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FEBRUARY 2023

Rock 'N' Roll Revival Returns For Music And Movies



Severna Park High students practiced choreography during rehearsal.

By Alyson Kay

Severna Park High School students will return to the stage in March for seven nights of nostalgia at the 34th annual Rock 'N' Roll Revival production.

This year's show is dubbed "RNR XXXIV Goes to the Movies," and will have a set list with 29 songs from movies throughout the ages.

The theme was chosen by former Severna Park High School teacher and drama advisor Angie Germanos, shortly before she retired last year. Karah Parks, the new drama advisor, loved it.

"It's like a double whammy in terms of audience recognition of what's going on onstage," Parks said.

Songs appearing in the show include "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton, "Lose Yourself" by Eminem, "Ballroom Blitz" by The Sweet and "Danger Zone" by Kenny Loggins.

"I think people are in for a really great surprise with some fun twists based on" **» Continued on page 2**

Severna Park High School, County Address Bullying

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park High School (SPHS) and Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) are taking steps aimed at creating a safer and more welcoming environment in schools.

The measures follow on the heels of a video that was made public last month of a student at Severna Park bullying a special needs student with threatening, obscene and racist language in the high school's cafeteria. A subsequent video of the perpetrator shows the teenager running through the woods shouting racial hate speech.

"That's not who we are," said SPHS Principal Lindsay Abruzzo. "I will not tolerate it moving forward."

Abruzzo said she fielded phone calls from around the world in the following days as the video went viral.

The original video was taken during lunch on January 4, according to an investigation. On January 10, the video was airdropped to students at Severna Park High School. Shortly after, students and staff members formed a line at the main office to report the incident. School officials said the bullying was reported to appropriate agencies and offices, including the police.

According to a 2022 legislative report to the Maryland General Assembly on bullying, harassment or intimidation in Maryland Public Schools, 496 bullying

incidents were reported during the 2020-21 school year, which was partly virtual due to the pandemic, in the state's public schools. Anne Arundel County had 88 reported incidents in that timeframe — the most of any county in the state. The school year prior, Anne Arundel County fielded the third most bullying reports in the state with 717.

In response to the video, AACPS Superintendent Mark Bedell led a community conversation centered around acceptance and inclusion during late January at SPHS.

During the event, Abruzzo informed the crowd that the perpetrator in the video is no longer a student at the school.

Bedell stressed acceptance, accessibility and sense of belonging during his remarks while noting that he was meeting with the police chief the following day to address hate issues in the county.

"The perception is the reality," Bedell said.

To that point, County Executive Stuart Pittman noted that Anne Arundel County had the highest number of hate bias reports in Maryland during his first year in office. As of 2021, Anne Arundel was No. 4 behind Montgomery, Baltimore and Howard counties, according to the Maryland Department of State Police report.

During the break-out discussions that occurred at the high school, several **» Continued on page 10**



Above: During a January event at SPHS, Superintendent Mark Bedell stressed acceptance, accessibility and sense of belonging. Below: Students painted rocks with kindness and acceptance themes on February 9.



It's Time To Vote For The Best Of Severna Park

The Voice wants to know which businesses, restaurants, services and venues in Greater Severna Park have become your favorites over the past year. It's simple — just fill out the survey and return it to the Voice by March 21. We will then tally all the votes and announce this year's winners in our April 6 edition.

You may also cast your ballot by voting online at www.severnaparkvoice.com/bestofsevernapark.

The Rules

- Nominees must be located within the Severna Park Voice distribution area zip codes — 21146 (Severna

Park), 21012 (Arnold) and 21108 (Millersville).

- Entries must be made on original newsprint — **no photocopies, faxes, scans or emails** — and must be mailed to the Voice (one entry per household).
- Responses should not use nicknames. For example, "The Taphouse" could be Severna Park Taphouse or Adam's Taphouse and Grille. Be clear if you want your vote to count.
- Mailing of **multiple ballots will not be accepted**. Voters must fill in nominations for at least **25** categories for the ballot to be valid. If you are nominating a business that has multiple

locations, **please specify the exact location you are nominating.**

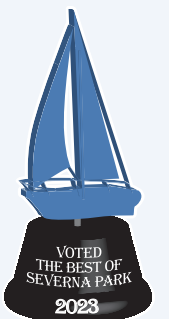
- Entries should be mailed to Severna Park Voice, P.O. Box 608, Severna Park, Maryland, 21146.

The Dates

Deadline for entry is **March 21**. The winners will be announced in the April issue.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to announcing the winners you select!

Find the best of ballot on page 6.



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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.



Variety Show Volunteer Sets Stage For Big Moments

By Lauren Cowin

A clumsy dinosaur interrupting a ballad. Sister acts. Kindergartners in matching “girl power” shirts.

These are some of the unique acts that make the annual Severna Park Elementary School Variety Show special, and what brings Shannon Pearson back year after year as the volunteer chairperson.

“The excitement and energy coming out of them, it was the cutest thing ever. I still get chills thinking about it,” recalled Pearson of one such performance from years past.

The mother of three, whose two youngest children are in fourth and fifth grades, has been involved with the show since her oldest, now in middle school, was in kindergarten. She has served as the chairperson since 2019.

“It’s a huge job, but it’s a fun job,” Pearson said of the weeks she has spent, and will continue to spend, collecting submissions, answering parent emails, putting acts in order for the show, working out logistics and rehearsing for the March 24 event.

Pearson always had a strong desire to be involved in her children’s school and social lives. Combine that with her commitment to community service, her Type A personality and a background in musical theater, and volunteering for the variety show was a no-brainer.

“I jokingly say that volunteering is my full-time job because I’m blessed and lucky enough to stay home with my



Shannon Pearson has volunteered on the Severna Park Elementary School Variety Show since 2016.

kids, and I just want to be a part of it. I want to help,” said Pearson, who serves as a Cub Scout den leader in addition to the multiple volunteer duties she takes on at the school.

Pearson reflected fondly on the participation of third-grade teacher Jennie Merrill, who has served as the faculty volunteer for many years, and is frequently hit up to participate in the student acts.

“That woman is a saint,” Pearson said. “Some of my favorite memories are of the acts that Jennie has been a part of.”

The praise is mutual. “Shannon is amazing,” Merrill said. “She has a passion to see all students’

gifts highlighted and brought to the stage. She is a dream to work with and she never leaves a stone unturned when it comes to putting together our fabulous show.”

This will be the school’s 17th year of hosting the variety show. It was originally designed by a group of moms who wanted the kids to have the opportunity for a “shining star moment,” Pearson said.

Variety Show was the brainchild of former Severna Park Elementary School parent Loretta Wilson. She, along with two other moms from the school, Jennifer MacFarland and Jennifer Sovern, passed away from breast cancer within a few years of each other. Since then, the show morphed from simply a fun way to display the students’ talents to a fundraiser benefiting the Luminis Health Fortney Breast Center in their honor.

The hours and dedication put in by Pearson and her team ensure that Wilson’s original vision for Variety Show — creating moments for the students to shine — never fades.

Pearson said it makes it all worth it to see the kids onstage when the curtain opens, and they take in the audience and see the producers sitting at the table smiling.

“Seeing the energy and the pride that comes from them knowing that they’re having fun and doing good jobs, seeing the parents and how excited they are — that’s awesome,” Pearson said. “That’s a great feeling.”

Rock ‘N’ Roll Revival Returns For Music And Movies

» Continued from page 1

their favorite songs from their favorite movies,” said student producer and cast member Gianna Dicks.

Rehearsals kicked off in the beginning of January. Since then, the team has done a couple of song rehearsals and a couple of dance rehearsals. Staff are also beginning the process of building the set and working on lighting cues.

“We’ve only had a couple of weeks, but so far we’ve gotten through a lot of stuff,” Dicks said.

Dicks’ interest in the show started at an early age when she first saw it as an elementary school student, and it grew until she finally auditioned as a freshman. Now a senior, she has participated in various roles all four years in high school.

“I had the privilege of being a student director last year and student producer this year, and it’s such an exciting thing to be a part of the process,” Dicks said.

Student director and cast member Cooper Powell has also been participating in the production all four years of high school and grew up watching it as a child.

“I feel like everyone gets their chance to shine,” Powell said.

As a student director, Powell has a new role in the production, along with his rehearsals as a cast member.

“I also help with backup rehearsals where I get to choreograph backup moves, which is really fun,” Powell said.

