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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

SEVERNA PARK, MD

SEPTEMBER 2022

## St. Martin's Volunteers Assist Afghan Refugees



By Diana Love

**A**ugust 2021 marked yet another crisis in Afghanistan. The country has suffered invasion, war and devastation for decades. This time, the Taliban — a nationalist movement that grew into a significant revolutionary group and political organization - returned to the country in force.

In an aggressive move to usurp the internationally backed Afghan government, Taliban forces bulldozed across the countryside, quickly reaching the country's capital of Kabul. As the insurgency swept in, Afghanistan's president, Ashraf Ghani, fled out. With him fled thousands of others. Political dissidents, employees of American companies and government agencies, human rights defenders, and vocal supporters of the American mission rushed to exit Afghanistan.

The United States recognized a responsibility to assist and support people fleeing Afghanistan because those people had worked for the United

States government or otherwise supported U.S. efforts in the country. President Joe Biden's administration ultimately approved temporary refugee status for about 76,000 people.

Maryland received over 2,000 refugees who were placed throughout the state. Two-hundred refugees, including 40 families, were placed in two Anne Arundel County hotels.

The government's financial commitments to the refugees ended 90 days after entry to the United States. After that time, the refugees became responsible for supporting themselves and their families. Many struggled to find housing they could afford, jobs, entry to the school system, and access to health care. As the government reduced its initial support, nonprofit organizations stepped up. Giving Back, Linda's Legacy identified the immediate needs of the refugees and set up a network of assistance.

Dawn Major heard about the influx of refugees at a presentation by

**» Continued on page 4**

## County Council Examines Cluster Development Definition

**Editor's Note:** The *Severna Park Voice* went to print before the county council meeting on September 6. Follow the *Voice* online or visit [www.aacounty.org](http://www.aacounty.org) to keep track of Bill 73-22.

remaining land for a neighborhood common area or other environmental features.

But sometimes houses are clustered together without preserving the land. That is an issue District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler hopes to change. Fiedler sponsored Bill 73-22, which was discussed by the seven-member Anne Arundel County Council on September 6, after the *Severna Park Voice* went to print.

"The intent is to fully capture the intended outcome of 'cluster development' by expanding the definition to include the elements of conservation and preservation of natural features etc. that cluster development is intended to produce," Fiedler said. "Without those, a proposed development would not fit the definition and thus should not be able to use the flexible lot sizes clustered together."

Fiedler said she spent more than two



*This example of cluster development done correctly was shared during a council work session.*

- R-2 Cluster Subdivision
- 13.24 Acres
- Density:
  - 19 Single Family lots planned
  - 31 Single Family lots permitted
- Open Space Area
  - Required: 3.97 AC (30%)
  - Provided: 6.89 AC
  - 2.92 AC more than required or 22%
- Active Recreation Area
  - Required: .218 AC
  - Provided: .24 AC

space. That's the intent: to have flexibility in lot design, but

modifications have been given in some cases, taking away those open spaces or recreational spaces," Fiedler said.

"I'm changing the approach to chip away at this area of the code," Fiedler said. "We are starting with an update to the definition and will see where it goes. This bill is active for two more meetings ... I don't believe we will solve the cluster problem entirely in this term."

County Executive Stuart Pittman did not respond to a request for comment.

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## Margueritte Mills Volunteers Of The Month

By Lauren Cowin

Curiosity, and perhaps some divine intervention, landed Karen Myers at the helm of a decades-long community service event — the Severna Park United Methodist Church yard sale.

A longtime volunteer of the event, Myers decided to attend a meeting several years ago because she wanted to see who would take over the event after Gwyn Linthicum, who had chaired the sale for 20 years, stepped down. She couldn't have predicted the outcome.

"I raised my hand. Truly. It was actually a God moment," Myers said. "People had volunteered for sub commitments to the sale ... and I just had to make a decision right then and there. I said, 'I'll do it.'"

SPUMC hosts the yard sale typically twice a year, spring and fall, with the next one scheduled for Saturday, October 1. The event was put on hold for two years due to the pandemic, followed by a clothing-only sale this spring. Myers, as well as everyone involved, are excited to see the return of their complete yard sale this fall.

The sale will take up nearly every room on the church grounds and the yard, comprising the following categories of items: jewelry, holiday, children's toys, puzzles and games, household items, treasures, clothing, baby gear, books, shoes. Outside, shoppers will find outdoor items — bikes and garden tools — and furniture.

"Pretty much everything you would have in a house," Myers said.

As chairwoman of the sale, Myers

## Karen Myers Uses Yard Sale To Fund Vital Missions



*Karen Myers is excited for the full return of the Severna Park United Methodist Church yard sale on October 1. The sale was put on hold due to the pandemic and was held last spring as a clothing-only sale.*

forms contacts to ensure the church has everything to make the event go smoothly. A local family donates a dumpster. Giant Food and Safeway lend grocery carts.

Past sales have raised about \$25,000. Proceeds are used to fund projects and mission events through two groups: Volunteers in Mission (VIM) and United Women in Faith.

"Volunteers in Mission organizes the mission trips or events that our church does, so if a group is going to Costa Rica to work on a church building, that group organizes it, that small group within our church," Myers said. "All Methodist churches have a Volunteers in Mission group."

The other yard sale beneficiary, United Women in Faith, meets for Bible studies and other activities on a regular basis.

"They also have mission projects

that they do that are important to them," Myers said. "It might be providing food ... something that they do every year before school is they appeal to the congregation to provide backpacks and school supplies and they go to a school in Anne Arundel County that they have a relationship with — that's one of their mission projects."

During the pandemic when Severna Park United Methodist Church was not doing trips for VIM, members assisted with renovations at Serving People Across Neighborhoods (SPAN).

The yard sale is important to Myers because of the help it provides for those organizations, but also, beyond the "bang for your buck" that the sale offers, it assists many local families in need.

"There are also quite a few people that have told me that this is where they have come to get Christmas gifts for their kids when they couldn't shop at a retail store; they could not have afforded to shop at a retail store, somebody that's setting up their first place and really needs things at an affordable price, that is what is the most rewarding for me," Myers said.

All are welcome to visit Severna Park United Methodist Church for the yard sale on October 1 from 8:30am to 1:00pm.

More than 150 church volunteers make the yard sale possible, and Myers is grateful for the community and volunteer support that have made it so successful since she has been involved.

"I have not looked back. I love it," Myers said.

## Literacy Council To Hold Fundraiser Book Fair

The Anne Arundel County Literacy Council (AALC) will host a book fair fundraiser on Saturday, September 24, from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

The book fair will take place outside Discoveries: The Library at the Mall at the Crate & Barrel court. Westfield Annapolis Mall donated space and marketing support for the event.

Readers will find a range of gently used books, including children's books, cookbooks, bestsellers, romance novels, memoirs, mysteries, thrillers, historical fiction and more. Books will be priced at \$2 for hardbacks and \$1 for paperbacks. Shoppers can fill a special



edition AALC tote bag with books for \$20. PayPal, credit cards, checks and cash will be accepted. Gift basket raffles will also be at the fair.

Proceeds from the fair will support the council's free adult tutoring programs in Anne Arundel County. The AALC is a nonprofit that transforms lives by providing free,

convenient, and individualized reading, writing, GED, English as a second language (ESL), and math instruction for low-income adults and out-of-school youth who want to improve their skills. Last year, the literacy council recorded more than 10,000 volunteer

hours, serving almost 200 out-of-school learners.

More information about the book fair is available at the literacy council's website: [www.icanread.org](http://www.icanread.org). Follow the Anne Arundel County Literacy Council on social media at "AALC" on Facebook, @aacoliteracy on Instagram and @aalc on Twitter.

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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  
Diana Love

### Reporters

Emily Allgair  
Laura Colquhoun  
Declan Keefe  
Sharon Mager  
Lauren Meyer  
Kevin Murnane  
Judy Tacyn

### Columnists

Mary Cobbler  
Liz League  
Audrey Ruppert  
Michele Sabean

### Contributors

Brian Conrad  
David Diggs  
Leah Kimble  
Antony Koroulakis  
Jason LaBarge  
Kristin Swistak

### Photographer

Victoria Baker

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Please send your news to:  
[spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com)

P.O. Box 608  
Severna Park, MD 21146  
410-647-9400



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## St. Martin's Volunteers Assist Afghan Refugees



*Volunteers of all ages at St. Martin's have been collecting items and packing welcome boxes for refugee families.*

### » Continued from page 1

Jeanette Sudano of Giving Back, Linda's Legacy. She felt moved to help.

"The presentation was extraordinary and incredibly inspiring," Major said. "It showed how desperate the situation was. You couldn't walk out of it without saying, 'What can I do to help?'"

Linda's Legacy assistance relies in part on creating circles of giving and sponsorship. Friends, neighbors, coworkers, congregants of churches, and other groups of people join to sponsor an individual or family in a multitude of ways. Major's family built a sponsorship circle by reaching out to their friends for time, treasure and prayers.

“

*It is sometimes hard for us, when people seem to be so different from us, to recognize the sameness in us all. It's a call to our humanity. [The Afghan refugees] just want a safe place for their children to be happy and healthy, with a roof over their head. That's all any parent wants, and we are called to help.”*

— DAWN MAJOR

Fifty welcome boxes were assembled and distributed. The family's church, St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church in Severna Park, gathered household items, furniture, personal hygiene products and money for the refugees.

Kathy Berge is another member of the St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church community. When she heard about the Afghan refugee crisis, she first contacted Global Relief, an international organization. Ultimately, Berge visited several refugee families located in Prince George's County. What she found was astonishing.

"I met a pregnant woman who was bleeding and needed immediate medical attention; children who needed major dental care but had no insurance; families who were living in an unfurnished attic apartment with no air conditioning because it was all they could find or afford," Berge said.

Both women have spent hours and days connecting refugees to medical care, English language lessons, immigration assistance, schools, and professionals in the community who are willing to help for free. Unfortunately, many Afghan refugees, even those with advanced education

and professional titles, have struggled to find jobs in America. Many find entry-level positions that barely pay the rent and don't include insurance benefits.

Helping the Afghan families in Anne Arundel County has been a transformational experience for both Major and Berge.

"It is emotional and inspirational to watch people who lost everything, who have led successful, productive, and happy lives but left behind homes, families, and jobs without flinching to protect their children and offer them a better life," Major said.

Berge said, "It is a joy and privilege to help in any way possible."

To see pregnant women with no medical care, the struggle of learning a new language, or even just women learning how to read and write, to watch the appreciation for all the freedoms Americans enjoy in the United States, is truly humbling.

The need to assist local Afghan families continues. According to Berge, that help doesn't have to be time-consuming or expensive. For example, two young girls were enamored with the idea of petting

horses. Under Taliban rules, girls are not allowed to touch the animals. Berge is setting up the sisters with a visit to a local farm.

"It only takes a couple of hours out of your whole year, and you've provided someone with joy," she said.

Consider volunteering to help teach English and language skills. Many classes are full, yet the refugees are desperate to learn how to speak. Anyone who wants to help can make phone calls to doctors, teachers, and other specialists on behalf of families or help fill out paperwork. An overriding issue is finding jobs. Berge calls on business owners and leaders to simply take a chance. Many refugees are well educated and willing to work hard for their families.

"If you are a business owner, even if [the refugee] doesn't speak the language, you could make accommodations for that," she said.

For those who can't donate time or treasure, consider donating financially through a church or Giving Back, Linda's Legacy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The donation may be tax-deductible.

"We help because it is what Jesus calls us to do," said the Rev. Nathan Erdman, associate rector and chaplain at St. Martin's-in-the-Field. "So much of Jesus' teaching and ministry was about serving those in need. We are so blessed to have a vibrant outreach and service team at St. Martin's. Our members have such a heart for service. I am so grateful that our wonderful team saw this need in our community and responded with compassion."

# Our patients say it best:



*"I appreciated the pleasant atmosphere and the expertise and professionalism of everyone I came in contact with. Everything was as close to perfect as it could be."*

- Era P.



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# Coffee with Amanda Fiedler



Dear Friend,

I've been fortunate to have met many local residents over the last four years while working on more than 5,000 constituent cases and sponsoring bills to improve your quality of life. I may have met you as I've crisscrossed the district, attending local events, supporting local charities or cheering our kids on the field over the past few months.

If we haven't met yet, I hope to soon, and personally hear your concerns and suggestions for our community. In the meantime, please take a few minutes out of your busy day to pour yourself a cup of coffee and learn what I've been doing for our community.

*Amanda*

## WORKING HARD. REAL RESULTS.

### EDUCATION

As a mom of 3 kids in school, I believe in parental rights in our children's education. I've also sponsored legislation to increase salaries of public school educators, hire more teachers and more mental health specialists, like school counselors.

### ECONOMY

As a working mom, I sponsored legislation to create more local job opportunities, passed legislation to lower income taxes on our families, voted against higher property taxes and trash fees, and cut red tape for local businesses.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

As an invested homeowner, I supported body cameras for police, voted for higher pay for law enforcement, secured funding to improve our 911 call center, and supported bills to improve road safety.

### PRESERVING ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY'S CHARACTER

Born and raised in the district, I want our kids to enjoy the beauty of the neighborhoods we grew up in. That's why I passed legislation to keep our streets and parks cleaner, voted for increased transparency with developers, and opposed over-development that makes our classrooms crowded and roads congested.



Learn more about these issues  
and other priorities of Amanda  
at [www.VoteForFiedler.com](http://www.VoteForFiedler.com)  
or contact her at [fiedlerdistrict5@gmail.com](mailto:fiedlerdistrict5@gmail.com)

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# SPAN Fundraiser Promises A Family Affair



Photos by Judy Tacyn

**Left:** Vince Caropreso hopes to fill this moving van with nonperishable food during a fundraiser on October 1. **Right:** Vince and Melinda Caropreso have a personal connection to SPAN, the beneficiary of a fall festival at Kurtz's Beach on October 1.

**By Judy Tacyn**

A great family. A thriving business. Health. Vince Caropreso had it all, until he didn't.

Once on top of the world, Caropreso and his business partner split when the market crashed, and at home he was suddenly raising his children alone, all in just three months. There were weeks when he didn't know how he was going to provide for his young family. He humbly turned to SPAN Inc. in Severna Park.

"I would bring bags of groceries home and my kids thought I had been shopping," said the then single parent of his visits to SPAN.

He vowed to himself and to SPAN that when he could, he would give back to the organization that supported him and his family at the lowest time in his life. This October, he will continue to

keep his promise.

On Saturday, October 1, Team Caropreso at Keller Williams Flagship of Maryland will host its annual community fundraiser and fall festival to raise money to support and raise awareness for SPAN.

"Every year, our event has gotten bigger and better," Melinda Caropreso said. "This year, we are excited to be at Kurtz's Beach in Pasadena."

Caropreso wanted an extravaganza after smaller events during the pandemic. He approached Kurtz's Beach and found a familiar face — John Mason, owner of Kurtz's Beach, whom he did work for years ago.

"I really respect who he is, what he's overcome and what he's accomplished," said Mason, speaking of Caropreso. "He has taken a service-focused stance and I am very proud of him."

This year's event promises to be

fun for everyone. Live music will be provided by Red Betty and The Ruckus. Attendees will find a moon bounce, face painting, picnic-style foods, beer and wine, raffles, 50%, a money wheel, and Caropreso's now famous "stuff the moving truck" and more.

Participants are encouraged to bring nonperishable food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and diapers to fill the company's moving truck, which will be parked at Kurtz's. Cash and gift cards will also be accepted.

"Vincent and Melinda have been supporters for many years, and we were really excited to learn about the fundraiser to be held at Kurtz's Beach," said Michele Sabeen, SPAN's director of development.

The community fundraiser and fall festival will be held October 1 from noon to 4:00pm at Kurtz's Beach, located at 2070 Kurtz Avenue in Pasadena.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased on Eventbrite by searching for "2022 Annual Team Caropreso Community Fundraiser & Fall Festival."

"Our business is 89 years old; we've been very blessed," Mason said. "We are here to serve and to help one another, especially when supporting someone who is helping others. We feel privileged to participate."

Organizations, companies and neighborhoods interested in supporting SPAN through a fundraising or collection effort are invited to contact Sabeen at 410-647-0889 to discuss needs, dates and options.

In 2021, SPAN helped 691 families, including more than 2,000 people with nearly \$200,000 in financial and food disbursements.

To learn more about SPAN, to donate, to volunteer, and to read the latest Amazon wish lists, visit [www.spanhelps.org](http://www.spanhelps.org).

## The Need For Food, Financial Assistance Has Increased

**Michele Sabeen**  
Director of  
Development  
SPAN Inc.



straints that we have experienced over the last couple of years.

In addition to all the positive aspects of this, I heard from parents in the weeks leading up to the school start, about needing to purchase school supplies and having to prepare for school lunches. The federal grant to provide free lunches to all school children ended recently, at the end of the summer. For the first time in over two years, families will need to complete the application and meet the income criteria to receive free or reduced

Each new school year brings a fresh start — new teachers, new classmates and new school supplies. This year's beginning brings the added fresh start of moving past many of the pandemic con-

price school meals.

These additional back-to-school expenses are especially difficult for some families. One of our recent clients at SPAN left a lasting impression with me as he reiterated how thankful he was for the food and how hard it was for him emotionally since he was not used to being in a position of needing to ask for help. I am reminded of another client recently who was particularly thankful for shampoo. She said she had been adding water to hers to make it last longer. Toiletries are often specifically requested items and are always wonderful things to donate; they are not covered by food stamps.

These client interactions stay with me as do the regular reminders of how generous and caring this community is. I am always impressed and feel blessed that when we communicate a need, we see a wonderful response from the community. I love how members of this community are quick to step up to make sure the needs are met. As we start this new school year, our current wish list

includes snacks (cookies, crackers, bars and nuts), peanut butter and jelly, and packaged fruit.

I am reminded how we are moving past this pandemic in the many little parts of our routines that have resumed and that we all took for granted before March 2020. I am also reminded of how we are moving on when I look at SPAN's data for the year that just ended. The need we see for emergency financial assistance has increased dramatically in recent months. When COVID first hit, government assistance increased and the number of families needing emergency financial assistance dropped considerably. Reflected in the end of the pandemic phase is the increased need for financial assistance.

The average monthly amount of emergency financial help SPAN provided increased almost 250% between the first and second half of Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). The average number of families we have assisted with financial aid has likewise doubled in the second half of FY22.

With this increased need, it is great

to have our largest fundraiser, the 10th SPAN Turkey Trot, back for the first time since 2019. It is coming up on Saturday, November 5, and will be held at Kinder Farm Park. Registration is now set up; you can go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) and type in "SPAN." Thank you to all who are sponsoring and donating prizes for the event — we have had wonderful responses for both!

SPAN 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](mailto:spanhelps@yahoo.com) or visit [www.spanhelps.org](http://www.spanhelps.org). Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off using the storage bin behind SPAN's building.



# St. Vincent De Paul Society Expands To Meet Needs

By Sharon Mager

Stepping into the cool air-conditioning at the St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry in Severna Park, I was welcomed by the St. Vincent de Paul local conference president, Cindy Halloran. One older woman was completing her intake registration and a younger woman was pulling her water bill from her purse to share with a worker. A woman and a young girl with a huge smile were perusing the offerings in the pantry area.

"What kind of cereal do you like?" asked pantry manager Kathy Middel, smiling at the child.

"It's busy in here," I remarked to Halloran.

"Oh no, it's not busy now," she said. "It was busy this morning. This is just how it always is."

I was surprised. "The need is everywhere," Halloran said, reading my mind.

The pantry is a ministry outreach of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church. Parishioners provide volunteer hours, food and resources.

I asked Halloran if the pantry just opened. "Oh no," she said. "We've been around since the church began. People just didn't know we were here."

The team relocated the pantry in August to the "big blue barn" on Cypress Creek Road and Ritchie Highway, and neighbors are now discovering the resource.

Formerly housed in the basement of an old rectory building at St. John

the Evangelist, the pantry served a record number of people, 94, in three hours. Volunteers gave away 102 bags of groceries.

As I walked through the building, I met Shadrik Mokum, a seminarian with St. John the Evangelist. He was mingling, laughing, and joking with volunteers and visitors. Originally from Cameroon, Mokum has been with St. John the Evangelist for three months and provides spiritual support as needed at the pantry.

"The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a part of the way the church proclaims the gospel," Mokum said. "As one of our fathers in the church (referring to Pope Paul V) says, 'Modern man believes more in witnessing than in preaching.'"

You can preach all day and not reach people, but feeding the poor, and caring for those in need, makes them listen.

"Parishioners have been very supportive," Mokum said.

He also praised the ministry of St. Vincent de Paul Society and said his church in Cameroon was active with the society. "It's an international organization," he said.

Halloran said the St. Vincent de Paul pantry differs from other agencies. "We step out of the box," she said.

Volunteers work with people to help them with more than their utility bills. Through their network of agencies, they seek to assist with housing and even car repairs. Halloran said they strive to give

people a helping hand before their needs get too far out of control.

Halloran, quoting the International Society of St. Vincent de Paul Society rule, said, "No work of charity is foreign to St. Vincent de Paul. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity."

The center is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 1:00pm with volunteers distributing food, funding and other help to their neighbors in need. Visit the pantry or call 443-261-0109 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Nonperishables or hygiene products can be donated at the blue bins at St. John the Evangelist Church or at the pantry.



Photos by Sharon Mager

**Left:** Pantry manager Kathy Middel pulled meat from the pantry freezer. **Right:** St. Vincent de Paul local conference president Cindy Halloran welcomed guests to "the big blue barn."



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## Join The Broadneck Council For Candidates' Night

Members of Broadneck Council of Communities (BCC) and residents of the Broadneck peninsula are invited to attend candidates' night, co-sponsored by the Arnold Preservation Council, on September 29 at 7:00pm in the Cape St. Claire clubhouse, located at 1223 River Bay Road.

Anne Arundel County Execu-

tive Steuart Pittman and county executive candidate Jessica Haire, along with other state and county candidates, will speak at this event. Attendees will have a chance to submit questions and speak individually with candidates while enjoying refreshments after the formal presentation.

All are welcome to attend.

## SPHS Class Of 1967 Plans Reunion

The Severna Park High School class of 1967 reunion will be held October 14-15 in Severna Park. All

classmates and guests are welcome.

