

Falcons, Bruins
Stack Up Wins

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Severna Park
Hosts Marching
Band Event

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OCTOBER 2022

Dragon Boat Club Holds Breast Cancer Fundraiser



By Alyson Kay

The Annapolis Dragon Boat Club kicked off Breast Cancer Awareness Month with its inaugural Dragonfest event at the club's home port, Pier 4 Marina in Annapolis. The event featured live music by the band Space-Krafft, raffles, and a silent auction for a variety of prizes.

Dragon boating has a long history dating back over 2000 years in ancient China. The sport was originally used

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A Coaching Giant

Hall Of Fame Honoree Andy Borland Reflects On Life Of Coaching, Mentorship

By Judy Tacyn

Former Severna Park High School coach and athletic director Andy Borland will be honored with the Bernie

Walter Memorial Award for exemplary service to county athletics on October 12 during the 31st annual Anne Arundel County Sports Hall of Fame banquet in Annapolis.

Borland arrived in Maryland in 1962 to teach high school physical education because his annual salary would be \$2,000 more than he could make in his native North Carolina. If it was the money that brought him to Anne Arundel County, it certainly wasn't what has kept him

here for the last 60 years.

Borland is honored to be recognized by the county with an award named after Walter, a coach whose career spanned four decades, though Borland is not sure he should be considered a "legend."

"A legend is a myth, and a myth is a lie," said Borland in his humble North Carolina drawl. "No matter how good you think you are, there is always somebody better."

During this interview, not once did Borland mention the buildings, gyms or rooms that bear his name. Not once did he mention his 145-108 record during his 25 years as head football coach at Severna Park, or that his win total ranks among the highest for Anne Arundel County coaches,

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Shoptoberfest To Offer Fall Fun

For the third year, Shoptoberfest will come to the Park Plaza shopping center in October, inviting area residents to enjoy entertainment, a costume contest for kids and dogs, and items from more than 60 exhibitors. This year's event is set for October 22 from 11:00am

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Margueritte Mills Volunteer Of The Month

Bonnie Sysko Serves Smiles With A Side Of Rhythm

By Mark Patton

When Bonnie Sysko sits behind her drum kit, the smiles from the audience begin before a single beat has been played.

The crowd isn't a typical one, though. For 20 years, Sysko has been spreading the joy of music with sing-alongs at assisted living and nursing residences in the region.

During a September 26 sing-along at Sunrise of Severna Park, about 30 senior residents of the facility were belting out songs from their youth while tapping their feet and nodding their heads.

With Sysko's steady hands dosing out the rhythm, the other volunteers from Assistance League of the Chesapeake encouraged the residents to join in and sing along.

"It's really a wonderful gift they give to our seniors," said Kimberly Best, activity and volunteer coordinator at Sunrise of Severna Park. "Bonnie takes time to pick music that the residents know."

Sysko, who is blind, said the volunteers have as much fun as the residents.

"Although I cannot see the smiles, I can sense the energy in the room and am happy to know that everyone is having a good time," Sysko said.

As well as drumming and chairing the sing-alongs for seniors, Sysko is currently the bylaws chair and parliamentarian of Assistance League of the Chesapeake, a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to improve the lives of children and adults through community-based programs.

Sysko's penchant for spreading joy comes as no surprise to her sister,



Photos by Mark Patton

During a September 26 sing-along at Sunrise of Severna Park, Bonnie Sysko played drums for about 30 senior residents of the facility.

Laurie Brautigam, who recently moved to Jacksonville, Florida.

"Bonnie's whole life has been to do for others," Brautigam said. "She's just a really good person."

Sysko, who is a Shipley's Choice resident, is a charter member of the Assistance League of the Chesapeake. In addition to the sing-alongs for seniors, Assistance League of the Chesapeake offers a variety of services such as providing uniforms for school children in need as well as running a program that utilizes puppets to talk with elementary school students about bullying.

"I just like to help whoever I can, wherever I can, whenever I can," said Sysko, who is married with four kids and seven grandchildren.

Sysko's fellow volunteer, Michele Kelly, spoke about one sing-along event where the group was approached by a man asking for a particular song to be played so that he could sing it to his wife who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

After the song was over, Kelly said a tear ran down the wife's cheek as she leaned over and kissed her husband. It was the first kiss she'd given in four years.

"Studies have shown that hearing and participating in these songs from their past is beneficial to seniors and can often improve their mood and behavior," Sysko said. "Even those suffering with severe memory loss have actively participated in the sing-alongs, much to the surprise of their caregivers."

During the recent sing-along at Sunrise of Severna Park, the residents were led into "When You're Smiling." Perhaps there's no better way to summarize the impact that Sysko's group has

on the residents than to hear the seniors singing the lyrics in unison while expressions of joy spread across their faces.

"When you're smilin', when you're smilin', the whole world smiles with you. When you're laughin', when you're laughin', the sun comes shining through."



Stride For SPAN

Want to help families in your community? The Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot fundraiser is set for November 5 at Kinder Farm Park in Millersville. The event includes a 5K at 9:00am and a one-mile fun walk at 9:30am.

SPAN is an emergency assistance network that has been helping its neighbors since 1990. The organization assists with utilities, eviction prevention, medical needs, infant supplies and food disbursement.

Registration is \$20 for the walk and for 5K teams of four or more people; \$25 for participants 18 and under; and \$35 for runners over age 18. To learn more, search for "2022 Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot" on www.active.com.

Shoptoberfest To Offer Fall Fun

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to 3:00pm.

"It is a great event to bring the community together with our businesses and nonprofits to build face-to-face relationships," said Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz League, whose organization plans the event.

"It is a 'shop local' event that also educates the community on the importance of supporting local businesses as they create jobs, provide desired goods and services, and keep their tax dollars local to support community initiatives."



This year's gold sponsors are SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park and the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi. Both businesses will donate \$500 to charities of their choice.

"We do have new businesses this year, including Ace Handyman Services, and we expect this to be a sold-out event with over 60 exhibitors," League said.

The exhibitors will have a Halloween vibe at their tables with treats and giveaways.

Shoptoberfest is free and fun for people of all ages. The kids costume contest will be held at 1:00pm, and the dog costume contest is scheduled for 1:30pm.



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WHAT MIDTERM ELECTIONS MEAN FOR THE MARKET

With **midterm elections** coming up, it is important to keep in mind how it might effect the stock market and your investment portfolio. Look for my thoughts, and let's sit down to see how we can get you prepared for your **golden years** with a **personalized retirement portfolio!**



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Dragon Boat Club Holds Breast Cancer Fundraiser

» Continued from page 1

by villagers to wake the hibernating, heavenly dragon spirit around the summer solstice.

The sport's popularity among breast cancer survivors started in the 1990s. Dr. Don McKenzie discovered that exercise could reduce the risk of lymphedema, a swelling caused by removal or weakening of the lymph vessels and nodes. Lymphedema can be caused by surgeries or radiation.

McKenzie used dragon boating for his studies. Since then, the sport has become a popular way for breast cancer survivors to gather and do full-body exercise to aid in recovery.

Typically, dragon boating involves 22 people in a 48-foot-long boat. A drummer at the front keeps tempo with the front paddlers and sets the tempo for paddlers in all three sections. The front section breaks the water and sets the initial pace, the middle section provides a lot of the power, and the back section helps steer and keep the boat steady.

The Annapolis Dragon Boat Club was started in 2010 by Mike Ashford, an Annapolis breast cancer survivor and founder of McGarvey's Saloon and Oyster Bar, and Lorraine Tafra, a surgeon with Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis. Together, they reached out to breast cancer survivors in the area to start the club.

The club participates in races across the East Coast, as well as international festivals. Boats from multiple clubs compete. Most races are 500 meters long and last about two minutes.

Teams typically practice five times a week during the season. Roughly 50 percent of the club is made up of breast cancer survivors, who call themselves "breast cancer warriors."

Joni Krafft is a retired government employee with two adult children. She has been a member since 2012 and discovered the club through her friend, Ashford.

Krafft was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer in 1996. She went through chemotherapy and radiation, and she received a stem cell transplant.

"It was about a yearlong process," Krafft said.

Krafft enjoys how the club offers support for breast cancer survivors while focusing more on the sport and exercise.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to be around women who have been through the same experience, but it's not something that we dwell on," said Krafft, who serves as a coach and paddles at the front.

Severna Park resident Liz Carlin has been a member of the club since fall 2016 and serves as the treasurer on the board of directors. In 2014, she noticed a lump under her arm. She thought the lump was a bug bite, but when it didn't go away, she went to her doctor, who recommended a mammogram. After two mammograms and a biopsy, Carlin was told by an oncologist that the lump was probably not just fatty tissue as her other doctors had thought.

"I left the hospital, got in my car, drove around the parking lot three or four times trying to get my thoughts clear," Carlin said. "And then I stopped the car

and called my daughter."

Carlin's daughter, a nurse practitioner and oncology/breast cancer specialist who lived in Kensington at the time, reassured Carlin that she had the right people working with her.

"She knew exactly what to do for me and who to call," Carlin said.

In 2016, following chemotherapy, radiation and multiple surgeries, Carlin's daughter recommended that her mom meet with the Annapolis Dragon Boat Club and try the sport to aid in her recovery.

Carlin's first time in a dragon boat was a "soft paddle," where she just rode in the boat. The practice is meant for first-time dragon boat users and people still in treatment who are too weak to paddle strongly. Although she couldn't be very involved in paddling for the 2016 season, she quickly grew to like it.

"I was just smitten with it — the friendships, the camaraderie, and the fact that there were other people that had gone through exactly or very similar situations to me that I could talk to if I wanted to," Carlin said.

In 2017, Carlin participated in a fundraiser and Guinness World Record attempt to row a half marathon at Spa Creek. Carlin and the other women were nervous about paddling for three hours and 13 miles, but by the time the boat set off, the careful planning of the event paid off.

"It was a beautiful day," Carlin said. "The steerers of the boat had a plan. We switched gears. We switched drummers. We sang songs. It was just quite a party

on the boat."

A special part of the event was the participation of a woman in her early 40s who was a metastatic breast cancer survivor. She served as a drummer.

"She didn't have a lot of family around this area, so we sort of adopted her," Carlin said. "And we knew, sadly, what the future might look like for her. Having her on the front of that boat leading us into the harbor at that last minute with her children standing by cheering was a very special moment for all of us."

The club achieved the world record.

In summer 2018, the club went to Italy for a dragon boat festival. It was Carlin's first time in Italy. During the festival, the 3,000 breast cancer survivors in attendance threw pink flowers into the Arno River to celebrate survivors and those lost to breast cancer.

"It really made a difference," Carlin said.

Carlin came up with the idea of Dragonfest to provide financial support for races, operating costs, boat replacement or repair, club trips, and outreach for new members. The next big club trip is the New Zealand Dragon Boat Festival in April 2023. Since the club has grown to more than 100 members, the women might purchase a third boat. The event also supported a variety of charities including Bosom Buddies Charities, Wellness House of Annapolis, and the Oyster Recovery Partnership.

For more information about the club or to donate, visit www.annapolisdragonboatclub.org. The club's email is info@annapolisdragonboat.org.

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Amanda kept her commitment to work for a stronger economy:

- Voted for tax cuts on our families and lowered taxes for seniors, veterans, and first responders
- Introduced and passed legislation that protects industries that are part of our history like farming, watermen, and local plant nurseries
- Cut red tape for small businesses to create more local jobs

Amanda kept her commitment to work to improve public safety:

- Passed legislation to improve safety on our roadways and in our county parks
- Voted for increased salaries of our police and fire to retain our valued first responders
- Supported funding for a new 9-1-1 call center
- *Amanda is the only council candidate in District 5 endorsed by the police*

Amanda kept her commitment to support education:

- Supported the increase of teacher salaries to keep our teachers here
- Voted for more mental health professionals in our schools
- Advocates for issues that impact families in our schools, including transportation and the needs of each school community

Amanda kept her commitment to oppose and prevent over-development:

- Introduced and passed legislation requiring more transparency from developers
- Voted against high-density development initiatives that would adversely impact our infrastructure and schools
- Secured more protection of forested conservation



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Spooktacular October Events

By Judy Tacyn

A chill in the air, browning leaves and pumpkin-spice delicacies on every menu are sure indications that it's fall in Severna Park. The community is packed

with fun activities for children, families, and adults, so get out and enjoy all that Severna Park and Arnold have to offer during this beautiful time of year. Here is just a sampling of what's happening.

Fall Fun Day (all ages; family)

Saturday, October 8

10:00am—3:00pm

Kinder Farm Park

Admission: free; some activities may require tickets

Kick off fall with this Severna Park festival favorite. Though a bit scaled down this year, the event will feature hayrides, scarecrow making, demonstrations, and kids activities including a pumpkin patch, and games and crafts. Tickets for the activities will be sold at locations throughout the event. Food and beverage vendors will also be available. The park entrance fee will be waived for the event.

Pumpkins in the Park (all ages; family)

Friday, October 21

5:00pm—9:00pm

Severna Park Community Center

Admission: at least one canned item per person, to be collected and donated to SPAN

The Woods Child Development Center and the Woods Church Children's Ministry invite families to join their neighbors for pumpkin decorating, Halloween games, spooky tunes, photo opportunities and good old-fashioned family fun. Several Halloween-themed activity stations will keep your costumed kiddos busy and engaged. This event is especially suited for pre-K through fifth-grade children, but everyone is welcome.



Season's Creepings Haunted Holiday Gala (adults)

Friday, October 21

7:30pm—11:30pm

Severna Park Elks Lodge 2482

Admission: ticket plus an unopened new toy

It's the Elks' 10th annual Halloween party and fundraiser kickoff benefiting Toys for Tots. An individual \$50 ticket includes dinner, drinks from the open bar, live music, dancing, and lip sync and costume contests. Group tickets are also available at executiveevents.ticketleap.com/seasonscreepings.

Troop 0152 Craft & Vendor Fair (all ages)

Saturday, October 22

9:00am—2:00pm

Severna Park Baptist Church

Admission: free

Get a jump on your holiday shopping by visiting the American Heritage Girls Scout troop craft and vendor fair. There will be many vendors selling handmade items, including goodies made by the troop girls. Anyone interested in being a vendor should contact mdu0152ahg@gmail.com for more information.

Spooky Cookie Decorating Workshop (all ages; family)

Wednesday, October 26

6:00pm—7:00pm

Broadneck Library

Admission: free

Take your cookie decorating to the next level with this seasonal workshop. All materials including pre-baked sugar cookies, frosting, piping bags and tips, and sprinkles will be provided. Learn decorating tips and tricks taught by a former cake decorator and have fun decorating sugar cookies. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult. The workshop cannot guarantee that food served at library programs has not come into contact with tree nuts, soy or other allergens.

Halloween Spooktacular (all ages; family)

Friday, October 28

5:00pm—9:00pm

Severna Park Community Center

Admission: Free

An event for the entire family, the Halloween Spooktacular at the Severna Park Community Center invites families to join in some pre-Halloween fun. Wear your costume and trunk-or-treat from 5:00pm—8:00pm. There will be games, crafts, a movie and treats in Boone Station Hall, dancing by the Dance Center of Severna Park members, vendors, a photo booth and more. If you're interested in becoming a vendor or hosting a trunk, reach out to Amy Holbrook at aholbrook@spcommunitycenter.org.

Story Time & Costume Parade (all ages)

Saturday, October 29

11:00am—12:30pm

Broadneck Public Library, Community Meeting Room

Admission: Free

Wear your Halloween costume and join the Broadneck Library for a Halloween themed story-time and party to celebrate the spooky season with some silly Halloween stories, a costume parade, and more treats and activities. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

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Severna Park Native Honored With Environmental Award

By Mark Patton

When Bryan Gomes accepted the 2022 Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award on September 27 at the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, it was a full-circle moment for the Severna Park native.

Gomes recalled a visit to the same outdoor center on a field trip in elementary school. It was a visit that he describes as a powerful experience.

"I'm accepting an award at a place that kind of made me realize how fascinating and engaging spending time in nature is," Gomes said.

Gomes has spent the last four years as the education coordinator at ClearShark H2O, a Hanover-based environmental nonprofit whose mission is to provide hands-on programs designed to enhance students with a passion and understanding of Maryland's waterways. Prior to that, Gomes worked at the Oyster Recovery Partnership, where he helped establish the Shell Recycling Alliance.

It's his work with Anne Arundel County students, along with his more than 20 years of environmental advocacy, that spearheaded his nomination for the annual Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award. Gomes became the 28th recipient of the award, which recognizes an individual or organization that has been especially effective in achieving environmental education in Anne Arundel County.

Michelle Weisgerber, a 2017 recipient of the Jan Hollmann award, worked with Gomes when she was the signature program facilitator at Broadneck High School.

"Bryan's longstanding commitment to environmental education is commendable and makes him stand apart," said Weisgerber, who is on the committee for the award. "He put himself on the map with his work with oyster restoration and has continually educated himself on the environmental issues we face both locally and globally."

Gomes' love of the outdoors didn't come from the classroom. He has undergraduate degrees in psychology and marketing and a master's degree in education.

"My science is all osmosis," Gomes said.

But it was also family, especially his late mother and his uncle, who inspired Gomes to appreciate nature. Gomes even calls his mom's older brother, his uncle George Gavutis Jr., his "outdoor idol."

So it was a rewarding moment for Gomes to have his uncle, who is now retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, come from his 22 acres in New Hampshire, where Gavutis Jr. taps his own maple sugar trees, to introduce Gomes at the ceremony.

"All his family and associates are very proud of him and all he has accomplished, especially in the pursuit of environmental education and his work on oyster restoration," said Gavutis Jr. "I know he has positively influenced innumerable young lives during his outstanding career."

Gomes' work with area students, where he averages about a dozen educational programs a month for elementary to high school age kids, focuses on various topics such as the importance of oysters, the natural history of the Chesapeake Bay, and carbon emissions and plastic pollution in waterways.

"I know that every time I work with a kid, that I'm making a difference in their life," Gomes said.

He admits that he sometimes sees a bit of himself in the students when he notices that spark in their eyes. But he feels even more passionate when he sees the disengaged child, and he thrives on working to show them that nature is fun.

"I can bring over a piece of line and teach a simple knot to a kid, and they get it, and then I see that spark too," said Gomes, describing the self-confidence boost that he observes. "A little nautical knot is going to now empower a kid to feel like, 'Hey, I can do this. I can have fun and be outside.'"



Photo by Mark Patton

During the winter months, Gomes does a presentation for environmental groups in Ocean City, where he centers the talk around "getting comfortable being uncomfortable in the great outdoors." It's also a mantra that he believes is important for both students and teachers to take to heart.

From Gomes' high school days as being a self-described "pond rat" to college breaks spent lifeguarding at the Olde Severna Park beach, where he recalls seeing children catching soft-shell crabs and squealing with delight, his outdoor adventures haven't stopped in his adult years. Gomes has since thru-hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, which runs from Georgia to Maine. He's kayaked the entirety of the Chesapeake Bay from Havre de Grace, Maryland, to Virginia Beach. Gomes has also spent time in New Zealand, learning about aquaculture and sustainable resource management, and the Galapagos, learning about Darwin's studies of evolution and the island's biodiversity.