Student tech and sound director Ella Bowen was inspired to join the production’s tech crew in freshman year by a fellow Severna Park High School student she was working with at the time.

“Working with everybody is definitely one of the highlights of everything,” Bowen said.

Co-director and vocal director Michael Brisentine started as a music teacher at Severna Park High School. During his time as a music teacher, he grew to appreciate the show.

“I thought it was a very cool production and it gives the kids a chance to shine,” Brisentine said. “I just wanted to involve myself to try and make sure that it went as beautifully and smoothly as possible.”

Although Emily DeLisle recently started working as choreographer on the Rock ‘N’ Roll Revival production team, she was also involved in the show as a student until 2010.

“Rock ‘N’ Roll was the absolute

highlight of my time there each year,” DeLisle said.

Dance rehearsal for the show tends to be an involved process.

“We try to knock out a full three minutes of choreography for a two-and-a-half-hour dance rehearsal,” DeLisle said.

The students are learning quickly. “These kids are incredibly talented,” DeLisle said. “The production team can throw anything at them, and they will rise to the challenge, and they’ve been very quick to pick up any choreography.”

The show will run from March 9-12 as well as March 16-18. Tickets are on sale now at www.sphsdrama.com/rock-n-roll-revival.

Correction: Green Hornets

On page 22 of the January 2023 edition, the Green Hornets third- and fourth-grade girls team, the Blue Crabs, was erroneously labeled as a boys team. We regret the error.



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Ellie Wyble's Short Life Blooms Long Legacy

By Judy Tacyn

Ellie Elizabeth Wyble would be 6 years old in her home in Severna Forest; a first-grader painting a shoebox red and making personalized heart-shaped love notes for her entire class in anticipation of Valentine's Day. But she never got the chance. She only lived two and a half months.

What can be done in only two and a half months? Retailers have Christmas merchandise on their shelves longer than two and a half months. A high school sports season is longer than two and a half months, and buyers can wait longer than that for their new vehicle to be delivered. Two and a half months can pass in the blink of an eye.

In 2016, Matt and Ashleigh Wyble's second child was born. She was just learning to smile, giggle and show her personality when she suddenly, and unexplainably, died.

At that time, Matt said there were two ways to react to the tragedy.

"Option one was to dig a hole and hide in it, and option two was to dig a hole and build a garden for the world to see," Matt explained in 2016. "It took 24 hours for Ashleigh and me to realize we were option two people."

A GoFundMe was created to fund a garden and meditation labyrinth at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. What started as a \$5,000 goal tuned into a \$20,000 success.

Their shock in grief turned into motivation to support other parents who, in the blink of an eye, experience the loss of a child. The For Ellie Foundation was created, and once again, the tiny child named after her grandmother was bringing light and kindness into the world.

Ellie's Cart of Hope filled with toys, games and therapy aids was created at Anne Arundel Medical Center, along with a \$20,000 donation. With more donations coming in, a second Ellie's Cart and a book cart were purchased for the pediatric unit at Baltimore Washington Medical Center (BWMC). The foundation also created Hope Totes for parents who are without essential items during



Ashleigh and Matt Wyble appeared at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center with Ellie's Cart and a Hope Tote.

hospital stays.

The Wybles could have stopped after a year of deep community outreach, but like baby Ellie, the foundation was barely getting started.

A year after the completion of the garden at Woods, a child-sized bench was added. Each year, moonflower vines are planted on either side of the bench to act as trellises. By late summer, several large moonflowers are in bloom. The Wyble family will often visit the garden and walk the labyrinth.

"Matt and I continue to be surprised and amazed by the community's support of the For Ellie Foundation," Ashleigh said. "We had no idea what this endeavor would turn into in the immediacy, and especially now more than six years later. We are so grateful that we are still able to spread kindness and help our community."

More than 1,900 Hope Totes have been delivered

to Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center and University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center combined. The For Ellie Foundation continues to fundraise through what's become its signature event, a cornhole tournament, raising at least \$10,000 each year. The next tournament is scheduled for March 11. Proceeds will benefit BWMC's pediatric unit and the Safe Sleep Kit initiative that aims to reduce sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) deaths in the area.

"As our mission says, we are just trying to make the world a more beautiful place," said Ashleigh, who still remembers the kindness that she and Matt were shown during the hours with Ellie in the hospital and following her death. "There is no such thing as too much kindness. We will get notes from parents who have received a Hope Tote, thanking us for making their stressful stay a little more manageable. The child life specialists and nurses at both hospitals tell us often how much joy the toys and games bring to the kids. Knowing that what we are doing is really making an impact keeps us going."

Luke Wyble was just two and a half years old when his sister died. With his parents' altruism as an example, kindness isn't just something the 8-year-old does, it's part of who he is.

"We will be out, and he will ask to do a random act of kindness for a stranger," Ashleigh said. "He very much remembers his sister and still gets sad from time to time. We try to remind him that sometimes bad things will happen, but it's how you react to that situation that makes a difference."

The Wybles are teaching Luke, along with his 4-year-old brother, Cooper, that there can never be enough kindness in the world.

Since 2016, the For Ellie Foundation has raised more than \$285,000 through a variety of avenues, such as donating funds to the Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center pediatric unit.

To donate to the For Ellie Foundation or to register for the cornhole tournament, visit www.forellie.org.

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Fighting Food Insecurity

Good Neighbors Group held its annual S(o)uper Bowl this winter, collecting donations on the weekend of the big game. Totals were still being tallied on the weekend to determine which neighborhood finished with the most donations. This year's collection was distributed to five pantries: Anne Arundel County Food Bank, ACAN, Celestial Manna at Severna Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church, My Brother's Pantry and SPAN. Jeremiah Grossman (pictured) had help from his children, Makenzie and Emerson, as they dropped off their S(o)uper Bowl haul for SPAN. Their neighborhood, Olde Severna Park, collected 444 items this year. Overall, 57 neighborhoods participated in this year's event.



A Community Of Compassion

Michele Sabean
Director of Development
SPAN Inc.



As I write this article, I am looking forward to S(o)uper Bowl Sunday! Thank you to the Good Neighbors Group for organizing the sixth annual event that helps restock shelves in several local pantries — ACAN, My Brother's Pantry, Anne Arundel Food Bank and SPAN.

Last year, this friendly competition between neighborhoods collected more than 16,000 items. The food from this drive, as well as that dropped off by individuals and groups throughout the year, are what keep our shelves stocked.

As Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

It is wonderful to see neighborhoods working together. Every day, I am blessed with examples of this community contributing its time, talent and resources for others. Our volunteers are what makes SPAN operate so well. They bring their dedication with them each day, making sure that things are not just done, but done well. We also have volunteers who help with short-term projects, such as members of Severna Park United Methodist Church, who recently gave the inside of our building a much-needed fresh coat of paint. Many children in this community also contribute by collecting food, creating beautiful and inspirational cards, and putting together birthday bags to help families celebrate a child.

Just as the donations of food add up to fill our shelves, financial donations allow us to help qualified individuals and families through an emergency: a court-ordered eviction, utility turnoff or the need for a medical prescription. Going through the checks that come in, I am reminded how many ways the community

chooses to help.

There are several groups that make contributing to SPAN part of their regular gatherings — Chartwell Garden Club, World Wings International, Daughters of the British Empire, many local neighborhoods and a Thursday Night Bunco group. Many local businesses and organizations are wonderful supporters of SPAN. A recent donation in honor of a friend made me smile. I love thinking about people who contribute by inspiring others.

At SPAN, we have seen the need for emergency financial assistance increase dramatically in the last year. The amount of financial assistance we have helped with in the last six months is already as much as the 12 months before that. For people struggling or going through a crisis, such as health issues or a job loss, it has been difficult with the convergence of the lifting of the last of the pandemic supports and higher prices. As many similar organizations are seeing, the need is currently great and will continue that way for a while longer before stabilizing.

As the need continues to increase, I am blessed to know that the compassion of this community is immense. SPAN, and others in this line of work, see a rough road ahead, but I am hopeful knowing that this community is here to help. This community is great because of all the compassionate actions — advocacy, donations of time, food, money and the acts of kindness such as taking time to listen, lending a helping hand and offering a kind word.

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is an independent nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills, and food since 1990. SPAN is located behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Road in Severna Park. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00am-1:30pm. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit www.spanhelps.org.



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Black History Throughout The Years

By Niesha Davis

Black History Month is dedicated to celebrating the achievements and reflecting on the experiences of Black Americans. What began as a week in 1926 has blossomed into 28 days of remembrance and lessons.

