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SEVERNA PARK, MD

**NOVEMBER 2022** 

## Listman's Store Undergoing Renovations

#### By Laurie Edwards

¶he corner of Earleigh Heights Road and Light Street offers B&A Trail access, parking, public restrooms and the B&A Railroad Museum, and soon, it may offer the community another service.

In 2021, native Severna Park residents Doug and Cindy Schafer purchased the Listman property adjacent to the B&A Trail. The property includes the old Listman's Country Store as well as the barn and parking lot across the street. The couple's vision for the property is to restore the general store while creating a gathering place for families and friends. They hope to bring activities that focus on health, wellness and family fun.

The Listman family built the barn in 1975 to host a wedding. Over the years, the structure has served several useful yet eclectic purposes. Beyond family gatherings and extra space for the store, the barn has stored antique Fords, as well as hearses and coffins for Barranco Severna Park Funeral Home & Cremation Care. It also once served as a sculptor's studio for life-size art. In November 2021, the newly renovated barn opened its doors as The Yoga Barn, a co-operative yoga studio. The co-op, managed by Carleen Birnes, offers yoga classes and other wellness events.

Earlier this fall, the open space next to the barn became the new home of The Coffee Trailer. Jason and Carmen Gregg, owners and operators of The Coffee Trailer, share the Schafer family's desire to create a community gathering spot. With seating, lights, potted plants and even a vintage bike, they have created an inviting spot to stop along the trail and

#### Scan Inside **Here To** Visit Our Community... Website Religion. .16 Sports. School & Youth... .29 Health & Fitness .. 34 Arts & Entertainment ... Politics & Opinion.



## Severna Park Resident Honored With Naval Academy Award



#### **By Mark Patton**

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

hartwell resident Doug Crowder had to interrupt a budget meeting at the Pentagon where three of the Navy's top officials at the time were convening. The day was September 11, 2001. Crowder, then a Navy captain who had already been selected to receive his first star, had just watched the second plane fly into the Twin Towers on a TV in his office at the Department of Defense hub.

'CNO, you need to know this," said Crowder to the senior military officer of the Navy at the time, Admiral Vern Clark, who was serving as the chief of naval operations.

Shortly after Crowder's interruption, the officers felt the Boeing 757, operating as American Airlines Flight 77, crash into the west side of the Pentagon. In the hijacked plane's immediate path was the Navy Command Center, where multiple Navy personnel were killed.

Crowder, who ultimately served 36 » Continued on page 12



## **Don't Hold Your Breath**

Severna Park Native Aims To Bring Awareness To Shallow Water Blackout

#### **By Mark Patton**

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

handler Watson had just celebrated his one-year wedding anniversary the weekend before his family traveled to Bald Head Island, North Carolina, for a vacation on Independence Day weekend in 2020.

It was a weekend that changed his life. But first it took it.

The Severna Park native and current Arnold resident has never been one to back away from a challenge. Whether it was growing up attending Annapolis Area Christian School or playing as a tight end for Indiana University's football team, Chandler was used to being mentally and physically tested.

So when Chandler had the chance to showcase how far he could swim underwater while holding his breath in a pool at Bald Head Island, he didn't hesitate. With family laughing and relaxing around the 25-yard pool surrounded by other vacationers, the challenge was thrown out for Chandler to go down and back with one breath.

"I had never done that," Chandler said. "I think I've come close, so I decided today was the day."

After hyperventilating intentionally in an aim to improve his cardiovascular performance, Chandler began his underwater journey. After making the turn, he began to venture back. He was just a foot

» Continued on page 9



## Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

Every month, the *Voice* recognizes the good work of a local volunteer to honor *Voice* founder and lifelong Severna Park resident Margueritte Mills.

The Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month is proudly sponsored by Heidler Plumbing.



## Chartwell Resident Brings Joy To Senior Dogs

#### **By Mark Patton**

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

arbara Stavac isn't out to teach an old dog new tricks, but she does her best to provide joy and companionship to senior canines.

Stavac has been volunteering for about four years at the Senior Dog Sanctuary of Maryland in Severn. The sanctuary provides a haven for senior dogs whose owners can no longer care for them as well as those that have been abandoned, abused or face euthanasia

The Chartwell resident worked for Anne Arundel County Public Schools teaching middle and high school before retiring and taking on a position as an adjunct faculty member at Anne Arundel Community College.

Once Stavac moved on from educating children and young adults, she turned her attention to caring for those with four legs.

"I wanted to volunteer in some way, and I love dogs," said Stavac, who is originally from Glen Burnie but has lived in Severna Park for 40 years.

One of the things that drew Stavac to the Senior Dog Sanctuary of Maryland is its mission of rehabilitating senior dogs, when required, and ultimately rehoming them. Even if the animals aren't placed with a new owner, the canine residents have a space that is comfortable and safe to live out their life.

The three acres that make up the sanctuary feature a nature walking trail, dubbed Happy Tails Trail, as well as agility courses, an on-site medical suite, a firepit area, sun lounging spots and plenty of room inside a large house complete with dog beds and toys. In the on-site kitchen, the facility even makes



Chartwell resident Barbara Stavac volunteers at the Senior Dog Sanctuary of Maryland in Severn. Stavac posed with one of the sanctuary's residents, a pit bull terrier mix named Diamond who is blind and has diabetes, during her October 18 volunteer shift.

many of the dogs' treats, such as yogurt pops, chicken soup, and dehydrated fruits and vegetables.

'Dogs are treated with respect and the staff is wonderful," Stavac said. "They have the best interests of the

Stavac, who owns a pair of senior dogs herself, volunteers weekly at the sanctuary and spends 90 minutes a visit playing with the pooches or just sometimes petting them while they're napping.

"I think dogs are so appreciative of the attention that they get," Stavac said. "I feel better when I leave here because I know that they enjoyed being with me."

Christine Sandberg, executive director of Senior Dog Sanctuary of Maryland, said she's grateful to volunteers whose partnership allows them to bring the promise of sanctuary and forever to the dogs.

to volunteer her time here at our sanctuary," Sandberg said. "She has made a meaningful impact on our residents here, her calm compassion lulls restless dogs into peaceful slumbers, and her gentle encouragement coaxes the stubborn pups into strolls in the sunshine so they get the physical activity they need to stay healthy.'

Stavac said one of the toughest situations that she sees is when owners will give up an older dog in order to get a new puppy.

"That doesn't really sit well with me. I just think they deserve the respect that they should get," Stavac said. "If they're part of your life, they're part of your life.

Becoming such a familiar face at the sanctuary has also brought out a range of emotions in Stavac.

Pete was a treeing walker coonhound who participated in the facility's doggie fashion show a couple of years ago.

"I just remember him walking down the runway, and he was just so happy," Stavac said.

Pete, who was adopted from the sanctuary and then brought back, ultimately lived his final days at the facility.

"I just cried my eyes out, because you get attached," Stavac said. "But sometimes you get attached to dogs that are adopted, and as long as you know they're going to a good place, it's a joyful time."

Stavac said she likes to think of herself as a "natural nurturer" and feels she gets almost as much joy out of volunteering as the senior dogs that she provides attention and care to.

"It's a wonderful feeling to know that you come in and you make somebody happy, even if it's a dog," Stavac said. "The bottom line is I





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## **Correction:**

## Parijita Bastola Article

'n our October edition, an error stated that Severna Park High School student Parijita Bastola was the first Lebanese American contestant on NBC's "The Voice." Bastola is Nepalese American. We regret the error.





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## Listman's Country Store Undergoing Renovations



Listman's Country Store was a Severna Park icon that attracted customers for decades with its old-fashioned traditions and friendly service.

#### » Continued from page 1

"This location is perfect for interacting with the community," Carmen said. "We feel blessed by the strong support and positive feedback we have received from the community."

The Coffee Trailer serves brewed coffee, hot and cold specialty espresso drinks, smoothies, and seasonal specials, like hot apple cider. The Coffee Trailer is currently open Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Renovations are underway inside the old country store. The Schafers plan to open a market that caters to the community, similar to the legacy of Listman's Country Store

The country store opened in 1928 with the help of three generations of the Listman family. The store was recently owned and operated by Conrad Listman, a military veteran and retired Anne Arundel County fireman. Listman's was a Severna Park icon that attracted customers for decades with its old-fashioned traditions and friendly service.

Fresh-cut meat was the cornerstone of the business, but customers also enjoyed tabs for purchas-

"

It brings back family memories of blackberry picking along the trail to Listman's for a deli sandwich and penny candy picnic."

CINDY SCHAFER
 LISTMAN PROPERTY CO-OWNER

es, bags loaded into their cars, and check-cashing services. The atmosphere of the store was unique and charming with an antique peanut roaster, golden cash registers, and a toy train circling the ceiling.

"We have never been more excited than we are now about the rejuvenation of Listman's property," Cindy Schafer said. "It brings back family memories of blackberry picking along the trail to Listman's for a deli sandwich and penny candy picnic. When the opportunity presented itself to revive the store along with the opening of Yoga Barn and Coffee Trailer, we could begin to see our dreams becoming a reality for a gathering place for family, friends and wellness."

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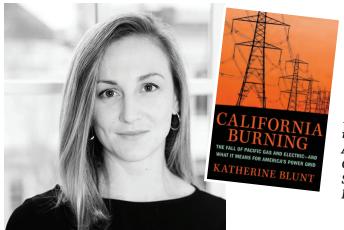
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## Severna Park Native Publishes Best-Selling Book



Photos courtesy of Shanette Kay Photography

"California
Burning: The Fall
of Pacific Gas and
Electric and What
it Means for
America's Power
Grid" is a book by
Severna Park native
Katherine Blunt.

#### By Lauren Meyer

atherine Blunt has already made a name for herself in the journalism ranks, and she's most recently caught the attention of the publishing world with her August release of the national best-selling book "California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas and Electric and What it Means for America's Power Grid."

The 2011 Severna Park High School graduate has covered power, renewable energy and utilities for the *Wall Street Journal* since 2018, and much of Blunt's work has also focused on wildfires, droughts and other challenges facing utilities in the west.

Blunt, who grew up in Shipley's Choice and now lives in San Francisco, joined the *Wall Street Journal* just before the 2018 Camp Fire, which ignited in a rural part of Northern California when a Pacific Gas & Electric power line failed. Eighty-four people died from the tragedy.

"I worked closely with two colleagues to investigate the root of that failure, and we produced a series of articles that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize [for National Reporting] in 2020," Blunt said. "Because of that, I got a call from a literary agent asking if I'd write a book, and I agreed. It's a very complex story best told at length."

For the 2018 Camp Fire series, Blunt and her colleagues also earned a Gerald Loeb Award, one of the highest honors in business journalism. The *Wall Street Journal* trio was also recognized with the 2019 Thomas L. Stokes Award for energy and environmental writing, as well as a silver Barlett & Steele award through the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism.

In her new book, Blunt examines how PG&E, a legacy company built by innovators and visionaries, endangered millions of Northern California residents through criminal neglect of its infrastructure. The book details how the company's prioritization of profits and politics caused a rusted hook purchased for 56 cents in 1921 to split in two and ignite the deadliest wildfire in California history.

Beginning with PG&E's public reckoning after the 2018 fire, Blunt chronicles the evolution of PG&E's shareholder base, from innovators who built some of California's first long-distance power lines to aggressive investors keen on reaping dividends.

"Ît's important that we collectively have a better understanding of the grid and the companies that deliver power as we become increasingly reliant on it," Blunt said. "PG&E's story demonstrates the danger of mismanaging risk and underscores the importance of strong regulatory oversight."

In her book, Blunt exposes the driving forces of the PG&E dilemma: deregulation and market-gaming led by Enron Corporation, a steadfast push for renewable energy, and an increase in wildfire risk throughout the west, while regulators and lawmakers pushed their own agendas.

While Blunt notes the importance of understanding how and why California's largest utility company neglected its infrastructure with deadly consequences, she emphasizes that it's not a story unique to California.

"It's a harbinger of what's to come as climate change exacerbates the vulnerability of the power grid and forces utility companies across the country to confront a new set of risks," Blunt said.

Before her work at the Wall Street Journal and launch of "California Burning," Blunt was a business reporter at the Houston Chronicle. She spent almost a year reporting on how Joel Osteen built Lakewood Church into one of the nation's largest by deploying sophisticated marketing and branding tactics taken from the corporate playbook. The three-part series earned her second place in feature writing from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors in 2018.

Rewinding a bit further, Blunt's accolades kicked off during her time at the San Antonio Express-News, where she investigated why the first public-private toll road in Texas, and many other roads financed prior to the recession, went bankrupt several years into operation. In 2017, both Texas Associated Press Managing Editors and Editor & Publisher awarded the investigation first place in business journalism.

Blunt's humble journalism beginnings, however, took place in the halls of Severna Park High School. The author credited Lea Trimble, who retired from the high school in 2016, for encouraging her to be a part of the school's paper, *The Talon*.

"I've wanted to be a journalist since high school," Blunt said. "I joined *The Talon* staff as a freshman, and it was the first time I found something that really suited my skill set."

"California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas and Electric and What it Means for America's Power Grid" is available for sale at booksellers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

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## Don't Hold Your Breath: Severna Park Native Aims To Bring Awareness

#### » Continued from page 1

away from touching the wall.
"That's when the lights went out for me," Chandler said.

It was a full five minutes before they came back on. Chandler suffered what is known as shallow water blackout, also known as hypoxic blackout.

'We all thought that he was still trying to hold his breath, maybe to show us how much longer he could," said Chandler's

But Chandler's mother, Trish, sensed something was very wrong. As his father, Chad, pulled his son's lifeless body out of the pool, Trish Chandler's maternal instinct proved to be all too real.

Chandler had no pulse or heartbeat for five minutes before a pair of doctors' resuscitation efforts brought Chandler back to life.

'We knew, briefly, what it feels like to lose a child," Trish Watson said.

Chandler's parents, who still reside in Severna Park, note how fortunate they are that their son beat the odds. Shallow water blackout has a 94 percent fatality rate and the fact that Chandler had no lingering effects to his heart or brain from the incident is something doctors called a miracle. Given the fact that Bald Head Island is only accessible by a ferry, has no hospital on the island and the incident happened during the height of a pandemic where the pool was operating at reduced capacity and required signing up for specific time slots, Chandler is thankful that the pair of doctors happened to sign up for the same period as

'EMTs got there right before he came to," said Erin Watson, who now serves as the assistant director of the Shallow Water Blackout Prevention organization. "They were prepared for death. That's what they thought."

Medical helicopters that were en route from nearby Wilmington were called off once Chandler was revived.

'Without the lord and his hand on my life, there's no way I'd be here," Chandler said.

After taking a ferry back from the island, Chandler was checked out at a hospital and was advised that the next 24 hours would be critical. He stayed the night at a nearby hotel, but the next morning he was already back on the ferry to Bald Head Island and was swimming in the same pool that he died in.
"I don't live in fear," Chandler said.

#### **Shallow Water Blackout**

Shallow water blackout is an underwater "faint" due to a lack of oxygen to the brain brought on by holding your breath for long periods of time, according to Shallow Water Blackout Prevention. Experts say that without immediate rescue, sufferers drown. It's also indiscriminate as victims range from competitive swimmers and Navy SEALs to recreational swimmers and children.

As was evidenced with Chandler, shallow water blackout frequently occurs without any signs. Because of the detached mental state, victims can feel a sense of bliss as they think they can hold their breath longer. Shallow Water Blackout Prevention highlights that unlike regular drowning where it can take up to eight minutes for brain damage and



death to occur, it takes less than three minutes for brain damage and then death with shallow water blackout because the brain has already been oxygen deprived coupled with warmer water, such as the water in many pools.

Shallow water blackout isn't limited to just pools, though. Incidents can occur in any body of water.

Chandler said that his hyperventilating before his attempt to hold his breath underwater likely contributed to his shallow water blackout. Experts agree as they caution against hyperventilating, either intentionally or unintentionally. Shallow Water Blackout Prevention also cautions that swimmers should never ignore the need to breathe, never swim alone and never play breath-holding games.

According to the Michael Phelps Foundation, led by the most decorated Olympic champion of all time and his wife, Nicole, drowning is the third-leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide and there are an estimated 320,000 drowning deaths annually, with more than half being children.

"I'm competitive and love to play games, especially in the pool, but I want everybody to know that some basic tips apply to us all - never swim alone and never hold your breath for an extended time," said Phelps, a Baltimore native. "Shallow water blackout is lethal but also preventable, so please educate yourself and your loved ones about the importance of water safety."

#### **Spreading Awareness**

Chandler's family teamed up with the

Michael Phelps Foundation to release a public service announcement in August that aims to draw attention to the dangers of shallow water blackout. Additionally, a cinematic and hybrid documentary titled "Don't Hold Your Breath" is currently premiering at select festivals and will be released soon.

We just realized there was such an opportunity to bring awareness and educate to save lives," said Chad Watson, noting that the partnership with Phelps changed the trajectory of their awareness campaign.

The Watson family stressed that they aren't against holding your breath but cautioned that not practicing prolonged breath-holding and understanding what you're doing in the water are keys to reducing preventable shallow water blackouts.

Trish Watson realizes that her son's story is different than most shallow water blackout victims.

"For the families that have suffered loss to this, it's so different for them," she said. "We know that we're coming from such a different perspective."

Chad Watson also stressed the need for swimming facilities to have increased safety measures, such as signs at pools warning against holding your breath for prolonged periods and increased lifeguard and public training.

"Hopefully, years down the road if we're able to have an impact and spread awareness, people will then be like, 'Oh, you're swimming, you're at the pool ... you don't hold your breath," Erin Watson said.

#### prevention. Pictured are the

about shallow water blackout Watson family: Chandler, Erin, James and the family's dog, Wilson.

#### **Current Life**

Chandler currently serves as a territory sales manager for spinal implants, and his days are now spent surrounded by his family, including a baby, James. "The name James means 'may God

protect,' which we thought was pretty cool," Chandler said.

Erin Watson pointed out a sobering thought regarding the couple's baby.

"Had our outcome been different from Chandler's experience, James wouldn't be here," she said.

Chandler's life hasn't been all smooth sailing since his shallow water blackout. Late last year, the couple was traveling in North Carolina when their vehicle rolled over several times at a high rate of speed. They walked away unscathed, including James, who Erin was pregnant with at the time of the accident. Emergency responders on the scene described the family walking away without injury with a familiar mantra in the Watson household. A miracle.

As if that's not enough, months ago, Chandler fell through a glass cabinet and severed eight tendons in an artery, forcing a four-hour emergency arm surgery. Chandler said the injury was close to rendering his hand useless.

"Just miracle after miracle, really," Chandler said. "For Erin and me, we're thankful for the trials because this made us stronger."

The PSA featuring Michael Phelps and Chandler Watson can be viewed here:  $youtu.be/u\_Mb7uictG4$ .

## County Completes New Broadneck Trail Rest Stop

#### By Darrell Mak

Talkers, bikers and runners have another rest stop to enjoy at the west end of the Broadneck Peninsula Trail.

Before the arrival of fall, the county completed the picturesque break area, which is situated near College Parkway and Peninsula Farm Road in Arnold. The new area is less than one mile off the B&A Trail at the end of Jones Station Road.

The rest area features many convenient amenities that include two sitting benches, a picnic table, a bicycle rack, and a multipurpose water fountain for people and pets.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks and the Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails dedicated the area in October 2021 as the Jean and Edgar Parker Memorial Rest Area in memory of Jean Parker, an avid volunteer who passed away from complications related to Alzheimer's disease in 2007, and to Ed Parker for his many years of volunteer service and generous monetary contributions toward the facility.

The site was partially completed at the time of the dedication, but it wasn't fully finished with all the existing amenities until earlier this year.

Parker pointed out the attention to detail regarding the features at the stop.

"The dog dish has holes to prevent mosquitos, and the picnic tables are all slotted so that water doesn't collect on them," Parker said.

Construction began this summer on another portion of the trail that will run from Bay Dale Drive to Anne Arundel Community College at Peninsula Farm Road.

Parker, a graduate of the Naval Academy and longtime resident of Arnold, wanted an additional option for people to easily get to and from the community



Ed Parker received a citation from Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler during an October 2021 dedication for a new area, the Jean and Edgar Parker Memorial Rest Area, along the Broadneck Peninsula Trail.

college from nearby neighborhoods. Today, walking or biking along College Parkway near the community college tends to be hazardous with small and uneven sidewalks and difficult street intersection crossings.

"My initial provocation was that you shouldn't have to have a car to get to the community college," Parker said.

The new trail will feature some notable improvements for pedestrians along College Parkway, including enhancements to the crossing at Shore Acres Road.