"I think everyone needs to find a personal space outside where they can go when they're feeling stressed or overwhelmed," said Gomes, emphasizing the unique nature that the Chesapeake region offers. "You can't drive more than 10 minutes in this county without going over a bridge, a creek or a stream."

The connected waterways theme is an important thing that Gomes shares with students in the classroom environment as well. It's the same kind of connection that led Gomes from a wide-eyed child learning about nature at a local outdoor center to years later accepting an environmental award at the same location.

"It was a pleasant surprise, and I'm definitely honored and humbled by that award," Gomes said.

Nonprofit Life Of Joy Reaches Three-Year Milestone

By Sarah Sternhagen
Student Intern

The nonprofit Life of Joy Foundation celebrated its three-year anniversary on September 22. Life of Joy was founded with the mission of taking a holistic approach to mental illness and suicide prevention.

Founder Joy Cortina knows that many factors contribute to a person's mental health and her nonprofit aims to be a resource in the community for those who are struggling. Between Life of Joy Day, the nonprofit's band and mental health first aid days, Life of Joy is determined to have an active presence.

"Our whole mission is around fostering this holistic approach and really wanting to help people look at it from this mind, body, spirit perspective and not just your traditional psychiatric approach," Cortina said.

The nonprofit was founded by Cortina in September 2020 and with the volunteer

efforts behind it, Life of Joy got off to a great start.

Part of Cortina's motivation to start Life of Joy was her own experiences with mental illness and loved ones around her dealing with thoughts of suicide.

Find the full story at
www.severnaparkvoice.com.

Former Arnold Woman Now Lives In War-Torn Ukraine

By Diane Lewis

Growing up in Arnold, Claire Woodfin didn't imagine that she would someday find herself living in the middle of a war.

In 2007, Woodfin met her Ukrainian husband online. Their friendship grew while they both taught English in Hungary.

Before settling into her new married life in a rural southern region of Kyiv in 2020, she had visited Ukraine only a few times.

"People who have never been to Ukraine don't realize that it is a very vibrant, colorful country with people living free and happy lives," Woodfin said. "The values here are more like the European Union (EU) than the Eastern bloc countries."

That "colorful country" was invaded by Russia in February 2022.

"When the war first began, signs to towns and villages were covered by tarps or taken down so that Russian soldiers did not know what area they were in," Woodfin said. "The Russian soldiers can't have cellphones and the old Russian tanks don't have GPS capabilities."

The biggest boost to Ukrainian morale and fighting was the shipment of arms from the United States, Woodfin said.

"The weapons gave the Ukrainians a lot of hope, and the improved weapons are no match for the old ones used by the Russians," Woodfin said. "I haven't seen any fighting in this area, but the air raid sirens used to go off a lot when the war first began, now it is only occasion-



Before settling into her new married life in southern Kyiv in 2020, Claire Woodfin had visited Ukraine only a few times.

ally, and it is not for the lesser populated rural areas."

Woodfin is proud to see how Ukrainians have responded to the Russian invasion.

"Ukrainians are proud, strong, and resourceful people and are especially united in their hatred toward Russia, which has been their oppressor for nearly 200 years," Woodfin said.

Woodfin lives with her husband's family. At one point during the war, her in-laws' house was sheltering 13 extra family members who left their home for safety. Woodfin's in-laws run errands and bring back supplies so she can stay safely at home with her 10-month-old son.

"Ukrainians now work and shop in areas not directly under threat; their attitude is that the enemy will not crush their spirit or life with the war," Wood-

fin said. "Rural life started looking more normal when the weather got warmer and the threat of large groups of people being targeted with bombs lessened in areas not under siege."

Woodfin said supplies are not as scarce as they used to be, and shipping is another aspect of life that the Ukrainians are determined to not be affected by the war.

"Ukrainians are not hoarders; they are community-minded and will share supplies among neighbors and friends," Woodfin said. "When I needed diapers, my mother-in-law got some from friends in the neighborhood until they were available for purchase."

Despite that unity from the Ukrainian people, the war is creating many challenges.

"I want people in the U.S. to know that in occupied areas and on frontlines,

life is hell," Woodfin emphasized. "In most unoccupied areas, everyone is doing everything they can to live normally, as a way of defying the Russians. There are times where I don't feel the war, where I don't hear a siren, for days. But that sense of tedious normalcy can be shattered any minute by a missile, or maybe even something worse, and we live with that tension — as well as the grief — for what others in the country are going through."

Woodfin's husband filters the war news to keep his wife from getting anxious. For anyone who can help, she recommends donating to the National Bank of Ukraine and other humanitarian aid efforts.

"We are a family," Woodfin said. "I will not leave Ukraine until my husband is not duty bound because of the war and can leave freely with me and our son."

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AAUW Book Events To Benefit County Women

By Mark Patton

The Anne Arundel County chapter of the American Association of University Women has announced the dates and locations of its upcoming book events, a donation and sale, that help fund college scholarships for women in the county.

Scholarships from the proceeds of the book sales are awarded annually to Anne Arundel County women who are starting their higher education journey or have graduated from Anne Arundel Community College and are continuing studies at four-year schools.

According to the organization's website, approximately 85 percent of the money raised at the book sale is awarded to women who apply for and are chosen to receive one of the scholarships. AAUW has awarded 11 scholarships this year alone.

The mission of the AAUW is to empower women through education and career development. In the case of a 2017 recipient of one of the scholarships, mission accomplished.

Arnold resident Stevie Fruehling was juggling the balance of being a single mom, going to school and working part-time jobs. That's when somebody at her college alerted her to the opportunities that were available through AAUW. She subsequently applied, was interviewed and awarded a scholarship.

"It really came at a pivotal point,"

Fruehling said.

Since graduating from Anne Arundel Community College, Fruehling has completed her bachelor's degree in psychology and earned a Master of Social Work degree.

Fruehling credits AAUW for giving her the means and motivation to keep pursuing her education and career goals.

"They inspired me to continue and believe in myself," said Fruehling, who was recently promoted to program director at the Annapolis-based Samaritan House.

Donations of used books in good shape can be brought to the parking lots of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church in Severna Park, the Anne Arundel County Community College parking lot in Arnold across from the Y in Central Maryland, and the Annapolis-based St. Philip's Episcopal Church from 9:00am to noon on October 15.

The used book sale will be held November 3-6 at Park Plaza, 560-F Ritchie Highway. Thursday's sale will be open from 8:00am to 10:00am for presale and dealers with the community sale open from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Friday and Saturday hours are scheduled from 9:00am to 7:00pm and Sunday from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Additional information about AAUW and its programs can be found at [an-nearundelcounty-md.aauw.net](http://nearundelcounty-md.aauw.net).

Read the full story at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

Round Bay Golf Event Raises \$5,000 For Earleigh Heights VFC



Committee members Dan Flagler, Korky Onal, Erin Gruver and Howard Carolan presented the \$5,000 check to Mike Sohn, vice president of the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company.

The Round Bay community held a golf tournament fundraiser for the second straight year, raising \$5,000 for Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company.

"This year's tourney benefited Earleigh Heights given they are a volunteer company that relies on community support to help fund their operations and equipment needs," said Round Bay resident Erin Gruver.

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company Chief Dave Crawford said the money will go toward the

fire company's new \$1.3 million rescue squad.

"The funds are greatly appreciated," he said.

Bill Bearisto, Ellen Kleinknecht, Paul Keller and Scott Kleinknecht won the tournament.

The event was made possible by 12 businesses including two gold-level sponsors: Westport Group and LaBarge Financial. Round Bay would like to thank all the business sponsors, volunteers and community members who made the event successful.



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BWMC Celebrates The Power Of Caring



The BWMC Foundation held its Power of Caring gala October 1 at Live! Casino & Hotel, raising \$425,000, which will allow the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center to continue providing high-quality health care to the community. The event also honored the UM BWMC team members and those who support them. The special evening included cocktails, silent and live auctions, dancing and mission-driven programming.



ZackFest Gives Golfers A Reason To Feel Blessed



Photo courtesy of Jackie Dunkel/Slamdunk Photography

The Zack Knight Foundation Inc. held its annual ZackFest golf fundraiser September 17. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Zack Knight Foundation honors the legacy of 2006 Severna Park High School graduate Zack Knight.

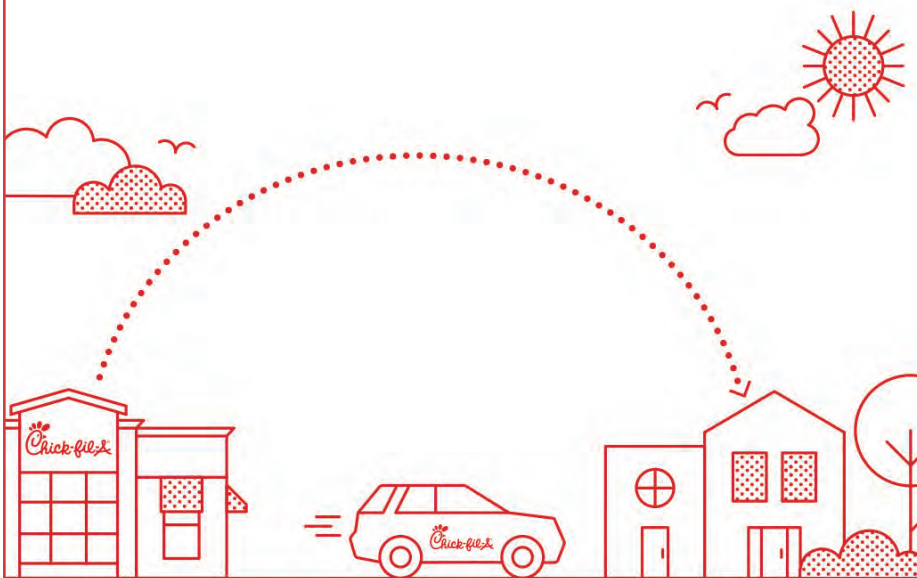
The annual golf fundraiser is an opportunity to enhance connections and build community while focusing on the mission to “acknowledge and recognize the good in others.” The foundation awards Severna Park High School, Anne Arundel Community Col-

lege and Salisbury University students who are positive role models, exemplifying leadership skills such as inclusiveness, selflessness, and kindness that impacts and enhances the lives of others.

Several supporters attended the tournament including Severna Park Taphouse owners Jessica and Mark Tinordi, Bill and Brooks Chalmers of The Grill at Quarterfield Station, Matt Wyble and agent Jeannie Parker of the Matt Wyble Team of CENTURY 21 New Millennium, and many more.

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Valerie Gardiner
Chartwell
Garden Club



tion garden plots. It was time for change, and the Chartwell Garden Club (CGC) was up for the job!

The CGC was established in Severna Park in 1963 and currently has 25 active members. Among many other projects, the CGC has designed and maintained three plots by the Earleigh Heights station since the 1990s. The CGC has received recognition through various awards, and the CGC is one of 80 clubs in five districts across the state that make up the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland Inc. There are 10 garden clubs in District II of Anne Arundel County.

Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland volunteers take on projects that encourage the protection of our natural resources. They are committed to the preservation and protection of our roadsides and parks. The B&A Trail, right in our neck of the woods, was designated a Millennium Legacy Trail in 1998 in a ceremony at the ranger station led by then First Lady Hillary Clinton. It was a huge honor for our county to receive this recognition and Chartwell's gardens were a focal point.

As our climate has changed over the decades, those of us who spend time in our yards and gardens have learned we need to adapt our plantings to encourage healthy biodiversity. Accordingly, the CGC gardeners tweak the plots every

few years to be more environmentally friendly. For example, in 2007, volunteers redesigned the two triangles into butterfly gardens to aid in the preservation of the dwindling monarch butterfly population. Plantings in that spot need to withstand direct sunlight, thrive with limited watering, encourage pollination, and also create a happy place for bees and other insects that are so crucial for the survival of our planet.

We have COVID to thank for the latest reincarnation of the garden plots. Yes, COVID! With declining membership and in-person meetings on hold during the pandemic, the club's funds also took a hit. Fundraising events were non-existent, so club members had to get creative. How could they work from home and still make a difference in the world?

After several brainstorming sessions in January 2022, the CGC decided to apply for a grant from Unity Gardens to help cover the costs of improving and updating their existing ranger station plots. Unity Gardens is an Anne Arundel County nonprofit that supports the creation of native gardens. Garden club members also made personal donations to match the grant and get the project off the ground (or in this case, "in the ground").

The CGC owes many thanks to the hard work of CGC member Sally Sachse, who put the grant proposal together. The project also owes a big thanks to local gardening enthusiasts Allison Milligan and Karen Royer, for the design work, expertise and guidance they provided.

The B&A Ranger Station portion of the trail now boasts an amazing biodiversity garden, chock-full of native plants to provide adequate food for important pollinators. So next time you are out for a walk or a bike ride on the trail, check out the hard work of those dedicated gardening volunteers. Here's to many bees and butterflies in our future!



Severna Park Couple Celebrates 70th Anniversary



Ann and Aubrey Jones, 45-year residents of Severna Park, celebrated their 70th anniversary on October 4.

The Freedom Choir Launches At SPCC



After a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic, The Freedom Choir will launch a new fall session in two locations beginning the first week of October. The goal of this welcoming and unique community choir is to "liberate your voice." No audition or prior experience are required.

During the pandemic, the choir's Annie award-winning director, Elizabeth Melvin, led a weekly community sing on Zoom with hundreds of attendees and song leaders from around the globe. For many of the warmer months, a small group of singers from The Freedom Choir also met weekly to sing outside under Melvin's guidance. Now the choir is ready to open its doors and welcome singers of all levels to experience the joy of singing in a friendly, supportive community.

The repertoire of songs is eclectic and uplifting, drawing from a wealth of traditional and contemporary

sources. Easy chants, rounds, layer and harmony songs are all taught by rote with no score, with lyrics and recordings provided on the choir website for practice. The stress-free musical atmosphere leaves singers feeling restored, peaceful and energized.

The eight-week session began October 6 from 7:30pm-8:45pm at Boone Station Hall, next to the Severna Park Community Center, at 623 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard. With registration, choose one of two locations and days (also meeting on Wednesdays at 11:00am at St. Luke's Church in Annapolis) but singers are welcome to attend either one at any time. The cost is \$130 for the session, with registration online at www.thefreedomchoir.com

Want to try out the choir? Drop-ins are welcome any time for \$20. To reserve a drop-in space, email contact@thefreedomchoir.com and put "Drop-In" in the subject line.

Hall Of Fame Honoree Andy Borland Reflects On Life Of Coaching

» Continued from page 1

along with the likes of other coaching greats Al Laramore (Annapolis) and Joe Papetti (South River). Not once did he mention his teams' county or state final appearances or championships over his 34 years at Severna Park, or that during the 20 years he served as athletic director, the Falcons won 43 state titles, or the myriad of accomplishments and awards he's earned. The plaques, framed pictures and newspaper clippings that clutter the walls of his home office tell that story. None of those accomplishments or accolades are what Borland prefers to discuss.

In a 2012 interview with the *Capital Gazette*, Borland said, "Those are all history. What is important now is the time I have to give back to people who have been generous to Katie (his wife of 60 years) and me and to a community we love."

The young Borland initially sought a better paycheck in Severna Park. Now, 24 years after he retired from teaching and coaching, Borland would rather talk about the more valuable paychecks he continues to receive.

"I look forward to watching kids I've taught or coached do well in life or getting a note back from a former student or player telling me I did or said something that made an impact on their life. That's a paycheck," Borland said. "It doesn't matter how long it's been since I've been in the classroom or on the field; teaching and coaching continue to give me paychecks."

Borland loved teaching as much as coaching, and since his 1998 retirement, the four-sport coach has spent his "bonus years" giving back to Severna Park and Anne Arundel County.

A master woodworker and a member of the Annapolis Woodworkers Guild for more than 30 years, Borland hosts a group of men in his home workshop once a week, every week, year-round, as part of the guild's efforts to make more than 3,000 wooden toys for children in need. He mentors others on how to make intricate wooden boxes and other projects. During his tenure with the Severna Park Community Center, he spearheaded capital campaign efforts to raise more than \$5 million in the 2010s. Knowing there are kids playing with toys he's made, or kids using the SPCC facilities, are paychecks for Borland.

"Look, when you coach and teach and you've had as many good years as I've had, you want to give back to make Severna Park a better place," Borland said. "You coach after you quit coaching. You don't quit teaching just because you stop teaching."

Borland has a plaque from Kenny Dunn, an accomplished former

baseball coach at South River High School who won a state championship in his final season coaching. The plaque is inscribed with words like father, brother, coach — all words that represent what Borland meant to him. The note from Dunn reads, "Everything I learned about coaching I learned from you." Another paycheck for Borland.

"There isn't much of me. I am just glad I've had the opportunity to be a part of this community," said Borland, who considers Severna Park High School legendary coach and athletic director George Roberts a true legend. "All the kids I've crossed paths with have come from good stock. I just had the chance

to roll the stones. That's all there is to me."

Borland will be recognized by the Anne Arundel County Sports Hall of Fame for his contribution to athletics, but he understands that athletics aren't about the final score. Rather, athletics teach people how to work as a team, achieve a common goal and overcome failure.

"Get up the next day and worry about the next ball game, not the game you just got your hiney

whipped," said Borland, who long after his own playing days still cuts an impressive hulking figure. "Athletics teach life skills. I didn't just coach football; I coached life."

Borland recalls a compliment he received from a former player's parent. He said, "Andy is the kind of coach you want your son or daughter to have because it's not about the win; it's about the lesson."

"People ask me, 'Andy, do you miss it,' and I do miss it, but not how you think," Borland said. "I dreamed about it. I didn't dream about the games, I dreamed about teaching kids how to do the right things, or watching a boy become a man. Those are the important things in life. That's a paycheck for me."

He's not nearly as nimble now as he was in his youth, but he shows no signs of slowing down. Borland supports today's Falcons at games and events while taking time to talk to current and former players, parents and coaches.

"Just because I stopped coaching at the high school level doesn't mean a coach stops coaching. There are always more levels. A coach just doesn't stop. I don't feel like I stopped," Borland said. "I am going to be 83 and I haven't stopped coaching anywhere. I am still going. I've got too much still to live for."

He might not like the term "legend," but in the game of life, Andy Borland has proven he's the "GOAT," greatest of all time.

"I look forward to watching kids I've taught or coached do well in life or getting a note back from a former student or player telling me I did or said something that made an impact on their life. That's a paycheck."

— ANDY BORLAND

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Authority: Committee to Elect Dawn Gile; Cara O'Brien, Treasurer.

St. John Hosts Animal Blessing



Photo by Victoria Baker
Because of steady rain, St. John the Evangelist postponed its Blessing of the Animals event but held a smaller ceremony for a group of pet owners in attendance on October 2. The Roman Catholic tradition celebrates the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment.

New Pastor At Asbury Town Neck Church Continues Methodist Legacy

By Judy Tacyn

When the Rev. James Bishop retired from ministry in 2021 from Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church, the Rev. Tori Butler was appointed the 11th pastor. She is only the second female leader of the 134-year-old church. “Dr. Tori,” as she prefers to be called, believes she might be the youngest pastor as well. “I’ve been in other ministry settings where I was the first woman, first Black woman, or the youngest person on pastoral staff, but I’ve never been so embraced as a leader as I have been embraced here [at Asbury Town Neck UMC],” she said. “My church was looking for a leader



Reverend Tori Butler

“I hope that I can lead people in such a way that they trust where we are going.”