In the face of historical oppression and inequality — slavery, Jim Crow laws, and the police violence that ignited the #BlackLivesMatter movement — African Americans have continuously fought for their rights, reaching countless milestones, achievements, and freedoms in doing so. While being forced to exist largely on the fringes of society, Black Americans nevertheless have made many significant contributions to the arts, education, politics, technology and numerous other fields.

Here are some of the significant achievements and moments in Black history, from 1919 to the modern era.

1919: Oscar Micheaux produces “The Homesteader”

Regarded as the first African American feature filmmaker, Oscar Micheaux produced the film version of his book “The Conquest” under the name “The Homesteader.” This silent film featured an all-Black cast and touched on the issues of race relations during that era.

1921: “Shuffle Along” becomes the first major African American musical on Broadway

When “Shuffle Along” debuted on May 23, 1921, almost a decade had passed since an all-Black musical had graced a Broadway stage. The vaudeville-style play about a mayoral race launched the careers of Josephine Baker and Paul Robeson and is regarded as one of the first Black musicals to cross over to mainstream audiences.

1922: Frederick Douglass’ home becomes a national museum

In 1922, Cedar Hill, Frederick Douglass’ home until his 1895 death, became a certified historical site. Among the preserved sites visitors can see during a visit is his “growlery,” or man cave. Douglass would retreat to this private room with a stove, desk and bed whenever he wanted privacy to work on his writing.

1924: National Bar Association is founded

The National Bar Association was founded out of two movements — the Greenville Movement and the Convention of the Iowa Colored Bar Association — after numerous Black lawyers were denied membership in the American Bar Association. Today, the association has more than 84 chapters and represents more than 60,000 legal professionals.

1927: Floyd Joseph Calvin hosts first Black radio show

“Courier Hour” was the first radio talk show that highlighted African American issues. Calvin’s work inspired countless podcasts today that exist with the same mission of highlighting Black voices and issues.

1928: First African American elected to Congress

Oscar Stanton De Priest began his political career in 1915 with a stint on the Chicago City Council. More than a decade later, he made history when he was tapped as the Republican candidate for a seat in the House of Representatives representing Illinois.

1936: Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at the Berlin Games

At the 1936 Berlin Games, track and field star Jesse Owens broke and equaled nine Olympic records, setting three world records. In so doing, Owens additionally thwarted Adolf Hitler’s theory of white superiority.

1940: Hattie McDaniel wins an Academy Award

Hattie McDaniel made history as the first Black person to win an Academy Award for her role as Mammy in “Gone With the Wind.” She came under fire at the time for her portrayal of a maid, but the defiant McDaniel famously retorted, saying she’d rather play a maid than serve as one in real life.

1947: 16 men embark on the “Journey of Reconciliation”

Sixteen Black and white men went on a direct-action bus trip that flipped racial structures on their heads: Black protesters sat at the front of the bus, while white protestors sat at the back. Protests like these served as a tangible representation of the power of hands-on activism.

1948: Desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces

In a step to dissolve segregated racial lines, President Harry Truman signed an executive order to integrate the U.S. Armed Forces, effectively ending segregation across the military. There was significant pushback to the order, but by the end of the Korean War, most of the military was integrated.

1955: Read’s Drug Store sit-ins begin

Local Black students of Morgan State College teamed up with the Committee



Photo courtesy of the Global Public Affairs Photo Archive

Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

on Racial Equality to stage a series of sit-in protests to desegregate the local lunch counter at Read’s Drug Store in Baltimore, Maryland. The peaceful, five-day protest was a success — after losing significant business, the drug store vowed to serve all customers.

1957: Civil Rights Act of 1957

President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1957 to protect civil rights, specifically Black voting rights. The act also established the Civil Rights Division in the Justice Department, giving federal officers the green light to prosecute those who deny or impede voter rights.

1963: “Letters from a Birmingham Jail” is published

In April 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested for leading a march urging the boycotting of white stores during the Easter holiday. A statement published by The Birmingham News prompted King to write a 7,000-word response forever remembered as “Letters from a Birmingham Jail.”

1965: Malcolm X assassinated

Human rights activist Malcolm X committed his life to the advancement of Black people with his “by any means necessary” philosophy. After pivoting away from the Nation of Islam, he was gunned down in February 1965 by members of the same organization.

1971: Congressional Black Caucus is formed

Made up of mostly African American members of Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus has for the last 50 years been committed to ensuring Black Americans and other marginalized members of society have equal rights and opportunities. The caucus uses constitutional power, authority and finances to address pressing issues like reforming the criminal justice system and voter suppression.

1974: Henry “Hank” Aaron hits his 715th home run

When Hank Aaron hit a home run in the fourth inning of a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, he surpassed Babe Ruth’s home run record, cementing his position as one of the best in baseball.

1990: Wilder becomes first elected Black governor

Nothing signals the changing times of the 1990s more than when Lawrence Douglas Wilder made history as the first elected African American governor.

1995: Million Man March is held in Washington, D.C.

Called on by Minister Louis Farrakhan, this mass meeting had the aim of changing the perception of Black manhood. The march has since gone down in history as a positive occasion of brotherhood and personal atonement, though some criticisms regarded the exclusion of women.

2008: Barack Obama becomes president of the United States

With the campaign slogan, “Yes we can,” Senator Barack Obama became President Obama after defeating John McCain in the 2008 election.

Editor’s Note: This article was edited for length. To see the full list with more achievements, visit www.stacker.com.

Severna Park High School, County Address Bullying

» Continued from page 1

parents expressed that Severna Park neighborhoods are tight-knit to a fault. A trait that some say bleeds over into the schools.

"There's a lot of exclusion based on the neighborhood you live in," said one participant.

Severna Park senior Jayna Monroe said she aims to foster diversity and inclusion with social justice as part of the school's equity club.

"The people that need it the most weren't going to be here," Monroe said following the event.

Other residents shared their beliefs that unity days at county schools don't offer much substance beyond wearing orange shirts, bullying issues are ignored by school administrators, kids are segregated at lunch and the school system should provide more service opportunities that empower kids to help people of different backgrounds. One attendee opined that one-on-one meetings with a school counselor should be mandatory for students, and several people suggested faculty and student government should have a more diverse makeup.

Some Severna Park High School students at the meeting said communication at their school must improve for meaningful change to occur.

"I didn't know I could just walk into the counselor's office without an appointment until I was an upperclassman," said senior Elliot Gerig, who serves as the school's Student Government Association ambassador.

Gerig added that information doesn't

always filter down to the student body, which causes compartmentalization of information that could benefit everyone.

"We need to come together," Gerig said.

Following the county-led acceptance and inclusion event at SPSHS, Abruzzo held open discussion assemblies with each graduating class on campus. The school is also planning lessons for students focusing on bullying, what to do and how to combat it.

SPHS senior Cort Zaniker believes the school is doing the best it can, while noting that it's clear the adults care deeply about the students and one another.

"I think that Mrs. Abruzzo's assembly was important," Zaniker said. "Ignoring a problem will never make it go away. It's very hard to stop bullying as a whole, but I do believe the action the school has already taken has made a positive impact in the school's environment. It's good to know, at least, that the school is trying their best to make a positive impact."

Tim Swann coaches unified tennis at Northeast High School. He has two grown children — one who attended Old Mill High School and one who attended Chesapeake High School — and does not believe the problems are new.

"It's a societal issue," he said. "It's not just one kid at Severna Park."

According to PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, one out of every five students in the U.S. report being bullied, but only 46% of bullied students report notifying an adult at their school.

SPHS junior Trish Wallace said she thinks her school is handling the aftermath as good as can be expected.

"[I'm] proud of everyone who actually went to the administrators about the issue," Wallace said. "I feel like the bullying at this school could be helped since there are a lot of people getting bullied without anyone knowing about it unless it's something as bad as what happened a few weeks ago."

Severna Park High School senior Aidan Judge noted that he spent a lot of time interacting with special needs students during elementary school, but his tenure as a Falcon has been different.

"I can't think of a single time I've interacted with a special needs student at our school," Judge said.

Judge shared the pride he felt in Severna Park watching Parijita Bastola's recent run on national television with NBC's "The Voice" and how that pride changed as the recent video circulated around the world. He also recounted a swim meet last month, where he serves as team captain, that occurred soon after his school started making headlines for the wrong reason.

"It's clear what you're associated with," Judge said. "How was I supposed to show school spirit?"

Monroe noted that students at her school each have their own clusters and it makes it hard to truly get to know a lot of their peers.

