

Severna Park
High School
Principal Retires
>> Page 39



Author's Book
Highlights Scary
Holiday Films
>> Page 49



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DECEMBER 2022

STATE CHAMPIONS



Three teams from Severna Park and Broadneck high schools capped their 2022 athletic seasons by capturing state championships. Broadneck field hockey went undefeated, finishing as county champs before beating Winston Churchill 2-0 on November 12 to win the program's first state title since 2002. The same day, Severna Park's boys and girls cross country teams finished in first at the state meet at Hereford High School in Parkton. **Read more about their accomplishments on page 21.**



Year In Review

Check out this recap of all the big achievements and events that made 2022 a year to remember. **Year In Review starts on page 14.**

Inside

Community.....	1
Religion.....	19
Sports.....	21
School & Youth.....	39
Arts & Entertainment.....	49
Business.....	55

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Tree Lighting Revives Community Tradition

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

A new generation of kids now have a reason to gather around the Christmas tree.

At the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) tree lighting on December 2, a large evergreen tree was illuminated for the first time in decades. Due to budget restraints, the chamber has had to forgo the large tree and use a smaller holly tree in front of the building in recent years.

During the event, families chanted a 10-second countdown for the holly tree to be lit. Then, GSPACC CEO Liz League announced that a second countdown was needed for a surprise.



At more than 70 feet tall and 40 feet wide, the illuminated evergreen tree is a big presence. The Big Bean, The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium, and Maryland Lighting and Sprinklers made it possible.

"Growing up outside New York, with the Rockefeller Christmas tree, naturally I saw this tree and said, 'Has it ever been lit?'" said Greg Coster, who owns The Big Bean with his wife, Christie. "There are generations that don't remember if it's been lit. And I'm like, 'Let's do it,' because it will bring people out not just tonight but throughout the whole month of December. It's magical."

Maryland Lighting and Sprinklers
>> Continued on page 6



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.



Souder Sows Soccer Success In Severna Park

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

If you're involved with soccer in Severna Park, chances are Matt Souder has played a part in your experience.

The Severna Park resident of more than 20 years has served as the Green Hornets soccer commissioner for almost a decade, and that's just a fraction of Souder's involvement with the sport in the area.

Besides volunteering as the commissioner, Souder coaches a select girls team, runs the youth soccer referee program, hires kids to line the fields and recently stepped up as the announcer for the Severna Park High School soccer matches.

Although he wears many hats within the local soccer scene, the common bond between his roles is that they're all volunteer positions.

"Sports unites the community and gives kids the opportunity to learn a lot of skills that are valuable not just as kids, but in life," Souder said.

Soccer is the biggest sport within the Green Hornets organization with more than 2,300 kids playing in the fall and about 1,000 participating in the spring.

Souder's role as commissioner touches on nearly every aspect of soccer outside of putting on a kit himself. A sampling of his duties includes ensuring practice fields are ready to play, formulating game schedules, ordering uniforms and equipment for players and coaches, organizing hundreds of volunteers and running the youth referee program.

It's the latter task where Souder mentors and trains the youth referees who are used for certain Green Hornets matches where kids can start with the whistle as soon as eighth grade.

"The cool thing about that is it gives a lot of kids their first job ever," said Souder, stressing the independence and responsibility it provides the youth referees.

While his commissioner duties require a great amount of labor leading up to a soccer season, Souder said things fall into place soon after.



As the soccer commissioner for Green Hornets, Matt Souder ensures practice fields are ready to play, formulates game schedules, orders uniforms and equipment, organizes hundreds of volunteers and runs the youth referee program.

"My goal as soccer commissioner is to get the kids coming back every year. If they want to come back, it's a win"

— MATT SOUDER

"It's a lot of work, but once that first ball is kicked, it settles down," Souder said.

Souder's self-measured success boils down to one metric that doesn't have anything to do with financials for the nonprofit Green Hornets organization.

"My goal as soccer commissioner is to get the kids coming back every year," Souder said. "If they want to come back, it's a win."

With 176 soccer teams taking the pitch this past fall, providing a great experience for Green Hornets players is a rewarding part of the job

for Souder.

"The thing that I like about Severna Park is we try to give everyone, all the kids, regardless of playing ability, a place to play," said Souder, noting a blind soccer player who has had an opportunity to suit up with the Green Hornets the past few years.

Souder's passion for soccer and serving the community was instilled by his late father, Dick Souder, while growing up in Cape St. Claire. The elder Souder was president of the Cape St. Claire Recreation Council for several years in the '70s, and Matt would help line fields, work the clock at basketball games and be up early in the morning while the family registered community members for youth sports.

An emotional Souder explained how those early years shaped his motivation to give back to area kids just like his old man did.

"It's what I do," Souder said. "Sports were a huge deal in my life growing up, and I want to make sure that they all have that same experience."

Souder, who has also been an analyst for Baltimore Gas and Electric for 20 years, has three kids who have all played soccer for Green Hornets. His wife, Charlotte, is the registrar for the organization.

It's only natural that Souder now helms the soccer program with the Green Hornets as it holds some special memories for him. There wasn't a soccer program in Cape St. Claire when Souder was a child, so he signed up with a Severna Park YMCA team when he was 7 years old.

His team's opponent for his first soccer match was a Green Hornets squad. Despite losing 9-0 that day, the young Souder notched a goal later that season against the Green Hornets.

"I was hooked," Souder said.



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Millersville Nonprofit Provides Lights To Ukraine

Orphan Grain Train is involved in a drive to provide "Luci Lights" for the people of Ukraine who are living without electricity. Luci Lights are clear, solar-powered lights emitting 75 lumens and can shine for

up to 24 hours on a seven-hour charge. The lights are being provided to OGT for \$7.50 each. Any amount donated is greatly appreciated. OGT currently has \$12,000 in matching funds available for this project.

For more details, visit www.ogt.org or send a check to the following address:

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors For SPAN

Michele Sabean
Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



As I was helping to collect and distribute Thanksgiving meals for SPAN's Holiday Caring program, one of the thoughts that kept occurring to me is that I was surrounded by examples of people helping their neighbors. The ripple effect of this kindness also brightened my day. My day started with one of our clients coming to pick up her Thanksgiving basket and explaining that she now has an additional teen in her family. When she learned that a teenage family friend did not have a stable home situation and was at risk of needing to go to a group home

or other living situation, she reached out and followed the process to take custody. She saw a need and did whatever was needed to help, not letting her own financial situation stop her from helping. Throughout the day, as families picked up their Thanksgiving meals, I realized there were several times where families were coming together or a neighbor was helping with transportation. With SPAN's regular food distribution, one of our clients comes to get food and toiletries for herself and her elderly mother. She also picks up supplies for a homebound elderly neighbor. She was mowing the neighbor's lawn and learned that this neighbor was homebound and didn't have anyone to help. Our client stepped up to help her neighbor. SPAN is able to help these families because of generous neighbors - you. Our Holiday Caring program works because community members sign up to sponsor a family with items for a holiday

meal, a gift card and Christmas gifts for children. We are able to provide these to families because neighbors step up to provide. Our amazing volunteers are community members who regularly give their time to make sure our shelves are stocked and organized, and our clients have compassionate people to greet them and learn their needs. Our shelves are stocked because of neighborhood groups, local businesses, scouts, and church members donating food and toiletries. SPAN is able to help those facing eviction, utility issues and medical bills because of neighbors who donate money. We may not always know the neighbor we are helping, but every time people drop off food at SPAN, or make financial donations, they are helping someone in the community. Many times, these community members are going through a crisis — a death in the family, loss of a job or health issues. Our clients are

sometimes dealing with their own crises in addition to helping their neighbors. "Love your neighbor as yourself." - Mark 12:31 I am blessed to regularly see so many examples of neighbors helping neighbors. We are all blessed to live in a community of people looking out for one another.

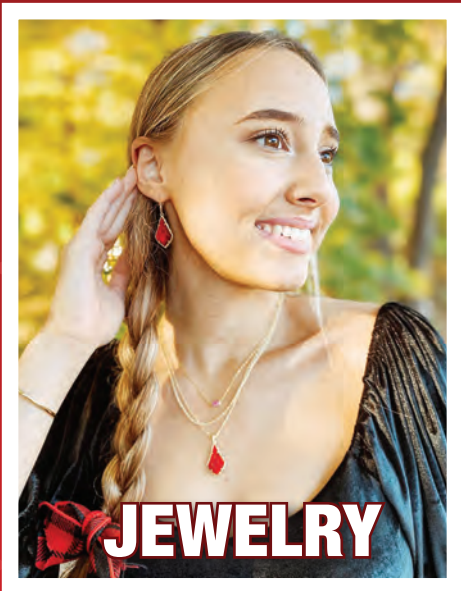
SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is a nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills, and food since 1990. SPAN is located behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Road in Severna Park. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit www.spanhelps.org. Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off anytime using the storage bin behind SPAN's building.

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Creations Shine Bright At Festival Of Trees

By Judy Tacyn

Trees put together by Severna Park residents were among the more than 300 designer-decorated trees, 190 wreaths and 30 gingerbread houses on display and for sale during the 33rd annual Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees event.

The festival, which returned to an in-person event for the first time since 2019, took place Thanksgiving weekend at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium.

The three-day holiday celebration benefits the patients, students and programs at Kennedy Krieger Institute. Since 1990, the festival has raised more than \$25 million for those who rely on Kennedy Krieger's services.

Kennedy Krieger Institute was established in 1937 and serves more than 25,000 patients and students whose diagnoses include autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida, traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries, rare genetic diseases, and a host of other conditions.

Jessica Gregg, director of public relations and social media at Kennedy Krieger, said the institute hopes to raise more than \$600,000 this season during its largest fundraiser of the year.

"Festival attendees could purchase a tree, wreath or gingerbread house with all of the proceeds going to Kennedy Krieger," Gregg said.

Individuals, families, organizations and schools can commit to decorating a tree, wreath or gingerbread house and then donate it to the festival. Prices range from \$15 to several hundred dollars for the items.

"Many trees include gift cards, gifts under the tree that correspond with the theme, or even spirit wear," Gregg added.

Becky Batta and her daughters, Jenny Batta and Christy Fisher, have been decorating trees for eight years. The elder Batta said they started out as attendees to the festival before starting to purchase the decorated ones on display.



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Becky Batta and her daughters, Jenny Batta and Christy Fisher, have been showcasing their decorated trees for eight years at the Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees event.

"In 2015, we decided we would create a tree and donate it to the festival," Batta said.

The Batta Ladies tree's theme this year was "Chasing Rainbows," based on a quote attributed to Dolly Parton, "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with rain."

The tree had multi-colored lights and rainbow ornaments.

"It's really important to my family to participate in the Festival of Trees because we know the funds raised provide services to the patients and students at Kennedy Krieger Institute," Batta said. "Our decorated trees are our way of donating to the very important cause."

First-time participants of the Festival of Trees were members of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic School student council. Laura Poremski, a middle school language arts teacher, said the kids were excited to give back to the community.

"When they saw that the Festival of Trees was back this year, they were eager to participate and support the Kennedy Krieger Institute with such a fun event," Poremski said.

The school's theme this year is "Love One Another As I Have Loved You," and the council decided to utilize the school's theme for the tree. The tree was decorated with ornaments crafted by the students.

"We designed a 4-foot tree, and after being at the fairgrounds to decorate, the students were already talking about moving up a tree size for next year," said Poremski, referencing the three sizes of tree on display at the festival.

Batta said that she and her daughters have already determined their 2023 theme, and they plan to collect ornaments and trimmings for it throughout the year.

In addition to the trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses, more than 90 craft vendors were on hand offering wares. The festival also featured live music, silent auctions, rides, crafts and even a visit from Santa.

Learn more at www.kennedykrieger.org/festivaloftrees.

Tree Lighting Revives Community Tradition

» Continued from page 1

owner Barnabas Domowski said the tree is adorned with more than 6,000 lights. Four workers assembled the display in 22 hours.

"We were just looking to give back and get involved with our local community," Domowski said. "We've already discussed we are going to make this a long-term thing and do this every year with the chamber."

Coster and Matt Wyble were at the ZackFest golf fundraiser in September when Wyble recalled the big tree being visible from all over town after it was lit. While golfing, Wyble joked, "I want so many lights on this tree you can see it lit up from an airplane flying overhead."

A fourth-generation Severna Park resident, Wyble got his wish. The tree will draw visitors from all over town.

Not only did families watch the tree being lit on December 2, but they also enjoyed refreshments and music. Severna Park Elementary fifth-graders sang "O Christmas Tree," "Frosty The Snowman" and "Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town." Performers from The Dance Center of Severna Park and Creative Force Dance Center also performed.

In front of the smaller holly tree, Santa posed for pictures with kids.

"I think what makes it special is that there's so many kids, so much joy and local businesses," said Freeman Bagnall, dressed as Santa. "It's a whole lot going on in a small area with a lot of hard workers, like Liz League."

Esther Wallace brought her two children, Charlotte and Cooper, for the festivities.

"I love the big tree," Wallace said. "I saw during the week how they put it up. I was excited to see it lit and it's beautiful."

Her favorite aspect of the tree-lighting event is seeing the community come together.

"You see a lot of neighbors, friends, kids who my kids go to school with," she said. "It's festive."

The tree will stay illuminated every night from 5:00pm to 10:00pm throughout the holiday season.

League credited the successful event and the big tree's comeback to the love that small businesses have for the community.

"Three small companies joined forces to make a shared vision come to reality — that of recreating history and bringing to life an evergreen that hadn't been lit for over 30 years," League said. "It was an incredible experience to see the tree light up in all its glory, and the crowd of hundreds were overjoyed."

"There were adult attendees who remembered the tree when it was small and manageable, and showed up to see it shine again," she said. "The tree is now a beacon in Severna Park, visible for miles and even on flights coming into BWI [airport]. It was a very special night, and I am so grateful to our community and our small businesses who want to share happiness."



Santa enjoyed a conversation with Clara Berthelotte (left) and Ellie Reneau.

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Cypress Creek Community Lobbies For Sidewalks

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

At just 0.2 miles, the small stretch of Ritchie Highway from Cypress Creek Road to McKinsey Road may seem insignificant, but it's not insignificant for residents who have persuaded Maryland State Highway Administration officials to plan a feasibility study for sidewalks.

County officials delivered the news to an audience of about 40 people during a November meeting at St. John the Evangelist. The move came after the Cypress Creek Improvement Association — representing about 250 households — submitted a petition with support materials to the Anne Arundel County Department of Transportation and the Maryland State Highway Administration in September.

Cheyenne Dominguez, vice president of the Cypress Improvement Association, explained during the meeting that because of Cypress Creek's geography as a peninsula, no backroads lead from the neighborhood to McKinsey Road or the Severna Park Marketplace shopping center. Sidewalks could also provide pedestrian access to St. John the Evangelist church and school, Sunrise of Severna Park, and the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

A lack of sidewalks is not just a matter of convenience, Dominguez said, but more importantly, it's a safety



Severna Park residents want sidewalks along Ritchie Highway from Cypress Creek Road to McKinsey Road. The current route has a shoulder but no sidewalks.

issue. She cited one example from a recent trip along that 0.2-mile stretch of Ritchie Highway.

"Along Ritchie Highway, as I approached the corner of the Shell gas station, I saw my 10-year-old's friend," she said. "He was on a bike, wearing his helmet, and he was with his sister and she was on her bicycle too. They were both doing their best to stay out of the traffic lane, along the shoulder, just inches from cars going by with nothing more than that painted white line to separate them."

Now that Anne Arundel County has asked the state to complete a feasibility study, that process could take three to four months. Maryland State Highway Administration deputy district engineer Karen Fiasco said her department must find right-of-way, utility and stormwater management impacts.

"Will we need a drainage system installed to capture that water?" she said. "How are we going to mitigate all that water to make sure there is no palming on the roadway? Do we need retaining walls?"

Anne Arundel County transportation officer Sam Snead said the feasibility study will "get into the weeds" of those and other possible issues.

"The right-of-way can take a few months to a year [to resolve] because you sometimes have to negotiate with property owners," Snead said, "Now there's a Verizon building over there ... sometimes folks don't give up that property as easily as we would like them to. We're hopeful that some of the property is already owned by the State Highway Administration, so that can expedite the process too."

The administration also needs to negotiate with Baltimore Gas and

Electric to relocate poles.

"You can't just put in sidewalk and move BGE's poles," Snead said. "They technically own and operate that property. We'll get the design done, usually in parallel with those processes being done."

The state typically funds design and sometimes construction, Fiasco said, but all state projects compete for the same funding through a sidewalk program called Fund 79.

What can Severna Park residents do to ensure the Cypress Creek sidewalks become a priority for funding?

"You will need to continue to advocate," County Executive Stuart Pittman told the crowd at St. John in November. "So, I can tell you that some of the major sidewalk projects that have happened, it's people who have shown up at our budget town halls over the last four years and they demanded that it happen, and they advocated for it."

Dominguez and others in her community are asking for as much help as they can get.

"A short stretch of sidewalk here in this 0.2-mile roadway, from traffic light to traffic light, provides us in this room with a unique opportunity to create something meaningful, something that improves our quality of life for our residents of all ages, school students, church-goers, our local businesses, the environment and even supports the state's own goals," Dominguez said.

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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

Severna Park Native Flying High In The Navy

**By Yeoman 1st Class
April T. Copeland**

Navy Office of Community Outreach

A Severna Park native is making his childhood dreams come true.

A Lieutenant Junior Grade Zach St. Lawrence, a 2013 Severna Park High School graduate, was commissioned into the Navy two years ago.

"I joined the Navy because I always wanted to serve my country," St. Lawrence said. "It was my childhood dream to fly aircraft for the Navy."

Skills and values learned in the Navy are similar to those found in Severna Park.

"I learned that teamwork and initiative is very important from my hometown," St. Lawrence said. "We have to rely on each other. The camaraderie here is like a tight-knit family atmosphere."

St. Lawrence serves as a student pilot with Training Squadron 21, a strike jet training squadron, located at Naval Air Station Kingsville in Texas.

"I enjoy the camaraderie between students and instructors here," St. Lawrence said.

The air training program focuses on the increased complexity of today's aircraft. After successfully completing the rigorous program, naval aviators earn their coveted "Wings of Gold."



Photo by Stephanie Fox

Lieutenant Junior Grade Zach St. Lawrence, a 2013 Severna Park High School graduate, joined the Navy two years ago.

After graduation, pilots continue their training to learn how to fly a specific aircraft, such as the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter attack jet, the F-35 Lightning strike fighter jet or the SH-60 Seahawk helicopter. These aircraft take off from and

land on Navy aircraft carriers at sea.

Navy aircraft carriers are designed for a 50-year service life. When the air wing is embarked, the ship carries more than 70 attack fighter jets, helicopters and other aircraft, all of which take off from and land aboard the carrier at sea. With more than 5,000 sailors serving aboard, the aircraft carrier is a self-contained mobile airport.

Aircraft carriers are often the first response to a global crisis because of their ability to operate freely in international waters anywhere on the world's oceans.

"The aircraft carrier is our U.S. Navy's centerpiece, our flagship, and a constant reminder to the rest of the world of our enduring maritime presence and influence," said Rear Admiral James P. Downey, program executive officer for aircraft carriers.