— REVEREND TORI BUTLER

with my gifts and my graces, so I don’t know if it mattered or not that I was a woman — if I was able to come help and revitalize ministry and get people excited about Jesus again,” Dr. Tori said.

Raised Catholic by a single mother in Baltimore City, Dr. Tori recalls feeling called to faith and ministry at a young age. “Even in the Catholic faith, I knew that women couldn’t be priests, but every day I saw the sisters faithfully and beautifully serving God,” Dr. Tori said. “I grew up with female pastors, so I never thought that women couldn’t be pastors and leaders.”

To lead the 365-member church
 » Continued on page 19

The Greatest Threat To Christianity In America

Pastor Stephen Mitchell
 Trinity Bible Church



I love Clint Eastwood westerns, so it’s no wonder that a particular scene from one of my favorites, “Pale Rider,” came to mind recently. In the film, a group of miners are under threat from a gang of intimidating men who are determined to drive the miners off the land. They almost succeed until Clint Eastwood’s character, Preacher, arrives to help them. The leader of the gang arranges to meet Preacher and he attempts to bribe him. He offers to build him a beautiful church, give him lots of money, new clothes and even opportunities to preach in the town square. All he would have to do is give up caring about what happens to the miners.

Preacher responds to this with a smile, and he says to the gang leader, “You can’t serve God and mammon both.” The church and specifically evangelical Christianity are facing a similar moment of temptation, and the allure that I believe is being used is the altar of partisan politics.

The great commission that Jesus gave his church is not to save America, but rather to save souls. Our mission is not, first and foremost, to win elections or to gain political power for favorable laws on issues we feel passionate about. It’s not even to win culture wars or to advance a political and ideological movement, even if some aspects of it align with our beliefs and worldview. Our mission is not to berate and hate on those we disagree with, but rather as “Christ’s love compels us” (2 Corinthians 5:14), our mission is to share and show Jesus Christ to our neighbors, and that is hard to do if you view your neighbor as the enemy.

To be clear, as an evangelical Christian, I believe in speaking up about issues where our faith and culture collide, and I also believe it’s important for Christians to be politically involved, to participate in our democracy and to prayerfully vote for candidates who would best represent Christian values. But where we can get into trouble is when we attempt to marry the gospel with politics or political ideology. We get into trouble when our identity as Christians becomes secondary to our political identity, and when we become obsessed with winning a political struggle that we neglect to do our part to win the spiritual one that is taking place every day for the hearts and minds of those around us.

Over the years, I’ve written about various threats to evangelical Christianity in our society and culture. There are many challenges facing the church today, from increasing hostility toward Judeo-Christian values to the aftermath of COVID to the latest statistics showing a concerning

trend with shrinking Christian influence over the up-and-coming generations. And yet, personally, and pastorally, I believe increasing efforts to marry Christianity with partisan politics is the greatest danger and threat to the gospel and the church in our society. It strikes at the very core of what it means to be an evangelical Christian.

Are evangelicals known today in America for who they believe in and what they believe or for what politics they tend to support? Are we as passionate in talking about Jesus as we seem to be in talking about politics?

Voting a certain way or adhering to a left or right political philosophy is not the litmus test that the Bible gives for what it means to be a Christian. And yet these things are tempting the church in America to be focused more on the temporal and less on the eternal. The biblical truth is that evangelical Christians should not be regarded as just another special interest group that can be bought, but rather, we should be known as the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matthew 5:13,16).

Christianity is not right wing or left wing; it goes beyond the political and ideological tribes, which demand that we adhere and pledge unquestioned loyalty. Aspects of God’s word will step on the toes of liberals and aspects of God’s word will step on the toes of conservatives. The left-wing attempts to conform Jesus to its image, and the right-wing attempts to conform Jesus to its image, but if we truly follow him, he will be conforming us to his image.

Any marriage between the cause of Christ and political power throughout church history has always led to corruption and compromise. The stakes are too high to forget who our real enemy is. “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12).

The opportunity to stick out and speak up for Jesus is too great to pass up. God is not looking for us to be partisans but rather prophets in the times in which we live, to speak biblical truth in love. To remember that our identity is ultimately not in who we vote for or what political party affiliation we have but rather that we are “ambassadors for Christ as though God were making his appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:20). And we are commissioned to make that appeal to liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans.

As the highly upcoming contentious midterm election cycle approaches, we are blessed to have the opportunity and responsibility to vote. As evangelical Christians, we should prayerfully vote in accordance with our conscience and with who we believe would best serve the interests we hold dear in our faith
 » Continued on page 19

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The Greatest Threat

» Continued from page 17

and convictions. We should absolutely be involved in the political process we are blessed to have in this great country in which we live. And we should be absolutely prepared for whoever is elected to let us down, because they will. After it's all said and done, we will be reminded yet again that our only true hope is Jesus.

"Almost all crimes which Christians have perpetuated against each other arise from this, that religion is confused with politics." - C.S. Lewis

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

New Pastor At Asbury Town Neck Church

» Continued from page 17

out of the COVID era, Dr. Tori was tasked in July 2021 with establishing a re-entry task force team to determine what worship would look like. Using established COVID guidelines, she reinstated ushers to welcome members and to ensure order, safety, and pew spacing.

The same month she arrived, Dr. Tori was approached by a group of young people asking for Bible study. Passionate about reactivating young people and their voices after COVID, Dr. Tori thought she'd get something started in September. However, due to their persistence, the Bible study began in August.

"It was such a blessing and a joy to see and hear the young people," Dr. Tori said. "They wanted to be served and to be seen."

Described as a dynamic leader, Dr.

Tori is known for her energetic preaching style, which comes from being excited about the gospel of Jesus Christ and sharing with others the message that God is working in them.

"I hope that I can lead people in such a way that they trust where we are going," said Dr. Tori of her passion to empower others. "I look to see who's in the room, who's at the table, and most importantly, who's not, and being intentional about bringing someone not at the table to the table to have a voice."

Building on a long, rich history of community in Severna Park, Dr. Tori said her church is now in a visioning process to capture who they are now and who they want to become.

"This process is a collective conversation," she said. "We will honor what has gone before us, but if God is asking us to become something else, we must be open to becoming."

"This church, for me, is the best matched with my gifts that I've ever had. It's the best church I've ever served!" Dr. Tori exclaimed. "I am elated to be here and excited to see what God is going to do here."

Sunday service is at 9:00am, in person and livestreamed on www.asburytownneck.org. Masks are required for the in-person service.

Dr. Tori earned a bachelor's degree in history and international relations from McDaniel College, a master's degree in divinity from Duke University, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Emory University.

She spoke at the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington, D.C., in 2020, and is a contributor to "Do Not Be Afraid: Bishops & Young Clergy Share Signs of Resurrection & Words of Hope" and "I'm Black. I'm Christian. I'm Methodist."

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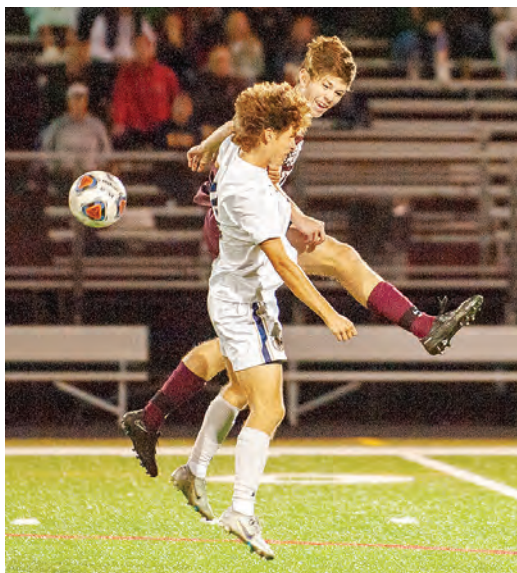
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Welsh, Tetteimer Lift Broadneck Over Severna Park



Photos by Zach Sparks

Above: Broadneck goalie Matt Tetteimer dove on the ball to preserve his team's lead. **Below Left:** Two players went airborne to vie for possession of the ball. **Below Right:** The Bruins' Patrick Robillard kicked the ball away from a Falcon attacker.



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The previously undefeated Falcons boys soccer team traveled to Broadneck on October 29, hoping to get their eighth win of the season. Instead, the Bruins improved to 8-1 after getting two set-piece goals from **Harlan Welsh**, seven saves from **Matt Tetteimer** and hustle from players throughout the lineup.

"I'm really proud of the way we gutted it out," said Broadneck head coach **Sean Tetteimer**. "It definitely was not pretty, but we pride ourselves this year on winning the first ball and being tough and being gritty, and that's exactly what we did tonight. Our guys deserve a lot of credit for grinding that game out because Severna Park's just fantastic."

Welsh scored the first goal on a throw-in about two minutes into the game.

"I think it was just kind of right place, right time," Welsh said after the game. "The first one kind of fell to me at the middle of the box, and it's just training at that point, hitting it home."

Severna Park came into the contest with four shutouts this season, so the Bruins knew goals would be hard-earned. The first half of play was physical, as both teams battled for possession. Just before halftime, Broadneck was able to get a scoring opportunity on a corner. Again, Welsh came up big for the Bruins, putting his team up 2-0.

"It was a good cross on both of them, and I was able to finish it," Welsh said.

Severna Park never relented. With about 11 minutes remaining in the second half, **Jeffery Chukwu** scored for the

» Continued on page 30

Falcon, Bruin Girls Battle To Scoreless Tie

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

In a potential playoff preview, the Severna Park and Broadneck girls soccer teams played a competitive game on September 29, tying 0-0 after double overtime.

The lack of scoring was no indication of the talent on display. The Bruins — without a loss entering October — and the Falcons — with only one loss, to Chesapeake — showed grit throughout the game.

"We've been struggling with consistency all season long, so even though we didn't play as pretty as we wanted it to be, we were happy with the effort," said **John Camm**, the head coach for Broadneck's varsity girls soccer team. "Severna Park is a very skilled team. They've got high aspirations this season, so to keep them shut out, to have our seventh shutout of the season, is nice."

Those shutouts include a 1-0 win over North County on September 7, a 1-0 win over Meade on September 22 and a 2-0 win against Old Mill on September 27. But the Bruins also have yet to score more than three goals in a game this season.

"We need to work on executing on our chances," said **Sadie Wilkinson**, a senior forward on the Bruins. "That's something that we've been struggling through this whole season: being able to score. We make a lot of chances, and we need to start scoring off them."

Severna Park was left with a similar feeling after the game: proud of the effort but disappointed with the result.

"It's a big rivalry for us, so we always know it's going to be a fight," said Severna Park's head coach, **Rick Stimpson**. "And the girls' effort today was exceptional. They played all the

way through to the last whistle. Just couldn't quite get over the line."

The Falcons had chances, with seven corners. Broadneck goalkeeper **Kyleigh Bland** had several key saves to keep Severna Park off the scoreboard.

"We worked really hard to get here and play with that much intensity, and we're all just supporting each other as a team and pushing hard to the end," Bland said.

Senior midfielder **Nevaeh Dowell** agreed that Broadneck is not far off from the complete team they want to be, and they tried to show that against their rival.

"It's Severna Park and they're our rival, so we were pumped and ready," she said. "This could be our only time playing them, so we wanted to come out and fast and play hard. We just knew we had to keep it up because we didn't want to lose."

Broadneck will continue to work on their execution during upcoming games against Arundel, Southern and South River.

"I think the results will start going our way toward the end of the year," Camm said. "But we put ourselves in a good spot for the county championship and to get a good seed [in the playoffs]."

Severna Park hopes to be in the county championship game as well. The Falcons will try to win upcoming games against Meade, Arundel and Old Mill.

"I'm really happy with the way we're playing," Stimpson said. "We're moving the ball well. We're winning the games where we get on top. We've had one blip so far, against Chesapeake, where we were a little flat. But other than that, I'm happy with the way we're playing. We just need to be consistent and keep pushing forward."



Photo by Zach Sparks

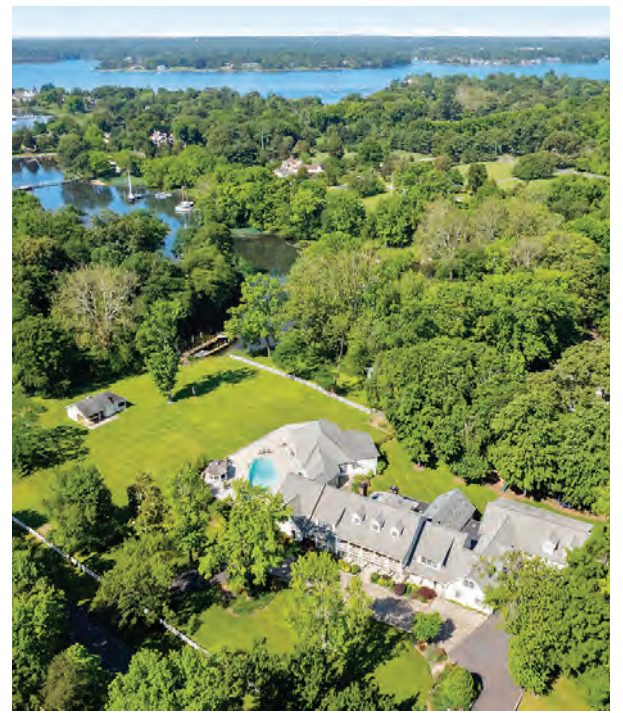
Nevaeh Dowell (left) and a Severna Park player fought for possession.



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Haughton Named Falcons Girls Lacrosse Coach



By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park High School has named Annie Haughton as its girls varsity head lacrosse coach for the 2023 season.

Haughton was previously the Falcons' JV girls lacrosse head coach and compiled a record of 56-1-1 since 2015.

She also works as the coordinator of the school's career readiness program. In that role, Haughton helps students prepare for college and career destinations.

A graduate of Frostburg State University, Haughton was a two-time captain and two-time Academic All-American on the women's lacrosse team. Haughton also has club lacrosse experience being the head coach of the API/East Coast select team.

"I love every aspect of coaching; it's the best part of the day," said Haughton, who coached the current varsity players when they were on her JV teams at SPHS.

"I truly believe that athletics and competition teach the players so many life lessons from leadership skills to time management and relationship building," Haughton said.

Haughton also appreciates the skill and knowledge her lacrosse players have before they enter the high school competition level.

"The players who I have coached on my JV squads are high-quality athletes and are well prepared by the Green Hornets feeder system, and we build upon that," Haughton said. "They bring great energy to practice, and we also have very supportive parents and community involvement."

Coaching at SPHS is rewarding because of the continued support of the booster program, high attendance at many games, and the parent-hosted team dinners, which galvanize the lacrosse team each year.

"The players want to learn, they work hard in practice, and have outstanding camaraderie because they have been teammates since they were in the Green Hornets organization," Haughton said.

Haughton wants to give back to the Severna Park community by offering clinics to the Green Hornets and planning summer camps. She also wants to invite lacrosse alumni to speak to current players.

Severna Park High School Volleyball Starts 4-2

Falcons Beat McDonogh 3-1 In Season Opener

By Conor Doherty

With wins over McDonogh, North County, Southern, and Maryvale Preparatory School, Severna Park's volleyball team got off to a fast start.

The winning streak began with the season opener. After falling behind 12-5, Falcons head coach **Tim Dunbar** called timeout to try and get his team regrouped. Despite the timeout, the McDonogh Eagles would go on to win the first set 25-18.

However, the game quickly turned as the Falcons held the Eagles to 13, 15 and 11 points in the final three sets.

Dunbar stressed that his team needs to be more aggressive from the start.

"I just don't think that we came out really ready to play like we can," Dunbar said. "We just weren't focused, and they were a bit more pumped up than we were. I told them that even when McDonogh had a big lead, if we fight back, all that momentum is going to change, and we'll be ready for the second set. We were kind of hesitant in the first set and we weren't hesitant after that."

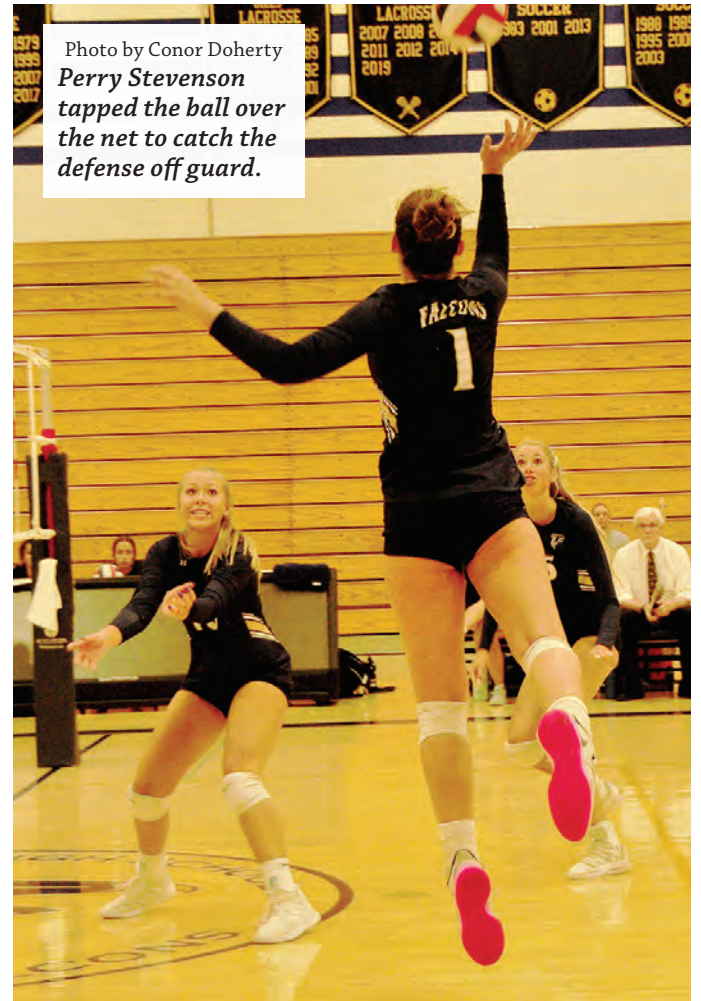
The Falcons comeback was led by three of their top players as **Ava Meadows** had seven aces, **Mikayla Williams** had 11 kills, and **Taylor Stone** had 39 of the team's 41 assists. Meadows is an important player for the Falcons, a four-year starter who never came out of this game.

Meadows hopes to build on the momentum the Falcons have gained after successful opening matches.

"I just want to play with my team — being a leader and making everyone feel confident and playing as a team," Meadows said.

In October, Severna Park will play Old Mill, Meade, Arundel, South River, Chesapeake and Northeast.

Photo by Conor Doherty
Perry Stevenson tapped the ball over the net to catch the defense off guard.



Hornets Hosts First 3v3 Tournament



"Basketball gets overlooked in Severna Park by lacrosse, baseball and soccer, so we are trying to change that by giving the kids opportunities to play all year." — **BEN BUTTERWEI, TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER & COACH**



More than 30 athletes ages 10 and 11 attended the inaugural Green Hornets 2030s three-on-three basketball tournament at the end of summer.



STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Jaden Smith

Broadneck Boys Soccer

By Conor Doherty

For most of the first half of their opening game of the season, the Broadneck boys soccer team was unable to get anything past Calvert's goalie. But just before halftime, senior midfielder and team captain Jaden Smith got the ball in the attacking half of the field, made a great move to get around a defender and sent in a crossing pass to Will Epley, who scored the game's opening goal. That sequence shows how important Smith is to the success of the Bruins. His ability to create opportunities for his teammates and score when he needs to, along with being a role model for his teammates, are reasons why he was named a team captain.

"Jaden is somebody who is totally committed to becoming a better player," said Bruins head coach Sean Tetteimer. "I've seen him train on his own many different times, and it is all business. I see other people come up here and they're hitting balls, they're messing around. He's got cones set up, he's doing agility moves through the cones, he's working with a defender. He's not taking any shortcuts; he really gets after his training.

"He carries that over when we have



Jaden Smith does not take any shortcuts when it comes to perfecting his craft. He is always working to improve.

“Regardless of the position I’m playing, I just try to help the team as best I can. Whether it’s getting a corner in, and we score off it, or taking a shot on my own. I try to lead my team through the way I play.”

— JADEN SMITH, BHS BOYS SOCCER

our team functions, and he is one of our best practice players,” Tetteimer said. “He’s a great leader, a good student, and he is somebody that all the players look up to and he’s got the right mindset for that.”

Smith said it’s gratifying to see that his hard work has paid off.

“Regardless of the position I’m playing, I just try to help the team as best I can,” Smith said. “Whether it’s getting a corner in, and we score off it, or taking a shot on my own. I try to lead my team through the way I play. So, I’ll be intense during practice and even during warmups. I’m trying to stay focused, and I try to implement that on all the other players and just show them that we need to take this seriously if [they] want to have a good season.”

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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Falcons Football Team Fights For Winning Record

Photos by Christopher Fincham Photography

The Falcons football team alternated wins and losses in September, capping the month with a 31-7 win over Annapolis to push their record to 3-2. Severna Park opened the season on September 2 with a 27-20 win over Meade. A 7-6 loss to Crofton was followed by a 31-24 win over North County. Kevin Bredeck starred for the Falcons with 212 all-purpose yards and three touchdowns. Chesapeake beat Severna Park 34-21 on September 23, but the Falcons rebounded with the win over Annapolis. In that game, LJ Cooper rushed for 162 yards and two touchdowns. Several conference games loom large on the schedule, including a game against Broadneck on October 14.



Severn School Starts Football Season 3-0

Offensive Line "Heart And Soul" Of The Team

By Kevin Murnane

Severn School's new head football coach, **Demetrius Ballard**, cannot hide his enthusiasm about the future of the Severn School's football program. His Admirals started the season 3-0 and scored 165 points in those three games. Last year, Severn did not win a game.

"Without a doubt, our offensive line is the heart and soul of our team," Ballard said. "They average 240 pounds, and we play up-tempo, so we have been able to wear down the opposing team in the second half."

It also helps to have numerous lacrosse players coming back to play football this season, including quar-

terback **Jacob Todd** and running back **Nick Sotiropoulos**.

In the first three games, the Admirals averaged nearly 300 yards rushing per game. Their size and having athletes in the skill positions have been a winning combination.

The football team's success has not been lost on the Evergreen Road campus as the students have come out and filled the stadium with spirit and support. At their first home game, Todd remarked to coach Ballard that he has never seen a crowd that large at any game he has played at Severn.

Both Todd and Sotiropoulos credit the offensive line for opening holes and giving Todd time to throw. The line consists of **Bo Fowler, Matt Fisher, Alan Sheffers, Jack Hayman** and **Keshaun Baker**.

Severna Park residents, Fowler and

Fisher are thrilled with the team's turnaround and they credit coach Ballard's enthusiasm and coaching style for their early success.

"We had great turnouts for spring and summer workouts, and you could feel the excitement building for fall practice," said Fowler, who also plays basketball for the Admirals.

"We're really tight and most of us play multiple sports here," said Fisher, who also swims. "We believe we are in better condition, and we try to get shoulder-pad leverage to stand the opposing lineman up and drive them backward."

Ballard also takes a page out of Ravens coach John Harbaugh's book by limiting contact during practices to keep the players fresh, avoid injuries, and keep the practices fast and productive.

The team is experiencing the joy of

winning as evidenced by their singing on the bus rides home.

"On our first road trip back home, the players sang for an hour straight, including songs from the '80s," Ballard said with a laugh. "I didn't think they knew any songs from that era, but they were singing Michael Jackson and Duran Duran songs."

Severn hit a bump in the road and lost their fourth game to Maret School in Washington, D.C. but they are looking to rebound with league games in the MIAA C conference.

The last game of the season will be against rival St. Mary's on Friday, November 4, on Severn's campus at 4:00pm.

The entire Severn School community has that game circled on the calendar as the contest has regional bragging rights.

Bruins Trounce Mustangs



Photos courtesy of Dennis McGinley

Top Left: Jake Wanner forced and recovered a fumble. **Bottom Left:** Camrin Catterton threw a 30-yard touchdown to Eli Harris. **Above:** Ian Mauldin scored on a 3-yard run.

Broadneck's football team beat Meade 38-6 on September 23. **Camrin Catterton** was 12-16 for 135 yards and three touchdowns. **Eli Harris** caught two touchdowns of 28 and 30 yards and **Machi Evans** caught a 4-yard touchdown pass. **Ian Mauldin** had 15 carries for 74 yards and two touchdowns. The defense forced seven turnovers.

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Young Runner Excels



Mia Funk set a new personal record with a time of 7:07 during the Market Street Mile, held September 10 in Frederick.

After the race, Mia talked about her dedication to running.

After a difficult 2019 debut in the Market Street Mile, what were your goals heading into this year's race?

I wanted to redeem myself this year. I was pretty sick and not up to the challenge three years ago. And I finished pretty far back.

Were you happy with your time and second overall finish for the youth girls?

I was very happy with my time, because it was a big personal best by 25 seconds, but I wanted to break seven minutes. I wanted to put myself up front early and hang on, and it paid off.

Your racing season began in May with mostly 800-meter dash races on the track. This was the first time racing the mile all summer. Were you happy with your season as a whole?

I competed at higher levels than I was used to, at bigger meets with faster, older girls and I struggled mentally most of the summer. I had a goal to break three minutes in the 800-meter dash, and I finally broke through at a meet in July, winning the race in 2:57.44. It gave me a lot of confidence and the desire to do better and keep working at it. So, I was excited to test my abilities in the mile and see how fast I could go.

Eleven-year-old Mia Funk finished second in the youth division of the 40th running of the Market Street Mile in Frederick, Maryland, on September 10. Her time of 7:07 was a new personal record.

Broadneck Continues Winning Run Against Crofton

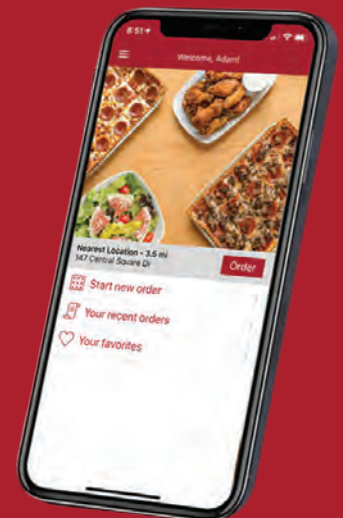
Photo courtesy of Dennis McGinley

In a battle of unbeaten field hockey teams, Broadneck defeated Crofton 5-1 on September 28. Faith Everett led Broadneck with two goals, while Arden Huntman and Jess Kopernick each had one goal and one assist. Lexi Dupcak also scored and Mady Quigley added an assist. Mia Moody made four saves in goal for Broadneck. Emily Najarian scored for Crofton. Below: Huntman advanced toward the Cardinals' side of the field. She finished with one goal and one assist for the Bruins.



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Lady Falcons Shut Out The Seahawks



Photos by Colin Murphy
Severna Park and South River squared off during a September 22 field hockey contest, with the Lady Falcons getting a 3-0 win over the Seahawks. Sophomore Ava Zimmerman, Junior Alyssa Gore-Chung and Sophomore Kelsey Rowe scored for Severna Park. The Lady Falcons, led by coach Shannon Garden, are seeking to defend last year's 4A title run and bring home a 26th field hockey state championship for the school.



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Green Hornets Offer New Fall Lax Division



The Green Hornets' fall players will compete against club teams like True Lacrosse and Sidewinders Lacrosse Club.

By Conor Doherty

Lacrosse is one of the most popular sports for kids to play locally, especially with the success of programs like Broadneck, Severna Park and Archbishop Spalding. Just like many other sports, it has become necessary and important for kids to play year-round if they want to improve. But for a long time, fall lacrosse teams weren't available locally. Many kids had to join club teams that are outside the area to get that kind of experience. However, that has now changed as Green Hornets has a new fall lacrosse division this year.

Over the past several years, the lacrosse program has grown from having several spring and summer

select teams to now include seven new fall select teams. For commissioner **Brian Vetter**, who took over two years ago, it has been a process to not just put together fall lacrosse but also to continue growing Green Hornets lacrosse.

"I interviewed a ton of parents," Vetter said. "The parents were like, 'Why do I have to drive to the Eastern Shore or Southern Maryland to go to practice?' So, our goal is to surpass the numbers from 10 years ago, which was 778 kids. Last year, we were at right around 450. And my goal this year is to add another 200 to get to that 650 mark."

The biggest challenge for Vetter to keep the program growing and

moving forward is having enough coaches who can help year-around as the number of coaches available determines what Vetter can or can't do with the program. While these are select teams playing in the fall, Vetter wants rec teams that play in the spring to be able to continue playing together in the fall, but if a coach can only do the spring, then that team will be relegated to a spring-only season. But for now, the future of the program and its fall division is bright. The fall teams will compete against club teams like True Lacrosse and Sidewinders Lacrosse Club in four tournaments with between three to four games per tournament, with the first tournament starting October 6.

Welsh, Tetterer Lift Broadneck

» Continued from page 20

Falcons to cut the deficit in half.

Matt Tetterer did his part to keep Severna Park from scoring again. He made a few diving saves and, at one point, charged out of the box, sidestepping his way through a group of Falcons to gather a loose ball.

"Our goalie, Matt, made a lot of clutch saves," Welsh said. "At the end, he drew that penalty that put the game away. He had a great performance."

That penalty had the Falcons fuming after they lost their last chance for a comeback.

Despite the loss, Severna Park sits near the top of the standings with upcoming games against South River, Old Mill and Arundel.

Coach Sean Tetterer had plenty to say. His team will try to keep growing as they face Arundel, Southern and South River.

"I know what our strengths are," he said. "I know what we still need to do to improve, even if we are trying to play a tough style of soccer. I'd like to see us develop more into a possession team. That may or may not happen, but we're going to keep grinding and trying to keep getting better every day and night."

"They deserve a lot of credit for this win right now," he said of his players. "Severna Park is a great team, and we are still trying to find ourselves and we keep stepping up. I'm so proud of their effort and I'm so proud to work with them each day. They're really a great group of guys."

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Bands Showcase Their Skills At Marching In The Park

More than 20 bands took the field at Severna Park High School on September 24 for Marching in the Park. Severna Park performed the national anthem with the assistance of approximately 70 "Future Falcons," a term for band and orchestra students from Severna Park feeder schools — both elementary and middle schools — as well as a few alumni. The Falcons then performed their "Intergalactic" show near the end of the event.



Teenage Singer Turns Heads On "The Voice"

Parijita Bastola wowed audiences during Severna Park High School's run of "Freaky Friday" in 2021. Now, she will perform for a national audience.

Seventeen-year-old Parijita Bastola became the first Lebanese American to audition on NBC's television show "The Voice," in an episode that aired September 27. Her rendition of "Jealous" by Labrinth got all four coaches to turn their chairs.

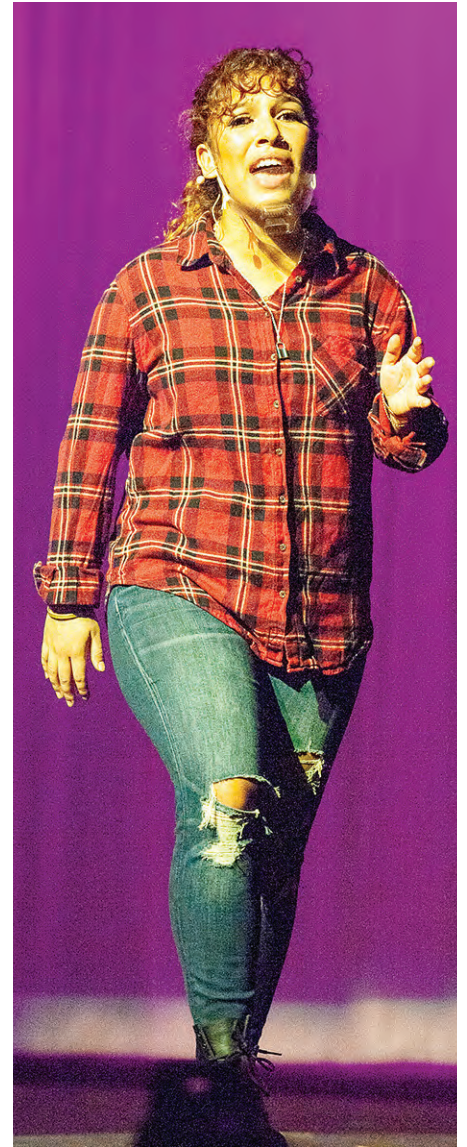
A Severna Park High School student, Bastola brought her mom, dad and aunt to the blind audition.

"The Voice," since season one, has always been our family show," Bastola told the coaches. "They own a small restaurant, and they specifically closed on Mondays to watch 'The Voice.'"

After turning four chairs, Bastola was able to choose her coach. She selected R&B and soul singer John Legend.

"The best artists are able to bring the music of their culture and of their roots into the wider, global landscape of music," Legend said as he made his pitch to be Bastola's coach. "I think your voice is that kind of transcendent voice, and it would be an honor for me to work with you."

Bastola will again appear on TV screens during the battle rounds, which are expected to start October 11. "The Voice" airs on Monday and Tuesday nights.



BHS Senior Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

By Judy Tacyn

Faith Karanja, a Broadneck High School senior, has been named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. One of only five semifinalists from public schools in Anne Arundel County, Karanja was selected based on high performance on the 2021 Preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Finalists will be named in February.

Karanja's favorite classes are statistics and sciences, and she has taken Advanced Placement courses in every academic department.

"I've really enjoyed my experience at Broadneck," Karanja said. "My school has lots of options for academic classes and clubs, and all of my teachers have been very supportive, and they're accessible when I need assistance."



Faith Karanja

She plans to stay local for college, however, she will follow a pre-med biology track with the hopes of being a cardiologist one day. Karanja has a strong desire to help people. Her community service includes working at the Christian Assistance Program food distribution to neighbors in need, and with Happy Helpers for the Homeless in sharing food,

clothes and toys.

Karanja credits her parents for instilling in her the importance of education and the value of supporting others.

"Ever since I can remember, my parents taught us the importance of education," added Karanja, whose father is a business owner and mother is a physician's assistant. "They worked really hard to get into higher educa-

» Continued on page 36



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Educator Of The Month

Ina Cheatham Severna Park Middle School



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Ina Cheatham could have been in scrubs, working in hospitals, but instead she landed in schools, educating the next few generations of kids.

Whichever career she chose, she knew she wanted to help people, just like her mom, who was a special education teacher.

"She has always been a kind, gentle people person," Cheatham said of her mom. "She and I have pretty much the same personality. It was either be a nurse or a teacher. My dad is a doctor, and I can't stand blood, so that left teaching."

Cheatham taught at a magnet school and later went to Chesapeake High School in Pasadena. Since 2007, she has taught ninth grade, and since 2021, she has taught at Severna Park Middle School.

"I'm kind of a silly Billy, but not in a way where the kids don't respect me," Cheatham said. "I've always been aware of the music they listen to, their jargon, their games, because it keeps me in their world. I don't want them to see me as their friend, but I'm invested in them."

Now in her 24th year of teaching, Cheatham has many diverse learners and wants every student to succeed. Her peers and the administrators at the school see her enthusiasm daily.

"At Severna Park Middle, it is our mission to challenge students to think critically and solve problems independently," said Dennis Kelly, principal of Severna Park Middle School. "Ms. Cheatham does just that for her students every day. She has created a classroom environment

"You definitely need to have an open heart and empathy. You have to understand that no day is going to be like the next. ... Find a group of people you can trust, pour your heart out and they won't judge you."

— INA CHEATHAM

that challenges her students to grow but also supports them when they fail. She is always willing to help her colleagues and collaborate around an issue that arises."

One of her favorite parts of the curriculum is having the class read a fiction or nonfiction book at the end of the quarter. Their next book is "Hatchet."

"I get to have more discussions with the kids and connect to the kids' lives," Cheatham said. "I'll ask, 'How are you like this character or not like this character?' The book reading lends itself to more conversations."

Said she will do whatever she can to supply the kids with what they need, but it's nice to have so much support from the Severna Park Middle School community.

"I am the only African American teacher at the school. Being an odd man out racially, I don't feel that way at all," Cheatham said. "I feel embraced by the parents, the kids and the community."

"It's just a warm feeling that I'm definitely not judged by the color of my skin but by the content of my character," she said, citing the famous Martin Luther King Jr. quote.

Cheatham wants to retire at Severna Park, and she has words of wisdom for anyone else who wants to be a teacher.

"You definitely need to have an open heart and empathy," she said. "You have to understand that no day is going to be like the next. I cried every day as a teacher for three months. Find a group of people you can trust, pour your heart out and they won't judge you. You need a support team on a daily basis."

"Don't take anything personally that these kids bring to you," she added. "Don't judge the kids, because you can't control their environment and the way they are raised."

As long as her teaching career continues, she will continue to be invested in each student.

"I have 11 grandkids, so kids are my whole world," she said. "I want them to be kind, have empathy and be productive citizens."



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Tony Shaffer Sees Great Potential At St. Martin's-In-The-Field

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School has a new head of school this year. For Tony Shaffer, the school's name and values are familiar.

Coming from St. Martin's Episcopal School in Atlanta, where he spent six years, Shaffer is excited to oversee the well-being of 280 students after coming from a school that had about 700 kids.

"I want to greet the kids by name and know who's playing soccer and who was playing basketball but is now playing soccer," Shaffer said. "It's hard to do that when you have 2,000 kids."

Shaffer has always worked in independent schools, from his 13 years as director of technology at Augusta Preparatory School in Georgia to his time as middle school director at Westminster School in Oklahoma City.

St. Martin's in Severna Park focuses on building students' confidence, compassion and character. It's a refreshing mission, Shaffer said.

"There is a model for respectful discourse, for inquiry, for compassion, that is embedded in the episcopal church," he said. "Episcopal schools, and lots of schools, have something to teach."

"There are wonderful nonsectarian schools too," he said. "I want everyone to have a great school that matches what they need."

Many families found what they needed after transitioning their kids to private schools during the COVID pandemic.

"I will never lose the heightened sense of gratitude from not having kids for four months," Shaffer said. "I was already grateful, but it made me even more grateful."

Shaffer is grateful for his new position, which differs from the role of a principal at a public school. With the public-school model, a superintendent handles human resources and budgetary duties. With



Tony Shaffer is overseeing the well-being of nearly 300 students at St. Martin's-in-the-Field.