While many of the seniors at the discussion said they were pleased the video was released to bring attention to bullying, they also echoed a sentiment shared by Bedell during his remarks.

"What about the things that aren't on video?" Judge said.

Zaniker said he thinks schools should be more open about mental health and the effect that harmful actions to others can create. He said the sensitivity of the subject presents challenges to truly educate people about mental health.

"I believe bullying is perceived exactly as it should be at SPSHS — inhumane and wrong on every account," Zaniker said. "If you asked anyone at the school, you would get a similar answer. I think the problem lies with a lack of empathy. We all know bullying is horrible and hurtful, but some people aren't thinking or don't care about the effects their words have on others."

Gerig said the school's SGA and student body are a resilient group as he listed initiatives that students and faculty are spearheading in the face of the recent adversity.

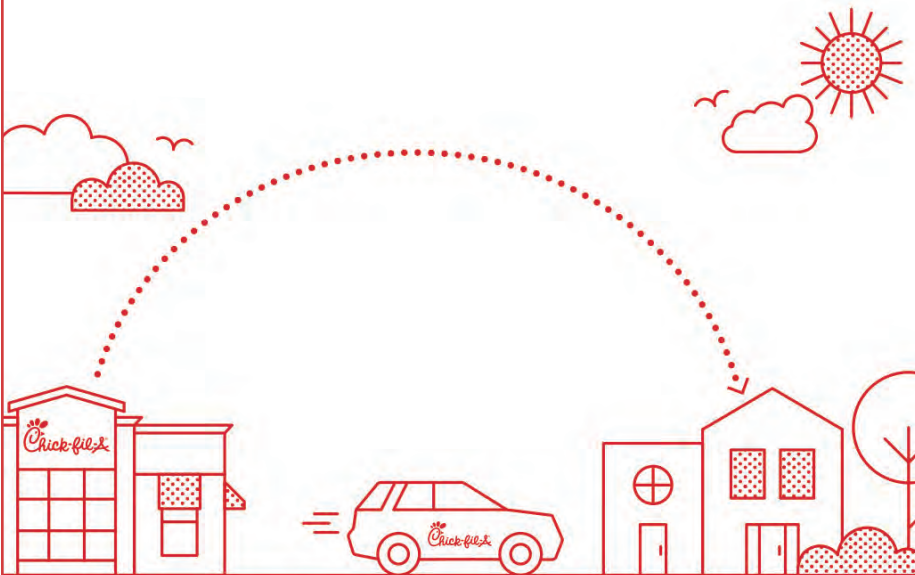
One such initiative is a Vans shoe design contest where Abruzzo, known for sporting the iconic brand of kicks, will accept student-submitted sneaker designs until March 1. Each design must show anti-bullying on them in any way. A pair of Vans will be made with the winning design — one for the principal and one for the student designer. Others include a random acts of kindness day on February 17, painting kindness rocks and more spirit days. The school is also hoping to attract motivational speaker David Flood back to SPSHS this year.

"I'm still proud to be a Severna Park Falcon," Gerig said.

Zach Sparks and Sarah Sternhagen contributed to this story.

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Couple Celebrates 70th Anniversary After Surviving War And Separation

By Judy Tacyn

The United States Census Bureau records show just one-tenth of married couples will ever celebrate their 70th anniversary. For Dr. Stephan and Tamara Tymkiw of Millersville, their January 24 milestone anniversary might have been the easiest part of their improbable love affair.

Both were born in Ukraine. Stephan's family members were rural farmers while Tamara was raised in the city by her father, an army officer, and mother. Both families were forced to leave their homeland during World War II. While they fled before knowing each other, each family endured harrowing escapes before settling in the southern German city of Munich.

"At that time, the borders of the Eastern European countries were constantly changing," Tamara said. "All of our movements and our futures were affected by this."

To get from Ukraine to Munich, Tamara's family moved several times. First, they fled Ukraine to Poznań, which is now a large city in western Poland. To avoid the approaching Russian Army, Tamara's family fled Poznań on horseback and in horse-drawn wagons in the bitter cold to northwest Germany in January 1945 near Hamburg, an area that would become part of the post-war British-occupied zone.

A friend in Bavaria shared a Ukrainian newspaper with her mother one day, and they learned that the family was now living near a large Ukrainian refugee com-



munity. It was there that Tamara and her mother, previously separated from her military father, reunited. With the help of a newspaper editor, the family relocated to Munich, where Tamara entered high school.

Until 1943, Stephan was a high school student in German-occupied Ukraine before beginning medical studies. The Germans tried to recruit Stephan to join their military.

"I was able to obtain a letter from a physician stating that I was studying infectious diseases and I couldn't possibly leave such an important specialty to enlist," Stephan said.

During this time, Stephan was part of a musical choir. Members of the choir moved to avoid the advancing Russian Army during the later stages of WWII. Stephan and other choir members were able to set their sights westward to Prague and later to Munich, where Stephan enrolled in medical school.

The paths of Stephan and Tamara crossed in Munich when Stephan had to deliver a paper to Tamara's family for

Left: Stephan and Tamara Tymkiw recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Below: The Tymkiw wedding photo and decorations were displayed at their 70th anniversary party held last month.



a signature. Quietly hemming a pair of pants in another room, Tamara listened to her mother speaking with Stephan, who made a positive impression on Tamara's mom.

"My mother asked, 'He was a very nice boy, don't you think so?'" Tamara recalled. "But I was busy sewing. I didn't pay much attention."

They were officially introduced at church. Stephan escorted Tamara to her graduation dance in the company of her parents — the custom at the time. The two were smitten.

It was impossible to return to Ukraine after the war because it was under Soviet repression. They became part of the post-war immigration and got engaged, despite being unable to get visas to the same North American country. Tamara emigrated to Toronto and Stephan landed

in New Jersey.

"I was not allowed to come to the United States, but he was allowed to visit me in Canada," Tamara said.

Stephan traveled north, and the couple married in Toronto on January 24, 1953. Finalizing their immigration papers and visas took 11 months, but Tamara finally joined Stephan in the United States, where Stephan was finishing an internship in Staten Island, New York. The couple moved to Ohio for Stephan's pathology residence, and their first two daughters, Barbara and Christina, were born there.

Their journey to Maryland happened when the city of Salisbury needed a second pathologist in 1959, and Stephan was happy to take the job at Peninsula General Hospital. The family expanded with two more daughters, Irene and Lydia. They raised their children to be bilingual and to be proud of their Ukrainian heritage.

What's the recipe for 70 happy years of marriage?

"Respect each other and don't fight," Stephan said.

Tamara was a bit more philosophical. "We had the same upbringing, formed the same values, the same plans, and the same experiences," she said. "The things that were important to us were never material. It was about family and getting an education."

Tamara offered advice for couples.

"Learn to be more tolerant with everything and everyone because life is just so short," Tamara said.

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Sunflowers For Sallie: Nonprofit Plants Seeds Of Hope



Left: Rita Williams-Ellingwood formed Sunflowers for Sallie so she could address food insecurity in Anne Arundel County and neighboring jurisdictions.

Right: Girl Scout Troop 1448 added helping hands during the Sunflowers for Sallie food drive.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Rita Williams-Ellingwood spent part of her holiday season providing meals to families in need, on behalf of her nonprofit called Sunflowers for Sallie, but the seeds of her volunteer support were sown long ago.

Her current journey started after the death of her father in 2007. Distraught, she went on a family trip to see her brother in West Virginia and met a “precious puppy,” Sallie.

Sallie was by her side for 13 years as Williams-Ellingwood met her future husband, Bob, in 2009 and as the couple began volunteering with the Baltimore Washington Power Team, feeding and “adopting” families from Lansdowne Elementary in Baltimore during Christmas. That continued until 2020 when the pandemic forced the group to shut down.

Not only was 2020 a rough year because of the pandemic, but Williams-Ellingwood soon suffered another loss: Sallie.

“For 13 years, this sweet girl filled my life with love, faith, hope, and a sense of purpose,” she said.

When emptiness and despair consumed her thoughts, she turned to a new hobby: gardening. She planted her first sunflower seed in May 2020.

“After a while, I felt lost,” Williams-Ellingwood said. “She was the love of my life, and she brought me so

much joy. I just felt this loneliness and emptiness again. Sunflowers represent strength, and it inspired me to do even more.”

Five months later, she was ready for the call. A school counselor had a request. Could Williams-Ellingwood provide food baskets to families?