"Shore Acres Road is impossible to get through," Parker said. "When it rained, kids were getting splattered trying to cross the street."

Although there is currently a sidewalk along the college's perimeter around College Parkway, Parker doesn't think it's pedestrian friendly.

"They only put in some narrow side-

walks," Parker said.

The new trail will feature a 10-footwide asphalt path to provide plenty of room for users to safely travel in both directions at the same time.

Parker has been a longtime proponent of the trail, and many years ago, he lobbied County Councilman Cliff Roop and U.S. Congressman Wayne Gilchrist for a trail.

"Roop put in a bill for preliminary study to do the Broadneck Trail," Parker said.

Parker notes that he's always been part of the Broadneck Trail project. After the first section of the Broadneck Trail was completed in 2012, Parker initially helped create the Segree Rest Area, a popular but smaller rest stop along the trail near Broadneck Library.

As planned, the trail, which traverses mostly along the north side of College Parkway, will cross to the south side of College Parkway along the perimeter of the community college between Peninsula Farm Road and Jones Station Road as part of Phase III of the project, with an anticipated completion in 2024.

According to the 1999 Master Plan for the Broadneck Peninsula Trail, construction of the trail would be completed in multiple phases.

Phases completed thus far include:

- Phase IA: Green Holly Drive to East College Parkway/Walnut Ridge.
- Phase II: Green Holly Drive to Bay Dale Drive.
- Phase IV: Jones Station Road at B&A Trail to Peninsula Farm Road
- Phases still to be constructed include:
- Phase IB: Peregoy Park Place to Bay Head Park – construction expected to start during fall 2022.
- to start during fall 2022.
   Phase III: Bay Dale Drive to Community College at Peninsula Farm Road construction began this summer and is expected to be completed in about 18 months.
- Phase V: Bay Head Park to Sandy Point State Park – construction is fully funded and is expected to start during fall 2022.

Tom DeKornfeld, a fellow trail user, was involved with the Annapolis Striders and Annapolis Symphony Orchestra along with Parker.

Parker initially planned to leave money to the county in his will but was encouraged to give sooner to enjoy the fruits of his donations.

"Ed's generous contributions will be enjoyed by thousands for many years to come," DeKornfeld said.

If you live near the rest area and would like to help care for the shrubs, call flowerbed coordinator Becky Ziegler at 443-995-8130.

## Lauren's Law: Pregnancy Brain, Take 3



ne of my fears has been recently realized. Pregnancy brain — or the new fun term I just learned called "momnesia" — has worsened for me the third time around. While these are play-

ful terms, the pregnant public and also new moms are no strangers to memory problems, poor concentration or absent-mindedness.

Ahead of my second daughter's birth, I wrote about how I'd asked for yogurt to drink or mixed up "Sbarro" and "Subaru." Full disclosure: I still mix up the pizza chain and car dealership even when not pregnant. While considering Subaru as a larger vehicle for my growing family, it was painfully worse.

At least I've finally figured out the multivitamin thing and no longer try to take my prenatal vitamin multiple

times a day or forget to take it at all. I am, however, going through body wash twice as fast. I'm unsure if I've used my body wash. Therefore, to be safe, I'm obviously using it two times and adding body wash to my grocery list more frequently.

Sure, most moms call their kids by each other's names. However, me calling my oldest daughter, Charlotte, by the name of her younger sister, Riley, and vice versa, is just the beginning. A visiting relative once noticed Riley's nose was running. I grabbed tissues and wiped Charlotte's nose by mistake. Thank goodness Riley finally turned 2 because having whole milk and 2 percent milk was constantly surprising the wrong daughter. I'm incredibly thankful for one type of milk in the house now.

One of my more unique pregnancy brain moments was throwing away the toilet paper holder instead of the cardboard roll the other week.

I also may or may not have done everything to get the wash ready but forgot to push start. I was highly confused when moving a load of dry clothes to the dryer.

Total absent-mindedness and preg-

nancy hunger took over the other week too. My husband and I were making Elmo-themed cupcakes for Riley's second birthday. To make Elmo's smile, I needed to remove the Oreo cream filling and cut the cookie in half. A truly tough job, but I was up for eating some filling. I thought I'd eaten only three cookie fillings. My husband, Scott (who I, of course, shared some cream filling with too because I'm not a monster) attempted to correct me on my math. His count was eight cookie fillings. Did I mention they were double-stuffed Oreos? I'm still going to agree to disagree on that count, but mathematically, it was more cream filling than I needed to eat.

I wish this was an isolated incident, but another time, Scott and I were going to split the last taco. Then I ate the entire thing. Scott wasn't going to call me out on it. Five minutes later, I looked up and said, "Wait, weren't we going to share that? Did I forget to give you half?" The answer is yes. Yes, I did.

Poor concentration was on full display during this recent conversation with my husband:

Scott: "Where was I when that photo

was taken?"

Me: "I think you were on Adam's bachelorette. No, I think you were on your bachelorette. Or dear God, I mean bachelor party."

Here's the bigger question: Are these incidents all due to pregnancy brain or just me casting blame?

I'm not going to overthink it because clearly that helps no one. Instead, I'll ride these last few weeks of pregnancy brain blame while I can.

Toddlerisms Follow-Up Story

Thank you to my readers who had such a positive response to my tod-dlerisms story! Toddlers really do say the darndest things at an endless rate. Due to popular demand, I'm planning a follow-up story that also showcases stories from my readers. Please email me at *Lburke15@gmail.com* to share your stories or funny one-liners from the tiny people in your life! I look forward to laughing with you soon.

Lauren Burke Meyer is a Severna Park native who was inspired to write Lauren's Law as a humorous play on the well-known Murphy's Law adage: "anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." SEVERNA PARK VOICE NOVEMBER 2022 11

## From SPAN To You, A Time For Thanks

Michele Sabean

Director of
Development

SPAN Inc.

y desk at SPAN has the best view.

When I look up in one direction, I see the changing of the seasons on the trees outside the window. Currently, it looks like a paintbrush

has touched the green tree, leaving just a dab of bright reds and orange. When I look in the other direction, I am blessed with a doorway to people either picking up or dropping off food throughout the day. I am blessed because each person who I see at that door fills my day with moments and reminders of gratitude. In

the spirit of this Thanksgiving season, I want to share some of that with you.

On the day I am writing this column, we had a steady stream of people coming to get food. As our volunteers brought out boxes of food and checked on any specific needs, several times I heard clients say how thankful they were, and that they would be happy with anything we gave them.

I am often reminded of the woman who was happy to receive shampoo. She had been adding water to hers to make it last longer. Some of our clients have multiple crises and a lot on their plate. The day I wrote this column, when a cold front had just come through, and I was loading food in a client's car, she told me how much the help with her heating oil meant. Her husband had just been diagnosed with cancer, and she also has health issues.

I want to pass along some of the thanks that I get to hear on a regular basis and that all of you make possible.

The cars pulling up to our porch are a mix of people bringing and picking up food. It is fun to see new people as well as familiar faces. We have people who make dropping off food at SPAN part of their routine, sometimes making it a family activity. I love seeing all the different parts of the community that contribute to helping others through SPAN, such as neighborhood groups and local businesses that include SPAN in their events.

In October, Severna Park Elementary School donated 575 boxes of macaroni and cheese! Severn School had its amazing spirit week collection and Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church collected lots of food and diapers.

In addition to our regular programs,

the generosity of people like you helps with our Holiday Caring program. This program provides clients with holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children. As you know, many families are facing financial challenges due to inflation or other issues such as illness, an accident or job loss. These challenges can make it difficult to provide a holiday dinner or Christmas gifts for their children.

As a sponsor, you will be matched with a family and asked to purchase food and/or gifts for the family. Short on time? You can simply provide gift cards in lieu of food or gifts, or you can consider donating to SPAN to fund our year-round programs for low-income families. For more information, please email <code>spanhelps@yahoo.com</code>, or you check our website or social media. Thank you for your help. Together we are making a difference every day!



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## **Shoptoberfest Serves Up A Spooky Good Time**



amilies gathered in the Park Plaza shopping center to enjoy free treats, games and a costume contest during the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's Shoptoberfest event on October 22. Dressed as a Taco Bell box, Charlotte Kemmett (left) was one of the costume contest winners.





## Severna Park Resident Honored With Naval Academy Award

#### » Continued from page 1

years in the Navy as a surface warfare officer and retired as a vice admiral, said the events of that day stressed the importance of not being complacent.

Almost 21 years after the terrorist attacks that shook the nation, the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation honored Crowder and four others at the 24th annual Distinguished Graduate Award ceremony at the academy's Alumni Hall.

#### **Award**

Crowder first caught wind that he was being nominated for the Distinguished Graduate Award when he received a call from some Naval Academy classmates who informed him that they were advocating for him to receive the honor. They also told him that his class of 1974 had never had an officer selected for the distinction

Despite Crowder's humble reluctance about it, his classmates put together a packet to submit. That's when a 6:00am text and subsequent call from one of the selection board members informed him that he had, in fact, been selected.

"I was very surprised, and I was very honored," said Crowder, who remembered learning about it over the phone as his wife, Susan, walked in the couple's den shortly afterward. "I'm not a crier, but I did cry."

The Distinguished Graduate Award was established in 1998 to honor graduates who have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to service, personal character and distinguished contributions to the nation.

Some past recipients of the award include decorated Vietnam War veteran John Ripley, former Senator John McCain, billionaire tycoon Ross Perot, Super Bowl-winning quarterback Roger Staubach and basketball star David Robinson

#### Aftermath of September 11

Crowder knew his crew had to go somewhere that September day in the Pentagon as smoke started filling the building following the plane's impact.

"At first, we didn't know exactly what the damage was," Crowder said.

Once they were outside of the building, Crowder, who was serving as the executive assistant for the vice chief of naval operations at the time, got in a car and cut through Arlington National Cemetery, walked across it and hopped a stone wall to get to an annex there. He also was anxious to let his wife know that he was alright. He was unable to reach her due to signal outages.

As he finally made it back home around midnight, he was relieved to hear that someone had called Susan to let her know they saw her husband outside of the Pentagon.

It was a moment that changed the officer's outlook as it emphasized the need to think about the third or fourth alternatives.

"There aren't many people who thought some commercial airline would go through the Pentagon," said Crowder, who noted there was no plan on how to react to a scenario like what had happened. "It also helped me to challenge kind of the conventional wisdom of whatever was going on or how a potential adversary might do it."

Shortly after the attack on the Pentagon, Crowder directed operations to rebuild the command center and call up forces necessary to respond, mostly into the follow-on in Iraq.

Crowder's success caught the attention of top Navy brass as he was appointed the director of Deep Blue, a position in which he served for two years starting early in 2002. Deep Blue was an operational think tank whose aim was to come up with innovative ways to react to the war on terror.

It wasn't the first time, and it wasn't the last, that Crowder's leadership earned him accolades.

#### Go Do Good

Long before Crowder donned any stars on his uniform, he was at the end of his five-year service commitment from his time at the Naval Academy. Crowder was weighing options on whether he would resign his commission or continue his career in the Navy.

He decided to wait to learn if he would be selected for the Olmsted Scholar program, which only affords the Navy a pair of slots each year for hopeful applicants. The program was established in 1959 to fund graduate-level studies for promising junior officers, and it requires Olmstead scholars to learn a foreign language, study at a foreign university for two years and live in the local community.

Luckily for the Navy, Crowder was granted a slot in the program and moved to Lausanne, Switzerland. It served as a seminal moment for the young officer.

"It was an incredible opportunity to learn that the United States doesn't have all the answers," said Crowder, who some 35 years later would serve as the chairman of the board of the Olmstead Foundation.

This experience served him well when he commanded American forces for tsunami relief operations after Indonesia was hit with destruction in 2004 shortly after Christmas. The tsunami struck at a time when there were no military-to-military relationships with Indonesia by law, according to Crowder.

When the call came, Crowder was commanding the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group in Hong Kong, and his crew was slated to leave a couple of days later for a major exercise in Korea. His boss at the time was Vice Admiral Jonathan Greenert, who commanded the Navy's Seventh Fleet.

"He called and said, 'I don't know if the U.S. will get asked to help or not, but when you get underway, mosey on down that way in case they don't need you, then you can get to this exercise in Korea," Crowder recalled, chuckling at the non-nautical term of movement that Greenert voiced.

By the next day, it was clear the devastation that was inflicted on Indonesia. Crowder then took off at 32 knots and headed south to assist.

Crowder recalled the best instruction he's ever received in his storied Navy career from then Marine Lieutenant General Rusty Blackman.

"You head to Indonesia because I don't know what you're going to find, but here's my command guidance ... Go do good," Crowder recalled Blackman saying.

While Crowder faced unchartered water in Indonesia as the country was in dire need of food, water and medical aid, the effects of his efforts are everlasting.

"We didn't go there to improve relationships with Indonesia," Crowder said. "We went there to assist the people who needed help."

Two years later, Crowder and his crew's efforts showed just how important their relief turned out to be as relationships

were enhanced between the U.S. and the country with the world's largest Muslim population. Just two years after the disaster, Crowder was invited to speak at Indonesia's war college.

Following a stint as commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, Crowder went back to the Pentagon to serve as the deputy chief of Naval operations for operations plans and strategy. It was a full-circle moment as the vice admiral wrapped up his military career with the same organization that he started it with.

"I had a unique Navy career; I was either at sea or I was in D.C.," quipped Crowder.

#### **Family and Shipmates**

Crowder has been married almost 47 years to Susan, and they have three children and seven grandchildren.

"I put my family through a lot of moves," Crowder said. "People forget the sacrifices the families go through."

Following his Navy retirement, Crowder was the chief operating officer for a billion-dollar business unit for Boeing and later started a consultancy practice. He's also penned a book about what it's like to be shipmates in the Navy titled "Sea Stories: Humor & Life Lessons From a 40-Year Navy Journey," and he's currently wrapping up a second volume.

"I tell people about to retire, 'You've been in the Navy X amount of years, it's all in your head, every day you have millions of things going on. The good thing is when you retire, it kind of goes down to your heart, not so much of what you did, it's your shipmates."

Crowder is mostly focused on family now as he limits his commitments to serving on advisory boards and nonprofits.

At his recent award ceremony, Crowder relished the opportunity to have his children and most of his grandchildren in attendance.

"That was emotional for me ... I'm just dad and granddad to them, and that's all I want to be to them," Crowder said. "It's almost like they're seeing it for the first time, 'You were also this Naval officer."

As for the best guidance Crowder received in his Navy career. That block has been checked.

He did good.

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## Vote "Yes" On Ballot Question 3

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

his November, at the polls and on mail-in ballots, there are a few questions that voters will be asked to decide. Question 3 would ease the financial burden on injured plaintiffs bringing a case in the district court by raising the amount in controversy for a trial by jury, rather than judge alone, from \$15,000 to \$25,000. It would also allow for swifter justice. As members of a law firm who are honored and proud to represent the injured, we encourage you to vote "For the Constitutional Amendment."

Perhaps a brief civic lesson is in order. There are two courts of general jurisdiction in Maryland: the district court and the circuit court. If you are injured in an automobile or as the result of some other careless or intentional act, and the amount of your damages - medical expenses, lost wages, car repairs, etc. - is less than \$5,000, you must bring your case in the district court. District courts have exclusive jurisdiction of small claims, which are cases in which "the amount claimed does not exceed \$5,000 exclusive of interest, costs and attorney's fees, if attorney's fees are recoverable by law or contract," according to the Maryland Code. If your case does not settle, you will have a hearing before a judge because the district court does not have jury trials. In 35 years of representing the injured, we've never had to file a small claim case — these usually settle.

If the amount in controversy is greater than \$5,000 but less than \$30,000, you may bring your case in either the district court or the circuit court. However, if your claim is greater than \$30,000, you must bring your case in the circuit court. Cases in the circuit court are subject to more extensive discovery than in the district court.

Discovery is the process by which parties exchange information through questions (known as interrogatories), requests for documents, depositions (when a party's testimony is taken on the record), mental or physical examination, and requests

for admission of fact or genuineness of documents. This process can take years, and the delays have been aggravated by the pandemic. There is a pronounced backlog of cases, which varies from county to county.

So why increase the monetary amount at which one may ask for a jury trial? Because jury trials are only held in the circuit court. One tactic insurance companies take to force a plaintiff to settle for less than he or she is due is to increase the expenses of a lawsuit by dragging it out and engaging in extensive and burdensome discovery. When a plaintiff brings a case in district court, a defendant's insurance company may remove the case to the circuit court by "praying a jury trial" if the amount is \$15,000 or more. Raising the minimum amount in controversy that guarantees a right to a jury trial to \$25,000 would keep more cases in the district court, where they may be resolved quicker and, frankly, cheaper.

Keeping more cases in the district court may compel insurers to deal more fairly with the injured. Our experience is that it takes at least twice as long to resolve a case in the circuit court, where jury trials are presently being set in 2024. This is too long and exhausting a process for any plaintiff who would appreciate her medical bills being paid and being made whole. Justice delay is often justice denied. As a plaintiff's side firm, we encourage you to vote 'Yes" on Ballot Question 3 so that swift justice may be preserved in the district courts.

If you or a loved one is injured in a motor vehicle collision, you will have many questions. You should consult an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions.

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



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## St. John Parishioners Travel To The Holy Land

#### By Judy Tacyn

contingent of 46 people set out on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land October 18, most of them visiting Israel for the first time.

The group of primarily Catholic parishioners was led by the Rev. Erik Arnold, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Arnold has been coming to the Holy Land since 1997, the first time when he was still a seminarian with the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He has made the pilgrimage seven times, five as a leader. He designed an agenda filled with the major sites of Christ's life, beginning with the Annunciation, the moment the virgin Mary learned that by the holy spirit, she would conceive a child, name him Jesus, and he would redeem the world, through his life, death and resurrection.

"I want our pilgrims to be touched by Jesus, to become closer to him by walking in the very places he walked," Arnold said. "It seems so basic, but the gospels really come alive in our hearts when we see where he lived, where he began his public ministry, and most importantly, where he died and rose from the dead."

While the group experienced the Holy Land from the Sea of Galilee, to Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho, and the Dead Sea, the 11-day trip wasn't for sightseeing; rather, this was a pilgrimage to put themselves in the path of Jesus Christ, even if their journey was more than 2,000 years after Jesus' death and resurrection.

For one pilgrim, the journey was years in the making. Barbara Perez of Arnold, a St. John the Evangelist parishioner, was raised by a Jewish mother and a non-practicing Catholic father. In 1988, she married Victor Perez, a Catholic.

Perez began thinking about converting to Catholicism over the past year.

"I always believed in God, and I talk to God," Perez said. "I said, 'God, if you really want me to do this then I want to be baptized in the Jordan River."

Just months after making that declaration in her prayers, the Holy Land pilgrimage was announced. Perez contacted Arnold and asked if the baptism was a possibility and was thrilled to find out it was.

In front of the group, Perez and Arnold entered the muddy waters of the Jordan River, and Perez received her first sacrament of the Catholic faith. She will continue her preparation to full Catholic initiation, which she will experience on the Holy Saturday Vigil Mass on April 8, 2023.



hotos by Judy Tacyn

**Above:** A group of 46 people, primarily Catholic parishioners, set out on an October pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Israel. **Below Left:** Arnold resident Barbara Perez was baptized in the Jordan River. She has been married to a Catholic, Victor Perez, since 1988. **Below Right:** During the pilgrimage, Holy Land visitors watched the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee.





Across the ancient and often breathtaking countryside, the reality of conflict in the area was evident. While staying in Galilee, the quiet peacefulness of the fishing town was momentarily broken by the sound of Israeli fighter jets flying low overhead, and again when the group was in the northwest of Israel. Passports and

Israel temporary visas were required of pilgrims to pass between Israel and Palestine while military guards with automatic weapons stood watch.

Stops in Burqin to visit the Church of Ten Lepers, and Jacob's Well in Samaria, were canceled due the possibility of violence. The pilgrims later learned that several citizens had been shot the evening of their planned visit.

In addition to the religious and historical experiences of the pilgrimage, the group found time for fellowship and relaxation, including a silent and prayerful boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, small group dinners in the homes of Christian families, swimming in the Dead Sea and taking a trip to an ancient tattoo shop where several pilgrims received a Jerusalem Pilgrim Cross tattoo made from centuries-old stamps. Arnold celebrated Mass daily in a different church, and at the Wedding Church of Cana, the site of Jesus' first public miracle, Arnold gave each married couple a special marriage blessing, and couples exchanged renewed wedding vows.

"I feel so much closer to Jesus and his humanity now that I've seen where he was born and lived his life," said pilgrim Helen Kirby. "From now on, every time I hear the Gospel or read scripture, the passages will be much more vivid for me."