“Learning always comes from connection, and I want the students to each grow, not only as a learner but as a person as a whole.”

— TONY SHAFFER, HEAD OF SCHOOL
ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELD EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

St. Martin's being an independent school, Shaffer will be responsible for those areas or for supervising people who do those tasks at St. Martin's.

"I want teachers to feel supported so they can focus on kids instead of paperwork and budgets," Shaffer said.

But he also wants to support activities the kids are doing. So far this year, St. Martin's has had a few field trips. Third- and fourth-graders visited First Fruit Farms in Freeland, Maryland, and bagged potatoes to feed people throughout Maryland. Students also repopulated an oyster bed damaged by pollution.

Shaffer wants St. Martin's to encourage kids to be creative while still learning the vital components of

English, math and other subjects.

"There's a beautiful balance between innovation and tradition ... but the students still learn handwriting and the multiplication tables," he said.

Shaffer was awarded Fulbright and Peabody Fellowships in 1994 and 2015, respectively, and has had several opportunities to travel abroad. Eventually, Shaffer wants to organize an annual student trip to Panama. He was a Rotary International Exchange student in 1985 and visited Chile. He's also been to Spain, France and Panama, among other countries.

"Staying with a family for a few weeks, it breaks down so many preconceptions kids have," Shaffer said.

Those possible trips are just one thing to look forward to, Shaffer said.

"I've lived through seven head-of-school transitions in my career, but they are always super interesting ideas that come out of that," he said.

Whatever ideas are suggested, the staff plans to focus on what's best for students and teachers.

"Learning always comes from connection, and I want the students to each grow, not only as a learner but as a person as a whole," Shaffer said.

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All-Female Scouts BSA Troop Holds First-Ever Court Of Honor



Scouts BSA Troop 1983 of Severna Park held its first ever Court of Honor on September 21. Advancement chair Sally Dugenske (left) commended the eight young women who earned Scout rank, the first step on the trail to Eagle.

The all-female Scouts BSA Troop 1983 celebrated its first six months of activities on September 21 by holding its first-ever Court of Honor, which recognized the individual achievements and advancement of the 21 scouts in the troop. The ceremony took place at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, the troop's sponsor organization.

"This Court of Honor recognizes the hard work of these young ladies to earn rank and other awards over the past six months," said Troop 1983 Scoutmaster Jason Port. "I couldn't be more proud of the leadership skills that they have learned and demonstrated. I am also really impressed with how well they've taken on the outdoor program and now they're doing it themselves."

Troop 1983 has been active since its first meeting last March. The unit has grown from nine Scouts to its current 21 individuals. The troop has conducted three campouts, white-water rafted, and even practiced rifle shooting. Scouts also attended three Scouts BSA summer camps. In October, the troop will conduct another overnight camping trip focused on orienteering

at Gettysburg National Battlefield, and in November, the troop will conduct a five-mile "hiking 101" close to the Appalachian Trail.

Troop 1983 meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm downstairs in Woods Church on B&A Boulevard in Severna Park. Interested parties can contact the troop via Facebook by searching for "Scouts BSA Troop 1983."



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Q

Question of the month

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

If you could invent something to make life easier, what would you invent and why?

To make life easier, I would invent a robot that delivers food so less people are on the roads and there would be less car pollution.

Alexis C.

I would invent a charging water bottle that charges water for you so you don't run out when you are thirsty.

Andrew J.

To make life easier, I would invent an automatic snowblower so people can get to places like work and school.

Audrey B.

I would invent a robot to clean up trash in parks, beaches, the bays and in neighborhoods. I think this would really help clean up the pollution in the world, and when it's done cleaning, we could empty it and put the trash in the trash and then we could recycle the rest



so that we could reuse it.

Bella C.

To make life easier, I would make a machine that can duplicate anything so people can do more things at once and solve world hunger.

Caden G.

To help make people's lives better, I would invent a new type of bread to give people abs. It would make people stronger and more fit.

Calvin G.

To make life easier, I would invent an infinite clean water source so more people will have clean drinking water so less people get sick.

Clare T.

What I would invent to make life easier is an outfit picker to choose outfits that match your emotions

because I spend about an hour and a half just to pick out clothes.

Esther O.

To make life easier, I would invent a vacuum that could suck up all the pollution and trash. Instead of holding the trash in its stomach, it would turn the trash into soil and compost.

Inez B.

If I could invent something to make life easy, I would invent a machine that would give any material upon being asked. Why? To prevent cutting down trees and ruining the environment!

Isaac B.

To make life easier, I would invent a contraption that you put on top of your peanut butter jar that spins in a circle to get the last bit of peanut butter left out, so you don't have

to waste your time trying to shove your hand inside of the jar and do it yourself!

James D. A.

To make life easier, I would like to invent a cure for cancer because cancer has taken people from not just me but others. No one should have to lose friends or family to cancer.

Leonardo P.

I would invent a portable house so that you don't need to buy a new house.

Liam C.

I would invent an automatic wheelchair for the disabled. It responds to your thoughts, so if you don't have arms, you can still move around. It also has a mode in which you can go up stairs so you don't need a ramp.

Liam G.

To make life easier, I would invent a cure for cancer because my mom's friend died of cancer at 40.

Lucas W.

To make life easier, I would create a robot that gets rid of filthy water for sea animals.

Marcus N.

To make life easier, I would like to make a car that takes the dirty air that creates global warming and makes it fuel, and when the fuel comes out of the car, the air is clean.

Reese D.

To make my life easier, I would invent an ecosystem-friendly robot that helps stop climate change, so the world does not explode from climate change.

Sienna Q.

CTA To Present Roald Dahl's "Matilda The Musical"

Show Runs October 21 Through November 6

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's "Matilda The Musical" is a captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. With a book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, "Matilda" has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages around the world.

"Matilda" is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Ms. Honey. Over the course of her first term at school, Matilda and Ms. Honey have a profound effect on each other's lives, as Ms. Honey begins not only to recognize

but also appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Ms. Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

Packed with high-energy dance numbers, catchy songs and an unforgettable star turn for a young actress, "Matilda" is a joyous girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

The artistic staff includes director Atticus Cooper Boidy, music director Emily Sergo and choreographer Brandon Glass.

Show dates are Fridays at 7:00pm, Saturdays at 11:00am and 4:00pm, and Sundays at 2:00pm from October 21 through November 6.

BHS Senior Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

» Continued from page 31
tion and to get where they are today."

Her parents were born in Kenya. The family moved to Arnold for the schools in 2007 from Prince George's County.

Broadneck guidance counselor Luke Wilhelm called Karanja "a uniquely talented, passionate and curious student."

"Faith has the qualities of a life-long learner: whenever she is presented with something unfamiliar, she excitedly researches the topic to deepen her understanding and see how it connects to other topics she is interested in," Wilhelm said. "This inquisitive nature drives her academic success. She hopes to use these abilities to benefit others in the future as a physician. Her brilliance and compassion, as well as her humble willingness to constantly learn and be taught, will make her an outstanding physician in the future."

In addition to the National Merit

Scholarship semifinalist recognition, Karanja has been named a College Board National African American Recognition Program 2022-2023 Scholar and she is a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society and National Math Honors Society. She has participated in the U.S. Army Education Outreach Program for five years, and this summer was part of Astro Research with the U.S. Naval Academy physics department where she learned how to use the Hopper Hall 20-inch telescope to observe stars and asteroids and use software to analyze their orbits.

She is a member of Broadneck High School's UNICEF Club, Key Club and student government. She is a past member of the cross country and field hockey teams. She plays the keyboard and saxophone, and enjoys painting, pottery and crochet.

She is the youngest child of Daniel and Lucy Karanja.

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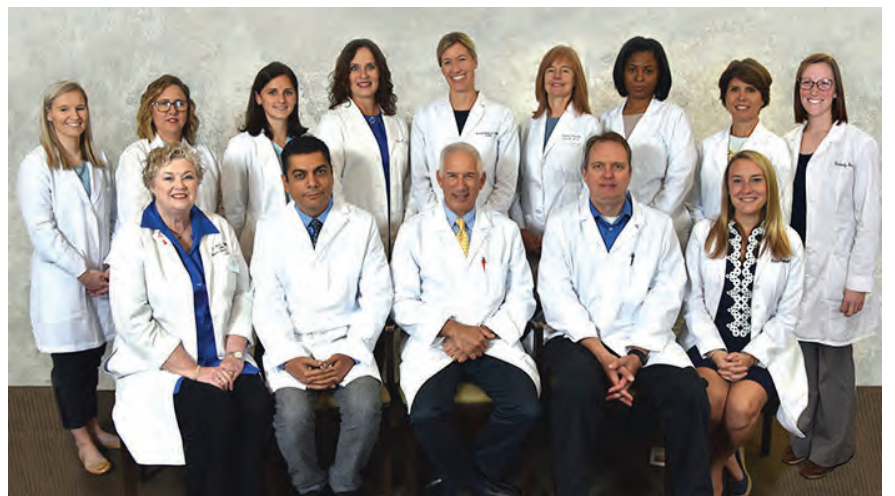
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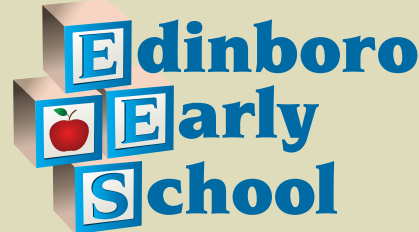
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Board Of Education Approves \$198.5 Million Capital Budget For Fiscal Year 2024

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education has approved Superintendent Mark Bedell's recommended \$198.5 million Fiscal Year 2024 capital budget, a plan that contains construction funding for five major school projects.

The plan, first presented to the board on September 7, was adopted without change at the board's September 21 meeting. It contains \$132.4 million for major capital projects that include construction at the following schools, in priority order:

- **Center of Applied Technology – North** construction, \$58.4 million
- **Old Mill High School** design/construction, \$12.7 million
- **Old Mill Middle School North** design/construction, \$11.4 million
- **Old Mill Middle School South** construction, \$37.3 million
- **West County Elementary School** construction, \$12.6 million

The Old Mill High School request is for a new facility on the school's current Patriot Lane site and separate from the construction of Old Mill High School West, which is being built on the former Papa John's Farm in Severn.

The plan also contains \$37 million for building systems renovations, \$7 million to continue to reduce the maintenance backlog, and \$4 million for classroom additions. Also included is \$3.5 million for athletic stadium improvements, a \$3 million request for roof replacement projects, and \$2 million for security related upgrades.

As it does each year, the board also approved a six-year capital improvement plan, which allocates requested funding for projects through Fiscal Year 2029.

The plan will now be submitted to the state for funding consideration. It will also be part of the school system's overall Fiscal Year 2024 budget request, to be forwarded to the county executive in February 2023 after the board holds additional public hearings. The county council will review that plan and adopt a final capital budget for the school system by June 2023.

Students Voice Opinions On New School Start Times

By Cooper Powell
Student Intern

In October 2021, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (AACPS) unanimously voted to enact new school start times county-wide, releasing the finalized schedule this past June. Now, students are adjusting to this modification in their schedule and face both its advantages and its drawbacks.

"I didn't really care at the time," recalled Sean Gawitt, a Severna Park Middle School eighth-grader, on his initial reaction when he heard school start times would be modified. Now, however, Sean faces the struggle many other students do — finding reliable transportation to school. "My mom has to drive me now because of the bus shortage," Sean said.

Last school year, AACPS faced a shortage of bus drivers. This school year, with elementary schools starting between 8:00am and 8:30am, conflicting with the new high school start times of 8:30am, the shortage has become even worse, forcing many students to find different ways to get to school. Bus disruptions can be found on www.aacps.org, where a list of buses that are unable to provide services to students is updated daily.

This clash of school start times has also affected morning commute times for students. Jillian Zukley, a senior at Severna Park High School, said she as well as

Most students say the new start times have complicated their commutes and schedules, but they are also getting more sleep.

many other students and parents have to deal with both elementary school traffic and work traffic on the drive to school.

"I have to take a whole different route because normally elementary school and high school wouldn't be at the same time," Jillian said.

Another thing students have noticed this school year is how the new schedule impacts after-school activities. SPMS seventh-grader Rebecca Sullivan explained that she has far less time after school to go home before sports and rest.

"Sometimes I don't go home and just walk to practice," Rebecca said.

Her difficulty reflects the many students who play sports or have other extracurriculars that make their schedule tighter than before with new start and end times.

"I used to be able to stay after school for clubs [and] redos, but now I can't," explained SPHS senior Aidan Darling. Due to school ending at 3:18pm and his swim practices starting at 4:00pm, he said, "Not being able to stay after ... is definitely difficult. We have a study hall during the day, but it's short."

One of the school board's original intentions for changing school start times was to benefit students' health by accommodating sleep schedules that are relative to different age groups.

"Our board remains committed to gathering input from stakeholders in order to support the community through this transition and to improve the lives of our students with healthier school hours," said board member Melissa Ellis in an AACPS news release.

While Severna Park students face several challenges with the new schedule, they agree on one thing — it's improved their sleeping habits.

"It's nice to wake up an hour later," Aidan said.

"I can do my homework in the morning," Sean said.

"The sun's up when I get up," Jillian remarked. "That's really nice."

Despite the new schedule's disadvantages, students have been able to find positivity in the changes. They remain hopeful that as the school year continues, they can reach a balance in their schedules.

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BHS Student Recognized For Academic Achievement



Krystina Lilly

By Desirae Martins

Broadneck High School sophomore Krystina Lilly has been accepted into the invitation-only National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), an organization focused on honoring exceptional high school scholars for academic achievements and service to their local communities.

As a member of this organization, Krystina will gain access to countless scholarship, leadership, and professional development opportunities along with networking opportunities, guidance on the college search and application process, service activities, study abroad programs, and much more.

NSHSS was founded in 2002 by Claes Nobel and James Lewis to continue the Nobel family legacy of recognizing and rewarding excellence. The organization's mission is to recognize academic excellence, honor the highest achieving high school students, and provide them with the resources and network to excel in college, their career and in the community. This mission is something that drew Krystina to the opportunity when she received the invitation to apply.

"One of my biggest reasons for joining is that [NSHSS] will help me get into a good college," she said.

Krystina is quickly reaping the benefits of her membership. "NSHSS has already helped me find and apply for scholarships," she said.

Following her acceptance in July, Krystina applied for multiple scholarships recommended by the organization and is awaiting decisions in October. Further, her membership has already enabled her to earn micro-scholarships, which allow students to earn toward tuition at specific colleges and universities based on their accomplishments or achievements in high school or community college. To use the funds, the student must be admitted to and attend the specific college offering the micro-scholarship.

So far, Krystina has earned approximately \$25,000 in micro-scholarships to Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, although she has not decided where she plans to attend.

"I would really like to go to Swarthmore College, Northwestern or Northeastern University, but right now, I'm keeping my options open," she noted. "My plan is to major in law and political science, and my dream job is to be a United Nations (UN) lawyer specializing in human rights."

Krystina also plans to take advantage of other opportunities offered by NSHSS, such as its ambassador program, designed for student leaders who exhibit academic excellence and a strong commitment to community service. This fall, she is focused on her schoolwork, but she plans to apply during the spring application cycle.

On top of being an accomplished high school scholar, Krystina has done ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary dance for 12 years, and has performed at the pre-professional level for the past two years. As a pupil in Ballet Theatre of Maryland's (BTM) pre-professional program, Krystina has been selected to dance with BTM's professional company productions on a few occasions. These outside-the-classroom accomplishments are also recognized by colleges through micro-scholarship awards.

Krystina looks forward to continuing to meet her professional and academic goals but is also enjoying her time in high school. She credits her parents, Tina and Daniel Lilly, for much of her success.

"My parents have been a great support system and have really helped me accomplish my goals," Krystina said.

College Fair At Broadneck High School Set For October 19

Broadneck High School will host a college fair for Anne Arundel County students and families on Wednesday, October 19, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Representatives from more than 100 universities will attend, as will military representatives. In addition to visiting with college representatives, families can attend a financial aid presentation at 7:00pm.

The event will be held in the Broadneck gym at 1265 Green Holly Drive.

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Hundreds Support Stef Ripple “Do Your Best” 5K

More than 150 runners and many walkers supported ovarian cancer awareness during the sixth annual Stefanie Ashdown Memorial “Do Your Best” 5k on September 17 at Belvedere Elementary. The event raised more than \$24,000, the event’s highest total to date.

Thirty-year-old Arnold resident George Erazo finished first with a clock time of 18:36:23 and chip time of 18:15.1. Andrea Kafka was the top female finisher. David Horn raised the most funds and the top fundraising team was Mary Jo’s Fundraiser for Ovarian Cancer.

Prizes were awarded to first-, second- and third-place finishers in several age groups. Attendees also enjoyed raffles, an auction, face-painting and other activities.

Photos courtesy of Nana Sue Photography



Obesity In Dogs

Christine Calvert
Medical Director
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



While we are enjoying our vacations, swimming, barbecuing and more, we need to monitor our pets’ health and diet as well! Obesity in dogs is one of the most common health issues diagnosed by a

veterinarian. Over half of all pets are considered overweight or obese. Being overweight can lead to an increase in heart disease, diabetes, joint disease and more, and can shorten a pet’s lifespan by two years.

A dog’s weight is evaluated using a body condition score (BCS). This is a scale from one to nine, with one being too skinny and nine out of nine being morbidly obese. We recommend a BCS of four to five for a pet’s healthiest weight. To determine a BCS, a veterinarian will evaluate your pet for the feel of their ribs, the angle of their belly, their waist and more. To see an example of body condition scoring, visit www.vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/body-condition-scores.

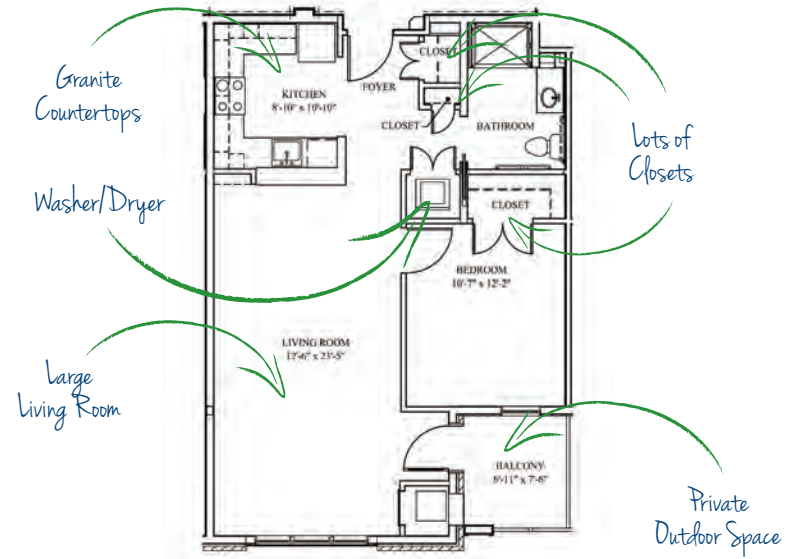
Here are a couple options for helping a pet to lose weight:

- 1. Use a measuring cup to feed your pet.** It is important to always keep track of exactly how much food your dog is getting with each meal, and the best way to do so is a measuring cup.
- 2. Switch to a low-fat diet.** There are many over-the-counter low-calorie diets that can help with weight loss. In addition, if those foods are not helping enough, there are prescription foods available for weight loss. These foods are formulated in a way to make your dog feel fuller with less calories. If you would like more information about prescription weight loss diets, ask your veterinarian.
- 3. Increase exercise.** It is great to get out and get active, and that is exactly what your dog needs. Be cautious in the extreme heat and try to do exercises in the early morning when it is cooler. Swimming is also a fantastic activity that will keep pets cool while working out.
- 4. Decrease treats.** It is amazing how many calories add up in daily treats. Treats should never be more than 10% of your pet’s daily calorie intake. It may help to switch to healthier treat options, such as carrots, green beans, or broccoli, or you can even use your pet’s weight loss food as treats.