The celebration will start with a 55th reunion happy hour at Mother's Peninsula Grille on October 14 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. A reunion will be held the following day at American Legion Post 175 from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. Enjoy drinks, dinner, dancing and music provided by a DJ. A cash bar will be available. The reunion cost is \$55.

1967

Dick Parrish and Robyn Turner Miller had been planning the event over a year ago. Parrish has since passed away, and Turner

Miller would like all classmates to attend, if possible, in Parrish's honor. Classes from 1964, 1966, 1968 and 1969 are invited to attend.

For more information and to register, visit [www.classreport.org/USA/MD/severna\\_park/sphs/1967](http://www.classreport.org/USA/MD/severna_park/sphs/1967) or email [reunionsphsclassof1967@gmail.com](mailto:reunionsphsclassof1967@gmail.com) or call 240-675-3002.

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## Lauren's Law: Piercings

Lauren Burke Meyer



Leave it to me to take a scandalous title and make it the most PG story ever. It was the '90s, and I had one mission: to get my ears pierced.

It started with a family trip to Claire's at

my ears pierced number one I won't feel like a baby. I would start wearing sweaters instead of sweatshirts. I wear that stuff because I'm so busy trying to make myself pretty that I never wear dresses or sweaters but if I had my ears pierced I would wear a dress every day. Please let me get my ears pierced. It make me the happiest girl on earth and I'd also have the nicest parents in the world. So please let me get my ears pierced for my birthday.

Love,  
Lauren"

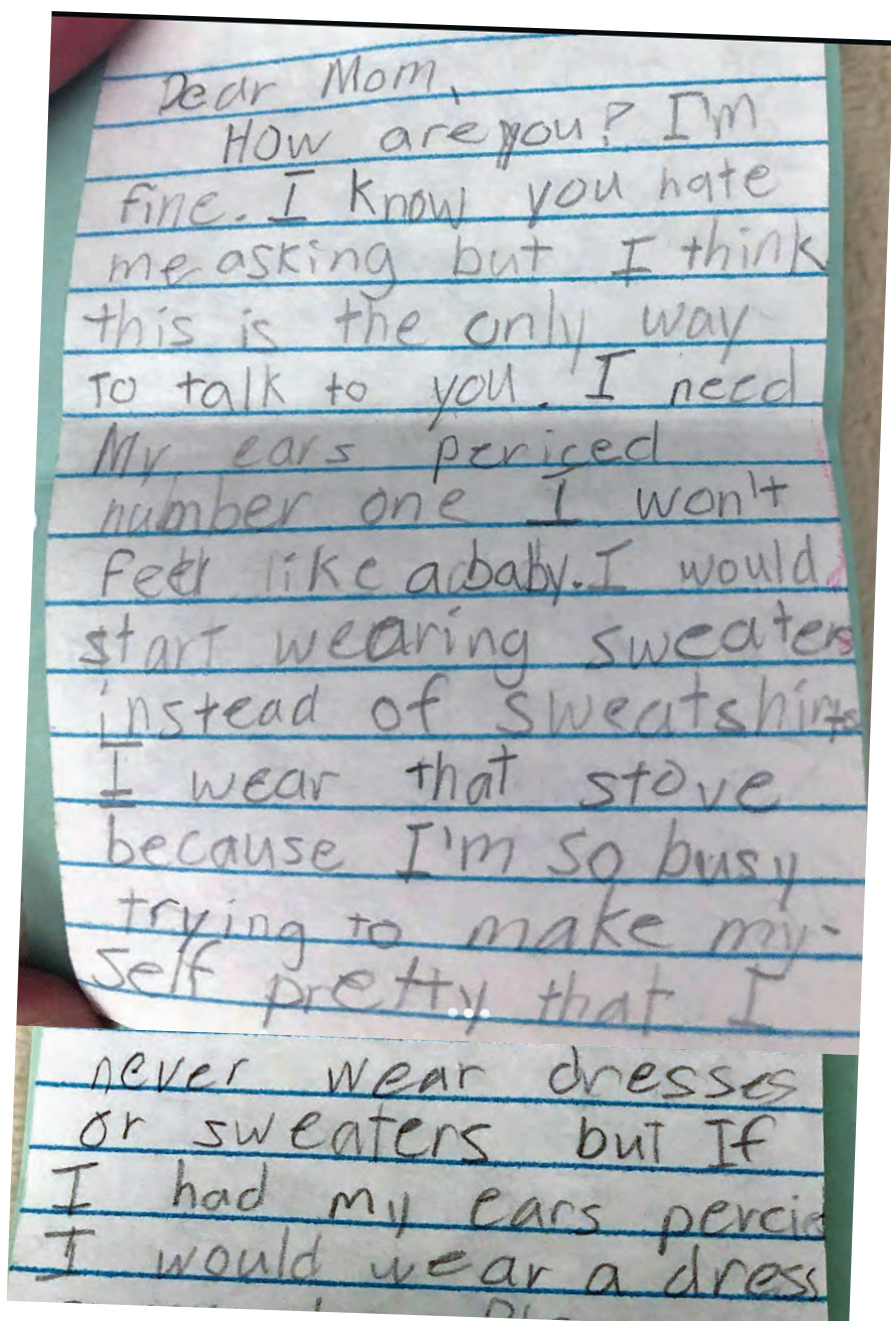
There's a lot to unpack here. Primarily, I was so dramatic for a 6-year-old. How did my mom not cave when I offered to wear dresses or sweaters? It also blows my mind how big of a tom-boy I was, and how my oldest daughter refuses to wear anything other than dresses.

Lastly, not bad for a first-grader, but still not good enough to get my ears pierced until fifth grade. But what a glorious day that was, and bonus, there was no fainting that day.

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."

I decided that I had to take matters into my own hands. So I put pencil to looseleaf paper and drafted a letter to my mom. The note below is word-for-word with a few minor spelling corrections. Please excuse the grammatical errors. I've had to stop myself multiple times from correcting those.

"Dear Mom,  
How are you? I'm fine.  
I know you hate me asking but I think this is the only way to talk to you. I need



## How Experienced Sailors Get That Way



Deke Johnson and his crew on Revenge have captured 12 Linstead Cup victories.

Mary Marta  
Round Bay Sailing  
Association



experienced sailors who, like all new sailors, had to learn from scratch. For Deke Johnson and John Stefancik, RBSA helped them learn and grow in the sport.

Deke, who skippers the J/27 Revenge, has been sailing with RBSA since he was 10. He started with his dad and sailed Wednesday, Sunday and special races. Deke has taken season high points and many other prizes, but Revenge's claim to fame is 12 Linstead Cup victories, seven in a row. Linstead Cup is a challenging pursuit race that starts in Round Bay, proceeds to the Route 50 bridge and then returns. Deke acknowledged that crew work is key, and he is happy that new sailors have continually joined the fleet and have done well in RBSA standings.

John, boat captain on Tom Lloyd's Rosalita, a J/29, is another experienced RBSA sailor. He has been sailing since the age of 2 months! According to John, his mom's "favorite thing to do in the whole world is sailing," so it was the family activity from April to October. John took sailing classes at West River Sailing Club when he was 9, with a waiver from the 10-year-old requirement because he

Round Bay Sailing Association (RBSA) has varied levels of skipper and crew experience. In the past, we've highlighted new-to-RBSA sailors. Now well into the season, we want to introduce you to some

had sailing experience. Lessons at Severn Sailing Association followed. But according to John, what really helped his racing career was racing with RBSA.

Sailing in the RBSA Wednesday/Sunday and special regattas let John and Deke mingle with many sailors, in many events, not just on the Severn. Both have sailed in multiple iterations of Chesapeake events like the Governor's Cup, Solomons Island Invitational and Annapolis Race Week, but according to Stefancik, RBSA was "the foundation for everything we accomplished." This led to their participation, along with other RBSA members, in the J/27 North American regatta in Oakville, Ontario, where they placed first among U.S. and Canadian crews.

Sailing in Round Bay requires sailors to learn how to do well on every point of sail and to perform every kind of maneuver — reaches, dead downwind, spinnaker sets other than the typical bear away set (if these terms are foreign to you, join an RBSA crew and you'll learn; [www.roundbaysailing.com](http://www.roundbaysailing.com)). Protest hearings, although rare, were once open to all, to emphasize learning the rules, which change every three years.

According to John, "Some of the best sailors who I've sailed against are from RBSA." RBSA sailors can be competitive, but the RBSA approach to competition is also key — laid back/always learning from each other. That said, those experienced in the fleet sail hard against those with experience and allow those new to racing time to learn the rules. That behavior and mindset underscore the "Corinthian spirit" of the club and its sailors.





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## Voice, GSPACC Partner For TGIF Cookout



The Severna Park Voice sponsored the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's TGIF cookout on August 26. The chamber holds TGIF cookouts on the last Friday of each month from May through August at its office on Holly Drive, and each month, there is a different sponsor.



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# Severna Park Native Credits Successful Dual Careers In New York To Hometown Roots

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

New York City resident Brooke Ashley Tjarks grew up in Severna Park and credits her upbringing to laying the foundation for her professional successes in consulting and modeling.

Tjarks attended Shipley's Choice Elementary School, Severna Park Middle School and Severna Park High School. She received both her bachelor's degree and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Pepperdine University. She also has a second master's degree from Harvard University.

Tjarks moved to Manhattan in 2017 to build her consulting career and has since served a \$1.6 billion life sciences venture capital firm on Park Avenue, Morgan Stanley, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among others. She now owns her own consulting business advising in the fields of financial services, health care, life sciences and nonprofits.

When not consulting, Tjarks also has a successful career in modeling. She works in beauty, print and fit modeling. She has modeled for Calvin Klein, Tory Burch, MAC Cosmetics and goop.

I recently spoke with Brooke Tjarks to learn about her dual careers, the impact her Severna Park upbringing has had on her professional successes, and what she would like teens and younger women entering the workforce to learn from her experiences.

## LMC: How did your upbringing in Severna Park influence your education and career paths?

**BT:** I feel very fortunate to have grown up in an area where getting good grades, working hard and doing your best — whether academics, sports, extracurriculars, community service — was popular. When I grew up in Severna Park, doing drugs and bullying was not cool.

Showing up for your community was cool and that made staying focused pretty easy for me. I was surrounded by a lot of mission-driven people when I participated in activities like National Honor Society, community service organizations and faith groups. That environment influenced my trajectory, including my education and my career.



Growing up in Severna Park I learned to admire hardworking, intelligent, humble, purpose-driven people. And when I left, I continued to be drawn toward people and groups with these values. I chose to stay at Pepperdine for my MBA, in part, because the curriculum required us to evaluate ethical and moral consequences of various business decisions. When I was getting my second master's degree, I chose to do my research under a medical doctor who founded a nonprofit with the mission of improving access to health care in low-income settings.

Though Severna Park was safe, it also taught me about resilience. I learned that people might seem like they have it all together, but everyone struggles, and sometimes they really struggle. Part of success is weathering those storms, giving yourself grace when you're having those

hard moments, learning self-awareness, and continually self-improving.

## LMC: Tell me about how you got into your current positions.

**BT:** While working in Los Angeles during undergrad and grad school, I was exposed to a lot of people who worked freelance. So many people there work as independent contractors in film, television, commercial production, and dance. I took a similar route.

When I was 18 or 19, a friend invited me to an audition for a commercial and we booked it together. That's when I joined the SAG (Screen Actors Guild) union. Soon after, I joined another actor's union called AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) and guest-starred on an episode of a popular ABC Family show. I later worked behind the

camera for two prolific directors, as well.

Midway through my MBA, I became curious about other industries and was seeking a more professional working environment, so I let my education take me out of Los Angeles. I studied abroad at Oxford and Copenhagen Business School, and then found myself at Harvard.

When I graduated, I joined small and medium sized consulting firms to build skills, credibility and a network. Now I own my own consulting firm and I subcontract under others too. This past year, I reconnected with contacts in the media industry and signed with a modeling agency in New York City called Click Models. Having my own consulting firm allows me the flexibility to balance both.

## LMC: What lessons would you like kids to learn from your story, particularly as you balance dual careers?

**BT:** Society might tell you to organize your life a certain way, but you don't have to do whatever corporate America says to be successful. There are some societal norms for a reason — they can help you to stay safe for example, so don't throw them all out.

But everyone has their own purpose and reason for being on the planet, somehow serving others, and the most important thing in life is to figure out what your unique contribution is and to do your best at that. Find your gifts, find your passions, and stay focused on them to help you find your profession.

## LMC: Anything more you'd like to add?

**BT:** The world is getting better for young women entering the workforce, but I would say it's still rough. Being a female in the professional world still comes with so many obstacles.

I want young women to enter their careers with eyes wide open because it is still tough out there. To help you weave through the challenges, talk to female peers about what you are seeing, ask strong female mentors for advice, and get strong male advocates.

To see some of Tjarks's modeling work, visit her Instagram @BrookeAshleyTjarks.

## Round Bay Convenes For Community Carnival



Photos by Victoria Baker

The Round Bay community continued a longstanding tradition by holding its 103rd annual carnival on August 27. Families gathered at the main beach for games, concessions, a dunk tank, a photo booth and a variety of other activities.



# Golfing For Gabi Continues The Fight Against Pediatric Brain Cancer

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnarparkvoice.com

As the Pellicani family gathered outside of Rockville Links Golf Club in New York last September, they laughed and smiled. Five-year-old Antonio hit the ceremonial tee shot, prompting applause from the crowd. Attendees enjoyed a day of fun and banter.

But the inspiration behind the event was tragedy: the loss of Gabriella "Gabi" Pellicani, whose 10-month battle against glioblastoma, an incurable form of brain cancer, ended in October 2018.

Each year, the Pellicani family — including Severna Park couple Paul and Lisa Pellicani — raises awareness of pediatric cancer during the Golfing for Gabi tournament, organized by Gabi's parents, Nick and Fabiana.

Last year's event sold out with about 150 golfers participating.

The fourth annual event will be held September 26. Although Severna Park High School is roughly 230 miles from Rockville Links Golf Club, the Severna Park community has rallied around the cause to support Paul, Severna Park High School's varsity basketball head coach, and Lisa, who taught at Severn School for 26 years.

More specifically, the community has supported Hole 5.

"Hole 5 is important for two reasons," Paul said. "It's a little par 3 and it runs parallel to the swimming pool. Gabi would lean against the pool fence and see if her dad was there. Also, she passed away when she was 5."

"The goal is to make Hole 5 an unofficial sponsor because of its significance."

Last year, Hole 5 accounted for roughly \$9,000 of the \$80,000 the tournament raised for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund.

"There is not much funding for pediatric brain cancer research because it does not have the investment return," Paul said, explaining why the fundraiser is so important. "The [Golfing for Gabi] entry fee is only a small portion of the funds raised. The course charges for X number of rounds of golf, and the meals have an expense."



(Top left) Severna Park athletes and friends of the Pellicani family remember Gabi for her bubbly personality. (Above) Paul, Lisa, Fabiana and Antonio Pellicani are grateful for the support they get each year.

That's where the raffles and silent auction help. This year's raffle items include a platter donated by The Cottage and college football tickets secured by Nick Carparelli, the executive director for Bowl Season and a father who has had two student-athletes attend Severna Park High School.

"One of the many great things about living in Severna Park is the sense of community that exists and the support that everyone here is willing to give back to the people who have been good to them over the years," Carparelli said.

"Not only is Golfing for Gabi a great cause, but the sponsorship of Hole 5 is a way for the Severna Park community to show support for Paul Pellicani and the entire Pellicani family for all the things he did for so many people here throughout his career. It is a fitting tribute to him."

Severna Park has supported the Pellicani family

since they learned of Gabi's diagnosis. Kody Milton, a former baseball and basketball player for the Falcons, said it "was always a fun time" when Gabi attended a practice.

"When she passed, it was really tough for the team," Milton said. "Coach P was an influence on all of us ... and he was just a good man, so we wanted to be there for him."

Kody personally ordered and distributed "Gabi Strong/Family" wristbands for his fellow players, the coaching staff and cheerleaders. He helped organize a basketball game in Gabi's honor.

"We knew it was kind of an escape for coach P and we all knew how much he cared about us, so we wanted to carry ourselves well. We had a mature group."

Jake Vickery, English teacher and former golf coach at Severna Park High School, remembers Gabi visiting the school.

"She was very bright, larger than life," he said.

Now that he semi-retired, he will get the chance to support Golfing for Gabi in person.

"I've always been involved in the tournament, but I never played because I would not leave school," Vickery said. "Now, this year, I'll get the opportunity to play, and I understand that I am playing with coach."

The Pellicani family recognizes that not everyone can make the trip from Maryland to New York, but there are other ways to help.

"People have been so supportive and compassionate," Paul said. "Here it is, a weekday on Long Island. It's not easy for people to take what is

probably a three-day trip."

People can help in three ways: Venmo golfing4gabi, make a donation online at [www.danafarberjimmyfund.org/goto/golfingforgabi](http://www.danafarberjimmyfund.org/goto/golfingforgabi), or make a check out to "Dana-Farber Cancer Institute" and send it to coach Pellicani at 49 Hatton Drive, Severna Park, Maryland, 21146.

On September 26, golfers will gather again to smile and laugh, but they won't forget the reason for the event: to preserve Gabi's legacy and to fund pediatric cancer research.

The Pellicani family hopes that their efforts, and the support from everyone in Severna Park, will prevent more families from enduring what theirs did.

"We don't want other families to get the horrible news that we got," Paul said. "Let's not have this be just a sad story, but maybe something positive can come out of this."

## Tripling The Offer From An Evil, Greedy Insurance Company

David V. Diggs

Editor's Note: Names, locations and other details have been changed to protect the innocent.



Mary Grantham — a nod to my lovely wife's favorite PBS series, "Downton Abbey" — suffered painful head, neck and foot injuries in a rear-end motor vehicle collision that occurred on southbound I-97 on the Friday before Labor Day in 2018. Coincidentally, we were about to try a motor vehicle collision case for Ms. Grantham in the circuit court for Howard County, a collision that had transpired two years earlier. Her injuries were similar. She had documented neck and foot problems, which were exacerbated by the August 31, 2018, collision.

The at-fault driver was insured by Snake Farm Insurance Company. Ms. Grantham incurred medical expenses totaling approximately \$7,200. Because she was the daughter of an earl, she suffered no lost wages. After a course of treatment that lasted three and a half months and included visits to the orthopedist, podiatrist and six weeks of physical therapy, she returned to her prior baseline level of symptoms, with occasional neck and foot pain. Nonetheless, she had experienced fear, pain and

suffering as the result of a careless driver's inattention.

Upon concluding treatment, we discussed the case with Ms. Grantham and valued it at \$20,000 (valuing injury claims is worth another article and is certainly more art than science). We sent a letter to Snake Farm, along with the motor vehicle crash report, our client's medical records, bills and related documentation. We started at \$31,500, a little higher than our valuation. After a few months of unreturned calls, I cornered the Snake Farm adjuster of the phone. Edna Braithwaite disagreed with our valuation and offered \$1,500 for Ms. Grantham's troubles.

Given our disparate views of the value, we concluded that continuing negotiations would be fruitless. We initially filed a lawsuit in the District Court of Anne Arundel County. We requested \$30,000 on Ms. Grantham's behalf, that figure being the high end of reasonable and the maximum allowed in the district court. Snake Farm requested a jury trial, as is its right under Maryland law. This jury trial prayer moved the case to the circuit court in Annapolis. The pandemic delayed justice for several years. The trial date was postponed three times.

The parties went through the process of discovery. Both sides answered interrogatories. We exchanged documents. Appearing for depositions. Richard Carlyle, the at-fault driver, testified that he could not have possibly

caused injury to Ms. Grantham because his foot nearly slipped off the gas pedal and he caused the slightest tap to her rear bumper. He was sorry for causing the collision, but Ms. Grantham couldn't have possibly been hurt.

After repeated COVID delays, the trial was scheduled for June 14, 2022, in the circuit court. In May, Snake Farm increased its offer to \$5,750, still not enough to cover medical expenses. Ms. Grantham held firm. We prepared for trial. One week before trial, the insurance company made its first reasonable offer of \$17,500. This was more than three times the offer from a month previous and more than 11.5 times its longstanding offer of \$1,500. Ms. Grantham never wanted to go to trial. She didn't bargain for the four-year odyssey outlined above. She accepted an offer on the low end of reasonable. The moral of the story is that injured folks do not have to accept ridiculously low offers from evil, greedy insurance companies.

David Diggs is experienced in negotiating with and litigating against insurance companies. He has recovered millions on behalf of the injured. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact the Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 302, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1189 or by emailing [david@diggsllaw.com](mailto:david@diggsllaw.com).



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# Community Center Offers Free Swim Programs For Anyone With A Disability



The Severna Park Community Center (SPCC) has launched an adaptive swim program for children and adults with a disability. SEALS (Social, Educational, All Welcome, Limitless, Swimming) will give more people access to the sport of swimming.

With donations from the Fund for Anne Arundel, Anne Arundel County, and the John J. Leidy Foundation, this program is now available for free through June 2023.

"The SEALS program advances our commitment to our community in

making Severna Park Community Center a place where everyone belongs," said SPCC Executive Director Sarah Elder.

The program was developed by SPCC's director of programs and partnerships, Shelly Beigel, and designed to promote water safety, foster physical fitness, and improve emotional health. Swimming is known for whole-person benefits including improved cardio ability, strength-building, flexibility enhancement and positive mental health.

"Our son, Jacob, was diagnosed with autism when he was 2 and half years

old," said Tracy Vest, parent of a special needs child. "When we learned of the SEALS program, I immediately signed Jacob up. We have been blessed to receive swim lessons for Jacob and for the first time he swam on his own (for a little bit). Programs such as the SEALS team are very important for families with special needs who may not be able to afford swim lessons."

SPCC developed these options, which are adaptive and carefully supported by trained staff:

Weekly group lessons: For those who have acquired basic swimming skills

but want to become stronger swimmers. Lessons are designed to build skills one step at a time.

Weekly private lessons: This is an "introduction to water and learn to swim" program for children and adults with little to no swimming experience. Participants work one-on-one with instructors on basic swimming skills and water safety.

Swim team: (youth and adult) For swimmers to be able to swim 25 yards independently and follow directions from coaches on deck. There are three inclusive intrasquad meets a year with people with and without a disability competing together. Swimmers are also eligible to participate in Special Olympics locally, regionally and nationally.