Arnold said the Holy Land is considered the fifth gospel because knowing the context of what Jesus said, and specifically where he said it, make scripture come alive. "I hope that every pilgrim will come home changed on a spiritual level and understanding of God's deep love for each one of us," Arnold said.

## Woods Church To Delight Audiences With Merry Music

rom November through December, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church has the following music events scheduled to share joy with the community.

#### Opus 1: An Evening of Debuts - Woods Music Benefit Concert

November 12 at 7:00pm

Join Woods Church for an evening of piano and organ solos and duets from the Rev. Randy Bush and Ted Markle, in addition to new works by local artists. Composers include Andy Rollins, David and Elysia Merrill, Alan Becknell, Sarah Kent, Josh Huff and Drew Sharpe. This is a free concert with all donations going to support the Woods Church music

This event will be livestreamed. For more information, email David Merrill at *dmerrill@woodschurch.org*.



December 9-10 at 7:00pm

Celebrate the Christmas season with the choirs of Woods
Church as they join forces with the Teelin Irish Dance Company and the Elysian Dance Theater Company. The concert
will also include a full orchestra with traditional Irish
instruments, guest soloists and beautiful lighting. As they
say in Ireland, Nollaig shona dhaoibh! - A Merry Christ-

The event will be livestreamed. This is a free concert, but a ticket is required. Learn more or request tickets at www. woodstix.org.

#### **Messiah Sing-Along**

December 17 at 3:00pm

Sing Part I of Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 17, at 3:00pm. The evening will be led by a string quartet, Woods organist Ted Markle and soloists from the Baltimore/Washington area. This is a free event. This event will not be livestreamed.

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## **SPORTS**

## Lady Bruins Stymie Cardinals, 2-0, To Win Field Hockey County Championship



#### FINISH UNDEFEATED IN REGULAR SEASON





Photos by Zach Sparks

The Broadneck Bruins field hockey team was relentless this year, finishing 15-0 during the regular season. They earned a first-round bye in the state regional playoffs.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Editor's Note: Broadneck had a first-round bye in the playoffs and was scheduled to compete in their first 2022 playoff game against South River on October 31, after the Severna Park Voice went to print.

\intercal ince Broadneck last won a field hockey county championship during the 2008-2009 school year, the Severna Park Falcons have been crowned county champs eight times and South River has won four times. But the Lady Bruins reclaimed their place as Anne Arundel County's best field hockey team on October 24, beating Crofton 2-0 at Southern High School to cap an undefeated regular season with a 15-0 record.

"We've certainly had some big scoring margins earlier in the season, but I was expecting the game tonight to be as tight as it was," said Broadneck head coach Shannon Hanratty. "I think a lot of our kids are realistic with that too. I think that comes from their familiarity — kids all around the county play club together, they knew each other. We know that this » Continued on page 27

We know that people are going to bring their best game against us, and our goal has to be to focus on ourselves and put our best foot forward every time we get to step on the field. Playoffs really fly by, so now it's about cherishing the days we have left and trying to get as many days as possible left together." - SHANNON HANRATTY, BHS FIELD HOCKEY HEAD COACH

## SPHS Boys And Girls Capture County Cross Country Titles

#### **Broadneck Runners Put On Strong Showing**

**By Mark Patton** 

mark@severnaparkvoice.com pair of familiar teams took flight and earned top honors at the Anne Arundel County cross country championships at South River High

School in Edgewater on October 26. The Severna Park High School Falcons boys cross country team brought home the county championship for the 11th consecutive season, and the school's girls squad repeated as county champions.

'We have a talented and hardworking group," said Severna Park coach Josh Alcombright. "The kids just fought today."

Falcons senior Cami Glebocki won the girls race with a time of 19:09.5, besting the runner-up, Broadneck's Stephanie **Costello**, by more than 50 seconds.

Glebocki noted that the course was muddier than she prefers due to the area's recent rainfall that made for tough conditions during the middle portion of the 3-mile course.

The champion didn't take long after her county victory to start thinking about the tough competition she'll face at the state championships, which are slated for November 12 at Hereford High School in Parkton.

 $\mbox{``I will}$  be working on staying with them and staying tough,  $\mbox{``Glebocki}$  said.

Costello said she's pleased with her individual finish at the county championships. The Bruins senior noted that she went out too fast during the race's opening mile and aims to work on improving her pace going forward. Despite her fatigue, Costello was able to regroup and overcome Severna Park junior Sarah **Kelly** with 800 meters left in the race to finish second.

Brianna Bostic, Broadneck's cross country head coach, wasn't as worried about Costello's pacing, as Bostic said she told her runner to "go for it" as it was her last county championships.

Severna Park junior **Taylor Jarvis** led

Severna Park High School senior Cami Glebocki took first place in the county cross country championships held at South River High School on October 26. Glebocki ran the 3-mile course in 19:09.5.

the Falcons boys with his time of 16:39.8, a run that earned him second place overall behind Arundel High School junior Zaiden Lane's 16:34.0 effort.

Typical of the T-shirts the Falcons were donning at the race that said, "We is greater than me," Jarvis was quick to discount his own performance, instead focusing on his teammates.

"I'm happy for the whole team," Jarvis said. "I know we all pushed it so hard."

Despite having just one returning athlete from last year's Falcons boys team that won the state title, their fourth in a row, this year's team feels they have what it takes to add some more hardware.

» Continued on page 24













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## Tee-rific: Nicol Chovanec And DA Regala Crowned County Golf Champs



Severna Park golfers Nicol Chovanec (left) and DA Regala (right) celebrated with coach Pete Buck after winning their individual county championships.

#### By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

In his seven years as head coach of the Severna Park golf team, **Pete Buck** has never seen both the boys and girls county champions come from the same school.

That changed this fall when Severna Park golfer **Nicol Chovanec** shot an 84 to win the girls side and fellow Severna Park athlete **David "DA" Regala** won the boys side with a 70. Crofton finished as the team champion.

Both Chovanec and Regala later earned First Team All-County honors.

The event marked the first county championship for Regala, a senior who finished in second place twice before. While the first-place finish did not surprise him, the results did surprise Chovanec, a freshman competing in her first county championship.

"Really, I just told myself, 'This is my first year, so just enjoy it,'" Chovanec said when asked about her strategy. "There were a lot of great players in the district, and I wanted to feed off their energy. They all worked really hard. That motivated me."

She has been working hard too, spend-

ing the last year working with coach **Shane Leizear** of Scoring Zone Golf in Arnold. Chovanec also enjoys practicing with her sister, Leah.

Olympic gold medalist Nelly Korda is Chovanec's role model.

"I mostly value her recovery shots and the way she plays the game so well," Chovanec said.

Chovanec's biggest strength as a golfer is her long game, which she hoped to show off at the University of Maryland during the state championships in October.

"I have never played that course before. It was pretty and hilly," she said. "Sadly, I didn't make it to the second day."

She will continue to work on her short game while taking inspiration from the other golfers. With three years left at Severna Park, she is excited for more chances to compete alongside the best young golfers from Anne Arundel County and Maryland overall.

"I really like that golf is more like a personal sport," she said. "You know what you did wrong, and you know when you had a great shot. It's very rewarding."

## STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

#### **Ava Meadows**

Severna Park High School Volleyball

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

va Meadows is prone to producing impressive stat lines match after match for the Severna Park High School varsity volleyball squad.

The senior is quick to deflect discussion about her individual accolades, though. Meadows is all about the other players donning Falcons uni-

forms around her.

"Teamwork makes the game fun, and it
makes the game better," said Meadows, who is a team captain.

team captain.

Meadows has had plenty of time to hone
her leadership skills as she has started at the
varsity level for all four years at Severna Park
High School.

"We do have freshmen make varsity, so that
isn't rare," said Tim Dunbar, head coach for the
Falcons volleyball team. "However, starting and contributing as a freshman doesn't happen all that often."

Dunbar credits a trifecta of characteristics that earned Meadows a starting position since day one: athletic ability, experience and height. It's the latter trait that's hard to miss on the

court as Meadows stands 6 feet, 1 inch tall.

As for experience, Meadows first started with volleyball when she was in fourth grade, and she hasn't looked back. Meadows has been playing club volleyball for Bay Area Volleyball Academy since her

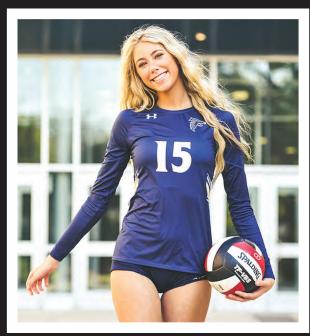


Photo by Colin Murphy Photography

Severna Park High School senior Ava Meadows is a four-year starter for the Falcons varsity volleyball team.

teenage years began.

Meadows' ability to put up some of the team's top numbers in kills, aces, blocks and digs this season is indicative of the captain's holistic grasp of the sport.

"Coach Dunbar has always been there for me

since my freshman year and has given me the opportunity to play other positions, which has made me a more versatile player," Meadows said.

Her appetite to constantly improve is some-

thing her coach has noticed.

"Even after four years, she still is coachable and knows she has room for growth," Dunbar said.
"As a veteran, she understands her role on the team and how she fits into the dynamics, and she takes her leadership responsibilities seriously." Meadows started her freshman year as a

middle hitter, a position her coach said isn't easy to feel comfortable in for a lot of players, but she

now prefers to play the right side.

Along with Meadows' versatility, Dunbar also credits her club experience as another factor that gave Meadows a good volleyball IQ and a solid foundation of technique to play at the faster level

"Ava is a perceptive and introspective player and is able to make corrections mid-match,' Dunbar said.

Meadows also has several responsibilities off

the court. She is in the National Honors Society. "I take my grades pretty seriously," said Meadows, who hopes to attend a four-year university

with the aim of going into business and sales.

Meadows has fielded offers to play volleyball in college, but she's undecided on what she wants to do. She credits her parents for her love of being around people and for helping to keep her on track. That's no easy task as Meadows not only balances school, volleyball and homework, but she also works part-time at The Park Salon & Barber.

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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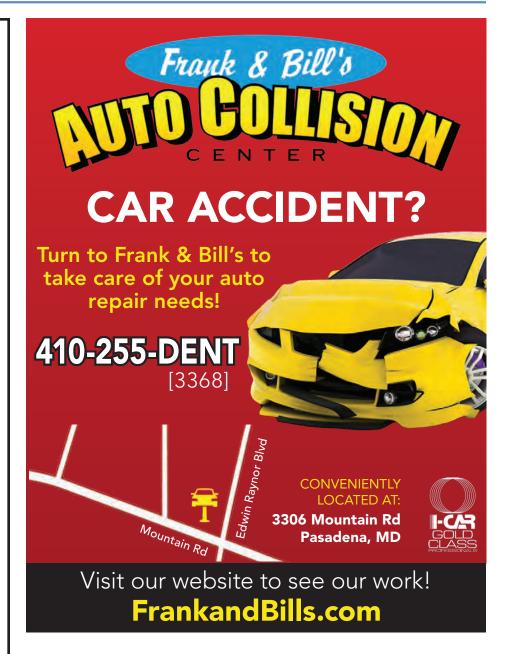


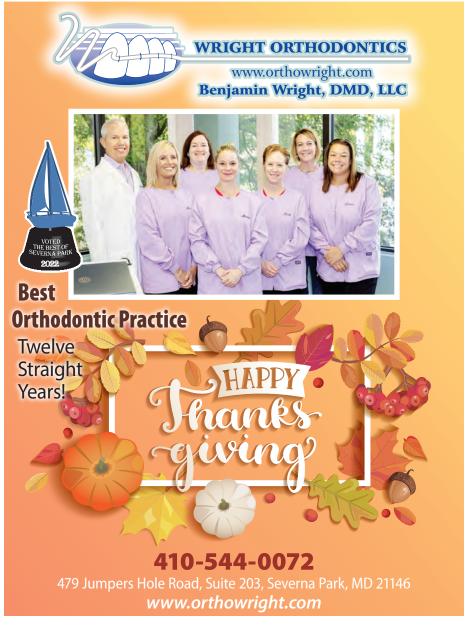
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## Two Playoff Wins Propel Falcons To Region Finals







Severna Park opened the postseason with a 2-1 win over Leonardtown on October 26. They then upset North Point in the Photos by Christopher Fincham Photography region semifinals, 2-0, to set up a region finals match with South River on November 1.

## Severna Park 2009 Girls Win Arundel Cup

he Severna Park Girls Storm girls soccer team won the U14/U15 division of the 2022 Arundel Cup tournament over the weekend of October 8-9. They made it through their four games undefeated with just a lone tie, and they finished with a 2-0 win over BUSA 'o8G.

Serena Saab, Ava Thomas, Victoria Gargano and Lyla Watson all scored for the Storm, and Brianna Knutsen had several shots come close. The midfield put on a dominant display by controlling possession and creating scoring opportunities.

Coach **Matt Souder** said he was blown away by the combination play the team was able to execute in the tournament and highlighted Maya **Shehata's** ability to start off combinations from the center.

Shehata worked with fellow midfielders Leah Croghan, Clara Wall, Kate Espinola, Naiara Allen, Addie Newhard, Sydney Wise and Reese Fleetwood to provide great ball movement and relentless pressure to win possession of the ball.

The defense kept opponents' chances to a minimum. The backfield is anchored by goalkeeper Quinlyn Bary, center backs Keira McCubbin and Lucy Queen, and rotating outside backs **Zoe Souder**, **Madie Jenkins**, **Isabella Cojocaru** and **Abby MacRobbie**.

"I'm so impressed with these girls," Matt Souder said. "We came together this year from like four different teams and they have really worked hard to become one team."





## Severna Park 2011 **Boys Are Heritage Cup Champs**

everna Park 11B — Green took home the U12 championship at the Heritage Cup in Alexandria, Virginia, over Columbus Day weekend in October. The boys soccer team scored 18 goals and conceded only four on their way to going 4-o. They capped their strong tournament by winning 1-0 against Prince William on a free kick by **Chase Connell** with about 15 minutes remaining.

The boys compete in the top division of Elite Development Program (EDP) and will close their fall campaign with a trip to Raleigh, North Carolina, for a tournament in mid-November. For updates, follow the team on Instagram @spgreen2011boys.

The team includes (l-r) Nate Oehling, coach John Coppola, Henry Agee, Colin Darcy, Angelo Coppola, Andrew John, Easton Fox, Nick Reed, Chase Connell, Brayden Parker, Ryan Blain, Lucas Cernadas, Ryan Maher and coach Matt Agee. Another player, Landon Livingston, is not pictured.

## Broadneck Football Reaches 7-1 With Win Over Glen Burnie



Photos by Dennis McGinley

The Bruins and Gophers squared off for Broadneck's senior night on October 28. With a 38-7 win, the Bruins reached 7-1, giving them the top spot in the Maryland Public Schools Secondary Association (MPSSAA) point standings for the 4A East region heading into the playoffs. **Above:** Eli Harris went to the ground as he caught a touchdown in the Bruins' win over the Gophers. **Inset:** Bruins quarterback Cam Catterton moved from the pocket as he looked to pass during the contest. **Top Right:** BHS also got their ground game rolling as Ian Mauldin burst through a hole for a big gain. **Bottom Right:** The defense was also dominant in the win. Jake Wanner and Braden McCassie swarmed a Glen Burnie ball carrier.





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## Runner Wins Big At McQuaid Invitational



Charlie Butler won his race at the 57th annual McOuaid Invitational in held New York on October 1.

a race based in Rochester, New York, is one of the country's largest high school sponsored cross-country meets with more than 6,000 athletes from 20 states and

two Canadian provinces competing. For one Severna Park resident, Mount Saint Joseph High

By Judy Tacyn he McQuaid Invitational,

School senior Char**lie Butler,** being invited for the first time after two years of coronavirus cancellations was only

Butler executed the next step of his

half of the plan.

agenda to perfection on October 1 amid the crisp western New York fall weather by winning his race at the 57th annual meet. It was the first-ever Mount Saint Joseph win at the prestigious event.

Butler started running when he was 7 years old through Severna Park's Green Hornets track and field summer program. He ran with the Howard County Striders during the fall of eighth grade, which is when he started to think not only did he love running, but he also might have a talent for it as well. It was with the Striders that he had an opportunity to attend the AAU national championships, an experience he said made him fall in love with the sport.

"For the act of running, I really enjoy how I can clear my mind while doing it," Butler said. "It is a break from the hustle and bustle that school and my other extracur-

Mount Saint Joseph cross country head coach **Jack Peach** met Butler when he started to attend the school's summer training practices as a freshman. Peach noticed almost immediately that Butler had a special talent.

'Charlie was able to keep up with the varsity team on distance runs, which is very unusual for freshmen, and we had a pretty good senior-laden team at the time," Peach said. "I put Charlie in the junior varsity race in our first race of the season and he won by two minutes.'

Butler was quickly moved up to varsity where he was embraced by the senior runners. By the end of the season, Peach said Butler had made noticeable strides.

"Charlie quickly developed into one of the best runners in the state," Peach said. "He has run both track and cross country for the past two seasons and continually runs personal bests in the 3200-meter and 1600-meter races."

Butler said that Peach was not only one of the first people that he met at Mount Saint Joseph, but he noted that he was one of the first people that he got to know at

"He has seen me develop as an athlete and has learned what methods are going to help me improve," Butler said. "He has pushed me to be the best I can be since my freshman year and has taught me what it takes to be a

Butler's accolades don't end on the track, though. The senior is a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society and Rho Kappa Honor Society. He's also a member of his school's FIRST Tech Challenge team, Boy Scout Troop 450 and is a sacristan at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

He said he tries to alleviate stress and not let a race get to his head at meets. "Even during the race, I couldn't tell you what I am thinking, only to keep pushing," Butler said. "I'm not the superstitious kind, though I do eat Oreos the night before every race."

## GH 18U Softball Finishes On A Victorious Note



layers on the Severna Park Green Hornets 18U softball team completed their time together by capturing several awards in their final year of play. This team, which has been together for more than five years, ended the summer 2022 season as USSSA "C" Division regional champions, winning the Northeast region, comprising 14 states from Maine to

This fall, the Green Hornets went 9-0 and won the two tournaments it entered. In the team's final weekend, they took home the USSSA 18U "C" division championship in the Pumpkin Smash tournament in dramatic fashion.

The Green Hornets defeated teams from four states to capture the title. **Alexa Jimeno** hit a game-winning single in the semifinal game to advance to the championship game. In the championship game, **Miranda Dameron** hit a walkoff single to score **Ally Weaver** to defeat Freedom Fastpitch from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Starting pitcher Elisabeth Krupinsky pitched a complete game and earned the win for the Green

Hornets in the championship game.

Lily Gleisner, Ryleigh Smith, Madison Sayre, Julia Kouhi, Alyssa Sweet, Madison Conlon and Krissy Testerman all added multiple hits over the weekend, as the Green Hornets averaged over 10 runs scored per game.

The victory was bittersweet for the Green Hornets, as it marked the end of an era for the players and coaches. Many members of this team began playing together in elementary school and are now preparing to graduate from high school. Their celebration and excitement for winning the championship game was mixed with sadness that their time together had come to an end.

"This is a special group of players and families," head coach **Greg Jimeno** said. "It's not common for a team to play together for such a long time, which makes their accomplishments even more meaningful. The players worked hard to improve as softball players, but more importantly, they are great kids. The longevity and success of this team is a testament to the culture we were able to create."

## SPHS Captures County Cross Country Titles



SPHS junior Taylor Jarvis (right) congratulated Arundel High School junior Zaiden Lane at the county cross country championship award ceremony. Lane was the top finisher in the boys race with a time of 16:34.0. Jarvis finished in second place with a time of 16:39.8.

#### » Continued from page 16

We're hoping for five this year," Severna Park senior Matt Nolan said.

Broadneck's boys team finished in third place overall with senior **Ryan Gibb** leading the way for the Bruins with his eighth-place finish. The Bruins girls squad held off Annapolis High School to earn second place overall.

'It's a big experience builder," noted Broadneck junior Ben Sterner about the county championships.

He said the team has built up a special chemistry and credits the Bruins second-place finish at the recent Arundel Invite as a confidence booster as they headed

into the county competition.

The amount of camaraderie you build up after running miles and miles builds a good team atmosphere,"

Depth was evident at the county championships for the Falcons. The Severna Park girls team dominated the leaderboard with five of the top 10 times on the day with junior Sarah Kelly, sophomore **Rebecca Jimeno**, junior Madison Davis and junior Kaylee Jenish joining Glebocki on the leaderboard. On the boys side, four Falcons finished in the top 10. A trio of seniors, Chris Nunn, Alex Lecouras and Cody Smith joined Jarvis among the county's top performers.