» Continued on page 44

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A Leading Cause Of Vision Loss Is Flying Under The Radar



By Family Features

The number of Americans 65 years of age and over continues to rise, according to the United States Census Bureau.

While many in this demographic are mindful of conditions like osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease and diabetes, a leading cause of vision loss is flying under the radar, according to survey results included in the Visionary Report from the eye care experts at Bausch + Lomb. The results of the report identify blind spots in Americans' understand-

ing and awareness of a stealth eyesight stealer: age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

AMD is a progressive eye condition that impacts central vision and is a leading cause of vision loss for those over age 50 and a leading cause of blindness for the 65-plus population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The condition impacts central vision and occurs when the macula — the part of the eye that controls sharp, straight-ahead vision — is damaged over time, causing people

to have difficulty seeing faces, reading, driving or doing close-up work like cooking, according to the National Eye Institute (NEI).

Most notably, the survey of more than 2,000 adults in the United States, conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of Bausch + Lomb, found that 81% of adults would be willing to give up \$1 million or other comforts like listening to music if it meant never losing their eyesight. Despite this clear prioritization of the ability to see, only 37% of those surveyed over the age of 50 know AMD is a leading cause of vision loss for Americans.

Additionally, 62% of those surveyed who are 50 years of age and older are worried about losing their eyesight as they age, but true understanding of the condition is blurry as 61% aren't aware a dilated eye exam is needed to diagnose AMD, and less than half are aware that vitamins or supplements may help reduce the risk of progression of AMD in some patients.

While AMD can lead to blindness and does not yet have a cure, there are steps patients can take as part of a plan created with their doctors to reduce their risk of progression. Those steps include visiting an eye care professional for an annual dilated eye exam — the only way to diagnose and check the progression of AMD — quitting smoking, exercising regularly and maintaining a healthy diet.

Patients should also talk to their doctors about taking a vitamin based on the AREDS2 study conducted by the Neuroscience Education Institute. Researchers tested and refined the AREDS formula for more than 20 years.

Obesity In Dogs



» Continued from page 42

5. Slow feeder. If your pet is one to eat fast, we recommend using a slow feeder to prolong each meal. There are special bowls for slow feeding to keep pets feeling fuller with less food.

6. Weigh your pet frequently. Many people weigh their pets only at their wellness exams every six months. Ideally, you should monitor your pet's weight every two to three weeks to keep the weight loss plan on track and to adjust the diet as needed.

If you would like to have your pet's body condition score evaluated, or discuss a weight loss plan, I recommend scheduling an appointment with your veterinarian, who can also create a feeding plan to help the weight loss go as smoothly as possible.

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Dining Out



Oishi Offers Indulgence And Variety



Photos by Mary Cobbler

Above: The Sarah's roll (top) contains spicy tuna and creamy avocado wrapped in rice and seaweed. It's topped with raw salmon, a sweet Hawaiian barbecue sauce, and chunks of fresh garlic. The dynamite roll (bottom) combines flaky salmon, cooked tuna, rice, seaweed and a spicy sauce. **Below Top:** A hearty array of vegetables including broccoli, green beans, red onions, carrots, peas, bamboo shoots, spinach and jalapenos rose above the Thai curry broth. **Below Middle:** The shrimp fried rice had savory flavor, was speckled with mixed vegetables, and was topped with large, succulent shrimp. **Below Bottom:** The brownie was served cold and drizzled with chocolate syrup and a side of whipped cream.

By Mary Cobbler

Oishi Japanese Cuisine may be inconspicuously tucked away in a shopping center in Arnold, but inside the quaint restaurant, you'll find a cornucopia of creative flavor combinations.

My family and I arrived at Oishi around 5:00pm on a Saturday. The space has a sleek interior, leather booths and red lanterns. On that Saturday, the restaurant was calm, with just a couple of other patrons seated at the sushi counter. We were greeted cheerfully by the owner and seated by a friendly server, who gave us her recommendations for appetizers and sushi.

Although the name of the restaurant suggests Japanese cuisine, the menu offers more variety. Thai entrees with both red and green pepper choices, sushi and sashimi options, fried rice with protein or vegetables, and Japanese teriyaki dishes are all available. You're bound to find something you like, even if you can't decide which Asian food you want. Talk about a crowd-pleaser!

We kicked off our meal with spring rolls (harumaki) and edamame appetizers. The spring rolls were crispy, filled

» Continued on page 56



Nothing's Off The Table When Catching Up With Walker Babington

By Lauren Meyer

The expression "he marches to the beat of his own drum" doesn't even begin to cut it for Walker Babington. For the Severna Park native and actor — most recently appearing in the hit Apple TV+ show "Black Bird" — there isn't a drum loud or eccentric enough to convey how fascinating he is.

Gone Streaking

I was fortunate to witness one of Babington's first performances, in the spring of 2003, when he streaked across the old George Roberts Stadium field during the Severna Park High School boys varsity lacrosse state semifinal game. The ball was in play, and two coaches from the opposite team were off-duty state troopers.

"They caught up to me as I tried to scale the back fence, roughed me up pretty good — I'm still naked at this point, mind you, with the entire student body watching — and I



Severna Park native Walker Babington is a stunt performer and an actor.

got hauled off to jail with a blanket wrapped around me," Babington recounted.

» Continued on page 52

Cape Arthur Community Beach Plays Backdrop For FILMSTERS Academy's Advanced Group Film

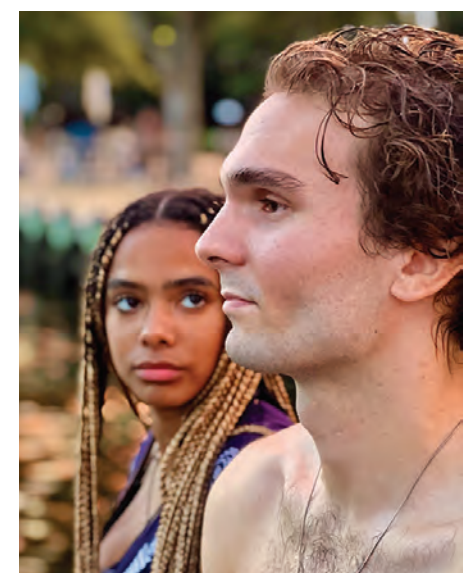
Sophia Greene (Jane) and Eli Stiewing (Chase) star in "What I Love About Jane." In the film, the duo struggles through teen anxiety between an overbearing family and the possibility of new love.

By Lauren Meyer

In a mere 14 days, the FILMSTERS Academy's advanced group created the short film "What I Love About Jane," a subtly unsettling coming-of-age romance created by 11 students ages 16-18 and guest industry mentors who supervised them. The film was shot on location at the Cape Arthur community beach in Severna Park in one day, as well as at a private home in Millersville.

Kathleen Pearce — a first-time FILMSTERS Academy volunteer and professional who has spent three decades producing and directing documentary films for national and international television — helped make the Cape Arthur community beach location a reality. Pearce's work has won more than 24 awards, including Emmys, the George Foster Peabody Award and the duPont-Columbia Award for investigative reporting.

"As the FILMSTERS Academy advanced students were writing their film and I was working with them to understand the



producing/writing process, many of their script scenes lent themselves to be filmed at a beach," Pearce explained. "I offered my community's beach of Cape Arthur if I could get our association's approval. I was able to get the permission thanks to the Cape Arthur Community Association's board lending its support to a student, non-commercial project."

Hari Leigh, a FILMSTERS Academy supervising instructor since 2018, as well as a writer and producer for the indus-

» Continued on page 55

Romantic Comedy “Ticket To Paradise” Is A Worthwhile Trip

By Audrey Ruppert

It's a premise that's far from original: two divorced parents, who share a child, absolutely hate each other, but they come together for the sake of their child and eventually reconnect. “Ticket to Paradise” is utterly predictable, but I loved every moment of it regardless — and I am not a romcom fan!

In this rendition of a classic plot, art collector Georgia (Julia Roberts) and architect David (George Clooney) discover that their high-achieving daughter, Lily, has abandoned her plans of becoming a lawyer in Chicago in favor of marrying Gede — a man she met while on holiday in Bali and has only known for a month. David and Georgia themselves were married fresh out of college, and they rush to prevent their daughter from repeating their mistake.

If you enjoyed the lighthearted and fantastical tone of “Mamma Mia!” I imagine you would enjoy “Ticket to Paradise,” directed by Ol Parker (he also directed the “Mamma Mia!” sequel). It's 100 minutes of pure escapist fantasy. I was amused by their whimsical portrayal of the Balinese, being of Indonesian origin myself and understanding much of the intentionally (and also hilariously) mistranslated dialogue.

My favorite scene was an Indo woman teaching Georgia how to haggle. Indonesians certainly haggle - but they do not give their secrets away to the *bule* (the white foreigners)! My mother used to forbid me from speaking English in the market, or the prices would suddenly double.



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

In this rendition of a classic plot, art collector Georgia (Julia Roberts) and architect David (George Clooney) discover that their high-achieving daughter, Lily, has abandoned her plans of becoming a lawyer in Chicago in favor of marrying a man she met while on holiday in Bali.

Gede's family is portrayed as being very large, very close and very accepting of Lily — they are also shown living in picture perfect open-air villas on the beach where they farm seaweed for a living. Unlike the rest of Indonesia, which is majority Muslim, the Balinese are Hindu and believe in castes. One has to wonder whether the family would be so accepting of their first son (Gede means “big” and is a name given to firstborn sons) marrying a *bule* girl from outside their caste and way of life — and how Lily would handle the intense culture shock. One also has to wonder whether a simple seaweed farmer could afford such a paradisiacal

home setup (also, with that open-air plan, how does he deal with monsoon season?) But hey, what is a romcom without an unrealistically handsome and wealthy man in an extremely romantic setting? Gede is just an Indo Mr. Darcy (with an exceptionally good understanding of the English language and customs for a Balinese seaweed farmer) and I am here for it.

While “Ticket to Paradise” has a sugary storyline, everyone behaves reasonably given their experiences. Everyone is trying to do the right thing in the end, even if some actions are misguided. Georgia doesn't want her daughter to throw away

her career, as she did, for the sake of a charismatic man who may disappoint her. David has a genuine understanding of why his marriage broke down, and he eventually takes accountability for his actions. Both parents want to save Lily from unhappiness but also realize that they might be acting out of turn and not respecting her autonomy. Lily clearly is disillusioned with the capitalistic rat race and the unhappy family dynamic she grew up with, and Gede represents an escape. Gede loves Lily, but also values family deeply and is troubled by marrying into a family that does not accept their marriage and is fundamentally broken. Everything makes sense, even if it's all a bit cheesy, and bad behavior is not glamorized.

The chemistry between Julia Roberts and George Clooney is palpable, both when they're fighting and when they begin to make amends. All of the characters are loveable, hilarious or both, and I found myself laughing out loud in the theater to many of the quips. There's something for everyone in a family to relate to — the embarrassment of watching your parents dance to '90s hits, or the joy of watching a daughter happy and preparing for a wedding. And of course, Bali is a stunning place — the majority of the film is set there, and the cinematography is so beautiful you might believe you have gone to Indonesia for a couple hours. An empty but fun bit of charming escapism, “Ticket to Paradise” might just be the break you need from a world under siege by depressing news cycles.

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“Hamilton” Set For Run At Baltimore’s Hippodrome Theatre



Photo courtesy of Joan Marcus

Warren Egypt Franklin, Desmond Sean Ellington, Elijah Malcomb and Pierre Jean Gonzalez are cast in the musical “Hamilton” as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Philip Hamilton and Alexander Hamilton, respectively.

By Mark Patton

The highly touted musical “Hamilton” is coming to Baltimore’s Hippodrome Theatre October 11-30.

Since its debut in 2015, the musical about the life of founding father Alexander Hamilton has amassed an envious list of awards while creating a production that’s had a major impact on culture, politics and education.

“Hamilton” features music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, direction by Thomas Kail, choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, and musical supervision and orchestrations by Alex Lacamoire. The production is based on Ron Chernow’s 2004 biography of the American statesman.

The musical promises to tell the story of America then, told by America now, and it features a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway.

The Hippodrome Theatre, located in downtown Baltimore’s Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment District, opened more than a century ago and served as a movie palace that also showcased some of the top vaudeville performances of the time. Following a brief closing, it reopened in 2004 as the Hippodrome Theatre at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center.

The shows are two hours and 45 minutes with one intermission. It’s recommended for ages 10 and up and some strong language can be expected.

Tickets for select shows can be purchased at baltimore.broadway.com/shows/hamilton or on Ticketmaster.

Baltimore Comic-Con Returns For 23rd Year

By Mark Patton

The Baltimore Comic-Con, which event organizers are dubbing as America’s greatest comic book convention, is slated to take place at the Baltimore Convention Center October 28-30.

This year’s event marks the 23rd anniversary of the annual convention in Charm City. Around 200 of the biggest names in comics, including writers and artists, are expected to be in attendance, and show-exclusive merchandise will be available to patrons.

Just a sampling of writers and artists that are expected to be in attendance include Frank Miller of “Sin City” and “The Dark Knight Returns” fame and Jim Lee, chief creative officer and publisher of DC Comics.

There are local ties at the convention as well. Frank Cho, who is a Ringo Award winner and Harvey and Eisner Award nominee, started his career as a comic strip artist at the University of Maryland-College Park student newspaper. His most recent work graces the covers from DC’s “Harley Quinn” series.

As in years past, celebrity guests are part of the Baltimore Comic-Con festivities, and this year includes several Disney princesses, including Jodi Benson, the original voice of Ariel in the Academy Award winning-film, “The Little Mermaid.” Additionally, multi-faceted actor John Leguizamo is on the bill. Leguizamo is also the voice of Bruno Madrigal in the Disney

film “Encanto.”

“To add Encanto’s Bruno to the Disney princesses we have at the show is amazing for us,” said Marc Nathan, show promoter for the Baltimore Comic-Con. “John is an amazing actor with such a broad range of talent on his resume, from hard drama and action to comedy and animation, and he works in comics to boot. We’re thrilled to have him with us for our 2022 event.”

The convention will also feature a Kids Love Comics Pavilion featuring kid-friendly creators and specific programming for kids. Organizers said children ages 10 and under will receive free admission for the duration of Comic-Con.

Ticket packages are available for purchase at purchase.growtix.com/e/baltimore_comic_con_2022. Online ticket sales end the day before the convention. After that, tickets may be purchased at the box office located at the Baltimore Convention Center. Of note, some artists are in attendance only on certain dates and special packages with extra perks are additional options for fans.

More information about Baltimore Comic-Con, including the guest and artist lineup, is located at www.baltimorecomiccon.com.



Photos courtesy of Lawrence Howell of Imaginative Photography by Xavier Agnelli INC.

Baltimore Comic-Con, which event organizers are dubbing as America’s greatest comic book convention, is slated to take place at the Baltimore Convention Center from October 28-30.

Art In The Park Entertains A Crowd At Cafe Mezzanotte

Photos courtesy of John Bildahl Photography/Gallery 564



Residents of Severna Park and beyond gathered on September 18 for live jazz performances and art displays during the second annual Art in the Park. Benfield Gallery, Gallery 564, ClayGround Studio & Gallery, Side Street Framers and McBride Gallery all showcased work. The following artists provided demonstrations: Potter Mark Weaver, ClayGround Studio & Gallery; Abigail McBride, oil on canvas, McBride Gallery; Paul DeRemigis Jr, pencil and pen and ink, featured at Side Street Framers; and Jane Ferguson, oil on canvas, featured at Side Street Framers. The event was organized by the Severna Park Voice, Jazz Beyond Borders and Cafe Mezzanotte.



Photo by Petra Roche

IN HOMES NOVEMBER 18

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Nothing's Off The Table When Catching Up With Walker Babington

» Continued from page 45

It was the end of his senior year as a Falcon. Babington not only spent the night in jail, but he couldn't attend prom or graduation and was suspended for the remainder of the year. If memory serves him right, he took his final exams in a janitor's closet.

"If I am going to be bloody and in a jail cell, I prefer the blood to be fake and the jail a film set," Babington said.

Lucky for him, his recent stint as an actor has offered that scenario.

"Black Bird"

"Black Bird" is an American crime drama. Babington shows up in a pivotal scene in episode three as a nasty character named Falco. It's his only scene in the show, but it's a bold one. Babington worked one-on-one opposite the show's lead, Taron Egerton, who won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Elton John in "Rocketman."

"I'd highly recommend 'Black Bird,'" Babington said. "It's heavy and dark and violent but beautifully done. The writing is impeccable, the acting and action are top-notch, and the cinematography alone will probably win it some awards."

That "action" includes Babington's own stunt. A graduate of the International Stunt School in Seattle, he is occasionally hired solely as a stunt performer or an actor. However, his favorite jobs are ones that use



both skill sets, such as the "Black Bird" role.

Toward the end of Babington's scene in "Black Bird," his character is beaten up. That 15-second clip, as his character is progressively battered, took about three hours to film. To sell the illusion of reality, the show's creators filmed the punching part repeatedly. Between takes, they put Babington in a makeup chair and added more and more prosthetic injuries to his face to seamlessly illustrate the progression.

"Through stunt work, I discovered acting, and subsequently found my niche as either an actor who does his

own stunts or a stuntman who can deliver lines," he said.

Other Roles

In addition to the "Black Bird" gig, Babington has held numerous other roles, including appearances in "The Magnificent Seven" film with Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt, being a stuntman for Sam Rockwell in the film "Better Living Through Chemistry" and an episode of "NCIS: New Orleans."

"I also played a mugger who gets ripped off a moving motorcycle by a crime-fighting luchador in a Disney show called 'Ultra Violet & Black Scorpion,' which came out this past summer," said Babington before quickly adding, "and have now played characters in three different films and stunt-doubled someone in a fourth who have taken bullets to the head."

"I absolutely love being a part of the filmmaking process and performing inside of the 'movie magic' machine," Babington said.

What's Next?

As far as upcoming work, Babington had a small role in the TV adaptation of "Interview With the Vampire," which premiered October 2 on AMC. He also played a real-life photographer in an upcoming Will Smith period piece called "Emancipation." Babington is currently working on an Apple series about the hunt for John Wilkes Booth, in which he plays

one of Booth's co-conspirators.

"To connect to the role, I visited Ford's Theatre in [Washington], D.C. while I was back in Maryland over the summer and invited Mike Kandra, my former Severna Park High School history teacher, with whom I've stayed in touch over the years to join me," Babington said.