Serving in the Navy means St. Lawrence is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy is important because it preserves peace, freedom and democracy for the projection of power," St. Lawrence said. "It protects fair trade for the U.S. and their allies."

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The Day After: Remembering JC Brown

By Jerry White

This article first appeared in the USMC Vietnam Tankers Association quarterly magazine, the Sponson Box.

I read with great interest the Silver Star citation for Joseph Clinton Brown in the last issue of Sponson Box. Sadly, the award was presented posthumously. "JC," as he was called by our crew, was actually killed in action the following day, July 31, 1966, in the same location as described in the citation. I was with JC that day and, to the best of my memory, this is the rest of the story:

In the morning of that fateful day, I received news that I was being assigned to Tank B-14 (I think). I had previously been with another tank in Bravo Company, B-42, but our crew had been broken up when our TC Sgt. Reed went back to the world. My new TC was Sgt. Alvarado and also aboard was a familiar face: JC Brown. We had been in the same platoon back at Camp Lejeune and had come over to 'Nam in March '66. We readied our tank's departure by replenishing our ammo and topping off our fuel. With JC driving, we left basecamp Hill 55 in the early afternoon.

We arrived at our outpost position located on the Song River less than two miles from Liberty Bridge in mid-afternoon. Our two tanks were in support of Marines of 1/3, possibly a platoon (no more) and they were strung out along the riverbank with our companion tank a hundred or so yards on the other end. We parked our tank parallel to the river and went about setting up a makeshift camp. We tied a large tarp to the side of the tank that wasn't exposed to the river. During this time, JC caught me up with the events of the day before.

The attack by the Viet Cong had been intense and the loader was severely wounded. I was, in fact, his replacement. The way JC told me, I never knew he was anything more than a Marine doing his job; if anything, he downplayed his actions during the attack. I didn't find out about the Silver Star until I joined the VTA several years later. I have to admit, I was scared of the prospect of another attack that might come that night. After a while, we broke out some good old C-Rats (World War II) and began to chow down when all of a sudden, a crackling, whizzing sound penetrated the air above us. JC said it was snipers and it was almost a daily occurrence, then cautioned me to stay low when moving around the area.

It was now early evening and Sgt. Alvarado had me relieve the fourth member of our crew who was on watch up on the turret (I wish I could remember his name). I mounted the tank and climbed into the loaders hatch and gazed out across the river to a wooded area along the bank, maybe a hundred or so yards away. It was quite scenic, like on a postcard. I was soon joined by JC who said Sgt. Alvarado wanted to call in to base that our position was all secure. I moved over to the TC hatch and JC called it in.

Afterward, JC remained in the loader hatch, and we began talking about our time at Camp Lejeune. We had a good laugh when we remembered the time we were on a long weekend and drove to Maryland where I dropped him off and went on to Michigan, then picked him up on the way back when I had a tire blowout going down a hill. I lost control and my old '59 Ford spun out several times before coming to a halt near a deep ditch. It scared the crap out of both of us, but we were safe. However I was so shaken up that JC drove the rest of the way back to Lejeune. Soon the conversation turned to baseball as we were both big fans. His team was the Baltimore Orioles and mine was the Detroit Tigers. My favorite player was Norm Cash and his was Boog Powell. So we were talking baseball when more shots rang out.

Instinctively I jumped off the tank to my right and JC to the left, then we took cover behind the unexposed side of the tank, away from the river. JC had a strange look on his face and he took a couple steps toward Sgt. Alvarado then collapsed. Everything after that is hazy as I must have been in shock. JC had a chest wound and I know he did not regain consciousness. It was the worst thing I ever saw in my life. A corpsman had immediately been called, but after a few minutes he informed us JC was gone. I vaguely remember everybody shooting up the coastline of the other side of the river where the shots had come from. I sure hope we got the sniper, but we will never know for sure. Soon darkness filled the air and it got really still and quiet...I'm sure no one slept that night with thoughts of an impending attack, but it never came.

The next morning a helicopter came and took Corporal Joseph Clinton Brown on what would become his long journey home to Maryland. We stayed on for another week or 10 days, but I don't remember anything eventful happening. I only saw action once after that, on August 20. It was a pretty big deal at the time, but I only learned years later that Sgt. Alvarado was awarded the Silver Star and Bob Haller a Navy Commendation for their valor. I'm proud to have been a member of that team even though I can't remember the names of all involved. On September 8, I was summoned to the company commander's tent where Captain EV Tunget told me I would be going home the next day. He said some other things too, but all I heard was I was going home. The next month, my four years were up, and I was to begin a new chapter in my life.

Now, 50-plus years later, I still think about what happened that day and wonder why it was JC instead of me. It's really hard to understand! I think of JC often...Memorial Day, Veterans Day, or when opening the pages of a new issue of *Sponson Box*. My family and I have visited The Wall in Washington, D.C., several times over the years. It's quite an emotional experience for me to see JC's name there with the other 58,000 who gave it all. What a fine young man he was, only 20 years old. I will never forget him.



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For Milton, community involvement is a family priority. His son, Kody Milton, is a member of team Strikezone.

Members of team Strikezone included Eric Milton, Kody Milton, Peter Draughn, Pete Bloom, Jim Weyant, A.J. Weyant and Rich Benitiz.

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Year In Review: 2022

On the eve of this decade, Gatsby-esque New Year's parties were trending, an ode to the dawn of a new era: the 2020s. The months that followed will, unfortunately, not be remembered for being a roaring good time. But where 2020 may have gone out with a whimper, 2022 did anything but. This year saw a gradual return to normalcy and the events that make our community special. Here's a compilation of some of the biggest news in Severna Park from 2022. *(spoiler alert: there was a substantial amount of winning)*

WINTER

The year started with a statewide political redistricting saga with local implications that would play out well into the summer months. Ultimately, Severna Park would be split into multiple legislative districts.

For the first time in school history, the Broadneck Bruins boys and girls swim teams were county champions. The boys team, who would go on to win the regional title as well, broke the Severna Park Falcons four-year winning streak at counties.

A former three-sport Severna Park varsity athlete and current head coach of the Falcons varsity softball team, Meredith McAlister Kraus, was the first woman inducted into the Severn River Rugby Football Club.

"I was always a little jealous that no women were allowed to hit people," McAlister Kraus said. "One of my college softball teammates had played rugby in Oregon and she always told me I'd make a good rugby player. Turns out she was right."

Severna Park High School ice hockey won the eastern conference championship against South River in a nail-biter. With the game tied 2-2 in the third period, Severna Park's Evan Reasar scored with just over three minutes left in regulation to put the Falcons on top.

The Severna Park boys indoor track and field team dominated at the state championship, winning the title for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Emily Ernst of Broadneck High School was a grand award winner at the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Science and Engineering Expo for her research on water contamination. Lily McCallister of Severna Park High School and Charles Larson of Magothy River Middle School were also recognized.

Severna Park's Patrick Ellis won the state wrestling title in March, beating a previously undefeated wrestler in the 220-pound class.

Dancers Josie Dyke of Severna Park High School, along with Danil England and Faith Kiger of Broadneck High school, were awarded All-State honors based on their dancing, academics and leadership at their respective schools.

It isn't lost on Severna Park High School students that the expectation of excellence can be a source of stress. This March, students took it upon



themselves to plan and implement the inaugural Mental Health Week to promote relaxation and community.

"We wanted to let students know it's OK if they're not feeling OK," said Student Government Association member Eric Lin.

SPRING

Former Severna Park resident and current *Baltimore Banner* investigative reporter Justin Fenton saw his words come to life on-screen when the show "We Own this City," based on his book with the same name, debuted on HBO. The six-part series depicted his story of the Baltimore Police Department's Gun Trace Task Force, whose work (and corruption) he chronicled as a reporter with *Baltimore Sun*.

Millersville racer Timmy Gately III participated in an exhibition race at Empower Field at Mile High in Denver, Colorado. Timmy was one of 15 children ages 7-8 chosen to ride in the event.

As tensions rose on the other side of the globe amidst the Russian invasion of Ukraine, local families stepped up to help by fundraising and collecting necessities to send to refugees.

Severn School teacher George Yost and Temple Beth Shalom Rabbi Ari Goldstein traveled to Ukraine to volunteer.

"I see my mission as to make sure to keep telling people about Ukraine," Goldstein said.

Shipley's Choice artist Pearl Shen had her artwork displayed at BWI airport. A reception honoring the 14 works that comprised her exhibit was attended by Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan.

Before television audiences knew her by her first name, Parijita Bastola fronted Severna Park-based band Bastola. This spring, Bastola performed on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee, for a showcase at the

International Blues Challenge.

Lacrosse season yielded more trophies with the Severna Park boys team winning their sixth consecutive state title, and the Broadneck girls team claiming their second.

That same week, the Severna Park boys track and field team also won a state title, becoming the first program since Class 4A was established in 1988 to accomplish the triple crown — winning states in cross country, indoor track, and track and field in the same academic year.



Year In Review: 2022

SUMMER

Goska's owner Kevin Sosnoski was chosen as grand marshal of the annual Severna Park Fourth of July parade, put on by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce.

"A lot of people could have gotten this honor," Sosnoski said. "My family has been in Severna Park for 92 years, so it's a privilege and an honor."

In true July Fourth fashion, it was a hot and humid morning for the spectators decked out in patriotic hues lining Benfield, Evergreen and Riggs to view the time-honored tradition. For the first time, cash awards of \$500 were given to three parade entries.

Isabella Renzi of Severna Park became the national champion in Irish dancing, earning a spot at the World Irish Dancing Championships next spring.

Severna Park Taphouse hosted a concert featuring Nashville musician Chad Bearden and Anne Arundel County artists, raising more than \$20,000 for the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation.

National Night Out at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company in August provided an opportunity for family fun and a chance for community members to interact with the first responders who keep them safe.

Severna Park High School senior Zachary McGrath was sworn in and began his term as student member of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. The issues he most wants to improve are transportation and student health.

"When I decided to run, I wanted to focus on issues that would help the day-to-day life of students and their families," McGrath said. "I want to alleviate the stress on the community by making bus transportation more reliable while supporting our struggling students by providing the opportunity to take a mental health break."

McGrath wasn't the only new face in the public education realm this year. Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell took the reins in August after being chosen unanimously by the board.

"We have a responsibility as an administrative staff here to make sure that every single one of our kids grow," Bedell said.



Showing just how much he has grown his athletic skills over the years, Severna Park High School senior Talan Livingston was selected to Team USA's U18 select lacrosse team. Livingston has also committed to play for Salisbury University.

FALL

The all-female Scouts BSA Troop 1983 held its first-ever Court of Honor in September to commemorate six months since its inception. The group has grown from nine to 21 Scouts in that time.

"This Court of Honor recognizes the hard work of these young ladies to earn rank and other awards over the past six months," said Troop 1983 Scoutmaster Jason Port.

Bryan Gomes won the Jan Hollmann Environmental Education Award, completing what he referred to as a "full-circle moment." The award was presented at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, where his interest in nature was piqued during a field trip as a child.

Broadneck High School senior Faith Karanja was a semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship. Karanja's goal is to become a cardiologist.

Former Severna Park High School coach and athletic director Andy Borland was awarded the Bernie Walter Memorial Award for exemplary service to county athletics.

"I didn't dream about the games. I dreamed about teaching kids how to do the right things, or watching a boy become a man. Those are the important things in life," Borland said.

Severna Park resident and Mount Saint Joseph's student Charlie Butler won his race at the McQuaid Invitational, a cross-country meet held in Rochester, New York, that features more than 6,000 athletes.

Chartwell resident Doug Crowder was selected for the Distinguished Graduate Award by the U.S. Naval Academy. Crowder, who was in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, served in the Navy for 36 years in many capacities. 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. He is the first in his graduating class, 1974, upon whom the honor has been bestowed.

Severna Park High School swept the state cross country championship, with the girls and boys teams each taking home the title.

In a battle of undefeated teams, Broadneck High School field hockey faced Winston Churchill at the 4A state championship and walked away

victorious on November 12.

Election Day was November 8, but it would be several days before Anne Arundel County would have enough votes tallied to determine the outcomes of many races.

Votes keep rolling in for one Severna Park High School student – 17-year-old Parijita Bastola has wowed a nationwide audience on NBC's "The Voice."

It was a busy year in 2022. We can't wait to see, and tell you about, what happens in Severna Park in 2023.



Locals Helping Afghan Refugees Integrate

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Kawsar Nakhtar was celebrating his birthday at Oriole Park at Camden Yards this past baseball season when the 26-year-old Afghan refugee could be seen running excitedly up the steps clutching something in his hands.

Nakhtar had caught a ball.

Although Nakhtar has plenty of hardships to occupy his mind — his wife, son and 6-month-old girl didn't make it out of Afghanistan with him during the evacuation — he was able to flash the brightest of smiles and share in the most American of joys by catching a baseball on his birthday at a major league game.

Heart For Refugees is a local non-profit organization that's spearheaded by members from Severna Park, Arnold and Annapolis. The group started as the BWI Afghan Welcoming Coordination Efforts and expanded from there. Their mission is to assist the refugee and asylum-seeking community to find hope and friendship as they re-establish their lives in the U.S.

Nakhtar is one of the almost 84,000 Afghan nationals who have resettled in the U.S. as part of Operation Allies Welcome. On August 29, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security was directed to lead and coordinate efforts across the federal government to support vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked alongside the U.S. in Afghanistan for the past two decades, as they safely resettle in the states. According to the State Department, more than 5,900 Afghan refugees have landed in the tristate capital region as part of those efforts.

"The majority of all the refugees that are here have served our military," said Jeanette Middleton-Sudano, who is a part of the Heart For Refugees leadership team.

Middleton-Sudano was one of several Severna Park women who met hundreds of Afghan refugees at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport earlier this year to assist with material needs and to develop friendships while the refugees awaited more permanent housing arrangements.

The group grew and transformed into Heart For Refugees where Sudano and her crew strive to assist refugee families with safe and affordable housing and transportation, jobs, health care, school enrollment and everyday challenges.

Heart For Refugees now supports more than 50 refugee families with family support teams.

Severna Park resident David Heemstra formed one of those support teams along with his friends. Heemstra's team "adopted" Nakhtar and two other families, who are now residing in homes in Catonsville, Maryland.

"We just want them to be self-sufficient people that can take care of themselves," Heemstra said.

During the initial stages, Heemstra was handing out food at BWI, and the retired Air Force senior master sergeant found common ground with many refugees.



"I just want to be a good person and help people out when I see it. I think that's the definition of compassion ... you see a need and then you do something about it."

DAVID HEEMSTRA
HEART FOR REFUGEES

Clockwise from Top Left: Jeanette Middleton-Sudano and David Heemstra are assisting Afghan refugees through the Heart For Refugees nonprofit organization. Samarulla (right), an Afghan refugee, sat with a friend at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Samarulla resides in Catonsville with his wife and 10-year-old boy, Nasimulla. Kawsar Nakhtar caught a ball at an Orioles game this past baseball season.

"I started talking to the people that spoke English, and as soon as they found out I was prior military, all the sudden there's like a bond right there," Heemstra said.

Heemstra also served as a pilot for Atlas Air and retired from flying the day evacuations from Afghanistan started in August of last year. Heemstra now works at the airline's command center, and that's where he was during the evacuations. Although the U.S. military handled evacuation flights out of Kabul, Atlas Air handled some of the next legs from locations in Europe and the Middle East.

"I was involved in a lot of the behind-the-scenes stuff," said Heemstra, recalling one event on a flight out of Bulgaria where flight attendants had to conduct life-saving measures on an Afghan woman who suffered a heart attack on the flight.

One of Heemstra's Afghan families that he's assisting is composed of Samarulla; his wife, Ashrifa; and their 10-year-old son, Nasimulla. Samarulla worked as a security officer for the U.S. Embassy Annex, which was located south of Kabul. Because of Samarulla's affiliation with the U.S. government, the Taliban attempted to murder him multiple times. Although Samarulla escaped the assassination attempts, his uncle and good friend were not as fortunate.

Heemstra cited a recent example on how the transition can be difficult for the refugees. On a visit to obtain his

driver's license, Samarulla pushed the wrong button and was granted a student license instead of a regular one. It took several visits to the Department of Motor Vehicles by Heemstra to sort it out and allow Samarulla to get the license he's required to have to work.

"It's a lot to navigate," Middleton-Sudano said. "I just don't know how people do it if they don't have someone helping them out."

Between Google meetings, texts, visits, events and language apps, there's a lot for teams and refugees to sort through.

"I just want to be a good person and help people out when I see it," Heemstra said. "I think that's the definition of compassion ... you see a need and then you do something about it."

Heart For Refugees relies not just on volunteers to lead teams, but the group also receives donations from individuals and local entities such as churches and food banks. Severna Park dentist Dr. David Deitrick even provided free dental work for many of the families that Heemstra assists.

"Community support is integral to helping refugees adapt to their new homes," said a State Department spokesperson.

Middleton-Sudano said that Heart For Refugees is also supporting some families that don't have a full team of support yet. She's hoping more volunteers will come on board or form family support teams because those with teams are faring much better

than the families without them.

"There's been a lot of stories ... bad stories, good stories," Middleton-Sudano said. "I just try to focus on the good stories, because otherwise you'd cry all the time."

Middleton-Sudano left out funny stories in that statement. She relayed a recent language translation moment that left her chuckling.

One of the refugees she's assisting sent her a message requesting a cannabis cutting machine. After some initial confusion, she realized he has a yard and may be looking to cut a different kind of grass. She sent him a picture of a lawn mower, and he said "yes."

Recently, Middleton-Sudano saw a 24-year-old Afghan refugee who was supposed to be in class at a community college in Baltimore County. The woman explained to Middleton-Sudano that she didn't have a book to go to class because it was too expensive. Middleton-Sudano got her in the car and purchased the needed book.

"She sat on the floor sobbing with thanks," Middleton-Sudano said. "That's her gateway to English, employment, everything."

When they got to the community college, the Afghan woman got out of the vehicle with a simple, but profound, message for Middleton-Sudano.

"I'm ready, thank you," she said.

To learn more, form a family support team or donate, visit www.heartforrefugees.org.

Giant Collects 100 Boxes Of Food To Support Families In Need

During the first half of November, Giant Food of Severna Park collected 100 boxes worth of groceries to support the Services from the Heart Backpack Buddies holiday meal program.

Food items were generously donated by customers at checkout and included stuffing mix, corn, green beans, gravy, cornbread mix, potatoes, macaroni and cheese, cake mix, frosting, coffee and syrup. Giant customer service manager Lelia Mejia coordinated the event, which ran from November 1-13. These food items, with an estimated value of \$2,600, will be used to fill more than 100 complete meal bags to support families in need

during the holidays.

Services from the Heart is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that will celebrate 10 years of continued service next March. The Backpack Buddies program provides weekly bags of food to 107 children at three Anne Arundel County elementary schools who have been identified by school counselors as at risk of going hungry on weekends and holidays. Through the support of corporate partners like Giant Food and members of the community, the program can fulfill their mission to reduce the impact of poverty on local communities and assist families facing food insecurity.

