalty and the team will gladly follow.

Herb McMillan

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

My first three priorities will focus on activities and efforts that instill great confidence among the voters, business community and agencies throughout the county, showing them that they will have a great government, with an open door to their needs, over the next four years. My priorities when I become county executive will demonstrate that I mean what I say and I say what I mean, and that my campaign commitments were not just empty election-year talk.

My first priority is to ensure that not only do we have a strong county executive but also that those who work for the county are the right people and doing the right things. Therefore, I would ask those who have been wasting government funds to resign their positions while I recruit and hire the most qualified people for the job. With them in place, we would do an assessment of departments to understand where there is waste, where we can improve, where we can upgrade technology or processes to streamline government services. I would work closely with the Republicans on the county council, including Nathan Volke and Amanda Fiedler, with whom I already have good relationships.

My second priority would be to closely scrutinize the budget and make any necessary changes to ensure that we can roll back property and rain taxes, while offering the income tax cut of 12% I have committed to.

My third priority would be to improve public safety. I would meet immediately with law enforcement and first responders to collaborate on activities that would increase respect for them within the community and ensure that we can provide for their budgetary and equipment needs.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

Poor economic policies at the national and state levels could adversely impact what we do in the county. While we can’t elect a new president for another few years, I hope that voters will put a Republican back in the governor’s mansion, a Republican who will collaborate on strong economic policies that will be good for Anne Arundel County.

While I have successfully worked with Democrats, and even got my legislation to cut property taxes passed when I was on a Democrat-majority council, and I helped get other taxes and fees cut when I was in the Democrat-majority House of Delegates, I know that inflation and other economic challenges will need to be properly addressed at the county level.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

I think voters should consider two things
» Continued on page 19

YOUR CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN TEAM...

- ★ Tough on Crime & Pro-Public Safety
- ★ Anti-Illegal Immigration and Secure the Border
- ★ Tax Fighters Who Always Put Taxpayers First
- ★ Champions of Constitutional Rights & Freedoms
- ★ Pro-Parents' Rights & Against Politics in Schools



Bryan Simonaire
State Senator

Brian Chisholm
State Delegate

Nic Kipke
State Delegate

Rachel Muñoz
State Delegate

MORE JOBS | LOWER TAXES | TOUGH ON CRIME | BETTER SCHOOLS

BRYAN SIMONAIRE

Bryan Simonaire has been honored to serve as a state senator in District 31, which now includes most of Severna Park. He has been married for more than 30 years to his college sweetheart and has seven beautiful children. He and his son started the annual Young Heroes Essay Contest that highlights positive activities of local youth. Legislatively, Simonaire has focused on restoring the voice of the people in Annapolis. He has successfully passed more than 60 bills focused on helping seniors, veterans and everyday Marylanders while working to reduce taxes, crime and the size of government, and clean our bay. People want solutions, not partisan bickering. His objective is to ensure the people have a strong representative who stands up for them independent of party, politics or power plays. Learn more at <http://www.simonaire.com>.

NIC KIPKE

A lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County, Nic Kipke lives in Pasadena with his wife and three children, who all attend St. Jane Frances Catholic Church. Kipke is a businessman, working as a manufacturer representative for the last 23 years, and he and his wife own a small business in Millersville. Delegate Kipke is known for dedicated constituent services and is always responsive and active in the community. He is a caring and conservative legislator who is opposed to illegal immigration, fights for tax cuts, supports first responders, votes for tougher penalties for violent criminals, and received an A+ rating from the National Rifle Association for his support of the Second Amendment. This session, he authored legislation to expand school choice, expand charter schools, provide a tax credit to homeschooled students for educational expenses, and he is staunchly against the political agenda currently corrupting our public-school system. Some of his legislative accomplishments on record include cutting the cost of the Anne Arundel County permit fee for replacement wells by 50 percent, eliminating the statewide soda fountain tax, prohibiting welfare cards from being accepted at Maryland casinos, many pharmaceutical reform initiatives to support community pharmacies, reciprocity with other states in offering complimentary hunting licenses for former prisoners of war or disabled veterans, a law that will assist the prosecution of election fraud, as well as a law expanding access to oral health care in long-term care facilities, and this year he passed legislation to expand access to substance abuse treatment for adolescents. He was recently awarded the Maryland Military Coalition's Legislator of the Year award for his work to support active duty and veterans. He will continue to be a respected conservative leader who cares about the community and works to solve problems in our community and state. **Learn more at www.kipke.com.**

BRIAN CHISHOLM

Brian Chisholm is a lifelong Anne Arundel County resident who has entrenched himself into the fabric of the community as a steadfast and reliable friend, family member, neighbor, small-business owner and trusted leader. He is seeking re-election for his second term as a Maryland Republican delegate representing Severna Park, Pasadena, Millersville, Gambrills and Glen Burnie. Chisholm attended Folger McKinsey Elementary, Severna Park Middle and Severna Park High School prior to attending Clemson University. He excelled on the athletic fields in both baseball and football, retaining those immeasurable bonds built with teammates, coaches and friends that were forged in his young adult years. He takes tremendous pride in the friendships, connections and involvement he has bolstered within the community spanning several decades. He has consistently proven to be a faithful and reliable leader in supporting charities, small businesses, community members and colleagues without fail. He currently serves on the Health and Government Operations Committee and was at the forefront of analyzing and disseminating a deluge of data throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He worked relentlessly to help countless Marylanders who needed quick assistance with supplies, resources, unemployment insurance help and information. He stood strong to keep restaurants and small businesses open prior to the 2020 holidays by garnering national media attention. He was a key component of successfully keeping many of these indispensable members of our community employed and businesses operating during these difficult and confusing times. Chisholm has earned immense respect from his friends, family, community members and colleagues in Annapolis for his passionate dedication to serve his community and all Marylanders. He is often referred to as "Braveheart" by his colleagues for his fierce defense of individual freedom and liberty. He is unapologetic about his unwavering love of God, country and American citizen. Delegate Chisholm would be honored and respectfully asks for your support in his 2022 re-election campaign to serve you and your family. **For more information, go to www.chisholmformaryland.com.**

RACHEL MUÑOZ

Rachel Muñoz is a devoted wife, mother, and hard-working and caring legislator. Muñoz was raised in Severna Park, where she and her husband, Andrew Muñoz, are blessed to be raising their five children. After graduating from Severna Park High School, she attended the University of Maryland, College Park, majoring in psychology with a minor in philosophy. Afterward, while studying counseling at Loyola University and working with the Anne Arundel County Crisis Response Team, Muñoz learned firsthand of the diverse issues that affect our residents. Inspired by the need for advocacy in the community, Muñoz studied at the University of Maryland School of Law, where she explored, in depth, the issues Maryland is facing today. Muñoz had the opportunity, in her first year of law school, to work at the Anne Arundel Circuit Court with Judge Cathy Vitale. Muñoz has been active in her children's school, on her community homeowners association board, and as a board member of the Severna Park Republican Women's Club. As a new delegate, Muñoz has more than proven to be an effective leader with helping hundreds of constituents, speaking out on the important issues and working to pass legislation. She is not someone to ever rest on her accomplishments. Her plans for the next session include holding the line against tax increases, repealing taxes that drive businesses out of Maryland, lowering the cost of living, helping small businesses that create so many local jobs, improving the environment, supporting constitutional rights, strengthening public safety, and protecting parental rights and the education of our children. Delegate Muñoz would be honored to have your vote in the Republican primary on Tuesday, July 19, and in the general election on November 8. **For more information, visit www.voterachelmunoz.com.**

YOUR REPUBLICAN TEAM - DISTRICT 31

SIMONAIRE KIPKE

STATE SENATE

STATE DELEGATE

CHISHOLM MUÑOZ

STATE DELEGATE

STATE DELEGATE

Authority: Republicans for the Future. Lisa Smith, Treasurer.

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**OUR FREEDOMS,
FAMILIES, & SMALL
BUSINESSES**
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE FUTURE OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY IS UP TO YOU



TAXES & FEES

✗ Stuart Pittman **raised property, income, and rain taxes** on our families. And he hiked up trash fees too.

✓ Herb has a **proven record of cutting property taxes**, and voting against higher taxes and fees over 100 times. He will roll back Pittman's rain and property tax hikes. And **he will Cut 'N Cap income taxes** – cutting them 12% then capping them so politicians cannot raise them without a voter referendum.

SPENDING

✗ Pittman has inflated the county budget by \$300,000,000, with **wasteful spending** on unnecessary and ineffective programs.

✓ Herb will implement fiscally conservative policies to **eliminate wasteful spending** in the county budget. He has a strong record of voting against government waste.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

✗ Pittman has harmed the business climate of Anne Arundel County and **driven local businesses to close permanently**.

✓ Herb McMillan will **reduce burdensome regulations on businesses and lower taxes**, so they can increase revenue and expand, creating more high quality jobs. An advocate for improving the business climate, he has a pro-business record.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

✗ Pittman made Anne Arundel County a **sanctuary for illegal immigrant felons**, putting the safety of our communities at risk.

✓ Herb will reinstitute the 287g program and work with the federal government to **hold illegal immigrant felons until they can be deported**. He has consistently voted against giving illegal immigrants expanded benefits and rights.

PUBLIC SAFETY

✗ As COVID subsided, neighborhoods began facing increased violent crime. Pittman **did not show support for law enforcement**, weakening their ability to best do their job.

✓ Herb has a **record of increasing funding for law enforcement**, and will be a strong advocate for providing support, funding, and equipment. Herb has a **strong record of supporting tougher sentences for criminals**, and, as County Executive, will work to limit police bureaucracy and instead utilize our officers to be in the community, making our streets safer.

MEET HERB MCMILLAN

FAITHFUL SERVICE

- U.S. Naval Academy graduate & Navy pilot
- Former PTA President
- Past Homeowners Assn. Board Member

PROVEN EXPERIENCE

- 4 years Annapolis City Council
- 12 years Maryland State Delegate
- Past President, Maryland Taxpayers Association

TRUSTED LEADERSHIP

- Fiscal conservative
- Independent—not beholden to special interests
- Commitment to GOP conservative values

While in public office, Herb had an **A rating from the NRA**, **100% rating from Maryland Right to Life**, and was endorsed by the **National Federation of Independent Businesses**.



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Candidates Discuss Their Plans For Office

» Continued from page 16

when voting in the upcoming primary election: the electability of a candidate in the general election, and what the candidate will do upon victory. I am the Republican with the strongest chance of electability in the November election. I have a proven record of winning over Democrats and independents in hard elections, without compromising my values.

It is not just about who can get through a Republican primary, but who can beat Stuart Pittman in November. My record shows that in addition to the Republican voters, I can attract enough Democrats and Independents to win, and polling shows that I could be a formidable challenge to Pittman, and I can beat him.

My experience in government, military and the private sector also set me apart from my Republican challengers. The military helped build my character and integrity, developed my leadership skills, and enabled me to demonstrate my commitment to serving the people and government of the United States; it is not about my own interests, but about public service.

I have the most experience in creating and passing legislation, have zero charges or allegations of illegal activity and ethics violations in office (unlike my key opponent), and have not resorted to the low level of lying about an opponent's record. I offer voters a refreshing choice of having strong conservative values while also being independent of the political machine that puts politics over people.

John Grasso, Jessica Haire and Steuart Pittman could not be reached.

COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 5

Amanda Fiedler

What would be your three priorities if re-elected?

My three priorities for a second term, in no particular order, are (a) improving our economy, (b) increasing our safety and (c) education.

A. Our families have felt the impacts of a global pandemic and rising inflation. That's why I have voted against income and property tax hikes during my first term. In addition to tax credits for our veterans and public safety officers, I have supported tax cuts for all residents and believe that there is room for additional tax cuts in the coming four years.

I have also sponsored and supported legislation to create and expand job opportunities. Supporting our businesses includes having a prepared workforce and strengthening job opportunities. To foster a better business climate and respond to the changes in the business sector in recent years, I see the need to modernize our zoning code. Our small businesses are the economic backbone of our county, and I will continue to cut the red tape that hinders their success.

B. A second priority is public safety, because everyone deserves to feel safe in their own homes and in our neighborhoods. Crime is a concern for area residents, and it's something we hear about in the press regularly, while those who risk their lives to protect us have been vilified. We must support our police, while still having accountability.

I have supported increased pay for law

enforcement, the introduction of body-worn cameras, funding for a new joint 9-1-1 call center that brings dispatchers for police and fire into one center for an improved and streamlined response, and additional public safety measures. I will continue to work with law enforcement and first responders to ensure that they have the financial support and equipment they need to properly protect us. I will support more police on our streets and in our communities, and particularly work to promote policies that can prevent Baltimore City crime from spilling over into Anne Arundel neighborhoods.

But public safety isn't just about crime and the police. It also means safer streets from the perspective of drivers and pedestrians, as we address infrastructure, congestion and development, and having reliable transit within our communities. We have critical infrastructure needs that have not been met by our partners at the state level.

Earlier this year, I testified for the refunding of highway user revenue fees from the state to counties. Since 2007, Anne Arundel County has lost a cumulative \$370 million in state funding for infrastructure maintenance and repairs. Our state needs to return to the table on infrastructure projects, and I will work with our partners in the General Assembly to do so. I will also continue to work on community projects that make walking and biking safer for you and your family, by funding the completion of the Broadneck Trail, and securing funds for sidewalks and crosswalks within school communities.

C. My third priority is education. Anne Arundel County Council members do not have authority over educational policy issues, but I plan to be a strong advocate for our students, teachers and parents. I was elected to the county council while coming from a strong background of advocacy in education, including founding Parents Rallying Officials For Increased Teacher Salaries and being a president of the Broadneck Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). After my re-election to the county council, I will work with our colleagues at the Board of Education to prioritize the capital safety projects that upgrade the entryways of our aging schools, while also expanding our school resource officer (SRO) positions to ensure the safety and protection of our students and faculty.

In 2020, the Anne Arundel County Council declared suicide a mental health crisis on the heels of a death-by-suicide of a Broadneck area middle-schooler. I supported an amendment that added more school counselors and psychologists to the school budget by shifting money away from books and materials, which are less necessary with the use of technology devices, and redirecting the increase toward mental health needs in our schools. I will continue to push for adequate mental health providers within our education system and within the community to identify those who may be in crisis and help them get the services they need.

What is the greatest challenge you would face in the next four years?

As we face tremendous economic uncertainty in the coming years, due to inflation and other federal decisions, we have to provide fiscally sound policies and greater economic stability for our families, businesses and communities in Anne Arundel County. I will work with Republican candidates to

increase our representation on the county council, so we can promote conservative fiscal approaches and be responsible stewards of your hard-earned money.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

My experience sets me apart from my opponent in the county council race. I promised to give this part-time job my full-time attention, and I have done just that. In my job on the council, when I am not working on legislation or constituent issues, I am in the community, advocating for local residents, businesses and nonprofits.

I came into this position with my sleeves rolled up, ready to work, and the results show that I have worked hard. Four multi-billion-dollar budgets, responding to thousands of constituent cases, and passing dozens of pieces of legislation with bipartisan support require an understanding of the job and the needs of our residents. Yet more work needs to be done.

I also brought experience in being a community liaison and advocacy to the county council. This enabled me to easily develop relationships with the local business community and other sectors in my district. With four years on the county council behind me when I start my second term, I will bring voters government experience that will enable me to hit the ground running in January, without having to learn the county council and legislative process. This is critical to being responsive to the district and being a voice on the issues that matter to our community.

Carl Neimeyer

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

1. Provide real financial stewardship of the taxpayers' dollars to support good government like education and law enforcement, not by over-bloating departments nor by demanding they scrape by, understaffed or underfunded.

2. Evaluate projects and our public works systems and contracting to support quality infrastructure and transportation, which are affecting our district's quality of life.

3. Introduce legislation and modify those remaining regulations that are putting our county behind other jurisdictions in terms of promoting local business growth, labor and environmental protections, and infrastructure and amenities.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

Brevity and clarity in communications. While I do well with technical and legal communications, I tend to talk too much and go on long tangents, which often obscures rather than clarifies my thoughts. I know that will be annoying and burdensome to busy constituents who just want to get to the point so they can evaluate and get along with their lives. It will be very challenging, but I will put in the work to do better because I want to serve my constituents well in all respects.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

My entire professional experience makes me exceptionally qualified for the job of

councilman. As a business owner, I have poured through all the aspects of budgeting, staffing, projections, zoning and other regulations that make up the majority of work on council.