Severna Park sophomore **Caden Lazzor** said it pays off to have such a talented team that works together.

'We push each other," Lazzor said. "The guys in front of me pull me up, and I pull up the guys behind me."

Severna Park's coach agreed with Lazzor.

That's our philosophy: we do it for the other six," said Alcombright, referencing the seven runner crews that schools will field for the upcoming races.

Jarvis said he just hopes to perform at his best at state championships, and he'll let the chips fall

"As long as I'm pushing it hard and giving 110 percent, that's all I can do," Jarvis said.

#### **Anne Arundel County Cross Country Championship Results**

#### **Boys Team Scores**

#### 1. Severna Park – 38

- 2. South River 72
- 3. Broadneck 113

#### **Girls Team Scores**

- 1. Severna Park 21
- 2. Broadneck 87
- 3. Annapolis 89



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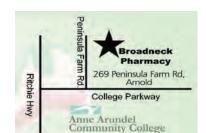
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## Archbishop Spalding Sophomore Ava Baselga Granted Lax Honors



Photo courtesy of 24 Seven Sports Photography

Ava Baselga's play last summer as a member of the Baltimore regional lacrosse team led to her being placed on the All-America Lacrosse watch list for 2025.

#### By Kevin Murnane

fter a stellar summer season playing for the Baltimore regional lacrosse team, Millersville resident and Archbishop Spalding High School sophomore **Ava Baselga** was named to the All-America Lacrosse all-tournament team.

Baselga's performance also led to her being placed on the All-America Lacrosse girls lacrosse watch list for 2025.

The watch list is compiled for players who have potential to be invited to try out for the national All-Star game after their senior year. The All-Star game showcases the best 44 players in the country where selectees represent their region and are chosen from their tryout, high school and club performances.

Baselga started playing lacrosse at 5 years old in the Elvaton feeder system, and by the third grade, she switched to the Green Hornets program in Severna Park. In the fourth grade, Baselga joined the M&D Lax club team and has played for coach **Kerri O'Day** since then.

"Ava is a very smart player and has a high IQ for the game," said O'Day, noting Baselga's creativity. "She anticipates the play before it happens, and her best trait is she is a dedicated teammate who makes other players look great."

Baselga plays attack and her strengths are feeding other players and driving to the net. Distribution is something that she's thrived on last summer as she led her team in assists. "I'm working on being more of a dual threat," Baselga said. "I like to take more risks and possibly become more of a balanced scorer."

Being only a sophomore, Baselga will have to try out for Spalding's varsity squad this upcoming spring, but she caught the attention of the school's varsity head coach, **Tara Shea**, when she competed on the junior varsity team last year. She'll also be able to play with her older sister, Isabel, if she makes the varsity squad.

"She's the quarterback of the offense," Shea said. "Ava can feed the ball in very tight spaces and had been a key player on her past teams. I know she had a breakout summer season, and we look forward to seeing her in tryouts."

Baselga is currently in strength and speed training as well as competing in tournaments for her M&D club team.

"By going to all of these tournaments, I have met players from across the country, and I enjoy that part of being on a regional team," Baselga said.

M&D club lacrosse has 17 games during the fall as well as five summer tournaments. Despite all the travel, games and training, Baselga hasn't let her classroom performance slip. She is sporting a weighted 4.3 GPA at Archbishop Spalding. Beselga is considering concentrating in medicine when she attends college.

Other local players who have been named to the watch list are **Bronwyn Bolton** from Severn School and **Avery Saviano** from Severna Park High School.

## Charlotte Kramer Is A Force For Falcons Field Hockey

#### By Lauren Meyer

istorically, it's rare for freshmen to make varsity for the Severna Park High School field hockey team. Senior Charlotte "Charley" Kramer not only achieved that honor but went on to start as the Falcons goalie for four years.

'She is a reliable force in the cage who also directs the defense in front of her during games," said Shannon Garden, head varsity field hockey coach at Severna Park High School. "She is dynamic and fearless in the cage and has played a pivotal role in Severna Park's last two state championships."

Long before her senior season and the honors and accolades began, Kramer was already putting in the work to prepare her for where she is now. Kramer began playing field hockey nine years ago when she was in third grade. The senior credits her dad, former Hofstra University lacrosse player Larry Kramer, for drawing her interests toward the goalie position.

'Part of the reason I started the position was because of how much I

looked up to my dad, who was a collegiate lacrosse goalie," Charley Kramer said. "Growing up, I always loved to play the position no matter if it was soccer, lacrosse or field hockey."

Her father said he knew she was going to be great

'She always wanted to play goalie, and she was a natural from the beginning," said the elder Kramer. "She had no fear."



Charley Kramer gave up other sports by sixth grade to focus on field hockey exclusively. It was a move that paid off. Her recognitions alone make it clear how the four-year starter is now slated to play field hockey at Boston College following graduation.

Among other honors, Kramer was named Baltimore Sun First Team All-Metro, Capital Gazette First Team All-County and Maryland Coaches Association First

Team All-State. Making the USA field hockey Nexus Rise Selection Camp and the U-19 USA Nexus Rise All-Star team are two accomplishments that were influential moments of her career as well.

Just one of the season's highlights for Kramer came in a game this season against Delmar, where she saved 17 shots.

The standout goalie credits her many coaches, like Garden, as part of her success. Additionally, Kramer has been driving to Pennsylvania over the past few years to train with some of the top goalie coaches, which Kramer credits for improving her game.

'Charlotte is one of the best because she works on her craft continuously off season with her club coaches," Garden said.

It's clear Kramer is just getting started. With her natural abilities, work ethic and

focus, the senior goalie is set up for success when she heads to Boston next year.

"It has been a great four years of field hockey at Severna Park High School, and it will be tough to see it all end," Kramer said. "But I am looking forward to the next chapter of my field hockey career at Boston College and all the new experiences I will

## Lady Bruins Win Field Hockey County Championship

#### » Continued from page 16

is a very talented Crofton team, and we knew they were going to come in with some different options, some different strategies, so our game plan is always to follow our game plan and play our way, but we had to prepare for different options. Tonight, we stuck to our game plan, and we were successful.'

That success started near the end of the first quarter when Faith Everett scored off a pass from Arden Hunteman to put Broadneck ahead 1-o.

'My teammates did a lot of the work and I'm proud of them for that," Everett said when asked about the goal. "I saw Ryleigh [Osborne] go down she's a great keeper, so I knew I had to get around her — so I just pulled and did the easy tap-in."

Katelyn Kears doubled the lead with 1:45 remaining in the first half after Broadneck was awarded a penalty corner.

"I was playing post, and before the game, we were like, 'We have to be hungry and ready for the ball,'" Kearns said. "So I had to be vicious and go toward the ball. I just saw the ball loose and kept hitting it until I got the goal."

The second half was a defensive battle. Mia Moody had four saves to preserve the shutout.

"I've improved mentally a lot," Moody said. "In the beginning [of the season], I wasn't as confident, but I have that now and I'm proud of myself."

A sophomore, Moody felt even more confident knowing she could rely on

her teammates.

"I always knew my team would pull through. They're really good," Moody said. "I had those few saves, but they carried me through this and I'm really proud of them."

Several of the girls attributed their stellar regular season to a bond they formed throughout the year.

'Off the field, we clicked, so that made it so much easier on the field," Everett said. "With coach Hanratty's

work and getting us through gamelike drills, we started to connect."

Kearns said, "We focus on the basics, we hold each other accountable, and we do a ton of team bonding, so we get closer and closer."

If the Broadneck girls continue to play their game, they like their odds to make a deep playoff run.

"We know that people are going to bring their best game against us, and our goal has to be to focus on ourselves and put our best foot forward every time we get to step on the field," Hanratty said. "Playoffs really fly by, so now it's about cherishing the days we have left and trying to get as many days as possible left together."

Kearns and her teammates are excited for the challenge.

'Coming in undefeated does not happen a lot, so I'm a little nervous, but I trust my teammates," she said. "We're going to give it our all."

## Middie A Team Captures Rec Crown



Goals by Avery Phelan and Waverly Alexander propelled the Green Hornets Middie A field hockey team to a 2-0 win over Crofton on October 30 as the Middie A team won their rec championship. The team was coached by Robyn Formica, Meredith Weber, Jason Weber and Scott Dupcak.

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## In Homes November 18

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Entertainment Edition CEVERNA PAR





## SCHOOL & YOUTH

## "Footloose" Dances **Onto SPHS Stage**



Photo by Sarah Sternhagen

For the first time in two years, Severna Park drama students are practicing in-person during the entire rehearsal process. They will perform "Footloose" on November 4-5 and November 11-12.

Five Performances Slated For November

#### By Sarah Sternhagen

Student Intern

mong the many productions Severna Park High School puts on, its fall musical is often one of the first big drama shows of the year. It's been 19 years since the school last did the musical "Footloose" and it's coming back as its

think a timeless part would be the message of how there can be a lot of pressure on people to conform to societal standards no matter what."

> CARLY BYRNES, SPHS SENIOR

2022 musical. With opening night on November 4 at 7:00pm and more shows following, the cast and crew have been working hard to put together the musical.

There's a huge community aspect of it, and you can tell

everyone shows up for each other and is always trying to help each other out," senior Joseph Schroeder, the actor playing Ren McCormack, said. "And preparing for it is a lot of rehearsals and a lot of just doing the work on your own, trying to learn your part, but it definitely is a great time to bond with people and make connections.'

In "Footloose," teenager Ren Mc-Cormack moves to Chicago with his » Continued on page 31

## Children's Fair Comes To Arnold



(L-R) Crowned entrepreneur Nyirah Newton, Kiki's Sweets founder Keely Hardgrave and Arabella Designs creator Arabella Rathbone were named the award winners during the Children's Business Fair on October 15.

riginally started in Austin, Texas, the Acton Children's Business Fair came to Gloria Dei Church in Arnold on October 15. The event featured 24 young entrepreneurs ranging in age from 6 to 14.

A panel of judges decided which kids got \$50 prizes for most original business idea, highest business potential, and best presentation. Those awards went to Arabella Designs, Crowned, and Kiki's Sweets.

Arabella Designs was started by 14-year-old Arabella Rathbone. Arabella makes boutique-style, hot cocoa bombs and coffee bombs with organic ingredients. She also repurposes mugs and makes all-natural candles with

organic beeswax, essential oils and wood wicks.

Twelve-year-old Nyirah Newton formed her venture. Crowned, to make mental health and empowerment kits for youth. She also makes handmade crowns for people and pets to bring out their individual magic.

Keely Hardgrave, a 10-year-old, started Kiki's Sweets to make homemade dog treats and pupcakes. She offers a variety of flavors (pumpkin/peanut butter, banana/potato, sweet potato/ applesauce) and gluten-free options.

ArtFarm Studios, Chesapeake Bay Paddle, Broadneck Pharmacy, Kumon Arnold, and Hooper's Catering supported the business fair as event sponsors.

## Severna Park Celebrates School Spirit, Homecoming





Severna Park High School held spirit week from October 3-8 with a variety of activities, wrapping up the festivities with a pep rally and a homecoming dance.









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SEVERNA PARK VOICE NOVEMBER 2022 31



E ach month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Ms. Bartlett's class at Benfield Elementary School answered the question:

## What are you most thankful for?

I am really thankful for my friends because whatever we do together, I have a good time. They make me laugh, and we do a lot together.

#### Aiden B.

I am most thankful for my education, my family and my friends. But I am also thankful for my mistakes. My mistakes help me grow, help me live, and mistakes help me to become a better person throughout my life.

#### Ashley Y.

I am most thankful for my family. I love playing lacrosse or anything else with my brothers, mom and dad. I love spending time with my family.

#### Bennett H.

I am thankful for animals, specifically dogs, because they help me relax and are fun to take care of. **Danny G.** 

I think that friends are most important to me because they make me smile and laugh. Every day, we hang out, either jumping on the trampoline, or riding a scooter, brightening my day.

#### Delaney J.

I am most thankful for my family. Some reasons I am thankful for them are because they make my food, play with me, and they support me.

Devin W.

## **Benfield Elementary School**



I am thankful for my life because my life is so easy and filled with joy, while some people have to fight for their lives and have lots of hardships. I wish everyone could have a good life, and hopefully that will happen in the future.

#### Emily K.

My family is always there for me, even if I am sad, scared or mad. We keep each other safe and happy. They are the most important thing in my life.

#### Eva J.

I am most thankful for my amazing friends and my family who take care of my needs and supply me with gifts. I really could not ask for more. They also support me when I need it. They are the best!

#### Hannah M.

The thing I'm grateful for is my family. My mom and dad are kind and caring. My twin sister, Lily, is kind and my brothers are chill. They are fun to hang out with. Finally, my sister, Casey, is chill and kind. This is why I'm so grateful that they're my family.

Jack M.

I am most thankful for the life I am living right now. I am thankful for this life because then I wouldn't have been able to ride my first water slide this year without my family.

#### James A.

I am thankful for having a great family. Everyone in my family is so nice, caring and loving.

#### John L.

I am most thankful for my family because they help me get up in the morning and never give up on anything for me. They help me through hard things, and all I need is them.

#### Kian P

I am most thankful for my loving family. My mom, stepmom, dad, and stepdad love me and I love them. I love my family!

#### Layla W

I am thankful for my life. I'm able to play sports like baseball and basketball. Also, I can sleep under a roof; some people can't do that. For that, I am thankful.

Miles R

I am most thankful for living in this amazing community because in this community, we have amazing schools with amazing teachers. We also have my friendly neighbors and a very green and fresh area. I also like that we have many activities to do outside here, like the pool, Kinder Farm Park and nice places to bike around.

#### Richie F.

I am most thankful for the life I live right now because I have amazing parents, brothers and pets. I also have a great education and overall life!

#### Roarke R.

I am most thankful for my family. I am thankful for them because they help me through the ups and downs. No matter what it is, they still love me very much and help me complete my dreams.

#### Serena S.

I am most thankful for people I know. For example, my friends and my family. Both of them have my back no matter what.

Tate C

I am most thankful for my mom and my dad. They give me a roof over my head every day, and they give me food to eat every day.

#### Taylor J.

I am most thankful for my family. They have always been there for me. On my birthday, I could not have friends over, so they invited me to go out to dinner. When we had home-schooling, they helped me with my work.

#### Walker A.

I am thankful for my mom and dad. They provide me food, water, shelter and much more. My parents give me everything; they are the reason I am here. I love my parents more than anything in the world.

#### Zac H.

Without a doubt, I am most thankful for my family. My family is made up of pets, siblings, cousins, etc. I am so very grateful for my heartwarming family and everything they do.

Zoe L

## "Footloose" Dances Onto SPHS Stage

#### » Continued from page 29

mother and feels out of place in his new town, which has outlawed dancing. With the help of new friends Ariel and Willard, Ren convinces a reverend to let the teenagers dance, which also helps the town heal from a tragedy.

Despite the musical being created before the Severna Park performers were born, "Footloose" has a timeless message that resonates with the cast and crew.

"I think a timeless part would be the message of how there can be a lot of pressure on people to conform to societal standards no matter what," senior Carly Byrnes said. "The show does a good job of showing what can happen in those cases and I think it's an important message." A lot of people come together to make the fall musical happen. It's a large project involving a lot of moving parts. From cast members to the band, tech crew, stage crew and parent volunteers, it truly is a team effort. After sessions of making the sets, practicing the music and getting the dance routines down, students finally see their hard work come together during tech week. That's when everyone comes with their individual part and puts it together with everyone else's to create the final product.

"We've been able to pull it all together and it's nice to have leadership from people that really care about theater and have our best interests at heart and want us to succeed," said junior Ronnie McIn-

tyre, who will play Ariel Moore in the musical.

After two years of dealing with restrictions due to COVID, this year the drama department was able to practice in-person during the entire process instead of starting virtual and meeting in-person only for rehearsals. Angela Germanos, the drama director and producer, noted how the return to normal has also impacted the audience.

"We don't have to make people sit every other seat [this year] and limit the number of people in the auditorium, so that's very helpful," Germanos said. Now the cast can perform for a filled auditorium once again.

This year, the school's musical will open one week earlier than in

previous years. After the opening show on November 4, there will be other 7:00pm shows on November 5, 11 and 12. There will also be an additional 2:00pm show on November 12. Tickets are available to be purchased ahead of time or at the door, and more information on showtimes and tickets can be found at www. sphsdrama.com.

This will be the second time Germanos has seen "Footloose" put on by the Severna Park students, and though the year is different, her sentiment is still the same.

"Seeing the kids enjoy getting involved in live theater and showing their talents and growing their talents is very rewarding for me," Germanos said. "They're all making friends too. That's very important."



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## **Educator Of The Month**

# **Lori Pere**Oak Hill Elementary School



#### By Diane Lewis

ountless children throughout the years have heard Kermit the Frog sing that it isn't easy being green.

Lori Pere would likely agree with the iconic Muppet character, but she's dedicated to ensuring that students at Oak Hill Elementary School in Severna Park also know and embrace the joys of being green.

Pere is a third-grade teacher at Oak Hill and co-coordinator of the school's annual Green Team and leader behind the school's Earth Day celebrations.

Her love and dedication to teaching students, especially about the environment, is well documented.

Each year, Oak Hill Elementary School students from third to fifth grade aim to provide a greater awareness of environmental issues to the entire student body. As an example, one year's Green Team stressed the importance of turning off dripping faucets and turning off lights not being used in order to conserve school resources.

Pere has also been the impetus behind the school's popular Earth Day celebrations since 2016.

"The students love participating in the Earth Day celebrations and their enthusiasm and desire to exceed related assignment requirements blows my mind," said Pere, noting that a former member of the school's Green Team was so influenced that he's now in middle school continuing his environmental enthusiasm by spearheading efforts of his Boy Scout troop to

"

My eventual teaching career happened after I enjoyed working closely with my children's education while being a stay-at-home mom."

— LORI PERE

build a nature trail.

At Oak Hill Elementary School, Earth Day celebrations include stations where students learn why a particular practice or idea is helpful to the environment. Typical stations may include information on the benefits of composting, demonstrating Arlington Echo's watershed model, or taking a nature walk to identify native plants and eating healthy local food.

The Green Team also maintains a booth at Severna Park High School's Earth Day Festival each year.

"The students love going to the event and running a booth," Pere said. "Last year, the kids gave out milkweed seeds planted in recycled K-Cups."

Pere's attention to her students isn't limited to environmental issues, though. The teacher said she loves her craft and adapts her instruction methods to suit the different learning styles of each student.

"My eventual teaching career happened after I enjoyed working closely with my children's education while being a stay-at-home mom," Pere said.

During that time, Pere learned that each of her three kids had a different mode of learning, either auditory, visual or kinetic.

Pere explained that recognizing a student's ideal method to learn, even though it takes more time to utilize different teaching styles, is worth the extra work when she sees the spark in a student's eyes.

Pere credits part of the success of the Earth Day celebrations at Oak Hill to the support of the school's Parent Teacher Organization, whose fundraising provides support for the activities and for maintaining the school's outdoor classroom and monarch butterfly gardens.

"We have plenty of parent volunteers and all the teachers give it their all to make it a great event," Pere said. "The adults enjoy the Earth Day celebrations and learning about the environment as much as the students."



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## HEALTH & FITNESS

## Anne Arundel Walk To End Alzheimer's Raises More Than \$170,000



Ed Herold Jr. (left), the Anne Arundel 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's top individual fundraiser, and Cidnei Crumity (right), from Brightview Severna Park, joined an Alzheimer's patient during the walk at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis on October 16.

#### **By Mark Patton**

mark@severnaparkvoice.com he Anne Arundel County 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's took place October 16 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

The walk is an annual event that organizers say occurs in more than 600 communities nationwide, making it the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 6 million Americans are living with the disease, and it's expected to cost the U.S. \$321 billion.

The Anne Arundel walk raised \$173,753 this year. Walk chair Ed Herold Jr. was the top individual fundraiser for the Anne Arundel walk for 2022, raising \$11,410.

On the walk's website, Herold documented watching the effect the disease had on his mother.

"The progression of dementia during my mom's final years had a profound effect on me," Herold said.

During the event, each registered participant was given a Promise Garden flower with flower colors representing the individual's connection to the disease.



Above: The Anne Arundel County 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's took place October 16 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

Left: A child held a white flower as a symbol of finding a cure for Alzheimer's at the Anne Arundel County 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Participants were handed flowers with meanings for each walker. Blue represented someone living with the disease, purple annotated somebody who has lost someone to the disease, yellow was for somebody living with or caring for a patient, and orange showcased supporters of the cause.