Many Severna Park Community Center swim staff members carry multiple certifications including Swim Whisperers, an adaptive swimming certification, the American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) certification, and certification through Maryland Certified Educators in Special Education.

Participants must register in advance. For more information on SEALS, go to [www.spcommunitycenter.org/seals.html](http://www.spcommunitycenter.org/seals.html). Questions regarding the program can also be directed to Shelly Beigel, director of programs and partnerships. She can be reached through the center's main phone line, 410-647-5843, or via email at [sbeigel@spcommunitycenter.org](mailto:sbeigel@spcommunitycenter.org).

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## Woods Memorial Church To Kick Off Its Fall Season



Photo courtesy of Woods Church

All ages are welcome to join Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church on September 11 from noon to 2:00pm for the official kickoff event for the church's fall programming. This year's theme is "Building Bridges Together." Attendees can look forward to a

picnic, games, fellowship, moon bounce, ministry information, free food, live music and more.

Woods Church is located at 611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. For more information, call 410-647-2550.

## Father Evan Ponton Joins Archbishop Spalding

After more than 20 years of ministering to Archbishop Spalding students and families, the Rev. Tom Ryan has retired. Joining Spalding in January 2000,



Evan Ponton

Ryan fully embraced his calling to shepherd the Spalding community. From school-wide liturgies and prayer services to reconciliations and senior retreats, he always called Spalding his home. With the many connections he's made over the years, he will continue to offer his ministry to alumni who wish to have him officiate ceremonies or simply seek his guidance and counsel.

Ryan's successor, the Rev. Evan Ponton, has joined the Spalding community. Ponton graduated from the Catholic University of America with bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy. He later attended St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, earning a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL). He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2020. Ponton was

then assigned, and will continue to serve, as associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Severna Park. Additionally, Ponton has training in Ignatian spirituality and serves on the Archdiocese of Baltimore's racism workgroup.

In 2017, Ponton hiked the Camino de Santiago, known as the Way of St. James, pilgrimage across Spain. His favorite hobbies include music (he plays the bass), baseball (go Orioles), reading (anything and everything), and ecology.

A message from the Rev. Ponton: "To quote the great Saint Irenaeus, 'The glory of God is a fully alive human being.' To my mind, this is the gift and responsibility of Catholic education, to glorify God by living the virtues. Our Catholic faith, with its rich spiritual and intellectual tradition, has so much to offer young women and men today as they discern their vocation in life. High school is an exciting yet challenging time in a young person's life. I most look forward to simply walking and talking with students as they explore how God is calling them to cultivate and share their God-given gifts and passions with the world."

## Church News

### SP Baptist Plans Family Event

Members of Severna Park Baptist Church will gather for a family roundup with a pig roast, group games, and music for all ages on September 17 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

The festivities will start with corn-hole, volleyball, crafts, a moon bounce and get-to-know-you scavenger hunt. At 3:45pm, a two-inning kickball game will get underway. A Severna

Park Baptist Church introduction will follow at 5:00pm, along with food and socializing between friends.

Severna Park Baptist Church is located at 506 Benfield Road. To learn more, call 410-647-0765 or visit [www.spbcm.com](http://www.spbcm.com).

### Fun Fest At Wayman Good Hope

Wayman Good Hope African Methodist Episcopal Church will host

Community Fun Fest on September 10 at 2:00pm. Members of the community are invited to come for food, games and giveaways. The church is located at 100 Hoyle Lane in Severna Park.

### SPUMC Shifts Service Times

Members of Severna Park Baptist Church will gather for a family roundup with a pig roast, group games, and music for all ages on Sep-

tember 17 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

The festivities will start with corn-hole, volleyball, crafts, a moon bounce and get-to-know-you scavenger hunt. At 3:45pm, a two-inning kickball game will get underway. A Severna Park Baptist Church introduction will follow at 5:00pm, along with food and socializing between friends.

Severna Park Baptist Church is located at 506 Benfield Road. To learn more, call 410-647-0765 or visit [www.spbcm.com](http://www.spbcm.com).

## Jehovah's Witnesses Knocking On Doors Again



Jehovah's Witnesses resumed their trademark door-to-door ministry September 1 when a two-and-half-year suspension of the work was officially lifted, just in time to begin a global campaign featuring a new interactive Bible study program.

The decision to resume their door-to-door ministry marks the complete restoration of all pre-pandemic in-person activities for the 1.3 million Jehovah's Witnesses in the 13,000 congregations in the United States. Houses of worship (called Kingdom Halls) were reopened April 1, witnessing in public places re-

sumed May 31 and in-person conventions are once again being planned for 2023.

"Despite feeling a bit apprehensive, I am looking forward to doing what my wife and I always enjoyed before," said Mark Hagopian, a Severna Park resident who will head out with his wife, Alisa, to the neighborhood in the coming days. "It makes my day when I am able to share with my neighbors the hope that the Bible contains, right at their doorstep."

The suspension of the public ministry was a proactive response by the organization to keep communities and congregants safe. The move was also

unprecedented. Jehovah's Witnesses had been preaching from house to house without interruption for more than 100 years through an economic depression, two world wars and global unrest. But COVID-19 demanded a different response.

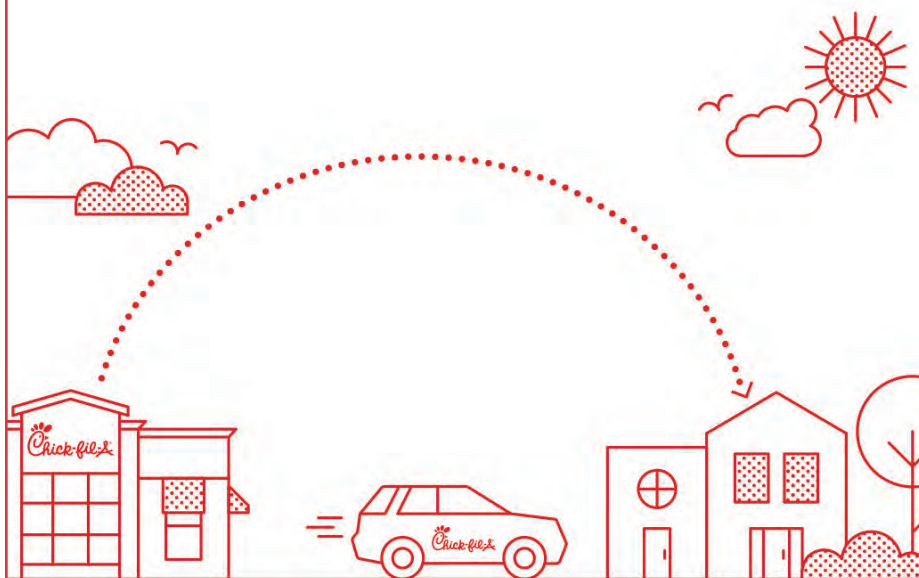
"We believe that the early decision to shut down all in-person activities for more than two years has saved many lives," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesperson for Jehovah's Witnesses.

For more information about Jehovah's Witnesses, their history, beliefs and activities, visit [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org).



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## Severna Park Gets Past Meade 27-20 In Football Opener



Photos by Christopher Fincham Photography

**Left:** Fullback Camden Webb was part of a Falcons' rushing attack that amassed 273 yards against Meade. **Center:** The Falcons defense applied heavy pressure, keeping the Mustangs from scoring an offensive touchdown. **Right:** Severna Park quarterback Seamus Patenaude was a big part of the ground game, carrying the ball 23 times for 136 yards and three touchdowns in the victory over Meade on September 2.

**By Conor Doherty**

Coming off their best season in over a decade, Severna Park traveled to play the Meade Mustangs to open the 2022 football season and hung on for a 27-20 win on September 2.

The game was a story of two halves. The first was a back-and-

forth scoring feast while the second was a much more methodical and slower half.

Meade got the game going with some quick fireworks as they scored less than two minutes into the game on a 45-yard touchdown pass. The Falcons responded with a long touchdown pass of their own, from

31 yards out just four minutes later. All three of Meade's scores came on long kickoff returns including an 80-yard return for a touchdown right before halftime that brought the Mustangs within 1 after the Falcons had scored a 5-yard rushing touchdown.

The Falcons offense was led by

the rushing attack, particularly starting quarterback **Seamus Patenaude**, who carried the ball 23 times for 136 yards and three touchdowns. On a 59-yard touchdown run, he ran over a cornerback in the open field on his way to the end zone. Patenaude routinely

» Continued on page 25

## High School Field Hockey Looks To 2022 Season

### Week 1 Results

Archbishop Spalding	4
Stone Ridge	0
Broadneck	6
McDonogh	2

**By Lauren Burke Meyer**

Tryouts are done. Rosters are finalized. Field hockey season is officially upon us. Here are season outlooks for Archbishop Spalding, Severna Park, Broadneck and Severn School.

### ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Following a season that ended with Spalding being IAAM A Conference champions, there's a fitting reason that **Leslee Brady**, Archbishop Spalding High School head varsity field hockey coach, has a positive outlook for the 2022 season.

"We were an offensive juggernaut last season, scoring 78 goals with 10 against, leading to a 16-1 record culminating with the IAAM championship," Brady said. "We graduated four Division I players, so we have our work cut out for us, but we will be a very strong team again, returning seven starters, all young players with championship experience."

Key players for the Cavaliers this year include forward **Ally Keith**, a



Archbishop Spalding's varsity field hockey team will look to defend their title as IAAM A Conference champions.

senior and the leading scorer from last year with 19 goals, and sophomore **Skylar Gilman**, a Max Field Hockey player to watch for the class of 2025 and USA U16 team member. The defense will be led by goalkeeper and senior **Ruby de Frees**, who had 10 shutouts last year and has committed to play at the University of Pennsylvania. Her supporters will include sophomore **Jilly Lawn**, sophomore **Stella Bumgarner** and junior **Avery Ruckman**, who has committed to play at James Madison University. Sophomore **Carys Donahue** — who played in the AAU

Junior Olympics — will be another contributor this season.

"Obviously, the highlight of last season was the championship," Brady said. "The pleasant surprise was the way in which our freshmen developed so quickly. That's the reason for such high expectations this year: we have a lot of sophomores and juniors with a ton of experience at the highest level. You blend them in with our senior leadership, and that's a winning combination."

Brady is supported on varsity by coaches **Kelsey Wuest** and **Logan Edmondson**.

### BROADNECK

Last season, Broadneck High School's varsity field hockey team had an overall record of 12-5, and they won the 4A East Region II championship. Following the region championship, Broadneck advanced to the state quarterfinals, where they fell 1-0 to eventual champion Severna Park, and the goal was scored on a penalty stroke.

Looking ahead to 2022, the Bruins are returning plenty of experience with some young talent looking to make an impact. Highly anticipated

» Continued on page 30



# Girls Soccer Preview

By Conor Doherty

The 2021-2022 season was a roller-coaster for each of the local high school girls soccer teams. Some suffered heartbreaking playoff losses while one was able to claim their first title in over 15 years. How do the teams stack up this season?

## ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

The Cavaliers are coming off a season in which they came agonizingly close to a conference title, finishing as runners-up in the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) Conference A championship. While the end to their season was strong, the team did struggle against teams in their conference as they went 6-4-0 versus conference opponents, while they feasted on nonconference opponents, going 3-0-1. The team will return a strong group of girls led by 13 rising seniors after losing only three girls in 2022. **Grace Faulkener**, **Kate Dovi** and **Danielle Gargano** are some of the key players leading the team's offense while Grace's sister, **Emma**, will man the goal.

## BROADNECK

The Bruins are coming off a season in which they made it to the state finals, finishing as runners-up with a 2-1 loss to Walt Whitman. While the team will lose some important players like goalie **Mason Smargissi**, many top scorers will return, including **Lilly Kelley**, **Olivia Orso** and **Lily Trout** with Trout and Orso being juniors. Being able to return so many experienced starters will be beneficial as the team looks to claim a title.

"Our players are experienced and understand the demands of the season," said head coach **John Camm**. "We continue to have high expectations for our program. We have a difficult schedule, so they know not to look too far ahead in the season. And we have a lot of returners coming off a 2021 season where we won 17 games. They are training hard, which will help them with this season."

*The Bruins made it to the state finals last season, finishing as runners-up with a 2-1 loss to Walt Whitman. This year, they plan to capture a state title.*



## SEVERN SCHOOL

Showcasing a stifling defense last season, the Admirals won their first IAAM B Conference title since 2005. Rising junior **Skyler Morton** scored the game-winning goal in overtime while the defense kept rising senior goalkeeper **Zoe Stencil** from having to face an onslaught of shots as she had to make only six saves in the game. Stencil and four other seniors are leading a young core that includes Morton and sophomore **Eliana Valencia**, who assisted Morton for the game-winning goal last season. With such a strong core coming back, the Admirals will look to repeat as conference champs.

## SEVERNA PARK

For many teams, the toughest loss to overcome is one to their biggest rival. For the Falcons, that loss stings even worse since it came in the playoffs, when they lost to Broadneck in the regional finals. Given how tightly contested that game was, remaining scoreless until the Bruins scored with seven minutes left, the Falcons feel that they have a team that can compete and get past Broadneck this season.

"I expect us to have a very competitive team this fall," said head coach **Rick Stimpson**. "We have a lot of quality players returning and a great group of seniors that have done a really good job of bringing the team together. This group is very driven, and they push each other every day in training to get better. Having a lot of depth means players are constantly playing for minutes on the field and that means being sharp every day in practice."

Two of the top returning players to keep an eye on this season are seniors **Sophie Miller** and **Ava Schultz**.

The Falcons opened the season with a 5-0 win over Tuscarora High School. **Hanna Verreault** and **Felcia Fishburne** each had two goals, and **Eleni Puzas** added another. **Sydney Holmes** had two assists, and **Sara Kreis** and **Emerson Scott** each contributed one assist. **Delanie Robertson** had four saves.

Photo courtesy of Dennis McGinley

# Boys Soccer Preview



Photo courtesy of Christopher Fincham Photography

*The Falcons made it to the state semifinals in 2021. One year later, they hope to close out the season with a trophy.*

By Conor Doherty

The days are getting shorter, which means the World Cup is getting closer. Thirty-two countries will fight for the title, but before that, three local schools will look to repeat or exceed the success they had last year while another will hope their fortune turns around. It sounds like a microcosm of the World Cup itself. Here is how all four local schools stack up this year:

## ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

The Cavaliers kept Severn School from having a perfect season in 2021 when the Cavs beat the Admirals in the opening game. After that, there wasn't much good, as Spalding struggled, going 3-13-3 against conference opponents, finishing with a 6-13-3 record overall. A midseason seven-game losing streak, interrupted by two ties, killed any momentum the team had going into conference play. This year, the team will be led by 10 seniors, along with sophomore **Marco Mazzola** leading the offense. While title expectations might be ambitious, an improvement in the win column would be a step in the right direction for the program.

## BROADNECK

The Bruins and Falcons got to play three games against each other last year. While one of the games got rained out and both teams won one game each, the Falcons got the last laugh as they knocked the Bruins out of the playoffs in the regional championships. Despite the disappointing end to last season, Bruins head coach **Sean Tetterer** is confident about his team this year.

"We are working hard to improve each day," Tetterer said. "Hopefully we will become a better team and will be playing our best at the end of the season."

The biggest hurdle the Bruins must overcome this season is that only two

starters are returning, goalie **Matt Tetterer** and forward **Jaden Smith**. But despite the turnover among the starting nine, the Bruins have several good players, like senior forward **Riley Erbe**, who will try and help the team meet their high expectations.

## SEVERN SCHOOL

Severn had some dominating sports teams last year, with seven of them winning titles. Just like their female counterparts, the boys squad rolled to the title, finishing with an impressive 18-1 record, their only loss to Archbishop Spalding to start the season.

The Admirals had a suffocating defense and lights-out goalie last year as 11 of the 18 wins were shutouts. Senior goalie **Bryce Feldmaier** and seven other seniors will lead the Admirals this season. It's always tough to repeat, but many of the players on the team already know what it feels like to win a title, while also being able to stay focused on getting there first. Thus, the Admirals should be considered one of the favorites to win again this year.

## SEVERNA PARK

In many ways, the Falcons had a similar season to Severn School. But the Falcons did not bring home a title, losing in the state semifinals. One year later, they hope to close out the season with a trophy, all while having to overcome the loss of several key seniors like **Gus Bachmann** and goalie **Brandon Asch**.

That doesn't mean that the Falcons will lack in talent. Rising seniors **Evan Souder** and **Andrew Handen** will help man a defense that was key to the team's success last year while **Andrew Campbell** has shown he can be a reliable scorer. Overall, the Falcons are an interesting mix of returning experience and talent with young, unproven players, with high but not unrealistic expectations of bringing home the title.



# BHS Boys Soccer Posts Two Shutouts In Holiday Invitational

By **Conor Doherty**

The 2022 season is off to a great start for the Broadneck Bruins boys soccer team. They won both of their games, 3-0 over Calvert and 9-0 over North Caroline, in the Bruins Holiday Invitational on September 3 at Lawrence E. Knight Stadium.

Both teams played well defensively in the first game as neither team was able to score until senior **Jaden Smith** made a great crossing pass in front of the net to **Will Epley**, who put it away for the game's first goal. Calvert's goalie was able to keep the Bruins out of the net on several occasions, including two saves made at point-blank range off a corner kick. But the Bruins put away the game in the second half with goals by **Riley Erbe** and **Ethan Colon** off a corner kick from Erbe.

In the second game, goals were easier to come by for the Bruins. **Sam Pertz** scored less than a minute into the game while **Dylan Thompson** had two unassisted



Photo by Conor Doherty

**Sam Myers sprinted past the North Caroline goalie and scored an easy goal in a 9-0 Falcon victory.**

see where the team is as a unit.

"It was really important for us to really try to play the way we want to," Tettermer said. "We tried to match the intensity from the first game to the second, try and come out and start developing some consistency. And I was happy with that. We're right where we want to be. We're still trying to improve each day. We're still working on combinations. Our goals are real broad right now, and then as we get into our season, we'll try to make them a bit fine and more definitive and hopefully we can accomplish those goals."

The Bruins play their next game on Wednesday, September 7, after the *Severna Park Voice* went to print.

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# Talan Livingston Named To USA Lacrosse Select U18 Team

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park High School senior **Talan Livingston** has three main athletic goals: to play Division I lacrosse, become an All-American and to represent Team USA.

In August, the defenseman made big strides toward those goals as he was selected to Team USA's U18 men's select team and he committed to Salisbury University.

Talan was one of 44 high school boys lacrosse players nationwide chosen to join the 2022 USA select U16 and U18 teams. The players were selected following a national combine at USA Lacrosse headquarters in Sparks, Maryland, that featured more than 100 players.

The USA Select teams represent the third phase of the National Team Development Program, which is designed to provide high-level training to players, introduce them to the U.S. national team program and offer competitive opportunities.

"Ever since I picked up a stick, it's been a dream," Talan said of joining the Team USA developmental program.

Talan picked up a lacrosse stick in third grade and joined Kooper's Lacrosse in fifth grade. His dad, **Dave Livingston**, started coaching him in sixth grade.

"My dad started at [University of] Maryland and then transferred to Salisbury where he was a three-time All-American," Talan said. "He's basically my personal trainer. He's my drive."



Dave has provided Talan with coaching and encouragement without being overbearing.

"It's all up to me," Talan said. "He will say, 'If you want to achieve this, this is what it takes.' But it's all up to me if I want to apply it."

Talan's hard work paid off as he made the Severna Park High School varsity boys lacrosse team as a freshman and enjoyed a state championship run.

"Severna Park has done wonders for me, getting to places I never thought I could get to," he said. "I love the physicality of lacrosse and being able to control the whole defense with my voice."

Coach **Dave Earl** has watched Talan's growth up close.

"Talan's recent commitment to play for Salisbury University and being selected for the USA U18 select team shows his dedication to the sport and is

Photo courtesy of Glenwood Photography  
*Talan Livingston is one of 22 high school lacrosse players nationwide who will represent Team USA on the U18 men's select team.*

a reflection of his impeccable work ethic and great character," Earl said. "These traits help him be successful on the field, in the classroom, the community and in his relationships. I am sure Talan will continue down this path and make a difference in this world. We are all very proud of him!"

A two-sport athlete, Talan is currently working on his speed for football, but he is always refining his lacrosse skills. He follows a dedicated routine.

"Earlier in the day, I'll get to the high school and do footwork," he said. "Before practice, I'll get wall ball in, at least 30 minutes a day. On the days we don't have practice, I have to get to the gym to lift."

Talan and his USA select teammates will compete against international competition during the Brogden Cup from October 14-16 at USA Lacrosse headquarters. The event is run in conjunction with the Fall Classic, which features the U.S. men's and women's national teams.

Severna Park has a strong pipeline of lacrosse talent and Talan had this advice to share with young players: "You just have to keep working. I wasn't that good of a player when I started. Progress doesn't come overnight."

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# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

## Christian Murphy

American Legion Baseball

By Conor Doherty

**P**laying in every game for American Legion Post 175's senior team, Christian Murphy batted .400 with an on-base percentage of .558 this summer. He was second on the team with 13 walks, while playing second base, shortstop and third base, along with being the team's emergency catcher.

But his contributions didn't stop there. According to head coach Jim Christy, Murphy was the second-best pitcher on the team. In the 10 games he pitched in, Murphy was both efficient and effective as he had a 1.86 earned run average (ERA) and threw 60% of his pitches for strikes while averaging just 17 pitches per inning. Now that he has finished the summer league, Murphy has moved on to a fall season at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), where he is a rising sophomore. But his drive and play has left an impression upon Christy.

"Two words come to mind when I think of Murphy: grinder and gamer," Christy said. "Versatility was critical to our success. He could play wherever I needed him. If I needed a pitcher in an emergency and no one was warmed up, he could come in cold from his position on the field and pitch. He's very mature and always calm, cool and collected, never flustered or frustrated."

Murphy embraced his role on the team this summer.



Christian Murphy pitched for the American Legion Post 175 senior baseball team this summer.

“

Two words come to mind when I think of Murphy: grinder and gamer. Versatility was critical to our success. He could play wherever I needed him.”

— JIM CHRISTY, HEAD COACH  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 175 BASEBALL

"I was one of the older players on the team, so everyone looked up to me, like as a captain," Murphy said. "And I think I played a big role on the team for both helping out people and keeping everyone pushing forward and staying motivated throughout the season. On the field, you couldn't get me to be quiet. I'd be talking to everybody, making sure everyone was involved, making sure no one was slacking off during the game."