Also, I have pertinent experience in the public sector. As a Naval officer in the Civil Engineer Corps, I was involved in aspects of federal contracting, labor law, and oversaw millions of dollars in public projects — everything from repaving roads to the organ restoration at the U.S. Naval Academy! I led thousands of servicemembers and public employees during my military service, and today, I lead my Small Business Administration award-winning small business of over 75 employees.

I serve as a trustee on multiple boards and have served District 5 specifically as a Broadneck Baseball and Softball Club coach, building committee chairman of St. John the Evangelist, and still serve as Scouts BSA merit badge counselor and cubmaster.

JUDGE OF THE ORPHANS' COURT

Maureen Carr-York

What would be your three priorities if you return to the Orphans' Court?

1. Maintain our tradition of service and caring relationship with the residents of Anne Arundel County.

2. Improve the time between filing of pleadings and date of hearing or other action. Like all Maryland's courts, we are still catching up with delays created by mandatory suspension of in-person hearings during COVID-19 restrictions.

3. Continue to develop creative ways to meet the needs of our county's families during difficult times. For instance, we continued to come into the courthouse to manage those matters that could be handled without a hearing even when most state and county employees were not in their offices. By doing so, we minimized the delays which would otherwise have occurred in getting the needed documents into the hands of those managing their loved ones' estates.

What is the greatest challenge you would face?

As with all of our courts, we face challenges related to increased use of the courts and a need to streamline the process while still being fully responsive in meeting the needs of everyone from citizens handling small estates on their own to attorneys challenging each other over multimillion-dollar estates.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

Three things set me apart:

1. Of all the individuals running in this primary, I am the only one who is a lawyer in good standing in the State of Maryland. I have been a member of the bar for over 40 years and bring to this job all of that experience with the law and the court system that the other candidates lack.

2. I am also a nurse and have witnessed firsthand the struggles of families facing the loss of a loved one.

3. Finally, I am the chair of the statewide Conference of Orphans' Court Judges, a body appointed by the chief judge of the Court of Appeals.

» Continued on page 21

Vote for the **ONLY** candidate with over 30 years of law enforcement leadership in Anne Arundel County



In his first term, Jim Fredericks:

- **Reduced Circuit Court Warrants for the Most Serious Offenders**
- **Enhanced Community & Deputy Safety through the Safe Surrender Program**
- **Modernized the Sheriff's Office through Innovation, Best Practices & New Technology**



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The Conservative Voice for the Community

About LaToya Nkongolo

LaToya is a wife, mother, and small business owner, with the expertise of addressing mental health and addiction issues. Her work is extensive as she represents her community by actions not just words. Her devotion surpasses any other candidate in her district with her God first, America first policies that will bring hope to her district and the change they want to see. LaToya was born in Wilmington, Delaware, and has resided in Maryland since 2006. "She is a graduate of University of Maryland-Baltimore School of Social Work; A graduate of Springfield College with a concentration in Organizational Management and Leadership; and a graduate of Delaware State University. LaToya serves as an adjunct professor in the Human Services Department at Anne Arundel Community College." cited: Latoyaformaryland.com.

LaToya's leadership includes and is not limited to: She was appointed to a three-year term on the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors, served as a panel expert on Former County Executive Steve Schuh's "Not My Child" Program, and is the past immediate President of the Maryland Addictions and Behavioral Health Professionals Certification Board. These are just a few of the attributes LaToya possesses, but more importantly, she embodies what this country was built on. LaToya was born to a single, teenage mother and spent most of her childhood living in public housing. With determination, she was able to break the cycle of poverty by obtaining an education, homeownership and starting her own business. Although she came from humble beginnings, she always believed opportunities in America are available to everyone, who is willing to put in the hard work and take personal responsibility. Today, LaToya is a living example of an American success story. She is a highly recognized successful leader of her community through her ability to connect, empathize, educate, inspire and provide practical remedies.

As a business owner, LaToya understands the tax burdens on small businesses and the fiscal irresponsibility of the current administration.

LaToya's key issues include, education, economy, crime, immigration, mental health and addictions. She has and will continue to fight for the freedoms of our citizens and bring back Conservative values. For more information, visit latoya4maryland.com.



Friends of LaToya Nkongolo

PO Box 1531, Severna Park, MD 21146
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www.latoya4maryland.com
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Candidates Discuss Their Plans For Office

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David Duba

What would be your three priorities upon joining the Orphans' Court?

My first priority will be to ensure that the court is accessible to all. With the support of my colleagues, I hope to offer an afternoon or early evening session of the Orphans' Court and host the session on Zoom. This will ensure that working people and those with transportation challenges can access the court more easily.

My second priority will be to ensure that the court is efficient and accessible as we arrange hearings, issue decisions and make documents available. People coming to the court are often dealing with a tragedy and I will work to ensure they have a pleasant experience. My final priority will be to develop a solid working relationship with my colleagues on the court and at the Office of the Register of Wills. Regardless of who wins the election in November, we must work together to effectively serve the people of Anne Arundel County.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

An Orphans' Court judge must be able to listen and understand families, who are often coming to the court after the loss of a loved one and might be in conflict. It will be a challenge to strive for neutrality and

justice during these conflicts. As a judge, I will seek to counter any biases that might sway a decision and approach rulings with fairness. Through this process, I will work closely with my fellow judges to issue rulings in a collaborative fashion.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

As a teacher, I consistently work to serve young people who often come into the classroom with real struggles going on at home and in their lives. I am trained to listen and understand their needs and to help them to succeed. I must continually make my classroom accessible while helping students to learn, regardless of their background or challenges outside the classroom.

In the same way, I will work to make the Orphans' Court of Anne Arundel County accessible to all, a place where all people can be heard and understood, and a place where people know they will receive an unbiased and fair ruling. Additionally, as a child of divorced parents who has navigated family conflict throughout my entire life, I believe I can understand the conflict within families and seek to reach fair and just compromises.

Marc Knapp

What would be your three priorities upon joining the Orphans' Court?

I'm an attorney who's appeared in court a number of times. While waiting for my case to be called, I've seen individuals who appear *pro se* (not represented by an attorney) be bullied by their opponents' attorneys and given short shrift by judges. Neither will happen when I'm on the bench.

I think that accessibility is important. Not everyone who comes before a court lives locally. Having to fly cross-country and stay in hotels in order to have their day in court is burdensome for many. I'll push for Zoom sessions and evening sessions to make it easier for everyone to attend.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

I expect that expanding access as described above will be received with push-back, possibly from court staff and possibly from other judges. Overcoming ingrained institutional resistance to change is challenging for all organizations.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

I'm an attorney. That's not a requirement for this job, but I think it helps when it comes to understanding the law when the law, as opposed to equity, is at issue — and the laws that govern trusts and estates can be complex.

Although I'm an attorney, I didn't make

my living practicing law. I worked in finance — both banking and corporate. Not every matter that comes before the Orphans' Court requires a graduate degree in finance to unravel, but some do, and I have both the education and experience to handle them.

I'm retired. I'm beyond career considerations. I'm not going to use this position as a stepping stone, neither as something to add to my resume nor by doling out patronage.

Tony McConkey

What would be your three priorities upon joining the Orphans' Court?

My priorities are easier access, fair application of the laws, and judicial accountability. Legislation was passed in 2021 to study the modernization and reform of the court, and I want to speed implementation of new technologies to make in-person and online access easier, and the court more user-friendly. Also, I support the fair application of all the laws; judges should not be able to nullify laws they don't like, and the public should have a way to measure judicial performance at election time. I support the governor's efforts in the 2022 legislative session to provide a judicial scorecard for educating voters.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

» Continued on page 22

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Candidates Discuss Their Plans For Office

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My efforts to modernize the court would be the biggest challenge, because many of the changes would have to be implemented statewide, but with the 2021 legislation, there appears to be more statewide support for reform.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

I have had the unique privilege of representing Anne Arundel County in the Maryland General Assembly for 16 years, with most of that time spent working on policy and budget matters for all the courts throughout Maryland, including the Anne Arundel County Orphans' Court. Also, my work experience outside of politics is in real estate, which is a large focus of the court.

Thomas Angelis, Vickie Gipson, Nancy Phelps and Alan Rzepkowski could not be reached.

SHERIFF

James McNeill

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

To serve all citizens of Anne Arundel County.

To keep the sheriff's office transparent.

To fulfill the duties of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office in a fair, professional and dignified manner. And to inspire and maintain the confidence and trust of the public.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

Educating the public on the duties and responsibilities of the sheriff's office. Although this question is broad. There will be challenges presented every day. I will address every challenge as presented and address them in a fair and professional way.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

I not only have 23 years of law enforcement experience, but I have been a self-employed business owner for 33 years. This experience has given me the unique ability to make a fair and concise decision, to think outside the box, to lead others and instill confidence, to listen to others, and to work together with others no matter what viewpoint they have. These abilities, among other traits I have developed from my experiences, make me a unique and qualified candidate for the office of sheriff in Anne Arundel County.

Warren Porter

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

My top three priorities would be:

1. Restructuring the sheriff's office warrant service procedures to effectively and efficiently arrest violent offenders while keeping the deputies in service and alleviating the stress put on the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

2. Meet with commanders and supervisors to ensure that fair and equal practices

throughout the sheriff's office are adhered to. This would include transfers to special units/assignments, special details, training and, most importantly, promotions. I would change the current administrative policies that encourage gender bias and re-establish fairness and equality throughout the office.

3. Work to re-establish effective communication and information sharing with allied agencies through technology, meetings and cross training.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

The greatest challenge facing the sheriff's office year after year is the reduction of warrants, particularly violent offender warrants. I would update and revamp an outdated system, reinstitute weekend warrant service and evaluate restructuring warrant squads to be more productive.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

Having 30 years of service in law enforcement, including 20 years with the Baltimore City Police Department, I have gained a wealth of street experience working in one of the busiest departments and a top 10 largest police department in the country.

I have worked patrol and specialized units, to include the tactical section during my tenure with the Baltimore Police Department. No one else in this election can claim that level of law enforcement experience. I am currently an Anne Arundel County deputy of 10 years. Again, the other candidates running for the sheriff cannot claim they have my level of experience.

I have been "boots on the ground" during my tenure in the sheriff's office, serving warrants and working the streets. I have interacted with the community daily and know the people of Anne Arundel County want a safer community. Anyone can sit in an office and make failed policies based on assumptions and misinformation. I am out in the community every day, interacting with the citizens, not dictating policy from the office.

I know what our community wants and needs. They want good leadership with practical knowledge and experience, which will effectively improve the safety of Anne Arundel County.

Everett Sesker

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

Warrants

We need to get a grasp on the outstanding warrants. If a judge, law enforcement officer or citizen takes the time to file paperwork asking for the arrest of an individual, it is the responsibility of the sheriff's office to follow through on it.

Domestic Violence

Under my leadership, the Office of the Sheriff will monitor domestic violence cases throughout the entirety of the court process to ensure the victim's safety. No victim of domestic violence should ever feel abandoned.

Establishing working partnerships with the other law enforcement agencies (listed below) in Anne Arundel County. The law

enforcement team in Anne Arundel County must work together to be successful.

- State's Attorney's Office
- Anne Arundel County Police Department
- City of Annapolis Police Department
- Crofton Police Department
- Maryland State Police

What would be the greatest challenge that you would face in this office?

Re-establishing the trust of the community. During the past years, the actions of few have strained community relations for law enforcement agencies across the country. I will regain that trust through engagement and outreach programs that serve the needs of our citizens. The office of the sheriff will become an integral part of the community under my leadership.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

My law enforcement background is vast. As a major with the Prince George's County Police Department, I served as the commander of the training and education division, narcotic enforcement division, community services division, and as a district station commander. I commanded more than 300 personnel, managed \$300,000 budgets, and collaborated closely with the Maryland State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Drug Enforcement Administration to solve community problems.

Upon retirement, I was appointed by the governor to serve as the executive director of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, where I oversaw certification for all law enforcement officers in the state. My experience, leadership, knowledge and ability to develop meaningful working relationships, combined with my compassion for the community where I grew up, is what sets me apart from the other candidates for Anne Arundel County sheriff.

Joe Delimater and Jim Fredericks could not be reached.

STATE DELEGATE, DISTRICT 31

Kevin Burke

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

First, there must be a relentless and primary focus on the financial security of the residents of District 31. This includes helping small businesses grow, providing needed relief for working families, and safeguarding the hard-earned money of retirees and seniors. Immediately, Maryland should fully index all deductions and credits in its tax code to inflation to guard against the harmful unlegislated stealth tax that results from inflation.

We should also cut taxes on those living on fixed incomes, including retirees and seniors. This relief should not be financed by taking money from necessary public investments for the future. Instead, it should be enabled by closing the tax loophole on large out-of-state corporations that also gives them an unfair advantage over your local community business.

Second, we have to protect the environment from pollution and stand against development run amuck in our own backyards. We should be aware that my opponents have received significant campaign donations from housing developers. We also should be alarmed by a report from the Environmental Protection Agency that questions the safety of our drinking water due to understaffing at the Maryland Department of the Environment. We need to enforce the law, appropriately fund our state agencies and hold polluters accountable.

Third, providing for public safety is the essential function of government. As a former federal prosecutor and military officer, I would effectively partner with our law enforcement agencies on this core responsibility. I am very disturbed that all three of our current delegates voted against banning ghost guns, which are untraceable firearms that can be purchased through the internet without a background check and have become the weapon of choice for criminals. A few delegates have received generous donations from the firearms industry.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

The political environment. We should work together to secure a better future and leverage the best ideas from both parties and not be inflexibly beholden to any interest group. But, unfortunately, too many treat politics as a zero-sum game and have their views constantly re-enforced in their own respective echo chambers. This polarization is greatly exacerbated by the influence of "all or nothing" interest groups on both sides that work to foreclose nuanced discussion and policy.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

Unlike my opponents, I haven't received significant donations from big developers and the firearms industry. My professional career began in the military and included service overseas in Iraq. I also worked as a special United States attorney and investigated and prosecuted drug, gun and violent assault offenses. I now work in the private sector predominantly with businesses seeking to grow and protect their success.

I learned from these experiences that a leader must take ownership and responsibility. I have met with residents of District 31 who have told me they often hear "that is a county issue" or "that's not my lane" when they raise issues with our current delegates. If elected, I will take ownership and responsibility for getting the government to work for the residents of District 31.

Brian Chisholm

What would be your three priorities if re-elected?

A. **Tax Relief** - Immediately introduce legislation to detach the Maryland state gas tax from the Consumer Price Index as it is currently structured. Maryland has a large surplus of state and local road revenue, and to continue this assault on every Marylander at the pump is unconscionable and unnecessary. The gas tax should either be

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Candidates Discuss Their Plans For Office

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eliminated or attached to another index that is much more stagnant or unrelated to the inflation that is crushing all Marylanders at this time.

B. Economy - I will continue to remain hyper-focused on the elimination of wasteful spending and unnecessary tax burdens. These financial hardships have created major worker shortages in almost every industry and caused many businesses to leave or start up elsewhere. It has also caused droves of lifelong Marylanders to leave the state for better economic environments in other states.

C. Crime - Crime has become a major issue everywhere in the state and I will continue to fight for every resource to fight

crime from our law enforcement officers that provide safer communities to pushing for stronger sentences to those that create these vicious and violent crimes.

What is the greatest challenge you would face in the next four years?

The greatest challenge I would face in the next four years is the same challenge almost every other Marylander will face and that is providing opportunities to earn a living, protect our families, and encourage others, especially the youth to strive for excellence and self-determination.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

I have lived in the area I represent for over 40 years of my life, and I have deep roots in this community and state with friends, family, constituents, neighbors and colleagues — roots that are unmatched by the vast majority of those running for office. I care deeply for all those I represent, and I refuse to yield to political pressures and compromise the principles I share with those I am honored to have served in the past and in the future. I see far too many candidates running for office who are only focused on themselves and actively deceive the public of their true intentions. I currently serve in a leadership position and will continue to serve with the passion, vision and a bold agenda to represent those in District 31 with honesty, integrity and respect.

Nic Kipke

What would be your three priorities if re-elected?

My priorities are centered around freedom: to advance economic freedom by cutting taxes and fees, supporting education freedom to ensure parents and students have the right options to choose the best education, and standing strong for individual liberties by defending our constitutional rights.

What is the greatest challenge you would face in the next four years?

The cost of living in Maryland continues

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to be a huge burden for many families. I will continue to fight to chip away at Marylanders' burdensome tax climate and work to advance meaningful tax cuts.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

I have the most experience having served as the leader of the House Republican Caucus for eight years. Having been a "team captain" for 50 Republican delegates, I have strong relationships with leaders in the Maryland government and I believe that serves the district very well. I hope this will help our whole team including Delegates Brian Chisholm and Rachel Muñoz and Senator Bryan Simonaire.