## Surprising Things That Can Spike Your Blood Sugar

ovember is National Diabetes Month, and people may be surprised at the factors that can lead to high blood sugar levels. According to the Centers for Disease Control, these surprising triggers can send your blood sugar soaring.

**Sunburn** — the pain causes stress, and stress increases blood sugar levels.

**Artificial Sweeteners** — more research is needed, but some studies show these sweeteners can raise blood sugar.

**Coffee** — even without sweetener. Some people's blood sugar is extra sensitive to caffeine.

**Losing Sleep** — even just one night of too little sleep can make your body use insulin less well.

**Skipping Breakfast** — going without that morning meal can increase blood sugar after both lunch and dinner.

**Time Of Day** — blood sugar can be harder to control the lat-

**Dawn Phenomenon** — people have a surge in hormones early in the morning whether they have diabetes or not. For people with diabetes, blood sugar can spike.

**Dehydration** — less water in your body means your blood sugar is more concentrated.

**Nose Spray** — some have chemicals that trigger their liver to make more blood sugar.

**Gum Disease** — it's both a complication of diabetes and a blood sugar spiker.



Several other triggers can make your blood sugar fall. The Centers for Disease Control warns people that extreme heat can cause blood vessels to dilate. That makes insulin absorb more quickly and could lead to low blood sugar. If an activity or food is new, check your blood sugar before and after to see how you respond.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

35

## Ivy League Making Waves In Local Music Scene

Following a private performance for the Severna Park Voice on October 11, Ivy League gathered in Keith Ivey's bedroom where the band mixed their debut album, titled "Homecoming." Ivy League is composed of drummer Cam Blackburn (clockwise from back left), keyboardist and bassist Ivey, and lead singer and guitarist Nick Stohler.

#### SPHS Freshmen Release Debut Album

#### **By Mark Patton**

mark@severnaparkvoice.com trio of Severna Park High School musicians are ensuring their freshmen year is one they'll remember. Ivy League is a band composed of drummer Cam Blackburn, keyboardist and bassist Keith Ivey, and lead singer and guitarist Nick Stohler. The group's debut album, titled "Homecoming," was released in October and celebrated with a party at Severna Park Taphouse.

"We didn't really expect much; we were a band with little to no notoriety coming from a small town in Maryland," Ivey said.

Judging by the reaction by audiences and fans, expectations have been exceeded.

In addition to the enthusiastic response from the roughly 200 people in attendance at the band's album release party, Ivy League has already amassed more than 10,000 monthly listens to their

"The exciting part is when you look at where they're from," said Blackburn, noting that about 2,000 streams of their songs are coming from Arizona and about 1,000 from Germany.

"Homecoming" is comprised of 10 original songs that showcase Ivy League's wide range of influences from indie rock and

Midwest emo to post-punk and grunge. Stohler cited Queens of the Stone Age as inspiration for the album's sonic

"They have a lot of different kind of songs," Stohler said. "They're not really like one thing, and that's kind of the sound I was going for."

Ivey said genre-bending Phil Elverum of The Microphones serves as one of his main musical idols, and Blackburn touted the virtues of The Beatles drummer Ringo Starr, whose influence is evident in the rhythm on some of Ivy League's brighter songs, such as "Sunburn."

Stohler, who has been playing the guitar since sixth grade and has been attempting to write songs since early in elementary school, gives some of the credit to his restlessness.

'I can't ever sit still because I'm always thinking about stuff, so I come up with a lot of ideas," Stohler said. "Most of the

» Continued on page 36



## DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK

Photos by Mary Cobbler

Below Left: Goi cuon, or summer rolls, are ordered as an appetizer with carrots, cucumber, radishes and vermicelli noodles tucked inside transparent rice paper. Below Center: Bun/com offers a choice of noodles or rice. It's like pho, but with fish sauce instead of broth. The dish included lettuce, cucumbers, pickled carrots and radishes, cilantro, fried red onions and tender shrimp. The ingredients make for a sweet and spicy dish. Below Right: The bowl of pho had tender carrots, broccoli and rice noodles. A side dish of vegetables included bean sprouts, jalapeños for a spicy pop, basil leaves, and lime wedges for zest.







## Life Pho Offers A Phonomenal Vietnamese Experience

#### **By Mary Cobbler**

s the season changes and the temperature drops, here's a great way to warm yourself up from your head to your toes — it's pho!

Pho is a soothing Vietnamese soup unlike any other. The dish features vermicelli (rice noodles) and delectable broth with thinly sliced meat, or tofu and vegetables.

Life Pho, located in Severna Park, has some of the most flavorful pho around. My family has dined at various Vietnamese restaurants, and this is our favorite pho

Located on Ritchie Highway, the restaurant is simple,

small and cozy. The space features wooden tables and chairs, TVs quietly playing in the background and a relaxed vibe. The wait staff is friendly and efficient.

My companion and I have often lunched here or called for carryout. It's usually a busy place, which can say a lot about a restaurant.

We visited on a cool and rainy afternoon. The little restaurant felt comfortable. We ordered cold Vietnamese coffee, and I was pleasantly surprised with the unique taste of this creamy drink with a touch of chocolate and perhaps vanilla and cardamom or cinnamon.

\*\*Nontinued on page 36\*\*

Below: Life Pho's cold Vietnamese coffee is a creamy drink with a touch of chocolate and perhaps vanilla and cardamom or cinnamon.







## Toy Expo Coming To MD Fairgrounds

ne of Maryland's premier toy and collectibles shows, the Maryland Toy Expo, is coming to the exhibition hall at the Maryland State Fairgrounds on November 5.

Event organizers said the expo will feature toys from popular lines such as "Star Wars," "Masters of the Universe," "Transformers," "G.I. Joe," wrestling, Funko, Hot Wheels, Matchbox, die-cast, video games and many more. Comic dealers will have a wide range of eras and

publishers including Marvel and DC.
Tickets will be sold at the door only.
Early bird admission runs from 8:00am10:00am and is \$15 per ticket. General

admission starts at 10:00am and costs \$8 per entrance.

Children 10 and under can enter the event for free if they are accompanied by a paying adult. There is a limit of three children per paying adult.

The Maryland State Fairgrounds is located at 2200 York Road in Timonium.

## Ivy League Making Waves

#### $\gg$ Continued from page 35

time it just happens when you're playing around with your instrument and find something cool."

The band got its start a couple of years ago when Stohler teamed up with rhythm guitarist Lane McCollom, a friend from Pennsylvania, to record a few songs over the internet. The mileage between them became a barrier once Stohler caught the itch to do live gigs, though, and the pair parted ways. McCollom is now considered an "unofficial member" of the band, and he joins Ivy League for performances when he's able to, including the recent album release party.

The teens self-released "Homecoming" under a label they dubbed Basement Tape Records as a nod to their frequent recording and practice sessions in Blackburn's basement. They aspire to one day make Basement Tape Records a small independent label where they can enlist their friends' bands to join them.

Severna Park musician George Evans praised Ivy's League's potential while describing their indie vibe and catchy tunes. Putting out an album during their first year of high school is also something be noticed "Writing and releasing your own music is a big step most bands, especially starting out, don't necessarily leap into," Evans said. "Their band should be applauded for doing just that."

Members of the trio are not limiting their musical talents to just Ivy League. Blackburn and Ivey are members of the school's marching band, and all three band members are participating in Severna Park High School's November production of "Footloose." Despite their busy schedules, Ivy League still manages to practice once or twice a week and routinely do performances around town, including busking in Annapolis.

"I just like it when people like smile or dance or have a good time ... that just makes me happy," said Blackburn, who wears a perennial grin when he is behind his drum kit.

Ivy League's ambitious drive may have helped to create a growing buzz about their talent, but they share a refreshing vision of what's important to them about their craft.

"I just want to make music with my friends," Ivey said.

"Homecoming" is available on music streaming services and can be purchased on iTunes.

## Life Pho Offers A Phonomenal Vietnamese Experience

#### » Continued from page 35

For an appetizer, we picked goi cuon — summer rolls, also known as salad rolls due to the various vegetables tucked inside transparent rice paper — carrots, cucumber, radishes and vermicelli noodles. We chose ours with thinly sliced beef. These little gems were a cornucopia of color and texture. I approved and ate half of one while my companion loved them and gobbled them up. A peanut sauce for dipping provided a perfect contrast.

After the rolls, we ordered beef broth pho with tofu and bun/com with grilled shrimp.

The large bowl of pho was steaming hot with tender carrots, broccoli, and rice noodles. A side dish of veggies included bean sprouts (giving a satisfying crunch), basil leaves, jalapeños for a spicy pop, and lime wedges to squeeze on top for some zest. I like my meals with less heat, so I add more sprouts and basil, and my companion plops in most of the jalapeños and adds sriracha sauce so it's as hot as possible. That's the beauty of pho—you can prepare it the way you'd like. The pho's broth is the star—the flavor

is always bold and satisfying.

Bun/com was a choice of noodles or rice, and I picked the noodles. It's a bit like pho, but fish sauce replaces the broth. The dish included lettuce, cucumbers, pickled carrots and radishes, cilantro, fried red onions and tender shrimp. Add the fish sauce and voila — yum! This was more of a sweet and spicy dish, and it was surprisingly delightful.

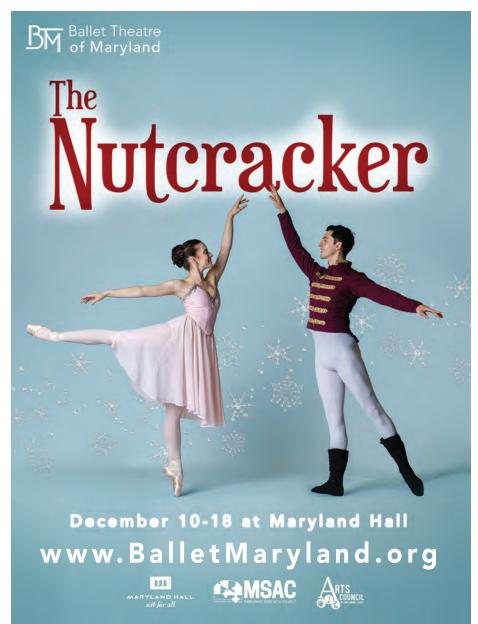
The cost came to about \$50 — which is reasonable. All of the servings were plentiful, and we left feeling filled and satisfied.

Keep this restaurant in mind. It's great year-round, but especially when there's a chill in the air!

## Where To Find LIFE PHO

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SEVERNA PARK VOICE

# Fleetwood Mac Star Lindsey Buckingham To Perform At Maryland Hall

#### By Lauren Meyer

rock 'n' roll legend is bringing his solo show to Annapolis. Lindsey Buckingham of Fleetwood Mac fame is scheduled to perform at Maryland Hall on November 13.

Singer, guitarist, songwriter and producer are a few defining terms for Buckingham. However, his impact on Fleetwood Mac — where he wrote and produced several Top Ten hits, including "Go Your Own Way" and "Big Love" — is what stands out most. Under Buckingham's direction, Fleetwood Mac became one of the best-selling and most adored rock groups of all time.

Buckingham was infamously kicked out of Fleetwood Mac in early 2018. This came after a five-decade run with the band, which he helped revive not once but twice. Unfazed, the artist turned his attention to touring behind the career-spanning album "Solo Anthology," which he released in October of that same year. The next year, just as he'd renewed work on the solo material, Buckingham underwent emergency open-heart surgery, during which his vocal cords were damaged by the insertion of a breathing tube.

Buckingham was only able to speak in a barely audible whisper in the weeks following the surgery.

"There was a period of time where I was not sure what I was going to be able to do," said Buckingham in materials provided by his publicist. "It became clear that whatever was going to return to normal would happen on its own."

It took six months before Buckingham was at the point where he started not to worry about it. His latest album was released last year, and it's



titled "Lindsey Buckingham." It's the artist's seventh solo album and first solo release since 2011's "Seeds We Sow." The self-titled album showcases Buckingham's recognizable guitar work and vocal layering, particularly on songs such as "Power Down," "Scream" and "Swan Song." Elsewhere, Buckingham pays homage to the hit single "Time"

Lindsey Buckingham of Fleetwood Mac fame is scheduled to perform at Maryland Hall on November 13.

by the Pozo-Seco Singers, a 1960s folk group. It's a song he's admired since he was a teenager, and it's a song that he's always intended to cover.

Buckingham has stated that he set out to make a pop album, but he wanted some songs that resemble art more than pop.

"As you age, hopefully you keep getting a little more grounded in the craft of what you're doing," Buckingham said. "For me, getting older has probably helped to reinforce the innocence and the idealism that hopefully was always there."

As a 73-year-old solo artist, Bucking-ham notes that he's still aiming to find new things.

"If you're playing all the instruments, which I am, everything becomes a tool for discovery," Buckingham said.

According to Laura Price, marketing director for Rams Head On Stage, Buckingham will perform at Maryland Hall for the first time in his career.

"He's really been such an influential artist and songwriter," Price said. "He's got a really big following. We thought it would be perfect for Maryland Hall."

Buckingham's first tour in three years will feature several songs from his new album, as well as solo and Fleetwood Mac favorites. Tickets start at \$75 and are available at <a href="https://www.marylandhall.org/events">www.marylandhall.org/events</a>. Doors open at 6:30pm and the show is scheduled to commence at 7:30pm. Maryland Hall is located at 801 Chase Street in Annapolis.





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SEVERNA PARK VOICE NOVEMBER 2022 39

# Arnold Native Writes Children's Book On The Importance of Pollinators

#### By Alyson Kay

elissa Wissler has always been an avid gardener. Growing up in Arnold, her mother maintained a tomato and bell pepper garden. When she bought a house, she looked forward to haaving a large garden in the backyard and planting vegetables with her two daughters.

But her family garden soon encountered a problem.

"I had this picture in my head of gardening with my little girls and when we were gardening, the bees would show up and they would just freak out," Wissler said.

To help her kids conquer their fears, Wissler turned to other long-term interests — art and storytelling — to self-publish a book under her pen name, Melissa Harmon.

The book is titled "The Gardener Bee" and is available for purchase in a pa-

Photo courtesy of Greg Reisler Melissa Wissler stood in her Annapolis garden with her new book, "The Gardener Bee."

perback version sold through Barnes & Noble, and an eBook version sold through Amazon.

Using insect characters, Wissler came up with a story about a child who learns about the importance of pollinators to the health of her garden after accidentally scaring away "the gardener bee."

The lessons in the story resonated with her daughters.

"My 3-year-old was like, 'Oh mommy, it's a gardener bee. Hi, bee,'" Wissler said. "They're seeing them as friends."

By finding a way to explain to her kids that bees weren't threatening and could help them with their garden, Wissler also faced her own fear of the yellow and black insects and saw them in a new light.



"I realized how important they were to the ecosystem and to the food chain," Wissler said.

Wissler said.
Wissler realized that if she made her story into a book, she could use the story

she created to help other children appreciate bees and not be afraid of them.

"I've always wanted to write," Wissler said. "I've just never had something that I felt strongly enough about that it just came out of me."

Wissler wanted to make her book accessible to all young children, trying to use colors and images to convey not just information but also feelings.

"Even little kids could tell me by looking at the pictures what's happening," Wissler said. "They might not be able to read yet, but they can look at the picture and tell me what's happening in the story."

Since publishing the book, Wissler has been reaching out to people, libraries and businesses to get the book out to more people and to promote it.

people and to promote it.

"I would absolutely love to do promotional things, even if it's just at a small local garden center or something like that," Wissler said.



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# POLITICS & OPINION

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***\***

# **Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office**

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

#### Jessica Haire

Republican

I'm running for county executive because local leadership matters. We have real problems to solve like crime, inflation, high taxes, and challenges in our schools — problems that won't be fixed by ignoring them.

We've had a passive approach to government by our county executive, and you deserve better.

As a lawyer, civil engineer, and a mom, I'm not afraid to roll up my sleeves and get things done.

My commitment to Anne Arundel County is that I will be proactive, thoughtful, and lead with common sense by bringing innovation and efficiency to our county government.

Cost of living and taxes – With inflation out of control, our current property and income tax hikes make life even more unaffordable, costing families an average of more than \$1,700 over the last four years. Yet, in the last fiscal year, the county had a fund balance of \$110.8 million, meaning that the county took \$110.8 million of taxpayer money that it didn't use that year. Meanwhile, government responsiveness and services haven't improved, kids are stranded at bus stops, and calls to the crisis warmline have increased.

I will lower taxes and put more money into your pockets by eliminating chronic vacancies and wasteful spending.

**Safety** – Violent crime is up and crimes committed with guns rose 45% from 2018 to 2021 according to the latest data available from the Anne Arundel Gun Violence Intervention Task Force. I will support policies that get violent criminals off our streets and will ensure that public safety officers and first responders receive the resources needed to make our communities safer.

We're severely understaffed at the police department, having added only 18 sworn officers to the budget over the last four years. The county executive's claim that 100 officers were added is false.

I will streamline the hiring and promotion process for law enforcement officers, which is lengthy and inefficient, to better recruit and retain officers.

**Modernizing government -** You deserve a government that works for you and is responsive to your needs. As county executive, I'll implement a 48-hour policy to return residents' phone calls and emails. I will also eliminate fees for online payments through the county and streamline processes for road repair and quality-of-life services.

#### **Steuart Pittman**

#### Democrat

- 1. Empower residents to stop bad development. I am endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters and Sierra Club because I protected our environment by opposing bad development, and that will continue. We will do this by enforcing our school and traffic adequate facilities laws, enforcing our new forest conservation law, and implementing the new community-driven planning process that takes the pay-to-play politics out of rezoning by putting the community plan first.
- **2.** Complete the capital projects that we got started for our communities: the Ritchie Highway traffic relief project, the police and fire and emergency operations 911 call center, the accelerated sidewalk construction program, the full connection of our bike and pedestrian trail network, and the completion of the school construction master plan.
- **3.** Maintain the bipartisan support that we earned

in this last budget vote. Getting a majority of both Democrats and Republicans to support a budget that lowered taxes, reduced borrowing, grew our rainy day fund, and eliminated the structural deficit this year was an acknowledgement of the sound fiscal management that earned us the county's first AAA bond rating from Moody's. We broke through the partisan bickering that has no place in local government, and we will continue as a united front with all districts equally represented in the next four years.

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **Amanda Fiedler**

Republican

Thank you for the opportunity to be your voice on the Anne Arundel County Council over the last four years. On your behalf, I've worked on key issues with local leaders, organizations and agencies; collaborated with Democrat and Republican colleagues on important legislation; and put people over politics. Looking ahead, my top priorities will be improving the economy, public safety and education.

Families are hurting from rising inflation and fear of a looming recession. I have cut your income taxes and opposed property tax hikes. I will work to eliminate outdated policies that hurt small businesses, the backbone of our local community; remove burdensome regulations they face; and help them create more jobs. I will continue to scrutinize county budgets to identify unnecessary spending that increases costs for our families. Without compromising important county services, I have proposed millions of dollars in reduced spending, while increasing funding for vital priorities.

Everyone should be safe in our neighborhoods. I have worked to increase respect, funding and essential equipment for our police, and I am honored to have the Fraternal Order of Police endorsement. I voted to increase police pay, implement body-worn cameras, and fund a new 911 call center to streamline emergency calls. I will support additional police positions to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Your safety also means safer roadways and walkways. Throughout the district, I have helped add new sidewalks and improve pedestrian crossings, and I will continue these efforts. I'll also remain a vocal participant with state agencies regarding the future of the Bay Bridge, ensuring your concerns are considered.

While county council members do not have authority over education policy, I continue to advocate for our students, teachers and parents. I'm a former parent-teacher organization board member and the only council candidate with children in our public schools. I remain committed to working with the Board of Education on capital safety projects, including upgrading the entryways of our aging schools, and I support adding school resource officers and more mental health staff, like school counselors.

I don't take your vote for granted, and I pledge to continue working tirelessly to make Anne Arundel County better for all families.

#### **Carl Neimeyer**

Democrat

**Real financial stewardship** – Good stewardship of the taxpayers' dollars means promoting good government that is both responsible and responsive. I don't want to see us play this game where politicians either promise to cut spending and reduce tax rates regardless of the real-world effects or, conversely, promise tons of spending and investment regardless of whether it's an

effective and responsible use of funds. I'm serious about finding that balance.

There are things we absolutely expect to work — public safety, roads and utilities, our schools — and that requires investment that keeps up with the needs of a growing population, keeps up with best practices for long-term value, and meets the community's needs. It's not fiscal responsibility if it means departments are understaffed, underfunded, and unable to provide the services people need. It's only fiscal responsibility if it actually works.