Having the respect of both his coach and his fellow players meant a lot to Murphy, motivating him as a player and as a teammate.

"It's honestly an honor," Murphy said.

"When you work hard and people follow you, it kind of makes you feel good in a way. If you're pushing yourself to be the best that you can be and people start following in your footsteps, you get a more well-rounded team. It makes everyone want to push themselves and push each other harder and succeed together as a team instead of as an individual."

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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# High School Football Teams Share Common Concerns In 2022

## Early Results

Severna Park	27
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Spalding	38
Broadneck	3

By Kevin Murnane

To prepare for their 2022 football seasons, Archbishop Spalding, Broadneck and Severna Park have to replace their stars and senior-dominated rosters from last year while Severn School has new leadership.

## ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Spalding is replacing the 22 seniors who graduated, with 16 of those players going on to play college football. Some of their stars from last year will continue their football playing days at Maryland, Penn State and Virginia Tech.

Last year the Cavaliers went 10-0 in the regular season and were ranked in the top five schools in Maryland. They suffered a stunning upset loss to McDonogh in the first round of the MIAA conference playoffs.

"We had lots of talent graduate, and we need to get over that loss to McDonogh," said head coach **Kyle Schmitt**. "You learn so much from losing, and we prepared our fall camp to win two playoff games in November."

Spalding's schedule is one of the hardest in the mid-Atlantic region with out-of-conference games against Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey, IC Charter in Philadelphia, and Broadneck as well as other outstanding teams in the MIAA conference.

"We're super young and we'll go

through some growing pains this year," Schmitt said. "We'll develop these young players throughout the year and hopefully have momentum going into the playoffs."

Some of the Cavaliers' young stars include their sophomore quarterback **Malik Washington**, who has been offered full scholarships by numerous Division 1 schools; center **Jason Shipman**; receivers **Max Moss** and **RJ Newton**; as well as defensive leaders **Keion Flow-ers**, **Ty McVicker**, **Trent Gillis**, and freshmen **TJ Moultrie** and **Sean Johnson**.

"We'll definitely throw the ball more this year," Schmitt said. "This team has talent, and they have amazing pride in their team and school. These players came here to play big-time football and they are grateful for the opportunity."

To prepare the players for the gauntlet of games, Spalding faced DeMatha in a preseason scrimmage and played them to a 7-7 tie at half-time before losing 21-7.



*Each Team Has Inexperience And A Need To Replace Star Players, But Optimism Is High*

"We fought like crazy and had a positive experience from the game," Schmitt said.

Spalding played their first game of their season on August 26 against perennial powerhouse Don Bosco Prep in New Jersey. Don Bosco won 48-28 but Spalding showed signs of a strong offense and special teams.

"We're much better offensively in the second half and our special teams were one of our bright spots as Tyler Brown returned a kickoff for a touchdown."

Spalding rebounded with a 38-3 win over Broadneck on September 2.

## BROADNECK

For the Broadneck Bruins, their huge question is how to replace quarterback **Josh Ehrlich**, who was voted Anne Arundel County's Player of the Year by the *Baltimore Sun*.

Broadneck went 10-2 last year and lost to Charles Herbert Flowers in the state playoffs.

"Josh will be very hard to replace and was a great leader on that team," said head coach **Rob Harris**.

Ehrlich accepted a scholarship to Marist College in New York, and according to Harris, he had a great fall camp.

The Bruins received a quarterback transfer from South River in **Cam Chatteron** and will have some gifted skill position players.

The Bruins have wide receiver and safety **Eli Harris**, who ran a 4.48 40-yard dash in tryouts. Also, slot receiver **Machi Evans** and sophomore running back **Ian Mouldin**, who is 6 feet and 205 pounds, have been impressive in practice. Broadneck also has an outstanding kicker/punter in **Chris Coleman**.

"Our goal is always to win the county and get to the playoffs," Harris said. "I believe last year's success will give us that confidence to meet those goals."

## SEVERN SCHOOL

Severn hired a new coach who brings unbridled enthusiasm and optimism to the Evergreen Road campus. The school hired **Demetrius Ballard**, who previously was an

assistant coach at Spalding, as well as highly involved with the Old Mill Youth Association. The Admirals had 44 students try out for varsity and had numerous lacrosse players return to the gridiron to bolster their squad.

"We're further ahead than I thought we would be," Ballard said. "The lacrosse players we added are tough and they are great competitors."

Severn also added some size with the transfer of **Alex Steffens** from Old Mill (6-foot-4, 265 pounds) and **Daniel Gowney**, a wide receiver from Montgomery Blair.

The offense will be led by **Jacob Todd**, who received a scholarship to play lacrosse at Princeton. The offensive line is young, without any seniors, but averages 240 pounds.

"The future is bright, and our big game is always against St. Mary's," Ballard said. "We're changing the culture here and hopefully our recruits will see the change and enroll at our school."

## SEVERNA PARK

Severna Park is coming off of their first winning season since 2011 and first playoff experience since 2008.

The Falcons lost numerous players from both sides of the ball including their outstanding kicker/punter **Trey Smack**, who received a scholarship to Florida.

The offense will be led by quarterback **Seamus Patenaude**, who is a three-year starter, and running back **LJ Cooper**. Defensively, the Falcons will rely on linebacker **Danny Stack** and defensive back **Kevin Bredecki**.

"We had a great turnout for camp as 135 students tried out for varsity and JV," said head coach **Mike Wright**.

Wright has been impressed by the effort the players are exhibiting in practice and knows the season will give his young players experience for October and November.

"Our goals are to have another winning season and get to the playoffs," Wright said.

## Severna Park Gets Past Meade

» Continued from page 19

slipped past or dragged defenders as he picked up crucial yards after contact.

Freshman running back **Ruben DeNeal-Eldridge**, called up from the JV team due to injuries to the Falcons top two RBs, and senior **Camden Webb**, complemented Patenaude in the running game, as they grinded out chunks of yardage. In total, the Falcons rushed for 273 yards.

"We've always had a very good run game," Patenaude said. "We have some big, aggressive runners in Cam and Ruben, stepping up. Ruben's done a great job and I'm really proud of him, and they're two great guys to run behind. I always feel safe behind them."

After giving up the kick return touchdown to end the first half, the Falcons held Meade scoreless in the second half. Up 21-20 at half-time, the Falcons sealed the game

on a 1-yard rushing touchdown by Patenaude, finishing off a drive that took nearly nine minutes off the clock and lasted from midway through the third quarter to just over halfway through the fourth quarter. Not to be outdone, the Falcons' defense came up with several big stops in the second half including a 4th-and-short attempt from the Mustangs with less than five minutes left in the game. The Falcons were then able to run out the clock to clinch the win.

"I couldn't be prouder of my guys," said Falcons head coach **Mike Wright**. "Just battling back each time, especially after those kickoff returns. Those can be so demoralizing, so for my guys to bounce back from that, I was just so proud of them."

Severna Park's next game was on the road at Crofton on September 9. Their first home game of the season is September 23 against Chesapeake.



# Cross Country Teams Anticipate Strong Seasons

By Conor Doherty

Among the many sports Anne Arundel County schools play each year, cross country is one in which they excel most. Both Severna Park and Broadneck are coming off state titles from last year while Archbishop Spalding and Severn School will try to top their respective conferences.

## ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Spalding had an average cross country campaign last year as neither squad was able to win their conference's title. The boys squad went 4-4 and finished seventh out of eight teams in the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) championships and seventh again in the Maryland private schools state championships. The highest finisher from the MIAA championships who will be on the squad this season is **Paul Daly**. He, along with **Tarik Harris**, look to be two of the most important runners for the boys squad this year.

The girls finished 5-3, but they couldn't translate that into a high finish at the MIAA championships as they ended in fifth place. However, rising junior **Grace Doerschner** will continue to be the squad's best runner as she finished third in the 5K run at the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) championships. However, despite Doerschner's great finish, Spalding couldn't add many more points as no other Spalding runner finished in the top 25. But with Doerschner leading the way, Spalding looks to be able to compete more this season.

## BROADNECK

Broadneck's girls cross country



Photo courtesy of Naptown Studios

*The Severna Park girls are returning essentially the same varsity team from last year. Several athletes also competed on the track and field team during the state final in the spring.*

## SEVERNA PARK

Severna Park's boys cross country/track and field program had a historic 2021-2022 season, as they completed the triple crown, winning the 4A state titles in cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field. The program's recent success starts with cross country, which has become a dynasty in recent years, having won the last four state titles. To continue their streak, the team will have to overcome the graduation of **Tyler Canaday**, **Chris Kirchner** and several other top runners, a task that head coach **Josh Alcombright** said will be a challenge.

"On the boys side, it's 'constructing' an almost brand-new varsity squad than the one we had at the state meet last year, as there's just one returning boy that ran last year," Alcombright said.

"While on the girls side, it is being able to handle some lofty expectations. The girls are returning essentially the same varsity team that we had last year, and we have added some really good talent as well. So, we should be able to compete for the win in every meet that we contest."

For the girls squad, those lofty expectations will include improving upon their fourth-place finish at states last year, which was a fall from second place at the last state finals, held in 2019.

had the better finish at states for the team last year, finishing second, just 13 points behind Walter Johnson. The team will miss **Mollie Fenn**, who finished second at states. Thankfully for the Bruins, they have **Emma Kerr**, a rising senior who finished 10th, to help fill that loss.

Meanwhile, the Broadneck boys squad have more of a hill to climb if they hope to fight for a state title as they finished eighth at states. Rising senior **Ryan Gibb** will be a key leader for the team as he was the highest finisher on the squad, in 16th place. Another member to keep an eye on will be **Bryce Clark**, who finished 25th at states.

## SEVERN SCHOOL

Severn School is coming off one of their most successful athletic years of all time, as the Admirals won seven titles during the 2021-2022 school year. And cross country was a major reason why as both squads won the IAAM

Class B conference titles.

For the girls team, it was their first title since 2014. Head coach **Richard Zmuda** was named IAAM Cross Country Coach of the Year. Many of the team's top runners will come back, including four rising seniors who all finished in the top 10 at the IAAM championships: **Anna Erskine**, **Grace Curtis**, **Grace Cowell** and **Kate Hilburn**. But the best runner on the team might be **Ella Forte**, who as a freshman last year finished third, the highest of all of Severn's runners. All five girls helped Severn win by a remarkable 42 points.

Not to be outdone, the boys won a title but by a much closer margin. Led by rising senior **Jamison Wildt**, who finished eighth, and rising sophomore **Timothy Wright**, who finished 11th, the Admirals were able to beat Boys Latin to the title by just four points. With those two and senior **Louis Lentz**, Severn will look to continue their winning ways.

# BHS Travel Team Is Cultivating The Next Group Of Bruins Players

By Conor Doherty

After an absence of three years, Broadneck's travel team, the Bay-side Bears, came back this summer. Coached by Bruins varsity coach **Matt Skrenchuk** and made up of players from both the junior varsity and varsity squads, the Bears went 20-8-2, with their best tournament finish being sixth out of 58 teams that participated.

Started by Skrenchuk in 2019, the team stopped playing due to the pandemic. While winning games and tournaments is important for the players and coaches, the team has two more valuable aspects. The first is to give players, especially those who were blocked by juniors and seniors, more playing time and allow them to gain more experience. And secondly, because there are players from the JV squad on the team, Skrenchuk can evaluate players who could be the next members of the varsity squad.

"We had a nice senior class that has moved on," Skrenchuk said. "So, I thought it was important to build some cohesion with our underclassmen and allow them to spend more time with our coaching staff this summer."

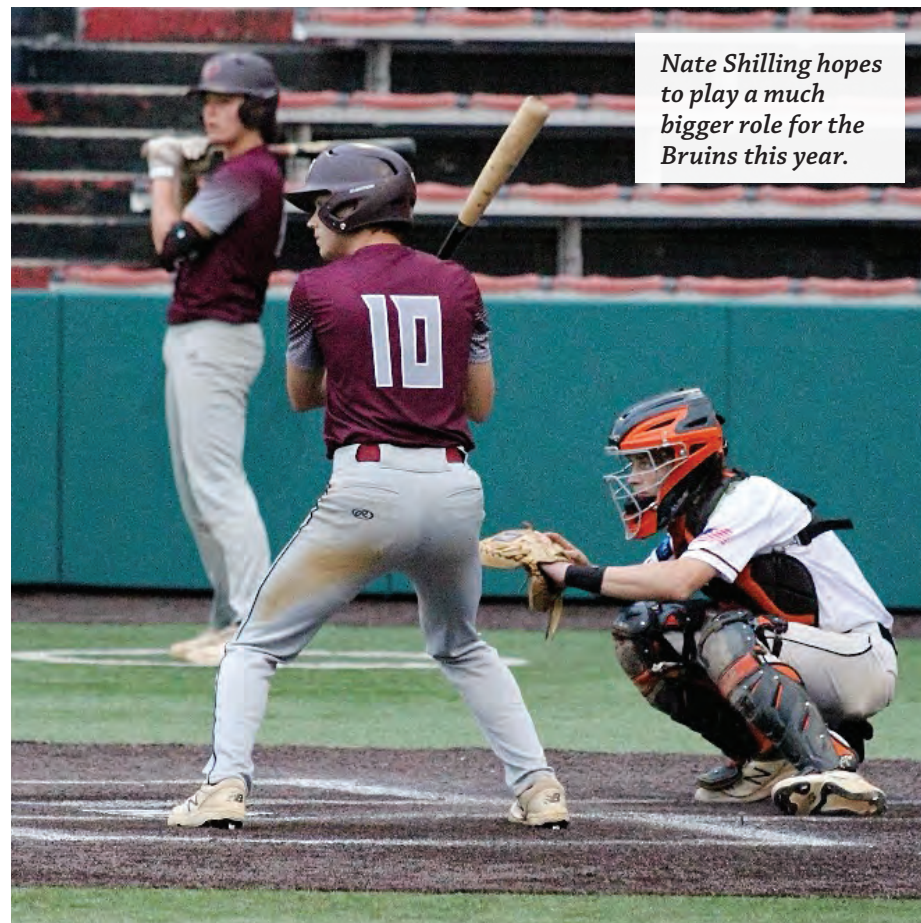
One such player is **Nate Shilling**. While he was on the varsity squad last year, Shilling had just a handful of at-bats all

season long, so this summer was an opportunity for him to prove he should start next season, and he delivered. Shilling finished with a .410 average, with 32 hits, 12 doubles, one triple, one home run and 20 RBIs. Other players like **Sean Murphy**, who Skrenchuk said was the Bruins' best pitcher last year, got to show their skills. In 33 innings pitched, Murphy had an earned run average (ERA) just under 2.08 and threw 29 strikeouts.

Coach Skrenchuk got the idea for the Bayside Bears from seeing the Bruins soccer and basketball teams get more practice because of their ability to play in a summer league, which Anne Arundel County didn't have for baseball.

"What this allowed us to do, by picking up games and tournaments, was practice, which is where our kids really got better," Skrenchuk said. "Nate had 89 plate appearances this summer, so it was a full summer of me getting to evaluate him and see how he fits into what we're trying to do next spring."

Next spring, with the evaluations he was able to do this summer and the additional playing time his players got, Skrenchuk and the Bruins will look to advance further in the playoffs after losing in the first round last year.



*Nate Shilling hopes to play a much bigger role for the Bruins this year.*





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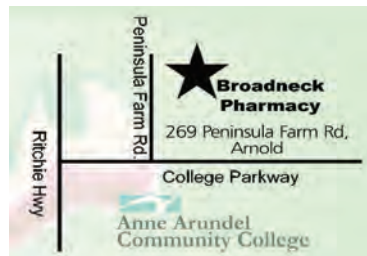
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## US Elite Caps Successful Season

**U**S Elite Baseball's Maryland class of 2025 team had a strong summer, starting 19-11 and finishing as runner-up out of 45 teams in the Prospect Select Mid Atlantic Championships from June 29-July 3. The team went 6-1 to reach the championship game, eventually losing 1-0 in the final to the DMV Prospects 2024. US Elite also went 7-2 in Perfect Game tournaments over the summer, including a semifinal run in the PG Central PA Elite Championships.

The team was made up of players graduating high school in 2025, all of whom plan to play college baseball.

Pitcher **Wesley Hall** was the team's ace. As of late August, he had 33 strikeouts and a 1.40 earned run average (ERA) in 45 innings pitched. He utilized a four-seam baseball, two-seam fastball, a knuckle curveball, a slider and a circle changeup.

Catcher **Nick Cicale**, a Broadneck athlete, hit in the middle of the lineup and threw out five of 12 attempted base stealers.

Broadneck outfielder **Mike Swick** came up big in crucial situations with extra-base hits. One of those hits was a grand slam against the 2025 DMV Prospects, propelling USA Elite to a 9-7 victory on June 29.

**Charlie Hartman** of Severna Park played all over the diamond. He was a team leader in runs scored and stolen bases. Hartman also threw 14.1 innings on the mound with 15 strikeouts and a 1.95 ERA.

The players all felt like the summer competition advanced their skills.

"It was a good time," Hall said. "We played a lot of good teams, and it made us a lot better overall."

(L-R) Wesley Hall, Charlie Hartman and Nick Cicale all had stellar seasons for US Elite Baseball's Maryland class of 2025.



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## High School Field Hockey Looks To 2022 Season

» Continued from page 19

players are those committed to play field hockey in college, including senior midfielder **Maya Everett** (University of Maryland); senior midfielder **Jessica Kopernick** (Stevens Institute of Technology); senior defender **Safiya Stimely** (St. Mary's College of Maryland); as well as four-year varsity starter and senior forward **Arden Huntman** and senior midfielder **Lexi Dupcak**, who is a three-year starter committed to play lacrosse at the University of Maryland.

"Team goals this year are to continue to be a competitive opponent at the state playoff level," said **Shannon Hanratty**, varsity head field hockey coach at Broadneck. "This team is full of potential and are eager to get after this 2022 season."

### SEVERN

Last year, Severn School's varsity field hockey team went 5-6-2 and made it through the first round of playoffs, a strong entrance into the A conference. The biggest wins of the season were against Indian Creek School (8-0) and Saints Peter & Paul High School (8-1). However, the most coveted game was a big win on the road at St Mary's High School.

Following longtime coach **Betz Wild**'s retirement from high school field hockey, **Giovanni "Gio" Gordon** has taken the reins as the new head coach with support from returning assistant **Hannah Tompkins**.

"We're excited to have Gio leading our



Photo courtesy of Charlotte Wallace

Senior midfielder **Maya Everett** is a key player on the Bruins.

field hockey program," said Severn School Athletic Director **Julian Domenech**. "In the process of searching for a new coach, his name was sent to me by various individuals in the field hockey world. He loves the game, and this has been evident during the first week of practice."

When asked who his key players will be, Gordon noted senior **Erin Hooper**, a striker, and junior **Victoria Miller**, who typically plays attack and midfield. Senior captain **Skylar Kagan** is best described as an "all-rounder" because she

can play anywhere, according to Gordon.

"A big goal for the season is togetherness," Gordon said. "If the team is closer, we'll be very successful this season. Talent wise, we're very blessed with that this year."

Best of luck to all the teams competing this season.

### SEVERNA PARK

Based on Severna Park High School's (SPHS) 2021 varsity field hockey season — which included a 16-2 record, an

Anne Arundel County championship and a Class 4A state championship — the 2022 season looks bright for the Falcons.

SPHS is returning five seniors from the 2021 championship team, four of which are bound to play Division I field hockey in college: **Ava Drexler-Amey**, (James Madison University), **Maddie Evans** (Lafayette College), **Charlotte Kramer** (Boston College) and **Meredith Schepens** (College of the Holy Cross). **Maggie Mullervy** is undecided if she'll play field hockey in college.

Also returning are juniors **Berit Isenberg**, **Amanda Giebels**, **Alyssa Gore-Chung**, **Noel Stefancik** and sophomore **Ava Zimmerman**. The top newcomer is sophomore **Kelsey Rowe**, a 2022 Gold Medal Junior Olympian.

"Severna Park has a challenging schedule in 2022," explained SPHS varsity head coach **Shannon Garden**, who is entering her fifth season with the Falcons.

Tough 2022 games will be against the eighth-ranked national team, the No. 2 ranked team in the mid-Atlantic region and Delaware state champion Delmar; Delaware state champion Henlopen; Bryn Mawr; Maryvale and Mount de Sales.

"Locally, we think Broadneck and Crofton will be our top competitors this fall," Garden said. "We think we will be very competitive with these top teams. Our strengths still lie with our defense as we are returning Charlotte Kramer, Meredith Schepens and Ava Drexler-Amey to the backfield."

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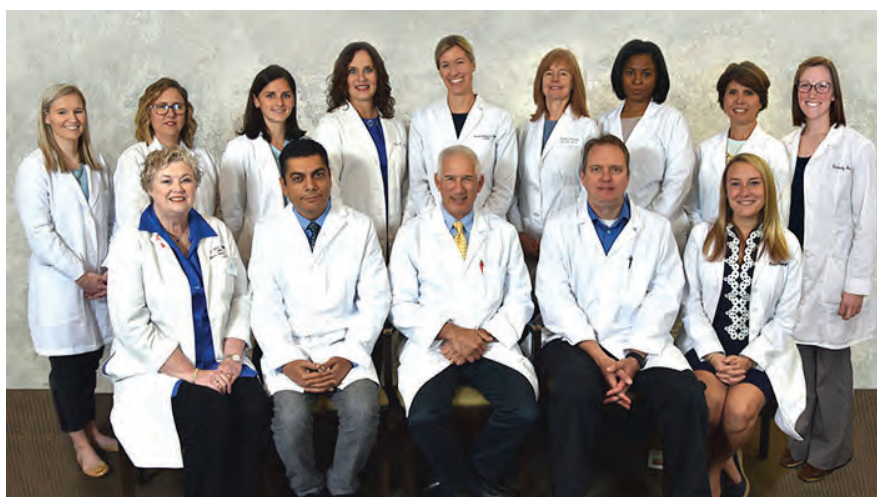
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## Competitors Earn Gold Medals At World Stick-Fighting Championships



*Team USA posed for photos in front of a shrine dedicated to Lapu-Lapu, a folk hero in the Philippines.*

By Zach Sparks

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

A group of Anne Arundel County residents traveled to Cebu City in the Philippines in July to compete in eskrima, or stick-fighting, a martial art with a cherished history in the Philippines.