Rachel Muñoz

What would be your three priorities if elected?

My top priorities are to make Maryland affordable, strengthen public safety and improve education. Like everyone else, our family budget is being stretched to the max with the high price of gas and inflation. You can count on me to lower our tax burden.

I believe that we should be defending the police who put their lives on the line to keep us safe — not defunding. As a delegate, I will work to give the police the tools they need to do their jobs. I want our children to receive a quality education and keep politics out of the classroom. I will fight for parents'

rights and age-appropriate education.

What is the greatest challenge you would face in the next four years?

Crime in Maryland and across the country has been skyrocketing. We need to get the General Assembly to take action to curb violent crime in Maryland and keep our families, businesses and communities safe.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

I am a mother of five young children, and I proudly grew up in this community. Since being appointed last November, I have given this job everything I have. I know that what we do now will impact Marylanders for generations to come. I want to give the next generation a better Maryland.

LaToya Nkongolo

What would be your three priorities if elected?

1. Propose legislation that will lower taxes to help offset current inflation for the people of Maryland.
2. Be a strong advocate for parents as it relates to school choice and quality education.
3. Address mental health and addictions as a means to reduce crime, homelessness and improve the well-being of all citizens.

What is the greatest challenge you would face in the next

four years?

To undo the failed progressive policies championed by the Democratic majority in Annapolis as it relates to over-taxation, government overreach in our lives, crime and a failed educational system.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

I am the only one who is a true outsider seeking to get support solely from the citizens of Anne Arundel County. All of my opponents have been in some way entangled in the political scene for years. Some are career politicians; others have been appointed to their seat and untested by the electoral process. I will be the first to bring fresh ideas and seek legitimacy directly from the constituents. I'm not interested in making backroom deals and playing political musical chairs.

Milad Pooran could not be reached.

STATE DELEGATE, DISTRICT 33

Heather Bagnall

What would be your three priorities if re-elected?

A) Behavioral Health Services - Long before the pandemic, I was deeply aware of the challenges we face from disinvestment in our behavioral health system. Like nearly everyone else, I have friends, family,

mentors, and colleagues impacted by mental illness and substance use disorder. Though we have made great strides in Maryland to improve our behavioral health system and to destigmatize mental illness and provide greater equity between somatic and behavioral health care, we still have work to do.

I will continue my work expanding access to behavioral health services, particularly focusing on services for adolescents and veterans, peer-to-peer services and trauma-informed care, community behavioral health centers, and mobile crisis and crisis intervention services, establishing behavioral health partnerships in primary care settings, and addressing workforce issues.

B) Bay Bridge - I grew up in Cape St. Claire, and before the Reach the Beach initiative, I truly believed that the distance from my house to New York City and my house to Ocean City were the same because they took the same amount of time. After 40 years of passivity, we have returned to the days of paralysis for the Broadneck peninsula.

Although we've made recent progress since I took office with electronic tolling, traffic mitigation surveys, and electronic gantries for contraflow, as we consider traffic mitigation and a replacement span of the Bay Bridge, I will establish the Broadneck peninsula as an impact zone. Although the Broadneck community and our communities along Route 2 would rather the bridge move to an entirely different part of the

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state, if that is not to happen, we need revenue to invest in our communities, which have been deeply and adversely impacted by the bridge without benefit.

C) Riparian Rights and Water Access - Three years ago, I set out on the arduous task of legislation to update and modernize our shared water access, to provide communities the flexibility needed for shoreline resiliency projects, while ensuring that unmaintained shoreline or "ghost sites" didn't have to erode into the sea and pollute our waterways before the state could take action, and that predatory developers couldn't tip the scales in their legal favor by exploiting zoning and permitting loopholes.

As you can imagine, this literal moving target has become all the more essential with sea level rise, more severe storms, and a loss of communal water access, and now other states are looking to Maryland as a leader in this effort. I will continue to work with our state and federal partners in modernizing our riparian rights legislation to protect our communities, our shared natural resources, and to provide the necessary guidance to our state agencies for enforcement.

What is the greatest challenge you would face in the next four years?

After the last four years where we've had to navigate the deaths of our longest-serving speaker and Senate president, election of the new speaker and Senate president, a pandemic, a collapse of our unemployment system, pivoting to virtual and then to hybrid, ransomware attacks on our Department of Health and other government agencies, and an attack on our U.S. Capitol, among other crises unique to this 2018 freshman class, I know that I am capable of addressing any challenge. But in the next four years, we as a state will have a huge challenge rebuilding our state agencies, which have been gutted under this current administration. These agencies hold essential roles in oversight and enforcement of our environment, senior services, health services, finances and cybersecurity, and we have struggled to stay competitive with the private sector in attracting and retaining quality public servants, resulting in an outsourcing crisis, which has made it difficult to maintain a high level of responsiveness and customer service and just getting things done.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

One of the things that made me so well qualified to navigate the last four years of unique challenges is my background in the arts. Thinking creatively, pivoting and adapting to change, anticipating unintended consequences, and understanding people have been an essential part of my career for over 30 years. Additionally, having grown up on the Broadneck peninsula, I have institutional knowledge of this area: our heritage, our challenges, and the unique character of our various communities.

After decades in arts and hospitality, I have a firsthand understanding of the gig economy and a deep well of compassion and commitment to customer service, which informs every action of my office. My unique background in the arts, as a performer, director, playwright, arts educator, and arts administrator have proven my greatest strength in both policy and constituent services.

Kerry Gillespie

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

My priorities as a member of the House of Delegates will be:

1. **Education:** I will create and/or support legislation that will affirm parental rights and empower parents in our children's education process, strengthen our education system, and help students in District 33C and across the state of Maryland have the best education possible. I will champion legislation that supports education fundamentals and ensures we are working toward improving student performance, especially following recent state assessment testing, which reflects that only 15% of students in Maryland are at grade level for math. And I will bring teachers into the conversation, many of whom currently feel they don't have a voice in the system. We must ensure teachers are given the necessary resources to do their jobs, especially with the learning regression we've seen throughout the state as a result of Maryland being one of the last three states in the country to return its students to classrooms.

2. **Safety/Crime:** We must treat police officers and first responders as community heroes and those committing violent acts as criminals. As your delegate, I will push for passage of tough-on-crime legislation that holds criminals accountable and supports the ability of our police to protect and serve our community: the job that they are trained and hired to do. I also want to ensure current laws on the books are upheld, and our criminal justice system not be used as a revolving door, a sad euphemism I have heard from many law enforcement officers.

3. **Traffic and Development:** We cannot continue along the same course that we have for years concerning our road networks in the Severna Park and the Broadneck areas. As your delegate, I pledge to work with industry experts in transportation and all partners at the county, state and federal levels involved in our roadways. We must come together to find solutions to the problems that have been created by years of development that has occurred without regard to our road networks and transportation system.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

I am not a career politician. I am going to Annapolis with no personal agenda, and I am running for this office to represent and work for the residents of District 33C, to advocate for changes that will benefit our entire community, and because I want to make a real difference.

Like any challenge in my life, I am ready to meet that head on. I will get to work on day one to build the solid relationships necessary to accomplish positive change.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

I am the only parent in my race, and as a mother of four children who has been raising my kids in Maryland public schools for the last 10 years, I know firsthand the concerns my fellow parents have for their children and our education system. Wanting the best education for our children is a non-

partisan issue, and parents do not want our children to be used as political pawns.

Many families reside in our district specifically for the education system, and we need representation that both listens to and understands what our children require to get the most out of their educational experience to set them up for success in the real world.

In addition, as the daughter of a veteran and wife of an environmental scientist, I have lived all over the country, in eight states and Puerto Rico. This has given me a diversity of thought and an ability to have meaningful discussions with people of all backgrounds to find solutions to problems. Having this ability will be key in being a voice for and representing all in our district, and for partnering with others in the General Assembly to create real change.

STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 33

Dawn Gile

What would be your three priorities upon taking office?

First, one of my top priorities is education. I believe that all children should be given the opportunity to learn and thrive in a safe environment, and our public schools need the resources and support to do so. It is imperative that we address school overcrowding as well as teacher burnout and recruitment issues.

Second, helping working families is a top priority for me. Recently, there has been much talk about labor shortages; however, without access to affordable, quality child care and paid family and medical leave, it is difficult for many working families to continue to work. In fact, among my many reasons for running for office is my frustration with the impact that the pandemic had on working families and especially women leaving the workforce. I will work to continue to expand paid family and medical leave, recently passed this last session, as well as access to affordable child care.

Third, I support strong environmental protections, including the need to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. I also believe we should continue to build on efforts to address the impact of climate change.

What would be the greatest challenge you would face in this office?

Initially, one of the greatest challenges I believe that I would face is growing inflation. There is no doubt that inflation has placed an immense strain on Marylanders, particularly on working families and retirees on fixed incomes. Many of the tax relief policies that the General Assembly implemented in the most recent session, including tax relief for retirees and exemptions for hygiene and child care products, are steps in the right direction. I would continue to fight for an expansion of targeted tax relief that is fiscally sustainable and responsible but also provides the greatest support for the most vulnerable Marylanders such as working families and retirees.

I also think we need to ensure that residents have access to jobs with good benefits, and further, that smart policy decisions are made so that small businesses are supported.

What aspect of your background or your experience sets you apart from others running for this office?

Advocacy and public service have long been part of me, as an attorney for the last 15-plus years as well as a military spouse and nonprofit leader. As an attorney, I represent businesses of all sizes in litigation. As for my leadership experience, I served as president of Military Spouse JD Network, a well-respected organization of approximately 1,000 members that advocates for expanded employment opportunities for military spouses and that provides pro bono legal services to Gold Star families and veteran caregivers.

Currently, I serve as secretary of Vigilant Torch Association and Vigilant Torch Foundation, an organization that provides emergency relief assistance and scholarships to members of the special operations community and their families. Additionally, I serve as a trustee on the board of trustees of Rockford University, and in that capacity, I am involved in budget oversight, alumni engagement, and student services. Finally, I have devoted significant time volunteering in my Severna Park community and my daughters' school.

I decided to run for office because I felt as though the people of District 33 deserved more effective representation in the Senate. With a background of being a mom of three, military spouse, nonprofit leader and attorney, I am focused on four key priorities: supporting working families, protecting the environment, helping small businesses thrive, and investing in our public schools. I am committed to serving with the same dedication and integrity that I have shown in my many years of advocacy and nonprofit leadership. Ultimately, I intend to work with integrity, responsiveness and consensus-building to get the job done for the people of Maryland so that we are all given the opportunity to thrive.

Sid Saab

What would be your three priorities if elected to the Senate?

1. Strong economy, specifically inflation
2. Safe communities by combating crime and prioritizing mental health
3. World-class education

What is the greatest challenge you would face in the next four years?

The challenge we'll face in the next four years is making sure we have a balanced budget without raising taxes on working families and making sure businesses continue to recover from the pandemic.

What sets you apart from others running for this office?

Experience matters. I am well-versed with many issues facing everyday Marylanders. I have built a record of being a consensus builder and finding common grounds for the benefit of all Marylanders. The relationship my office has built with our constituents serves as a testament that we can serve all Marylanders. We are deeply involved with our small-business community and understand pressing issues in specific neighborhoods like no other.

A Republic If We Can Keep It

Pastor Stephen Mitchell



The other day, I came across something on my Facebook feed that caught my attention — it was a picture of two of my friends smiling, one holding a “Covfefe” mug and the other holding a mug that said “Liberal Tears” on it. Cute cups, you may be thinking, but so what?

These two guys have been friends since college and one of them leans to the left politically and the other to the right. They have different perspectives on some big issues, they disagree with each other passionately at times in debates, and yet, they’re still good friends. This has tragically become a rare phenomenon, yet if ever our country and society needed friendships like theirs, it’s now.

One person commented, “You both are so opposite on some things but are still such close friends and can laugh about it in pics like this. The world needs more of that.” Indeed, it does.

Unfortunately, a friendship like this stuck out to me because it’s the opposite of what we’ve become accustomed to in our increasingly polarized world of shouting, unfriending and blocking instead of bridge-building.

When I’d go to the gym, I’d always be fascinated by the news

on the TVs in the treadmill room. One TV would have coverage from Fox News and the other from MSNBC. Talk about an “Interstellar” experience, seeing how the same moment or event can be interpreted and presented in such different ways. The chasms and brokenness in our society seem beyond repair. However, as Americans, and particularly for those of us who profess to be followers of Christ, I see an opportunity unlike any other in our lifetime.

On my family’s trip last summer to visit Independence Hall in Philadelphia, our guide said something that really stuck out. She ended her presentation with the reported words of Benjamin Franklin, who was asked something to the effect of, “What do we have, doctor, a republic or a monarchy?” Franklin retorted, “A republic, if we can keep it.”

The guide then talked about how the stability of our democracy and of our republic is only sustained by the care and attention of each generation of citizens. As a lover of political science and social studies, I’ve never been more concerned about the survival of our system, institutions and democracy than I am now. Furthermore, as a Christian, I’ve never been more concerned about the church staying focused on its mission to share the good news of the gospel and speaking biblical truth in love to our neighbors than I am now.

As Christians, we must not give in to the moment of polarizing political ideological division, rather

we must rise to the moment. We cannot effectively love our neighbor if we view our neighbor as our enemy. We cannot win souls to Jesus if we are more focused on winning elections or on demonizing those whose views and lifestyles are contrary to what we believe.

To be sure, we should be passionate about issues we care about, be engaged in the political process and speak biblical truth on even the tough matters we are confronted with in our culture. But we would do well to remember the story of Jonah, the biblical prophet who was called by God to warn of impending judgment on Nineveh. Jonah refused because he hated his audience to such a degree; he didn’t want to see them receive mercy. God is looking for us to be prophets in this hour, not political partisans.

Actor Matthew McConaughey recently made headlines with his plea for gun reforms in the wake of the Uvalde tragedy a few weeks ago. While we all have different opinions on the issue of gun reform, McConaughey’s approach was almost refreshing. In a follow-up interview with Fox News’ Bret Baier, in talking about how to come together, McConaughey started with talking about what we have in common. Noting that he and Baier are both fathers, he would begin with that common ground of what it’s like to be a parent and go from there.

As Christians, we believe that we are all human beings created in the image of God, that we all have

sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and that we all need a savior, Jesus Christ. Let us not forget those key commonalities and endeavor to build bridges to those with whom we disagree and share and shine the light and love of Jesus. Let us seize the moment of our time by following the biblical advice to “not be quarrelsome but be kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting opponents with gentleness.” (2 Timothy 2:24-25).

If we can love our neighbor as ourselves, practice respectful dialogue and agree to disagree, remember that we are fellow Americans and human beings, and as Christians, remember we are fellow sinners in need of a savior, maybe our republic can survive and the credibility of the Christian church and its mission can as well.

“We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the union, when again touched, as surely, they will be, by the better angels of our nature.” - President Abraham Lincoln

Stephen Mitchell is the senior pastor of Trinity Bible Church in Maryland. He also is the host of a regular podcast, “Real Christian Talk with Pastor Steve,” available on all podcast platforms.

SPUMC News

Severna Park United Methodist Church (SPUMC) had a busy June. The United Methodist Men presented their annual Man of the Year award, which is given to a man in the congregation who has contributed significantly to the ministry of the church through his commitment and service. This year’s recipient, Rob Smith, was especially deserving as his leadership of the tech team has made a huge impact over the last two years and enabled the church not only to do livestream worship but also to do it with growing and sustained excellence.