Enjoy Festive Holiday Food While Staying Healthy

By Ann Caldwell
Luminis Health

We wait for it all year, that wonderful time when we eat things that we don't usually consume, and sometimes we eat too much of it. The holidays are all about food, and it is possible to enjoy what you love and not feel guilty about it later. The key is to focus on eating nutrient-dense foods — those that have a high level of nutrients but are relatively low in calorie count.

This doesn't mean you can't enjoy treats, but you should be mindful about portions and indulge just a little bit. Remind yourself that the first bite or two tastes the best, so slow down and savor the flavors and textures of the delicacies you look forward to all year!

“Did you know that anything you put on a cracker can be enjoyed on a cucumber? Again, fruits and vegetables make nutritious fill-ups without extra calories.”

food table.

Did you know that anything you put on a cracker can be enjoyed on a cucumber? Again, fruits and vegetables make nutritious fill-ups without extra calories. Lean protein options including shrimp, smoked salmon, lean meats or beans and hummus can help satisfy hunger.

Limit Alcohol But Not Exercise

Alcoholic beverages mean holiday cheer for many of us — eggnogs, mixed drinks and hot ciders. When we have a cocktail or two, our inhibitions around food choices tend to take a dive. We start out selecting fruits and vegetables, but after a drink or two, the higher-calorie options call to us. With so many flavored soda waters and seltzers available these days, enjoy a cocktail but keep a glass of seltzer water in your hand — good for sipping during cocktail hour.

Stick with your regular exercise routine, and try to work out before or after holiday events. Regular exercise can help temper holiday stress and might help regulate your appetite.

Plan an event without food as its focus. Join family and friends at a tree lighting, go ice skating or enjoy a holiday concert. Get outside and take a brisk walk to enjoy holiday decorations or create a new family tradition — it's what the holidays are all about.

It's important to remind yourself that with a little planning and a positive attitude, the holidays can be fun and healthy. Relax and enjoy the day of the celebration. Just don't let one day turn into a week or month of holiday eating.

Ann Caldwell is a nutritionist and registered dietician for Luminis Health.

Party the Smart Way

Holiday parties can be a challenging minefield of delicious foods with low nutritional density, so don't go to a party on an empty stomach. Try to drink plenty of water and eat a small, healthy snack before the event. Take a good look at all the food choices on the buffet before you select to ensure your calories count. Balance your plate with 50 percent fruits and vegetables, just like any other day. Don't waste your calories on foods you can enjoy any time of the year, like a dinner roll, potato chips or cubes of cheese — look for something you wouldn't normally eat.

When you're invited to a party, offer to bring a dish that fits your normal meal plan. Hosts often love when guests bring a fresh fruit platter or veggie platter with a fun and healthy dip. Focus on the people and good conversation and move away from the

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ACAN Provides So Much With So Few Funds

By Diane Lewis

Diana Taylor, volunteer executive director of Asbury Church Assistance Network's nonprofit charity, said that individuals who suffer from food insecurity don't fit in a certain category.

"This is a multicultural problem that impacts people from all segments of society," Taylor said. "People would be surprised by how many families just in Severna Park alone need our help to eat on a regular basis, and the need for our help throughout Anne Arundel County just keeps increasing."

Asbury Church Assistance Network, or ACAN, has been in existence since 2004 as a food pantry, but its services have greatly increased this year to meet the growing needs of the community. According to Taylor, the need for perishable food items has grown since the pandemic. ACAN used to feed about 150 families a week, and that number has grown to almost 350 families a week or 3,500 individuals a month.

During ACAN's Thanksgiving basket service week, the organization served 5,000 people, which was an increase of more than 20 percent from 2021.

"The local police were needed to help direct the flow of traffic," said Peggy Wilson, the ACAN volunteer in charge of daily operations.

The hours of operation for the pantry itself have expanded from three days (Monday-Wednesday) to six days (Monday-Saturday) per week from 10:00am-noon. The organization has also branched out to provide baby supplies like Pedialyte, formula and diapers for the 100-plus infants it currently serves.

ACAN also provides services now to six senior communities in addition to its per-

vious home delivery service for seniors without transportation.

"The need for services keeps increasing, but the annual funds provided by the state and then funneled out to the county has shrunk from \$75 per individual for this year to \$25 for 2023," Taylor said. "ACAN is one of many charities scrambling for this decreased amount of funds, and we don't even know yet how we will be able to meet the increased demand for Christmas."

Taylor said that ACAN will need to rely more on community resources to address the continuously expanding need for ACAN's services to the impoverished.

"Based on government analysis, the population that requests help from ACAN is only the tip of the ice-

Taylor said.

ACAN operates with a steady pool of six regularly scheduled volunteers, mostly seniors. Wilson stressed the accomplishments of the crew but said ACAN could benefit from more.

"The need for volunteers who can do heavy lifting to handle pick-ups for supermarket donations and can stand for long periods of time to dispense supplies is greatly needed," Wilson said.

Photo by Mark Patton
ACAN hosted a two-day Thanksgiving food drive in Severna Park from November 21-22. A team of volunteers handed out everything from turkeys to all the trimmings and baking supplies for those in need.



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Woods Church To Delight Audiences With Merry Music

The Teelin Irish Dance Company will perform December 9-10 during "Light Has Come - A Celtic Christmas Celebration" at Woods Church.

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

Light Has Come - A Celtic Christmas Celebration

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. 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 Christmas to you!

This is a free concert, but a ticket is required. Learn more or request tickets at www.woodstix.org. To view the livestream, visit www.woodschurch.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, so tickets are not required. This event will not be livestreamed.

Jesus Christ Superstar Auditions

December 20-21

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church will present Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar,"

a rock opera with music by Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, March 24-26 and March 31-April 2. Auditions are open to everyone 9 years and older. To register for an audition and for more information, visit www.wmp-cauditions.com.

A Thrill Of Hope

Stephen Mitchell



During a November trip to the grocery store, I struck up a conversation with the cashier as she was checking out my items. We were talking about the weather, and then about how the holiday season is upon us already. When we started talking about the holidays, her entire demeanor changed. She looked truly downcast, and she said, "I always get sad during this time of year, and I honestly don't even know why."

At that moment, I struggled with what to say. I had just paid and there was a long line behind me, so I felt pressure to hurry up and leave, but I want to finish our conversation. I want to tell her about the reason for the season, the one reason why she can have hope during this time of year even if she is overwhelmed with sadness and depression and discouragement that this time of year triggers. But the truth is, she is far from the only one who feels this way during the "most wonderful time of the year," and we all could use reminding of where the hope, joy and peace of Christmas truly lies.

There are many reasons why the spectacle, the cheer, the shopping and the hoopla of Christmas time can be

difficult for some of us to deal with.

It's hard to have joy this time of year if you've lost a loved one and you're having to walk through the holidays without that person. It's hard to have hope for the future if you've lost your job or are struggling to make ends meet. It can be tough to be excited if you're facing major challenges in your life. It could be tough to have peace if your world is upside down, your marriage is collapsing or you're struggling with mental health. The world around us has seen another year out of what has felt like an episode of "Stranger Things" between pandemic aftermath, war in Ukraine, political polarization, economic hardships, and above all, fatigue from a third straight year that has read like a Stephen King novel. Where is hope? Where is peace? Where is joy?

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

The true light of hope that shines in our darkness of despair comes not in the form of new appliances or new clothes from Kohl's. It doesn't come in the form of jewelry from Zales. The true light of hope that shines in our darkness of despair doesn't come in the form of a new career, or end-of-year bonus or in a romantic relationship or lifestyle. It doesn't even come with Christmas parties or holiday traditions. It came on a dark night in the form of a baby born in a manger, surrounded by animals and shepherds, who now is ready to enter any heart that is open and willing to accept the greatest gift of hope ever given, the gift of a relationship with the creator of the universe

through Jesus Christ.

"Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the lord." (Luke 2:10-11).

To a fearful, anxious, and weary world 2,000 years ago, the angel announced that there was "good news," and that news is just as good and needed today as it was then, and that news brings joy to every heart that believes and receives the child born in Bethlehem. He came to save us from our sins, he came to live in us and be with us now and always. He came to offer us a peace that surpasses all understanding, a peace within, a peace during any storm in life, a peace with God. He came to bring joy to every broken, hurting and empty heart. And through it all, he came to offer hope. The Christ of Christmas brings us a hope amid despair, loss, and uncertainty that is not a wishful thinking type of hope, but a confident certainty that as the Christmas classic says, brings us a "thrill" of hope, and we sure could use it.

As we go through this time of year, you may have many reasons to dread it and despair in it, you only need one reason to have hope, and his name is Jesus.

"In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5)

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

Caroling For Christ



Join St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on December 18 from 12:30pm—3:30pm for the fourth annual Caroling for Christ. For more information and to sign up, contact Susan Oursler at oursler_mark_susan@verizon.net.

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Bruins Complete Perfect Season, Capture State Crown

A 2-0 Win Over Winston Churchill Gives Broadneck First Field Hockey Title In 20 Years



“For me, it’s just really fulfilling. I’m just really proud of them. I was speechless after the game because I knew they were capable of it, but we felt that way in other years and we haven’t been able to do it. I think every coach’s joy is watching their kids work hard and accomplish their goals and that’s how I feel right now.”

— SHANNON HANRATTY
HEAD COACH, BHS FIELD HOCKEY

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Players on this year’s Broadneck field hockey team were not alive in 2002 when the school last won a state championship in their sport. If the girls felt any added pressure to win the Class 4A title, it didn’t show on November 12, as the Bruins played loose and fast while defeating the Winston Churchill Bulldogs 2-0

in a battle of undefeated teams at Stevenson University’s Mustang Stadium in Owings Mills.

Broadneck played their aggressive style of fast-break offense throughout the game, putting constant pressure on the Winston Churchill defense.

Mady Quigley scored during a corner, off an assist from **Faith Everett**, to put Broadneck ahead 1-0 with 2:09 left in the first quarter.

“We just had to trust each other because we don’t know where the ball is going, but you have to finish it no matter where the ball is and be there for your team,” Quigley said after the game.

Winston Churchill kept the game close with a few point-blank stops. **Magdalena “Mane” Cerda Salazar** cleared a ball away from the Bulldogs’ cage to keep the

» Continued on page 32

The Broadneck field hockey team attributed an “all gas, no brakes” mentality to an undefeated season that culminated in a 4A state championship win over Winston Churchill on November 12 at Mustang Stadium in Owings Mills.

Photos by Zach Sparks



Park Boys, Girls Dominate At Cross Country Championships

By Tom Worgo

Intimidation. Trepidation. A lack of confidence.

Those could have been some of the things going through the minds of the members of Severna Park High girls cross country team heading into the Class 4A state championships on November 12.

After all, the Falcons faced Thomas Wootton High of Montgomery High, and had lost to the Patriots twice during the season.

It wasn’t just losses; Wootton dominated the Falcons, winning by more than 60 points both times.

“The girls were a pretty big underdog, and they just went in there and gave it a shot,” said Severna Park coach **Josh Alcombright**, whose girls team finished fourth last year and second in 2019. “We just tried to ignore the [outside] noise. We were fortunate enough to pull it out.”

The Falcons overcame the odds and won their first state title since 2018 on November 12 behind the performances of senior county champion **Cameron Glebocki** (ninth place, 20:07.43), freshman **Kathryn Murphy** (19th place, 21:20.22) and sophomore **Rebecca Jimeno** (20th place, 21:21.39).

Severna Park (100)

» Continued on page 36



Photos by Naptown Studios

Left: The Severna Park girls overcame the odds and won their first state title since 2018 behind the performances of county champion Cameron Glebocki, Kathryn Murphy and Rebecca Jimeno.

Right: Chris Nunn, the regional champ, paced the Falcon boys with a fourth-place finish at states.



Bowie Finds The Edge In 1-0 Win Over Severna Park In Boys Soccer Final



Photos by Christopher Fincham Photography

The state title game between the Falcons and Bulldogs featured two great midfields that slugged it out all game long.

By Tom Worgo

The season was moving along nicely for the Severna Park boys soccer team until Bowie ruined it.

The Bulldogs handed Severna Park a 1-0 loss in the Class 4A state championship at Loyola University Maryland on November 19. Bowie senior forward **Kareem Davis** scored the game's lone goal early in the second half.

Severna Park was making its first state final appearance since 2017. The Falcons (17-3) earned a spot in the game with an excellent playoff run by prevailing in four close games.

Severna Park opened the postseason with a 2-0 victory over North Point, and a 2-0 conquest of South River

followed. The Falcons edged Richard Montgomery, 1-0, and Montgomery Blair, 2-1.

In the state final, Severna Park coach **Ryan Parisi** was impressed with his team's effort despite the loss.

"I couldn't have asked for anything more," Parisi said. "The kids played their hearts out. They put it all out there. Sometimes you come up short, but they were phenomenal."

Bowie coach **Frantz Deetjen** might have called Davis' effort phenomenal, too. Some players may not have suited up for the game with the injuries Davis had. He played with a sports hernia, for which he later had surgery, and he also had a torn tendon in his

left foot.

"He couldn't have played at more than 50 percent," Deetjen said. "He had to go to physical therapy so he could practice. He's definitely a throw-back player."

With 35:27 remaining in the second half, Davis shot to the upper right corner from about 18 yards out, giving the Bulldogs (16-2) a 1-0 lead.

Severna Park pushed hard for the equalizer. **Andrew Campbell** had a breakaway with 18:10 remaining, and Bowie goalie **Ronaldo Sosa** stopped it.

Soon after that, Severna Park goalie **Peter Saunders** made two diving saves to keep it a one-goal game.

In the final 11 minutes, Severna Park couldn't get any of its shots on goal. **Andrew Handen's** attempt went wide, and Campbell's shot went over the goal.

With 25 seconds remaining, **Braden van den Berg's** shot went wide left.

"They played very aggressively and fast," Deetjen said of Severna Park. "They had a great midfield. I said to my boys, 'This is going to be the two best midfields I have seen.' But we are very disciplined defensively. It took them a while to figure out what they could do to have some opportunities."

Saunders and his defense of **Owen Muldoon, Henry Saunders, Evan Souder** and Handen withstood some pressure from Bowie in the opening minutes.

Nelson Plata's kick into the box from near the sideline was snatched out of the air by Saunders 1:04 into play. About a minute later, Severna Park's **Elliot Gerig** cleared the ball out of danger.

The Falcons had an excellent scoring opportunity about 10 minutes into play. Handen's kick into the box went through it only a few feet from the goal line, but no Falcon could gain control of the ball.

Severna Park threatened again on a Campbell header that got past Sosa, but senior midfielder **Kaden Green**, stationed right in front of the goal, kicked the ball out of the box.

"For me, it was a journey," Parisi said. "Our journey started on August 12, and we spent 99 days together. We maximized our time as a team. We didn't win the last game, but [we] did a lot of great things throughout the year."

Bruins Season Ends With 1-0 Loss In State Semifinals

By Dennis McGinley

Broadneck girls soccer has played tight games all season long, grabbing a lead and then relying on a strong defense and a stellar goalie to hold it.

Entering their state semifinal match against Quince Orchard with a 14-0-4 record, their formula had gotten them to this point. However, after the Cougars from Montgomery County scored 16 minutes into the match, the Bruins found themselves in unfamiliar territory, having to play from behind.

Despite possessing the ball in enemy territory for much of the second half, Broadneck was not able to find the back of the net and saw their season come to an end with a 1-0 loss.

Quince Orchard moved on to the state final, losing 2-0 to the defending state champion Walt Whitman Vikings. Broadneck coach **John Camm** was pleased with his team's response after falling behind.

"After [Quince Orchard's] goal, I thought we played hard in the second half and created a couple great scoring chances," Camm said.

The early moments of the game saw Quince Orchard possess the ball and work into Broadneck territory, mostly settling for long-range shots that did not trouble Bruins keeper **Kyleigh Bland**. Camm was happy with his team's effort throughout, despite not playing their best soccer early on.

"Even though we struggled in the first half, we didn't give up many big chances to them," he said.

However, Quince Orchard was able to capitalize on their one big opportunity, playing a long ball over the top of the Bruins defense, which left Cou-

The BHS girls left it all on the field, but fell just short to Quince Orchard in the state semifinals. Left to Right: Mia Hull and Brooke Velez played with physicality as they battled for possession.



gars forward **Caroline Donmoyer** one-on-one with Bland. Arriving just a half-step too late, Bland was not able to keep Donmoyer from slotting the ball past her and into the goal.

The second half saw Broadneck press harder and possess the ball more, but they were not able to



generate any dangerous scoring chances. Despite falling just short of another trip to the state final and having dealt with several injuries to key players, Camm was happy with the way his team battled throughout the season.

"Overall, a great season," he said.

Photos by Dennis McGinley



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Davis Cawfield

Severn Soccer

By Kevin Murnane

Severn School senior forward Davis Cawfield hasn't experienced losing a soccer game in two years. The Severn School Admirals have gone undefeated and have won two consecutive MIAA B Conference championships in that timeframe.

This year, Cawfield set the Admirals' single season record with 26 goals. He also notched a hat trick in six matches.

Severn head soccer coach Mike McCarthy said Cawfield is the epitome of a complete player who exhibits technical, tactical and physical prowess.

"When it comes to putting the ball in the net, Cawfield shines," McCarthy said. "He's a finisher, a goal scorer."

Cawfield started playing soccer at four years old in the Green Hornets system, advanced into the area's club teams and has been a four-year starter for the Admirals.

"I really enjoy playing soccer," said Cawfield, who also plays lacrosse for the Admirals. "I'm pretty aggressive, and I use my speed to try to get behind the defense to score."

As the season progressed, opposing teams started to slant their defenses toward Cawfield to prevent his scoring outbursts.

"As the teams started to change defenses on us, it opened up advantages for other players," Cawfield said.

Cawfield, who also notched 10 assists on the



Davis Cawfield has been a four-year starter for the Admirals. During the 2022 season, he set the program's single season record with 26 goals.

year, was one of the captains on the team along with Alan Tshamouriyski and Ammar Yusef.

"I enjoyed being captain of the team, and I had the opportunity to manage the underclassmen and lead by example," Cawfield said.

His coach also praised his quiet leadership style.

"He's an incredible teammate, extremely self-motivated, has impeccable character, discipline and integrity," McCarthy said. "He is also well respected by his peers, teachers and coaches."

Cawfield is proud of his accomplishments on the soccer and lacrosse fields and remarks it will be bittersweet not to compete in any more soccer

games at Severn.

"We had such a great camaraderie on this team and many of us played all four years together," Cawfield said. "Some of my best friends are on the team," Cawfield said.

In the classroom, Cawfield carries a 4.35 grade point average and is going through the college selection process, where he's looking to study mechanical engineering at a top-tier university, including one in his own backyard, the U.S. Naval Academy.

Cawfield would like to play both soccer and lacrosse in college and knows his time management skills will be tested. His parents attended the U.S. Naval Academy and Cawfield recently went through the congressional interviews for the Annapolis school.

Cawfield has attended Severn since the second grade and enjoys the small school atmosphere and the relationships he has formed with the teachers.

"It's a super-tight community," Cawfield said. "You go down the hall and you know everyone and there's just a great school spirit."

McCarthy said he's enjoyed coaching Cawfield over the past four years.