Of that Anne Arundel County group, representing Team USA and Kick Connection of Millersville, 12 competitors came home with medals in the 16th World Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation (WEKAF) Championships.

The Kick Connection competitors ranged in age from 10 to 53 and got to face challengers from Germany, Portugal, Brazil, India, Iran, Korea, Switzerland, Cambodia and other countries.

"It was really exciting because this was a full-contact stick-fighting event," said **Carlos Patalinghug Jr.**, owner of Kick Connection. "They wore armor and they hit, struck and blocked."

Worlds are held every two years, but because of the COVID pandemic, the last world tournament was held in 2018. Patalinghug said the event is modeled after boxing, with three one-minute rounds.

"The winners showed accuracy, speed and technique," he said.

Of the winners, the Geldmacher family from Arnold fared especially well. **Tim Geldmacher** earned a silver medal in double stick competition and a bronze in single stick. His 12-year-old son, **Emery Geldmacher**, took home a gold in double stick, a silver in sayaw and a bronze in knife point. Tim's 10-year-old son, **Cooper Geldmacher**, won gold medals in single stick, double stick, and knife point; silver in padded point; and bronze in sayaw.

Kick Connection accounted for 13 of Team USA's 23 gold medals and 13 of

its 21 silver medals.

One of the Filipino coaches heaped high praise on the Kick Connection group.

"He asked, 'How is it that your fighters are able to fight and fight?'" Patalinghug recalled. "I really give credit to our instructors, Matthew Cerbas and Kim Everett, who train our students, and I train them too. For [the Filipino coach] to say that, it was a great compliment."

The event was capped with a ceremony that included music, food and representatives of the national government. Team USA also posed for photos in front of a shrine dedicated to Lapu-Lapu, a Filipino folk hero who fought Ferdinand Magellan in 1521 and defended his people against Spanish conquest.

"Filipinos in general are very kind," Patalinghug said. "I'm a dual citizen. It was great for our group to be so accepted and welcomed. They were like rock stars. They really admire the U.S. because they helped with liberating them from the Spanish."

Beyond competition, the Maryland visitors made an impact in the Philippines.

"We each took an extra suitcase with school supplies and clothing," Tim Geldmacher said. "We went to a school that was in need and donated some of the items. We gave the rest to other organizations."

Asked about that experience and helping the less fortunate, Tim said his sons are "very grateful for what they have."

Patalinghug said his groups have built eight water wells over the course of several visits to the Philippines.

"I try to not just compete but also give them the bigger picture," he said of his students. "It was such a great honor for us."



## Severna Park Teens Summit Tallest Mountain In The Lower 48 States

By Zach Sparks

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

Three high school seniors from Severna Park and their fathers reached new heights this summer, literally, by summiting the tallest mountain in the contiguous U.S. — Mount Whitney in California. Their two-day trek to the 14,505-foot peak was completed in late July.

Teens Cole Keefer, Owen Muldoon and Davis Cawfield have played soccer together as Green Hornets. Keefer and Cawfield have also attended Severn

School together since sixth grade.

When their dads recommended the trip, they accepted the challenge. The boys prepared the one way they knew how: running and playing soccer.

The group applied for a permit and arrived at the camp portal 8,300 feet above sea level on a Friday.

"The mountain was huge," Cawfield said. "We looked up and thought there was no way we would get there."

They each carried between 30 and 40 pounds of  
» Continued on page 40



Mount Whitney borders Sequoia National Park and Inyo National Forest in California. Above: Owen Muldoon, Davis Cawfield and Cole Keefer summited Mount Whitney during late July.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Francis

## Severna Park High To Host Marching In The Park



### Band Director Discusses Battle Of The Bands Event

By Zach Sparks

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

Regional competitions Bands by the Bay and Tournament of the Bands have showcased the area's talented musicians for a combined 40 years. On September 24, Severna Park High School will host another competition: Marching in the Park.

"We're proud of our high school and the community that we all learn in and live in," said Eric Kilby, SPHS music director. "It's great to host this event."

As of late August, 22 marching bands were registered to compete. Those include Broadneck, Glen Burnie, Arundel and Crofton. Kilby is eager to see his musicians perform in front of a crowd.

» Continued on page 42

Photo by Conor Doherty

Severna Park High School's marching band is young this year but excited to perform, according to band director Eric Kilby.



# Musical Chairs With Mrs. Metcalf

As school began, there was a noticeable change for most in the music department this year, both at Severna Park Middle School and Severna Park High School. Sara Metcalfe, beloved choir and music teacher for the past eight years at Severna Park Middle School, has transferred to Severna Park High School.

Metcalf's middle students were elated they could continue to work and learn with her in their high school years.

"I'm so glad Mrs. Metcalfe will be with us in the high school," said Eren Cameron, who is in her fourth year with Metcalfe as an incoming freshman. "She has a ton of experience and knows how to help us use our voices. If we think we are better for a different singing part, she always lets us try it out and see how it might fit. She shows us how to use our voices instead of just telling us."

Music has always been a huge part of Metcalfe's life. When she was 5, she decided she was going to be an opera singer (after watching Grace Bumbry perform "Salome" on her family's black and white TV with her dad). Music was always playing in her house thanks to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Metcalf grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a city that supported and encouraged music in the schools and offered free after-school music lessons for all kids in the city. She spent most of her middle and high school afternoons at the Halifax City Music Department, singing in honor choirs, playing guitar and ukulele, and taking voice lessons.

According to Metcalfe, "Middle school was a miserable time for me, and I was never a strong student academically. If it weren't for music, I'm not sure how I would have gotten through those years. I believe my success as a chorus teacher is the professional career I had for 40-plus years, and my ability to understand what the students are going through."

Metcalf shared thoughts on her career move during the following conversation.

## What is your fondest moment during your career at SPMS?

I cannot believe how much we have accomplished and the adventures we've had since I started at SPMS in 2014. I love the yearly eighth-grade field trip to New York City, especially the year that we gathered around the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and sang music from our winter concert (this led to a new yearly tradition). Singing the national anthem at Camden Yards was a dream come true (just wish the Red Sox had been playing that night). It was a true honor when the varsity choir was invited to sing at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conference in Pittsburgh and perform the national anthem at the Defense Information Systems Agency.

The most magical night of the year was our annual invitation to sing at the State House by candlelight. I love when [assistant principal] Mr. Lou Anoff comes down to M-Hall to sing with the tenors and basses and learns to play guitar. The year my students were obsessed with the musical "Newsies" just happened to be the year my sixth- and seventh-graders got to take my other favorite field trip to see it at Toby's Dinner Theatre and they invited by boys to perform one of the songs from the show during intermission.

## What will you miss the most?

My favorite part of this job is the students that surprise you and realize that you truly are making a difference in their lives. The student who did not want to take guitar class but, by the end of the year, is coming in once a week to show you the new songs they learned. The kids who are not chorus students but come down to play the grand piano. The student who made you want to tear your hair out, but you see



**Above:** One of Sara Metcalfe's favorite memories is directing her students as they sang the national anthem at Oriole Park at Camden Yards during the 2017-2018 school year. **Below:** Severna Park Middle School students visited New York City to see "Hamilton." The school's choir also has an annual invitation to sing at the Maryland State House by candlelight.



them at the high school and they're still in chorus, still singing. The boys in chorus class who never want to sing out during class, but when they are participating in a musical theater workshop in New York City, they are totally into it, and you realize that they can really sing and dance! And, then lead everyone is a huge sing-along at Hard Rock Cafe later that day.

## What new challenges excited you to move over to SPHS? What are you most excited to do during your first year at SPHS?

Mr. [Michael] Brisentine and Ms. [Kathy] Gabrielle are stellar musicians and teachers and have left some big shoes to fill both through the huge impact they've made on their students and the high standards at which they have them performing. Their knowledge of choral literature is impressive, and I have always been enamored of the choice of music they programmed on their concerts.

I'm really looking forward to the wide variety of more ambitious music we can perform with the various vocal ensembles Mr. Brisentine has created: chorus, vocal ensemble, treble chorus, and sol. It will also be a nice change to teach piano (which is more in my wheelhouse) than guitar. But what I am most looking forward to and so super excited about is to sing with all of my favorite people again!

I believe my biggest challenge will be taking over the a cappella group Mr. Brisentine created called Sol. I got to sit in on the class and watching Mr. Brisentine work with those students was truly inspiring. You could see the incredible bond they created with one another and the true affection and respect they have for him, by the way they sang with so much musicality and emotion. The intelligent musician-

ship of this group is off the charts.

I have performed a wide variety of vocal music over my career, and I am looking forward to learning something new and adding to my toolkit. And I'm extremely thankful that my dear friend Mr. Brisentine has offered to mentor me through my first year.

## What is the secret to your success as such a loved teacher?

The real secret to my success: my students! I could not do what I do if I didn't have the most amazing middle schoolers who trust me, are willing to be goofy with me, love squeaky chickens and dragons (especially Mama Chicken), Alfred, "The Mice" and Mr. Bill, and take chances trying new things. I have also been extremely lucky to have had the most incredible parent volunteers who willingly put in countless hours to ensure the success of the musical, varsity choir, drama camp, musical revue and more.

Many of those parents are on the board of the Spartan Lyrical Society, which has been invaluable to the growth and prosperity of the music and theater programs at SPMS. I am humbled by the dedication these parents make to ensure the success of our programs at SPMS. However, we really couldn't do what we do if we didn't have awesome administrators at SPMS. I am forever grateful for their continued support of all of the music and arts programs at SPMS.

I love living in Severna Park and being able to support the musical community of our town. I am looking forward to maintaining my relationship with SPMS through feeder concerts, recruiting events, etc. and continuing the extraordinary legacy of music making at SPMS.



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# Educator Of The Month

Glenna Blessing  
St. John The Evangelist School



By Zach Sparks

In her 21-year education career, Glenna Blessing has been in middle and high schools, but as the new assistant principal at St. John the Evangelist, she will now aid in the development of elementary school students for the first time.

Blessing left Northeast Middle School after three years as principal following the 2021-2022 school year because she saw an opportunity to become more grounded in her faith and spend more time with her family, including a sixth-grader who attends St. John the Evangelist.

"I am a product of Catholic education," Blessing said. "My journey from kindergarten through high school was through Catholic schools and both my children are in Catholic schools, so I felt this vocational calling. It is grounded in faith-based practice. I am very excited to be able to return to my roots in Catholic education."

Blessing started her career as an assistant professor at Goucher College and dance department chair at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, both in Baltimore County. She then became chair of the Performing and Visual Arts program at Annapolis High School before joining Glen Burnie High School as an assistant principal in 2014.

Glen Burnie High School Principal Scott McGuire spent only six months working with Blessing, but that time was enough for her to leave a lasting impression. He praised her during a conversation with the *Voice* in 2019.

"I want to build relationships not only with students but with staff and let them know I'm here for whatever they need whether that's assisting in the classroom or helping with lesson plans."

— GLENNA BLESSING

"Glenna is a collaborative leader," McGuire said. "She really built strong relationships with the students, the parents and the kids. She was also innovative and created solutions to problems."

Blessing is excited to help students academically but also holistically, in mind, body and spirit.

"Joy in prayer, making new friends as we start the school year, and learning how to do all the routines of school for the first time, that is exciting to see," she said. "Seeing students experience all that St. John is about is what is bringing joy to my role as an educator."

"Just like it's location, location, location with real estate, it's relationships, relationships, relationships [in education]," she said. "I want to build relationships not only with students but with staff and let them know I'm here for whatever they need whether that's assisting in the classroom or helping with lesson plans."

Academically, Blessing and the St. John staff will need to prepare students for a new standardized test implemented by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She has no doubt that the teachers are capable.

"This is a community of strong educators who give of themselves wholly with care and compassion," Blessing said. "You see that everywhere with teachers ... but here, I have felt the excitement and energy. They want to do what is best for students and are thinking how they are going to meet the needs of all students in mind, body and spirit."

Blessing looks forward to school plays, the Junior Olympics, May Fair and other events at St. John.

"I think, as administrators, we feel a deep connection to each school community we work with, and I am looking forward to St. John becoming a school family for me," Blessing said. "I am looking forward to connecting with students, their families, and our teachers throughout the school year."

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## Meet The Student Member Of The Board, Zach McGrath

Severna Park High School senior Zach McGrath was elected to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education as student member of the board (SMOB) in April 2022. He began his one-year term on July 1, becoming the first SMOB from Severna Park since Josie Urrea during the 2018-2019 school year.



**Zach McGrath**

McGrath was a youth representative for the Anne Arundel County Office of Health Equity and Racial Justice and interned for Delegates Shaneka Henson and J. Sandy Bartlett in the State House. He currently interns for Senator Sarah Elfreth.

Prior to his election to the Board of Education, McGrath was active in student government. He served on the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils executive board, the Maryland Association of Student Councils executive board, and was an officer for his high school's student government.

As a Boy Scout, he worked on numerous conservation projects, including working with Kinder Farm Park to support the local bluebird population. He also serves on the youth advisory council of the Maryland Civic Education Coalition and works with the organization to promote civic education.

With the school year underway, McGrath told the *Voice* about his goals and experience.

**Q:** You have an impressive resume between your work in the Maryland state legislature, serving your school's SGA and being on other councils. What motivated you to take on more responsibilities by running for student member of the board?

**A:** Through my work in student government, I heard about the student member position. I researched it and found that I could positively impact the community and be a voice for all AACPS students.

**Q:** Do you remember what initially piqued your interest in politics and public service? If so, when did that occur?

**A:** I was initially inspired to get involved in politics and public service due to a Fourth of July visit to the Italian American World War Veterans Of The U.S. Post 40 in Milford, Massachusetts, with my dad. He served 31 years in the Navy as a naval aviator in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Veterans of the Korean, Vietnam and second world wars told me stories of why they volunteered to risk their lives for this country and what they had to give up. I was inspired by their sacrifices for this country and wanted to continue their legacy of service.

**Q:** You started as SMOB on July 1. How has the experience been so far?

**A:** It has been great! The board members have been super welcoming. I have been able to tour a few schools and meet the teachers, custodians, food workers, and

staff that make our school system work. AACPS is an excellent school system, and I couldn't be happier to help support it.

**Q:** During the SMOB debate, you mentioned some priorities: two mental health days for students, improving transportation, etc. Why are those important to you?

**A:** When I decided to run, I wanted to focus on issues that would help the day-to-day life of students and their families. That's why I focused on transportation and mental health; both affect students' and parents' quality of life. I want to alleviate the stress on the community by making bus transportation more reliable while supporting our struggling students by providing the opportunity to take a mental health break.

**Q:** You also mentioned following the lead of other counties, such as procuring electric school buses like Montgomery County. It sounds like you believe there are reasonable solutions to improve AACPS?

**A:** Yes, I think electric buses would be a tremendous cost-saving investment next time the school system purchases vehicles. Our school system is currently focused on ensuring reliable transportation as the school year starts. After that, I am very excited to explore ways AACPS can make our transportation services green while being financially responsible.

**Q:** Have you reached out to anyone for advice?

**A:** Yes, I have. Drake Smith and Bunmi Omisore, my student member predecessors, have been great resources for advice on balancing academics, extracurriculars and my board responsibilities. I am incredibly grateful for their support.

**Q:** Your idea of a team-building trip is laser tag, so I have to ask, have you persuaded your fellow board members to put that on the calendar yet?

**A:** The board members were surprisingly really receptive to the idea. A lot of them thought it would be a great way to team-build while having. One board member even suggested a good laser tag place to use. Hopefully, soon, the board will not only debate with words but with lasers as well!

**Q:** You're not just a representative for students but also teachers, parents and all stakeholders countywide. What is the best way for anyone to reach you about their concerns?

**A:** I am a student member, but I represent everyone in Anne Arundel County. If you ever want to reach me, please email me at [zmcgrath@aacps.org](mailto:zmcgrath@aacps.org).

**Q:** Is there anything else you want people to know?

**A:** If you ever see me around, don't be a stranger! I may be the student member, but I represent everyone: teachers, parents, and every member of the Anne Arundel community. I'd be happy to stop and have a conversation. A successful school system needs public input, and I would love to discuss how to improve our schools with anyone.

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“Heathers” showtimes are 7:00pm-9:00pm on September 16, 17 and 23, and 2:00pm-4:00pm on September 18 and 24. Find tickets at [stagescreenstudios.ticketleap.com/heathers/dates](https://stagescreenstudios.ticketleap.com/heathers/dates).



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# Scouts Improve Their Community While Striving To Inspire Others

By **Conor Doherty**

Over the course of 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has had just over 2.5 million Scouts, less than 4% all time, earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Most troops will see maybe two or three members reach Eagle Scout every year. But Troop 918, out of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, has had five over the past few months.

Daniel Palus has already been given his Eagle Scout award while Tyler Knox, Colin Stees, Jacob John and Kellen Curtis are planning their Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies, which will be held soon.

Each of them planned, designed and built an Eagle Scout service project that would benefit their community, while also demonstrating their leadership skills. John, Stees and Knox all had similar projects while John and Knox's projects worked in collaboration. John designed and installed a gaga ball pit at Lake Waterford Park and Stees installed another gaga ball pit at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School. Knox's project added benches around John's pit at Lake Waterford, which made the area around the pit less barren while giving parents a place to sit while their kids played. Meanwhile, Palus and Curtis both had similar projects where they installed lending library boxes in two Severna Park communities, Evergreen and Carrollton Manor.

While these projects are meant to allow Scouts to lead, they often also allow them to inspire and teach their fellow Scouts.



Photo by Conor Doherty  
(L-R) Jacob John, Daniel Palus, Tyler Knox, Kellen Curtis and Colin Stees each planned, designed and built an Eagle Scout service project.

Younger Scouts get to see what types of projects are being done and may be inspired to do a similar project for their own community, while also learning about the expectations of undertaking such a project, especially with regards to the mistakes and changes these projects often undergo. Just like many professionally done projects, these Eagle Scout projects don't always go to plan and it's up to the Scout leading the project to handle and overcome any issues that might arise.

Knox, Stees, Palus, John and Curtis all wanted to be able to inspire their fellow Scouts in Troop 918 in different ways. Knox wanted to give other Scouts of Troop 918 the ability to continue to add to the area around the pit.

"I talked to the park ranger, and we could almost turn it into an Eagle Scout zone," Knox said. "We talked about potentially adding a nice fire pit to the

area and a brick pathway and nice bushes around it. And it could be just a really nice community project."

Palus said, "I wanted to inspire them in the good my project brought as well as how I went about doing it. But it was almost like the inverse of inspired, by making it a lesson. Showing that orga-

nization is a big factor for kids who are doing their Eagle Scout project now to consider, so that they can look at me and see all the good, the things that went well in its execution but also the things that could have been better. Even the downsides my project had, in terms of how it was executed, were good in the end, because they're kind of

a cautionary tale."

The journeys of these five Scouts are now over as they have reached the highest peak of being a Scout. The leadership they displayed both in their troop and in leading their projects, along with the service they gave to their troop and their community, are proof of their strong character.

## Teens Summit Tallest Mountain In The Lower 48

» Continued from page 33

supplies: hiking poles, clothes, GU packets, CLIF Bars. A three-liter container of water and iodine tablets to purify water. Blowup mattresses and tents.

Their first big obstacle came early into their ascent.

"The first day, just going up six miles with a constant steep grade, it was kind of grueling," Keefer said. "We spent two to three hours going up and then we realized we had another two to three hours."

Cawfield agreed, saying, "The switchbacks on the first day of the summit were probably a mile back and forth before we got to a ridge where we thought we were getting toward the top. Then it was another mile."

The boys discussed sports and school as a distraction. Their next camp appeared at 12,000 feet. Grateful for a break from the exhausting hike, the group twice received another surprise.

"My dad and I were setting up a tent and beads of hail started beating down," Muldoon said. "It's interesting because it was hailing up there, but down below, there was no rain."

Harsh weather soon gave way to breathtaking scenery.

"You can see the bios change," Muldoon said. "It would start all grassy and then as we started to climb, we could see lakes and then it became rocks. Icecaps were melting down into deep-blue lakes. All the vegetation just seems to disappear in front of your eyes."

By Sunday, the group was tired, adrenaline keeping them alert.

"After seeing a sign that says Mount Whitney summit, we realized it was

still two miles, which seemed so far away that it was demoralizing, but we knew we were almost there," Keefer said.

Less than 50% of hikers successfully summit Mount Whitney. The Severna Park residents joined that group of successful hikers.

"Getting to the top is almost as much of a relief as it is joy," Muldoon said.

Cawfield said, "It was an awesome feeling of accomplishment, just to get to celebrate with everyone and finally getting cell service and being able to FaceTime my mom and show her the views."

The boys and their dads all hugged and savored the views for about 45 minutes.

"Seeing the mountains and scenery, it was completely worth it," Keefer said. "There was a sense of pride that we conquered it."

Their last stop was at The Oasis of Death Valley, a hotel with a golf course 214 feet below sea level. Now home in Severna Park, all three teens said they would do another hike in the future, despite the obstacles.

"It was a great bonding experience that we will remember forever," Keefer said.

Muldoon said, "It's a feeling I won't forget. It helps me see what I can do by pushing through when something is difficult."

In addition to their memories forged on Mount Whitney, one other tangible reminder of their accomplishment still exists in California.

"At the summit, there was a book where we could sign our name and hometown," Cawfield said. "Being able to write Severna Park was awesome."

## BHS Grad Becomes Eagle Scout

This summer, Broadneck High School graduate and Troop 382 member Matthew Hayes was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout after completing a project for the Patriot House, part of the Arundel House of Hope.

Hayes has been a part of Boy Scouts of America for 12 years. He wanted to achieve Eagle Scout as two of his older brothers also achieved the honor.

To earn scouting's highest award, Hayes had to earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, serve in leadership roles within his troop, and complete a community service project.

The Patriot House is a homeless shelter for veterans. When veterans are ready to move out, it can be costly to get basic items. Hayes' project created boxes, which he called "move-in kits," containing household items such as plates, glasses, pots, pans, cleaning supplies and towels.

"The reason he chose Patriot House was because of the veterans in our family — two brothers and one sister are vets, as is his father," said his mom, Debi. "He wanted to pay back others for their service and knowing that it could easily have been his family and hoping that if it should ever be



**Matthew Hayes**

a family member that someone would help them too."