**Opportunity** – I want to use my perspective to help the county craft economic policy that is good for our whole community, as well as support education for all our youth, including those seeking to enter trades. To have a thriving community, we need gainful employment and quality public goods. We need opportunity. There's no good in supporting labor if your policies attack the businesses that employ them. And if you're "supporting business" but you don't care if they're providing quality jobs or if your policies undercut good businesses that do, then you're just supporting corporate interests. My perspective as an employer with the support of labor and teachers lets me be of service in promoting opportunity for all.

Chesapeake Bay – I want to see us taking proactive steps to keep protecting and improving the waterways, including what we do as a county for sediment control, development and redevelopment, and how we invest in energy efficient improvements. I'm really looking forward to using my skills and experience as a professional engineer to more actively engage with transportation agencies to address the traffic issues, particularly those resulting from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and ensure the solutions are in line with best practices and will result in quality-of-life improvements for District 5.

#### **CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

#### **Terry Gilleland**

Republican

Now more than ever, the citizens of Anne Arundel County expect and demand more from their government. As clerk of the court, I will focus efforts to improve constituent service and employee satisfaction to improve the overall customer experience for both judicial stakeholders and the public at-large. Second, I will continue to modernize and transform the office to increase access to the clerk's services at the courthouse and beyond to better support those who are unable to commute to Annapolis or simply do not have the time. Third, I will safeguard fiscal resources for taxpayers, as the citizens of Anne Arundel County expect their elected officials to spend their tax dollars efficiently and wisely without jeopardizing the level of services provided.

#### **Scott Poyer**

Democrat

My three primary priorities for the office are improving efficiency, customer service, and access to justice.

Improving efficiency – I will ensure court documents are processed quickly and accurately by implementing new technology and other operational improvements. My achievements in the last four years have included the following: saving over \$350,000 a year in operating costs, increasing the speed of processing legal filings over 80 percent, and cleaning up a backlog of 8,500 boxes of unarchived legal documents. Over the next four years, I will work to further streamline our organization

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# Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office

#### » Continued from page 41

and business processes for additional efficiencies and cost savings.

Improving customer service – Delivering outstanding customer service is the first and highest duty of public service. My achievements in the last four years have included the following: speeding the delivery of legal documents from several days to a few seconds by implementing e-delivery; keeping the office functioning during COVID, completing more hearings than any jurisdiction in the state; and conducting over 500 remote weddings during COVID, including for couples who were hospitalized, in danger of losing medical insurance, and military members being deployed. Over the next four years, I will implement customer service initiatives such as an electronic payment option to improve convenience and decrease wait times.

Improving access to justice – I will focus on making the clerk's office accessible to all, regardless of background, means or limitations. My achievements in the last four years have included the following: helping people understand and navigate the court system by publishing articles on free legal help; making numerous presentations to community groups; partnering with various community and state groups to improve access to the courts; and reducing red tape for businesses, including working with legislators to update outdated laws and streamline court processes. Over the next four years, I will work to further update and streamline outdated laws and increase our outreach to community groups and other stakeholders.

#### **REGISTER OF WILLS**

#### **Erica Griswold**

Democrat

Erica Griswold could not be reached.

#### Lauren Parker

Republican

When I asked for your support in 2018 to continue the work we had begun in the office of Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County, I kept my promise to cut expenses wherever possible, continued moving the office forward with modern technology and internet access, and continued to provide outstanding customer service. This is exactly what my staff and I have done over the last four years. In 16 years as register of wills, I have achieved four perfect state legislative audits and implemented credit card acceptance, a public website for case information, and an online ordering system for documents and publications.

Continuing in this tradition, my biggest priority is maintenance of the well trained, knowledgeable, compassionate, computer-savvy staff to guarantee efficiency and virtually no waiting time. The staff and I work together to exceed public expectations. We provide you with fast, live, personal service in answering the phone and greeting you at the front desk - all from a dedicated staff.

I have created outreach programs to inform clubs, churches and civic groups regarding estates. I am completing the transition to a paperless office to save the public supply and storage costs. I lobbied the legislature to eliminate small estate probate fees, effective October 1, 2022, and I continue lobbying them to eliminate bond fees. This office is leading the charge on legislation changes to create rules for electronic filing and preparing the project plan for e-filing of estate paperwork. My main priority is always continued excellence through caring public service. My office motto is that "kindness and efficiency never go out of style."

I am a lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County and take great pride in serving my county and its citizens. Since my election in 2006, I have brought my 25 years of experience as an estates and trusts attorney to bear for the benefit of the citizens of this county. I take great pride in serving my county and its citizens. I am proud of what we have achieved together. I humbly ask for your support in continuing to serve you with knowledge, compassion and results.

#### **STATE'S ATTORNEY**

#### **Anne Colt Leitess**

Democrat

Incumbent Anne Colt Leitess is running unopposed.

#### **SHERIFF**

#### Jim Fredericks

Republican

My office has made significant strides in safety, security, outreach and diversity. Here are my goals for the next four years.

 $\boldsymbol{Expand}$   $\boldsymbol{community}$   $\boldsymbol{outreach}$  – The sheriff's office greatly expanded public outreach through social media platforms, the new sheriff's mobile app, and annual participation in dozens of organized community programs. My office has embraced transparency through voluntary use of force reporting, creation of an online warrant database, and participation in the county's open performance website. Additionally, the sheriff's office has developed strong relationships with partner agencies, community groups, and local business groups to enhance public knowledge of the agency and its duties. If re-elected, I will continue to enhance community outreach efforts through commitment to full-time media and public relations duties, expanded public access to information about sheriff's office and court issues, and even greater face-to-face community engagement.

Improve community safety - As your sheriff, I have implemented a body-worn-camera (BWC) program and added a professional standards investigative unit to keep up with the demands of police reform laws. New warrant initiatives have begun to reduce the number of outstanding county warrants, and my first-in-Maryland Safe Surrender program incentivizes self-turn-in of persons with a warrant and has led to a 100% increase of monthly selfturn-ins over the last year. I expanded office capabilities by securing a new field operations facility, which allows for a safer work environment for staff, new classroom and physical training areas, and a new canine center. Moving forward, I will maintain and improve community safety through modern initiatives like the BWC and Safe Surrender programs, expanded training methods, and technologies to ensure rapid service of new court orders for domestic violence cases and criminal warrants.

**Create a model court security structure –** During my first term, I modernized court security practices utilizing national standards. Combining physical and technological enhancements has put us on track to become a model for courthouse security. I will continue to enhance court security planning and implementation to make the Anne Arundel County circuit court building the safest place for citizens and employees to work, visit, and conduct the business of the court.

#### **Everett Sesker**

Democrat

While the sheriff is responsible for security of the circuit court and ensures that all orders from the court are executed, as the head of the agency, I think it's also necessary to tackle other community problems.

During the past several years, our communities have been plagued by opioid use and its effects. The Office of the Sheriff cannot afford to continually sit on the sidelines; we need to be proactive in dealing with this societal issue that has attacked our community. Under my leadership, relationships with other law enforcement agencies will be re-established and information involving drug and other criminal activity will be shared. Individuals in our custody who exhibit signs of addiction or who request treatment will be connected to the appropriate county program to assist them. If we can help those in need before they return to society, maybe they'll have a real opportunity to succeed. My plan will help to reduce the recidivism rate and quality of life crimes associated with drug addiction.

Victims of domestic violence usually live in silence, be-

lieving that law enforcement has failed them. I want the Office of the Sheriff to serve as an advocate for victims to give them their voice back. Many victims of domestic violence feel abandoned after the initial law enforcement intervention. However, under my plan, we will develop a meaningful relationship with victims that will provide them with the ability to move on from their volatile relationships. The Office of the Sheriff will work directly with the victim and the office of the state's attorney to ensure that all court orders are adhered to by the abuser. We will work to assure the victims they are not alone and that we are there for them.

The number of open warrants has been a problem for the past two administrations. It is my plan to assign an appropriate number of civilian investigators, opposed to using sworn members, to conduct comprehensive background investigations on wanted individuals. This will provide deputies additional productive time to look for wanted individuals within our county.

#### JUDGE OF THE ORPHANS' COURT

#### Maureen Carr-York

Republican

My top three priorities as a judge of the Orphans' Court are all related to serving the citizens of Anne Arundel County with a sound knowledge of the law and an appropriate environment for the resolution of problems that have arisen with their loved ones' estates.

**First**, our judges must be fully present at our court hearings not only in the sense of appearing for the hearing but also being focused on the people who have brought their difficulties before us, the evidence they present, and the law to be applied to the case. There is no room for an "agenda" or political interests in the courtroom. Also, this office is far too important to be considered a stepping stone on the way to "higher office" or other ambitions.

**Second**, the judges must thoroughly understand the law of the state of Maryland. Unlike the other candidates for this office, I have over 40 years of experience as a member of the Maryland Bar Association, including years of trial practice. That experience in court has provided me with a knowledge of the Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence that enables me to make the immediate rulings necessary in the flow of a court hearing.

**Third**, the court must work seamlessly with the register of wills and her staff. The register of wills serves as the clerk of court for the Orphans' Court but also has an independent role in processing and management of those many estates, which can be managed administratively. In the case of our present register of wills, Lauren Parker, her own many years of experience as an attorney and later as register makes her a valued partner in meeting the needs of our Anne Arundel County residents and their heirs and legatees. Members of the court must understand the separation between the two elected offices as well as those areas where our functions overlap.

I have enjoyed serving you as judge of the Orphans' Court and humbly ask for your vote in the coming election.

#### **David Duba**

Democrat

My first priority will be to ensure that the court is accessible to all. With the support of my colleagues, I hope to open an afternoon or early evening session of the Orphans' Court and host the session on Zoom or similar platform. This will ensure that working people and those with transportation challenges can access the court more easily. I will treat all Anne Arundelians attending the court with respect and ensure that they know that this is their court. And I will work with the register of wills to raise awareness of the court, the register of wills office, and the laws and procedures pertaining to wills and estates. It is up to us to educate Anne Arundel County. Many counties in Maryland are doing excellent work to



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# Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office

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connect with the community. I hope to model these best practices here.  $\,$ 

My second priority will be to ensure that the court is efficient and accessible as we arrange hearings, issue decisions and make documents available. People coming to the court are often dealing with a tragedy and I will work to ensure they have a pleasant and professional experience. I will complete my professional duties in a timely manner and support my fellow judges and the register of wills in any way that I can to create the best customer experience.

My final priority will be to develop a solid working relationship with my colleagues on the court and at the register of wills. Regardless of who wins the election in November, we must work together to effectively serve the people of Anne Arundel County.

#### **Vickie Gipson**

Democrat

My three priorities are **1)** to establish a video hearing process to respond to emergency situations, such as the pandemic; meet the needs of individuals who have disabilities; and make access to litigants based out of state more affordable. **2)** to establish a mediation program to help resolve probate litigation disputes, which will help protect generational wealth by not depleting estate assets through litigation expenses. **3)** to establish an outreach program regarding the need to address heir property or property that has passed down outside of probate from generation to generation, creating a host of potential legal problems.

#### **Marc Knapp**

Democrat

In a word, accessibility.

#### **Tony McConkey**

Republican

My priorities are **1)** easier public access **2)** fair application of the laws and **3)** greater judicial transparency. It is time for the Orphans' Court to give up its stack of type written forms and use technology to streamline the probate process to make public access (both in-person and online) easier on grieving families. I promise to be a leader in the reform of the court, having represented Anne Arundel County for 16 years in the General Assembly, which just last year set up a task force for the court's modernization. Reform is happening, but not quickly enough, and not nearly as quickly as technology would permit it. I promise to speed it up. I am the right person now for the job.

I also promise the fair application of the laws, meaning I will try to apply all the laws consistently to all parties, and not pick and choose which laws to enforce. For that reason, I would welcome greater judicial transparency, as proposed by Governor Larry Hogan, so that voters can measure the performance of judges at election time.

Voters need to know that judges are applying the laws justly. The records of judges should be more available to the public. Likewise, I would oppose the elimination of judicial elections, an idea that is being pushed by many judges in the state. The public should have the opportunity to question their judges, and judges should be held to account for their work on the bench.

#### **Nancy Phelps**

Republican

- **1.** My first priority is to continue serving as judge with integrity and professionalism. No one else has my years of experience and historical knowledge.
- **2.** I will continue to serve without discrimination in any

form. I understand the importance of truth and fairness in the courtroom and have always made it my priority to treat everyone fairly. I do not tolerate discrimination of any type.

**3.** As the only Realtor on the bench, I will continue to bring my knowledge of real estate to each hearing. Real estate is often an important factor of most estates.

#### STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 30

#### Sarah Elfreth

Democrat

It has been an absolute privilege to represent District 30 in the Maryland Senate. In my second term, I plan to build off my record of passing bipartisan, commonsense policy and budget measures to solve our community's challenges.

District 30 remains highly susceptible to the impacts of sea-level rise and climate change. While I have sponsored legislation to update stormwater standards and finance resilience infrastructure, there is more work to do to protect our homes, small businesses, and historic structures from flooding.

District 30 also continues to face gun violence and crime — and I look forward to continuing to work hand-in-hand with our communities and public safety professionals to provide greater resources and community investment to ensure everyone feels and is safe in our community. I am also proud that I have been endorsed by the Professional Firefighters and the Fraternal Order of Police because of my record of working with first responders.

Inflation, the rising cost of goods, and increased cost of living are also impacting the day-to-day lives of District 30 residents. As a member of the budget and taxation









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# Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office

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committee, I was proud to help pass nearly \$2 billion in economic support to help provide relief to Maryland families and small businesses, including over \$1 billion in tax relief to Marylanders 65 and over; \$115.6 million in "family budget boosters" like sales tax exemptions on health care and family products (including my legislation to exempt diapers from the sales tax); and funding to suspend the gas tax to ensure that Marylanders were less impacted by rising costs at the pump. These next four years, I will remain committed to providing further tax relief to seniors, small businesses, and families throughout Maryland. My second term will be focused on providing tax relief to Maryland's veterans and first responders.

I am running for re-election to build upon what we have already accomplished: we have more to do to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, make our communities safer, and ensure every family and small business can thrive here in Maryland. I hope to have earned your vote!

#### Stacie MacDonald

#### Republican

We need more balance in Annapolis and I will work across the aisle to bring commonsense solutions for all Marylanders, not just one political party. The extreme liberals are taking over the agenda in Annapolis and it is crushing our neighborhoods and families on issues like these:

- 1. High cost of living Billions in new taxes are crushing families while inflation and cost of living rise. We need immediate and significant tax relief for everyone. Maryland politicians are sitting on a \$7 billion surplus that should be returned to you. My opponent voted to keep over 98% of your money for pet projects of the far left. I believe it is time to provide real tax relief, especially for retirees.
- **2. Crime** We have all seen the senseless and violent rise in crime. What you may not have heard about is how Annapolis and my opponent are undermining our law enforcement with bills that strip our police of their long-standing Law Enforcement Bill of Rights among other onerous actions. This is creating record retirement and challenging recruitment efforts by our police. To add insult to injury, these same politicians blocked Governor Larry Hogan's effort to get repeat violent offenders off our streets. I testified in support of Governor Hogan's legislation.
- **3. Community** Our area has such beauty and a sense of community. It is important that we continue to work to maintain and improve our community. I believe having world-class schools and education are at the foundation of any great community, so that's why I believe in funding education and empowering parents in the educational experience of their children. Additionally, we are so blessed to have the Chesapeake Bay and all its tributaries that provide recreation, beauty and commerce.

I believe we must protect the Chesapeake Bay funds that are dedicated to cleaning up our waterways that politicians have continued to raid. Day one, I would co-sponsor or submit legislation to put a lockbox on the Chesapeake Bay funds to ensure the provided resources are going to help the health of the bay and not some politician's pet project.

#### **STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 31**

#### Brian Kunkoski

#### Libertarian

The issue that is most important to me is reducing the size and scope of the state government. For too long, we have been beholden to taxes, permits, licensure, fees, absurd laws and regulations, and intrusive practices in our day-to-day lives. I recognize, if elected, that this is not a feat that will be corrected overnight. However, these practices weren't put in place overnight either. The two-party duopoly has slowly degraded the American way of life to give us a false sense of freedom. If elected to office, I will push three main issues on day one.

1. Abolish the gas tax - We can achieve this by not

allowing the state to dip into the transportation fund to fuel pet projects and add to the general fund.

- **2. Fight for Maryland to become a constitutional carry state** Violent crime has gotten worse in our communities and people need a way to protect themselves when police are nowhere to be found.
- **3. End vehicle re-registration** This is a "break even" system that requires too many employees at the Motor Vehicle Administration, which I see as a form of welfare, and is simply a major inconvenience for our citizens.

There are many more issues that I plan on addressing, but this, I think, is a great start.

The time is much past due for the two-party system to come to an end, and we need to allow people to reach their true potential without being taxed and regulated out of bettering themselves. It is time for a drastic change in politics, and I am that drastic change.

#### **Bryan Simonaire**

#### Republican

Bryan Simonaire could not be reached. According to his website, his priorities include lowering taxes, supporting veterans and small businesses, and standing up for citizen liberties.

#### STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 33

#### Dawn Gile

#### Democrat

In addition to being an attorney and mom of three girls, I am a proud Army spouse and a longtime advocate for veterans and military families, including having overseen a program providing pro bono legal services to Gold Star families and veterans. I am also an experienced attorney, having represented businesses of all sizes in litigation. I decided to run for the Maryland Senate after seeing a need for more effective representation on three key issues: supporting working families, protecting the environment, and strengthening our education system.

**First,** one of my top priorities is education. I believe that all children should be given the opportunity to learn in a safe environment, and our public schools need the resources and support to do so. It is imperative that we address overcrowding as well as teacher burnout and recruitment issues. I am proud to be endorsed by the Maryland State Education Association and Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County.

**Second,** helping working families is a top priority for me. As a mother with a career outside the home, I think it's vital to ensure access to affordable, quality child care and paid family and medical leave. In fact, among my many reasons for running for office is my frustration with the shortage of affordable child care options. I will work to continue to expand paid family and medical leave, passed this last session, as well as access to child care.

**Third,** I support strong environmental protections, including the need to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. I also believe we should continue to build on efforts to address the impact of climate change. My campaign has been endorsed by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters and Sierra Club, and I am committed to working with them in the future to enact legislation to strengthen environmental protections, especially for bay health.

Most importantly, I am committed to doing my homework and listening to constituents and policy experts to work toward compromise and solutions. I look forward to serving District 33 as its next state senator and would be honored for your vote.

#### Sid Saab

#### Republican

We face difficult times with runaway inflation and a growing recession. I have proudly partnered with Governor Larry Hogan in preparing for these shocks. We built up the state's surplus and rainy day fund to be ready. These funds can prevent cuts to public education and law enforcement. My opponent disagrees and supports sales tax and property increases to increase spending in addition to draining these reserves. She is wrong on all counts.

Violent crime and serious drugs, like fentanyl, are threats that have gotten worse. I oppose the catch-and-release policies that have made our communities less safe. I voted to make certain there are law enforcement officers (SROs) in every school. We passed the Justice Reinvestment Act, which gives non-violent offenders a second chance, but keeps violent offenders in prison. My opponent takes a different view, wanting to defund police and continue Baltimore's catch-and-release policy.

Rejecting extremism in our politics must be a priority. I am proud to work with Governor Hogan and I am proud to work across party lines. Compromise is a good thing. I have voted for state budgets that were not perfect. Governor Hogan, Democratic leaders and people like me forged a compromise that works because we do not let one party control everything. The economy and crime are not Republican or Democrat issues. They are commonsense policies forged through dialog and compromise. I am proud of that. To break the power of extremism, we need to change our politics. That's why I propose changing the law and allowing independents to vote in party primaries. This will promote candidates who speak to everyone and not the extremes.

I am an immigrant. I fled Lebanon, a country that is broken by extremist politics. Together, we can embrace cooperation and compromise as a recipe for success. I respectfully request your vote. Visit my website, *www. sidsaab.com*, for more details. If you want to talk, my phone is 410-934-7088 and we can discuss what's on your mind.

#### **STATE DELEGATE, DISTRICT 30A**

#### Shaneka Henson

#### Democrat

I was born and raised in Annapolis, to pastors who centered their family on community service above self. Elected to the Annapolis City Council in 2017, I was appointed to the House of Delegates in 2019 following the death of late Speaker Michael Busch. In my first term I've proven to be an effective and passionate leader. I am committed to making communities safer, controlling health care costs, and defending women's rights.