"He will be missed by both our team and the Severn community," McCarthy said.

*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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SPHS JV Girls Soccer Team Secures County Championship

Last year, the Severna Park and South River JV soccer teams finished as co-champions in Anne Arundel County. So naturally, this year's Falcons had high expectations. They delivered by winning the county championship over Chesapeake on October 24 at Tick Neck Park in Pasadena.

"I challenged the girls after tryouts to put maximum effort into our training and matches to make another run," said Severna Park JV girls soccer head coach **James Joyner**. "To their credit, they rose to the occasion and pulled it out."

With the highest turnout that the school has ever had for tryouts, according to Joyner, there was heavy competition for roster spots. The coaching staff ultimately chose a group of 22 players that included only five sophomores.

Throughout the season, the Falcons strung together wins without many setbacks. Between the wins, they tied John Carroll from Bel Air and lost to Archbishop Spalding.

"Spalding was a great challenge for the squad and the loss humbled the team," Joyner said, "but showed them that the competition was gunning for them and they had to refocus and work even harder in training."

The rest of the season, the Falcons won out to set up a showdown with



The JV girls soccer team at Severna Park won the county championship with a roster that included only five sophomores.

Chesapeake.

"They are talented and well coached," Joyner said of Chesapeake. "The regular season win over them was very difficult and the game could have gone either way. The championship was tough, and the match had to be decided in penalties. Luckily for us,

the players dealt with the pressure and won the match in penalty kicks."

The 2022 Severna Park JV girls soccer team included **Ellie Ballard, Ella Baxter, Maria Bragg, Grace Ciuba, Maggie Deegan, Nora Gerig, Kelsey Griffith, Emily Hall, Reagan Hunt, Erin Hussey, Emma Lawrence,**

Mackenzey Luoto, Vivian Major, Isabella Mazzola, Ava McPhee, Addison Murphy, Kiaya Norton, Reese Panuska, Mallory Schaffer, Elizabeth Thompson, Gabi Villegas and Lyla Winship.

The team was led by Joyner and assistant coach **Johan DeViq.**

"I challenged the girls after tryouts to put maximum effort into our training and matches to make another run. To their credit, they rose to the occasion and pulled it out." — **JAMES JOYNER, HEAD COACH, SPHS JV GIRLS SOCCER**



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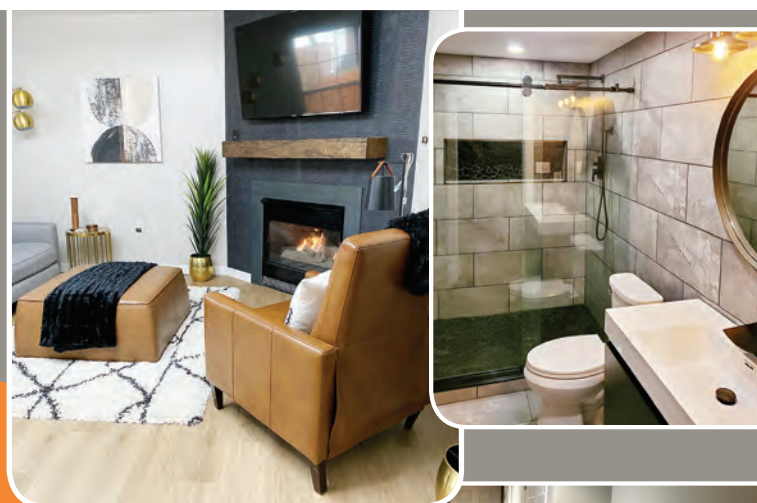


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Killer Whales Are Green Hornets Seventh/Eighth Soccer Champs

The Killer Whales captured the Severna Park Green Hornets seventh and eighth grade girls soccer title with a 2-0 win over the Zebras on November 12 at Kinder Park.

The Whales had a first-half goal from **Isla Crawford**, who scored in traffic from 10 yards out. **Anya Diggs** found the back of the net in the second half, scoring on a 20-yarder from outside the box.

Goalkeeper **Jocelyn Renn** recorded her seventh shutout of the season, behind a stalwart back line of **Nicole Baker**, **Mary Winship**, **Taylor Fitchett**, **Regan Graves** and **Jaidyn Railsback**. **Ivory Bauer**, **Sage McGuire** and **Scarlett Wissel** commanded the midfield, while forwards **Annabel Collins**, **Preslie Havens**, **Riley Hobby** and **Zoey Stafford** kept constant pressure on the Zebras, who entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed and regular season champs. The Whales missed injured forward **Keira MacBride**, who cheered her team on to the championship.



A 2-0 win over the Zebras on November 12 gave the Killer Whales a soccer title in the Green Hornets girls soccer seventh and eighth grade group.



In November, the Falcons JV volleyball team beat Annapolis in three sets to become county champions.

JV Volleyball Brings County Championship To The Park

After beating Annapolis in three sets, the Severna Park JV girls volleyball team was crowned the county champion.

Severna Park coach **Megan Taylor** said the girls came to practice ready to learn and work hard every day since their first meeting August 11.

"They stayed focused, and their hard work and determination is what got them to the JV county championship and the win," Taylor said.

Severna Park won the first set against Annapolis, 25-9, but Annapolis rebounded by taking the second set 25-20. The third set came down to a fun finish. **Maeve Byrne** had 13 aces and 8 kills. With the score tied 14-14 in the third set, Byrne went back and served two aces, allowing Severna Park to take the win, 16-14. **Courtlynn Edwards** had seven kills, and **Lizzie Ranaghan** and **Abby Roberts** each had five kills.

"This group was truly like a family, and I was sad to see it come to an end," Taylor said.

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The Wright Way: Severna Park Football Coach Retires

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Seamus Patenaude was sprawled in the bed of a truck, nursing an injured ankle, the first time he met football coach **Mike Wright**. Patenaude's eighth-grade Green Hornets team had played a match against Generals Highway, and Wright — then a JV coach at Severna Park High School — introduced himself to Patenaude's dad and wanted to make sure Patenaude was OK.

Wright would later serve as Patenaude's coach on the high school varsity team for four years, and during that time, Wright's support never wavered.

"It was a difficult year for me as a freshman, feeling like part of the team," said Patenaude, who was part of a three-way competition to be the team's starting quarterback. "The student section weren't big fans of me, but [coach Wright] told me to trust the process. He told me he had my back and he said, 'Even if the odds are stacked against you, you have people around you.'"

It would be easy to dismiss those words if they came from someone else. But they came from Wright, who was showing up to coach every day despite having the odds stacked against him, too. Wright was coaching after being diagnosed with inoperable throat cancer in 2008 and issues that led to heart surgery in 2020.

Despite those odds, Wright, Patenaude and the rest of the varsity team would go on to have winning seasons in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Before then, the Falcons had not had a winning season since 2011.

Severna Park also made the playoffs in 2021 for the first time since 2008 and hosted their first playoff game since 2006.

If that were the end of the story, it would be a happy ending. But it's not.

Wright announced after the 2022



football season that he will step away from coaching. Complications from the heart surgery have caused fatigue; weight loss; and difficulty eating, swallowing and speaking.

"As a result, just can't coach like I used to or want to, or that the program will need in the future to continue its upward progression," Wright said.

Wright is not looking for pity. He is proud of the resume he put together, but more importantly, he hopes he was a role model for the kids.

Passion For The Game

A linebacker for Old Mill High School, Wright was injured when a 300-pound lineman rolled over his ankle. Or at least that's what **Don Linnell**, Wright's former teammate and current Severna Park defensive coordinator, remembers.

"We both knew he was messed up," Don Linnell said with a chuckle.

Wright's career was over after just two games of varsity football. But that passion for the game never disappeared, and from

Photo by Christopher Fincham Photography

Mike Wright spent the last four seasons as the head coach of the Falcons varsity football team.

2002 to 2010, Wright served as a youth coach for the Green Hornets organization.

"The reality is when your playing career ends, you don't lose your passion for the game just because you don't play anymore," Wright said.

From early on in his coaching career, Wright developed a reputation for outperforming expectations.

Taylor Kitzmiller remembers facing an undefeated, more athletic Pasadena Chargers team. Wright called a play called "Rebel Run" about 15 times in a row.

"It means a lot that he had the confidence to put the ball in my hands," Kitzmiller said.

Wright became the Green Hornets football commissioner in 2005, and he continued that role through 2010 while also coaching. He called the move to Green Hornets football commissioner "a natural transition." Wright saw an opportunity to make updates and minor improvements. He doubled the size of the program and changed the uniform colors from green and black to the Michigan State shade of green with white.

"He had that thing running like a Fortune 500 company," said **John Stein**, a former Green Hornets coach and current leader of the JV program at Archbishop Spalding. "The home field was always immaculate. He found donors and sponsors so he could upgrade all the equipment, and his son, Erik, got pulled into everything. It looked like a college equipment room."

Wright believes all the changes made the atmosphere more festive.

"I was hard on players and expected a lot of them, but we had a lot of fun," Wright said.

Developing Young Men

Wright accepted a position as an assistant coach with Severna Park High School's JV team in 2009. Those duties briefly overlapped with his Green Hornets ones. Wright later became the head coach of the JV team in 2012 and served in that capacity until 2018.

A 2014 Severna Park High School graduate, Kitzmiller was on a few of those JV teams.

"He never played favorites," Kitzmiller said of Wright. "If you were good, you would play. He would yell at you if you messed up, but it was warranted. He would always make jokes or jabs at some of the players, but it was all in fun."

That leadership style made Wright an ideal candidate to take over the varsity team in 2019 when Will Bell left. Wright accepted the job.

After a challenging first year, Wright quickly turned around the program.

"There was never a day he didn't show up for us, even during COVID, when I thought he shouldn't be at practice because he was high risk," Patenaude said. "A lot of the boys, including me, thought that if he's out here doing this for us, he deserved our full commitment. I would never want another coach for high school."

Wright won't be on the sidelines, but he will think fondly of his time as a coach.

"Wins and losses are a great thing, but the big wins and losses from coaching are not on the scoreboard but how you treated your players, how they responded, and developing them not only as players but as men," Wright said.

Read the full story online.

From Worst To First

Severn School Wins MIAA Football C Conference After Going 0-10 in 2021

By Kevin Murnane

Last spring, only 20 Severn School students attended new head football coach **Demetrius Ballard**'s first meeting. After the meeting, he questioned if he would be able to field a competitive team with a meager number of players.

The Admirals were coming off of a 0-10 season and the student base was less than enthusiastic about supporting the team.

"It was over the latter part of the spring semester that some of the lacrosse players expressed interest in coming out in the fall, namely **Nick Sotiropoulos**, who was a running back and kicker, and **Jacob Todd**, who had quarterback experience," Ballard said. "Kids were recruiting kids in the hallway."

Ballard then hosted two spring practices in which additional athletes noticed his enthusiasm, organization and positivity. During the summer, the numbers kept increasing during workouts. Momentum and optimism built up.

"At the start of fall practice, we had 48 kids come out for the team, and many

of them were great athletes from the lacrosse team," Ballard said. "The pied pipers were Sotiropoulos and Todd. They elevated our toughness, competitiveness and athleticism."

The Admirals started out 3-0 and elevated the buzz around the student body while attendance was at record levels with sold-out crowds. Game four brought Maret School of Washington, D.C., to the Evergreen Road campus, and Maret dominated the fourth quarter in beating the Admirals 40-7.

"We were tied 7-7 going into the fourth quarter and then we had numerous turnovers and we never regained our competitiveness," Ballard said.

Severn had not experienced the higher level of athleticism and size that Maret brought to the trenches and skill positions. It awakened the Admirals on how to prepare for the rest of the season.

"That game against Maret was the best thing that could have happened to us," Ballard said. "It toughened us up and we realized what we needed to work on. It was the key to the season."

Severn went on to win the next four out of five games and won the deciding game of the MIAA C Conference against Annapolis Area Christian School 42-41 in late October. Todd scored six touchdowns



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Severn School's head football coach, Demetrius Ballard, engineered the Admirals to a 7-3 record and the MIAA C Conference championship in his first year as head coach. Ballard guided the Admirals from worst to first in 2022.

in the game and the Admirals had to fend off the pesky Eagles.

"Todd was the MVP of the team," Ballard said. "He had 1,000 yards passing, 1,200 yards running, nine touchdown passes, and rushed for 26 touchdowns," Ballard said. "He should be a first team All-County quarterback."

Todd, who is slated to attend Princeton on a lacrosse scholarship next year, also gave Ballard one of his prized memories of the season when they were standing on the sidelines before the homecoming game and Todd told Ballard that he has never seen a crowd that massive at Severn before.

"He was just in awe, seeing all those people," Ballard said.

Even though Ballard is losing his two biggest offensive juggernauts in Todd and Sotiropoulos, the Admirals return all but eight seniors, including their entire offensive and defensive lines.

"We'll have Division I recruiters on our campus next year looking at our offensive linemen including **Bo Fowler**, who is our best player, and **Alan Sheffers**," Ballard said. "Also, we have a freshman running back in **Jules Hamilton**, who is a special player."

Athletic Director **Julian Domenech** said Ballard has been a welcome addition to Severn.

"Not only has he increased our win total, but he has also brought a culture and work ethic that has changed our football program for the future," Domenech said.

Next year, Ballard has added St. Paul's and Boys Latin to Severn School's schedule and he looks forward to recruiting players to the Severn campus and maintaining the success of the program.

Spalding Cavaliers Secure First Football Conference Title

Photo by Kevin Murnane

The Archbishop Spalding football team posed after winning the program's first championship in the MIAA A Conference.



By Kevin Murnane

On a windy and cold night in Annapolis at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Archbishop Spalding rode a suffocating defense to topple Calvert Hall, 34-10, and capture the school's first MIAA A football conference championship on November 18.

The Cavaliers' defense applied a steady dose of pressure throughout the night, which led to four turnovers and multiple sacks as Calvert Hall quarterback **Noah Brannock** couldn't escape. The sacks were led by defensive lineman **Damien Wilburn** and linebackers **Keyshawn Flowers** and **PJ Poknis**.

"The defense was incredible tonight," said Cavaliers head football coach **Kyle Schmitt**. "They were very opportunistic

tonight, and **Tyrone Forby** is the best defensive coordinator in the state."

On Spalding's first drive, quarterback **Malik Washington** turned to his favorite receiver, **Max Moss**, for several catches and the two punctuated that drive with a touchdown pass to Moss at the 9:48 mark of the first quarter.

On their first procession, Calvert Hall mounted a drive that was suddenly halted by an interception by cornerback **Jayden Shipp**.

Spalding sputtered on the next few processions, but the unheralded Spalding defense smothered the Cardinals' offensive scheme, which led to numerous punts in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Calvert Hall's **Ricardo Cooper** had a 35-yard punt

return that gave the Cardinals the ball at Spalding's 12-yard line. Again, Spalding's defense was up to the challenge and Calvert Hall had to settle for a 23-yard field goal, making it a 7-3 contest.

Spalding began a drive deep in their own territory with about six minutes to go in the half. Schmitt huddled his offensive coaches together for a play call. The result of that huddle was a 92-yard blast by tailback **Hakim Simms** on the first play of the drive.

Spalding was up 14-3 within seconds. "I just thought we needed to get back to our ground game, and Hakim found the gap, and he has breakaway speed," Schmitt said. "It was the turning point of the game."

The Cavaliers got the ball to start the

second half and mixed short passing plays and a strong running game that culminated in a 12-yard touchdown by Simms, giving the Cavaliers a comfortable 21-3 lead.

The Cardinals went to a quick passing game to slow down the Cavaliers rush, but Poknis intercepted a pass over the middle and sprinted 45 yards to the end zone.

In the fourth quarter, Calvert Hall marched down the field. Running back **Daniel Harper** found a seam and sliced through Spalding's secondary for the lone Calvert Hall touchdown of the game.

Calvert Hall had a successful onside kick, but the Cavaliers' defense answered the challenge and stopped Calvert Hall on a fourth-and-2.

Then to cap off the scoring for Spalding, Washington threw a 32-yard fade pattern to Moss, making the score 34-10.

With less than a minute remaining, Schmitt took a well-deserved Gatorade shower, and the celebration began as students stormed the field.

The Cavaliers finished 11-1 in a year that had them play a difficult schedule with games against regional powers Don Bosco of New Jersey, Imhotep Charter of Philadelphia and Gonzaga of Washington, D.C.

"Those games made us better and gave the young guys great experience with top-level talent," Schmitt said.

The Cavaliers return 15 starters for next year as well as the additions from a 10-0 junior varsity squad.

"We're proud of what we built and to be part of the school's culture," Schmitt said.

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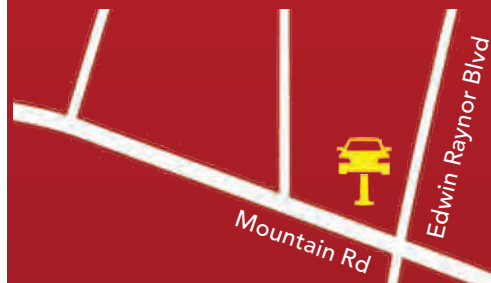
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Girls Basketball Preview

Underdogs Look To Surpass Expectations

By Tom Worgo

SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

The way **Severna Park** girls basketball head coach **Kristofer Dean** figures it, the Falcons will have all the resources necessary for a success story.

Dean's team possesses size and they know how to win.

It's just that many opponents will underestimate Severna Park. That could be a big mistake.

"I don't know if a lot of people expect us to do much," Dean said. "But I see where we can go with our leadership and athletic ability. I don't think the girls program has had a final four berth since the '80s. I'd like one, and the girls deserve it."

That final four feat was accomplished twice in that decade, in both 1980 and 1988.

Severna Park graduated leading scorer **Theresa Bragg** after last season, but the team returns enough talent to make up for her loss.

The Falcons — coming off a 12-9 record and first-round playoff loss to Broadneck — will ride the play of senior point guard **Hanna Verreault**, senior shooting guard **Karli Kirchenheiter** and junior shooting guard **Ryan Feemster**.

Severna Park will get a big boost from the return of senior guard **Lilly Spilker**, who missed all of last season because of a knee injury. Junior forward **Sally Trent** should provide more scoring.

Two players promoted from last year's junior varsity squad, sophomore guard **Charley Coward** and junior guard **Gabby Rosati**, could offer immediate help.

"If we are not the best defensive team in the county," Dean said, "that would be a disappointment."

Freshman guard **Maria Bragg**, junior guard **Kiley Curran**, senior forward **Abby Kavanagh**, junior forward **Amelia Smith** and junior forward **Madeline Sullivan** are all vying for minutes.

"We will be exciting to watch," Dean said. "We are a really fast team this year. Last year, we weren't really a fast team."

BROADNECK HIGH SCHOOL

Broadneck coach **Juan McKinney** knows his team can make some noise, and he isn't afraid to say so.

The Bruins return three starters who have elevated their play from last year: tenacious sophomore point guard **London Best**, junior small forward **Samantha Miller** and junior shooting guard **Mackenzie Wharton**.

Both Miller and Wharton averaged double figures in scoring last winter.

"We can be really good," McKinney said. "If we

limit our turnovers and play defense at a high level like I know we can, then we can make a deep run in the playoffs for sure."