Hayes started in Scouts BSA Troop 995 in February 2015 and changed to Scouts BSA Troop 382 in November 2017. He has served as assistant patrol leader, troop guide, assistant senior patrol leader and troop scribe. He attended national youth leadership training in the spring of 2018.

Hayes will take classes at Anne Arundel Community College this fall.





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# Let's Talk About Toy Time

**Leah Kimble**  
MA, CCC-SLP  
*Kid Connections*  
*Therapy*



**A**s a loving parent or caregiver, it is common to feel inundated and a bit overwhelmed by your child's frequent requests for the newest and flashiest toy that has just hit the shelves. It's also OK to feel

like toys are overtaking your household as your child collects more and more throughout the years.

Creatively using toys while playing



with your child supports their cognitive growth and can enhance their communication development in a multitude of ways. That noisy, light-

up toy that may make your head spin might also be working to meet your child's sensory needs, enhancing the development of their communication skills. The list below includes some of the many reasons why toy time is so beneficial for childhood development!

## 1. Enable Your Child To Practice And Develop Competency With Real Life Skills

Having your child dress up their favorite baby doll may support them with fastening clothing snaps, putting together strips of Velcro, and using zippers while dressing themselves. Cutting pretend fruit and playing in the imaginary kitchen can help them learn routine tasks and skills that are necessary for preparing meals within your household. Toys that enable your child to practice activities of daily living can increase self-esteem and autonomy by allowing your child to practice demonstrating these real-world skills.

## 2. Promotes Social Connection Between A Child And Caregiver

Taking time to play with your child sends the message that you are invested in their interests. During play, you will likely get to learn about your child's favorite characters from books or television. Leaving space for your child to share their interests is affirming and communicates the message that you value their ideas. It's not so much the new toy that's all the rage, but rather the quality time spent talking and bonding with beloved family members.

## 3. Activates The Imagination

Play enables your child to engage their imagination in the most wonderful ways. They can transport themselves to any time or place and develop rich play schemes and narratives that may mirror activities in their everyday lives or enable them to assume new roles and explore novel ideas. The next time you're wishing that you could take your little one on a week-long vacation to the beach, remember that it may be just as much fun for them to hop in the bathtub with their favorite dolls and action figures and dream up their own unique ocean adventure.

Toy time is an amazing time to promote loving connections and to learn and build new skills. If it feels like your child's playroom is bursting at the seams, view it as a wonderland where new ideas can blossom. On the other hand, if you feel like your play space is looking a little sparse or needs an upgrade, view it as a new frontier where you and your child's creativity can be activated and re-engaged.

Repurpose well-loved toys and find new contexts in which to utilize them. You can even involve your child in reorganizing the space to fit your family's needs. Conquer toy time by making it your own. Have fun and enjoy the adventure. View this as a time to learn, grow, and create alongside your child and build something beautiful together!

Learn more about fun and creative ways to use toys to help your child's language development at [www.kidconnectionstherapy.com/resources](http://www.kidconnectionstherapy.com/resources).

## SPHS To Host Marching In The Park

» Continued from page 33

"It's a young group, but they're having fun and they're excited," Kilby said of the Severna Park marching band.

At the end of the last school year, Kilby asked the band and orchestra to choose a theme for the 2022-2023 season. They picked an intergalactic theme, which they will also feature during halftime of home football games this fall.

"All the songs for halftime this year are about space and planets," Kilby said. "We have an intergalactic Beastie Boys song, 'Space Oddity' [by David Bowie] and songs from 'Star Trek.'"

Severna Park's marching band has six competitions planned this season, including the Maryland Marching Band Association (MMBA) state championships at Towson University on November 6.

Anne Arundel County residents are encouraged to attend Marching in the Park, an all-day event, on September 24.

"We're appreciative of all the community support that we get," Kilby said. "It's a big endeavor that we couldn't do without them. I'm excited for the community to see all of the great things that are happening in music across Anne Arundel County."



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# Student To Study Abroad In Jordan On Scholarship

Juliana Augustine, a student from Severna Park, has been awarded a YES Abroad scholarship for 2022-2023. Juliana will live with a host family and study in Jordan for the academic year.

Juliana is one of only 65 students selected competitively from across the United States who received a scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to participate in the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad program. The merit-based award covers the full cost of an academic year abroad, providing Juliana a full academic and cultural immersion experience, including living with a host family in Jordan, attending an international high school, and helping her develop the skills necessary to be a leader in the global community. The YES Abroad program is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Through Juliana's participation in the YES Abroad program, she will be at the forefront of citizen diplomacy, serving as a "youth ambassador" in her host country, enhancing cross-cultural understanding and deepening trust by building lasting relationships with her host family and peers, and engaging in volunteer service and leadership training to help her host community. Through the YES Abroad experience, Juliana will develop the skills to share American values, find new ways for America to compete effectively in the global marketplace, and contribute to a more peaceful world.

The Kennedy-Lugar YES program was first authorized by the U.S. Congress in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, as an effort to increase dialogue and mutu-

al understanding between people of the United States and people of countries with significant Muslim populations. Initially created as a program for international high school students to live and study in the United States, the YES program was expanded in 2009 to include YES Abroad for American high school students to study overseas.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, YES Abroad provides opportunities for Americans to study for one academic year in 12 countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Senegal, Thailand and Turkey.

YES Abroad is administered by a consortium of nonprofit organizations, including American Councils for International Education, AFS-USA, Amideast, and iEARN-USA. Exchanges taking place in Jordan are administered by Amideast. Amideast Education Abroad programs help develop mutual understanding through virtual and onsite programs for young people to study the Middle East and North Africa, improve their Arabic language skills, and interact with the peoples and cultures of the region, especially local families, organizations and students. Amideast strives to help develop participants' awareness of their positionality in the world and their capacity for intercultural humility while providing them with safe, secure, and healthy learning and living environments.

For more information about YES Abroad, visit [www.yes-abroad.org](http://www.yes-abroad.org). For more information about hosting a YES international exchange student, visit [www.yesprograms.org/host](http://www.yesprograms.org/host).



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## Stef Ripple News

### STEFANIE ASHDOWN MEMORIAL “DO YOUR BEST” 5K RUN, 1-MILE WALK

Provide hope, encouragement, and support for ovarian cancer patients and their families by participating in the sixth annual Stefanie Ashdown Memorial Do Your Best 5k run and 1-mile walk, organized by the non-profit Stef Ripple. This year's event is set for September 17 at Belvedere Elementary School, located at 360 Broadwater Road in Arnold.

Ashdown is remembered by family and friends for her three principles of being thankful, helpful and kind.

Register online at:

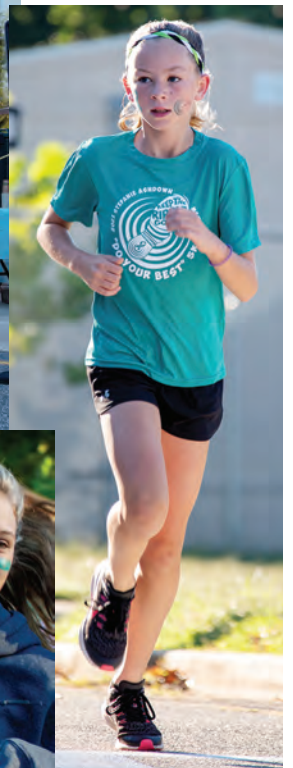
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### STEF RIPPLE DO YOUR BEST SCHOLARSHIP

Stefanie Ashdown touched the lives of many through her smile, grace, kindness, motivation and faith. She was soothing and caring — putting her children first, but always seeming to have time for others. A phrase that echoed through her home is “Do your best,” as she would encourage each one of her kids with this phrase, no matter the activity.

Part of Stef Ripple's mission is to support the children and families of ovarian cancer warriors. In support of this effort, the nonprofit has established the Stef Ripple Do Your Best Scholarship. The emotional and financial support Ashdown's children and family received during her journey was comforting and reassuring. This \$1,000 scholarship is for Maryland residents enrolling in a college or trade school and whose lives have been touched by ovarian cancer.

Currently, Stef Ripple is accepting applications for fall 2022. A committee, which will include Stef's children, will review the applications. To apply, visit [www.stefripple.org](http://www.stefripple.org).



Photos courtesy  
of Nana Sue  
Photography  
*The Do Your Best  
5K and 1-mile  
run returns to  
Belvedere  
Elementary  
School on  
September 17.*

## Arnold Resident Returns To A Hospital That Feels Like Home

### Christine Frost Selected As Chief Nursing Officer For Luminis Health AAMC

By Zach Sparks

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center (LHAAMC) is the place where Christine Frost gave birth to two children. It's the place where she worked, twice, and advanced her career. So, it was exciting news in August when LHAAMC announced to the community that Frost would be its new chief nursing officer.

“The [hospital's] culture and connection to the community have been so strong and have been maintained,” Frost said, when asked about returning to LHAAMC.

An Arnold resident, Frost will oversee the approximately 1,200 nurses at LHAAMC, as well as help manage finances, enforce policies and connect patients with the care they need.

“My leadership style is to be a transformational leader,” Frost said. “I seek to understand the current state of nursing and collaborate with our team to innovate and advance the practice of nursing.”

Frost was chosen after a rigorous nationwide search. Sherry Perkins, president of Luminis Health Anne



**Christine Frost**

Arundel Medical Center, was looking for a candidate with “the perfect combination of the art and science that is nursing.” Perkins previously worked with Frost and knew she would be a strong leader.

“What you look for in a chief nursing officer is exceptional clinical expertise, someone very community minded who understands what we want to do and is team based,” Perkins said. “She also demonstrates compassion for people when meeting with them one on one.”

Originally from Switzerland, Frost visited the United States during summers when she was a teenager before

moving to Anne Arundel County.

“At 16, I started as a candy stripper and I fell in love with nursing, patient care and the team environment,” she said.

She worked at Luminis from 1995 to 2000 and then returned from 2008 to 2017 in a leadership role.

“I already had a passion for the art and science of nursing, but then I also developed a keen interest in business and operations,” she said.

Throughout her nearly 30-year career, Frost has held various nursing positions at the University of Maryland Medical System and the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center. She received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University School of Nursing, as well as a Masters in Nursing and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Maryland.

One of her biggest challenges as chief nursing officer is tackling the nursing shortage, a problem that hospitals nationwide have faced since the onset of the COVID pandemic. Frost plans to work with LHAAMC's partners to attract and retain nurses.

Perkins believes LHAAMC has the right environment to accomplish that priority.

“I think the first order of business is to overcome the turnover challenges of the last two to three years,” Perkins

said. “Job one is to make the environment one that nurses want to stay in, and second, we have to continue to build the recruitment.”

“We have attributes at Luminis Anne Arundel Medical Center that make it an environment where people want to work,” she said. “We know nurses want a workplace that values flexibility, that values learning, that values innovation, that values the use of technology.”

Frost is excited to build those relationships with nurses and she's also excited about her role in the community. She volunteers with a food pantry located at Discoveries: The Library at the Mall in Annapolis. Frost is also active at St. Margaret's Church and is the president-elect for the Maryland Organization of Nurse Leaders (MONL), a nonprofit that advocates for and facilitates the provision of competent, effective, efficient and compassionate health care.

“It's so valuable,” Frost said of the opportunity. “We're all learning and growing together, and we talk a lot about collaboration.”

For Frost, there is plenty of work ahead, but she also has plenty of reasons to be thrilled about her new opportunities.

“I feel really privileged to work in a hospital that feels like home to me,” Frost said.



# Fitting Fitness In

**Kristin Swistak**  
Neighborhood Barre



**A**s a busy mom of three, business owner and chronic over-scheduler, it's hard for me to find time. Often in life, we prioritize everything and everyone else over ourselves. What if you could start a fitness routine, carve

time out for yourself, and feel good about the progress you are making toward a healthier lifestyle? Even though some of us have more time than others, I've found there are three core concepts that, if followed, will help maintain a consistent routine and enable you to integrate fitness into your life.

**1.** So the most obvious: make a plan! I'm not talking about sitting in bed the night before and saying to yourself, "I should get up and work out before the kids wake up tomorrow." Inevitably that snooze button gets hit until the kids are awake and that workout is skipped. I'm talking about literally scheduling time to exercise in advance.

Every Sunday, I schedule my workouts on my calendar just like I schedule work meetings or appointments. If you have a partner who helps manage the day to day in your home, make a point to include him or her in your planning. Lean on those you trust to get you moving in the right direction.

**2.** You don't need to go all in! If you don't have an exercise routine now, start small. Going from no routine to scheduling a five-mile run every day is probably not realistic. Start with an attainable goal and slowly ramp up. For example, walk to pick up your kids instead of sitting in the carpool lane. Maybe the next week, you layer in a jog with that walk. A lot of people don't know where to start, but joining a local

fitness studio can kick off your fitness journey, help you with your goals and offer a road-map for success. Your routine needs to be sustainable so you can build up over time and be encouraged to stick with it.

**3.** Do something you want to do! Don't buy a stationary bike if spin already wasn't your thing. If running isn't your jam, maybe group fitness is a better fit. I realize everyone can try new things, but don't force it. Find something you love to do. I personally love group fitness. I love the comradery of a studio, the scheduled classes and the accountability. Exercising at home has never been my thing, so I stick to what keeps me in a routine. Doing something you like to do promotes

consistency. Exercise should be something you look forward to because you've chosen a plan that works for you.

It's hard to prioritize time for yourself. In a world where we can be reached by anyone, anywhere, anytime, it's easy to take a workout we've planned for ourselves and throw it on the backburner. Treat your health like any other commitment — make it enjoyable, sustainable and fun — and it will be easier to fit fitness into your life.

*Check out Neighborhood Barre in Severna Park just a couple doors down from Café Mezzanotte in the River Reach Plaza. Need guidance on starting your fitness routine? Visit [www.neighborhoodbarre.com/severna-park](http://www.neighborhoodbarre.com/severna-park) and sign up for your first class for free!*

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# UM BWMC Supports Anne Arundel Students Returning To Classrooms



UM BWMC team members donated over 1,100 school supplies to the Anne Arundel County Police Department’s Stuff A Cruiser event for students at Anne Arundel County Public Schools.



UM BWMC Care Management team members donated 48 backpacks to the Department of Social Services’ annual backpack program.

The University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) provided reusable water bottles and school supplies to public schools in Anne Arundel County to support students as they returned to classrooms. These donations are part of several hospital initiatives aimed at supporting the health and wellbeing of Anne Arundel County youth.

Hospital leaders visited Park Elementary School on August 26 to donate 600 reusable water bottles, one for each student, as a way to encourage students to stay healthy and hydrated. Through discussions with Park Elementary School administrators, UM BWMC learned that milk was the only beverage available to students during school hours, unless students brought their own water bottles. With some water fountains closed due to COVID-19 safety protocols, access to drinking water throughout the school day became harder for some students that did not have a water bottle.

“It takes amazing community partners to make any school be successful, and we are so fortunate to have the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center as one of our partners,” said Sandy Blondell, principal at Park Elementary School. “Healthier students are more successful students, and this donation from UM BWMC will help make our students healthier and happier. We are incredibly grateful.”

UM BWMC worked with other organizations and schools to distribute supplies to Anne Arundel County public school students. Through collaborations with Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Anne Arundel County Police Department, the hospital donated more than 1,100 school supply items, including backpacks, paper, crayons, markers, pencils and more.

“It’s important that as a hospital, we develop relationships with others in our community and that we work together outside of our physical walls to offer health and wellness resources to everyone we serve, from the youngest to the oldest,” said Diane Croghan, vice president of community engagement and chief of staff at UM BWMC.





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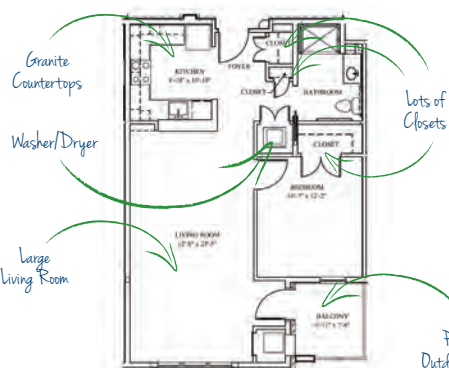
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## Prostate Cancer Treatment: What You Need To Know

**Antony  
Koroulakis**  
Luminis Health



According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in American men, with about one in eight men diagnosed with it in his lifetime.

It may be time to schedule a prostate cancer screening if you:

- Are 50 years old or older
- Are 45 years old or older, African American, or have a family history of prostate cancer

Screening may involve a blood test called a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) and a digital rectal exam to feel the prostate for abnormalities. You and your health care provider should decide together if prostate screening is right for you.

If you have received a prostate cancer diagnosis, the good news is that, now more than ever, there are multiple treatment approaches for prostate cancer.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network recommends several treatment approaches. These range from active surveillance for lower-risk prostate cancer, to a combination of surgery and/or radiation therapy and/or systemic therapy for higher-risk prostate cancer. Large studies have shown equal cure rates between these different options, depending on the situation. Your prostate cancer providers will talk to you about the risks and benefits of each option. Here are some basics about the major approaches.

### ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

Active surveillance (AS) means getting PSA testing and physical exams with your urologist. It is a way of keeping a close eye on your prostate cancer without actually treating it. This can be an excellent option, especially for men with lower-risk prostate cancer. About half of men who choose this option are able to avoid treatment down the line. Ask your prostate cancer providers if AS is a good option for you.



### SURGERY

Surgery is done by your urologist, and is an excellent option especially in younger, healthy men. It typically involves removing the entire prostate and is the only way to see what the true extent of cancer is inside the prostate. Today, the robotic assisted prostatectomy allows surgeons enhanced vision, control, and precision and translates to less pain, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery. Speak to your urologist about the possible side effects of surgery and recovery.

### RADIATION THERAPY

Radiation therapy (RT) is another excellent treatment option. It is non-invasive, and typically uses high-energy X-rays targeting the prostate, and sometimes additional areas around it. It is typically given daily, Monday through Friday. There are many different RT regimens, ranging from just five treatments to 44 treatments, for a variety of clinical situations. You meet with your doctor every week while you are on treatment to review any side effects and to help manage them. RT is well-tolerated in the vast majority of men, and serious long-term complications are rare. Speak to your radiation oncologist about the possible side effects of RT and recovery.

### SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Systemic therapy is treatment that goes throughout the whole body and can be important to reduce the chances of prostate cancer spreading outside of the prostate, especially to the bones. It is often an option in men with higher-risk prostate cancer. It is typically given in the form of androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), sometimes called "hormonal therapy." This therapy comes in different forms, and decreases your testosterone levels, which helps prevent the prostate cancer from spreading. In recent years, certain types of ADT have shown newly discovered benefits, especially in men with high-risk prostate cancer. It can be given over a period of four months, up to even three years, depending on the clinical situation. Ask your prostate cancer providers if ADT can benefit you.

### MAKING YOUR DECISION

So, what treatment might be the best for you? It can be a complicated decision. Your doctors will help you weigh the risks and benefits of these approaches to prostate cancer to help you decide which is best for you.

*Antony Koroulakis, MD, is a board-certified radiation oncologist at Luminis Health.*





## Dining Out



### The Social Combines Tasty Food And A Cozy Atmosphere



Photos by Mary Cobbler

**Top to Bottom:** The shrimp and fried green tomatoes are crisp on the outside and sweet on the inside. The purple cabbage and red radishes give a burst of color to the shrimp tacos. The best part, though, are the homemade soft shells. The mussels come with buttery garlic sauce, further flavored by mussels, with a crusty grilled baguette. Tangy and sweet, the key lime pie is served with whipped cream and toasted marshmallow cream.



**By Mary Cobbler**  
How should someone describe one of Severna Park's newest restaurants, The Social? Perhaps it's best to say it lives up to its name. It's got a welcoming feel. I think it's the mix of pleasant greeters, retro artwork, modern style, a unique offering of food served with pizzazz, and friendly wait staff with a down-home vibe.

There are many seating options — you can choose the large bar area, high seats, booths, or like my dining companion and I, a table for two; the restaurant has lots of these, so it's easy to accommodate a cozy meal with a friend or a larger group.

Our waiter, Kerry, was professional and friendly. Our drinks arrived quickly. I ordered iced tea, slightly sweetened with simple syrup, and my companion ordered a martini.

My companion picked the Prince Edward Island mussels for an appetizer, and I chose shrimp and fried green tomatoes. The mussels were a hit, with tender meat. I enjoyed sop-

» Continued on page 58

## Art In The Park Returns September 18

A new event debuted in Severna Park last year as Art in the Park brought live music, fine art and good vibes to Cafe Mezzanotte. The festival will return this year on September 18 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

During the festival, attendees can view and purchase fine art and gift selections from Benfield Gallery, Gallery 564 and Side Street Framers & gift gallery. Delicious Mediterranean food and a vast selection of beverages will be on sale. Attendees will be comfortably seated at socially distanced tables and can stroll the grounds and get up to dance when the spirit moves them.

Music will begin with the Alex Lacquement Trio, featuring Lacquement on upright bass and vocals, Lucas Choahny on electric guitar and EJ Shaull-Thompson on drums. Their pleasing and often rousing sound is at the confluence of bluegrass and jazz music. Enjoy Lacquement originals along with works by Bill Monroe and Bill Frisell and other greats.

If guests haven't got up to dance at that point, the mid-afternoon set should get them going. A quartet led by vocalist Rose Moraes and bassist Leonardo Lucini will introduce a variety of captivating styles and sounds in their performance: samba, bossa nova, Baiao, samba partida and samba funk. The afternoon will wind down with a performance by Ravita Jazz, led by bassist Phil Ravita. This set highlights the music of legendary performers

*The Alex Lacquement Trio combines bluegrass and jazz music.*



such as Chick Corea, Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Charlie Parker.

Art in the Park is sponsored by the Severna Park Voice and presented in partnership with Jazz Beyond Borders. The event is also supported in part with grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and Arts Council of Anne Arundel County.

Cafe Mezzanotte is located at 760 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. Parking is free and plentiful. A rain date is set for September 25.

Admission is \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. Tickets are available from [www.instantseats.com](http://www.instantseats.com). Select Cafe Mezzanotte as the venue.