Williams-Ellingwood did not have the heart to inform the counselor that the Baltimore Washington Power Team had disbanded. She had a thought: “I’ve been wanting to do this, I love to do this, so why not do it on my own?”

She said she would make it happen and Sunflowers for Sallie was born.

Having spent nearly 30 years working for Magruder’s before it closed, Williams-Ellingwood knew many retailers and suppliers who could assist. Giant Food and B Green donated food. She also relied on the support of friends and colleagues she met at her current job as a payroll manager for Blind Industries & Services of Maryland.

The nonprofit made 125 “baskets of hope” for Thanksgiving in 2021, giving families a complete meal with frozen turkeys, rice, beans, yams, gravy, rolls, hot chocolate and more.

With support from the same groups and Girl Scout Troop 1448, Sunflowers for Sallie did even better in 2022, providing 150 baskets of hope. Each meal was wrapped in a cellophane bag and tied with a ribbon.

Some recipients hailed from Balti-



more County and Baltimore City, but the majority were from Anne Arundel County.

The nonprofit also “adopted” five families for the holidays by providing toys, clothes, and gift cards for food in addition to groceries.

To identify families in need, Sunflowers for Sallie partnered with Ruth Parker Eason School in Millersville, Serenity Sistas in Annapolis, the Department of Aging and Disabilities, and Lighthouse Church in Glen Burnie.

Of the families served, 21 came from the Ruth Parker Eason community. Known for its special education program, the Millersville-based school serves students from Severna Park, Laurel, Hanover and everywhere in between.

“We have students with everything from severe cerebral palsy in a wheelchair to severe autism,” said school social worker Linda Brice, who also works at Central Special School in Edgewater. “Our parents have a lot of stress, so it’s nice to be able to help them.”

Angel Traynor is the founder and director of Serenity Sistas, which provides recovery housing free from alcohol and drug use. She met Williams-Ellingwood five or six years ago when the Millersville resident and her husband donated about 18 baskets to the Serenity Sistas homes.

“I knew right off the bat she was

a good, kind soul,” Traynor said of Williams-Ellingwood.

The two discovered they were “like-minded when it comes to altruistic practices,” Traynor said.

Since then, Serenity Sistas has helped the effort, assembling baskets of hope, adding bows, delivering the baskets to Annapolis residents and adding thoughtful messages like, “This basket is brought to you by a group of community members who care.”

Although Williams-Ellingwood has concentrated most of her team’s efforts around holiday giving, their goal is to grow their gardens throughout the year. They are currently planning for a potential Easter event.

None of her efforts would be possible, she said, without the love and support from volunteers and donors. Together, she sees no limit to their potential.

“With their support, our baskets of hope represent an act of kindness, serving as a source of nourishment to build strength, serving as a symbol of love and a source of inspiration to inspire others — planting seeds to help families in need,” Williams-Ellingwood said.

Learn more about the nonprofit at www.sunflowersforsallie.org or find it on Facebook and Instagram. For more information, call 443-584-6617 or email sunflowersforsallie@gmail.com.

Earleigh Heights VFC Recognizes Its Own

By Anne Rutherford

Admin Member of EHFVC

The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company (EHVFC) started its recent installation of officers with a toast by Captain Craig Blake, who would later be awarded Officer of the Year and recognized for the most training hours with 214.

“I win when you win,” Blake said. “We are here to help people grow. It’s not about me; it’s about we. We are here to care for them.”

Jerry Burton was awarded a special honor for more than 60 years of service at Earleigh Heights and Pat Sohn, who joined the fire company in 1986, was honored with a President’s Award.

The Length of Service awards were given to 15 people, with Frank “Smokey” Kaufman receiving a 50-years award.

Awards were given for first, second and third fire responses and medic calls.



(L-R) Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company gave Top First Responder awards for fire responses to Jay Pyle (375 hours), Jonathan Heward (353 hours) and Captain Craig Blake (312 hours).

James Pyle received the top award in both categories with 375 and 233 hours, respectively. Pyle also completed the most sleep-in hours with 63 and was

awarded Firefighter of the Year.

Charles “Doug” Braun was awarded the most hours spent at EHVFC with 1,617, and he was also awarded the President’s

Award by President Joe Angyelof.

“Deciding who to get the award is not a piece of cake,” Angyelof said.

Michael Robinson, who started at Earleigh Heights 47 years ago and was once a chief, was the main speaker at the event. Robinson advised the audience to trust the wisdom and experience of the company’s officers.

Auxiliary and line officers were also sworn in at the event along with the board of directors.

Upcoming events at EHVFC include the February 25 bull and oyster roast from 5:30pm to 11:00pm, and the company’s carnival will be held June 29 to July 8, Sundays excluded. The fire department is also gearing up for the Severna Park Fourth of July parade with a new rescue squad and vehicles.

For more information on joining the EHVFC team, visit www.ehvfc.org to sign up.

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Keeping The Innocent Safe: Protective And Peace Orders

By David Diggs and
Lisa Bogan-Reohr

Practicing as a family lawyer for more than 35 years, I've handled divorce actions, child custody, visitation, and support cases, as well as adoptions, guardianships and paternity proceedings. Unfortunately, violence and harassment sometimes arise within the home. Domestic violence issues may arise in divorce and custody cases, or they may be the subject of standalone proceedings for protective orders or peace orders.

Last year in Anne Arundel County, there were 1,887 hearings on final protective orders, which resulted in 796 final protective orders being issued. As for peace orders, there were 1,193 hearings on these requests in our county, which resulted in 465 peace orders. And these are the numbers for only final orders, as opposed to temporary orders. What, you might ask, is the difference between a protective order and a peace order, a permanent or a temporary order?

Courts may issue protective orders and peace orders to protect a person from abuse. The relationship between the people will determine which type of order the person seeking it should pursue. Maryland

Family Law Article 4-501 states that a "person eligible for relief" in the form of a protective order includes:

1. The current or former spouse of the respondent
2. A cohabitant of the respondent
3. A person related to the respondent by blood, marriage or adoption
4. A parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within one year before the filing of the petition
5. A vulnerable adult
6. An individual who has a child in common with the respondent
7. An individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent within one year before the filing of the petition
8. An individual who alleges that the respondent committed, within six months before the filing of the petition, rape or attempted rape

If one of the above relationships does not apply, the petitioner should seek a peace order.

Additionally, the type of behavior that qualifies as abuse is similar for both protective orders and peace orders, although there are some differences. Abuse, as it relates to a protective order, is defined under Maryland law as:

1. An act that causes serious bodily harm
2. An act that places a person

eligible for relief in fear of imminent serious bodily harm

3. Assault in any degree
4. Rape or sexual offense, or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree
5. False imprisonment
6. Stalking
7. Revenge porn

Many of these terms are defined in Maryland's Criminal Law Article. For a peace order, in addition to the forms of abuse mentioned above, except for rape or attempted rape, the following acts, as defined by the Criminal Law Article, are also covered: harassment, trespass, malicious destruction of property, misuse of telephone facilities and equipment, misuse of electronic communication or interactive computer service, or visual surveillance.

If a judge finds reasonable grounds to believe that the abuse complained of occurred, then a temporary protective order or a temporary peace order will be entered for seven

days, and the Department of Social Services is notified. A temporary order may be extended under some circumstances, but, in general, a final hearing will be held within seven days.

At the final hearing for a protective order, the petitioner must prove by a preponderance of evidence that the abuse has happened. If this standard is met, then the courts may order a wide range of relief. The abuser may be ordered to refrain from threatening or committing abuse, to end all contact with the petitioner, to stay out of or leave the petitioner's house, to attend counseling, to surrender firearms, etc. Additionally, the court may establish temporary child custody, visitation and support. It may also award temporary possession and use of the home, a vehicle and even a pet. With regard to a final peace order, the petitioner must prove that the abuse has happened and is likely to occur in the future. The relief is similar, but more limited. In general, final protective orders may last for up to one year, and final peace orders may last for up to six months.

If you find yourself in an abusive situation, the law can provide you with relief. You should consult an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is experienced in matters of family law, domestic violence, and in helping clients seek protective and peace orders. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, Millersville. Call 410-244-1171 or email david@diggsllaw.com.

Wild Family Donates Golf Tourney Proceeds



(L-R) Bill, Griffin, Libby and Betz Wild delivered the \$20,000 check to the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County.

The Wild family of Severna Park recently delivered a \$20,000 donation to the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County for the Herzberg/Wild College Scholarship.