Babington traveled to Los Angeles recently for his role in the Will Smith picture, but most of his work, "Black Bird" included, is around New Orleans, where he currently resides with his wife and 4-year-old daughter.

"We've got a solid film industry down here [in New Orleans], not to mention a pretty amazing art community," Babington said. "When I'm in between film projects, I keep myself busy in my woodshop/art studio working on artwork."

One Last Look At Streaking

Safe to say, streaking was one of Babington's earliest stunts. After all these years, I had to ask, "If you could do it over again, would you still streak?"

"I honestly wouldn't say that the streaking incident was any kind of 'turning point' for me; moreover, one point of many along a rather absurd trajectory which, nearly 20 years later, has led me to just about the happiest life I can imagine," Babington said. "So, although I got into a fair amount of trouble for it, if I could go back, yes I would still make the same decision."

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Jazz Beyond Borders Presents "Blue Tapestry"

Jazz at the Mezz concerts will continue with another offering Sunday, October 16. The series is presented monthly by Jazz Beyond Borders and Severna Park restaurant Cafe Mezzanotte.

On October 16, award-winning Quebecoise vocalist Lynn Veronneau and English guitarist Ken Avis will be joined by acclaimed jazz and world musicians Karine Chapdelaine (bass), and Manny Arciniega (percussion) to interpret the music of Joni Mitchell's "Blue" and Carole King's "Tapestry."

Recorded simultaneously, in the same studio in 1971, the milestone albums changed American music forever, marking the end of the 1960s while putting women vocalist-composers center-stage. They reached across generations, appealing to a new and wider audience of music lovers and attracting loyal listeners from around the world. Enjoy a fresh presentation of these soulful, jazz-flavored sounds with the newly created "Blue Tapestry" program.

Cafe Mezzanotte is located at 760 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park.

Shows are held in a spacious setting with a full bank of windows on the side and a fireplace used when a chill is in the air. The restaurant offers a Mediterranean menu, and parking is free and easy.

Seating for the 4:30pm show is at 4:00pm. Seating for the 7:00pm show is at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online from instant seats (select Cafe Mezzanotte as the venue). Please note: the box office closes two hours before the show and most shows



Award-winning Quebecoise vocalist Lynn Veronneau will perform at Cafe Mezzanotte on October 16.

sell out in advance.

Now in its seventh year, Jazz Beyond Borders matches cultural diversity with artistic excellence, bringing world-class artists to festivals, concerts, classrooms and airwaves. The jazz and world music series at Cafe Mezzanotte was started by the organization in November 2019. Shows are offered outdoors in warm weather and move indoors as the weather cools. Visit www.jazzbeyondborders.com to sign up for the mailing list.

BTM Continues Season With "Les Sylphides And Other Works"

From October 7-9, Ballet Theatre of Maryland will begin its main-stage performance season with "Les Sylphides and Other Works" at Maryland Hall. This mixed-repertory production highlights the renowned one-act ballet "Les Sylphides" by Mikhail Fokine along with "Sapphire Romance" from founding artistic director Edward Stewart, "Flow and Ebb" by company soloist Cindy Case, and the world premiere of "Hijinks and Lullabies" by noted choreographer Keith Lee.

"Les Sylphides," set to the music of Chopin, follows the "poet" as he dances with ghostly sylphs through the dreamy atmosphere of a moonlit park. Described as "romantic reverie," this one-act ballet celebrates the beauty of romantic ballet with a setting evocative of the Halloween season.

The performance will also feature "Hijinks and Lullabies," a Keith Lee world premiere. Lee is a master choreographer who has performed as a soloist with American Ballet Theatre and served as ballet master for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. His whimsical 26-minute piece, set to the music

of Mahler, takes place in a ski chalet and includes a diverse cast of a ship captain, an inspector, a flock of chickadees, and many more personalities.

"We are thrilled for Keith Lee's return to choreograph a new work for Ballet Theatre of Maryland," said Artistic Director Nicole Kelsch. "It goes without saying that Keith Lee is a prolific choreographer who draws upon his long and successful career as an artist and dancemaker. We cannot wait to share his newest creation with our Annapolis audience."

The company will also perform Edward Stewart's "Sapphire Romance," most recently reprised in 2009. This sumptuous work for 16 dancers is accompanied by Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 2." Cindy Case's "Flow and Ebb," set to the music of Debussy, is a world premiere work.

In-person tickets for "Les Sylphides and Other Works" at Maryland Hall are on sale now at \$50 for adults, \$40 for seniors or military members, and \$30 for child or student tickets. For virtual audiences, tickets are \$30 per household. To learn more, visit www.balletmaryland.org.

Les Sylphides

and Other Works

Maryland Hall
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BTM Ballet Theatre of Maryland

www.BalletMaryland.org

Cape Arthur Beach Plays Backdrop For FILMSTERS Academy Film

» Continued from page 45

try, shared more about the setting with regards to writing.

"The setting came about when thinking about the concept of water and that it represented freedom to the protagonist," Leigh said. "It turned out perfect for the needs of the script and photographed beautifully."

Leigh also explained how the writing process at FILMSTERS Academy is an exercise in learning to write collaboratively.

"The students have to adapt to feedback from each other and their instructors just as a writer working professionally would," Leigh said. "A normal script could take years to write; ours gets two days. So the students can't be too precious about their work."

All students work with trained actors during production, and the advanced group has the unique opportunity to cast local actors, travel off campus for set loca-

tions and work with industry professionals from Los Angeles, New York and the Maryland/Washington, D.C. area during all stages of filmmaking.

Starring in the film is newcomer Sophia Greene, who plays Jane, and Eli Stiewing, a film camp acting team veteran, who plays Chase, Jane's old middle school crush. The duo struggles through teen anxiety between an overbearing family and the possibility of new love.

FILMSTERS Academy co-founders Patti White and Lee Anderson — who are also co-founders of the Annapolis Film Festival (AFF), emphasized how students are different in a post-pandemic year of camp. This was the first time back in person since 2019, and it truly was a healing year with such a cathartic experience like filmmaking.

"They are carrying so many emotional scars from loneliness, isolation and anxiety," White shared. "You could see it come

out in their storytelling. They chose a story that took that on. Things represent the times, and this was a year that really represented the times."

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, FILMSTERS Academy has given students of all levels the chance to work with professional equipment and get a real sense of an on-set experience, and the full process of making a film — from pitching an idea, to shooting, editing and post-production.

"The films improve year after year," Anderson said. "These kids are getting equipment that people aren't even getting at [University of Southern California] film school. They're getting top-level film equipment that real films are made with."

Leigh added, "FILMSTERS is a truly one-of-kind experience. The students are so lucky to be a part of ... they can come out of this program with so much hands-on experience and creative expertise that is invaluable, no matter what career path

they pursue."

This year's guest instructor roster also included industry names such as director Marlee Rodrigues ("Little Miss Perfect"), along with guest director of photography Bobby Lam ("James Boy," "A Crooked Somebody"), Gaffer Antonio Marasco of Local 728 in Los Angeles, soundman Zach Trees, composer Logan Nyman, and a senior editor for FILMSTERS Academy, Kenny Unangst.

Musicians Donovan Malone, Abbey Clarey and Kai Droettboom were inspired to write and sing an original song for the "What I Love About Jane" and sang it themselves for the end of the film.

"What I Love About Jane" has been submitted to several upcoming film festivals with the hopes of screening in the spring festival season. To view the short film, which is shorter than 14 minutes, email filmsters@filmsters.com for Vimeo access.

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AACCA Rocks The Stage With New Concert Season

By Judy Tacyn

Anne Arundel County's best kept concert series secret just might be the Anne Arundel Community Concert Association (AACCA), which has quietly been presenting internationally acclaimed artists to the community since 1952.

AACCA is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization committed to enriching the cultural life of Severna Park and surrounding communities through live performances. Concerts are held at Severna Park and Southern high schools in conjunction with the South County Concert Association (SCCA). After serving the county for more than 70 years, specifically Severna Park, the association is struggling to regain its footing in a post-COVID world and introduce new members to its world-class lineup of performers.

Association president Gale Gillespie is excited for the 2022-2023 season.

"We have an awesome lineup this year!" Gillespie said. "Our professional performers cover all genres of music, and the Severna Park High School auditorium is excellent for live events with its state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems."

Seating is comfortable and there is always ample parking.

Concert tickets are \$25 each, however, a \$70 annual subscription will allow guests to attend every concert for free, including those held at Southern High School in Harwood.

"Where else can you get to see 10 different concerts for just \$7 each?" questioned Patti Durst, AACCA board member, referring to the number of concerts available to an annual subscriber when considering both venues. "With an annual subscription, members will get an incredible value and exposure to a really wide range of events that every member of the family will enjoy."

The association is looking for fresh voices and opinions on their board to



The Everly Set will perform at Severna Park High School on October 24, taking the audience on a journey to the 1950s when Phil and Don Everly dominated the radio.

help set even more dynamic programming in the future.

"We have this amazing association right here in our backyard and we need help letting people know it's here, interesting and fun!" Durst said. "We need to broaden our appeal and awareness and add board members and volunteers or the future of the AACCA could be in jeopardy."

After a two-year slowdown due to COVID, the board is looking to add new members and volunteers to help revitalize the relatively unknown community gem. Whether you're ready to take on a board position or you simply want to hang posters, pass out programs or usher people to their seats, the AACCA has plenty of possibilities for residents to get involved. If you're social media savvy, an experienced marketer, a computer pro or prefer an active behind-the-scenes role, Gillespie said the board is ready to welcome you.

Get to know the AACCA at its next concert on Monday, October 24, at 7:30pm, when The Everly Set will perform at Severna Park High School. The Everly Set will take the audience on a journey back in time to the 1950s when Phil and Don Everly dominated the radio. Other entertainers scheduled this concert season include Sultans of String, The Eric

Byrd Trio, Brother Ray Band, Vinyl Radio, and Yakushev & Mesa.

For more information on AACCA and SCCA, ticket or concert information, or to inquire how you can get involved as a volunteer or association leader, visit www.aaccaconcerts.com or call Gale Gillespie at 410-647-4881 or Roberta Mason at 410-647-6830.

Oishi Japanese Cuisine Offers Indulgence And Variety

» Continued from page 45

with soft vegetables, and fried in a deliciously tender shell. Served with a sweet chili sauce, the one-two punch of sweet and spicy seemed to set the tone for the evening (which, spoiler alert, contained a lot of sweets and spices). The edamame was steamed to a perfect consistency, then topped with chunks of sea salt to bring out the natural flavor of the beans. It was a healthy beginning to an indulgent meal.

I ordered the Sarah's roll and the dynamite roll from the sushi menu, and the shrimp fried rice from the kitchen entrees. My husband ordered Thai curry with vegetables but substituted the rice with extra veggies. We ordered my kids some Philadelphia rolls.

My husband and I both were thrilled by the Thai curry with vegetables. It was one of the most flavorful dishes I've had in recent memory — perfectly balanced, with the spicy curry tempered by the creamy, lightly sweetened sauce. The presentation was terrific (true across the board for this restaurant) and immediately made my mouth water. A hearty array of vegetables including broccoli, green beans, red onions, carrots, peas, bamboo shoots, spinach, and jalapeños rose above the curry broth. The chicken was sliced thin and cooked well. We savored every bite and were

tempted to lick the plate. Again, this dish is normally served with white rice, but since my husband follows a low-carb diet, he went for the extra veggies. I would think it would be even more phenomenal with white rice (like just about everything else on the planet).

On to the sushi — if you're a fan of new flavor combinations, you'll find no shortage at Oishi. I followed the server's recommendation and was happy — and surprised — at some of the flavors I sampled. The Sarah's roll contains spicy tuna and creamy avocado wrapped in soft rice and seaweed, topped with raw salmon, a sweet Hawaiian barbecue sauce, and chunks of fresh garlic. It was fresh and filling, and at the end of the roll, I still couldn't decide on the flavors. The garlic and the Hawaiian barbecue sauce was interesting; I certainly liked it! Sweet and spicy is always a favorite combination of mine, but I've never associated garlic with sushi before, so I was a bit thrown. I'm not sure it would be my go-to sushi roll. My husband said it was awesome and made him want to travel the world, but maybe he's more adventurous than I am.

The dynamite roll was overflowing with flavor as well, and although it was another unexpected combo, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I've had

dynamite rolls at other sushi restaurants, and they were different from this one — so, fair warning, it is not deep-fried, but it is served hot. Flaky salmon and cooked tuna are wrapped in more fluffy rice (have I mentioned I love rice?) and seaweed, topped with a spicy sauce, then put under the broiler. Unlike the other spicy sauces, this was more like a paste laid thickly on top. I have no idea what the spicy sauce was, but the server told me it was mayonnaise-based. The taste of the cooked fish with the spicy sauce was a delightful change of pace.

The Philadelphia roll was everything it should have been — the deep taste of smoked salmon and the indulgent cream cheese wrapped up in rice and everything bagel seasoning stood up to any Philly roll I've had at other restaurants.

The shrimp fried rice was delicious — warm rice with tons of savory flavor, speckled with brightly colored mixed vegetables and topped with large, succulent shrimp. Unparalleled comfort food, in my opinion. The vegetables made their presence known but did not overwhelm the flavor of the rice.

We finished the meal with a brownie. This brownie was probably the densest brownie I've ever eaten — it wasn't soft, but when I pushed my spoon into it, the inside was unbeliev-

ably fudgy! I would definitely order this again. It was served cold and drizzled with chocolate syrup and a side of whipped cream. My husband took one bite and decided that — after all his efforts — he was kicking his low-carb plan to the curb for the rest of the evening. We shared the brownie and felt like we were about to explode with all the delicious food, so we called it quits.

For one Japanese soda, the spring roll appetizer, edamame, the Sarah roll, the dynamite roll, the Philadelphia roll, the fried rice, the Thai chili with vegetables, the brownie, and three rice rolls for my child, who is a picky eater, the bill was \$117. This sounds hefty, but it was for four of us, and we took quite a bit of food home.

I can whole-heartedly recommend Oishi for a flavorful and fun evening of Asian cuisine. Whatever you're craving, Oishi has you covered.

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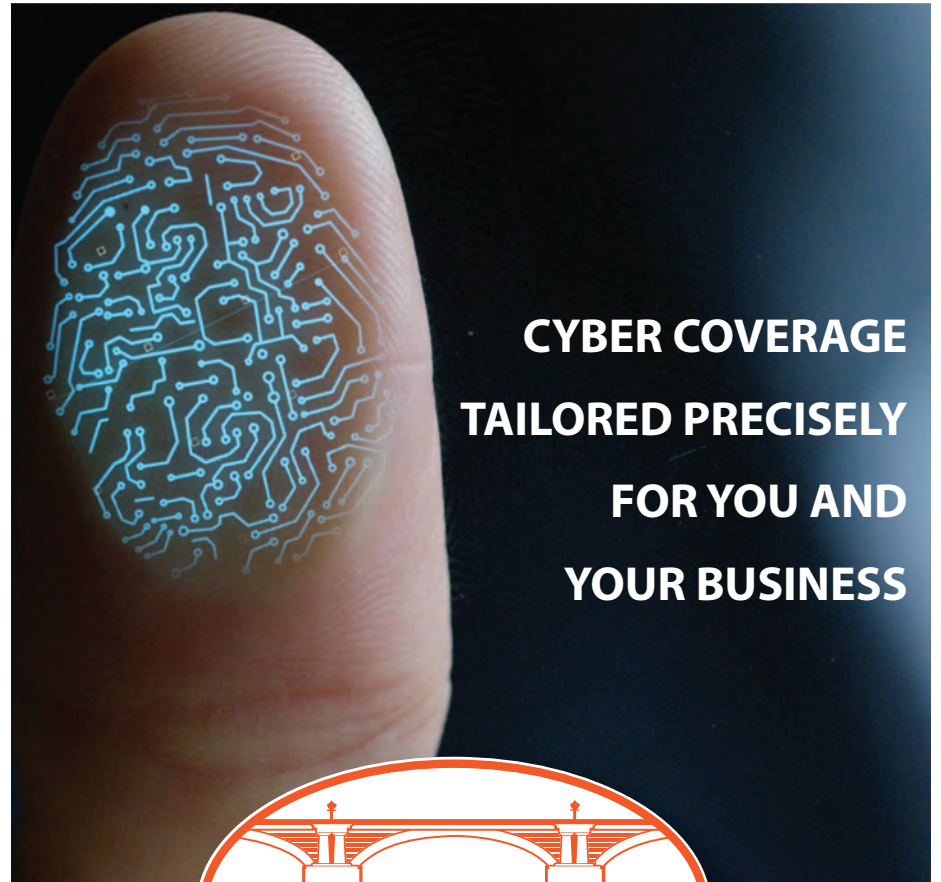
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What Midterm Elections Mean For The Market

Jason LaBarge
LaBarge
Financial



I love this time of year. Fall means football, pumpkins, and Christmas is around the corner. Unfortunately, fall can also mean those incessant commercials reminding us that elections are within reach. This year is a midterm election, and it seems unfair to me that with all the things happening in the world, we must also decide our leadership now too! Let's look at how this may impact the stock market.

Historically, the stock market performs better in the six months after an election than the six months before. This is usually because the public expects more government spending with a new Congress. However, with all the uncertainty in the world nowadays, it can be hard to predict the stock market outcome after midterms. The war in Ukraine and the 40-year-high infla-

tion rate seem to exacerbate the issue.

According to Politico, the Republicans are expected to win the majority in the House of Representatives. In order to win the majority, they need to win five seats in the House and one in the Senate. This doesn't necessarily mean that the market will improve. Economist Joe Brusuelas explained that, "Historically, investors prefer shared power across the federal government." An example of this would be in 2010 when President Barack Obama was in office, Congress was split with a Republican House and a Democratic Senate. Between November 2010 to 2014, the S&P surged nearly 70 percent.

All this uncertainty does the market no good, as we've seen during the pandemic. There is room for some good news on the horizon. We can hope for those historic good returns in the fourth quarter of 2022 and first quarter of 2023 following the midterms, as I briefly mentioned earlier.

The fourth and first quarter returns following a midterm election rise 6.1 percent and 7.5 percent, respec-

» **Continued on page 62**

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



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

Advance Auto Parts – (bronze member)

This new franchise will open its

doors on November 17 on the upper level of the Clement Hardware building in Severna Park. The company retails various brand name, original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and private label automotive replacement parts, accessories, batteries, and maintenance items for domestic and imported cars, vans, sport utility vehicles, and light and heavy-duty trucks. Advance Auto Parts serves both the professional installer and the do-it-yourself (DIY) customers.

We will hold a ribbon-cutting celebration on November 18 at noon and all are invited to attend and meet the owner.

Zen Leaf Oceanside – This company's mission is to guide you along the path toward elevated wellness through cannabis products, education, and expertly trained cannabis advisors at each dispensary. Zen Leaf has operated licensed

dispensaries across the country since 2016.

NewAge Ariix – The team works with a global network of hundreds of brand partners to bring health, wellness, and life solutions for better living. One well-known brand that they market is the Noni product.

Play & Thrive Speech Therapy – Providing bilingual speech therapy in-person and online, Play & Thrive provides individual therapy sessions, language assessments, articulation/speech sound assessments, and parent coaching.