My accomplishments include working with my colleagues to ban ghost guns; strengthening gun dealer security requirements; and increasing penalties for witness intimidation, sex trafficking and gun trafficking. I also passed legislation to cap the cost of insulin at \$30 per month and forced drug companies to compete on drug prices. I am pro-choice, pro-women and I supported a constitutional amendment to protect pro-choice rights.

Since 2019, I sponsored 32 bills and worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to co-sponsor another 127 legislative acts. I currently serve on the appropriations committee and subcommittees for health and human services, as well as the oversight committee on pensions. In 2021, I was appointed to lead the Anne Arundel County capital budget subcommittee.

Before joining the Maryland General Assembly, I spent almost 10 years as a practicing attorney for the YWCA and the Maryland Office of Attorney General. Currently, I continue my passion for the law as a partner in my firm, Johnson Legal Group LLC.

I am proudly married to my husband, an educator at Annapolis Middle School. Together, we raise our teenage son, a recent graduate from Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and a freshman at Morgan State University.

There's no day off for me. When I'm not on the floor lobbying to protect the rights of District 30-A residents or attending community events in Annapolis, Arnold, Broadneck, Edgewater and London Town, I'm pouring into my creative hobbies such as interior design or attending live poetry and music performances.

Learn more at www.shanekahenson.com.

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### Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office <u>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</u>\*

#### » Continued from page 47 **Dana Jones**

Democrat

The three issues that will be most important to me are some of the same ones that I've worked tirelessly on since taking office in April 2020. I spent my first two years supporting Maryland's working families, not only by resolving over 2,000 constituent cases, but also through targeted tax relief. In 2022, I personally sponsored over \$300 million in tax cuts as part of the Family Budget Boosters relief package. Additionally, I supported the Retirement Tax Elimination Act, which passed with bipartisan support, and co-sponsored the motor fuel tax-free period. In total, I sponsored, co-sponsored, or supported over \$2 billion in tax relief in my first two years.

I've been proud to continue my career's work protecting and securing the right to reproductive health care. In 2022, I co-sponsored the Abortion Care Access Act that expands access to providers in our state. While other states are severely limiting women's health care, this session, Maryland chose to expand it.

And finally, as your state delegate, I will continue to  $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,2,3,\ldots \right\}$ target crime and work to make our communities safer. In 2022, I supported legislation directed at reducing gun violence and getting illegal weapons off of our streets. These included House Bill 425, which regulates untraceable "ghost guns," and House Bill 1021 that enhances security regulations for firearms dealers. I also supported our police in their efforts to combat gun violence by supporting Senate Bill 861, which funds the Maryland State Police Gun Center. This legislation will provide our state police the data and resources they need to investigate all firearm crimes. And lastly, I supported funding the state's behavioral health and public safety through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to bolster efforts in identifying and treating at-risk Marylanders. This funding will provide the help and support our youth need in times of crisis and save lives. With your support, I look forward to continuing my work on these issues, as well as the numerous others that impact Maryland and its future.

#### Doug Rathell Republican

As your next delegate, I will continue to be the voice of our community. I will always choose policies over politics. It's not the party affiliation, it's the person who best represents the people. When elected into office, I will focus on supporting our families and children, reducing crime by improving community safety, and keeping retirees in our state.

**Education** – I'm committed to improving our children's education by sending funding directly into our public school classrooms.

Crime/public safety - As a community servant, a local fire lieutenant/paramedic, I took an oath to protect and serve. Our communities are safer when there is trust, respect, and a mutual appreciation between law enforcement and the residents they serve.

Retirement Taxes - We lose our retirees, our parents and grandparents when they are forced to leave the great state of Maryland. I will work diligently to lower taxes, allowing more affordability to keep our retirees in

Feel free to reach for any further information or questions. Email me at doug@electdougrathell.com, visit www.electdougrathell.com, or call me at 443-305-9230.

#### **Rob Seyfferth**

Republican

Rob Seyfferth could not be reached. According to his

Facebook page, he wants to reduce government spending, keep taxes low, and introduce legislation to impose term limits on Congress and the judiciary.

#### **STATE DELEGATE, DISTRICT 31**

#### **Kevin Burke**

Democrat

**First,** we must renew our democracy. This starts with electing public officials who have common sense and courage to do what is right even when it means standing up against their own party. I am the only Democrat running for office who has publicly stood up to the Democratic Party over its partisan gerrymandering. My opponents have failed a similar test of leadership from within their party. Dan Cox has tried to impeach Governor Hogan, has called former Vice President Pence a "traitor" while our capital was being attacked, and has pondered mobilizing the Maryland State Police against the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

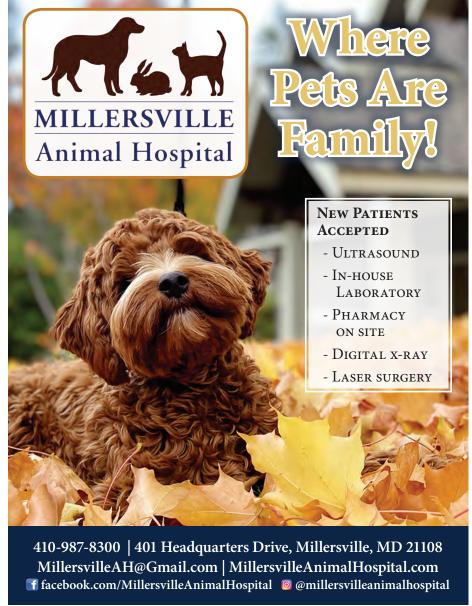
I give Governor Larry Hogan credit for his common sense to publicly oppose Mr. Cox. But unlike Governor Hogan, my Republican opponents have not found the courage to do so. In fairness, they may agree with Mr. Cox, which is more worrisome.

**Second,** we must grow our economy and protect the financial security of our residents. This includes helping small businesses grow, providing needed relief for working families and safe-guarding the hard-earned money of retirees. Specifically, I would support tax relief and targeted investments in public infrastructure and job training. We should also index the Maryland tax code to inflation to ease the burden of higher food and gas prices. I would work to make Maryland more tax friendly for retirees by cutting taxes on income from retire-

» Continued on page 49



Website: www.diggslaw.com



# Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office

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#### » Continued from page 48

ment accounts.

Third, we must improve the quality of life of our residents. We must save the Chesapeake Bay and appropriately staff the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). We should be alarmed by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report that calls into question the safety of our drinking water due to chronic understaffing at the MDE. Also, as a military veteran and criminal prosecutor, I would effectively partner with our law enforcement agencies to fight crime. It is disturbing that my Republican opponents voted against banning ghost guns, which are untraceable firearms that can be ordered and assembled from the internet without a background check. These weapons have increasingly become the weapon of choice for violent criminals and threaten our communities.

#### **Brian Chisholm**

Republican

**A. Tax Relief –** Immediately introduce legislation to detach the Maryland State Gas Tax from the Consumer Price Index as it is currently structured. Maryland has a large surplus of state and local road revenue and to continue this assault on every Marylander at the pump is unconscionable and unnecessary. The gas tax should either be eliminated or attached to another index that is much more stagnant or unrelated to the inflation that is currently crushing all Marylanders.

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

**C. Crime** – Crime has become a major issue everywhere in the state and I will continue to fight for every resource to fight crime from our law enforcement officers who provide safer communities to pushing for stronger sentences to those who create these vicious and violent crimes.

#### **Nic Kipke** Republican

When I first got elected, we were at the tail end of a decades-long decline in violent crime. Over the past few years, that trend has started to reverse and now violent crime is on the rise. While there are a lot of reasons for this, there are obvious reasons and those are the ones I intend to address during my next term in office. We must make it clear to violent criminals that lawlessness won't be tolerated. I'm going to fight to keep violent criminals in jail rather than continuing this revolving door we have going on in which someone can commit a violent crime in the afternoon and be out of jail and home in time for dinner. Many criminals never even face prosecution. It's desperately important that we address these failing policies and get the violent crime rate headed back down in the right direction.

Another priority for me (and I know for many Marylanders) is taxes. With the cost of living rising and inflation painfully high, there's hardly anyone who can afford to see their taxes increase. And yet, that's exactly what I know many Democrats have in mind for the coming years. One of my biggest priorities will be to stand in the way of any proposed tax increases and fight to make Maryland a more affordable place to live and retire.

Last, but by no means least, is education. During those days in 2020 when children were home and attending their lessons on Chromebooks, many parents discovered that their children weren't getting what they needed. Public schools tend to take a "one size fits all" approach

to learning for most students, but parents know their children best. Many children thrive in a traditional public-school setting, while many would learn better in a specialized charter school, private school, or by being homeschooled. Many schools, especially in Baltimore City, are simply failing the children. In the coming term, I plan to keep fighting for increased accountability and transparency in existing schools, and expanded opportunities for school choice, so that parents, not the government, can choose the best educational model for their children.

#### **Travis Lerol**

Libertarian

My priorities are to fix the roads, stop the mandates, and cut the taxes.

- **1. Fix the roads.** The transportation "lockbox" has been run at a deficit of approximately \$1 billion, roads have gone unfixed, and traffic continues to worsen. We need to audit where the money has been spent and ensure that all earmarked funds for transportation are used for the intended purpose. With the amount we are taxed for the roads, there shouldn't be a pothole in the state.
- **2. Stop the mandates.** COVID-19 emergency rules hit our area hard, with disruptions to school, closures of local businesses, and health mandates that intrude on personal freedom. Some of these emergency rules still have an impact today and I wish to end any remaining emergency rules, as well as limit future use of emergency powers. Emergency powers are meant for unusual circumstances lasting days or weeks, not months or even years.
- **3. Cut the taxes.** If we returned only the taxes from last year that remained unspent, every household in the state would receive over \$1,000. If inappropriate and wasteful spending were reduced, even more could be



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# Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office

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returned to the taxpayer. Maryland has become increasingly hard to afford for many, with many retirees moving out for cost-of-living reasons.

<u>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</u>

I'd like to see my friends and neighbors stay here instead of moving to Florida. If elected, I intend to push multiple bills for broad tax cuts, such as the institution of a 0% state income tax for the first \$10,000 of income, and broader sales tax exemptions for medical expenses.

Government needs to get back to the basics, and I call on other candidates to join me in cutting expenses. One thing delegates can do to directly save money is to pledge not to use the stipend of up to \$153/day for food and hotel stays, as I have. If you support fiscal responsibility, ask your candidates if they are personally willing to take the first step to reduce government.

#### Rachel Munoz

Republican

My top priorities are to make Maryland affordable, strengthen public safety and improve education. Like everyone else, our family has had our budget stretched to the max with the high price of gas and inflation. You can count on me to work to lower our tax burden. I believe that we should be defending the police who put their lives on the line to keep us safe — not defunding. As a delegate, I will continue to work to give the police the tools they need to do their jobs to keep our community safe. I want our children to receive a quality education and keep politics out of the classroom. I will fight for parents' rights and age-appropriate education in cooperation with our amazing teachers.

#### **Milad Pooran**

Democrat

Health care in aggregate represents nearly 40% of the Maryland budget. As a practicing physician, I know all too well that access to quality and affordable health care is a cornerstone of a strong and thriving community. These are challenging economic times, especially for women, who now because of political interference face additional hurdles to access the full complement of health care. I am proud to be the endorsed candidate of Planned Parenthood Advocates PAC because they trust me to fight in Annapolis to preserve and protect our liberties.

I started and still operate a small business in Maryland with nearly 50 employees. Daily, we confront the severe difficulties imposed by critical product shortages and the seemingly endless rise in prices. As your next delegate, identifying ways to alleviate some of these stressors will be my priority. We desperately need targeted tax reforms to take the burden off the small businesses — the economic engines driving a prospering middle class. But the economic pressures are deep, and the inflationary forces have hit hardest on those living on fixed incomes. I want to help end pension taxes, once and for all, including taxes on retired military benefits.

As a father of three young kids, nothing is more important to me than ensuring that all children have access to a great education from prekindergarten onward. We must also support technical and vocational training beyond high school for those who wish to pursue skilled trades. The reality that education is the great equalizer certainly manifested in my life; my commitment is to lead the charge in Annapolis to make genuine opportunity available for all Maryland youth.

There will be many critical issues facing the next legislature in January, including the scourge of childhood poverty afflicting far too many Maryland children and the night-mare of the opioid epidemic, which has taken far too many young vibrant lives. As a military veteran with nearly 25 years of service, it would be an honor and privilege to continue my service to my community as a member of the House of Delegates for District 31. Visit www.miladpooran.com to join our efforts.

#### STATE DELEGATE, DISTRICT 33B

#### Stuart Schmidt Jr.

Republican

Stuart Schmidt Jr. could not be reached. According to his website, his top priorities are the following:

- **1. Crime and safety –** Do a better job of protecting citizens by working with police and connecting them with the community.
- **2. Taxes and inflation –** Working across the aisle to lower taxes and make living and retiring in Maryland more affordable for retirees.
- **3. Education –** Fully support parents in making decisions that government should not be involved in.

#### John Wakefield

Democrat

I'm John Wakefield, and I am running for delegate in District 33B.



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# Election Candidates Discuss Three Priorities For Office

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If elected, my highest and most urgent priority is strengthening protections for reproductive rights. The recent Dobbs v. Jackson decision stripped Americans of their fundamental right to privacy, and despite initial claims that the decision was merely returning the issue of abortion back to the states, congressional Republicans are now openly stating that if they retake control of Congress, they will pass a nationwide abortion ban. Last year, we attempted to enshrine reproductive rights in the Maryland Constitution; this year, we must succeed in doing so. We owe it to the people of our state and to the people who come to us from surrounding states where they have been stripped of their rights. We must do more.

Locally, my mission is simple and straightforward: I want to bring the tax dollars home and put them to work. For too long, our district has been represented by elected officials who complain about government spending as a waste of taxpayer dollars, but who then fail to advocate for that spending. This election comes in the wake of multiple large federal spending bills, and as a result, there is money on the table to be had. Our tax dollars paid for these bills, and we deserve to benefit from them. We have an opportunity to address infrastructure concerns like our worn out, flooded, and overly congested roads. Likewise, there is funding for climate projects, which would be especially beneficial to the people of our district, living in the third-most at-risk watershed in the country.

Protecting that watershed, as well as the rest of our environment, is my third priority. Our district has experienced a great deal of growth, and all that development has taken a severe toll on our environment. Our floodplain is overburdened, and we still need to do more to correct for the deforestation of the previous decade. We are blessed to live in such a wonderful ecosystem; that ecosystem must be protected.

# STATE DELEGATE, DISTRICT 33C Heather Bagnall

#### Democrat

Over the last four years as your delegate, I have established a reputation as a pragmatic problem-solver and responsive representative. Education, cost of living, crime reduction, and environment remain topline concerns for most Marylanders and District 33 falls squarely in that camp, but in addition, there are challenges and concerns to which I have become a meaningful voice in Maryland. My top three priorities during year one of my second term are behavioral health care, whistleblower protections, and child care.

**Behavioral health access and care** – As many who read this publication are aware, I have been laser focused on expanding access to behavioral health services and addressing workforce issues, particularly for constituents with acute, complex behavioral health concerns, which are resource heavy, challenging to families and communities, and difficult to place. For four years, I have remained steadfast in my commitment for better access to patient-centered behavioral health care and a coordinated system.

#### Whistleblower protections for public employees -

During the pandemic, there were several high-profile stories including misappropriation of funds, spoiled vaccines, inside dealing, and other violations within our state agencies and they came to light only when someone within the department came forward. Though "see something, say something" makes a great slogan at the airport, for our state employees, that phrase could be "see something, say something, lose something." Although we have wrongful termination protections in law, our protections from retaliatory efforts are quite weak; a tremendous disservice and potential danger to the tax paying public when the people doing and seeing the work are disincentivized to speak up when something is wrong.

**Child care** – Access to affordable, dependable child care remains a significant barrier for many families. We

need to rethink child care models, as many larger centers run with razor-thin profit margins, and little flexibility for working parents. With the rollout of universal pre-k on the horizon and the transition of many child care facilities to early childhood education centers, now is the time to establish a more family friendly, economically accessible, and adaptable child care system, and to create regulations that allow for more flexibility in the establishment and maintenance of smaller, in-home day care.

#### **Kerry Gillespie**

#### Republican

I am not a career politician and I want to represent you, not be a rubber stamp for one party. I am a marketing professional, a volunteer community advocate, and a mother of four who, as delegate for District 33C, will work across the aisle to deliver results for our community and to serve the people.

The top issues I will address as your delegate are to: Ensure schools deliver a quality, back-to-basics education for all students, while advocating for parental rights and ensuring our vital teachers have a voice.

Our children have experienced a huge learning regression following school closures, with Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) testing showing only 15% of students in Maryland at grade level for math. We must have discussions about how to best use our tax dollars to make sure the funds find their way into the classrooms where they belong, and to provide teachers with the resources they need to help children reach their full learning potential.

Fully support and fund our law enforcement and first responders.

Violent crime rates are on the rise across Maryland. Ensuring those who keep our communities safe are supported in their public safety mission should be one of the most important jobs of the government. As your state delegate, I will advocate for tougher sentences to keep violent offenders behind bars and off the streets. And I will work to bring state funding to the county to expand the school resource officer program to keep our children and teachers safe while in school.

Proactively work with state and county partners to improve our road infrastructure and traffic congestion. With Maryland moving forward with the Bay Bridge third span project, it is imperative that we have a leader who will proactively represent our district and stay on top of this project to ensure our communities are protected and our concerns are heard. I will be that proactive leader who regularly meets with state and county transportation officials to be a voice for the community so that our transportation issues will be addressed in a timely manner.

#### CONGRESS, DISTRICT 3

#### Yuripzy Morgan

Republican

Yurpizy Morgan could not be reached. According to her website, she wants to support police officers, decrease government intervention so the economy can thrive, and protect parents' right to be involved in their children's education.

#### **John Sarbanes**

Democrat

John Sarbanes could not be reached. According to his website, he wants to help clean up corruption in Washington, provide robust federal resources for Maryland schools, strengthen financial aid and student loan repayment programs, and reform the nation's health care system to ensure all individuals can access high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health care services.

#### **GOVERNOR**

#### Dan Cox

Republican

Dan Cox could not be reached. According to his

website, his priorities include the following: defending law enforcement and the second amendment, protecting parental rights, and combating antisemitism.

#### **Wes Moore**

#### Democrat

On the first day of Army training, I learned a mantra that now serves as the mission for our campaign: Leave no one behind. That's how I intend to govern. I'll fight for a Maryland where our economy is booming, our children have access to a world-class education, where our communities are safer, and where women have the freedom to make their own reproductive decisions. That's the Maryland I want to create, and I'll work tirelessly every day to get it done.

#### **U.S. SENATOR**

#### **Chris Chaffee**

#### Republican

Chris Chaffee could not be reached. According to his website, he wants to get inflation under control by making America energy independent, promote higher education for every American, defend law enforcement officers and fight to secure America's borders.

#### **Chris Van Hollen**

#### Democrat

Chris Van Hollen could not be reached. According to his website, his top priorities include creating more and better jobs, strengthening small businesses, and increasing educational and job training opportunities for individuals of all ages and in every community.

#### **Scottie Griffin**

#### Democrat

As a United States Senator, I will propose and pass the following legislation to improve the quality of life for everyone in our country:

- **1.** Codify 18 years old as the age of majority to discontinue the practice of housing young teens who commit crimes in facilities with adults.
- **2.** Permit high school students in our classrooms to engage in discussion regarding the previous history of our country.
- **3.** Reduce the tax rate for families with incomes below the poverty line.
- **4.** Reassign license plates issues to a federal department to avoid frequent altercations between law enforcement officers and the public.

Due to space limits, the Severna Park *Voice* did not contact candidates for attorney general and comptroller.

Attorney General: The race is between Michael Peroutka (Republican) and Anthony Brown (Democrat). Peroutka wants to prosecute public officials who have "exceeded their lawful authority and have violated the God-given, constitutionally protected liberties of Marylanders." He also hopes to restore election integrity and protect Marylanders from "those who have entered the United States and Maryland unlawfully or under false pretenses." Brown wants to expand voting access in Maryland, legalize cannabis, protect reproductive rights, and take more steps to address gun violence.

**Comptroller:** The race is between **Barry Glassman** (*Republican*) and **Brooke Lierman** (Democrat). Glassman is the current Harford County executive and former state senator and state delegate who wants to hold the state accountable for spending money responsibly. Lierman is a mom, civil and disability rights attorney, state legislator and community advocate. She's running for comptroller to champion policies and pursue partnerships that ignite economic empowerment, equity and resilience.