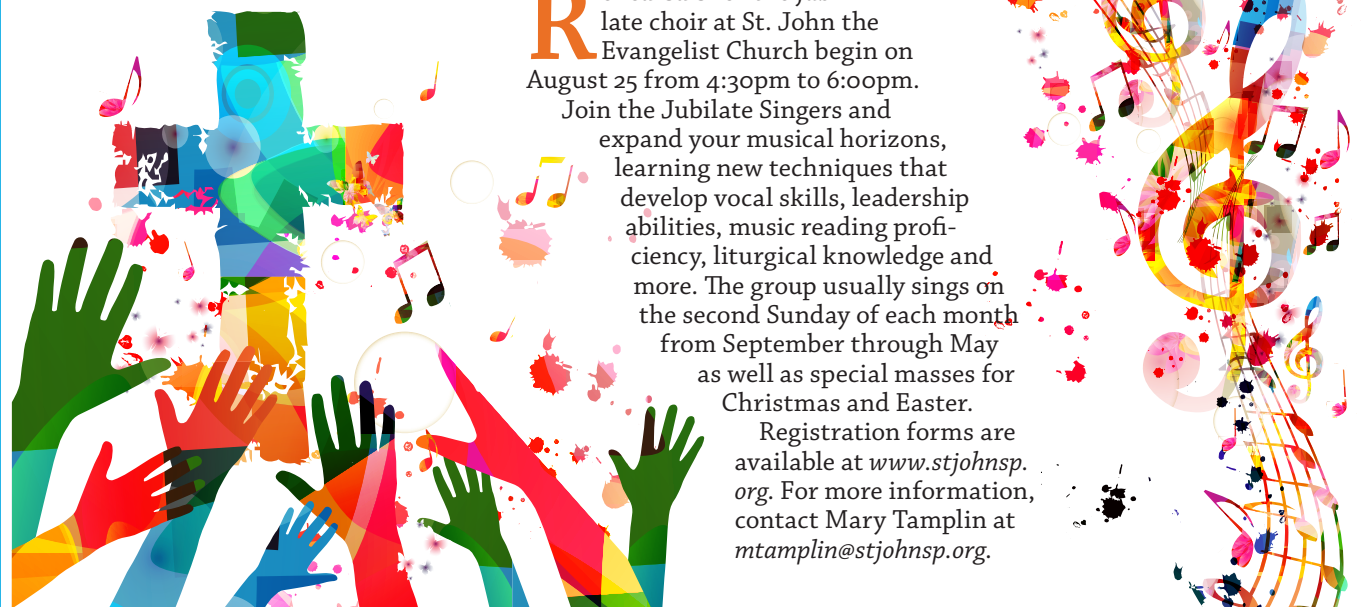
Later in June, SPUMC sent a team of high schoolers, college students and adults to Appalachia after a couple of years absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This marked the church’s 40th trip with the Appalachia Service Project, with this year’s team working in Magoffin County, Kentucky, from June 25 through July 2.

St. John To Hold Jubilate Singers Choir Auditions

Rehearsals for the jubilate choir at St. John the Evangelist Church begin on August 25 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm.

Join the Jubilate Singers and expand your musical horizons, learning new techniques that develop vocal skills, leadership abilities, music reading proficiency, liturgical knowledge and more. The group usually sings on the second Sunday of each month from September through May as well as special masses for Christmas and Easter.

Registration forms are available at www.stjohnsp.org. For more information, contact Mary Tamplin at mtamplin@stjohnsp.org.



Local Students Compete In National Rowing Championships



Photos courtesy of Stephen Hall

The Annapolis Junior Rowing (AJR) Association team included (l-r) Ethan Cabucana and Santi Singolani of Severna Park High School, coxswain Hunter Labandeira of South River, and Lex Lauer and Max Henceroth of Broadneck High School. Inset: The AJR U17 men's team, pictured in the Resolute boat, competed in the youth national championships.

By Conor Doherty

Five students from three local schools participated in the U17 USRowing youth championships, held in Sarasota, Florida, between June 9 and 12, as members of the Annapolis Junior Rowing (AJR) Association. The championships were held at Nathan Benderson Park, which also hosts Olympic qualifying NCAA championships and international rowing regattas.

Four of the rowers were part of the same crew as **Ethan Cabucana** and **Santi Singolani** attend Severna Park High School while **Lex Lauer** and **Max Henceroth** go to Broadneck High School, with the crew led by coxswain **Hunter Labandeira** from South River. Meanwhile, **Ella Ahearn** from Severn School competed in women's singles scullers.

Head coach **Stephen Hall** explained

that to be invited to nationals, teams must place in the top four at their respective regionals. The men's crew finished second at regionals while Ahearn came in fourth. At nationals, the U17 men's boat competed against 24 other crews and finished 14th, while Ahearn went up against about 20 other women, finishing 20th.

"Both teams are comparatively young for this level of elite racing," Hall said. "The key takeaway is the caliber of racing that took place at these championships. They will be able to relate the scale and efforts needed to compete at a national level to the rest of the AJR rowers as we begin the fall season in September."

Heading into the fall, Hall expects about 80 rowers to be a part of AJR, with only a handful having graduated. "As a young team, they now form a

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Five Teams Compete In Round Bay River League Swim Meet

Photos by Conor Doherty

An annual tradition continued on June 25 as Round Bay, Sherwood, Ben Oaks, Olde Severna Park-Linstead and Epping Forest competed in the Round Bay River League swim meet. **Top to Bottom:** Six-year-old Lille Boosinger from Olde Severna Park did the 25-meter breaststroke without a spotter leading her. Twelve-year-old Mari Matthews (left) and her 10-year-old brother, Charlie Matthews, competed at the Severn River Swim Club's Round Bay River League swim meet. Seventeen-year-old Aidan Judge of Ben Oaks swam unopposed in the boys 16-17 100 individual medley. As a result, he started the swim with a cannonball.



Evergreen Holds First In-Person Swim Meet In Three Years

"Summer swim is all about getting to see your friends and it's just a good summer activity to do to keep kids active."

— KIM HORN, EVERGREEN DOLPHINS HEAD COACH

By Conor Doherty

For the first time since 2019, the Evergreen Dolphins held an in-person swim meet on June 18 at the Evergreen pool where the Dolphins took on Cape St. Claire.

While this was an in-person meet, Evergreen had been holding meets between its swimmers over the past few years so that those who had never swam in a competitive setting could get a sense of what it was like. Many of the older swimmers agreed that none of those meets compared to what it felt like to face off

» Continued on page 32



Photo by Conor Doherty

Seventeen-year-old Kaylee Bloom performed the breaststroke leg of her 100 individual medley heat.

A Year After Championship Loss, Former Falcons Win National Title

By Conor Doherty

A year after coming up one goal short of reaching the peak of NCAA men's lacrosse, Severna Park alums **Josh Coffman** and **Chase Cope** finally got to add another title to their trophy cases when their Maryland Terrapins squad beat Cornell 9-7 to win the 2022 NCAA national championship on May 30.

Cope and Coffman, senior midfielders for the Terps, had been accustomed to winning while at Severna Park, having won three straight state titles to close out their high school careers. And now they are a part of one of the all-time great teams in collegiate lacrosse history as the Terps went 18-0, one of only 13 men's lacrosse teams to ever go undefeated in a season.



Josh Coffman

Chase Cope

Sadly, while Cope and Coffman were on the team, they didn't see any playing time in the championship as both were recovering from major injuries suffered either before or early in the season.

But despite their injuries, Cope and Coffman were both ecstatic about winning an NCAA title.

"It's a big accomplishment," Cope said. "After what happened last year, we were all pretty upset for a little bit. But then you get over it, and when you realize you have another chance to really go at it and get it again, it's really cool honestly. To be able to do it with the group of guys that we did it with and to be able to be successful in that journey meant a lot. I think it means a lot to everyone else and for Maryland and the people that support us."

This title now serves as a sort of culmination of the journey that Cope and Coffman have been on together as friends and teammates. They have been playing lacrosse together since their days at Benfield Elementary and were a part of the teams that helped kickstart Severna Park High School's lacrosse dynasty.

While winning this title means a lot to them, it isn't the end of the road for Cope and Coffman at Maryland as they are both coming back for a fifth year, utilizing their additional pandemic year of eligibility. While they continue to rehab from injury, their focus isn't necessarily on getting more playing time but to be the best teammates that they can be to help their team repeat as champs.

"Chase and I, if we weren't injured, we could have made an impact on the field," Coffman said. "But the guys that did it this year, they did very well and we're very proud of them."

"For us, the last thing we worry about is playing time," Cope stated. "It's different from high school because in high school, you're young and you don't really understand what the main goals are and you're all about your points and how much playing time you get, how much media attention you get. Coming to Maryland, you sort of realize that you're playing with the best players in the country, and not only at Maryland, but everyone playing in college is very good at what they do."

"So, for us to be together, to build those bonds, no one really cares if they play. Obviously, that's the end goal — you want to play, you want to have significant minutes — but you want to be the best teammate, and if the best teammate you can be is cheering on someone else who is having success on your team when they're on the field, then I'll take that any day of the week."



Photos courtesy of Josh Schmidt

Josh Coffman embraced Terps star Logan Wisnauskas after winning the 2022 NCAA men's lacrosse title.



Chase Cope cut a piece of the goal net to commemorate his championship win.

Not only did the NCAA men's lacrosse national championship feature two Severna Park teammates who continued their playing careers at Maryland, but the game was part of another connection. Terps midfielder Jake Higgins was teammates with Josh Coffman and Chase Cope on a U11 Arden Diamondback team that placed second in the Dick's Sporting Goods Tournament of Champions in Florida in 2012. Also on that team

was University of Tampa long stick midfielder Hayden Toth, who was part of Tampa's first Division II national championship win, 11-7 over Mercy on May 29, 2022.

Diamondback founders Marc McDaniel and Craig Hammel lived in Shipley's Choice at the time and the boys started playing with Green Hornets during the regular season.

SPHS' Success Begins With Outstanding Feeder System

Green Hornets Coaches Prepare Athletes For Falcons

By Kevin Murnane

Historically, Severna Park High School's athletic success has been a model for other high school programs in the region. Since the 1970s and 1980s, the Falcons have had outstanding teams in field hockey and lacrosse. But in recent years, the Falcons have also been state title contenders in baseball, softball, cross country, and track and field.

"This spring, every one of our teams were in a state championship game," said Falcons Athletic Director **Dave Kauffman**.

Those accomplishments, as well as lifetime memories, were made by outstanding coaches and athletes, but those roots of athletic prowess began long before the athletes stepped on the Robinson Road campus.

"All of our success begins at the rec level, with the Green Hornets organization," Kauffman said. "We work hard with communication with those rec coaches by offering clinics and helping the coaches any way we can."

Last fall, Falcons field hockey coaches provided a clinic to the Green Hornets coaches on fundamentals and training tips so the youth players could be better prepared when they entered high school.

"The Green Hornets field hockey program is a well-run organization," said Falcons field hockey head coach **Shannon Garden**. "That program has dedicated coaches and volunteers. Sometimes the coaches will ask questions and I'll provide them with drills and strategies. This makes our job at high school so much easier because the girls come in skilled and prepared."

Other Falcons coaches are grateful for the outstanding coaching their players receive in the Green Hornets organization.

Severna Park boys lacrosse head coach **Dave Earl** has the utmost respect for the Green Hornets organization.

"They do a great job in all sports, and they have knowledgeable parents and dedicated volunteers who teach the fundamentals well," Earl said. "It's great that many of the Green Hornet coaches have played lacrosse at a high level and can share their expertise."

Earl added that part of the Green Hornets culture is to instill great fundamentals.

"Every March, we get players who are excited to get on the field and they are open to learning and being part of a team concept," Earl said. "Plus, they are great kids, and their parents are very supportive."

After coaching for 18 years for the Falcons, Severna Park's varsity softball coach, **Meredith McAlister**, appreciates all of the Green Hornets coaches' dedication in making the players better.

"The players have a great basic skill set before they enter high school, and in the past, we've held summer camps at the high school's field for them. This way, they get familiar with our field before their freshman year," McAlister said.

"One of the really cool aspects of the program is that our current players who used to play for the Green Hornets are helping with skills training at camp for the players who want to be part of the high school team," McAlister said. "It's wonderful to watch."

McAlister also mentioned that over the years, she has received phenomenal support from the parents who have supplied team dinners, snacks for bus rides, and anything they can do to help the program.

As Severna Park High School raises more championship banners, some of the Falcons' athletic success belongs to the thousands of coaches, volunteers and parents within the Green Hornets organization who tirelessly give their time.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Taylor Boteler

Severn School Archery

By Conor Doherty

Every sports program has a player who serves as its cornerstone, someone who is usually the team's best player or is its emotional leader. Taylor Boteler was just that for the Severn archery team ever since she joined the team, as head coach Dan Mahoney called her the rock of the program.

"It's been a pleasure getting to know him (Mahoney) over the past six years and we've become great friends," Boteler said. "So, hearing him say that means a lot to me. I loved being the captain of the team this past year and it's been really fun helping Mr. Mahoney set up and run our tournaments over the years."

Boteler decided to try archery in eighth grade because she wanted to go deer hunting with her father, who occasionally used a bow. That decision has paid off as she has gone hunting with him for three years.

While archery has given Boteler a chance to spend more time with her father, it has also helped her be more open with people and take on leadership roles as she did this year.

"The tournaments have helped me become more outgoing over the years," Boteler said. "Because your lane partner could be any age between fourth and 12th

Taylor Boteler practiced in her backyard.



grade, being able to talk to strangers of all different ages has helped me become comfortable conversing with anyone. It's been great being a captain this year because I've formed such great friendships with the underclassmen and the freshmen specifically this year. I loved maturing into the type of senior leader that I've always wanted to be."

en it a try.

"For anyone interested in archery, my best advice would be to try it out," she said. "It's always difficult to pick up a new sport or hobby because you may struggle with it at first, but I can only recommend that any new archers stick with it and keep practicing because over time you will get better."

“

For anyone interested in archery, my best advice would be to try it out. I can only recommend that any new archers stick with it and keep practicing because over time you will get better.”

— TAYLOR BOTELER

Now that she has finished her time at Severn, Boteler will head to Baylor University this fall, where she hopes to continue archery and continue hunting with her father whenever she comes back home. Looking back at her time as a member of the archery team, Boteler was glad to have giv-

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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Lax Team Wins Sixth-Grade Division

The 2028 (sixth-graders) and 2029 (fifth-graders) Severna Park Green Hornets boys lacrosse select teams partnered up and won the Anne Arundel County sixth-grade division for the second year in a row. Both years, the team went undefeated. The team was led by head coach Mike Archer and assistant coaches Dave LaChapelle, Dave McGuinness, Mark Collier and Brian Bauer. Players included Evan Archer, Ethan Bauer, Alex Berning, Dominic Biello, Chris Calloway, Jacob Coleman, Jake Coleman, Tripp Collier, Davis Deegan, Finn Fowler, Ben Greenlee, Mark Hansborough, James Hughes, Noble Johnson, Callen LaChappell, Mac Lapriola, Van Lighthizer, Myles McGuinness, Michael Mihoces, Grant Miller, Harrison Rumney, Mason Sipe and Thomas Sobocynski.

SPHS Girls JV Lacrosse Undefeated



This year's Falcons team will be remembered as the first to win Anne Arundel County's inaugural JV girls lacrosse county championship game.

SPark Team Advances To Nationals



The SPark U16 field hockey team took home the regional club championship trophy in June. The team is headed to nationals in July.

SPICY SUMMER



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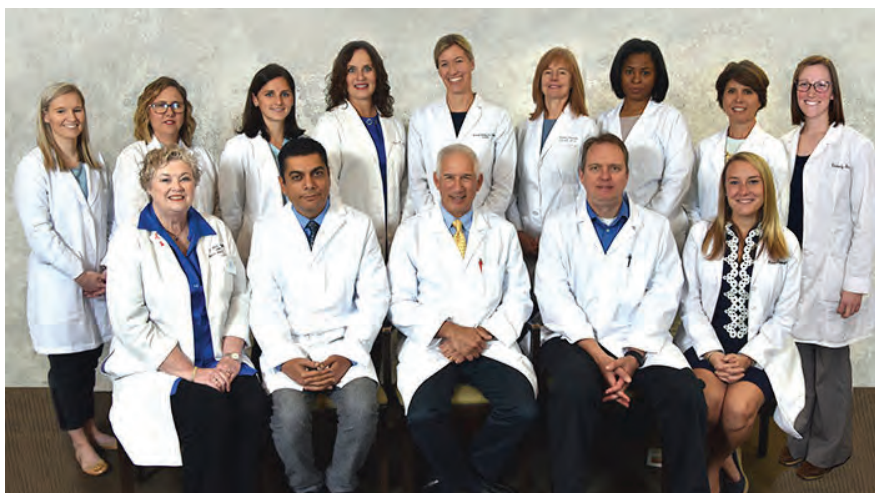
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Evergreen Holds First In-Person Swim Meet In Three Years

Ten-year-old Taylor Gilligan prepared to take off for her 100 individual medley heat.



» Continued from page 27

against another team again.

"It brings the challenge back because you get to race against people who are faster than you," said 15-year-old **Tripp Kennedy**, who became an assistant coach this year.

But that isn't the only challenge facing Evergreen this year as there is a new head coach. **Kim Horn**, a 2020 Broadneck graduate, was hired into her first head coaching position after spending the last two years as an assistant coach at Bay Hills. She is an experienced swimmer, having swam competitively since she was 7. Horn spent four years as part of the Naval Academy swim program growing up, and then swam for four years at both SPY and on the Bruins varsity team.