Senior center **Addison Hurst** and senior power forward **Arianna Jefferies** offer the Bruins great size, toughness and rebounding.

Depth will be among Broadneck's biggest strengths with McKinney's rotation featuring nine or 10 players.

Junior guards **Ginger Kerdock** and **Malaika Latif**, sophomore guard **Summer Stroop** and senior forward **Caliyn Motta** are the top reserves.

"This is the most depth I've had," said McKinney, a fourth-year coach.

Junior **Amoni Belt**, junior center **Liberty Chenault-Randall**, freshman guard **Brianna Snowden**, senior guard **Adowell Neadeah** and junior **Faith Achimovic** are pushing for minutes.

SEVERN SCHOOL

Severn fans would like to forget about the past two seasons. Who can blame them?

The Admirals have gone 2-24 during that stretch.

The program needs leadership and new coach **Jim Stromberg** can provide it.

He's won nearly 400 games as a head coach at St. Paul's, Seton Keough, Catholic and Eastern Tech while winning six championships in 34 years.

"It's a new challenge, and I love the school," said Stromberg, when asked about taking over the job.

Stromberg will build the lineup around four seniors: guards **Madison Vernon** and **Madison Tyron** and forwards **Emma Ripley** and **Megan Murphy**.

"We are focused on improving every day," Stromberg said.

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

Archbishop Spalding coach **Aanika O'Connor** will be put to the test as the Cavaliers' new coach.

The team went 5-13 last year, leading scorer **Kamari Sims** (committed to George Washington) transferred to Riverdale Baptist, and the roster contains eight players and two of them are coming over from the softball team.

O'Connor, who coached at Meade last year after eight seasons and a 101-39 record, will have her share of concerns, but the starting lineup isn't one of them.

Spalding returns three starters: sophomore power **Whitley Watkins**, senior guard/forward **Mariah Sanavia** and senior shooting guard **Ava Sammons**.

Sanavia ranked second on the team in scoring last year and had two 30-point performances. Spalding assistant coach **Jermaine Branch** said Watkins is being recruited by a few Division I schools.

Those starters will be joined in the lineup by promising sophomore point guard **Eyan Bailey**, who sat out last season because of injuries.

"This team is better than a 5-13 team," Branch said. "Our goal is to get better in every practice and every game."

Girls Basketball Early Schedule

Severna Park is scheduled to host Broadneck High School for a rivalry game on December 9. The Falcons will then take on Severn School (December 14) and Annapolis (December 16). After the game against Severna Park, Broadneck will have a road game at Indian Creek (December 12), followed by a home game against South River (December 16). Severn School will follow the game against Severna Park by playing Maryvale (December 16) and Kent Island (December 19).

Photos by Christopher Fincham Photography

Amelia Smith



Hanna Verreault



Karli Kirchenheiter



Madeline Sullivan



Schools To Compete In Winter Jam Basketball Tourney

The annual high school boys basketball tournament hosted by Severna Park High School will take place on Tuesday, December 27, and Wednesday, December 28. This family-friendly event includes JV and varsity high school athletes from Annapolis Area Christian School, Frederick, Old Mill, Kennedy, Indian Creek, Clarksburg, Green Street Academy, Carver, Wilde Lake and Severna Park high schools. Game times are from 8:00am to 6:45pm. For more information, visit www.severnaparkhighathletics.org.

Bruins Complete Perfect Season, Capture State Crown

» Continued from page 21

Bruins from getting another score in the first half. With that hustle, Winston Churchill kept their deficit at one goal entering halftime.

In the second half, it did not take long for the Bruins to break through. On a fast break, **Lexi Dupcak** made a nifty pass to **Maya Everett**, who sent the ball into the goal, putting the Bruins ahead 2-0 with 11:07 remaining in the third quarter.

"Lexi had it on the right side of the field and crossed it to the top right of the circle and I just one-timed it to the left post and it went in, thankfully," Maya Everett said, recalling the play. "So it was quick, fast-paced, and it's how our game is played."

Broadneck continued to play their game, smothering Winston Churchill any time they started to move the ball. But Winston Churchill was equally stout on defense. A few minutes after Broadneck's second goal, Winston Churchill goalkeeper **Leila Burki** made a sliding save.

"I think Churchill did an outstanding job defensively," said Broadneck head coach **Shannon Hanratty**. "They held us. They slowed us down when we got inside the circle. And we had to work our butts off and keep pushing, pushing, pushing to finish that ball off, so it worked. Our game plan worked again and that's what we've been trying to do all season."

With the clock running down, fans in the stands chanted, "10-nine-eight-seven-six-five-four-three-two-one."

Mia Moody secured her 11th shut-



out of the season. Broadneck players embraced. Senior Maya Everett was emotional, hugging teammates on the field.

"It's sad because it's my last year with my sister, [Faith Everett]," she said. "It's nostalgic and sentimental, and my last year with coach [Hanratty]."

It was a powerful moment for all the girls, who built their bond not just through this season but also over many years of playing club field hockey together.

"It was chemistry," **Arden Huntman** said when asked about the team's recipe for success. "We've known each other for a long time, so to be here and grow together and be out practicing six days a week together, we grew being with

The Broadneck faithful were on their feet in excitement during the fourth quarter of the Lady Bruins state championship victory.

each other."

Players bought into Hanratty's "all gas, no brakes" mentality from the first practice and felt comfortable giving "helpful criticism," holding one another accountable, Maya Everett explained.

"It's about work ethic," she said. "We work really hard and we have a really fast team, so we might as well use it to our advantage. It's mostly the mindset: even if you aren't the fastest, you still believe you are and you still push to be that person. So giving it all you have is what it means."

Maya Everett said she expected her team to celebrate on the bus after the game, perhaps playing one of their favorite songs, "Downtown" by Macklemore.

It was a moment well-earned for a team that shocked the state with a 20-0 season in which they outscored opponents 108-11.

"Only one team ends happy at the end of the year, and we haven't been it yet, but these girls certainly deserve it," Hanratty said. "For me, it's just really fulfilling. I'm just really proud of them. I was speechless after the game because I knew they were capable of it, but we felt that way in other years and we haven't been able to do it. I think every coach's joy is watching their kids work hard and accomplish their goals and that's how I feel right now."

2022 Broadneck Bruins Field Hockey Team

- Anna Balcer
- Zoe Bjelac
- Lindsay Curley
- Lexi Dupcak
- Emily Ernst
- Faith Everett
- Maya Everett
- Grace Figueroa
- Lauren Gray
- Cayman Holmes
- Arden Huntman
- Clare Imber
- Katelyn Kearns
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Area Softball Coach Bags National Awards

By Judy Tacyn

Kelly Burke wears a pair of hats in the local softball scene. Burke serves as Severna Park High School's assistant softball coach, and he also coaches for TNT Maryland travel softball. He'll now sport a couple of national awards for softball coaching excellence and knowledge of the sport off the field.

Burke was inducted into the United States Specialty Sports Association's Hall of Fame last month in Orlando, Florida, for creating the USSSA's management database. He's also slated to hoist the 2022 Easton/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year award this month in Louisville, Kentucky.

With a career in computer programming combined with his softball knowledge, Burke was able to know exactly what the USSSA needed. What he came up with was a multi-function, multi-sport database that allows for team registration, coach's tasks, and team management functions and requirements.

Meredith McAlister, Severna Park High School's head softball coach and TNT Maryland 18U Gold head coach, said she nominated Burke for the Assistant Coach of the Year award because of the time and energy he puts in as an assistant.

"We decided about five or six years ago that we needed to do some additional work with our feeder systems and the club softball ranks to develop the level of play back to what it was years ago," McAlister said.

McAlister and Burke's partnership has produced a state championship for the high school and several of their players have gone on to the college ranks.

After taking a break from coaching, Burke eventually took his place back in the dugout after a misunderstanding led him to ultimately coach a 14U rec team.

The Green Hornets softball commissioner at the



time approached Burke in the stands at Severn School during a boys rec basketball game that Burke was coaching in. The commissioner asked Burke if he'd coach the 14U girls rec softball team, and he immediately said yes. But Burke misheard the commissioner.

"I thought she asked me if I knew any girls who would want to play on that 14U team," Burke said.

Burke said the team he inherited was so full of talent, but they just needed coaching.

Photo courtesy of Kit Mohr

Kelly Burke was inducted into the United States Specialty Sports Association's Hall of Fame last month in Orlando, Florida, for creating the USSSA's management database.

"Four or five of those girls went on to play for the high school and win a state title," said Burke, who added that they then went on to play in college on scholarships.

Now that he's coaching year-round, Burke proudly pointed out that his assistant coaches on his 10U travel team are the same players from that 14U rec team.

Burke said that he's proud of his athletes, and because of softball, he's not only seen them improve their skills on the field, but he's seen them mature into great mentors to other young women.

"It's fun to coach," Burke said. "It's great to compete and try to win, but it's all this other stuff going on that makes softball so rewarding."

McAlister noted that Burke's ability to transition between age groups and talent levels when coaching is enough to work anybody's patience, but she applauded Burke's patience and dedication.

"These roles as travel coaches are unpaid and involve countless hours of work, money, time away from family and friends, and are rewarded only with seeing the success that young athletes have, the smiles they give, the lessons they learn and the athletes and people they become," McAlister said.

Now that he's coaching the 10U TNT Maryland travel team, Burke can't imagine being at any other level. Accolades and awards are great, but they are not what Burke is working toward.

"This age group is so eager to learn," Burke said. "Win or lose, they are learning to love softball. These girls put everything they've got into softball."

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Unified Tennis Builds Unlikely Friendships



Three schools competed in unified tennis practices at Severna Park High School during the fall.



Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park High School's unified tennis team walked away with a gold medal at the state championships in November and another gold and three silver medals during the county championships. But for members of the team, the ultimate reward does not come in physical form.

Through the program, students without disabilities play tennis with their peers who have disabilities.

"You see athletes, you see musicians, you see kids from all different areas in the building come together," said Severna Park unified tennis head coach **Nadine Hendler**. "It's about making friends and it's about helping each other on and off the court."

Brandon Dennis and **William Stimpson** illustrate Hendler's point. If not for unified tennis, the students would likely never have met since they do not share any classes or socialize with the same peers.

"I've made a lot of friends and it's a good leadership opportunity," Dennis said. "I wish I had someone freshman year who told me what to do."

With support from Dennis, Stimpson was focused as he prepared for a fall match against Northeast.

"I like going to other schools to battle other teams," he said.

Like Dennis, senior **Ainsley Jeffers** saw unified tennis as a good leadership opportunity, so she joined the program as a freshman.

"I really like the atmosphere," Jeffers said. "The kids who come to play the sport, they aren't doing it to look good. They're doing it because they want to be here."

"It builds a friendship," she added. "You have to communicate and be engaged with [the students who have disabilities]."

Severna Park fielded a team with 37 athletes this fall. Practice was held two days per week.

"All of our players have to volley, serve, hit [the ball] back, and they get scored between six and 25," said **Kevin Schiavone**, an assistant coach with the Severna Park squad.

Through practice, players improve their sports skills and build higher self-esteem.

"They are considered varsity athletes, just like the soccer players, field hockey players or football players," said Tim Swann, who coaches a team for Northeast High School. "It's rewarding; it's one of those positive experiences for everybody who's involved."

Hendler agreed, saying she has seen a lifelong benefit for all athletes involved.

"It gives every kid an opportunity for an even playing field," Hendler said. "You're all there for the same reason: to learn the sport whether it's bocce or bowling or tennis, to make friends, to meet people from other schools. It's not about winning the game right now or winning the game in the county tournament. It's about cheering each other on."

Photos by Zach Sparks

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Park Boys, Girls Dominate

» Continued from page 21

finished ahead of Walter Johnson (117) and Hereford High in north Baltimore County (125) on the 3-mile hilly course at Hereford.

For the Severna Park boys team, it was business as usual – keeping a dynasty going as the Falcons captured their fifth straight championship.

They finished ahead of Winston Churchill (112) and Walt Whitman (113). Senior and regional champ **Chris Nunn** (fourth place, 17:06) and junior **Taylor Jarvis** (sixth place, 17:13.88) paced the Falcons.

Seniors **Alex Lecouras** (13th place, 17:35.77), **Cody Smith** (35th place, 18:05.56) and **Sean Sullivan** (76th, 19:00.56) and sophomores **Caden Lazzor** (44th, 18:24.09) and **Leo Havens** (67th, 18:47.72) also made up the remainder of the Severna Park team.

"Last year, our team knew they would win by 30 or 40 points," Nunn said of a squad that had eight future Division I college runners. "Going into the season, we weren't sure if we were going to win it. As the season went along, we were getting to be the favorite."

The Severna Park boys have captured seven of the past nine championships, but this one might have been the most

challenging yet.

"None of the boys that ran on Saturday ran in the state meet last year. The key thing on the guys side was keeping it together," Alcombright said. "We had some adversity. A couple of weeks ago, we lost one of our top runners and we have been banged up with some injuries."

Alcombright was especially impressed with the performance of Jarvis. He had never run cross country before the 2022 season.

"Taylor came up huge," the coach said. "For him to come in sixth at the state meet was phenomenal. I have been head coach for 17 years and had never had a guy finish that high before that was a first-year runner."

But the highlight of the day was the girls team. Juniors **Madison Davis** (25th, 21:32.05), **Natalie Bowman** (45th, 22:25.49) and **Kaylee Jenish** (46th, 22:27.30), and sophomore **Sarah Kelly** (27th, 21:38.13), also scored points to help Severna Park to the championship.

"They were really tough," Alcombright said. "Some of the girls were struggling toward the end and just down. When you feel you can't do it anymore for yourself, you do it for the other girls."

Kogen Dojo Student Earns World Championship Title



Fatimah Jasim and her coach, Matt Van Valkenburgh, stood in the ring following Jasim's world champion title bout last month at the World Kickboxing and Karate Union Worlds 2022 competition in Cardiff, Wales.

By Judy Tacyn

For some, the idea of 14-year-old girls fighting conjures up high school memories better left forgotten. But for Fatimah Jasim, fists up and ready to strike are mental and physical challenges she loves to attack.

The lanky, soft-spoken Arnold resident fought her way to a world championship title last month at the World Kickboxing and Karate Union Worlds 2022 competition in Cardiff, Wales.

Jasim won the title for kickboxing in the 14- to 15-year-old female 114.5- to 121-pound weight class.

The 5-foot-8-inch teenager admits people often comment that she appears too shy to be a combat-sport athlete. They shouldn't be fooled.

"I get aggressive when I step in the ring," Jasim said. "I always want to win because if you're not winning, you're getting beaten."

Jasim began training at Kogen Dojo in Severna Park almost four years ago. Since then, she has accumulated an impressive record in Muay Thai, which is a combat sport like kickboxing. She has also competed in an amateur fight, sparring scrimmages and at the World Kickboxing Association's U.S. national championships. It was at the latter event where she earned a silver medal last year and a bronze medal this year. How well a fighter does at the national championships determines if they are selected to attend the world championships the following year.

Her age and weight group didn't compete until the end of the week in Wales, a fact that Jasim was

thankful for.

"I really like going to watch other matches because I can learn different moves and styles from other fighters," Jasim said. "There is always more to learn."

Jasim feels her best move is a clinch where she holds her gloves high to protect her face and throws a few swift punches before quickly lifting a knee to drive it into the opponent's chest or mid-section.

Kickboxing isn't just for show. It's all-out combat with the goal of knocking down the opponent. At her level, competitors wear head gear to cover their head and ears, thin shin guards and gloves. Three judges watch each match before ruling a decision. Jasim said that she's received numerous bruises, but no broken bones yet.

"Fatimah is a very hard worker," said Matt Van Valkenburgh, Jasim's trainer and owner of Kogen Dojo. "Prior to [World Kickboxing Association] worlds, she was training seven days a week by running, jumping rope, shadow boxing, bag work, pad work, sparring, clinching, and strength and conditioning."

Whether or not a combat-sport student ever competes in a ring, Jasim believes the discipline is excellent for self-defense preparation, and she invites students, especially girls, to try the sport.

Van Valkenburgh said Muay Thai and kickboxing are tough sports that also develop physical fitness, mental toughness and confidence.

"On top of that, Muay Thai provides opportunities to travel outside of Maryland to compete," Van Valkenburgh said. "Not everyone chooses to compete, but the benefits are the same for everyone who trains."

Perhaps even more impressive than her fighting is Jasim's ability to connect with the younger athletes whom she mentors and helps train at Kogen Dojo. With Jasim's gold medal in hand, youngsters are drawn to her and her soft demeanor out of the ring, and precision strikes and work ethic inside the ropes.

"Fatimah helps with our kids' classes," Van Valkenburgh said. "The kids see her compete and get excited about the possibilities. The medals and trophies are good motivation for them."

The newly crowned world champion has two younger siblings who hope to follow in their sister's footsteps. Her younger brother, Mahdi, was this year's U.S. national champion for his age group and will attend his first world championships next year in Bali, Indonesia. She also has a 7-year-old sister who is learning to fight.

Jasim is enrolled in the BioMedical Allied Health Magnet program at Glen Burnie High School and hopes to be a medical doctor. She praised her coaches, sponsors and supporters who helped her get to the world championships, along with those who donated funds to cover her recent travel expenses.

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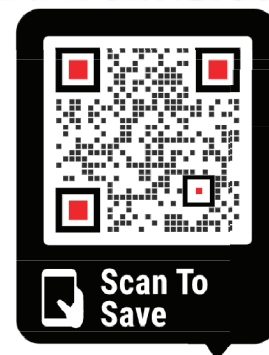
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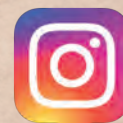
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Photos: Adam Slote



SPHS Changing Principals

By Sarah Sternhagen
Student Intern

Severna Park High School will say goodbye to Principal Patrick Bathras as he retires on January 1 of the new year. Assistant Principal Lindsay Abruzzo will take over the position.

Over the course of 15 years as Severna Park's principal, and a total career of 30 years with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Bathras has had a big impact on the school and is thrilled about the time he spent as principal.

"The last 15 years serving as principal at SPHS has been an amazing experience," Bathras said. "Working with the students is where I find the most joy in the job, to be able to shape the future and make a difference, that is what it's all about."

A Towson University graduate, Bathras has seen Severna Park High School and its students go through many changes. Former student Nicholas Plummer noted some of those events.

"Principal Bathras has steered the

ship through the building of the new SPHS, to navigating the COVID-19 pandemic," said Plummer, a 2018 graduate of Severna Park. "Through the good and the bad, Falcons have been able to overcome obstacles and continue the excellence SPHS is known for. His leadership has gotten us to where we are, and I wish him the very best in his retirement."

Bathras was one of 12 finalists for the *Washington Post's* 2021 Principal of the Year honor. Several of his colleagues praised him in remarks included with the nomination packet. One of those staff members was Lindsay Brown, the school's counseling department chair.

"He engages in fun ways with our students throughout the year whether it is by hosting and playing in a school-wide game of rock, paper, scissors each spring; breakdancing in a school spirit video; or playing in the student versus faculty basketball game," Brown said last year. "That engagement with students is just one example of how



Left: Severna Park High School Principal Patrick Bathras will retire in January after serving 15 years as the school's leader. **Right:** Severna Park High School's incoming principal, Lindsay Abruzzo, started in education as a math teacher at Broadneck High School in 2004 before moving to Severna Park in 2010. Right photo by Sarah Sternhagen



he fosters relationships and builds a strong sense of community at our school."