The donation is a result of proceeds from the seventh annual Taylor Wild Memorial Golf Tournament, held on the first Saturday in November each year. This year, 244 golfers turned out at Compass Pointe in Pasadena on a balmy day to enjoy golf and great food from Glory Days Grill and Adam's Taphouse and Grille.

The Herzberg/Wild Scholarship awards \$10,000 to each of two deserving Anne Arundel County high school seniors. It is named for Eric

Herzberg and Taylor Wild, both U.S. Marines from Severna Park who died defending their country. Since 2014, scholarships have been awarded to students who exhibit the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment; the ability to persist in the face of significant personal obstacles; and the ability to provide quiet leadership in their school and in their community. For interested seniors, information about the scholarship can be found on the CFAAC website. The tournament proceeds also allow for a donation to the "I am Nathan" memorial scholarship, named for Airman First Class Nathan McDavitt, also of Severna Park.

SRA To Host Recycling Specialist



Jeff Brown has 10 years of experience in the field of waste management, specializing in hazardous waste disposal, recycling, waste diversion and industrial compost operations.

As part of its John Wright Speaker Series, the Severn River Association will feature Jeff Brown, Anne Arundel County recycling specialist, on February 21 at Cafe Mezzanotte.

Brown has 10 years of experience in the field of waste management, specializing in hazardous waste disposal, recycling, waste diversion and industrial compost operations.

The program — "Recycling More, Recycle Often, Recycle Right" — will offer an overview of the county's waste management program, which includes everything from recycling to landfill operations. Brown will focus on the curbside recycling program and what items residents should and should not recycle in their yellow carts.

To register, go to forms.gle/rmcwfq6jj6vwm5yf7.

Maryland Realtors Reports Lack Of “Missing Middle” Housing

Marylanders with moderate incomes are finding few housing options within the state, according to a new poll conducted by American Strategies for Maryland Realtors, the state’s largest trade association serving more than 32,000 Realtor members. In the poll, 61% of those with moderate income say there is too little housing, an increase of 33% since January 2020.

As part of Maryland Realtors’ “Open Doors to Stronger Neighborhoods” campaign, which examines ways to increase housing opportunity and housing equity for all Marylanders, the association has continued to take the pulse of Maryland voters about their concerns on a variety of housing-related issues. According to Freddie Mac and the National Association of Realtors, Maryland currently suffers from a housing shortage of more than 120,000 units.

Concern is growing about the lack of “missing middle” housing: a range of house-scale buildings with multiple units that are compatible in scale and form with detached single-family homes. Many Marylanders have too much income to qualify for subsidized housing, yet still can’t afford homes in this “missing middle” range. Many Marylanders need a place to call home, and they are not able to find it. This includes “missing middle” housing.

Additional findings include:

- 76% of Maryland voters think the cost to buy a home in Maryland is too high, a 33% increase since 2020
- 44% say there are too few homes to buy, an increase of 47% since 2020
- The cost to rent a home is too high according to 80% of Maryland voters, an increase of 31% since 2020
- 45% of Maryland voters think there are too few places to rent, an increase of 32% since 2020
- 62% of Maryland voters who have a full-time job still do not make enough to afford a home

“The results of this poll should be of concern to any Marylander who wants to call this great state home,” said Yolanda Muckle, 2023 president of Maryland Realtors. “Something else this poll revealed: 29% of Maryland voters — nearly a third — have considered moving out of state because the cost of housing is so prohibitive. Our state and local lawmakers can help on a variety of fronts, starting with statewide ADU legislation, but all of us need to do our part to make sure that anyone who wants a home can become a homeowner, that nobody is left behind.”



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STATE OF MARYLAND HOUSING 2023

Information from American Strategies 2023 State of Housing Poll

MARYLAND VOTERS SAID:

The cost to buy a home in Maryland is TOO HIGH

57% **2020** >>>> **76% 2023**

TOO FEW HOMES available to buy

30% **2020** >>>> **44% 2023**

The cost to rent a home in Maryland is TOO HIGH

61% **2020** >>>> **80% 2023**

TOO FEW PLACES to rent

34% **2020** >>>> **45% 2023**

66% People of color face unique challenges when it comes to finding housing

72% Too little housing for younger people


60% Too little housing for seniors/people with special needs

29% Consider moving out-of-state because of housing costs

69% Too little housing for people with low incomes

62% Marylanders have a full-time job, but still can't make enough to afford a home

77% APPROVAL Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) After learning how ADUs make housing more available and more affordable



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Moore Shares His First State Of The State Speech



Governor Wes Moore delivered his first State of the State address on February 1.

“We can be a state that rewards, celebrates and elevates a culture of service — we must be,” Moore said. “Let us serve, together, the people who entrusted us with a solemn oath to put them before ourselves. It’s an honor to stand before you, and it’s an honor to serve beside you.”

Moore opened his speech by talking about the resilience of Marylanders who have overcome challenges whether they are struggling to find child care or keeping up with the cost of living.

He said it’s a state full of people willing to serve.

“They are the educators, who get up before the crack of dawn, and stay after dark, to make sure their students get the extra help they need,” he said. “They are the linemen, who after a disaster, work double shifts to ensure we can turn our lights back on.

“They are the social workers, who reach into their wallets to ensure their clients have enough to eat. And yes, it’s the lawmaker who gets up and comes to Annapolis, who sacrifices time with their family, months from their business, the ones who choose to step into the arena despite knowing the ridicule that oftentimes comes along with it, hoping to leave this state a little better than they found it.”

Moore talked about legislation to create a service year option for youth.

“Whether they’re preparing our

state for climate change, tutoring our students, or caring for the sick, young people should have the option to perform important service today and build a foundation for our shared future,” he said.

He highlighted other priorities: building a workforce of dedicated public servants, investing in public education, and introducing \$200 million in tax relief for children in poverty and for veterans in retirement.

According to Moore, Maryland’s government currently has nearly 10,000 vacancies, with just under 6,100 in the executive branch alone. That means needs are not being met, people cannot open small businesses in a timely manner and Marylanders have a hard time getting health care.

“It’s why I am proud that my budget makes state government a more attractive place to work, with competitive wage increases to fill positions like registered nurses, attorneys and emergency response technicians,” he said.

Moore discussed much more in his speech, such as the need for more teachers, addressing the rate of incarceration for young Black men, ending child poverty, raising the minimum wage and more.

The full speech can be viewed on YouTube.

“Let us serve, together, the people who entrusted us with a solemn oath to put them before ourselves,” Moore said. “It’s an honor to stand before you, and it’s an honor to serve beside you.”

Letter To The Editor

Dear editor,

As a new advertising customer, I have started to truly read some of the articles in the *Severna Park Voice*. While I have always enjoyed the local information your paper has provided, I really never took the time to read! I am more of a pictures kind of guy. Which brings me to why I am writing you today. The article

written by Ben Schwalb — “Dentally Challenged” — was hysterical and spot on! I laughed as this has happened to all of us. I am sure some dental offices may take issue, however, it is sometimes reality. My dentist, John Ritter, is always on time, but then I am Kent Wasser.

**Kent Wasser
Arnold, Maryland**

Asking Volunteers To #BePresent

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent Mark Bedell announced the #BePresent initiative on January 30 in Annapolis. The initiative aims to enhance relationships between parents, caregivers, local businesses, school system alumni, and community members with the school system to improve school safety, strengthen communities and improve operations.

In front of an audience of community members, school board members, and local and state elected officials, Bedell explained the rationale for the initiative as a means of welcoming the community into the schools by providing more adult presence. Other speakers included the garrison commander of Fort Meade, Colonel Michael Sapp, Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman, Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley and Anne Arundel County Board of Education President Joanna Tobin — all of whom spoke about the importance of community and parental engagement within our school system, especially as we continue to recover from the isolation of the pandemic.

In a national climate of increased violence at schools and a disturbing

uptick in incidents involving weapons at schools on pace to double the totals from the 2021-2022 school year, #BePresent will provide an additional set of eyes and ears in hallways and cafeterias, while allowing the community to strengthen their relationship and connection with our schools.

As a lifelong school and community organization volunteer, including regular shifts this year at Severna Park Middle School as a volunteer lunch custodian, I applaud this effort. The #BePresent initiative will build upon existing volunteer programs in schools where they already exist and build new programs where they’re absent in our county system. Volunteers will work in collaboration with, and at the direction of, school administrators. All volunteers will be required to complete a background check process before participating in the initiative, which will not include a presence in classrooms, nor will any volunteer be asked to deliver instruction or administer student discipline. Instead, volunteers will be asked to contribute to a positive school environment and rapport with students.