"I'm so excited for the kids to be having in-person meets again," Horn said. "Summer swim is all

about getting to see your friends and it's just a good summer activity to do to keep kids active. I'm glad we got to hold meets in general and to have a swim team in the past couple years with COVID. But just to be completely back to normal is so nice."

Horn explained that the team had been holding meets between its own swimmers over the past three years, and these pseudo meets look to have paid off as the Dolphins were able to get past Cape St. Claire by eight points to win the meet.

But for Horn, the win isn't as important as making sure her swimmers have fun and are safe.

"It's always nice to win, but it's never the primary goal," Horn said. "I want the kids to have fun. Sportsmanship is huge. I want them to be good sports with their own teammates as well as toward their opponents."

Fourteen-year-old James Knot did the breaststroke leg of his 100 individual medley heat.



Local Students Compete In National Rowing Championships

» Continued from page 27

great base of rowers for the next few years to come," he stated.

Hall explained why he has so many local students, from both public and private schools joining his association. Due to the nature of the exercise, only a limited number of injuries are suffered, and it can hone around 85% of a person's muscle structure. With all that, it's a sport that people in their 70s and 80s can take part

in. But the most important reason is academics.

"College admission statistics state that rowing is the No. 1 sport for both women and men in terms of college entry assistance and/or scholarships," Hall explained. "Rowing is one of the oldest intercollegiate sports in the U.S. and Europe. It's an ultimate team sport that shapes and molds discipline, resiliency, and camaraderie amongst its teams and members."

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Teixeira And Floyd Families Reminisce About MLB Draft

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Millions of young athletes grow up hoping to be drafted by a professional sports team. Three former Chartwell residents, who lived less than 100 yards apart, grew up to do just that.

The neighbors, **Mark Teixeira**, **Michael Floyd** and **Gavin Floyd**, were all drafted by Major League Baseball (MLB) teams. What's most remarkable is that Mark and Gavin were not only drafted in the same year, but they were also back-to-back first-round picks. Gavin was picked fourth by the Philadelphia Phillies and Mark was selected fifth by the Texas Rangers in 2001.

According to the Washington Post, "the duo became only the third set of ballplayers from the same high school to be drafted in the first round in the same year."

"We enjoyed the thrill of having Gavin and Mark drafted together," said John "Tex" Teixeira, Mark's dad.

At the time, Gavin had just graduated from Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore and Mark had just finished his junior year at Georgia Tech.

Mark had been through the draft as a high school senior and had opted to attend college instead of turning pro.

Growing up, Mark was also good friends with Gavin's older brother, Michael Floyd. Like his brother, Michael was also drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in 2001. He was drafted in the 22nd round.

All three men studied at Mount Saint Joseph High School. Michael and Mark were seniors when Gavin was a freshman. They never played together in high school because Mount Saint Joseph wouldn't allow freshmen to be on the varsity team. That year, Gavin played on junior varsity and, with his teammates, defeated Calvert Hall for the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association championship.

"Michael and Mark were three years older than me, and the memories that



Photo courtesy of Howard Warner

Michael Floyd, Mark Teixeira and Gavin Floyd were all drafted by Major League Baseball teams in 2001.

I have of watching them play [American] Legion baseball at Kinder Park are some of my fondest memories," Gavin Floyd said. "Also, we went to the same school, so, as a freshman, they carpooled me to school that year. I remember just sitting quietly in the back listening to music, taking in everything."

Mark, Gavin and Michael are also all products of the Green Hornets organization.

"In retrospect, the Green Hornets provides exceptional coaching," said Elaine Floyd, mother of Gavin and Michael. "Talent can flourish within this organization and the facilities are excellent."

John Teixeira reflected that the advantage of the Green Hornets "was the emphasis on the kids enjoying the game, not winning or losing."

"My favorite memory of Green Hornets was being able to ride my bike down to Kinder Park to play baseball,"

Mark Teixeira said. "I just lived a block down the road, so having the freedom to get to the park early or stay late and watch other games was really fun."

When Gavin and Mark are asked what they remember most from draft day, their feelings from the moment come back easily.

"On the day of the draft, there was a level of anxiousness, excitement and amazement," Gavin said. "That day, we were downstairs in the computer room with Keith Mills [from WBAL-TV] and his camera crew, and we were listening to our dial-up internet, trying to hear through the static of each draftee's name being announced. It definitely was a life-changing moment for me, even though, in that moment, nothing really changed physically."

Mark also remembers the technology side and how his family was huddled around the computer listening to the internet broadcast of the draft.

"We were in my dad's office, and

although we had an idea where I would be drafted, hearing your name as the No. 5 pick in the first round was extremely special," Mark said. "After the Rangers called me to give me the official news, I called all of my friends and they came over for a party. It was a day I'll never forget."

With the 2022 MLB draft taking place from July 17-19 in Los Angeles, Gavin and Mark offered helpful advice to the next round of draftees.

"Each player's story will be different, but at the end of the day, you want to make sure that you leave everything on the field (figuratively)," Gavin said. "I would encourage them to make the most of their opportunities by continuing to work hard, staying focused, staying determined and remaining hopeful while being a good teammate."

"There are so many distractions out there, even more now than ever with social media," Mark said. "Stay focused on baseball; don't worry about external forces or what people say about you on the internet. Work your tail off and be the best ballplayer you can be. If you're lucky enough to get drafted, that's when the real challenge begins."

During Gavin's 12-year MLB career, he won 74 games for the Philadelphia Phillies and Chicago White Sox before suffering arm injuries.

Throughout Mark's 14-year MLB career, he was a three-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove winner. Additionally, Mark was a 2009 World Series champion with the New York Yankees, when he and Carlos Peña led the league with 39 home runs and Mark finished as the RBI leader with 122. This past May, Mark graduated from Georgia Tech, 20 years after his original class.

Michael had a career .260 batting average with 23 home runs in the minor leagues.

Just as Gavin and Mark followed similar paths as first-round draft picks in 2001, they both retired in 2016.

Which Maryland native will be the next MLB draft pick?

Green Hornets T-Ball Plants The Seeds For Future Stars



Photos by Lauren Cowin

Participating in the Green Hornets T-Ball 4 division, the Orioles and Dodgers teams played at Oak Hill Elementary School on June 18. After the match, the players lined up and congratulated their opponents on a good game.

Board Of Education Welcomes New Superintendent



Dr. Mark Bedell

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

When Dr. Mark Bedell was confirmed as the next Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) superintendent during a Board of Education meeting on June 17, he presented himself as a leader who will make teachers and students feel valued.

“I am the superintendent of all,” he said. “I will serve each and every single one of our kids with a high degree of care and concern and we will make sure that our ultimate goal is, ‘How do we move this school district to become a top five school district in the state of [Maryland]?’”

Bedell was chosen to lead the Anne Arundel County school district after the board decided not to extend Dr. George Arlotto’s contract, which ended in June. Arlotto served as superintendent for eight years.

As the superintendent of Kansas City Public Schools in Missouri for the last six years, Bedell became the longest-serving superintendent in that school district since 1969.

Prior to his current position, Bedell served as a school improvement officer for the Houston Independent School District and as the assistant superintendent for high schools for Baltimore County Public Schools. He is also a former Anne Arundel County resident.

A New York native, husband and father of three children, Bedell had a rough childhood, but he sees that as evidence that all kids can succeed if given the right tools.

“I am the oldest out of eight,” Bedell said. “I was born to a 16-year-old, and I’m the only one out of the eight of us to make it past the ninth grade in my family. I have experienced every bit of trauma, neglect that one can go through.

“The thing that I often try to share

“*I will serve each and every single one of our kids with a high degree of care and concern and we will make sure that our ultimate goal is, ‘How do we move this school district to become a top five school district in the state of [Maryland]?’*”

— **DR. MARK BEDELL**
SUPERINTENDENT, AACPS

with all of our students is simple: education is the pathway to economic prosperity. If we do education right, it doesn’t matter how you show up and where you come from — you can overcome. And we have a responsibility as an administrative staff here to make sure that every single one of our kids grow.”

Bedell plans to focus on opportunity gaps and transportation, among other priorities. He also said he gets “in the trenches” with students and shows his vulnerabilities so they see him as more than an administrator in a suit.

“I mentor kids; I play basketball with kids; I’m out at athletic events,” he said. “I go into schools, and I actually meet with students in smaller groups. I have assemblies.

“I have no problem sharing with students that although I am a superintendent, I make mistakes just like all of you.”

Following the board meeting, Bedell returned to Missouri, where he will remain until August 8. Monique Jackson will serve as acting superintendent until that time.

Board of Education President Joanne Bache Tobin emphasized that the entire board agreed that Bedell was the right choice to lead AACPS and its more than 83,000 students.

“As you saw by the unanimity of the vote, this is something that the entire board is absolutely delighted about and none of us could be happier,” she said.

Bedell is eager to get started and to be bold in making decisions that will propel AACPS among the state’s top-performing districts.

“I don’t believe in a cookie-cutter approach to how we do things,” he said. “I do believe in innovation. I do believe in us being forward-thinking as a school district, and understanding that in that thought process, some of these things that we do may not work, but guess what? That’s OK because we have to try to do things differently if you want to become No. 1.”

Photo courtesy of Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Twins Top SPHS Class Of 2022



Neela Baker

Salutatorian - SPHS class of 2022

Nicole Baker

Valedictorian - SPHS class of 2022

By Judy Tacyn

Fraternal twins Nicole and Neela Baker have been doing everything in tandem since they were born. Now they can add valedictorian and salutatorian to that list.

Nicole earned the valedictorian rank, and Neela was a slight fraction behind, earning the salutatorian rank,

to top the Severna Park High School class of 2022. Both students earned a 4.0 unweighted GPA, however, Nicole took one additional Advanced Placement course to slightly raise her weighted GPA. Neela, on the other hand, chose to start taking courses at Anne Arundel Community

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Class Of 2022’s Top Students Look Back On Time At BHS



Photo courtesy of Kirsten Berezney

Cori Berezney

Valedictorian - BHS class of 2022



Anders Nelson

Salutatorian - BHS class of 2022

By Conor Doherty

When entering high school as freshmen, most students strive to have good grades but don’t necessarily set out to be at the top of their class. That was the case for Cori Berezney and Anders Nelson, who finished their time at Broadneck as the class of 2022’s valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

For Nelson, that wasn’t something he ever thought he would be

able to do.

“When I entered high school, I was just hoping to get by,” Nelson said. “Being valedictorian/salutatorian was not a goal in mind for me. But it ended up meaning a lot to be one of the top two students because it meant that my hard work paid off and was worth it.”

The hard work both Berezney and Nelson put into their academics and extracurriculars paid off. But like the rest of their peers, their achievements

» **Continued on page 42**

Jones Elementary Students Complete Unique Installation

By Judy Tacyn

First-year art teacher Christina Young came to Jones Elementary School last November after a retirement created an opening. The Maryland Institute College of Art educated artist had worked in illustration, graphic design and production but always thought she might like to teach. The small school seemed to be a perfect opportunity.

"I didn't grow up with art in elementary school," Young said. "I stressed to my students that art is a privilege and an opportunity for them to express themselves freely, learn styles, and experiment with mediums and techniques."

Art is exploration on many levels, so Young said she loved hearing her students say, "This is my favorite class!"

"Some kids are able to take an assignment and just play with it and make a real masterpiece," Young added. "I don't want to give them too much direction because in art, it's much better for the kids to explore the mediums and techniques. It's so much fun to learn what the kids are capable of."

One of Young's lesson discussions was about murals and muralists, which got her thinking about an installation where every student and their art was represented.

To commemorate the school community's year together, Young wanted to create something that represented the students as one body. Young chose wings as a symbol because there are many ways that wings can be represented as uplifting, and many expressions include concepts of wings, such as "more to come, moving on, their chance to see where their wings will take them," etc., Young explained.

To begin the project, Young made grade-specific feather templates. She traced the templates on parchment pa-



per because she wanted the feathers to be semitransparent. Kindergarten feathers were the smallest and were placed along the top of the wings. Fifth-graders had the largest feathers, and those were placed at the bottom. Students were free to complete their feather in any way they chose.

Young completed the installation after school one evening because she wanted the students to be surprised the following day.

"People were mesmerized and so excited to see the finished wings when they came into school the next morning," she said. "It made me feel so good that at the end of a long school year, we created an opportunity to get students and staff to interact in a positive way and

Photos by Judy Tacyn

To commemorate the school community's year together, teacher Christina Young wanted to create something that represented the students as one body. She gave the students feather templates that, when combined, created wings.



get excited about moving on, not just the fifth-graders moving to middle school but for all of the kids moving on to the next grade."

All the fifth-graders had their photo taken in front of the wings. Younger students were captivated trying to find their feather, and when those were found, students were excited to point it out to their teachers, friends and families.

"I hope that I've said something that stuck with them and that they will recall again in life," Young said. "It's important to me to be doing something meaningful."

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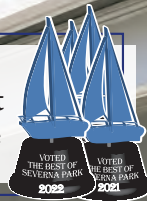
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Educator Of The Month

Shelby Queen Shipley's Choice Elementary School



Shelby Queen Retires After 40 Years Of Service

By Molly Beairsto

Thirty-nine years ago, Shelby Queen walked through the halls of West Severna Park Elementary, ready to begin teaching the newest students in Millersville. This June, she left the halls of Shipley's Choice Elementary School — the same building, renamed in 1988 — for the final time.

The reason she had stuck with it so long: the children. As Queen stated, "Every single day, they make me laugh ... They are so innocent; everything I have to say is so important. They light me up daily."

Being there for so long, Queen has seen the works, even teaching the children of her former students. She has always had that personality for it, growing up around teachers, including her mother and aunt. Yet, apart from a change of students every year, there have been extra factors that have changed the whole school's environment.

"Children haven't changed that much, but the curriculum has," Queen said. "Technology especially. [Students] know more than I do. They know how to maneuver a computer, while I'm always still learning!"

With virtual learning starting as the coronavirus pandemic took hold of the world, Queen knew she wanted her final year to be in-person. She had had a tough bout

“ Learning is a journey; take it slow. Everyone has their own pace. Everyone's different, and some things come off harder or easier for others. Just know there is something out there for you to be great at.”

— **SHELBY QUEEN**

during the time of quarantine but was helped by those who love her.

"I actually lost a sister during the pandemic, and it was a really rough time," Queen expressed. "But with the Shipley's community, the staff, the principal, Dr. [Beth] Burke — she was just awesome — our team came together and worked to fit in the pieces of the puzzle. It was great. And we all made it through."

Queen is valued by the Shipley's Choice staff and will be remembered and learned from for years. The administration even dedicated a bench outside of the school, with the inscription, "Be the reason someone smiles today."

As her legacy holds, she said, "I hope I am remembered for being happy all the time, and make the children laugh and feel they are important. And that's why I listen to their stories, look at them eye to eye, and not be busy while they're trying to talk to me. I think children are important, and so if people remember me, I hope I touched many lives."

Queen isn't taking this as the end of everything for her, however. She has general plans for the coming years as to what she would like to do with her new allotted time.

"My daughter had a baby in March, and I want to be there to help out. My mother as well, just seeing her more often," Queen said. "Just enjoying traveling and spending time with the family without work on the back of my mind."

Queen will be missed in the teaching community and beyond. As her 40-year career ends, she has one piece of advice for educators and students alike.

"Learning is a journey; take it slow," she said. "Everyone has their own pace. Everyone's different, and some things come off harder or easier for others. Just know there is something out there for you to be great at."

Photo courtesy of Heather Bailey Photography



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Farewell To The Graduating Falcons



Photos by Zach Sparks

Severna Park High School's class of 2022 graduated at Live! Casino & Hotel in Hanover on June 9. Principal Patrick Bathras presented diplomas to students, who walked across the stage while enjoying audience applause.

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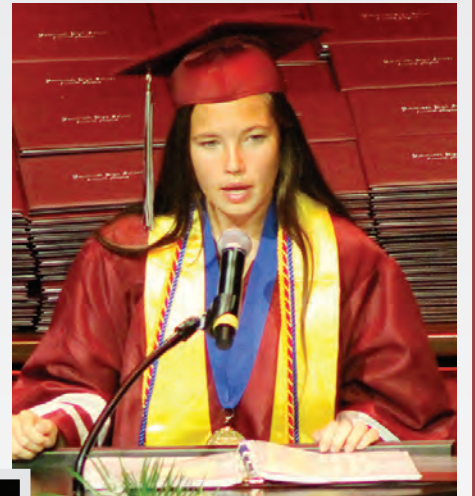
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Bruins Bring Senior Year To A Close



Photos by Conor Doherty

Graduation was an emotional moment for many members of Broadneck High School's class of 2022. Students accepted their diplomas during a ceremony at Live! Casino & Hotel in Hanover on June 6.