Bathras will soon call a new community his home. In preparation for retirement, he moved to Sarasota,

Florida, the day before Hurricane Ian made landfall in September. He looks forward to year-round sunshine and opportunities to play tennis and golf, participate in men's softball and base-
» Continued on page 46

Marching Bands Finish Successful Season

By Alyson Kay

Severna Park area high schools entertained audiences at football games and competitions with their marching bands' music and performances throughout autumn. The bands closed out their season last month at the 2022 Maryland Marching Band Association state championships at Towson University.

Marching band practice starts in the second week of August with band camp. These early practices are meant to get students back to playing after the summer.

"Marching out on the field is an art form unto itself," said Eric Kilby, band manager at Severna Park High School. "It's a technique, and it's very difficult to do."

After school starts, rehearsals for Severna Park High School change to evenings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, giving students the day off on Tuesdays and Fridays on weeks that don't have a football game on the schedule.

"I think it's important that the kids have at least one day off during the week so they can focus on their studies and make sure they're staying on top of everything," Kilby said.

Broadneck High School band practices are generally four or five times a week. The band usually starts with marching technique and choreography before spending the last 90 minutes focusing on the music.

For both schools, early practices prioritize perfecting the music before performance and visuals.

Instructors will usually meet to decide on the theme, songs and arrangement for that season's march-
» Continued on page 44



Photo by Tim Spencer

The Severna Park High School marching band performed at the Arundel Maryland Marching Band Association state championships in November.



Photo by Zara Simpson

The Broadneck Bruins marching band performed at the county exhibition.

Longtime SPHS Educator And Drama Advisor Retires



Recently retired Severna Park High School teacher and drama advisor Angie Germanos said she plans to spend time with family and travel.

By Lauren Meyer

For the newly retired Angie Germanos — a teacher for 42 years — her impact on students throughout her numerous roles is immeasurable.

Germanos got her start at Chesapeake High School, teaching French and Russian for 17 years. She next served for two years as an itinerant world language connections teacher at nine North County elementary schools that fed into North County High School in Anne Arundel County.

For 22 years afterward and up until her
» Continued on page 44

In The Long Run: Club At Oak Hill Gives Girls Lifelong Skills



Top Left: Demia Hernandez, Natalie Hester, Sloane DeCosmo and Natalie Dammeyer smiled after starting the second lap during a practice Girls on the Run 5K at Oak Hill Elementary in November. **Top Right:** Elsie Slack and Kolbie Phillips encouraged one another during the practice 5K. **Bottom Left:** Laila Bivens (center) put all her energy into the event. **Bottom Middle:** Coach Allison Hamilton joined the young runners to offer her support. **Bottom Right:** Morgan Hamilton and Claire Crivella kept a fast pace during a practice Girls on the Run 5K.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Running has many health benefits, but for the Girls on the Run program at Oak Hill Elementary, the rewards are not limited to physical health.

Through the program, girls develop confidence, kindness and social skills. The school hit a new record with 60 girls participating this year, up from 43 in 2021. Oak Hill's Girls on the Run head coach and parent leader Allison Hamilton attributed the growth to moving the program from before school to after.

Girls on the Run is a national program that is executed on a local scale, Hamilton explained.

"It's not just about the running or the distance or the finishing," Hamilton said. "It is lessons that help these girls at a very critical time, when society starts to tell them that they can't, to believe that they can, and to get the tools they need to have difficult conversations."

Instead of the girls saying "I hate you" or slamming a door, Hamilton wants them to find other ways to communicate. Through Girls on the Run, she has seen kids approach situations in healthier ways.

"When we're not at a practice, I've heard them on the playground use these tools to be able to stick up for each other, to be able to speak up for themselves, and that's how the confidence comes into play," she said.

The girls had a practice 5K in November to prepare for the season-ending 5K for Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake in December at Druid Hill Park in Baltimore. After their November run, Oak Hill students patted their friends on the back and gave high-fives.

The girls were proud to share some of the lessons that have stuck with them.

"They teach us a couple different lessons, but my favorite one is about star power," said Oak Hill student Elsie Slack. "Star power is when you're really confident and you feel like a star, like you can go super fast, and you feel as bright as a star. Confidence is when you really think you can do something."

Third-graders Gemma Dornblaser and Mia Boyle enjoy being able to run with their friends while getting encouragement from teachers and parents.

"They encourage you to go at your own pace, and they don't care how much you run," Mia said. "They care if you encourage people, and they just help you."

Fourth-grader Morgan Hamilton's favorite part is encouraging others by telling them, "Keep running. You got this. You are so close." The lessons about feelings have also helped her.

"There's a lesson and it's 'I Feel...When You...Because...I Would Like For You To,' and it's to get out emotions that you normally don't feel comfortable talking about," Morgan said. "I've used that many times and it's very helpful."

Allison Hamilton said that any community leader, parent or teacher can start a Girls on the Run program at a site that does not have one. Learn more at www.gotrchesapeake.org.

"It's basically sending kids into middle school with the tools to make middle school, the way we remember middle school, to be a little nicer," she said.

Kids Complete Bay Bridge Run

A group of Severna Park kids from Braveheart Run Club participated in the Bay Bridge Run, a 10K race, in November. The group included Kevin, Kieran, Colleen and Charlotte Gibson; Jorbie, Sarah and Audrey Clark; Elaine and Colin Bixby; Isaiah Beauchamp; and Sara and Jada Sudduth.



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Educator Of The Month

Patricia Mauro
*Severn River
Middle School*



By Lauren Burke Meyer

Patricia Mauro was surprised to be one of the 44 educators nominated for the Anne Arundel County Public and Independent School Teachers of the Year.

Mauro, who serves as the science department chair at the Arnold-based Severn River Middle School, or SRMS, said she's honored to be nominated.

"There are a number of wonderful teachers at SRMS to choose from," Mauro said. "I couldn't believe they chose to nominate me."

Scott Manbeck, who serves as the principal at Severn River, is not surprised Mauro was nominated for the award.

"Mrs. Mauro is passionate about science and shares her enthusiasm with her students through engaging lessons that stimulate critical thinking, while also making learning fun," Manbeck said. "As our science department chairperson, she strives to ensure that all teachers in her department have both the support and resources needed to help them successfully teach their students."

Mauro's leadership role requires her to oversee the school's science teachers, and she supports them with instructional walkthroughs, collaborative planning, assessment analysis and purchasing supplies for lab activities.

While this is Mauro's first time nominated as an Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year for the Excellence in Education awards, it's not her first time recognized for her teaching. In

2016, she was nominated for West County Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year for the chamber's Spirit of the Community awards.

Mauro began her career in Millersville as a sixth and seventh grade science teacher at Old Mill Middle South in 2013. After five years at that school, she spent two years as the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) department chair at Lindale Middle School in Linthicum. She's now in her third year at her current location.

"I was inspired to become a science teacher by my middle school science teacher who always made science fun and exciting," said Mauro, who enjoyed learning about how the world works and now loves teaching the same concepts.

For Mauro, middle school is definitely her niche.

"I enjoy being able to support students during the formative middle school years and watch them gain confidence and independence in their learning," Mauro said.

Just last year, Mauro led the initiative to get Severn River recertified as a Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Green School. She's currently participating in the Terrapin Head Start program with Arlington Echo, and their class terrapin's name is Pickles.

"My after-school club helps me collect measurements to track Pickles' growth every week as well as clean the tank," Mauro said.

Her class is scheduled to take a field trip to release Pickles on Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay where it originally hatched.

"I love that education offers the opportunity to engage students in extracurricular activities where they can develop skills in areas of their interest," Mauro said.

Mauro also feels fortunate to be married to another educator in the school system who supports her extra endeavors.

If she is named a semifinalist or wins the county award, she will advance to the Maryland State Teacher of the Year competition. Semifinalists are slated to be announced in late December, and finalists will be chosen from that group and announced in late February or early March next year.

Manbeck recognizes what Mauro brings to the school.

"With a genuine smile, she is always ready to help our students and her fellow colleagues to become their best," Manbeck said. "Severn River Middle School is truly fortunate to have her as a teacher and as a leader in our school."



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Bands Finish Successful Season

» Continued from page 39

ing band performances, sometimes using other band arrangements as a guide.

"We listen to a lot of different arrangements and pieces and try to come up with some ideas that way," said Matt Heist, Broadneck High School's band and percussion teacher.

Schools will sometimes reach out to professionals to help craft performances.

"We have some arrangers that we use, so a lot of times, I'll reach out to them, and they'll send me stuff that they have done, and we'll listen and decide if any of that would be good," Heist said.

Kilby decided to try something different this year at Severna Park. He held a meeting with returning students after winter break and challenged them to come up with ideas for this season's performance.

The Falcons from Severna Park came up with their "Intergalactic" show shortly after, prompting Kilby to conduct research and come up with music for the show. The students next hashed out the storyline to accompany the music.

The performances started with Earth-themed music and visuals. Each subsequent part journeyed further out into space.

Broadneck High School's theme was "A New World," a performance meant to play on, and musically combat, COVID-19 and some of the

political divisiveness.

"The idea was tried to create a really positive concept, both musically and visually, this idea of coming together," Heist said.

Severna Park High School hosted Marching in the Park this year, which is a competition with more than 20 high school bands.

The event also featured participation from former and future Severna Park band members as the marching band performed the national anthem with the assistance of "Future Falcons," which are band and orchestra students from area feeder schools at the elementary and middle school levels, as well as some alumni.

Broadneck High School hosted the annual county exhibition in October, when schools performed their shows for one another.

"That was a big, important moment for our community, and our students enjoyed having other schools come to Broadneck," Heist said.

At the state championships, Broadneck snagged top honors in class 4A, and Severna Park came in seventh place for class 3A.

Broadneck's marching band were also awarded Best Percussion, Best Visual Performance and Best Music Performance in their class at the state championships.

"There were some other really good bands there this year, and it was nice to have for the kids to get the validation of all the hard work that they put in," Heist said.

SPHS Educator Advisor Retires

» Continued from page 39

last day as an educator last month, Germanos taught French and theater arts at Severna Park High School, where she was also a 1974 graduate.

"It was an honor to return to my alma mater and share my love of foreign language and theater," Germanos said.

Germanos said the main things she'll miss in retirement are creative lessons to interest kids in language and theater along with helping students develop their talents.

Creativity through theater certainly rings true for Germanos, who also held the role as drama advisor for 22 years.

Throughout the 33 years of Rock 'N' Roll Revival, Germanos has been a part of the well-oiled music machine since 2000, performing in the teacher number every year since.

In addition to Rock 'N' Roll Revival, she was responsible for guiding the student directed one-act plays, supporting the improv troupe, holding the treasury position for the Cappies of Baltimore and directing the thespian troupe.

"I also ran the summer drama camps with my assistant producer, Diane Heath," Germanos said.

It's hard for Germanos to pin down a memory from her time at Severna Park High School. One to note was seeing her nephew, Atticus Boidy, go through the drama program at Severna Park and later become a director himself. Plus, the many trips to France, Russia, Quebec, New Orleans and New York City with her French and theater students. Sharing the stage with her colleagues in the teacher number

of Rock 'N' Roll Revival also ranks high.

Germanos said one of her proudest moments was seeing a former student at Chesapeake High School, Sue Shelby, become a French teacher in Anne Arundel County. Germanos also coached Shelby in cheerleading at the school.

Kirsten Mummert, a former drama booster chairman at Severna Park, shed some light on the appreciation from those who have benefited from Germanos' commitment.

"Ms. G has long put in extra hours to put on top-notch productions for the students and the community," Mummert said. "She brought so much dedication and passion to her job, and we're all so grateful for that."

Karah Parks will take over Germanos' position as drama advisor at Severna Park. Although Parks will have big shoes to fill, Germanos, who was involved in the hiring process, is confident Parks will succeed.

Parks was a student in Germanos' drama program, going on to win a Cappies award for best supporting actress for "In The Heights." The Cappies is a writing and awards program that trains high school theater and journalism students to be expert writers, critical thinkers and leaders.

"She is a talented vocalist and actress and is well-liked by the students, parents and her colleagues," Germanos said.

What's next for Germanos? It drills down to two things surprisingly not centered around language and theater for once.

"I will spend more time with family and travel," she said.

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Grace Curtin Recognized By Best Buddies Of Maryland

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

While many parts of life were disturbed or upended for some people during the coronavirus pandemic, others used the interruption to foster newfound passions. For Severna Park High School sophomore Grace Curtin, it was discovering an interest in helping others with disabilities and finding volunteer opportunities to work with them.

In just two years, Grace's work led her to become the youngest Champion of the Year, which is awarded by the Best Buddies of Maryland program.

Best Buddies is an international organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During the pandemic, Grace became close with her 5-year-old neighbor who has autism. From this experience, she discovered she wanted to help others with disabilities, and she became involved with Best Buddies of Maryland.

Grace has older cousins who were already involved with Best Buddies.



"They made me realize I wanted to be like them and help people," Grace said.

Within the last two years, Grace has worked with the Best Buddies program both at the state level and at her school. For the state program, she

Severna Park High School sophomore Grace Curtin was named a Champion of the Year by the Best Buddies of Maryland program and recognized during a November ceremony in Hunt Valley.

has attended training programs and participated in events. Grace recently spoke at a statewide conference on the importance of inclusion as well.

Grace currently serves as president of the Severna Park High School chapter of Best Buddies. During her tenure, membership has grown to 40 and engagement has increased. However, she continues to aim even higher. Her goal is to "hopefully inspire more people to be involved and spread the message of inclusion." To this end, the chapter sponsors monthly events at the school to raise awareness. They also encourage members to interact with and become friends with students in the special education programs through various means such as eating lunch together.

All of Grace's work and dedication to the Best Buddies program at both the state and local levels contributed to her being nominated by several Best Buddies staff members to be Champion of the Year. She was the only high school student to be nominated

and the youngest nominee by more than 10 years.

Nominees are asked to fundraise for the organization over a six-week period. Because of her age, she was not expected to fundraise, but she insisted on participating and raised \$9,000. Of the seven nominees, she raised the third highest amount. Grace was recognized at an award ceremony in Hunt Valley last month.

Outside of Best Buddies, Grace's extracurricular activities often revolve around helping others. She plays in the unified bowling league at her school, where she partners with a student who has a disability.

Although Grace doesn't have definitive plans following high school, she aims to do something in special education where she can have an impact on a community.

Grace said she continues to be inspired by her "best buddies."

"I hope that they all know that even if they are different, that they are loved and not alone," Grace said.

"Footloose" Cast And Crew Support Dynamic Production

The fall production of "Footloose" at Severna Park High School displayed a plethora of talents from backstage support to lead singing roles from November 4-5 and November 11-12. The production included a cast of 25 performers, 20 background dancers who also sing, backing from a 10-piece orchestra, and more than 40 crew members.



The cast danced for joy in the finale of Severna Park High School's version of "Footloose" on November 3.

Photos by Victoria Sneed

Maggie Moran, Ronnie McIntyre and Ellery Martin harmonized as Ethel McCormick, Ariel Moore and Vi Moore during "Footloose."



St. Martin's Students Participate In Mustang Trot



The Mustang Trot was a good way for the students to kick off the holiday season by feeling healthy, happy and energized.

Preschool through eighth-grade students at St. Martin's Episcopal School participated in the second annual Mustang Trot last month.

Participation in the event allowed students to express their individual and collective appreciation to their teachers and to support their school at the same time.

In advance of the event, students set up individual or team fundraising pages and collected donations

from family, friends and neighbors. The Mustang Trot raised more than \$40,000. The funds are slated to help support St. Martin's in multiple ways, including a full renovation of the school's athletic field this coming spring.

Event organizers stressed that the Mustang Trot was a good way for the students to kick off the holiday season by feeling healthy, happy and energized while being part of something impactful and community driven.

Building A Difference, One Home At A Time



Teens and adults from WoodsWork traveled to Kittanning, Pennsylvania, to build homes last June. The WoodsWork mission trip compacts the process into just one week, leaving behind a completed house frame.

Registration Is Now Open For Woods Church Mission Trip

By Cooper Powell

For 38 years, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church has partnered with Habitat for Humanity through a weeklong mission trip, known as WoodsWork, where high school students and adult chaperones build or restore a house for the homeless as well as participate in community-building and faith-related activities.

In 2023, the mission trip will return from June 22 to June 30 in Hartsville, South Carolina.

"Habitat's mission is to build homes for people who have a hard time purchasing their first home ... we help them by kind of accelerating the process," said Elizabeth Cahoon, Woods Church director of youth ministry.

While it often takes Habitat for Humanity several months or years to build a home with a limited number of volunteers, the WoodsWork mission trip com-

pacts the process into just one week, leaving behind a completed house frame.

Youth chair Olivia Blake said not only does the family receive a house they can make into a home, but many of the families also help the team build the house.

"This experience provides them with amazing memories and helps them connect with the house more deeply," Blake said.

Blake, a Severna Park High School senior, has been a part of the WoodsWork mission trip and planning committee for the past two years and is the chair of the committee for her third year of WoodsWork.

Another Severna Park senior, Ryan Kohler, is looking forward to her second year of WoodsWork after a great first experience.

"I just thought it would be a really rewarding experience, which it was," Kohler said. "I didn't even know most of the people when I went on the trip, [but] we were still able to come together and make a house in a week."

The mission trip also offers other opportunities for participants, including daily programs, discussions of faith

and recreational activities.

Cahoon said WoodsWork is a faith-centered mission trip in the Christian faith, but she added that the trip is welcoming to students of all religious backgrounds.

"Somehow, maybe it's God's grace, I don't know, everyone just feels welcome," Cahoon said. "I think it's a testament to having youth lead it."

The WoodsWork committee, made up of 13 students and six adults, has been meeting over the past couple of months to prepare for the summer trip, which Cahoon calls "a beacon of hope" in the community.

"When the week is over, we all feel like we are part of one big family," said Blake, who hopes to encourage more students to sign up this year. "The people you meet on Woodswork are truly lifelong friends."

Woods Church will host two orientations and a car-wash fundraiser for the



trip in the coming months. This year, Woods Church plans to offer new workshops to assist youth in fundraising for their individual trip payment.

"They all bond with each other, and kids from different schools become very trusting of each other," said Vic Marone, head advisor of WoodsWork. "Seeing youth grow in a week's time is a very gratifying thing for me — that is where I get my joy."

Those wishing to register for this summer's WoodsWork can visit the mission trip's Instagram, @woodsworkmd, for more information, or check out the Woods Church website.

Maryland STEM Festival To Host Girl Powerment Event At AACC

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) can be just as fun for girls as it is for boys. With that in mind, the Maryland STEM Festival will host Girl STEM Powerment at Anne Arundel Community College on December 10 from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

The event will include STEM activities and discussions run by STEM students and professionals from companies like Microsoft, McCormick, the U.S. Coast Guard and more. Through one activity, Girl Scouts will be able to earn their basic cybersecurity badge.