*The inaugural Art in the Park event in 2021 brought the community together for a day of entertainment.*





# Annapolis Songwriters Festival Brings New Experience To Anne Arundel County

By Zach Sparks

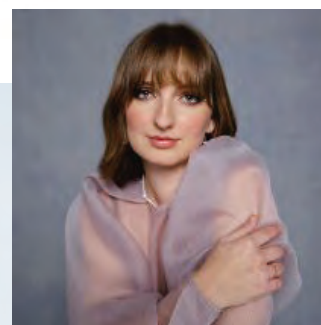
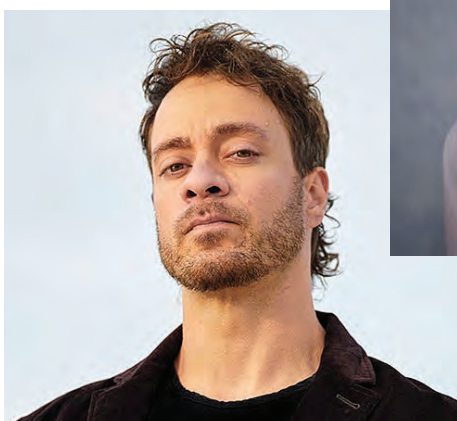
zach@severnarparkvoice.com

Based on the Key West Songwriters Festival that has entertained music lovers for 26 years, the Annapolis Songwriters Festival is coming to Anne Arundel County from September 15-17. This festival aims to give music lovers a chance to get to know the names and faces behind the industry's biggest and most famous songs in an up-close and personal setting.

Laura Price from Rams Head On Stage previewed the event, which will feature Jake Owen, Amos Lee and songwriters behind the hits of Willie Nelson, Chris Stapleton, Kenny Chesney, George Strait, Brooks & Dunn, Garth Brooks and many more. Several Anne Arundel County musicians will also perform.

**Q: The Annapolis Songwriters Festival is different because of the focus on the faces and stories behind songs. Can you elaborate on that vision and how it makes for a unique experience?**

**A:** The Key West Songwriters Festival was the brainchild of our partner, Charlie Bauer, a pal of our owner Bill Muehlhauser, who now resides in Key West. After more than 25 years of success, in 2021, we had the unique opportunity to purchase the Key West Songwriters Festival, which then allowed us to create our sister festival, the inaugural Annapolis Songwriters Festival.



The Annapolis Songwriters Festival, to be held from September 15-17, will allow music lovers an opportunity to meet the talented writers behind their favorite songs. **Left:** During the

music festival, Lucinda Williams will take the stage at Annapolis City Dock. **Right:** Amos Lee and Madison Cunningham will also perform during the inaugural event.

**Q: When booking artists, what were you looking for?**

**A:** Variety for sure, as you might notice from our lineup!

**Q: Is there anything else you want people to know about the event?**

**A:** We're bringing over 70 hours of free music to downtown Annapolis. We want to be sure that people know that most of the festival is free. The ticketed events take place at our City Dock stage downtown, Maryland Hall, Rams Head On Stage, and we have fun a ticketed show on a Watermark cruise on Saturday evening. We also have several VIP package options. For more information, visit [www.annapolissongwritersfestival.com](http://www.annapolissongwritersfestival.com).



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# SP Library To Transform Into “Stranger Things” Escape Room

By Lauren Burke Meyer

The “Stranger Things” phenomenon has struck again. A member of the Hawkins Middle School audiovisual club has gone missing. Thankfully, the AV club has clues that could lead them to their missing friend, Will Byers.

So goes the description for the Severna Park Library’s “Stranger Things” escape room event on Thursday, September 22, from 4:00pm to 4:45pm. The event is best for groups with 10 people or less and for ages 10 and up. Registration opened September 8 and is expected to fill quickly. Call the Severna Park Library at 410-222-6290 to sign up.

As a public library, the Severna Park branch has a few more budgetary restrictions than a Netflix show. Despite that, the staff members working on the program are putting together an immersive experience for fans of the show.

The setting is Mike Wheeler’s basement, so think “Dungeons & Dragons” paraphernalia, lava lamps, bad lighting and more.

“There’s a part of the escape room puzzle that uses a computer, and sadly, we couldn’t get it to run on an early ‘80s IBM PC, so we had to go modern for that,” said Severna Park librarian Colin Chappell. “Everything else is, we hope, truer to the feel of the show. Many of the design elements are things staff had lying around at home or in their own basements.”

The Upside Down — an alternate dimension existing parallel to the human world on “Stranger Things” — also features prominently in the escape room experience. But even if you have no idea what the Upside Down is, don’t worry.

“Being familiar with escape rooms and how they work is probably more helpful than being a fan of the show,” Chappell explained. “Regardless, we promise we’ll let everyone go home in the end, even if they don’t crack the case.”

This is not the first escape room event at the library. In years past, staff hosted rooms themed around mad scientists, time travel to the 1980s, the book “The Wild Robot” — and that is just the Severna Park branch.

“In fact, we even held a successful ‘Stranger Things’ escape room program at the Severna Park Library back in early May,” said Severna Park Library branch manager Samantha Zline. “Other branches have hosted ‘Harry Potter’ and ‘Star Trek’ themed rooms. They have all been very popular, and I think that is since escape rooms can be very expensive, and the library removes that cost barrier to allow friends and families to just come and enjoy the challenge of solving the puzzles together.”

The escape room programs are different from other programs the library offers. While staff members normally seek to bring in as many people as they can, the escape room programs offer library customers a truly intimate and personal experi-



ence. When groups register for the program, they have the whole experience to themselves for 45 minutes.

“This allows customers who may feel uncomfortable attending bigger in-person events to come in and have some fun in the library with only their friends or household,” Chappell said.

Escape rooms aren’t the only events the Severna Park Library holds. A surprise hit has been the “Dungeons & Dragons” game nights, which launched over the summer and will continue into the fall. Numerous “Stranger Things” fans joined since the game is featured so heavily in the show. The next program is Tuesday,

September 20.

Chappell hosts the Classics Old & New Book Group at Park Tavern across the street from the library. The next book is Louise Erdrich’s “The Round House,” and the meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22.

The library also offers beginner line dancing, hosted by Jessie’s Soul Line Dancers, as well as the popular Great Movies programs, which have in-person and virtual meetings.

Lastly, the Severna Park branch has been focusing on youth mental health programming. An upcoming in-person teen art journaling program is scheduled on Wednesday,

Photo courtesy of Curtis Baker/Netflix

Based on the show “Stranger Things,” the escape room will resemble Mike Wheeler’s basement, with “Dungeons & Dragons” paraphernalia, lava lamps, bad lighting and more. Participants will use the library’s clues to look for their missing friend, Will Byers.



September 28.

To learn more about the fun programs and events offered by Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) locations, check out the events page at [www.aacpl.net](http://www.aacpl.net).

## Author Michael Hilliard Returns To Action With “No Safe Place”

By Declan Keefe

More than 4 million books are published, either traditionally or self-published, in the United States every year according to Toner Buzz. With that many written annually, it’s hard to stand out.

Severna Park financial advisor and author Michael Hilliard hopes to do that with his action thriller “No Safe Place” after a nearly nine-year hiatus. Published in June, Hilliard’s latest work is his first novel since “The Island Hopper” in 2013.

At 404 pages, “No Safe Place” tells the story of National Security Agency (NSA) analyst Pip Palmer. Despite his troubled upbringing, Palmer is the brightest computer hacker at the agency. Although the thrilling tale begins as a serial killer mystery, the novel transitions into a cat-and-mouse chase after four former presidents are assassinated.

The book’s Amazon description promises a gripping read, saying, “When the former presidents are assassinated and Pip intercepts crucial information, the very people he should trust may be the ones behind it all. He’s forced on the run with an unlikely partner, and together they try to save each other and unravel the truth.”

Hilliard has always been interested in the presidency.

“I’ve always wondered what it’s like for them personally when a president steps down,” Hilliard explained. “As soon as they leave office, they are at a place in life

completely 180 then where they were just 24 hours before.”

Hilliard also wondered what would happen if all the ex-presidents were suddenly killed and how the nation would react. Without revealing any spoilers, Hilliard said the title “No Safe Place” is spoken in the novel, a writing style of which Hilliard is a big fan.

“No Safe Place” is the third novel in an unofficial loose trilogy, beginning with Hilliard’s first novel, “The Last Patriot” in 2005, and “The Island Hopper” in 2013.

Although Hilliard said family obligations and his primary career as a financial advisor were the main reasons it took nearly nine years for the novel to be finished, he also spent the time researching government agencies to make sure they would be depicted accurately.

Despite the presidential and government agency prominence in the novel, “No Safe Place” does not have a political message. “The main takeaway I intend readers to get from the novel is entertainment,” Hilliard

said. “There is no underlying message. If you want a nice action novel with a love story, ‘No Safe Place’ is for you.”

Annapolis is also notably highlighted in the novel; the towers at Greenbury Point are instrumental in the plot, according to Hilliard. Readers should also look for the Severna Park references sprinkled throughout the action thriller.

Hilliard will sign books on Saturday, October 1, from 9:00am-11:00am as well as Saturday, October 15, from 9:00am-11:00am at The Big Bean in Severna Park. Annapolis Yacht Club members and their guests can attend another signing on Thursday, October 13, at 6:00pm at the club.



“No Safe Place” tells the story of National Security Agency (NSA) analyst Pip Palmer and a chase that ensues when four former presidents are assassinated.



## TOTs Podcast Enters Fifth Season This Fall



*TOTs Podcast founder and host Ben Gardner structures his podcast around guest interviews.*

**By Lauren Burke Meyer**

What do “Tiger King” star Carole Baskin, NASA astronaut Nicole Mann and suicide prevention advocate Kevin Hines all have in common? They’ve been interviewed by TOTs Podcast founder and host Ben Gardner.

Entering its fifth season this fall, TOTs is a podcast about interesting people, from all walks of life, having honest conversations about their personal journeys. According to its website, “TOTs stands for Thoughts On Things, because on this show, people talk about their thoughts ... on things!”

Gardner has lived in Severna Park his whole life other than when he went to college at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He began TOTs in November 2019 while he was still in college and grew the show from there. Currently, Gardner has a small but dedicated team, including editor Ryan DeMarco and technical producer Chris Hopper.

Season 5, consisting of 12 episodes, will kick off on September 21. A new episode will be released on the third Wednesday of each month. From its humble beginnings in a Washington, D.C. apartment closet, TOTs has moved to a new recording studio in Dundalk, Maryland, so Gardner can release high-quality audio and video episodes.

When asked what his most popular shows have been, Gardner said, “If I had to guess, I would say as far as total views/listens between YouTube and audio versions, it would be Carole Baskin, Nicole Mann and Kurt Lewis, a former Secret Service agent. Thousands of people have watched or listened to those episodes over the course of a year.”

It’s no surprise that Baskin — CEO of Big Cat Rescue and firm believer that big cats don’t belong in cages — would be a popular inter-

view after the March 2020 obsession with the seven-part Netflix documentary series “Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness.” On the show, a feud between Joe Exotic and Baskin ensued. Exotic accused Baskin of killing her then-husband Don Lewis and feeding him to their tigers.

Baskin doesn’t do many interviews, so it took a few months of talking for Gardner to get her to agree to a conversation.

“I think people should go listen to that episode because it will give them a different perspective on who she is as a person, not just as a celebrity,” Gardner said.

Gardner also shared how Mann was a dream guest, who shared what it’s like being an astronaut both from a technical perspective and from a human aspect.

“Nicole is one of my favorite people I’ve had on the show and is incredibly down to earth (pun intended) despite being so intelligent and successful,” Gardner said. “I think that says a lot about her.”

When asked about the style of the show, Gardner explained how he tries to structure the show simply around having a conversation.

“We don’t edit anything out, and at the end of the day, most of what we do is add the intro and outro music and let the audience decide what they want to hear more of,” he said.

Now that TOTs has hit a major milestone with the new studio, Gardner is looking to the future.

“Eventually I want this show to become larger and larger because I really do think there’s value for people listening to intimate conversations with interesting people,” Gardner said.

To learn more about TOTs, visit [www.totspodcast.com](http://www.totspodcast.com). Episodes are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts.



Photo courtesy of The Colonial Players of Annapolis

*The Colonial Players production of “Art” is the story of three middle-aged friends who become agitated with one another.*

## Colonial Players Welcome Audiences To See “Art”

A story of frenemies, “Art” is being performed by The Colonial Players of Annapolis now through October 1.

Marc, Serge and Yvan are friends. They are three middle-aged men of comfortable means who have stayed friends with each other for 15 years. Since men of their age often lack opportunities to meet new people and sustain new friendships, their courtesy toward and their tolerance for one another’s quirks and affinities have been worn raw. Serge has bought a modern work of art for a large sum of money. Marc hates the painting and cannot believe that a friend of his could possibly want such a work. Yvan attempts, un-

successfully, to placate both sides with hilarious consequences. The question is: Are you who you think you are or are you who your friends think you are?

“Art” is written by Yasmina Reza and directed by Debbie Barber-Eaton.

Face masks will be required for all patrons at the following performances: Sunday, September 25, and Friday, September 30. Masks are optional, but strongly encouraged, for all other performances. If the Centers for Disease Control rating for Anne Arundel County is “high,” masks will be required for all audiences.

To learn more about the show, call 410-268-7373 or visit [tickets.thecolonialplayers.org](http://tickets.thecolonialplayers.org).

## Gallery 564 Gets New Mural

*Artist Michael Whitehead provided a new mural for the photography studio at Gallery 564 this summer. The bright display greets guests at the gallery and along the B&A Trail.*





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## Toby's Presents "Ghost: The Musical"



The cast of "Ghost: The Musical" features MaryKate Brouillet (Molly), Patrick Gover (Sam) and Ashley Johnson (Oda Mae).

**"G**host: The Musical" is playing at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, promising romance, comedy, suspense and an ethereal climax audiences won't forget. The show runs through November 6.

The musical is based on the Academy Award nominated motion picture starring Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg (who won the Oscar for her performance as Oda Mae Brown).

Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office directly at 410-730-8311 or by visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). For more information, visit [www.tobysdinnertheatre.com](http://www.tobysdinnertheatre.com).

## For The Love Of CTA — A Fundraising Event

On September 17, Children's Theatre of Annapolis (CTA) is hosting "For the Love of CTA," a fundraising event, its first in more than three years. This fundraiser supports CTA's operating budget, which allows CTA to continue offering high-quality theatrical performances for central Maryland audiences, as well as performing and technical theater arts education for children.

The fundraiser will feature a performance from mentalist Brian Curry, mystery boxes and auctions, beer and wine, and hors d'oeuvres.

Brian Curry has a secret. Is he a mind reader, a human behavior expert or a liar? He may astound you with his super-human abilities, but it's even more amazing and entertaining when he pulls back the curtain for a glimpse into some of his techniques. Come see what makes Brian Curry "The Good Liar."

This is a 21-and-over event. For more information, visit [cta.ticketleap.com/2022fundraiser](http://cta.ticketleap.com/2022fundraiser).



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## Genre-Blending Sultans Of String To Perform At SP High School



The Anne Arundel Community Concert Association (AACCA) has announced its first act of the new season: The Sultans of String. The trio will take the stage of the Severna Park High School auditorium on Thursday, September 22, at 7:30pm.

The award-winning Sultans of String have wowed audiences for more than a decade with their blend of Celtic reels, flamenco, Django-jazz, Arabic, Cuban and South Asian rhythms. Acoustic strings meet with electronic wizardry to create layers and depth of sound. This trio utilizes fiery violin dances

with rumba-flamenco guitar and unstoppable grooves.

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

Other anticipated performers this season include The Everly Set, The Eric Byrd Trio: Brother Ray Band, Vinyl Radio and Yakushev & Mesa.

Now in its 70th year, the AACCA is a volunteer-run organization with the sole purpose of bringing arts into the community at a low cost to its members. For more information on tickets to upcoming performances, or to subscribe, visit [www.aacaconcerts.com](http://www.aacaconcerts.com).

## The Social Combines Tasty Food And A Cozy Atmosphere

### » Continued from page 49

ping up the buttery garlic sauce, further flavored by the “taste of the sea” from the mussels, with a crusty grilled baguette.

My fried green tomatoes looked like a food sculpture. Two tomatoes atop a plate of greens were topped with sauteed jumbo shrimp, and the dish was drizzled from top to bottom with an excellent remoulade sauce.

I was looking forward to this dish after admiring it on Facebook. After popping the sauteed shrimp in my mouth, I sliced into the tomatoes. I’ve never been able to fry a green tomato that’s crisp on the outside. The chef here gets it right. The tomatoes were bright green and tender and had the perfect tangy — almost sweet — taste you want in this dish. Combining the tomatoes with the greens provided a satisfying, savory taste, and the sauce was a combination of spicy and slightly sweet. I discerned a hint of the mustard and a little Old Bay. Overall, it was balanced well with just the right kick.

I picked the shrimp tacos for entrees, and my friend got one of the night’s specials — seafood copping.

Our first impression of the tacos was how colorful they were — topped with purple cabbage, red radishes, and cilantro. They came with cilantro lime aioli and a vinaigrette.

Though the taco fillings were flavorful — the combined crunchiness of the cabbage and radishes, the perfectly prepared shrimp, and the spicy sauces — the shells were the best. They’re homemade (everything at The Social is), and the corn flavor was surprisingly pronounced.

The highlight for both of us was the

seafood cioppino. “Wow!” my companion exclaimed. “Every bite is bursting with flavor!” And it was. This rich aromatic soup/chowder was chock full of healthy goodies: shrimp, mussels, monkfish, carrots, celery, onions and tomatoes. After a few bits, I commandeered a portion and savored every bite. Add a piece of that baguette, and you’d have a cold-weather meal that will warm your cockles, though we loved it in August! I don’t know the secret of this dish, but in my mind, I imagine the chef simmering the seafood for hours before adding the vegetables to give this soup its bold taste.

The finale was a piece of key lime pie. What it lacked in size, it made up for in taste. This delightfully zesty treat was covered in fresh whipped cream and had a dollop of soft, slightly toasted marshmallow cream on the side. It was a luscious finish to a fabulous meal.

The bill was about \$80 for two appetizers, two entrees and dessert, without the drinks — pretty reasonable.

We will return to The Social frequently. We want to try many foods, and we like the atmosphere. I hope to see you there!

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# John McAfee Documentary Fails To Tell The Full Story

By Audrey Ruppert

**R**unning with the Devil: The Wild World of John McAfee” was clearly Netflix’s attempt to recreate the success of “Tiger King.” On the surface, there are parallels: a somewhat crazed, charismatic man at the head of an enterprise; an intricate web of related figures who are all entirely unsympathetic; and elements of cult-like manipulation, fraud, and just whacky, off-the-wall behavior from everyone involved.

But John McAfee is no Joe Exotic — he’s not nearly as interesting or complex. “Running with the Devil” is a montage of the ramblings of various insufferable narcissists. It is painful to sit through, and nothing like the wildly entertaining trainwreck that is “Tiger King.”

The documentary does little to provide background on McAfee. It almost seems to add context as an afterthought here and there throughout. We are told about McAfee’s success with the antivirus company, but we don’t learn much about his multiple battles with drug addiction, or how McAfee was actually a mediocre programmer who made serious blunders down the line — blunders that caused him to be pushed out of his own company. We aren’t told about his “sky gypsies,” or his weird fake flight school, or the person who died as a result of that school’s errors. We’re told little about his experimentation with spiritualism, or about the woman whose pharmaceutical lab he promised to fund.

Instead, we are given a view of McAfee that is far too zoomed in, showing his day-to-day antics while he was “on the run” (from enemies both real, and mostly, imagined), and given an exhausting account of the rambling, irrelevant thoughts of the “journalists” (I would use that term loosely) who covered McAfee while he was running around like a madman.

Some of this sort of footage is quite helpful in understanding the psychosis of a narcissist or cult leader — I think back to HBO’s “The Vow” which had similar footage of Keith Raniere, the recently jailed leader of the NXIVM cult. However, you have to balance this footage with background, context, and a more intimate look at the feelings of the victimized — even “The Tinder Swindler” documentary did a better job of this. The



Photo courtesy of Netflix

The subject of Netflix’s “Running with the Devil” is John McAfee, known for his antivirus software company and subsequent life on the run.

filmmakers of “Running with the Devil” almost seem to assume we already know a lot about McAfee — playing into his narcissistic belief that he is so important that everyone already knows his story. Most people don’t.

This documentary is almost irresponsible, in fact, in how it refuses to counter McAfee’s narrative and view of himself. It doesn’t tell you that McAfee isn’t the giant computer mogul he appears to be — sure, he founded the antivirus company and earned a lot of money as a result. But we aren’t told that his success was largely due to luck of being in the right place at the right time, that he lost the majority of his antivirus fortune by the time the documentary was being filmed, and that his prediction about the Michelangelo virus destroying the world’s computers was nonsense and did not come true.

A good documentary about this type of man takes that man down — shows him to be self-aggrandizing, manipulative, and that his extraordinary claims have no basis in fact. This film does nothing to concretely fact-check McAfee’s numerous claims and seems to leave it to the viewer to decide whether there was any truth to them — when it’s so obvious to anyone who does any research that McAfee was full of it.

Good documentaries of this sort also show that those manipulated aren’t hapless suckers and that anyone can fall victim to a cult or a manipulator in the right circumstances. “The Vow,” Leah Remini’s “Scientology and the Aftermath,” and “Going Clear” all do this well. While “Running with the Devil” doesn’t fact-check anything McAfee says, it also doesn’t do a good job of explaining why on earth anyone would want to follow John or buy

into any of his nonsense. The Vice “reporters,” whom he manipulates, and the ghost-writer of his biography come off as complete idiots, leaving the audience to assume they must just be stupid, full of themselves, or both. The women whom McAfee manipulated — particularly Janice — do not seem particularly sympathetic either, even though McAfee clearly took advantage of them. This does a disservice to former victims of cults, manipulators, or conmen, many of whom are intelligent people who were simply

taken advantage of by someone cunning in a moment of weakness or vulnerability.

Somehow, “Running with the Devil” fails to convince us of anything — to convince us that McAfee is an interesting subject worth nearly two hours of runtime, to convince us that McAfee’s claims about his importance were untrue, to convince us McAfee’s suicide was staged, or to convince us that McAfee had victims rather than suckers. It barely even clears anything up about the supposedly central premise of McAfee’s flight from authorities — the alleged murder of his neighbor. If you want a much more interesting, funny and comprehensive account of McAfee story, I recommend Robert Evans’ podcast — the episode is called “John McAfee is Not Funny Anymore.”