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Class Of 2022's Top Students Look Back On Time At BHS

» Continued from page 36

were not without difficulties. They both dealt with problems trying to maintain their spots at the top, but they came away with important skills like time management.

"I had to learn how to balance my workload, sports as a four-year varsity athlete, clubs, volunteering and my social life," Berezney said.

Nelson agreed, saying that it was tough to balance soccer and schoolwork while getting eight hours of sleep each night. Now the students' time at Broadneck has ended and they are moving to the next step in their lives, college. Nelson will study engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park while Berezney will attend the University of Virginia to major in political philosophy on the

pre-law track.

Many students struggle with figuring out a proper work-life balance that allows them to excel in school, but they might struggle because of that approach. Berezney said that it might not be worth trying to be at the top.

"If you must sacrifice a lot outside of school, such as giving up sports, or not being able to participate in clubs, to be valedictorian, it may not be worth the achievement," she stated.

Nelson said young adults should push their limits to reach their potential.

"Don't let others tell you how much work you can or can't handle or how many AP classes to take," Nelson said. "You shouldn't make it too easy because others are. You need to make the most of your time and hop on that grind."

Twins Top SPHS Class Of 2022

» Continued from page 36

College during her senior year, which Nicole did not.

"I am so glad that the person I could share this with is my sister," Neela said. "There really isn't another person that I'd want to be up onstage with."

Nicole said, "It's really exciting to share this with my sister since I know we've both worked hard to get here. We had known that we were tied for first at the end of junior year, so we definitely expected it, and when I took one more class than Neela, we knew it would end up this way."

There are no bragging rights for these sisters, however. They chose to use the friendly competition to motivate each other to take challenging classes and get all As.

Nicole will attend the University of Maryland, College Park to study electrical engineering. She said she's excited to go out and try things she's interested in

on her own.

"I'm most proud of being able to find a balance between school and extracurricular activities," Nicole added. "I never let my commitments interfere with one another. In the future, I'm most looking forward to having more freedom on my own in college and learning more so I can answer the questions I have about the world."

Neela will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and study computer engineering. She would love to start a career that includes travel, and she plans to earn a pilot's license one day.

"I have always known education is important for my future and my career path," Neela said. "I've known for a while that I want to work with computers for my career, but there is a lot I have to learn to get there, which is why I've always been serious about my education."

Neela and Nicole are the daughters of June and Stewart Baker.

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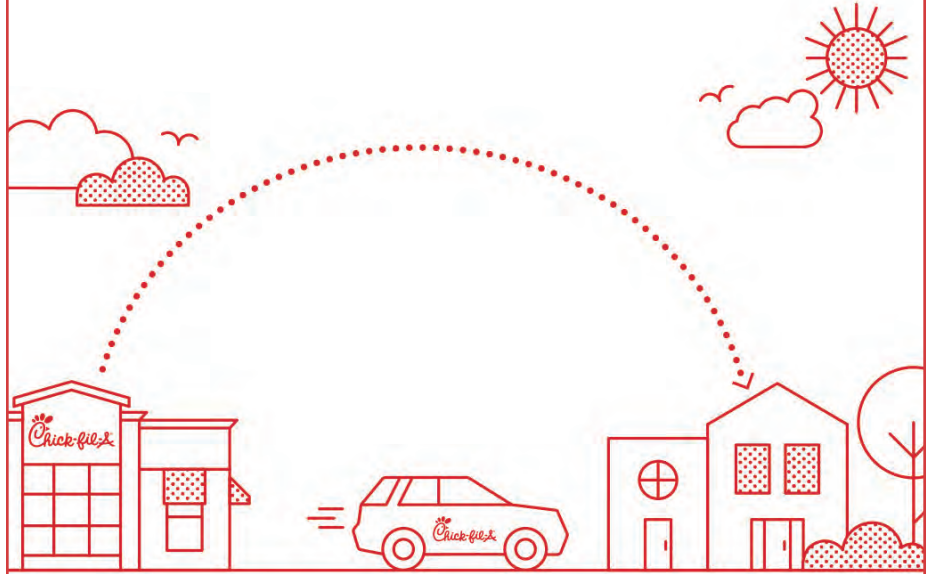
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Severna Park Elementary School



Photo by Lauren Cowin

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

If you could travel anywhere in the world this summer, where would you go and why?

If I could travel anywhere in the world this summer, I would go to Los Angeles, California, because I would be able to see my aunt and uncle and go to Disneyland.

Addie D.

I would go to Ocean City because I love the beach, the boardwalk and the hoodies. I practically live there. My brother and I love hitting the waves when they're huge!

Akari D.

If I could, I would go to China. I want to travel all around it. I was born in China, and I used to go there during summer vacation. That stopped for a few years and I would like to go back

to see how it is right now.

Amy W.

I would want to go to Paris because it looks really cool and aesthetic looking! I also have never been there before and also the food looks really good.

Arielle A.

I would go to Alaska because I want to see my grandparents. I barely get to see them and would love to go hang out with them. I miss them a lot.

Ashtyn H.

I would go to Hawaii or Greece because in Hawaii, I could try new

foods, go out on the beach to watch the sunset, and go near the fire pit and roast marshmallows. However, if I went to Greece, I could also go to the beach, walk around on the pathway, go shopping and get good food.

Caroline M.

If I could travel anywhere, I would go to Cooperstown, New York, because the Baseball Hall of Fame is there, and it would be so fun to play baseball there.

Connor P.

I would go to Tokyo because they have great sushi and I love sushi. Also, they have a cool culture.

Ed G.

If I could travel anywhere this summer, I would go to the island of Fiji. I have always wanted to go somewhere in the middle of the ocean, and somewhere with not a lot of people traveling there.

Elie C.

I would go to Japan. First, I would visit all of their sushi places and go to cat cafes. I would also like to learn their language and their culture and check out their plushy shops, go to their concerts and see the Hello Kitty store.

Emma A.

I would go to Brazil because of the beaches, my family and also food.

The main reason is my family that I haven't seen since 2019.

Gabriel P.

If I could go anywhere in the summer, I would go to the biggest Taco Bell in the world because I really like Taco Bell.

Grant M.

I would go to Lake Huron in Canada because I have family there and the silky beaches. I also like to play in the lake.

Madilyn S.

I would visit every major city in Europe for two days. I think it would be really fun and adventurous. Also, I'd want to watch a lot of soccer games.

Mason H.

I am actually going to Greece this summer. I am super excited to eat warm pita bread and to walk the streets, listening to Greek music. Every time my family goes to Greece, we visit the island Crete.

Mia R.

I would go to Hawaii because I want to go snorkeling with my family. I also would want to go shopping. Going on hikes would also definitely be on my to-do list.

Morgan M.

I would go to Florida because I would go to Disney and Universal. I would have so much fun on the roller-coasters.

Shea B.

I would go to Greece because I've heard it's very relaxing and calm with beaches everywhere you look and music playing in the background. I can see myself biking on the walkway, just enjoying life. The food is amazing and Greece is beautiful. I hope I'm lucky enough to go and get my tan on!

Teagan C.

AACPL Offers Summer Reading Suggestions

The Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) has a list of summer reading suggestions on its website. Here is a small sample of books for elementary and middle school children, but the full list with many books for all grades is available at www.catalog.aacpl.net.

Pre-K

"A Big Guy Took My Ball!"

by Mo Willems

Piggie is upset because a whale took the ball she found, but Gerald finds a solution that pleases everyone.

Kindergarten

"The King of Kindergarten"

by Derrick Barnes

Instilled with confidence by his parents, a young boy has a great first day of kindergarten.

First Grade

"The Proudest Blue"

by Ibtihaj Muhammad
Faizah relates how she feels on the first day her sister, sixth-grader Asiya, wears a hijab to school.

Second Grade

"Inky's Amazing Escape"

by Sy Montgomery

The story of how in April 2016, Inky the octopus escaped from the New Zealand aquarium and became an international sensation.

Third Grade

"Armstrong"

by Torben Kuhlmann

A long time ago a mouse learned to fly ... and crossed the Atlantic. But what happened next? Torben Kuhlmann's book transports readers to the moon and beyond!

Fourth Grade

"The Little Mermaid"

by Jerry Pickney

In this reinvention of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, a little mermaid trades her voice for legs and makes a new friend on land, but she must return to the sea to save her family.

Fifth Grade

"Science Comics: Solar System"

by Rosemary Mosco

In this volume of "Science Comics," get up close and personal with Earth's nearest neighbors — Venus with its acid rainstorms, Saturn and its rings of ice, and the heart of it all, the sun.

Sixth Grade

"All Thirteen"

by Christina Soontornvat

On June 23, 2018, 12 young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach enter a cave in northern Thailand seeking an afternoon's adventure. But when they turn to leave, rising floodwaters block their path out.

Seventh Grade

"No Place for Monsters"

by Kory Merritt

Cowslip Grove seems like the perfect place to raise a family until the children start disappearing. Nobody looks for the children because nobody can remember them. Nobody except Levi and Kat. Now they must figure out what terrible presence is taking the children.

Eighth Grade

"Sal & Gabi Break the Universe"

by Carlos Alberto Hernandez

To heal after his mother's death, Sal learned how to meditate. But no one expected him to be able to "relax" things into existence. Now he can reach into space to retrieve things from other universes.

An MS Diagnosis When Things Don't Add Up

By Judy Tacyn

She's the friend who drops everything to check on those in her circle. She's the first parent to take charge when there is a need with her children, other children or their school. Her larger-than-life bouncy curls are understated compared to her exuberant personality. She effortlessly balances a large loving family, a vast net of close friends, a challenging and rewarding career, and endless community commitments with unmatched energy, joy and dedication.

There is nothing that Jennifer Whitlock cannot accomplish with flying colors, and no obstacle she cannot overcome — not even multiple sclerosis.

"It's not the worst thing that could happen," said Whitlock, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis on May 10, 2022. "I could ask 'why me?' but I am really just more grateful that I didn't wait even one day longer before tackling this head on."

After Whitlock spent too much time with strange symptoms that she chalked up to getting older or a random pain, the MS diagnosis was confirmed with two MRIs showing multiple lesions indicating demyelination. However, in hindsight, Whitlock feels she may have been living with the chronic disease for at least four years. With MS, the person's immune system attacks



Jennifer, Albert, Jake and Luke Whitlock are rallying after Jennifer's multiple sclerosis diagnosis.

the nerve fibers and myelin sheathing, which insulates the brain and spinal cord.

Then in her mid-40s, Whitlock was experiencing fatigue, symmetrical pain, brain fog, numbness and a pins-and-needles sensation. Although none of her blood markers indicated rheumatoid arthritis (RA), her symptoms did present as RA, and she was given an RA diagnosis. Medication provided minimal relief, but Whitlock believes she subconsciously minimized her symptoms and chalked them up to getting older or being stressed and busy.

After several people close to her were diagnosed with dementia, Whitlock started to wonder if maybe she was also losing her mind. She saw a specialist and was relieved when she passed all the cognitive

tests. Still not convinced, Whitlock requested an MRI. The results were surprising: multiple brain lesions.

Whitlock was immediately referred to a brain neurologist whom she soon learned possesses the same take-charge attitude as she does. The immediate plan of action? Go in aggressively with the expectation to severely halt the progression of MS.

"I have an amazing neurologist who fast-tracked my treatment and have already received two infusions from a rockstar infusion nurse; however, it

» Continued on page 46

Early-Onset Breast Cancer - Are You At Risk?

Dr. Regina Hampton
Luminis Health



Thanks to awareness and education campaigns, breast cancer tops the list of well-known cancers. But, unfortunately, millions of women know about breast cancer firsthand — it's the most com-

mon cancer in women.

Women diagnosed with breast cancer are typically over the age of 50. But the Centers for Disease Control shares that there isn't just one face to breast cancer. Breast cancer can and does develop in younger women. When it does, it's known as early-onset breast cancer.

What is early-onset breast cancer?

Breast cancer is categorized as early-onset when diagnosed in someone age 45 or younger. And although breast cancer isn't as common in younger women, one in 10 women diagnosed is under age 45. Black women tend to have a higher rate of early-onset breast cancer than younger women.

A few things set early-onset breast cancer apart from other cancers:

- It may include worries about body image, fertility, finances and isolation
- It's more aggressive and challenging to treat
- It's often hereditary (runs in your family)
- It's usually at a later stage when found

What increases your risk for breast cancer when you're younger?

While anyone with breasts is at risk for breast cancer (yes, even men), different factors increase your risk for breast cancer when you're younger. If you're under 45 years old, your risk may be higher if you:

Are of Ashkenazi Jewish descent, which puts you at a higher risk for changes in genes that fight breast cancer (BRCA1 or BRCA2)

- Are Black — due to genetics, the biology of the cancer, and/or differences in health care
- Are transgender, due to differences in hormones and gender affirmation surgeries
- Have a mammogram that reveals you have dense breasts
- Had other breast health problems, such as lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) or ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)
- Had radiation to your breast or chest during early childhood or as a young adult
- Have changes in the BRCA genes or

» Continued on page 46

"The Healing Library" Kit Helps Families Grieve

Photo by Lauren Meyer

Books and activities in the kit are suitable for ages 2 to 10.

In July 2020, AACPL launched its own pilot program with eight kits, dealing specifically with the death of a loved one and including books and activities suitable for a range of ages from 2 to 10. The kits are designed to be used together as a family and can help caregivers with ways to answer difficult questions.

AACPL card-carrying members can check out the kit for three weeks at a time. It's just like checking a book out of the library for free. The only difference is you need to request it from the library's online catalog or while visiting in person, and there might be a short wait for the kit. My wait was less than one week. The kit can be sent to any of AACPL's 16 locations for pickup.

The kit was assembled by the following team of people: a children's librarian, a licensed children's counselor specializing in art and play therapy, a children's literature advocate and a programming librarian.

"With this kit designed by librarians and experts in children's wellbeing, caregivers can use books, therapeutic activities and appropriate language to explain death to children and help them begin to come to terms with it," Efrom said. "It provides structure in a messy time, especially while adults are trying to process their own grief."

Surprisingly, there are more children's books about death than one might expect. Titles in the kit consist of: "When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death," "The Funeral," "Something Very Sad Happened: A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death" and "The Goodbye Book," among others. Discussion guides for all books are included.

What I found most remarkable in the kit were the activities or acts of kindness. For instance, blank journals, paper and cards, as well as paints for unique ways to express emotions at a time where talking isn't always easiest or desired. Bubbles and balloons too. One might take a leap to envision the therapeutic release of both items to the heavens. A squishy stress ball that could soothe all members of a family. Lastly, seeds — organic gourmet lettuce mix, to be precise, from my kit — to plant with its own beautiful metaphor of growth and rebirth. The seeds are kindly donated by the Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners.

"Feedback from our patrons has been altogether positive," Efrom said. "The book choices alone are a favorite aspect of the kit, but the inclusion of sensory toys, art activities and the discussion guide have all been mentioned as valuable ways to help families grapple with something that seemed unwieldy ... The most common advice given from one family to the next is, 'Take your time.'"

To learn more about The Healing Library, visit www.thehealinglibrary.com.



By Lauren Burke Meyer

When we lose a loved one, grieving is difficult for people of all ages. It can be especially difficult supporting children through such a traumatic event.

To this end, the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) has compiled a kit called "The Healing Library: Death of a Loved One" to assist families by offering paths to healing. They include children's books, resources, a list of community helpers and hands-on activities.

"The Healing Library is meant to give families a sure place to start at a time when they're focused on juggling the many emotional, financial and spiritual difficulties that often accompany the death of a loved one," said Laura Efrom, assistant branch manager at AACPL.

The Healing Library was developed originally by Megan Emery and several partners in the Chattanooga, Tennessee, area.

An MS Diagnosis

» Continued from page 45

will take many months to feel the impact of the infusions,” Whitlock said.

Her concerned and large family encouraged her to post an update on Facebook so that relatives could follow her treatment. Whitlock had already discussed her diagnosis with her employer, but was she ready to make such a visible post by going Facebook-official to all of her network?

“God gave me a loud voice and an extended frame, so while I am not Selma Blair or Christina Applegate (both actresses living with MS), I will use those ‘gifts’ to bring awareness and treatment advancement as much as I can,” Whitlock said.

Bruton’s tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitors, an emerging type of disease-modifying therapy for MS, have given her hope.

“I’m excited about the late-stage clinical trial pipeline for a new class of BTK inhibitors, and if I’m a candidate, I’m absolutely enrolling,” she said.