Girls from kindergarten through college are encouraged to attend. The event is free, but participants should register by emailing mdstemfest@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.marylandstemfestival.org.

SPHS Changing Principals

» Continued from page 39

ball leagues, spend time on Siesta Key Beach, attend Orioles spring training games in Sarasota, and go fishing, hunting and camping while also enjoying time with his two adult sons who have moved from Severna Park to Florida.

Bathras also plans to travel the U.S. and overseas, enjoying bucket list activities that he now has time to experience.

"It has been a great 30-year run as an educator, and I hope to enjoy the next 30-plus years of my life enjoying time for myself, family and friends," Bathras said.

As the school looks toward the future, Abruzzo will become the new principal on January 2. Abruzzo started in education as a math teacher at Broadneck High School in 2004 before moving to Severna Park in 2010. She has been one of its assistant principals for 12 years. After being heavily involved in that position, Abruzzo is ready to assume her role

as principal.

"I've worked with most of these people for 12 years, but I'm just super excited for us to work even closer together," Abruzzo said. "I know that they know that I'll support them, and I feel the same about them. I know that they are going to support me as well."

Abruzzo aims to complement the school's tradition by leaving her own mark. Students and staff know how dedicated Abruzzo is to her work, and it's clear that the dedication will continue as she assumes her new position.

Severna Park High School social studies department chair Sarah Poole said she's excited to see Abruzzo step into the principal's seat, citing Abruzzo's energy, enthusiasm, and the trust and respect she's earned from the staff.

"I'm hopeful that she will bring innovative educational ideas and some changes, which make a great school even better," Poole said.

Entrepreneurs Give Students Advice During Severna Park Fair

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Nelson Mandela once proclaimed that “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” With some new knowledge from Anne Arundel County business owners, Severna Park High School students have some additional knowledge to aid them in that goal.

Representatives from 15 businesses visited the school for the Entrepreneurial and Innovation Fair this fall. The fair was sponsored by the school’s Signature Program, which offers students opportunities for job shadowing, mentoring, co-curricular clubs, college courses and internships.

Each Anne Arundel County high school’s signature theme is unique and selected by its community. Severna Park High School’s theme is “business, innovation and leadership” — a topic at the forefront of the fall fair.

“[Students] learn about the ups and downs that each business has faced, but every business owner always stresses that being adaptive, and having grit and perseverance, are keys to success,” said Annie Houghton, Signature Program facilitator at Severna Park High School. “This is important for our youth to hear.”

Cheaper Than a Geek founder and “chief geek” Chris Barber told the students they can accomplish anything if they have a plan. Eco Adventures Executive Director Mei Len Sanchez-Barr talked about using her passion and motivation to start a business in her basement and turn it into a respected conservation education facility.

“Being able to talk honestly with students about how the ‘real world’ works is so important,” Sanchez-Barr said in feedback provided to Houghton. “Sometimes, it is not all about grades and SAT scores. It is about how badly are you willing to work for something you love doing? Persistence and determi-



Above: Jackie D’Amico told Severna Park High students about her interior design company, which specializes in remodeling kitchens and bathrooms. **Below:** Cheaper Than a Geek founder and “chief geek” Chris Barber told the students they can accomplish anything if they have a plan.



nation work wonders! In the end, you want a career that fulfills you, not just a job to make ends meet. And yes, you can have both!”

Lisa’s Cakepops owner Lisa Schneiderman shared both the successes and challenges her business has faced.

“It presented a great opportunity for the students to develop their own ideas and goals and not to be afraid to make mistakes,” Schneiderman said. “The only mistake would be not to try.”

Those messages resonated with students.

“I noticed that everyone had a rocky start when opening their business but was able to push through the challenges and become successful,” student Becca Jimeno said.

Seth Macola said, “Every entrepreneur said that you need to do something you love. They all believed that was most important.”

Isabella Tangrea was interested in the networking aspect.

“Networking allows people to learn about others’ experiences and provide advice, which can help lead to a successful business,” she said. “It can help build a customer base.”

Sybella-Jae Mok agreed, saying, “Getting deals on resources from different businesses that you work with gets you a greater profit, so it pays to network.”

Other business speakers included Blendabowl, The Blended Essentials, Henson & Associates, I Got Next Retro Toys and Games, Graphic 37 Print and Design, Jackie D’Amico Designs, JZ Power Washing, The Big Bean, The Matt Wyble Team of CENTURY 21 New Millennium, Perfectly Potsie, StellaLuna Raine, and Cornett Cooling & Heating.

Houghton hopes the students will heed the advice shared by local business owners and pair it with other lessons learned through the Signature Program to make a positive impact in the world.

“I believe entrepreneurship education is important as it teaches students important life skills such as collaborating, speaking in public, handling real and complex problems, using social media for promotional purposes as well as analyzing and using data,” Houghton said. “Entrepreneurship is important for students because it teaches them to become resilient.”

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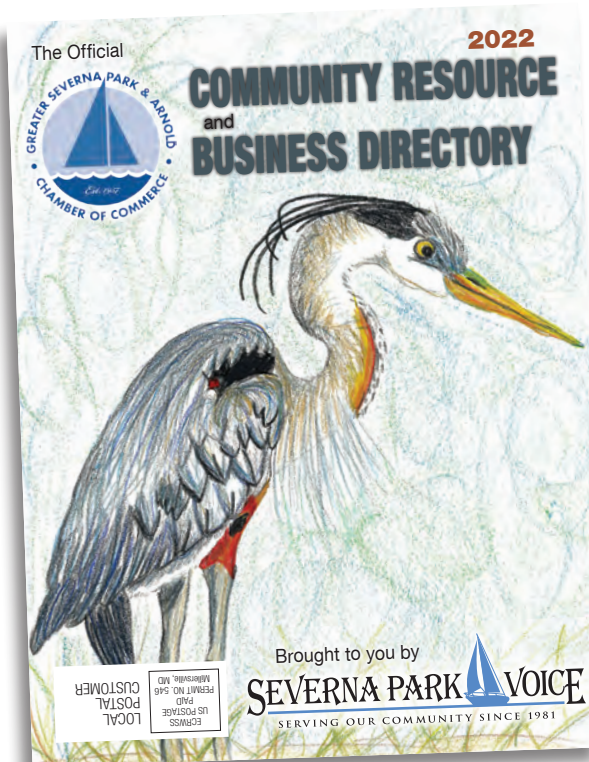
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“The Menu” Serves Up Laughs, Unexpected Twists

By Audrey Ruppert

If you ask the average person on the street why they like a piece of art, any art — food, fashion, music, film, sculpture — they might say, because it tastes good, because it looks good, because it sounds good, because it is entertaining, because it is beautiful. But immerse yourself deeper into the world of any art form, and the wealthy influences behind the “avant garde” or “elite” version of that art form, and the art transforms into something else entirely.

Ever been to a modern art museum and felt completely lost? You know this art is respected, venerated, famous — but it’s just scribbles on a page or blobs of clay you struggle to make sense of. “The Menu” could have been about any art form (in this case, the modality is, of course, food) but the message is universal: the parasitic, capitalist class of people who have sprung up around art — the critic, the name dropper, the “angel investor,” the obsessive devotee, the wealthy denizen who casually consumes expensive art without even

appreciating it — have ruined art. They have killed the spirit and joy behind basic human creativity. Whatever happened to cooking a meal for someone because you just want them to enjoy it? Is calling a teaspoon of sea foam an “amuse-bouche” really necessary?

The film is hard to describe without giving too much away, but the basic premise is that “foodie” Tyler (Nicholas Hoult) takes his date, Margot (Anya Taylor-Joy), to a private island where they enjoy a one-of-a-kind elite dining experience and luxurious meal prepared by a famous chef. The night is not, however, what it initially seems. I would classify this film as a thriller with its unexpected twists and turns. “The Menu” is an excellent character study, with each guest representing a different type of insufferable denizen found at elite restaurants.

Some would call the film as pretentious as the people it is criticizing, but never have I seen a film so aware of itself. Each line is as carefully crafted as the dishes served — a perfect balance

» Continued on page 53



Photo courtesy of Eric Zachanowich/Searchlight Pictures

In “The Menu,” a witty, biting black comedy, Anya Taylor-Joy (right) and her date travel to a private island to enjoy a one-of-a-kind dining experience made possible by the chef, played by Ralph Fiennes (left).



Photo courtesy of Searchlight Pictures

The guests are promised a luxurious meal prepared by a famous chef. The experience is not, however, what it initially seems.

Ho-Ho-Horror

Millersville Author Pens Guide To Holiday Fright Films



Photos by Mark Patton

Matthew C. DuPée authored “A Scary Little Christmas: A History of Yuletide Horror Films, 1972-2020.”

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Matthew C. DuPée has a holiday tradition that he enjoys with his wife and kids every Christmas Eve. They gather around and watch the 2018 film “Santa Jaws,” in which a killer shark sporting a Santa hat terrorizes victims with a pole resembling a candy cane sticking out of its head.

“Taking a peek behind the curtain of the darker side of the holidays can be a lot of fun too,” DuPée said.

The Philadelphia native and now Millersville resident has published a book that serves as a guide to holiday horror films. DuPée’s “A Scary Little Christmas: A History of Yuletide Horror

Films, 1972-2020” was published earlier this year by McFarland.

The 360-page book is broken up into 10 chapters and covers 225 films with themes such as killer Christmas trees, psycho Santas, homicidal holidays and intergalactic Christmas mayhem.

DuPée said his book is a type that he’s always wanted to read

himself as a fan. His work draws information from not just watching countless hours of holiday horror films, but he also spoke to more than 100 filmmakers and actors, many of whom have been out of the industry for decades, during his research.

“I was super grateful that they kind of came out of their retirement to talk about their experiences,” DuPée said.

With a history of co-authoring academic and more serious subject matter as a Department of Navy civilian in Afghanistan, DuPée decided to take on a project that was personal to him.

“This was the first time I thought, ‘Let me write something that I want to write for myself.’”

With that thought in December 2018, DuPée stopped working on his article about illegal mining in

Venezuela and turned his attention to his favorite cinema sub-genre, Christmas horror. For two years, he watched films, conducted interviews and research, and put his pen to paper.

“I wrote a lot of this during the pandemic, so a lot of it was therapeutic in a way, especially at the

» Continued on page 52

“This time of year is always very nostalgic, and it doesn’t get any more nostalgic than the Christmas holiday season. Everything is kind of heightened during the Christmas period, but I think it really serves well with a backdrop of horror.”

— MATTHEW C. DUPÉE

Author Turns Family Tradition Into Children's Book

By Judy Tacyn

It's your birthday and the Birkles are at it again! Sneaking around on the eve of your birthday, playing pranks to make you giggle. Reminding you that you're special and loved. Everyone wants to see one — but the question remains: Can You Catch a Birthday Birkle?"

That's the question readers hope to answer in Julia Inserro's 12th children's book, "Can You Catch a Birthday Birkle?" Her latest work was self-published in October.

Inserro has been a lover of children's books since she picked up her first one as a child and dreamed of writing them one day. She was fascinated with the bright visuals and stories that were short on words but big on impact and message.

When Inserro became a mother of three and life slowly started to settle, the long-held dream of writing a children's book became a stronger desire than ever. While living overseas a few years ago, Inserro's mother in the U.S. was feeling especially separated from her daughter and grandchildren.

"She told me, 'But I looked up at the moon and realized that no matter where you are, you see the same moon,'" Inserro recalled. "While I loved the sentiment, an idea for a book was planted."

That book, "Nonni's Moon," was published in 2018 and sold more than 25,000 copies.

With her children in constant motion, Inserro said that ideas for children's books pop up almost daily. Her Birkle book has been years in the making.

Birthday Birkles started showing up at Inserro's house around family members' birthdays about four years ago. The Birkles would leave a note or spill glitter on the dresser and write a name in the sparkles. Inserro said they like to prank and would sometimes tie socks in knots.

The Birthday Birkle was born in Inserro's mind after seeing how excited kids got following the Elf on the Shelf during the Christmas season.

"I really wanted to have that kind of excitement year-

round," Inserro said. "Best of all, the Birthday Birkle comes just for you."

There are six Birkles in the book — Wuzzle, NyNy, LeeLee, Meeple, Quibba and Snoob — and each has their own quirky personality. The troll-like troublemakers from Inserro's imagination were brought to life by illustrator Oana Gheorghe, who used modeling material to create each figure. He then digitally edited them for the book with Inserro's children providing feedback throughout the design process.

The author's previous books cover a range of topics. In one of her series, Inserro explores sensory emotional learning, and a pair of other books tackle subjects of big feelings and how to handle them.

She recalled going into her daughter's room one day and asking what she was doing. Her daughter sharply replied that she was "building an angry tent."

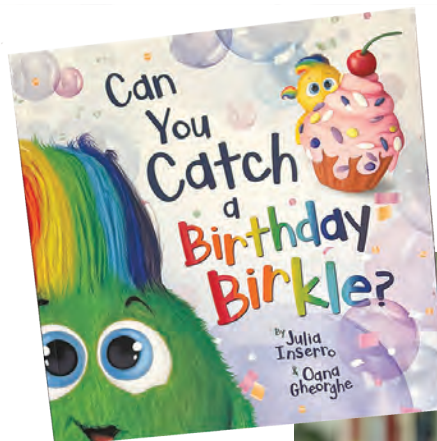
"So I helped her build the tent, then we talked about feelings and why she had them," Inserro said. "My children give me ideas all the time."

Another one of Inserro's works, "Do-Over Day," is a book about those times when everything goes wrong, whether it's a sibling getting to push the elevator button to the grocery store being out of a favorite cereal.

"It's cognitive behavioral therapy for children; think, feel, do," Inserro said. "My books have messages for children and the adults that love them."

Inserro said she has other manuscripts drafted and is excited to see what direction her writing takes her. If the Birkle book is a success with readers, she has ideas for more Birkle mischief.

Inserro's books are available in stores and online.



Julia Inserro published "Can You Catch a Birthday Birkle?" in October. The Birthday Birkle was born in Inserro's mind after seeing how excited kids got following the Elf on the Shelf during the Christmas season.



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After three decades of developing dance in Anne Arundel County, Chesapeake Ballet Company (CBC) of Maryland's executive director, Barbara "Barb" Haskell, is retiring.

Haskell brought dance to the community by opening The Dance Academy in Severna Park 30 years ago. She then founded the Chesapeake Ballet Company 17 years ago.

CBC gives her aspiring dancers a means of exhibiting their talents within the community and inspiring new dancers to explore their abilities. Her love of the arts and dedication to offering a fully student-based company has been the hallmark of her tenure with CBC.

Naming Noelle Reese the incoming director of CBC, Haskell passes the torch to another competent community leader. Reese comes to the company with more than 30 years of experience in the arts and arts administration.

"I could not be leaving the organization in better hands," Haskell said. "I have loved my time as a teacher and

director, and though retirement was a difficult decision, this transition is a natural next step for the company and me. I respect Noelle as a leader and artist. I look forward to supporting her and the organization through the coming season."

Through this transition, CBC will continue delivering the same full-length productions it always has. Artistic direction remains in the hands of Dmitri Malikov and Ninel Cherevko. Currently, company members are in rehearsal, preparing for the annual presentation of the magical holiday classic "The Nutcracker." Shows will run at The Children's Theatre of Annapolis from December 10-18. Haskell has committed to bring her sense of fun and humor to the stage as her favorite character, Mother Ginger, for selected shows.

For tickets to CBC shows or for more information, visit www.chesapeakeballet-company.com.

Barb Haskell Bids Farewell To Chesapeake Ballet Company

"I have loved my time as a teacher and director, and though retirement was a difficult decision, this transition is a natural next step for the company and me."

— **BARB HASKELL**



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Ho-Ho-Horror

» Continued from page 49

beginning when it was really kind of frightening, everything shutting down,” DuPée said.

One of DuPée’s biggest surprises during his research was the fact that about 90 percent of the filmmakers he interviewed cited the commercially successful 1984 film “Gremlins” as their biggest inspiration to make a Christmas horror film.

“‘Gremlins’ is billed as a family film, but if you really look at it, it’s a pretty dark horror film,” DuPée said.

That movie came out in a period that was also influential to DuPée. With the home video market coming on, the young DuPée had access to more horror films. It was an uncle who first exposed him to

Universal Monster Classics and his older brother expanded his viewing from there.

Before too long, his passion for horror led him to film school at the Pittsburgh-based Point Park University. DuPée spent a couple of years in the film industry before the events of 9/11 transpired and DuPée felt a calling to support the defense community.

DuPée is excited about the future of holiday horror films with new releases constantly being offered and more young people discovering Christmas fright films dating back 50 years with the grainy film adding a touch of nostalgia.

“I know that the subgenre is definitely healthy and in a thriving period, which is really exciting,” DuPée said.

With so many titles, new and old, to choose from, DuPée doesn’t hesitate when asked what his favorite is. “Black Christmas” directed by Bob Clark and released in 1974.

“It’s got everything you could possibly want,” said DuPée, noting the slasher movie’s combination of humor and darker material.

With so many hours watching yuletide terror take place on his screen, it’s no surprise that the author wouldn’t mind producing a film himself one day.

“You get so familiar with the content and the details of these things,” DuPée said. “You can’t help but be inspired.”

DuPée will spend this month on a cross-country book tour that’s leading him to Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New Jersey and Atlanta.

He’ll even host a panel during one stop with actors from iconic holiday horror films.

DuPée’s love of the holiday season isn’t limited to screams and terror, though. He’s just as comfortable trimming a tree as he is watching one terrorize a family.

“This time of year is always very nostalgic, and it doesn’t get any more nostalgic than the Christmas holiday season,” DuPée said. “Everything is kind of heightened during the Christmas period, but I think it really serves well with a backdrop of horror.”

DuPée’s book is available through online booksellers and in select locations. Signed and personalized copies can be purchased through his website, www.matthewdupée.com, at no extra cost.

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“The Menu”

» Continued from page 49

of seriousness and self-deprecation. Don't feel turned off by the culinary terminology — this film is not for the consumers it studies, the people eating and spending \$1,250 per head on a dining experience. It is for the pure enjoyment of the everyman who finds these people ridiculous, unethical, or pitiable. It is a witty, biting black comedy and the entire cinema erupted into laughter multiple times throughout my visit.

Anya Taylor-Joy's acting is incredible as always, and she plays her character well. She represents those among us who've worked in the service industry, those of us who have brushed shoulders with the wealthy and elite through serving them but know we'll never be one of them — even if we eventually manage to wear the right clothes and sit at the right table.

For my birthday this year, my partner took me to a world-famous restaurant, The Gordon Ramsay, in London. I had a panic attack in the first 15 minutes of the meal, which I just about managed to conceal. With a dozen waiters, the maitre d' and the sommelier all fussing over me and serving a dozen tiny dishes with ingredients I had never heard the name of (and I love to cook), I had never felt so uncomfortable. I had interacted with the characters in this intimate dining room all my life. I had tutored their children, just about managed to go to school with some of them, served them shots off trays in Chelsea nightclubs and poured them expensive wine in French brasseries. And yet I knew so acutely I did not belong there, that I was wrongly dressed, and I felt like everyone was looking at me, the way everyone looks at Margot in the film — why was *she* there? It took me a few minutes to realize I was being silly and that these people were no better than I was — something Margot recognizes right away.