## Japanese Breakfast To Perform At Baltimore Soundstage

**W**hen Japanese Breakfast frontwoman Michelle Zauner made *TIME* magazine’s list titled Most Influential People of 2022, “Saturday Night Live” actor Bowen Yang shared his first impression of Zauner.

“My first exposure to Michelle was seeing her dressed in a Korean hanbok, shredding guitar while sitting on an 18-wheeler,” Yang said. “I immediately knew I would be obsessed with this person.”

Zauner and the rest of Japanese Breakfast will showcase their unique style during a performance at Baltimore Soundstage on September 30.

Upon the release of the band’s third album, “Jubilee,” in June 2021, Zauner received two Grammy nominations and Japanese Breakfast was placed on Best Of 2021 lists produced by *Rolling Stone*, *People Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Billboard* and others.

To see what the hype is about, see Japanese Breakfast in Baltimore on September 30. Doors open at 7:00pm and the show starts at 8:00pm. For tickets, visit [www.baltimoresoundstage.com](http://www.baltimoresoundstage.com).



## AFS To Screen “The Good House”

**T**he Annapolis Film Society will screen “The Good House” on September 13 at Maryland Hall’s Bowen Theatre. Doors open at 6:30pm and the film will begin at 7:00pm.

“The Good House” follows Hildy Good (Sigourney Weaver), a wry New England Realtor and descendant of the Salem witches, who loves wine and her secrets. Her compartmentalized life begins to unravel as she rekindles

a romance with her old high-school flame, Frank Getchell (Kevin Kline), and becomes dangerously entwined in one person’s reckless behavior. Igniting long-buried emotions and family secrets, Hildy is propelled toward a reckoning with the one person she’s been avoiding for decades: herself.

Pre-purchase tickets at [annapolis-filmsociety.eventive.org](http://annapolis-filmsociety.eventive.org) or pay \$15 (cash only) at the door.



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## Change The Way You Think About Maryland

**Jason LaBarge**  
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I hear remarks like this, the more I need to investigate. I have heard this statement from people with all kinds of different backgrounds, political beliefs, social statuses, etc., making this opinion not particular to one group of people, rather a diverse mix. I am going to look at this sentiment from a purely economic standpoint to illustrate how fortunate we all are to live in Maryland.

Most people mention taxes as their primary reason for sharing this opinion. Maryland's state tax of 5.7 percent is nowhere near the highest compared to California at 13.3 percent or Hawaii at 11 percent. Further, Maryland does not tax social security, which many of my clients are surprised to learn.

Maryland taxes pensions while some states like Delaware do not. Luckily, Governor Larry Hogan

**"I** hate Maryland." This is a statement I hear frequently from my clients. As some of you already know, I'm from the great state of South Dakota, so the more

recently passed the Retirement Tax Elimination Act that offered tax credits for residents over the age of 65 to offset the state taxes on pensions. I like what the governor did because instead of just giving the tax credit to those with pensions, he gave it to everyone over the age of 65 within certain income levels. Interestingly, Maryland is among the states with the lowest percentage of population 65 or older — only 16.3 percent. This tells us that people are moving out of Maryland upon retirement.

Marylanders may also feel like the cost of living is among the highest in the country - in fact, we are seventh highest in the country in terms of cost of living based on first quarter 2022. Mississippi and Oklahoma have the lowest cost of living while Hawaii, New York, and California are the top three most expensive. We make up for that high cost of living by earning higher income. The federal government is the largest employer in Maryland.

We all know someone who works for the federal government. If you do not work directly for the government, chances are you work for a contractor or for a company that does business directly with the federal government or contractor. I  
» Continued on page 66

## Chamber Update

**Liz League**  
CEO  
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members (find them in our directory at [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com)).

### **Drs. Russell, Deasey, Wright & Zitofsky LLC**

(Bronze Member) Since 1978, their award-winning practice in Severna Park has established a work environment where each patient is cared for and respected. They work as a team, allowing them to maintain quality dentistry and a tradition of caring. As owners of a private doctor-owned group practice, the team is able to preserve the highest standard of dentistry in our community. Experience and trust have defined them over the years and will continue to do so in the future.

### **Comcast Business**

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### **Hyatt Commercial LLC**

(Bronze Member) For over 60 years, Hyatt Commercial has provided results-driven services to its clients in retail, office, industrial, multi-family,

» Continued on page 64

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### The Great American Car Wash Has Grown With The Community



(L-R) Todd Skinner, Dave Morgan and Don Hug were proud to receive their Best Of Severna Park award for The Great American Car Wash in May 2022.

press washes to full professional detailing," Hug said.

To stay as earth friendly as possible, the staff uses water-saving nozzle technology, high-pressure spray equipment and other products that are better for the environment.

"Environmental stewardship has always been at the forefront of our business," Hug said. "We're careful about the soaps and chemicals we use. We capture all the wastewater from our facility to make sure it is treated and contained."

The Great American Car Wash staff takes its environmental impact seriously and the staff is also passionate about giving back to the community.

Hug and his team support Special Olympics Maryland during the annual Polar Bear Plunge, and the business also donates to local public and private schools.

"Both my sister and I grew up in the Severna Park area and our managers [Todd Skinner and Dave Morgan] are both graduates of Severna Park High School, so it's a way for us to connect to the parents and kids," Hug said.

The car wash is located at 825 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. Guests will also find greeting cards and automobile items in the lobby.

Hours are 8:00am-5:30pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00am-4:00pm on Sunday. The business is closed in the event of inclement weather.

Readers of the Severna Park Voice voted The Great American Car Wash the area's Best Car Wash in a 2022 survey. As the business approaches its 30-year anniversary, Hug is grateful for the customer support that has helped the business thrive.

"We really cherish the opportunity to serve the community," Hug said.

To learn more, call 410-544-9009 or visit [www.thegreatamerican-carwash.com](http://www.thegreatamerican-carwash.com).



### **By Zach Sparks**

**W**hen The Great American Car Wash was formed in 1993, no other car washes existed nearby. In the three decades since, Severna Park has become home to more families and more businesses while The Great American Car Wash has explored new technology to become more efficient and environmentally friendly.

"When we opened, we were a bit of a pioneer in the area," said Don Hug, whose father, Richard, was one of the original partners. "It's been a locally owned and operated business ever since. My sister and myself are now partners, and we enjoy being part of a small community business."

That small community business now has about 30 employees, many of whom have been with the company for 10 to 15 years.

"It's fantastic and our employees are really what makes our business a successful enterprise," Hug said.

The Great American Car Wash is a full-service and exterior express car wash. Full service includes everything from window cleaning and vacuuming the interior to shining the tires.

"We have everything from ex-





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By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Erin McNeally and her team at Fivestar had a vision: a mobile app for sharing and rating sports highlights, without the negativity often found on social media platforms.

That vision was fulfilled in August as Fivestar launched the app, which is now available on all Android and iOS devices.

“We’re leveling the playing field for these athletes, so any athlete, no matter what sport, no matter where you’re located, can get viewed,” said McNeally, a Severna Park resident and co-founder and CEO of Fivestar. “Then we’re putting the power back into the people’s hands to let the people decide who the top athletes are per sport.”

Athletes using the Fivestar app can

## Liff, Walsh & Simmons Welcomes Josh Welborn

Liff, Walsh & Simmons, a full-service business law firm, is pleased to welcome Josh Welborn, esquire, as an associate attorney with the firm.

Prior to joining Liff, Walsh & Simmons, Welborn served as a business advisor to his corporate clients and managed a large portfolio of complex civil litigation cases including a title curative case portfolio, a judicial probate case portfolio, and represented numerous clients in actions involving contract disputes.

“Josh’s skills and experience add depth to our business counseling and litigation practice groups, allowing Liff, Walsh & Simmons to continue to provide exceptional service to our clients,” said Jim Crossan, partner and practice director for the litigation practice group at Liff, Walsh & Simmons. “Josh is an outstanding addition to the firm, and we are excited that he has joined our team.”

Welborn graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a degree in biochemistry and subsequently obtained his Juris Doctor from the Florida Coastal School of Law.

“Joining the growing Liff, Walsh & Simmons team and working under the leadership of the well-regarded



Josh Welborn

attorneys, including Jim Crossan and Melissa Menkel McGuire, has created an opportunity to enhance my business counseling, litigation and employment law skills,” Welborn said. “The team-oriented environment is grounded in core values and has been an excellent match for my personal and professional goals.”

Welborn is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, Anne Arundel Bar Association and the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce.

## Fivestar App Offers Athlete Highlights In A Positive Environment



Severna Park resident Erin McNeally is the co-founder and CEO of Fivestar. On the Fivestar app, users can share, save and rate highlights — with ratings ranging from one to five stars.

register for free, but a second phase is under development to offer a subscriber option with premium features.

“We are going to have a gamification aspect to it, so users are going to be able to earn Fivestar coins as they do certain activities in the app and will be able to trade in those coins for tangible and intangible prizes whether it be gear and swag or maybe tickets to a game,” McNeally said. “We just want to make it more of a gamification and interactive environment for all users.”

Fivestar plans to showcase top five plays of the day and of the week, generated by a proprietary algorithm. Those results will be filtered by sport.

“We’ll have live feeds, so some of our brand ambassadors and other users who are verified will be able to come on and maybe do a live feed at 5:00 and Kyle Harrison can walk users through his signature shot and what runs through his head during that signature shot that he has — just engaging with the users a little bit more,” McNeally said. “And the leaderboard, of course. Right now, we just have ratings in the app and in Phase II we will be able to have leaderboards where athletes will get ranked one through 100 per sport, per genre. People are deciding who the top athletes are per sport.”

Fivestar’s target market is athletes ages 13 to 22, focusing on lacrosse, basketball, football, skateboarding, soccer and volleyball content. McNeally said she would like to eventually include lifestyle sports.

“I know some of our users have pivoted to snowboarding and wakeboarding,” she said. “It’s summertime right now, being in Severna Park on the rivers, and then we have snowboarding and skiing coming up. And then tennis and golf. It’s neat to see these athletes transition from that competitive environment to a lifestyle environment, too. Of course, we would like to get involved in Green Hornets and those organizations, structure strategic partnerships and give them a platform to be seen.”

From Severna Park to cities across the globe, Fivestar is on a mission to change the way athletes and sports enthusiasts consume sports highlights. Next, the goal is to have international reach.

“Viewing sports highlights in an international language — it doesn’t matter what sport you play, what language you speak, you can always view a highlight and rate it one through five stars,” McNeally said. “That’s why we’re so excited about the app.”

set up a profile and post their best highlights. Fans can then engage with athletes by rating highlights, reacting with animations, and earning an overall fan rating.

Fivestar has already signed several pro athletes to serve as brand ambassadors, including lacrosse stars Kyle Harrison, Trevor Baptiste and Kylie Ohlmiller; skateboarders Ryan Decenzo and Deon Harris; and women’s basketball pro Angel McCoughtry. Fivestar athlete ambassadors will help raise awareness for the app and drive downloads, be active app users, scout and onboard future brand ambassadors, host events and more.

“We looked at how engaged their social following is, but more importantly, making sure these brand ambassadors work with the Fivestar culture: good character, good work ethic, competitive nature, all-in mentality,” McNeally said.

Harrison, also a Severna Park resident, said it has been fun to be on the advisory board and watch the app develop over the last few years.

“As an athlete, you have highlights of yourself and I think there’s a little apprehension about posting your highlights on Instagram, Twitter, whatever, because you’ll get hammered by your friends for posting your own highlights, and two, the comments that come along with that,” he said. “With Fivestar, the app was created for you to do that, so there’s no ambiguity or weirdness about posting your highlights; that’s what you’re supposed to do.”

Harrison sees the app as a tool that is also valuable for coaches.

“From an evaluation standpoint, if you’re a coach, there’s so many applications to how it can be used,” Harrison said. “If you’re running an event and you’re selecting a team, you can post all your highlights there. So you know if the coach or staff members who are running said team tell their players, ‘Post your highlights here and use this hashtag,’ they can easily filter highlights of the players they want to select as opposed to going to YouTube and watching 10-minute videos with rap music blaring. It’s a streamlined process.”

Users can download the app and



# Greater Severna Park And Arnold Chamber Of Commerce Update

» Continued from page 61

mixed use, special use, investment, development, land, automotive and maritime industries. They connect businesses with locations, investors with investment properties, property owners with management solutions, and commercial real estate professionals with the resources they need to provide best-in-class services to their clients from boardrooms to boatyards, main streets to market houses, and the “corridor” to the “shore.”

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August began with a wonderful grand opening and ribbon-cutting celebration for **Kheloney Inc.**, a new play and learning center in Glen Burnie. Owned by pediatrician Miral Khalil, Kheloney means “toys” in Urdu and represents the fun and playfulness at the heart of its philosophy. Children can explore toys, books, music, languages and crafts in their own way, in their own time, and in a relaxed, sociable and safe environment. This was a multi-chamber event with the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce.

Next was **National Night Out (NNO)**, celebrated by millions of neighbors across the country. It is an opportunity to bring residents together with law enforcement and first responders in a festive atmosphere. Our NNO was held at **Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company** and engaged thousands of people of all ages with food, games, demos, tours and more. We were a proud sponsor and participant.

We held a multi-chamber/business connections breakfast at the beautiful **Maritime Conference Center** in Linthicum. Members from 10 organizations participated in this speed networking event to build contacts and grow their businesses. The Maritime Conference Center is a gorgeous venue offering hotel rooms, spacious conference facilities and an auditorium with the latest technology for presentations. Hallways are adorned with seven-foot models of seafaring vessels and centuries of Merchant Marine history.

Another ribbon-cutting celebration was held for **Stretch.Bliss Wellness** in Glen Burnie. Owner Gigi Burkhalter rang in one year of business success after undergoing an almost insurmountable battle with breast cancer during the pandemic. Gigi will be the keynote speaker at our October Successful Women in Business luncheon. Stay tuned for more details.

The **Severna Park Voice** was the sponsor of our TGIF cookout held at the chamber near the end of August. It was so much fun and well attended. We are always so grateful to the *Voice* for covering events and member stories, the great work on the Business and Community Guide, and for this column!

Trish May of Keller Williams Integrity sponsored a Junkluggers event where people could “e-cycle” their old computers, TVs, old printers and other tech items. Junkluggers will take items and recycle them properly, repurpose or donate — not take it to the landfill.

Bernward Mechanical and Construction Solutions has a new CEO and we participated in a meet and greet for Chris Taylor, who is taking over the reins. In addition, we celebrated founder Carl Neimeyer's birthday and the company's Small Business Administration award win for veteran-owned business. Carl also held a blood drive.

Please check out our website calendar for upcoming events ([www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com)) and our Facebook page. You can reach me at [ceo@gspacc.com](mailto:ceo@gspacc.com) or 410-647-3900. Thank you for buying local and shopping small!

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# What Should Alzheimer's Caregivers Know?

**Brian M. Conrad**  
CFP  
Financial Advisor



If you have a family member who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, or is starting to show symptoms, you will face some challenges. Navigating the Alzheimer's experience involves a long journey, and there's no easy answer for how you can cope with your emotions. But you can at least address some of the financial issues involved to help give yourself a greater sense of control.

Here are some moves to consider:

**Plan for care costs and identify insurance coverage.** The list of Alzheimer's-related medical expenses is long and includes ongoing medical treatment, medical equipment, home safety modifications, prescription drugs and personal care supplies. As a caregiver, you'll want to know the extent of your loved one's health insurance: Medicare, supplemental policies, veteran's benefits if applicable, and so on. One big question is how much coverage they might have for adult day care services, in-home care services and full-time residential care services, and other long-term care options. Long-term care is one of the largest health care costs not covered by Medicare, so you'll want to determine if your loved one has a long-term care policy or another insurance policy with a long-term care rider.

**Identify assets and debts.** You'll need to know your family member's financial position, both

what they own — bank accounts, investments, property, etc. — and what they owe, such as credit card debt, a mortgage, lines of credit, and so on. This knowledge will be essential if you're granted power of attorney to take over your loved one's finances.

**Look for tax breaks available to caregivers.** If you're a caregiver, you may have to pay for some care costs out of pocket. Consequently, you could receive some tax credits and deductions. These benefits vary by state, so you'll want to consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligibility.

**Ensure necessary legal documents are in place.** As a caregiver, you may need to ensure some legal documents are in place, such as a durable power of attorney for finances, which lets you make financial decisions for your loved one with Alzheimer's, and a durable power of

attorney for health care, which lets you make health care and medical decisions on their behalf. It's important to have these and other necessary documents drawn up before someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's or when they're just starting to exhibit the earliest signs of the disease, so they can understand what documents they are signing.

If you wait until they no longer have this cognitive ability, things will get much more challenging. You could apply to become a conservator, which grants decision-making abilities similar to a power of attorney, but the conservatorship process takes time and could involve court procedures. To avoid this potential difficulty, work with your tax and legal professionals to ensure all the relevant legal documents are in-force and updated.

Finally, you don't have to go it alone. To help deal with the emo-

tional challenges of caregiving, you can find local Alzheimer's support groups that can offer practical suggestions for coping. As for the financial issues, consider working with a financial professional who can look at your family's overall situation and recommend appropriate actions.

A diagnosis of Alzheimer's will change the lives of everyone in your family. But as a caregiver, you can help ease the burden.

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

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.*

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

## Change The Way You Think About Maryland

» Continued from page 61

imagine we all are tangentially connected to a company that does business with a contractor or the federal government. The federal government is the heart that continues to beat and has been since 1776. We all benefit from being close to the heart.

Several of the richest counties in the country are near Washington D.C. Maryland has nine of the top 50 richest counties, as measured by median household income in the United States. Anne Arundel County had a median household income of \$100,798 in 2019, making it the 17th wealthiest county in the U.S. Howard

County is the sixth wealthiest county in the U.S. with a median household income of 121,160.

I consider myself lucky and blessed to live in Maryland. I grew up in a great state with wonderful people. However, the economy is dependent largely on tourism — and tourism involves big swings. Moving to Maryland has introduced me to the consistent economic environment this area provides.

I am convinced that we are all 30 percent wealthier due to living in Maryland. The next time you want to say how bad Maryland is, think about how fortunate you are to have

economic comfort and the beautiful Chesapeake Bay around you.

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## RIBBON CUTTING



## Stretch.Bliss Wellness Hopes To Encourage Healthier Lifestyles

*Stretch.Bliss Wellness owner Jiselle Burkhalter celebrated the one-year anniversary of her business, with company from the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce on August 23. Burkhalter and her team encourage, motivate and support people in their journeys to maintain healthier lifestyles. Stretch.Bliss Wellness is located at 103-C Crain Highway South in Glen Burnie.*



## Do you know the real **Amanda FIEDLER** record?

- Voted to DEFUND millions from Police, Sheriff, Detention, and Fire  
(BILL NO. 32-21 amend No. 88; BILL NO. 26-20 amends No. 87-89, 94, 97, 118-119, 122, 124, 137, 142, 154; BILL NO. 29-19 amends No. 51, 53, 63, 68)
- Voted to slash the education budget & refused to fund teachers  
(BILL NO. 32-21, BILL NO. 26-20, BILL NO. 29-19 amend No. 83)
- Voted AGAINST children's health & vaccine access  
(BILL NO. 89-21)
- Sided with gun dealer profits over police-recommended security to prevent smash-and-grab robberies that put illegal guns on the streets  
(BILL NO. 109-21)
- Voted to AGAINST our district's capital projects like the Broadneck Peninsula Trail & Anne Arundel Community College, including targeting them for CUTS  
(BILL NO. 32-21 amend No. 71, BILL NO. 26-20, BILL NO. 29-19 amend No. 96)
- D-grade by Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
(Maryland League of Conservation Voters Anne Arundel Co. 2020 Mid-Term Report Card)
- Voted to REWARD contractors who pay substandard wages with county capital improvement contracts (BILL NO. 72-21)

"[The incumbent] claims to support property tax cuts, income tax cuts, school resource officers, bike paths, school safety additions & increased spending on school infrastructure. The problem with his statements is that all of these cost money or are included in the annual county budget..."

**Words are meaningless if they aren't supported by actions.**

**"We can do better."**

-Amanda Fiedler explaining in her own words why you should not give the incumbent a 2<sup>nd</sup> term

(Source: Amanda Fiedler LinkedIn, 2018)

*Ready to serve and bring real-world leadership and experience to Anne Arundel County Council*



### **Veteran & Professional Engineer**

- Commissioned officer in the Naval Civil Engineer Corps
- Two combat tours with the "Seabees" of NMCB-5
- Oversaw over \$250 million in federal construction projects



### **Business Owner**

- Founder of Severna Park-based service-disabled, veteran-owned small business



### **Trustee (responsible for fiscal oversight)**

- UA Local 486 Medical Benefits Fund
- Balt.-Washington Laborers Joint Training Fund



### **Board Member**

- Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association



### **Community Volunteer**

- Cubmaster & Scouts BSA Merit Badge Counselor
- St. John the Evangelist Building Committee Chair (2014-18)
- Broadneck Baseball & Softball Club coach



### **Building Design & Construction Magazine's "40 Under 40" (2015)**



### **Maryland's Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year (2022)**

"[Carl Neimeyer's] experience as a local business and a union business will be invaluable on the Anne Arundel County Council."

-Baltimore/Washington Laborers District Council (April 4, 2022)

# CARL NEIMEYER



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Jessica

HAIRE

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General Election ★ November 8, 2022

## MEET JESSICA HAIRE

As your next County Executive, I will bring *common-sense, pro-active* and *efficient solutions*. I will end the pattern of reactive and ineffective governance.

— Jessica

## WHY I'M RUNNING ...

### ★ REDUCE COST OF LIVING & TAXES

My opponent increased income taxes by 12% and circumvented the voter-imposed property tax cap, costing the average family more than \$1,700 over the last four years. Inflation is growing at a record rate — which is reflected in the price of gas and groceries. **I will reverse the income tax increase, cut property taxes, and reduce fees.**

### ★ REDUCE CRIME

Violent crime is up over 5% in the county. Police retirements are at an all-time high, and recruitment is at an all-time low. **I will add positions and retain police officers by supporting our police with the tools and policies necessary to improve safety in our communities.**

### ★ PROTECT FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT

As an engineer, I understand the pressure overdevelopment puts on our roads and schools. I will protect our infrastructure and preserve the character of our existing communities.

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