Specific protocols for the program are still being finalized. Messages about how to become involved in the #BePresent program will be sent to families and posted publicly soon on www.aacps.org. I hope each of you will consider participating as your schedule and individual circumstances allow. As always, I am available at 443-534-2660 or dschallheim@aacps.org.

Pittman, AAEDC Announce New Grant Initiative

Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman and Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) interim CEO Jill Seamon have announced a new initiative to complement the Arundel Community Reinvestment (ACR) loan program. Applicants who are approved for an ACR loan for up to \$100,000 can receive a grant equal to 25% of the loan amount for facade improvements.

“Small businesses and commercial property owners located in our older commercial corridors were impacted by the pandemic and had less resources to maintain their storefronts,” Pittman said. “This grant initiative not only helps support those businesses, but it supports the beautification of our communities as a whole.”

The tandem grant initiative is supported by \$544,350 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, and grants are limited to \$25,000. The Arundel Community Reinvestment Fund offers loans up to \$100,000 to be repaid over three to seven years at zero interest.

Eligible improvements include renovation and upgrades to building exteriors and site improvements, including landscaping, and loans are limited to 90% of total project costs.

“The grant is a great addition to our revitalization toolbox, which currently includes the ACR program, the county’s revitalization tax credit and a complimentary ‘architect-on-call’ service,” Seamon said. “All together these resources can help renew economic vibrancy and mitigate blight in our mature commercial districts.”

The ACR is designed to spur economic activity and improvement in Anne Arundel County’s 11 commercial revitalization districts, in the area at inner West Street in Annapolis from Church Circle to Chinquapin Round Road, and in the county’s one state-designated enterprise zone, in Brooklyn Park. Maps of the county’s revitalization areas are available at www.aacounty.org/commercialrevitalizationareas. More information is available on the ACR Fund page on the AAEDC website.

Severna Park Boys, Girls Win Indoor Track Regionals



Photos by Naptown Studios

Above Left: The Severna Park girls took first in the 4x800 meter relay with a time of 10:00.14. **Above Center:** Falcon Alex Lecouas earned second place in the boys 800-meter run, with a time of 1:58.53. **Above Right:** Severna Park gave it their all but finished near the bottom tier in the 4x400 meter relay. **Below Left:** Cameron Glebocki led the pack in the girls 3200-meter run. The Severna Park senior finished first with a time of 11:35.34. **Below Right:** In the boys 3200-meter run, Severna Park had the top three finishers, led by Christopher Nunn.



The Falcons flew high at the 4A East indoor track region meet at PG Sports Complex in Landover, Maryland, on February 7.

Severna Park's boys finished with 75.50 points, ahead of Dundalk (67 points) and Broadneck (58.50). On the girls side, Severna Park accrued 72 points for a narrow win over Broadneck (69 points) and Old Mill (65 points).

Girls

In the 800-meter finals, Severna Park's **Lexi Ensor** finished first (2:20.45) and Broadneck's **Stephanie Costello** came in second (2:23.88).

In the 3200-meter run, Severna Park's **Cameron Glebocki** led the way with a time of 11:35.34. Her teammates **Audrey Denton** (12:06.69) and **Kathryn Murphy** (12:08.85) came in third and fourth,

respectively.

The Broadneck girls finished third in both the 4x200 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay. Severna Park finished fourth in the 4x400 event.

In the 4x800 relay finals, the Severna Park girls took first (10:00.14) and Broadneck took second (10:07.05), with Dulaney (10:07.47) in third.

Shot put featured 24 challengers on the girls side. Severna Park's **Jillian Zukley** finished second (33 feet, 11 inches) behind South River's **Fiona Murray** (34 feet, 1 inch).

Casey Gish (5 feet) earned first place in the high jump finals. For pole vault, the Bruins had three of the top four finishers. **Carson Boteler** took first, clearing 10 feet, 6 inches. **Avery Smith** came in second (9 feet) and **Taylor Hannon** took



» **Continued on page 24**

Resilient Bruins Lead County Basketball Standings

Photos by Dennis McGinley

Left: During Broadneck's 58-42 win over Meade, Jordan Brown led the Bruins with 28 points. **Right:** Jalen Carter also played a big role, adding 14 points against the Mustangs.

By Dennis McGinley

Broadneck and Meade entered their boys basketball showdown on February 8 as the top two teams in Anne Arundel County. And the first half played out as such, with Meade taking a one-point lead into the break. However, Broadneck used a strong zone defense and a barrage of 3-pointers in the third quarter to outscore the Mustangs 20-4 and take control of the game, pulling away for a 58-42 victory.

With the win, the host Bruins sit alone atop the county standings heading into the final week of the regular season.

Meade opened the game by knocking down a couple of 3-pointers and ran out to a 10-2 lead. Some coaches would've

» **Continued on page 24**





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Severn And Spalding Swim Teams Strive For Successful Season

By Kevin Murnane

As Severn School and Archbishop Spalding High School enter their final lap of the high school swim season, they've had standout performances in the competitive boys Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association league and the girls Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland conference.

Severn's head swimming coach, **Erin Domenech**, is pleased with many of her swimmers getting numerous first-place performances in their meets as well as the boys team going undefeated in the MIAA B conference.

The boys team has been led by senior **Ben Keith** with 19 first-place finishes, **Court Barrett** with 18, **Hayden Gargagliano** with 15 and **Harlan Erskine** with 14.

On the girls side, **Aliza Monaldo** has swam to eight first-place finishes. Senior co-captain **Erin Hooper** has seven, **Kenzie Getz** clocked in seven and senior co-captain **Caroline DiPaola** has five so far.

"Many of our swimmers play other sports as they use swimming as part of their cross training for other sports," Domenech said.

Anna Erskine was part of the school's cross country championship team, and Hooper and DiPaola play field hockey and lacrosse. Hooper will play lacrosse at Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana.

"Some of our team will go on to swim in college as Aliza Monaldo will swim at Northwestern and Keith may participate in water polo at either the Air Force Academy or Virginia Tech," Domenech said.

Severn is fortunate to have their training site across the street from their Evergreen Road campus. They practice three times a week either before or after school at the Severna Park Community Center. The other days, they cross train by either running on the B&A Trail or lifting weights at the school.

"I prefer the morning practice at 6:30am as you feel



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Severn School swimmers **Ben Keith**, **Erin Hooper** and **Caroline DiPaola** prepared to begin their practice regimen at the Severna Park Community Center.

"Some of our team will go on to swim in college as Aliza Monaldo will swim at Northwestern and Ben Keith may participate in water polo at either the Air Force Academy or Virginia Tech."

— **ERIN DOMENECH**
SEVERN SCHOOL HEAD SWIMMING COACH

more energetic during the day," Hooper said. "The pool is cold at first, but you get used to it after a few laps."

As the senior swimmers get ready for the conference championship meets, they are reflective about their time at Severn and relish being part of such a tight-knit school.

"I've been at Severn since the sixth grade, and I've made so many great friendships with other students and coaches," Keith said. "We have really small classes and if you need any additional help, teachers and

coaches are always willing to take the time."

Hooper will miss the camaraderie of her teammates and getting to know those athletes' families through team dinners and other team events.

"With such a small school, we see each other in school and practice as most of us play multiple sports," Hooper said.

At Spalding, the swim teams have shown steady improvement throughout the winter. The girls team finished sixth in the National Catholic School Championships in January.

The Spalding swimmers also broke a school record for the 200-yard medley relay. The four swimmers included **Ashley Connor** (backstroke), **Maggie Jaeger** (breaststroke), **Olivia Polucha** (butterfly) and **Natalie Lomonosov** (freestyle). Only Polucha is a senior, and she will swim at Stony Brook University next year.

"We have a very young team with a bright future," said head girls swimming coach **Ashley Blaszczyk**. "We had some very close meets this year with McDonogh and Notre Dame Prep."

The girls team practices four days a week at the Y in Pasadena.

"We have many freshmen and sophomores on our team, and they live in Prince George's and Howard counties," Blaszczyk said. "They give up a lot of their days and weekends to swim and compete in this conference."

The Spalding boys team finished 15th overall in the National Catholic Tournament, which had teams from throughout the East Coast, Ohio and Florida.

"We have 19 swimmers on our varsity and 13 on the JV," said head boys swimming coach **Chip Helferstay**, who is a graduate of Spalding. "This is the first time we've had a JV, so our future looks promising."