The film is a character study of the consumers, but it's also a study of service workers. There are the survivalists, like Margot and myself. There is the ambitious, like the chef (Ralph Fiennes, who is top-notch in this film by the way). There are the people who seek validation and acclaim from great chefs, from food critics, from celebrity customers, but never quite find what they're looking for. There are the people who used to love their craft, but after years of obsession have forgotten why they got into the industry in the first place.

I'm aware I'm part of the problem, as a film critic. Maybe the Marvel films aren't so bad after all — don't people enjoy them? I say, enjoy “The Menu” — even if you're not here for the social commentary, it is extremely funny and the twists are unexpected. The acting is strong throughout and none of the characters are cardboard placeholders — you will find yourself invested in each of their stories. You'll spend most of the film guessing what the maniacal chef's game is, and the payoff is both hilarious and rewarding. One of the cleverest films I've ever seen.

CTA Welcomes New Technical Director



ATTICUS C. BOIDY

CTA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



Children's Theatre of Annapolis (CTA) has hired Atticus Boyd as its full-time technical director.

No stranger to CTA, Boyd has long been involved as both an artistic staff member, technical designer and teaching artist. Most recently, he helmed CTA's productions of Roald Dahl's “Matilda the Musical” and “Annie” as director. Additionally, Boyd has directed productions at many other local theaters and schools, as well as worked in lighting design, stage management, set design and scenic artistry.

“I am absolutely thrilled to be working with CTA as its full-time technical director,” Boyd shared. “CTA has been a home theater for me since 2018, and I am looking forward to many more successful years to come. As an artist, taking on this position feels like a dream come true. As technical director, my goal is to continue to elevate the quality of productions and teach new children and volunteers the joys of technical theater.”

Hippodrome Theatre To Show “Jagged Little Pill” And “My Fair Lady”

The France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, home of the Hippodrome Theatre, has two upcoming shows to get theater-goers excited. For tickets, visit www.france-merrickpac.com.

“Jagged Little Pill”

December 13-18

Joy, love, heartache, strength, wisdom, catharsis, life — it's all here in the exhilarating, fearless new musical based on Alanis Morissette's music.

Directed by Tony Award winner Diane Paulus (“Waitress,” “Pippin,” upcoming “1776”) with a Tony-winning book by Diablo Cody (“Juno”) and Grammy-winning score, this electrifying production about a perfectly imperfect American family “vaults the audience to its collective feet,” according to The Guardian.



“My Fair Lady”

January 10-15

From Lincoln Center Theater, which brought audiences “The King and I” and “South Pacific,” comes a sumptuous new production, Lerner and Loewe's “My Fair Lady.” Director Bartlett Sher's glowing production is “thrilling, glorious and better than it ever was,” according to the New York Times.

Boasting such classic songs as “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “The Rain in Spain,” “Wouldn't It Be Lovely” and “On the Street Where You Live,” “My Fair Lady” tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a young Cockney flower seller, and Henry Higgins, a linguistics professor who is determined to transform her into his idea of a “proper lady.” But who is really being transformed?

Author Pens Work On American Sculptor

By Judy Tacyn

James Haas left his College Point neighborhood in the New York City borough of Queens in 1965, but a big part of his heart stayed behind in New York. The Severna Park resident of more than 40 years channeled his hometown's past with the publishing of his fifth book, "Hermon Atkins MacNeil: American Sculptor in the Broad, Bright Daylight," in November.

The subject of his latest work of nonfiction was also a resident of College Point from 1902 until his death in 1947. During those years, MacNeil produced more than 250 pieces and was one of the most accomplished and highly respected sculptors of his era. Haas' book is a detailed manuscript filled with more than 200 photos and images of the master's art and chronicles of his life and career.

"Every day, in cities and towns across America, people pass by monuments, reliefs on buildings, or even glance at the face of a coin and never consider the human beings that brought them into existence, the discussions about the symbolism of the piece or even its placement," Haas said. "This book brings all of this to life, including details of the political and historical environment of the era, the accolades and the rejections."

While conducting research for a previous book that chronicled how a village in New York City experienced World War I, Haas was alerted to MacNeil and his community involvement.

"Because he had created the 1916 U.S. quarter, he was already someone generally familiar to

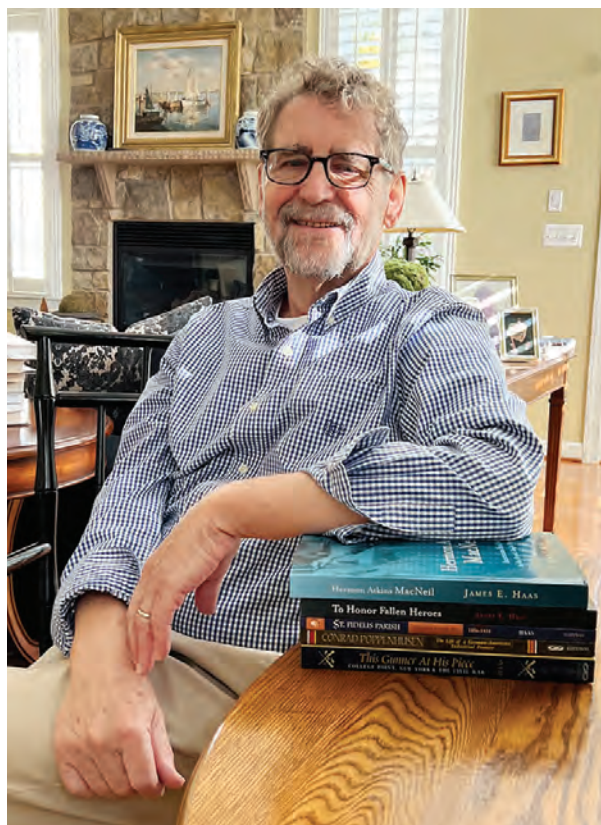


Photo by Judy Tacyn

In November, Severna Park resident James Haas published his fifth book, "Hermon Atkins MacNeil: American Sculptor in the Broad, Bright Daylight."

College Pointers, so when editing the World War I book, I pondered the MacNeil bio as my next subject," Haas said.

Haas thought the MacNeil research would be something for local consumption, but when he learned that no one had previously penned a MacNeil biography, Haas knew what his next

project would be.

MacNeil journeyed from Massachusetts to study in various stateside locations before heading to Europe. He then landed in the southwestern U.S. prior to settling in Queens. Haas' book includes intimate stories of MacNeil's personal life as it chronicles the development of the artist and evolution of his art career.

After attending Buffalo Bill's Wild West show at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, MacNeil became fascinated with the culture, rituals and lives of Native Americans. He had a prolific career capturing the eyes and faces of significant figures of the Sioux, Navajo, Moqui and Hopi Indian tribes in sculpture.

MacNeil's largest works include three relief panels installed above the Palace of Fine Arts, now known as the St. Louis Art Museum, in 1904. In the early '30s, he worked on "Justice: The Guardian of Liberty," a towering relief on the eastern side of the U.S. Supreme Court building.

As an homage to his hometown, Haas donated all his research, including previously undocumented photographs and articles dating back more than 140 years, to the Poppenhusen Institute, a cultural center and museum in College Point.

It's not just MacNeil whom Haas has gained knowledge about during the composing of his latest work.

"I've learned a great deal about sculpture and the development of art throughout the decades," Haas said.

Haas said since he's written about College Point, the Civil War and World War I, he plans to focus on World War II for his next project.

Haas has compiled a list of more than 1,500 men and women from his hometown who served in the U.S. military during World War II. After the promotion of his MacNeil book, Haas will start work on his next self-published book.

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An Ode To Retirement

Jason LaBarge
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A poem by Jason LaBarge

*A lifetime of hard work has led to this
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Well, whatever in life is most important to you!
Should it be travel, time with family and friends?
A new hobby, relaxing all day - the list never ends!
Painting, woodworking, what's something new?
A plethora of skills you could accrue
The freedom and flexibility will be abundant*

*Keeping a schedule will seem redundant!
Being more present in each passing day
Your new daily routine is booking that getaway!
Planning is crucial for these anticipated years
Let the "retirement sherpa" help mitigate your fears
A savings and income are important, it's true
Retirement should be the best time for you!
So, for this holiday season
Let this poem be the reason
You decide to retire*

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UM BWMC Appoints Kristin Feliciano As Senior Vice President Of Strategy

University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) appointed Kristin Feliciano as the senior vice president of strategy for the organization in November.

Feliciano brings significant experience as a strategy officer and business development leader to UM BWMC, where she will oversee strategic planning for the organization and its clinical programs in an effort to meet the changing needs of the community and the larger University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS). In this role, Feliciano will also advise UM BWMC's board of directors and senior leadership on business planning operations, based on the latest market research and analysis.

"Kristin's vision for developing quality health care services, combined with her experience in operations and business development, will help UM BWMC continue to provide essential services to our community," said Kathy McCollum, president and chief executive officer of UM BWMC. "She joins us at a pivotal time, when we are evaluating what we've learned from the pandemic and evolving our strategy to better align with emerging care needs affecting residents of Anne Arundel County and the region."

This position marks Feliciano's return to UMMS, the parent organization of UM BWMC. For more than a decade, Feliciano served in leadership roles with UMMS, first as director of business development at University of Maryland Medical Center, followed by vice president for women's and children's services. Most recently, Feliciano served



Kristin Feliciano

as the chief strategy officer for Holy Cross Health, where she designed future-focused strategic initiatives leading teams to advance care in hospital-based service lines and across sites of care throughout the community. She was also a vice president at Inova Fairfax Hospital, where she led daily operations of adult inpatient services, new business development, physician partnership strategies, and the planning and implementation of capital improvement projects and other programs aimed at increasing efficiencies while elevating patient satisfaction. "I am pleased to rejoin the University of Maryland Medical System in my new role with UM BWMC," Feliciano said. "I'm excited to work with the hospital and outpatient care teams to create additional opportunities to share our services in all of the communities we serve. Our goal is to make sure all residents have an opportunity to get the care they need, when and where they need it."

Feliciano served as a member of the finance committee for Nexus Montgomery's board of directors in addition to being a guest lecturer at George Washington University, Georgetown University and Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of Lehigh University and received her master's degree in healthcare administration from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



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

Front Porch Travel - Every moment of your trip is carefully crafted and personalized when you work with Front Porch Travel. Celebrating a special occasion? Have food restrictions that need attention? Have a preferred mode of transportation? Special needs? Let them know, and they will accommodate you.

Invigorate Wellness LLC - Invigorate Wellness LLC is an IV hydration clinic skilled in administering micro-nutrients (vitamins, minerals, amino acids) and medications that aid in promoting total health and wellness. IV hydration helps with chronic pain, hangovers, skin care, migraines and weak immune systems. Additional complementary and alternative medical services, such as medical cannabis certifications, are also offered.

Elite Plumbing and Home Services - The team proudly serves Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Howard County, Baltimore City, and more, providing high-quality work with fair rates and leading warranties on plumbing services. Elite Plumbing gives upfront pricing and written estimates and free comprehensive (point) plumbing inspection while at service call.

Work Life Behavioral Health and Professional Training - Work Life Behavioral Health and Professional Training LLC offers comprehensive outpatient mental health and addiction counseling services to children, adults and families. It offers walk-in, appointment and teletherapy services. Accepted insurances include Medicaid, Medicare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Cigna.

My Commercial Capital - My Commercial Capital can provide your business with the working capital you need to grow. Its commercial finance solutions are structured to provide maximum benefits to borrowers, who can trust them with all their financing needs. My Commercial Capital has a wide variety of business loans from which to choose and other business offerings to help you exceed your business goals.

DodgeBow Anne Arundel - DodgeBow Anne Arundel is an adrenaline game of shooting and dodging foam-tipped arrows. The gameplay is similar to dodgeball, but with bows and arrows. The goal of the game is to

shoot opposing players with arrows in order to eliminate them from the game. Stay tuned for the grand opening in December.

Sweet Satisfaction MD LLC - This is an ice cream truck like no other. Sweet Satisfaction offers fresh hand-dipped ice cream, soft ice cream, hot fudge sundaes, Cinnabombs, pastries, floats, Oreo brownies, warm salted caramel fudge cake, white chocolate lava cake, pineapple upside-down cake, push-pops, and more, all delivered to you with a cherry on top! The team is available for your event, and you can find the truck at festivals too.

Schwab Insurance Agency LLC - Alex and his family have served our community with Allstate Insurance for three generations. When you want to explore options for protecting your home, personal property, or financial future, Alex is there and available to answer your questions. He can help you find a plan to fit your lifestyle and budget. In addition to Maryland, he also serves Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and Washington, D.C.

Robin Cermak with Keller Williams Integrity - A Maryland native, Robin brings decades of experience when working with clients to find the perfect home. Her belief is that knowledge of today's real estate market leads to her being able to help her clients make good decisions that are easy to live with. When clients know what to expect at each step along the way, it makes the entire transaction more enjoyable for everyone.

Lauren Burleigh - Lindquist Insurance - Choosing the right personal or business insurance policy can be challenging. Lauren can help you purchase the right insurance at the best price so that you can protect what matters most. Lindquist Insurance is one of the area's leading providers of automobile, home, business, bond and life insurance products with a comprehensive suite of solutions.

First National Bank, Annapolis Branch - From personal to business banking, FNB has all the right solutions to save you time and money so you can focus on the business of success. And the bank has an online store where you can shop and buy products and financial services. Easily apply online or schedule an appointment for expert, in-person guidance.

A ribbon-cutting was held for the grand opening of **Lean on Dee Senior Home Care** in Severna Park. Impressive owners Winsome Brown and Danielle Morgan have grown the business over the past three years to 12 full-time employees offering specialized services, which include dementia care and more.

» Continued on page 58



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Brian M. Conrad
CFP
Financial Advisor



challenges — and that means you'll need to build in different layers of protection.

What are these challenges — and what types of protection can be used to defend against them? Consider the following:

Challenge 1: Protecting your ability to reach your goals — To achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you'll need to build adequate financial resources. And that means you'll need to create an investment portfolio that's suitable for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon. And you'll need to keep your long-term goals in mind when adjusting your portfolio during times of volatility.

Challenge 2: Protecting your family's future if you're not around — Hopefully, you will live a long life and always be around to support your family. But the future is not ours to see — and if something were to happen to you, how would your family cope? Their chances could be much better if you have adequate life insurance. Proper coverage could help pay off your mortgage, pay for your children's higher education and allow your family to continue its lifestyle.

Challenge 3: Protecting your income should you become temporarily disabled — If you were to become ill or temporarily disabled and could not work for a while, the disruption in your income could jeopardize your family's living situation, or, at the least, lead to an inability to pay bills in a timely fashion. To protect against this threat, you may want to consider adding disability insurance. Your employer may offer a short-term disability policy as an

To achieve your financial security, and that of your family, you will need to create a comprehensive strategy. But for this strategy to succeed, you'll need to guard it from various

employee benefit, but it may be insufficient, either in duration or in amount of coverage, so you may want to look at a private policy.

Challenge 4: Protecting your long-term investments from short-term needs — Life is full of unexpected expenses — a major car repair, a new furnace, a large bill from the dentist, and so on. If you did not have the money available to deal with these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments, such as your IRA or 401(k). Taking money from these accounts earlier than you intended could incur taxes and penalties, and, even more importantly, could reduce the amount of money you have available for retirement. To help protect these investments from short-term needs for cash, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in cash or a liquid account.

Challenge 5: Protecting your financial independence — You would probably do all you could to avoid ever becoming a burden to your grown children — which is why it's so important to maintain your financial independence throughout your life. One potential threat to this independence is the need for some type of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, which can be extremely expensive. A financial professional can suggest protection strategies to help you prepare for these types of costs.

It can be challenging to keep your financial strategy intact — so do whatever it takes to protect it.

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

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

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Snyder|Bradshaw Group Raises \$4,000 For Wellness House

Carol Snyder, Tina Bradshaw and the Snyder|Bradshaw Group of Monument Sotheby's International Realty hosted their fourth annual Cocktails for a Cause charity event on November 4.

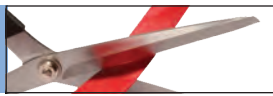
This year's beneficiary was Wellness House of Annapolis. Mary Jermann, executive director, shared with the crowd the importance and uniqueness of Wellness House.

The event included an oyster shucker, mobile bar, live band and delicious seasonal fare. Through generous donations from partners and guests, the Snyder|Bradshaw Group raised over \$4,000 for Wellness House. With their donations, guests had chances to win the "Aww Shucks" raffle basket, featuring a private mobile oyster bar event, oyster swag, beverage tub, wine and more. Priscilla Kania of Arnold was the lucky winner.

The donations will help Wellness House of Annapolis continue to provide many programs and services - free of charge - to those touched by cancer.

"We are very honored that so many clients and friends were able to come out and support the Wellness House of Annapolis," said Carol Snyder, co-founder and partner of the Snyder|Bradshaw Group. "It was such a wonderful event, and we were able to double our fundraising goal for the night!"

RIBBON CUTTING



Lean On Dee Celebrates Grand Reopening

Danielle Morgan and Winsome Brown cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand reopening of Lean On Dee in November. The family-owned business provides customized senior care to help individuals stay in their homes independently and safely.

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SPRFC, Narlycode Raise Funds For American Cancer Society

(L-R) Narlycode owners David Johnson and Mark Gruszecki celebrated the donation with SPRFC Assistant to Director of Operations Leah Larrieu, SPRFC Director of Operations Katie Handy, American Cancer Society Director of Operations Beth Garbolino and Director of Membership Shelly Kozlowski. Not pictured are SPRFC owners Nabil and Debbie Badro.



Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness, or SPRFC, in collaboration with Narlycode, a Laurel-based software development company, donated more than \$3,500 to the American Cancer Society in November.

Narlycode is owned and operated by David Johnson and Mark Gruszecki, who is also a fitness instructor at Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness.

A contest was established in October where SPRFC members had to take 15 classes in 31 days. For every member who completed the challenge, \$100 was donated by Narlycode. If a member took a new class or used a different instructor, an additional \$10 was donated by Narlycode. SPRFC donated \$500 at the end of the challenge to top off the gift from Narlycode.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 55

Our Successful Women in Business group held a mixer at **Park Home** in Severna Park. New owner Brittany Meade welcomed more than 25 attendees to network and shop in the beautiful store, which features many unique gifts for the holiday.

Our Wellness Committee featured **Strong. Bold. Healthy** owner Sara Heilman, who delivered a fascinating talk about food insecurities and being at peace with food. She spoke about her own weight and image struggles, and not surprisingly, her business is doing fantastically well.

We were so excited for our tree-lighting event at the chamber. The event featured music, live performances from **Creative Force Dance Center**, the **Severna Park Elementary School chorus** and the **Dance Center of Severna Park**. We also had Santa, the Grinch, Max and more. We also had a special surprise with some big sponsors — **The Big Bean**, **The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium**, and **Maryland Lighting and Sprinklers**. Other wonderful sponsors are **Advance Auto Parts**, **DeMaio Family Chiropractic and Physical Therapy**, **Chick-fil-A** and **Sweet Satisfaction** (serving mini peppermint sundaes).

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