Whitlock encourages everyone to be better patients by always carrying a notebook and taking notes, which can be shared with a medical team.

“Don’t let go of something that you think is awry,” Whitlock said. “Doctors are there for us, but we must do our job, too. Advocate for yourself. I have been blessed with an amazing group of physicians over the years, but I wish I had voiced my concerns louder and more often. You know your body better than anyone, and you need to use your voice to fight for answers.”

Whitlock is a team mom for the Severna Park High School unified bocce and tennis teams, roles she won’t give up. And she’s going ahead with starting her Master of Business Administration degree through the University of Oklahoma this fall.

One friend, Laurie Dennis, isn’t surprised at Whitlock’s attitude.

“Jennifer is one of the most enthusiastic, energetic people I know! She is always willing to jump in and get things done, be there in full force and with a smile on her face,” Dennis said. “While I was devastated to hear the news of her diagnosis, I know if anybody can tackle this head on, it’s Jen Whitlock. She has such an upbeat, positive energy and spirit, which will help her manage this disease. She’s a wonderful person and a true friend. I look forward to working with her next year as team moms for unified sports.”

Whitlock knows that the long-term prognosis for MS patients looks different for everyone, but she feels the diagnosis has given her a new perspective on her life.

“I want to go do all the things with all the people I love. I want to dance with my sons at their weddings. I don’t want Albert to push me in a chair. I want to run again,” she added.

Facing the diagnosis with her trademark drive and exuberance, Whitlock, a health care consultant, added, “I have an overwhelming sense of privilege right now. I have great health insurance. I am an educated woman with health care and pharmaceutical experience. I am ready to move this forward.”

Early-Onset Breast Cancer

» Continued from page 45

have close relatives with changes in the BRCA genes

- Have relatives (parents, siblings, grandparents on both sides) who had breast or ovarian cancer before age 45

What are the symptoms of breast cancer?

Breast cancer symptoms can show up differently for everyone. Or you may not have any symptoms at all. In fact, many people don’t know they have breast cancer until it shows up on a mammogram. Some breast cancer warning signs are:

- A new lump in the breast or the armpit area
- Any change in the size or shape of the breast
- Irritation or dimpling of breast skin
- Nipple discharge (including blood) other than breast milk
- Nipple pulling in
- Pain in any area of the breast
- Redness or flaky skin in the nipple area or breast
- Thickening or swelling of any part of the breast

While these symptoms can also be a sign of something other than cancer, it’s crucial to talk with your doctor about these symptoms.

How can you reduce your risk of early-onset breast cancer?

If you have any risk for early-onset breast cancer, there’s good news. You don’t have to let cancer have the upper hand. You can take action and reduce your risk.

Learn about your family’s history of breast and ovarian cancer

Your family’s health history is one of those risk factors that’s out of your control. Learn about your family’s history of breast, ovarian and other cancer history (including your immediate family and extended family on both your mom’s and dad’s side).

Consider genetic counseling and testing

If your family history puts you at greater risk for cancer, your doctor may recommend genetic counseling. You’ll talk with a specialist who can help you and your family decide whether genetic testing for the changes in the BRCA and other inherited genes is right for you.

Focus on a healthy lifestyle

Reducing your breast cancer risk is just one of the many benefits of making a healthy lifestyle a priority. Lower your cancer risks by choosing to:

- Breastfeed your babies, if possible
- Exercise regularly
- Limit or eliminate alcohol
- Maintain a healthy weight

Take charge of your breast health at every age

Don’t assume you have to be a certain age to consider your risk for breast cancer. Prevention and early detection save lives. Talk with your primary care provider, or if you need a provider, call Luminis Health at 443-481-5800 to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Regina Hampton is a breast surgeon with more than 15 years of experience. Hampton is the medical director of the Breast Center at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center.



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Sewing Group Creates Enchanting Costumes

By Judy Tacyn

What started as a few friends sharing their love for sewing and renaissance garb has turned into “Sewing for Renaissance Festivals,” a Facebook group with more than 10,000 members from around the world.

The online group shares photos of completed work, asks for suggestions, or asks for help in finding materials. Locally, the core group of eight to 10 friends gathers once a week at members’ homes to sew garb for themselves, friends, family, and for custom orders.

With the popularity of renaissance fairs, like the annual Maryland Renaissance Festival held at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, the market for fair garb continues to grow exponentially. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the 280,000 Maryland Renaissance Festival attendees do so in medieval period costumes known as garb, a number that does not include the costumed entertainers, musicians or theatrical performers, all of whom are in their most authentic time-period outfits.

While attendees can rent garb for the day at the festival, many more prefer their own outfits.

“We are on a year-round hunt for sale fabrics, patterns and one-of-kind



(L-R) Tammy Bennett, Randi Lewallen, Kathy Pettigrew, Christy Stouffer, Kay Carnell and Sonia Pizarro enjoy making garb.

trim,” said Arnold resident Kathy Pettigrew while she was working on a custom order.

Pettigrew’s basement has been transformed into a comfortable sewing room with bolts of fabric, thread, rivets, buckles and rolls of trim to rival any high-end fabric store. She and her

fellow seamstresses create bloomers to bodices, and court dresses to hats, and everything in between.

“There is a real sense of pride when garb I’ve created is unique and really stands out,” Pettigrew added. “I start by talking to the customer to find out what they want. What style and what

colors? I love making things that are one-of-a-kind and really flatter the person who will wear it.”

The Maryland Renaissance Festival will take place August 27 through October 23 this year. During that time, the seasons will change, and the tem-
» **Continued on page 50**

DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK

Photos by Mary Cobbler

Glory Days Offers Great Taste In A Fun Environment



Above: The wings had moist, tender chicken on the inside and crunchy skin on the outside.



Above: In the half Cobb salad, the lettuce was fresh and well-chopped. Halved cherry tomatoes were sweet and tart. The bacon was crispy, and the egg and cheese balanced it all out.

Below: The burger had a classic chargrilled taste. In addition to a classic burger, Glory Days offers a burger with ribs, a burger with onion straws and a burger with fried eggs.



Below: Super soft and filled with gooey chocolate, the lava cake includes a generous scoop of vanilla ice cream and drizzles of chocolate and raspberry.



By Mary Cobbler

As a Pasadena native, I’ve always known that Glory Days Grill on Ritchie Highway is a local favorite for sports fans. I didn’t realize what a great choice it is when you want to catch up with friends, enjoy dinner with family, or even sneak away for a date night.

I visited Glory Days with my family of five on a Sunday evening around 7:30pm. The restaurant was busy but not slammed. We were quickly greeted and seated in a roomy wooden booth. There is a huge bar for those more interested in drinking and lots of seating for larger groups coming for meals. Televisions abound, mostly turned to sports channels. A couple televisions also played cartoons (which kept my kids occupied while we perused the menus) and the news. Our server, Haley, showed up by our table with a warm smile and an impressive knowledge of the menu. She was able to provide suggestions upon request and fill us in on the fan favorites.

We started off with a half order of the “macho nachos” and a half order of the cheesy fries. Haley also suggested the knockout shrimp. I have heard friends gush about the excellent shrimp before and was interested in trying them. No one else in my family was interested, so I held off.

» **Continued on page 52**



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Quilter Pieces Together Top Honors

Julie Antinucci's quilt, "Weight of a Feather," was named Best in Show at the annual Quilts by the Bay show.



nine stars. She said it took her more than two years to complete this complicated quilt.

"There are so many talented guild members," Antinucci said. "This was the first year where we used impartial judges to decide all of the awards except the People's Choice award. So, it blew me away to win Best in Show!"

Antinucci has been quilting for 18 years and has been a member of the Annapolis Quilt Guild for 15 years.

Visit www.annapolisquiltguild.org to learn more about the guild and to see photographs of all of the first-place winners.

The Annapolis Quilt Guild held its annual Quilts by the Bay show from June 10-11 at Broadneck High School. Arnold resident Julie Antinucci took home Best in Show honors for her quilt "Weight of a Feather." She also won first place for best pieced quilt and second place for People's Choice. There were more than 165 quilt entries in this year's show.

Each star in Antinucci's quilt is made of 450 pieces, and there are

Sewing Group

» Continued from page 48

perature could exceed 90 degrees or be as low as the 50s, so fabric choices are important.

"We try to only use natural fabrics ... breathable cottons," Pettigrew said. "Capes and coats may not be needed in August, but they will be by October!"

In 2014, the group created a venue where other sewers and vendors could gather to swap patterns and materials at low cost. That event has grown every year and now has to be held at a new location to house all of the vendors, food trucks, and artists. COVID caused previous events to be canceled, but the group is excited to host a sale this month.

The sixth annual renaissance garb and crafts sale will be held July 23 from noon to 4:00pm at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, located at 1450 Generals Highway in Crownsville.

The event is a combination of a flea market, yard sale and craft festival, with new and gently used merchandise

for renaissance festivals for sale. More than 30 vendors will offer a combined selection of crafts, artwork and jewelry for purchase.


Plenty of styles will be for sale, including renaissance wear, cosplay, steampunk, fantasy, pirate and fairy, as well as accessories. Dressing rooms will allow people to try on their garb to make sure the fit is perfect.

Additionally, food trucks, like Green Valley and EZ Access Eats, will be onsite. For the kids, there will be face painting and a vendor doing colorful fairy hair tinsel weaving.

There is no cost to attend. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend, and Pettigrew said she and her fellow garb creators are ready.

"During COVID, we were mostly home sewing!" she said. "So, we have a great inventory, and we are really excited to share our creations with fellow renaissance fair enthusiasts."

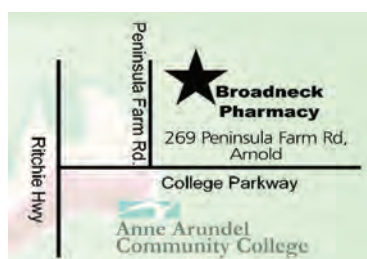
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“The SpongeBob Musical” Brings Bikini Bottom To Toby’s

The stakes are higher than ever in a new stage musical at Toby’s Dinner Theatre in Columbia, 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, an unexpected hero rises up and takes center stage. The power of optimism really can save the world!

“The SpongeBob Musical” is onstage at Toby’s Dinner Theatre

through July 31. Based on the beloved animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg and a book by Kyle Jarro, the musical features original songs by Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alexander Ebert of Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady A, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T’s, They Might Be Giants, T.I.,

David Bowie, Tom Kenny and Andy Paley. Additional lyrics are by Jonathan Coulton, with additional music by Tom Kitt. The musical production was conceived by Tina Landau.

Toby’s Dinner Theatre welcomes Kyle Dalsimer to the stage as SpongeBob SquarePants alongside Toby’s favorites DeCarlo Raspberry (Patrick), Janine Sunday (Sandy), Darren McDonnell (Squidward) and Jeffrey Shankle (Mr. Krabs). The cre-

ative team for the musical includes Mark Minnick (direction), David Singleton (choreography), Ross Scott Rawlings (musical direction), David Hopkins (lighting design), Shane Lowry (scenic design), and Flo Arnold and Janine Sunday (costume design).

Call the Toby’s box office at 410-730-8311 or visit www.tobysdinnertheatre.com or www.ticketmaster.com for more information.

Photos courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography
Kyle Dalsimer (center) plays SpongeBob in the Toby’s musical, which showcases a talented cast.



Summer Concert Series Kicks Off At Goshen Farm

Goshen Farm is hosting a free Friday night summer concert series at 1420 Cape St. Claire Road.

Two bands perform each night, with the first playing at 6:30pm and the second playing from 7:40pm to 8:30pm.

Limited seating is available, so attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets, as well as their own food and drinks.

The lineup includes:

July 8

- Apollo’s Envy
- Tim Kurtzberg

July 15

- AcoustiCafe • 24 Karat

July 22

- 3 Jerk Reaction
- Diana Flynn

August 12

- Biondi Family Band
- Dirk and The Truth

August 26

- Diane Kinsley and Julie Kurzava • 21012 Band

Let’s Go Music Festival Brings New Experience To Anne Arundel



Photos by Scottie Nelson

The inaugural Let’s Go Music Festival at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds drew musicians from several genres to the area in June. The festival kicked off Friday with Jimmie’s Chicken Shack, The Outlaws and Lynyrd Skynyrd. Billy Currington headlined the second night. The Goo Goo Dolls and Better Than Ezra were among the bands that closed the event on Sunday.



Glory Days Offers Great Taste In A Fun Environment

» Continued from page 48

The macho nachos are a guaranteed crowd-pleaser. Home-cooked tortilla chips had a crispy texture (better than store-bought by far). They were coated in plenty of toppings. Nacho cheese sauce dripped down nearly every chip, which complimented the fresh diced tomato and lettuce — topped with a dollop of sour cream. There was no real spice here, but the nachos were flavorful.

The cheesy fries were good. The cheese is not a sauce, but rather melted shredded cheese. The fries are topped with perfectly cooked, chewy bacon and served with a side of ranch. Cheese, bacon and ranch create a flawless flavor combo. The temperature and texture of the fries (a little softer than I'd like) made me think these fries sat on the warmer for just a minute too long before they came out. They were still enjoyable, and my kids all but licked the plate when we finished.

We decided on a variety of Glory Days' popular items for our entrees: chicken wings, a burger, a Cobb salad and cauliflower buffalo wings.

The chicken wings were practically perfect in every way. There was no downside. If you want great wings, head to Glory Days. The wings had moist, tender chicken on the inside and crunchy skin on the outside. There were plenty of both sauces we ordered (medium and hot), which packed a wallop of flavor. Sometimes flavor can be overshadowed when

there is a lot of heat, but the balance here was superb. The wings were generously sized, very filling and absolutely delicious. It's worth noting you can order bone-in (which is what we did), boneless or grilled boneless.

If you like wings but you're not much of a meat-eater, you may enjoy the cauliflower wings. Plus, the cauliflower deducts the calories of the sauces, right? I'm pretty sure that's how it works. Regardless, tender cauliflower is encased in a crispy, flavorful breading and smothered in sauce to create a chicken wing-like experience.

I tried the honey Old Bay and Korean No. 2 — sweeter choices to balance out the heat of the other wings. Lots of flavor! The honey Old Bay had that old Maryland favorite flavor mixed with a delicious, sweet sauce. As a lifelong Marylander, Old Bay runs in my veins. I can't help but love it. The Korean No. 2 was similar to a teriyaki with a nice savory-sweet balance. Both are good choices if you're not crazy about hot sauces.

I ordered a classic burger on a gluten-free bun for my young son with Celiac disease. Haley was understanding of the food limitation and promised that it would be handled separately. The staff brought it to the table separately while wearing gloves, so I believe they kept their promise. The burger had a classic chargrilled taste. It could have done with more seasoning. To be fair, it may have been missing some seasoning due to

the gluten issue.

I have heard a lot of friends extol how fantastic the burgers are at Glory Days. You'll have to visit and try a burger to make your own determination on that. They have lots of exciting options including burgers with ribs, burger with onion straws, and burgers with fried eggs.

The half-Cobb salad was everything you could want in this colorful combination. The lettuce was extremely fresh and well-chopped. The halved cherry tomatoes were sweet and tart. The bacon was crispy. The egg and cheese balanced it all out. Chunks of grilled white meat chicken were cooked well and seasoned with ranch dressing generously mixed in. No complaints here — a good salad.

Haley suggested the lava chocolate cake for dessert. She said it was the restaurant's most popular dessert. The cake was good. It was super soft and filled with warm, gooey chocolate. A generous scoop of vanilla ice cream was added with drizzles of chocolate and raspberry across the whole plate. It was very sweet — more so than some other lava cakes I've had.

I would recommend the lava cake only if you've had a savory meal. I had just finished the cauliflower wings before this. I couldn't take more than a bite or two of all that sweetness, but my kids demolished it and asked for more.

The bill for the half order of nachos, half order of fries, 12 wings, cauliflower wings, burger on a gluten-free

bun, half Cobb salad, lava cake, an iced tea, and a scoop of vanilla ice cream came to \$80 before tip.

It's worth noting that the restaurant has a wide selection of beers and cocktails, but we didn't drink that evening.

Two last thoughts:

1. I love that the restaurant has half and full order options. This makes it easier to order multiple items when you can't decide on what to get.

2. This restaurant is known locally as a great place to go if you're looking for gluten-free options. It has gluten-free menus on each of the tables and designated fryers for the fries. Even my son with a severe gluten intolerance could enjoy a great night out with kid-friendly options. The restaurant can't guarantee that everything is gluten-free (no restaurant really can unless it's a dedicated facility), but the staff is careful and I was impressed.

Glory Days is a great choice for dinner. You'll enjoy it whether or not you're a sports fan!