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## **YOUR STATE LEGISLATIVE TEAM**

### **BRYAN SIMONAIRE**



Senator Bryan Simonaire is the Senate Minority Leader and is focused on providing solutions in Annapolis. Bryan obtained his Bachelor of Computer Science and his Masters in Computer Engineering in pursuit of his desire to travel the world and work for a top tiered defense company. At the age of 58, he has been married for over 35 years to his college sweetheart and has 5 daughters, 2 sons and 5 grandchildren.

### **BRIAN CHISHOLM**



Brian Chisholm is a lifelong Anne Arundel County resident who has entrenched himself into the fabric of the community as a steadfast and reliable friend, family member, neighbor, small-business owner and trusted leader. His wife Kristie of 20 years has a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy and works with Preschoolers in the Prince Georges County School System. Their son Ty is currently seeking a degree in Biomedical Engineering at Florida Tech in Melbourne, Florida. He is seeking re-election for his second term as a Maryland Republican delegate representing Severna Park, Pasadena, Millersville, Gambrills and Glen Burnie.

# **RACHEL MUÑOZ**



Rachel Muñoz is a fresh face and a new voice in the Maryland General Assembly. With a background working with the Anne Arundel Crisis Response Team and as a recent graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, Rachel is excited and motivated to make a difference for our community. She proved herself in the 2022 legislative session by working on bills that impact our community and by speaking out for our values. Rachel and her husband Andrew both grew up here and there is nowhere else they would want to be raising their five young children – Logan, Claire, Chloé, Luke, and Celine.

### **NIC KIPKE**



Nic Kipke has served the people in district 31 for over a decade in the state legislature. He spent eight of those years serving as the Republican leader in the House of Delegates. He loves representing the area where he grew up, and tries to not just fairly represent his constituents in the legislature, but to also provide excellent constituent services and to be a resource for the community. Nic is always going to be a reliable voice for lower taxes, limited government, and common sense values. Nic and his wife Susannah married in 2014 and are raising their three children James, Evelyn, and Margaret in Pasadena.

### **YOUR STATE LEGISLATIVE TEAM - DISTRICT 31**

SIMONAIRE STATE DELEGATE

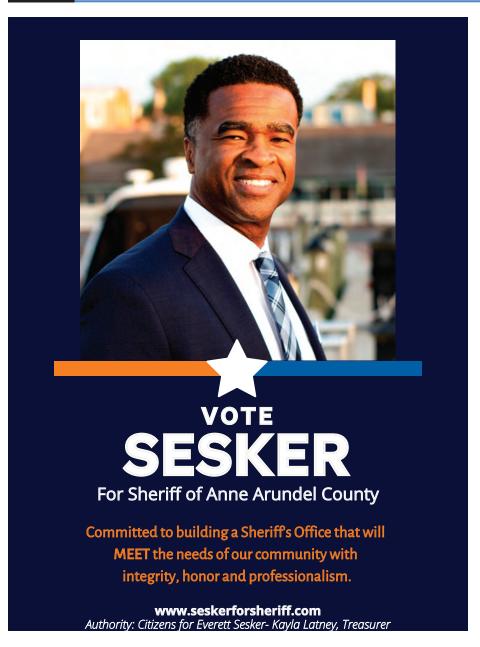
CHISHOLM STATE SENATE

KIPKE STATE SENATE MUÑOZ STATE SENATE

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# Kerry

# **GILLESPIE**

**★ FOR DELEGATE ★** 

#### www.KerryGillespie.com

KerryGillespieforDelegate@gmail.com

Authority: Citizens for Kerry Gillespie, Lisa A. Smith, Treasurer



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# BUSINESS

# Have You Thanked A Government Worker Lately?

#### Jason LaBarge LaBarge **Financial**



**7** ou wake in the morning and switch your lights on. You wait until the traffic light turns red and the crosswalk sign illuminates, indicating it is safe to cross the street. You reach

in the fridge to check the expiration date on your suspicious-looking milk. These are some things that we take for granted every day. Who is responsible for making these simple, but crucial, aspects in our lives possible? The answer is government workers.

Whether it be the U.S Department of Agriculture, Homeland Security, the Food and Drug Administration or other agencies, it is important for us to take a  $\ moment\ to\ \overline{recognize}\ and\ appreciate\ all$ they do to support our daily lives.

As a car can't go without its wheels, these government agencies can't function without their workers. When these employees reach retirement age, there

are two main benefits that they are given: their pension and their Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP. Given where we are located, a lot of my clients work for some sort of government agency. When my clients retire, they want to make the most out of what they have worked their whole lives for. Government workers are no different. They do, however, have major differences in their retirement programs, and I want to go over them here.

Government retirement programs are split into two systems. The first system is the Civil Service Retirement System, or CSRS, and the second is the Federal Employee Retirement System, or FERS. CSRS is referred to as the "old system," with FERS being called the "new system." All federal employees hired today are under the FERS system.

CSRS started in 1920 and was replaced by FERS in 1987. CSRS is known as a 'defined benefit plan" or a "pension plan." Employees and the government contribute money into the plan that will ultimately create a monthly pension paid out for the life of the worker, along with benefits to the spouse. CSRS employees generally do not pay into Social Security, » Continued on page 58

# **Chamber Update**

Liz League CEO GSPACC



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

Park Mod**ern Realty** - As lifelong residents of Anne Arundel County, their

team knows the real estate market intimately. Their exceptional customer service, combined with extensive experience in real estate and investing, allows their clients to feel comfortable and confident that they will execute every transaction with their best interests in mind.

**Atlantic Blue Water Services** - For vears, its interest and concern with the quality of drinking water has been both personal and professional. Atlantic Blue Water Services is an award-winning company committed to offering quality products and services. It offers free local water testing in your home or at their store, giving instant results and an honest recommendation for treatment.

One You Love Homecare - This business specializes in professional, compassionate and personalized care to older adults to enable them to continue to live safely and independently in their own homes. The staff offers long-term solutions as well as short-term rehabilitation care after surgery. One You Love Homecare is locally owned and operated by two women, a registered nurse and a certified nursing assistant, who were born and raised in Annapolis and have strong ties to the community.

**Energy Zebra LLC** - Its recognized and award-winning leadership team has over 60 years in the energy business and has protected thousands of customers from unaffordable cost increases. The trustworthy energy consultants pride themselves on the peace of mind they achieve for small businesses and residential customers. Let Energy Zebra develop your unique cost savings plan.

**Ethereal Marine Art** - Joe Gagliar-di's paintings reflect the daydream-like images that came from spending nearly two years overseas as a U.S. Marine. He uses high-quality acrylic spray paints, along with brushes and sponges, to make bright scenes of landscapes, flowers, alien worlds and whatever pops into his mind as he paints. Each painting is a unique, handmade piece and never a print.

NV Kitchen and Bath Remodeling - An award-winning company with 10 » Continued on page 56

# **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

# Hospice Of The Chesapeake Provides Continuum Of Care



#### By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

t Hospice of the Chesapeake, people get medical care, they get support, and they get counseling. But maybe the most im-

portant thing they acquire is hope.
Since Hospice of the Chesapeake was founded in 1979 — originally under the name Arundel Hospice the nonprofit, independent community-based organization has given people hope as they or their loved ones navigate the journey of illness and loss.

"People say, 'I'm not ready to give up hope yet' before they consider hospice," said Becky Miller, chief clinical officer for Hospice of the Chesapeake.
"Today at Hospice, there are 649 people who all have hope. The change is in what they hope for."

The nonprofit's continuum of care services includes hospice, supportive care and grief care. Throughout this care, Hospice of the Chesapeake's team works to address the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual needs.



'We not only come from the community, but that's also who we give back to," Miller said. "We have a board of directors, as opposed to a for-profit that has stakeholders. Our decisions are based on what is going to serve the family the best ... in contrast, a for-profit hospice is going to ask, 'What's the return on investment?'

The best situation depends on each family, but many people prefer to age in place, living independently in their own home. Hospice of the ChesaBecky Miller, chief clinical officer for Hospice of the Chesapeake, enjoys working with her team to provide hope for people battling illness or loss.

peake cares for patients wherever they call home — private residences, nursing homes, assisted living facilities or hospitals.

Making that possible is the care team of physicians and nurse practitioners who specialize in the care of people with advanced illness. They help people manage pain and other difficult symptoms while also defining the goals of care.

'Hospice is the tail end of palliative care," Miller said. "We put together a treatment plan to help them stay at home and focus on whatever brings them joy."

Miller, who has a background in social work, knows firsthand the importance of having a treatment plan and a team of hospice professionals collaborating.

"My father was very ill, and he was seeing a pulmonologist, an oncologist and a primary care doctor," Miller said. "Every one of those people are experts in their field, but no one was looking at [my father's care] across

the board. It wasn't until my father met the palliative care physician that he truly understood what was happening with his health."

The care team works together to determine what is causing people the most distress and how to mitigate those factors.

For example, someone who has difficulty breathing and the medicine or inhalers they used to take are not working in the same way, so they can't go for a walk," Miller said. "Does that person need oxygen so they can get back to going for walks?

"It's a very creative process," Miller said. "It's so tailored to each individual person. I think for our team at the bedside, that's one of the most rewarding points. It's like a puzzle, trying to figure out how it fits together for each individual person."

Those who need a more intensive level of care, as an alternative to hospitalization, can be brought to the Rebecca Fortney Inpatient Care Center, located on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena. The 14-suite facility offers families and patients serene spaces, including a sanctuary, in which to gather with loved ones. A cozy family room, children's play space and family kitchen offer the

Continued on page 56

## **RIBBON CUTTING**



# Bryki Gallery Explores The Power Of Healing



The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of Bryki Gallery on October 27. Sara Bryki's mission is to "help people build stronger connections in their lives through the use of stones  $and\ crystals,\ personal\ exploration\ and\ growth,\ and\ facilitating\ a\ deeper\ understanding\ of\ universal\ love."\ Located$ at 741 Generals Highway in Millersville, the gallery is decorated with crystals, stones, gems and home decor.



# Landmark **Roofing Donates** To Help Others

Landmark Roofing owners Artie Hendricks and Rob Calhan recently presented a \$1,500 check to the Wellness House of Annapolis. Mary Jermann, executive director of the Wellness House of Annapolis, is pictured accepting the donation. Landmark Roofing also continued its support of local nonprofits by presenting a \$500 check to GiGi's Playhouse in October.

# Chamber Update

#### » Continued from page 55

years of experience, its team has licensed remodelers and carpenters who can help you upgrade, design, and renovate your kitchen, bathroom and closets. Not just that, they also offer a range of products with versatile designs and applications for your home, such as cabinets, flooring and countertops.

#### The Salvation Army Potomac

**Division** - The Salvation Army annually helps more than 25 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction and economic hardships through a range of social services. By providing food, emergency disaster relief, rehabilitation services, clothing and shelter, The Salvation Army is meeting human needs without discrimination at 7,219 centers of operation across the country.

After a series of "friends and family" dinners and a soft opening, we officially cut the ribbon for the grand opening of Garten by Preserve. Owners Michelle

and Jeremy Hoffman spoke passionately about the beautiful renovation of the space, their vision for the restaurant and being overwhelmed by the positive response from the community. Their restaurant is now open for lunch, and you can see the beautiful butterfly garden in the back. And you can eat al fresco as  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1$ they have heaters over the tables.

A ribbon-cutting was held for the grand opening of the Bryki Gallery in Millersville. Owner Sara Bryki is a national figure and expert in curated crystals and healing with crystals. The gallery is filled with incredibly beautiful display pieces, home décor and, of course, jewelry.

Our Successful Women in Business group held a luncheon at the wonderful Broadneck Grill in Cape St. Claire. The restaurant features delicious Mexican food, and best of all is their house-made desserts including chocolate mousse cake, key lime pie, mud pie and polar bear cake. The featured speaker was Lauren Parker, register of wills, who gave a spirited talk on the importance of having a will.

Our Wellness Committee arranged two events in October. The morning event featured life coach Debbie McTammany of True You, Navigating Through Change, who talked about "showing up for you" and the value of a life coach to help you set goals and stay motivated. The luncheon, held at Romilo's Restaurant and Bar, featured Gigi Burkhalter of Stretch. Bliss Wellness. She spoke about her journey through breast cancer and the importance of advocating for your

Finally, we held our Shoptoberfest shop local event in Park Plaza. The event included entertainment, a costume contest for kids and dogs, food, exhibitors and more! We had three gold sponsors that donated 50 percent of their sponsorships to selected charities. SERVPRO Annapolis/Severna Park donated to the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi donated to the Alzheimer's Association, and Landmark Roofing supported GiGi's Playhouse. Other sponsors included Lisa's Cakepops, The Voice Media, Neat Wall TV, DeMaio Family Chiropractic and Physical Therapy, Kwon's Taekwondo, Citizens to Elect Heather Bagnall, Jessica Haire for County Executive, RockWell Fitness, Zen Leaf Oceanside, and Dawn Gile for Senate.

# Hospice Of The Chesapeake

**» Continued from page 55** comforts of home. Each patient's room opens to a peaceful garden setting.

Hospice of the Chesapeake also guides veterans toward a peaceful ending. Through its We Honor Veterans program, Hospice of the Chesapeake pays respects to veterans and their families while helping them through their life stories.

The nonprofit's mission includes helping caregivers and family members. Through its grief support team, Chesapeake Life Center, the organization offers grief support, and preventative mental health and coping skills that people can use throughout their lifetime.

'People adjusting to loss have to put into context what this means and how to cope with the loss, stress, anxiety, as well as the loss of independence, Miller said.

For patients, illness can conjure different fears and challenges of navigating the health system. One of the questions families ask most frequently is how to pay for hospice, which is most often covered by insurance. Miller explained that the organization is here to help anyone in need, regardless of financial status.

'We don't turn anyone away," Miller said. "If they need our service, we're here to serve them.'

Miller emphasized that hospice does not make people sicker and that it's never too early to explore it as an option once a person receives a serious

People always say, 'I'm not at that point.' You don't have to be at a point," Miller said. "Most of the time, people come when they're having a crisis. We're always a phone call away. To increase the quality of their life, we would like to help people earlier in their journey."

Regardless of their illness, people can always have hope.

'What patients and families are hoping for may be different from day to day," Miller said. "But no one gives up hope. There is always something to hope for."

Hospice of the Chesapeake has facilities in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's counties. To learn more, call 410-987-2003 or 1-877-462-1101 (toll-free), or visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

#### **November is National Hospice and Palliative Care**

**Month.** One way to celebrate is by getting involved with Hospice of the Chesapeake.

"Volunteers are really at the heart of what we do in hospice work," Miller said. "That might be sitting with somebody so the caregiver can take a break and get rest. Volunteers also work in the administrative office, and we have people in a professional and advisory level.

'They want to help their neighbors; they want to touch their community; and this touches every community."

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# Have You Thanked A Government Worker Lately?

#### » Continued from page 55

therefore not receiving any Social Security benefits directly from their federal employment. They generally did not pay into the TSP either.

I do have some clients who did pay into TSP, but it was optional and came without any match. If the worker was able to get enough credits working outside the federal government, and thereby earning Social Security benefits, their payment is reduced by something called the "Windfall Elimination Provision" (WEP), which lowered the amount paid by Social Security.

FERS employees, by contrast, paid into Social Security by working for the federal government, as well as receiving matching contributions to their TSP. The employing agency contributes 1 percent of a worker's base pay every pay period. A worker can also contribute their own amount into the plan, and the amount matched depends upon the employing agency. In this regard, this is referred to as a "defined contribution plan," much like a 401(k) in the private sector.

What differentiates FERS from private sector plans is the pension that coincides with it. The pension is ultimately the 1 percent being contributed to the plan. That pension is paid to you, or you and your spouse, for life. This benefit is similar to the CSRS pension plan in that it guarantees income for life. To make FERS even better, employees are offered the FERS supplement. The FERS  $supplement\ of fers\ a\ \widetilde{Social}\text{-}Security\text{-}like$ payment for those who retire before

Social Security eligibility. For example, one could retire at age 55 and receive a bonus payment monthly on top of their pension, until age 62 when that will expire and when Social Security payments could begin. The FERS supplement is based upon meeting certain eligibility

The TSP is consistent between the two programs and works like a 401(k). Contributions, whether they are employee or employer, are added to a fund that can be allocated into several options. The options include equity allocation for both domestic and international, bond allocation, and a money market option. Depending upon the allocation, that will dictate the outcome of the account, which is similar to a 401(k).

What is the better program you might ask? From what I have seen, FERS employees thought of their program as inferior to CSRS due to the significantly larger pension available to CSRS employees. If you were to compare the monthly benefit of a CSRS employee and a FERS employee, the CSRS payment would be significantly higher, at least double or triple. While the pension payment is significantly more for CSRS employees, they are not receiving Social Security and they did not receive any match to their TSP, so generally speaking, their TSP is smaller if they have one at all.

By contrast, the FERS employee can have a much higher pension compared to the general public, who in most cases don't have a pension in retirement at all, and they have a Social Security check on

top of that pension. In many cases, when you add the two payments together, the gap between the two programs can be much smaller.

What really makes me favor the FERS program is the TSP. Not only are FERS retirees receiving a guaranteed income for life via the pension and Social Security, but they can also have, depending upon how long they worked for the government, a significant amount saved in their TSP.

The TSP provides something valuable in today's world: choice. If a person wanted to withdraw all their TSP funds and buy 15 cars with it, they could do that. That may be a foolish thing to do, but they have the choice to do that. If you are receiving a monthly pension, you don't have the option of taking all those future payments as a one-time lump sum payment. In other words, the FERS program offers a diversified three-pronged benefit: pension, Social Security and TSP. In today's world, I find that attractive, and when you add the FERS supplement with it, that is a valuable retirement package.

Before all the CSRS retirees get angry with me, their program is beneficial as well. The CSRS pension payments are among the highest monthly benefits I have ever seen, if not the highest. It's never a bad thing to know that you are going to receive a significant monthly payment just by waking up in the morning. CSRS retirees are also not concerned with market swings. Their pensions do not change when the market is down. Given market conditions, that can be

I have come to really enjoy helping government workers retire, as they require a specific set of skills and knowledge in preparing for retirement. I also feel compelled to return the favor to them, as I know when I put my children to sleep at night, I know they are safe in large part because of the government workers at the National Security Agency or the Department of Defense. Thank you.

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All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. There is no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful.

Asset allocation is an investment strategy that will not guarantee a profit or protect you from loss. Guarantees are based on the claims paying ability of the issuer.

Distributions from traditional IRAs and employer sponsored retirement plans are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken prior to reaching age 59 and a half, may be subject to an additional 10% IRS tax penalty.

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#### Friends and Neighbors,

It's hard to believe how far we've come in just a year! It was just last October, after the incumbent made yet another pandering and partisan vote, when I was first encouraged to run for council. Now, we're just days away from making real progress a reality! I am 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, business owner, professional engineer, community volunteer, husband and father of five. Unlike our current and previous councilmember, I've built my career and service outside of the political machine before seeking this office, 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. 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 needs and deserves: A representative who is both fiscally responsible and committed to 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 and needs of our community. As councilman, I will always put the needs and best interests of our community first with service-minded leadership and integrity.

I've devoted my life to serving my country, my employees, my family, and my community. I ask for your vote on Nov. 8th and for the privilege of serving you as your next councilman!





✓ Veteran & Engineer

- Officer in the Naval Civil Engineer Corps
- Combat tours with the "Seabees" of NMCB-5
- Oversaw over \$250 million in federal construction projects
- ✓ Business Owner & Employer
  - Founder of Severna Park-based, veteran-owned small business
- ▼ Trustee (responsible for fiscal oversight)
  - UA Local 486 Medical Benefits Fund
  - Balt.-Washington Laborers Joint Training Fund
- ✓ Board Member
  - Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association
- ✓ Community Volunteer
  - Cubmaster & Scouts BSA Merit Badge Counselor
  - St. John the Evangelist Building Committee Chair (2014-18)
  - Broadneck Baseball & Softball Club coach
- ✓ Building Design & Construction Magazine's "40 Under 40" (2015)
- ✓ Maryland's Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year (2022)

"We will honor several outstanding VSBE firms for their contributions to Maryland's economy. It is with great honor that we congratulate [Carl Neimeyer] for being selected to receive a Governor's Citation."

-Gov. Larry Hogan's Office of Small, Minority & Women Busin

Do you know the real  $A^{\stackrel{\star}{\widehat{\mathrm{manda}}}}$  record? heRealFiedlerRecord.com

**Have you** made your **#PlanToVote?** 



WWW.CARLNEIMEYER.COM











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Cut taxes and get Anne Arundel County back on the right track by making it a more affordable place to live and do business.



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Improve efficiency, modernize local government, and foster a culture of responsiveness and customer service.



# SUPPORT STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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VOTE ON ELECTION DAY:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>