Resolute Properties LLC – Resolute Properties is a locally owned, family operated company that purchases and restores residential properties throughout Anne Arundel County. No repairs, no cleaning, no fees and no waiting. Resolute Properties buys houses "as is" and takes the stress out of selling your home by managing every aspect of the selling process.

BD Provisions, Severna Park is a new franchise concept offering a carefully curated collection of bulk foods sold by the pound in sustainable containers. The business has a tremendous selection of items in bulk — ranging from your basic pantry staples to that crazy new superfood everyone has been talking about, with new items coming in all the time! BD Provisions also roasts coffee in the front of the store for the ultimate in freshness, so you can

» **Continued on page 60**

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Shop Smarter With Savvy Consignment

By Lauren Meyer

It seems like "inflation" and "recession" are on the tip of everyone's tongues these days. What better way to cut costs or tighten your belt than to shop consignment? Look no further than local retail store Savvy Consignment, which is celebrating 13 years in business.

"I feel every year a small business succeeds is a milestone," said Savvy Consignment owner Stacey Cassidy. "I am very grateful for the continued support from the community."

Savvy Consignment carries a wide range of name-brand clothing, furniture, home decor, jewelry, handbags and shoes. Items are new or gently used and touch upon needs for kids, adults and even maternity.

Originally, the boutique-style consignment shop was located in a different storefront in the Severna Park Village shopping center when it opened in 2009. Three years later, Savvy Home joined with its own location in the shopping center and focused on home items. In September 2014, Cassidy decided to combine the stores into a single location, right next to Garry's Grill off B&A Boulevard.

"When I first opened, the store was only 1,500 square feet; I couldn't even imagine how I would regulate items coming in at the rate it does now," Cassidy said. "I am glad we merged the stores together, Savvy Home and Savvy Consignment, and so we are all together."

Back-to-school time, specifically the fall season, is the busiest time for Savvy Consignment, which carries high-end brands including Lululemon, J.Crew, Free



Stacey Cassidy was proud that readers chose Savvy Consignment as the Best Consignment Shop in the 2022 Best of Severna Park contest.

People, Lilly Pulitzer and Vineyard Vines. "We get things every day, so it's always changing, which keeps things fresh and fun," Cassidy said. "We restage the store once a week, so it's always looking different. Once all the fall stuff comes in, the good stuff goes fast."

Cost savings on your own purchases isn't the only benefit of frequenting Savvy Consignment. The opportunity to consign is another way to purge unwanted items from the home and make money while doing so. Currently Savvy is accepting fall items Monday through Friday without an appointment, as long as visitors arrive at least 30 minutes before closing time.

To consign, there's a one-time \$10 consignor fee and then consignors get 45% of what each item sells for. Visit www.savvyconsignment.com to learn more and review the consignors agreement to get started.

Whether you're shopping or consigning, one thing is for sure: customer service is a top priority for Cassidy and her 20 employees.

"I want to say hi to everyone that walks in the door," Cassidy said. "We may just yell from the counter, but we say it. We try our best to give the best service we can. Sometimes it's difficult, but most days, things go well."



From The Team Behind Preserve, Garten Is Now Open

Garten, the newest concept from husband-and-wife team Jeremy and Michelle Hoffman, opened October 5, just in time for Oktoberfest. Known for their award-winning Annapolis restaurant Preserve, with its focus on local ingredients and creative ferments, they're bringing the same joy and innovation to Garten, an all-new beer-and-wine-garden concept in Severna Park.

Garten, influenced heavily by chef Jeremy Hoffman's German heritage, is the culmination of a lifelong dream to offer his modern take on the old-world cuisines of Germany and Northern France in a relaxed outdoor beer garden setting — think cheese and charcuterie, schnitzel with shaved garden vegetables, and giant pretzels with homemade mustard, alongside a rotating selection of craft beer and natural wines to be cultivated by general manager Chris Walker. Delaney Pendry from Preserve has joined the team as lead bartender, crafting delicious garden-inspired cocktails at the helm of the bar. Garten's chef de cuisine and sous chef will also be Preserve alumni — chef Greg Anderson and sous chef Justin Klein's immense talents will keep the kitchen cranking.

"We're envisioning Garten as a community gathering place where you can relax with friends and family while enjoying cuisine that truly excites us — look



(L-R) Husband-and-wife team Michelle and Jeremy Hoffman are the visionaries behind Garten, Greg Anderson will serve as chef de cuisine, and General Manager Chris Walker plans to offer wine subscriptions and DIY wine-centric gift boxes.



out for our modern takes on some of those beer garden classics everyone knows and loves," said chef Jeremy Hoffman. Some of Garten's partners include Binkert's Meat Products in Baltimore, Hyattsville's Lyon Bakery and Annapolis's Chesapeake Smokehouse, with Garten's house beer provided by Pherm Brewing in Gambrills, with some hyper-local sourcing coming from an onsite garden coming summer 2023 and a beekeeping operation for local honey helmed by co-owner Michelle Hoffman.

"The learning curve with the bees is interesting to say the least — I only got seven stings my very first day out, but you learn to trust yourself more and control the energy you put out — I'm lucky to have been taken in by a couple local mentors (shout out to my buddies



Keith and Andy)," Michelle said.

Garten's onsite honey will go into cocktails, ferments and other items.

"I want our green space to be lovely but functional. One day you may see me minding the bees, and the next [day], chef or Delaney picking something fresh for the kitchen or bar," Michelle said.

Now that Garten is up and running, general manager Chris Walker plans to offer wine subscriptions and do-it-yourself (DIY) wine centric gift boxes, expanding a list of the natural and organic wines that he's made a huge hit at Preserve.

"Natural, organic, biodynamic wines are my passion right now," Walker said. "I'm excited to offer the Garten crowd some real hidden gems in addition to

some reliably popular thirst-quenchers. Expect funky and intriguing offerings not just from places like Germany and France, but from all over the world, even our own backyard here in the DMV."

Jeremy Hoffman said, "At the end of the day, Garten is a casual gathering place for friends and family to relax. We're looking forward to being a community hub with live music, private events, and lots more down the line. We're not super fancy or

guided by the latest trends so much as by this beautiful space that sort of fell into our lap after many years of patiently waiting for the perfect location for this concept.

"It's our own modern twist on a beer garden, so while the German and Northern French influence are there in the food and drink, we'll also be pulling in ideas from our own backyard and taking inspiration from the nature around us, with room for some off-the-beaten-path picks as well," he added. "We're focusing on flavor and quality over fitting into the correct restaurant category. Cheers, proste, sláinte — however you toast, all are welcome at Garten!"

Garten is a casual American restaurant and beer/wine garden focusing on seasonality and small plates heavily influenced by chef Jeremy Hoffman's German heritage.

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 58

watch your beans being roasted and take them home still warm.

September was a great month for ribbon-cutting celebrations. Our first was the open house and ribbon-cutting celebrating **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi's** 22 years of successful business. Owners Billy and Nancy Greer welcomed close to 100 people who attended, and they talked about their story and how they give back to the community through fundraising. Also in attendance were 10 nonprofits distributing literature and raising awareness at the event.

Another ribbon-cutting/open house celebrated the three-year anniversary of the **Life of Joy Foundation**. Joy Cortina started the foundation for personal reasons, and with the help of dedicated volunteers and businesses, has grown to nurture mental wellness and prevent suicide by serving as a link to integrative care

of mind, body and spirit, and as advocates with their collaborative network of resources, community engagement and cost assistance programs. The celebration was held at the Severna Park Community Center.

The last ribbon-cutting/open house was held at **Nature Junction**, formerly the Wild Bird Center in Severna Park. Owner Kim Stagi grew up with a love of birds and nature and has created a business that provides high-quality products and information on birding and wildlife, while promoting the conservation of nature in every community and backyard.

We participated in a multi-chamber end-of-summer bash at the beautiful **Walden Country Club** in Crofton. All of the chambers in Anne Arundel County participated, and funds were raised through a cornhole tournament for the Life of Joy Foundation.

Our Successful Women in Business group held a luncheon at the new **Taichi Bubble Tea** spot in Severna Park. The restaurant is beautiful and features a life-size cherry blossom tree that the owner created by hand. Owner Amy Chen told

us how she immigrated from China to the U.S. and through hard work opened her first business in Annapolis with her husband. They plan to expand to Crofton later in the year.

Our monthly wellness committee meeting featured **Carrie Baquie, a chronic illness coach**. Carrie shared the best practices on how to get the most out of your medical visits.

Due to popular demand, we hosted one last cookout at the chamber. The TGIF "Endless Summer" Cookout was sponsored by **Robin Torrence of ATG Title**, and as always, it was well-attended.

Finally, it would not be a September without our annual Driving Force for Business golf tournament. This sold-out event was held at the gorgeous Chartwell Golf and Country Club, and the presenting sponsor was **Live! Casino and Hotel**. Eagle sponsors were **Chick-fil-A Severna Park, Alexander Animal Hospital, Moran Insurance, Rosso Commercial Real Estate, Fellner Legal Services, Steak 'n Shake Millersville** and **SERVPRO**

Annapolis/Severna Park. Hospitality tent sponsors were **Sandy Spring Bank, the Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium, and Passanante's Home Food Services**. The hot dogs were sponsored by **Garry's Grill**. The publication sponsor was **What's Up? Media**. The beverage carts were sponsored by **Abode Title and Escrow** and **Cassilly Financial Services**. Brightview Severna Park and the Bank of Glen Burnie sponsored snacks. The photographer was sponsored by **Bar-ranco Funeral and Cremation Services**. Ravens Hole was sponsored by **M&T Bank** and the hole-in-one by **Wilkins Buick**. Landmark Roofing sponsored the pro shot, with donations going to the **Wellness House in Annapolis**. The **Severna Park Community Center** and **Severna Park Lanes** were the tee sponsors.

Please check out our website calendar (www.gspacc.com) for upcoming events and our Facebook page. You can reach me at ceo@gspacc.com or 410-647-3900. Thank you for buying local and shopping small!

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Look Closely At Open Enrollment Choices

Brian M. Conrad
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Financial Advisor



Once again, it's the season for football games and back-to-school activities. And if you work for a medium-size or large employer, it will soon be open enrollment season — the time of year when you can review your employee benefits and make changes as needed. What areas should you focus on?

Actually, it's a good idea to pay close attention to all your benefits. Some of the offerings may have changed from last year — and you might have experienced changes in your own life, too, which might lead you to look for something different from your existing benefits package.

You may want to start with your health insurance. If you're satisfied with your coverage, and it's essen-

tially the same as it's been, you may want to stick with what you have. However, many employers are increasingly offering high-deductible health plans, which, as the name suggests, could entail more out-of-pocket costs for you. But high-deductible plans may also offer something of benefit: the ability to contribute to a health savings account (HSA).

Your HSA contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, so they can reduce your taxable income for the year. Also, your earnings grow tax-free, and your withdrawals are tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified medical expenses (withdrawals taken before age 65 that aren't used for qualified medical expenses are taxable and subject to a 20% penalty; once you reach 65, the penalty no longer applies, although withdrawals are still taxable as income if not used for a qualified expense).

Your next benefit to consider: life insurance. Your employer may

offer a group life insurance plan, but you'll want to evaluate whether it's sufficient for your needs, especially if you've experienced changes in your personal situation over the past year, such as getting married or adding a new child. There's no magic formula for how much life insurance you need — you'll need to consider a variety of factors, such as your income, family size, mortgage and so on — but it may be necessary to supplement your employer's coverage with a private policy.

Your employer may also offer disability insurance as a benefit. Some employers' disability policies are limited, covering only short periods of time, so you may want to consider a private policy.

Beyond the various insurance policies your employer may offer, you'll also want to closely look at your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Typically, you can make changes to your 401(k) throughout the year, but it's important to make sure your investment selections and contribu-

tion amounts are still aligned with your risk tolerance and goals. Also, are you contributing enough to earn your employer's match if one is offered? And if you've already received the match, can you still afford to put in more to your plan if such a move makes sense for you?

Your employee benefits package can be a valuable part of your overall financial strategy. So, as open enrollment season proceeds, take a close look at what you already have, what's being offered, and what changes you need to make. It will be time well spent.

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

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

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RIBBON CUTTING



Nature Junction Celebrates New Beginning

Nature Junction owner Kim Stagi completed the rebranding of her store, formerly called the Wild Bird Center, by hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. Located at 568 Ritchie Highway, Suite G, in Severna Park, the store offers bird seed, garden decor and more.

What Midterm Elections Mean For The Market

» Continued from page 58

tively, on average. Another thing to keep in mind is that no matter what the result is with the midterm elections, it shouldn't have a huge impact on your investment portfolio or strategy. In fact, it's economic fundamentals that really drive the market performance surrounding the midterm elections, rather than the results. The Federal Reserve's tightening of monetary policy to attempt to control inflation will likely have a greater impact on the market compared to whoever wins

the election.

To summarize, elections are extremely important. Most people focus on presidential elections, but midterms are vital — especially this year when both houses seem to be up for grabs. It is important to remember that the political landscape is only one of many contributing factors that affect stock market performance. It isn't as cut and dry as "if this party wins, then the stock market will improve." It is also important to note that the midterm election will likely impact

on the Federal Reserve's decisions. The current interest rate environment and the resulting impact to inflation is as important, or perhaps more important, than the midterm elections. Nonetheless, it still is important to get out and vote!

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CARL NEIMEYER

COUNTY COUNCIL
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DISTRICT 5



Friends and Neighbors,

It's hard to believe that it was only a year ago that I was encouraged to run for Anne Arundel County Council. After the incumbent had made *yet another* pandering, partisan vote, folks were tired of it. They knew we can have— and deserve— better. With their prodding, I am now **ready to serve and bring real-world leadership and experience** to Anne Arundel County Council.

For those who haven't met me yet, I'm Carl Neimeyer— **combat veteran, professional engineer, business owner, community volunteer, husband and father of five.** Unlike my opponent, I built my career and service outside of the political noise machine, which will allow me to serve you and the best interests of our *whole* community better than ever!



As a veteran of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, I not only bring a personal understanding of the risks and sacrifice of service but also the experience of leading and managing millions of dollars of construction for the government. As a business owner, I've been a participating member of the Chamber of Commerce for years outside of seeking political office. I don't need partisan talking points to tell me how to advocate for our businesses and the labor that powers them— *I'm already there!* I've always tried to be of service to my community wherever I've lived. I've continued to lead and help with church and civic organizations, youth programs for STEM and business education, Broadneck sports, and scouting right here in District 5!



This year, we can *actually* get the leadership our district expects and deserves: **A representative who is both fiscally responsible and committed to smartly investing in our community.** *We don't have to settle* for our current representative who won't support public safety, teachers, or investment in our community until an election year, who takes credit for others' work, who uses her office to boost partisan and special interests against the best interests of our community.

I've devoted my life to serving my country, my employees, my family, my church, and my community. I hope to earn the privilege of your vote on **Nov. 8th** so that I can serve you, my neighbors, as your next councilman!



Best Regards,

Carl J. Neimeyer



PRO-BUSINESS - PRO-LABOR

As a business owner, I know what it's like to put everything on the line and how government can either help or unnecessarily burden industry. Additionally, our community benefits when the labor that powers the local economy has good wages and opportunities. With my unique perspective as a union signatory business owner, all of our economic interests will have an advocate.



SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY & CIVIL LIBERTIES

Public safety is the *fundamental* duty of government just as respect for rights and due process is a fundamental bedrock of liberty. Our police and first responders need our councilmember to *actionably* and *reliably* support equipping and funding them properly and to put the safety of our communities and citizens above partisan interests.



THE CHESAPEAKE BAY: CONSERVATION & BRIDGE IMPACTS

Sustaining the vital resource of the bay must be a priority, and I will advocate for solutions to our environmental challenges. With my experience in federal contracting, engineering, and construction, I can champion *real solutions* to the negative traffic impacts of the Bay Bridge in District 5 in ways no other candidate for council can.



REAL FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Government can't tax-and-spend indefinitely any more than we can have quality government and community services— **teachers, police, roads**— without *actually* funding them. Real stewardship requires a balance that dishonest partisanship ignores. As councilman, I will never play partisan games with your hard-earned tax dollars.



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real **Amanda FIEDLER** record?
TheRealFiedlerRecord.com

Are you
#VoteReady?



Scan QR Code for more information.

WWW.CARLNEIMEYER.COM

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AUTHORITY: CITIZENS FOR CARL NEIMEYER; LAURA CALISE, TREASURER

Jessica Haire *for* County Executive

Meet Jessica Haire — Proactive Problem Solver

My name is Jessica Haire, and I am running to be your County Executive. I am a civil engineer, attorney, wife, mom, the current District 7 Councilwoman — and your neighbor in the county! I am also a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in foster care. I care deeply about our communities, families, small businesses, and the county's natural features.

I was elected to the Council in 2018 after speaking out about a bad development in Crofton that would have overburdened roads and schools. I have spent my four years on the Council advocating for common-sense legislation that lowers the cost of living, improves the quality of life for our families, creates opportunities for small businesses to thrive, and fosters safe communities. For example, I was the lead legislative sponsor to:

- Create a property tax credit for service-disabled veterans (Bill 105-20).
- Eliminate the fee for public safety officers to apply for their tax credit (Bill 51-20).
- Increase the county's savings cap to protect against future tax increases and improve the county's bond rating (Bill 25-21).
- Remove unnecessary administrative hurdles for farmers selling produce directly to residents (Bill 74-21).
- Incentivize revitalization of aging infrastructure (Bills 90-19, 95-19, 110-21).
- Modernize the county code for small nursery businesses when the current Administration was trying to shut them down (Bill 57-22).

By contrast, the current county executive raised taxes by over \$1,700 on the average family during his term and circumvented the voter-imposed property tax cap, yet our communities are short hundreds of schoolteachers and public safety officers. Where is the money?

Moreover, his policies are making us less safe and forcing us to spend more time stuck in traffic. Violent crimes are up¹, gun crimes are up 45%², and police recruitment is at an all-time low³. Meanwhile, he has approved new high-density housing units. Just this July, he pushed through a development to build more than 100 new high-density apartments in Odenton while giving millions in tax breaks to the project's New York developer — who had just contributed thousands of dollars to his campaign⁴!

We can do better. I am a proactive problem solver. Together, we will eliminate wasteful spending from the budget to lower taxes and return your money to you. We will reduce crime and prioritize public safety. We will protect our county's natural features. We will work hard immediately at solving the school bus driver shortages so that every family has access to safe, reliable transportation to and from school. Most of all, every resident, family and county business will know that I work for you.

My career in the private sector has been built on being proactive and accountable. I've brought these leadership traits to my four-years on the County Council, where I've passed more bipartisan legislation than any other Council member despite being in the Council's 4-3 minority. I am proud to have this record of achievement in promoting common-sense solutions to reduce the tax burden and streamline government for our residents and small businesses. I humbly ask for your vote on November 8, 2022 and look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail!

Jessica Haire

Jessica Haire
Candidate, Anne Arundel County Executive

¹ Anne Arundel County 2021 Annual Report, 2021-annual-report.pdf (aacounty.org) (pgs. 29-30)

² Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Intervention Task Force Data, Anne Arundel County Dept. of Health: Gun Violence Intervention (civilspace.io)

³ Police Chief Testimony before County Council, March 2022

⁴ Bill 66-22; Campaign Finance Report by Friends of Stuart Pittman, June 14, 2022



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