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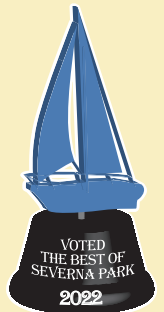
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Market Correction Vs. Recession

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
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What a whirlwind the past few weeks have been in the market. Over the past three months prior to this article being written in June, the S&P is down 13.5 percent, the Dow Jones is down 10 percent and the Nasdaq is down 18 percent. When looking at year to date, the S&P is down 21 percent, the Dow Jones is down 16 percent, the Nasdaq is down 30 percent, and inflation is up 8.6 percent.

As you might imagine, this is stirring up quite a bit of anxiety in everyone regarding their net worth and income. I am being asked about the cause of this and how long it may take to make up the losses. It's difficult to predict how long this will last and how long it will take to make up any losses, but the cause is easier to determine.

In my opinion, interest rates rising dramatically, in a short of a period of time, is the primary cause. On June 15, the Federal Reserve Bank increased rates by 0.75 percent - the biggest hike since 1994. Analysts anticipate July to have an even bigger increase. With inflation at 8.6 percent, it is understandable why the Federal Reserve is taking such action. What happens next is anyone's guess, but the midterm elections are going to

have an immense impact on how this all turns out.

We should all be asking, "Is this a recession or is this a correction?" The difference between the two is a matter of time, but also, a correction refers to the stock market whereas a recession refers to the broader economy that includes the stock market. A correction is defined as a short-term event, and a recession is defined as lasting more than a few months, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. Some analysts agree that we are in the correction phase, but opinions vary on whether this will turn into a recession.

The appropriate way to manage through any type of downturn is to have a plan. This is not the first, nor will it be the last, correction or recession. You should build your portfolio in a way that can handle times like this. You can never completely mitigate market risks out of your portfolio, but you can diversify your portfolio to mitigate as much as possible.

It's unwise to completely abandon equities in times like this because you realize the loss and you give up the opportunity to overcome inflation. The equity market historically is the most impactful way to offset inflation. We always have some level of inflation. To combat that, we need to have investments that *should* keep up with rising rates.

While not an increasing straight line, the average return on equities (stocks), historically beats inflation. Your portfolio should not be comprised of 100%

» Continued on page 56

Chamber Update

Liz League
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Please give a warm welcome to our newest members (find them in our directory at www.gspacc.com):

Capitol Title
– Our newest premium member, Capitol

Title, provides settlement services for clients who appreciate the value and assurances that only an attorney-owned, service-oriented company can offer. Serving Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia since 1973.

Coby Smith, Real Estate Agent at Coldwell Banker – Coby brings a wealth of knowledge on local communities, current market conditions, and the home buying and selling process. Coby strives to provide exceptional service every step of the way and offers a real estate experience that exceeds your expectations.

Signet Leadership – Jason Bland of Signet Leadership develops leaders and builds teams by facilitating leadership coaching and providing leadership training and development solutions to meet the clients' strategic goals.

Capitol Charm – Looking to spice up your events? Capitol Charm

provides trivia nights, karaoke, DJ services, and more!

Nothing Bundt Cakes – Nothing Bundt Cakes offers handcrafted Bundt cakes in a variety of delicious flavors and sizes (even bite-size). To top it all off, its bakeries offer a wide selection of retail items, including party supplies, décor, and gifts, making Nothing Bundt Cakes the perfect one-stop celebration shop.

Stretch Zone Severna Park – Stretch Zone's trained practitioners lead you through a series of dynamic stretches to increase mobility, muscle function, and make daily movements more efficient. The business offers a welcoming environment, knowledgeable staff and comfortable equipment. Since practitioners do all the work for you, simply relax and enjoy the benefits!

Horse and People Project – Blending her experience, knowledge, and horsemanship, founder Maria Alessandri guides people toward better understanding and acceptance of themselves and others. In 2012, she opened Back Fields Farm LLC: a 20-acre horse boarding and training facility in Davidsonville, Maryland, and began working on the Horse and People Project.

Color Street – With exclusive nail art designs, glitters, solids and even » Continued on page 58

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Cunningham Contractors Inc. Prides Itself On Customer Care



By Lauren Cowin

What started as a passion for building and creating has grown into a decades-long successful local business for Mark Cunningham.

His company, Cunningham Contractors Inc., prides itself on attention to detail and walking clients through every step of a home improvement project.

"We're like cradle to grave — our guys go out and actually meet with the clients, educate them about the products, do their pricing and measuring and ordering through the materials of the products, and then we also project manage so we're hands-on from the very beginning to the very end of the project," Cunningham said.

Cunningham Contractors Inc. offers both residential and commercial remod-



Mark Cunningham has been in the contracting business for over 30 years.

eling and does work on both single and multi-family homes. As the economic landscape of the country has changed over the years from the recession in 2008 to the more recent coronavirus pandemic, Cunningham's business has adjusted as well, focusing more on roofing, siding and gutters.

Cunningham advises all homeowners to take their roof maintenance seriously. "If you have issues from a leaky roof, you have issues with all kinds of things in your home — water going down, mold in the walls, foundation issues," he said. "That's why we focus in on the roof."

In addition to his contracting work, Cunningham has used his business as a vessel to serve young mothers and their babies through the Gabriel Network, an organization that provides housing and other support for these families. Cunningham has assisted both with fundraisers and with the homes themselves.

Cunningham is grateful for fulfilling work that allows him to earn his clients' trust and confidence.

"I get a great satisfaction being able to help people out, being able to improve their investment and their home," Cunningham said.

Cunningham Contracting Inc. is based in Crofton and services approximately a 25- to 30-mile radius to include Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Baltimore.

For more information, call 410-774-5409 or visit www.cunninghamcontractinginc.com.



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Liff, Walsh & Simmons Welcomes Alanna Casey

Liff, Walsh & Simmons, a full-service business law firm, has welcomed Alanna Casey, esquire, as an associate to expand the firm's employment law and litigation practice groups.

Casey brings a blend of professional and legal experience to Liff, Walsh & Simmons, previously serving as an employment associate at a regional Baltimore law firm and as a U.S. Air Force (USAF) intelligence officer and military employment attorney.

As an employment law associate, Casey represented physicians, dentists, medical facilities and a variety of business owners as they navigated employment issues, contracts and internal investigations.

Additionally, Casey served as the chief of civil litigation at Oklahoma's Tinker Air Force Base, a military base with over 26,000 military and civilian employees. She represented the USAF as general counsel in Merit Systems Protection Board and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission cases and oversaw employment investigations.

"Alanna's skills and experience as an employment lawyer in both the military and private sector will enhance our employment practice's services," said Melissa Menkel McGuire, partner and practice director for employment law at Liff, Walsh & Simmons.

Casey graduated from the Universi-



Alanna Casey

ty of Baltimore School of Law in May 2019 in the top 2% of her class. She interned for Chief Judge Joseph Getty of the Court of Appeals of Maryland. Casey also served as staff editor for the *University of Baltimore Law Review*, was co-president of the National Trial Competition Team, and taught civil procedures while a teaching assistant.

Casey is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association and the Anne Arundel Bar Association. In her free time, she competes in downhill mountain bike races. Casey has always been an avid athlete and is a three-time world strongwoman (lightweight) champion.

"I am grateful to have joined LWS' strong team of professionals where excellence and integrity are the guiding principles," Casey said. "These core values are present in every client interaction and service. This makes the LWS client experience above others, and I am proud to be a part of that mission."

Market Correction Vs. Recession

» Continued from page 54

equities. Like the old saying goes, "You don't want to have all of your eggs in one basket." Other investments like annuities, real estate, and bonds can offset the volatility in stocks. It's important to include these types of investments in your portfolio.

When the market is down like it is now, you can rely upon these other investments to lighten the blow. I call this red money and green money. Red money represents the stock market and has inherent risks but also upside. Green money offers guarantees like fixed annuities or CDs that pay a guaranteed interest rate. U.S. treasuries like I bonds have interest rates north of 9 percent right now. These investments may offset the risk in stocks.

Determining the balance allocated to each of these investments is critical. I generally use the monthly income a person requires as my starting place. I am a firm believer that your monthly income should come from your green money. Finding a professional who can help you with this is more important than ever. The market has been hot the past several years, making investing look easy. Now that we are entering a period of market correction or recession, having a professional help balance your portfolio provides another resource to help you execute your appropriate retirement plan.

Nothing I could say can make opening your quarterly statement easier with how markets have performed, but understanding that you have built a plan

and are executing that plan can make the pain a little bit easier to swallow.

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All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. There is no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful.

Investors should consider their financial ability to continue to purchase through periods of low price levels.

A diversified portfolio does not assure a profit against loss in a declining market.

Guarantees are based on the claims paying ability of the issuer.

Investors cannot invest directly in indexes. The performance of any index is not indicative of the performance of any investment and does not take into account the effects of inflation and the fees and expenses associated with investing.

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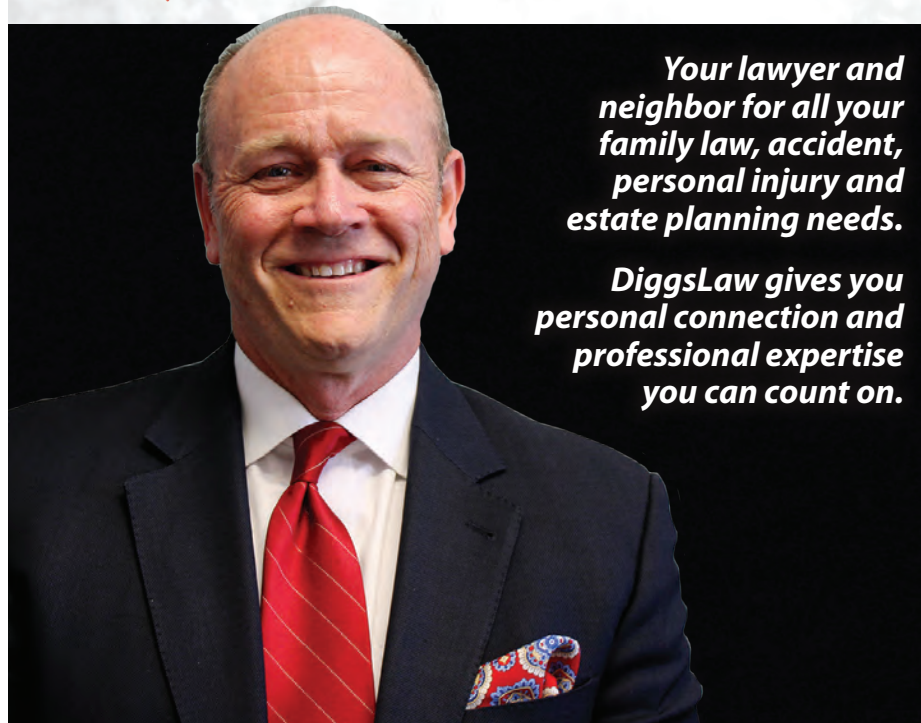
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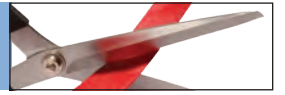
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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Stretch Zone Ready To Inspire

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce welcomed Stretch Zone to Severna Park on June 21. The business combines practitioner-assisted stretching with state-of-the-art equipment to improve muscle function throughout the body. Stretch Zone is located at 550 Ritchie Highway, Suite M.

Shore United Bank Celebrates Growth

Severn Bank and Shore United Bank celebrated a successful merger on June 14. Scott Beatty, president and CEO of Shore United Bank and Shore Bancshares Inc., informed a crowd about his vision and new product offerings. Shore United Bank is located at 598 Benfield Road in Severna Park.



CoreLife Marks 10 Years In Business

A surprise ribbon-cutting for CoreLife's 10-year anniversary was held at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis during June. Founder Sean Kostkowski was unaware the ceremony was being planned, but he was overwhelmed by the support. CoreLife develops a care team for people struggling with weight gain, and the team works with each patient to identify the root causes and to develop a personalized plan that combines medical treatment, dietary guidance, physical fitness and behavioral health. CoreLife is located at 1111 Benfield Boulevard, Suite 250, in Millersville.

SassWell Expands

Photo courtesy of Jenny Wagner Photography

SassWell's staff celebrated its new Severna Park location with an open house on June 5. The healing arts venue is run by a coalition of practitioners offering massage therapy, yoga, Reiki, homeopathics, sound baths and more. SassWell is located at 497 Ritchie Highway, suites 1A and 1B.



Chamber Update

» Continued from page 54

French manicures, Color Street has the most brilliant nail collections for whatever the mood or occasion — from fun to formal, elegant to edgy. Its 100% nail polish strips provide base, color, and topcoat in every strip with the bonus of no drying time! Dineyli Diaz-Deen is your local representative!

Superior SoftWash – Superior SoftWash is an authentic SoftWash cleaning service using an agricultural sprayer, not a pressure washer. You don't need to worry about damage to your house, roof, deck, patio or other surfaces.

Stretch.Bliss Wellness – These certified personal trainers take your fitness goals seriously. They understand that starting a new fitness routine can be challenging. It is their passion to assist you in setting, working toward and reaching your fitness goals! Your individualized fitness plan will set you up for success on your journey to a healthier lifestyle.

Quiet Waters Medical Esthetics – QWME is a medical esthetic company in Millersville. It provides medi-

cal-grade aesthetic services to treat all types of skin conditions as well as cosmetic laser procedures such as skin tightening, laser hair removal, intense pulsed light (IPL), microneedling, facials and more!

Employ and Relate – The Emoly and Relate team partners with business owners and managers by offering responsive and economical HR support so you can focus on what you love to do. One of its most cost-conscious HR resources is its do-it-yourself (DIY) membership program.

Lindquist Insurance – At Lindquist Insurance, the staff uses their industry experience and diversified knowledge base to protect what you value most in business and in life. The team offers a comprehensive suite of insurance solutions to protect you from the unexpected in the Frederick and Annapolis areas.

We held five ribbon-cutting ceremonies in June, starting with the grand opening of **SassWell's** new location in Severna Park. They went from 700 square feet to 4,000 square feet to add many services such as Reiki, yoga, IV therapies, meditation and more.

We held a ribbon cutting for **Core-Life Inc.** to celebrate 10 years in business. Founder Sean Kostkowski has created a multi-dimensional system to help people struggling with weight gain. CoreLife now has 38 locations that employ over 400 people.

In 2022, **Shore United Bank**, headquartered on the Eastern Shore, purchased the assets of **Severn Bank**, allowing it to expand to Anne Arundel County. We were honored to perform a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the successful merger of these two hyper-local, community-oriented banks.

Stretch Zone Severna Park officially opened its doors with a ribbon cutting celebration. The team participated in our Shop Local Fun Fiesta in Park Plaza and were well received. We know it will be a big success.

LaBarge Financial held an open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate its new historic office on Riggs Avenue. Jason LaBarge is president of LaBarge Financial, a financial and retirement planning firm that can help you take control of your financial future.

We were so excited to hold our Shop Local Fun Fiesta on June 18 in Park Plaza with 68 exhibitors. Gold sponsors were **SERVPRO Annapolis/**

Severna Park, Mike's Pharmacy, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi and Landmark Roofing. They each donated \$500 to their charities of choice at the event. We had oversized checks representing their donations. Recipients included the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Department, SPAN, Companion Bridge, and the Light House shelter.

Our silver sponsors were the award-winning **Griswold Home Care** and **Kwon's Taekwondo**. Bronze sponsors were **United States Insurance Services, Brian Chisholm for Delegate, Levin Eye Care, W. L. Staton, The Axe House, Carl Neimeyer for County Council, First Financial, skinlogic, Severna Park Community Center and Dawn Gile for Senate.**

Many thanks to **Jason Canaan of Neat Wall TV** for providing his fantastic DJ services, and to **Larry Sells of Larry Sells Consulting** for being a fabulous emcee.

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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- 1. Reverse the current Administration's 12% income tax increase.**
- 2. Cut property taxes by 3%.**
- 3. Eliminate wasteful spending in the county, such as removing chronically vacant positions from the budget.**
- 4. Partner with the State to offer retiree tax credits to county residents.**
- 5. Modernize county government services to improve efficiencies and lower costs, such as allowing automated online water bill payments and eliminating fees for online payments.**
- 6. Improve governmental responsiveness with a 48-hour policy to return residents' email and phone calls.**
- 7. Cut other taxes impacting quality of life and affordability, such as the fun tax.**
- 8. Partner with the State to eliminate the automatic gas tax increase that is currently tied to inflation.**

Visit www.JessicaHaire.com to learn more about Jessica's Plan.



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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