Some of Spalding's top swimmers are junior **Graham Tower** and sophomores **Bill Connor** and **Lawson Cate**.

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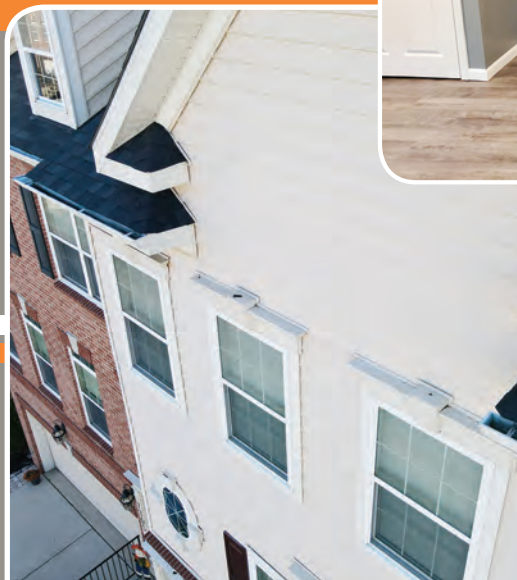
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SP Ice Hockey Prepares For Postseason

By Tom Worgo

It can be hard to stay on top after winning a championship.

Eric St. Lawrence saw that when he joined the Severna Park ice hockey program as a varsity assistant coach in 2014 – the year after the Falcons won a Maryland Student Hockey League (MSHL) state title.

The 2014 season was rough as Severna Park went 1-9.

Thankfully, things got better for Severna Park over the next three years when the Falcons posted around a .500 record each season. St. Lawrence quickly put the program on the rise with a string of winning seasons after he took over as head coach in 2016.

“We have really had a solid core that stuck around for a while,” Severna Park senior goalie **Alex Auchincloss** said. “And we have had great leadership.”

Coming off last season as division champions, Severna Park (9-2) was tied for first place in the MSHL’s Eastern Division with South River heading into a matchup between the two teams on February 10 at Bowie Ice Rink. Although South River prevailed, St. Lawrence believes his team has the necessary components to make noise in the playoffs.

“I think a lot of it comes down to goaltending,” St. Lawrence explained of the team’s success. “If you don’t have solid goaltending, you won’t go deep in the playoffs. We have been blessed to have great goalies.”

An infusion of talent every year also helps.

“A couple of local clubs that are feeding Severna Park are improving and the skill level is increasing,” he said, noting Navy Youth Hockey Association, Tri-City, Team Maryland, Washington Little

Capitals and the Maryland Black Bears.

Auchincloss played a few seasons for Black Bears before he moved to another club team, the Howard Huskies AA squad, this season.

For Severna Park, the 6-foot-2 Auchincloss provides stability in the goal. He’s 9-2 with a 2.45 goals-against average and a .892 save percentage.

He shut out Queen Anne’s County in a rout and only allowed one goal in the season-opening whitewash of Crofton.

“He can shut down the better shooters in the league,” St. Lawrence said. “He is very athletic, has a great focus on the puck, and is good size. And he’s good at handling the puck.”

The defense of **Jake Ciuba, Declan Laughlin, Carson Gloman, Kristina Jones, Keegan Clifford** and **Beckett Dickman**, in front of Auchincloss, protects him well.

The Falcons have given up only 27 goals.

“That first pass is critical to get out of your zone quickly,” St. Lawrence said. “They’re good at figuring out which way to leave the zone, whether it’s up left wall, right wall, or center.”

St. Lawrence added that a couple of his defensemen are good shooters.”

Senior defenseman **Ryan LaRocque** mans the power play but centers the Falcons’ top line of **Mitch Gaudet** and **Evan Reaser** (14 goals, five assists). LaRocque ranks second on the team in goals (10) and leads in assists (15).

“Ryan has a really strong skill set,” St. Lawrence said. “Skating. Hands ... He is a hard player to play against because of his ability to move the puck.”

Now, it’s playoff time for the Falcons. They’ll get a first-round bye.

“I would like to see that again,” St. Lawrence said of winning a state title.



Photos courtesy of Brendan Dennis

On January 23, Severna Park won a tight contest, 6-4, against Broadneck. **Top:** Alex Auchincloss (left) provides stability in the goal. He’s 9-2 with a 2.45 goals-against average and a .892 save percentage. **Bottom:** Elizabeth Jones eluded two Broadneck defenders during a midseason win.

Spalding Girls Cap Successful Season On The Ice

By Tom Worgo

When **Dave O’Toole** took over as head coach of the Archbishop Spalding girls hockey team this winter, he wanted to beef up the program’s coaching staff.

So O’Toole boosted the number of coaches from three to six with assistant coaches **Jeff Vogel** and **Bryan Manning** joining the varsity squad. An emphasis was put on offense.

“We wanted to change the methodology,” O’Toole explained. “There is a lot more time for the new coaches to work with the players who needed skill development. In the past, you had highly skilled girls who would dominate for each team. Now, we are getting production across the board, which is what I really wanted to see.”

This year, the Cavaliers had three scorers who powered the team instead of one. Senior forward **Mia Estrada** led the team in scoring and right behind her were two freshmen forwards, **Anastasia Lambropoulos** and **Rosalia Maldonado**.

The trio helped Spalding finish the season with a flourish. The Cavaliers won five straight — including two playoff games — before losing to Visitation Academy of Frederick, 11-2, in the Mid-Atlantic Girls Hockey League championship on February 10 at Rockville Ice Rink. Spalding finished the season 7-3.

Things were different in the Cavaliers’ other two playoff games.

Spalding beat St. John’s College High School of Washington D.C., 4-2, two days earlier during a semifinal in Rockville. Estrada and Lambropoulos scored two goals each while Maldonado chipped in three assists. Spalding sophomore goalie **Kaylee Daigle** stopped 21 or 23 shots.

O’Toole has been impressed with the growth he’s seen in Daigle, who has been playing the position for only two years, but she has provided consistent play she’s provided all season long.

“She has developed really well,” O Toole said. “I remember her last year when she was the backup on the varsity, and she played a lot on the JV. She continuously worked over the summer to get better. She is very determined. She is working all the time to get better.”

Daigle also plays club hockey for the Maryland Black Bears in Gambrills. She was a difference-maker in her team’s quarterfinal playoff rout of Holton-Arms, with 10 saves in the 13-2 win.



Photos courtesy of Jeffrey Burke

The Archbishop Spalding girls finished the season 7-3, with two playoff wins.

Estrada had what was perhaps her best performance of the season, totaling five goals and two assists. She plays on a first line with senior **Mollie Calabrese**, a Severna Park resident, and Maldonado.

“Mia is very experienced and has played some high-level hockey,” said O’Toole, noting Estrada’s experience with the Washington Pride. “She is a very good skater and is strong. “She is able to move through players. She is able to control the puck really well.”

The Cavaliers will miss Estrada’s scoring ability, but they will return Maldonado and Lambropoulos, who spearheaded the second line of seniors **Sophia Randall** and **Kylie Horter**.

“They are going to end up being the face of the program,” O’Toole said of Lambropoulos and Maldonado. “They are going to help other club players look at the school and say, ‘I want to be part of that.’”

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



OLIVIA ORSO

BROADNECK
LACROSSE AND SOCCER

By Kevin Murnane

Broadneck High School junior Olivia Orso plays soccer and lacrosse for the Bruins, and she brings her Bruin pride to activities away from the athletic fields as well.

"I love Broadneck," Orso said.

Besides sports, Orso is involved with clubs and committees, and she writes for the school newspaper. She was also the class president in her sophomore year.

"I really liked being class president as I got to meet and work with students from outside of athletics," Orso said. "One of our big achievements was planning our homecoming, and that was the first one since the pandemic."

This school year, Orso started her school's One Love Club, which is named after former University of Virginia lacrosse player Yeardeley Love, who was murdered by her boyfriend in 2010.

"There was a need for this on our campus, and we want to educate fellow students on signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships," Orso said.

Orso is also involved with other committees such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Wellness Committee, which organizes a health fair in April with topics ranging from proper nutrition to drinking and driving awareness.

However, it's the involvement in Broadneck sports that really escalates her school spirit.

"I was born into sports. I love sports," Orso said. "My mom was a soccer player at Maryland, and my dad also played college sports."

Orso started playing soccer when she was 4 years old and lacrosse at 5 with the Broadneck Area Youth Sports, or BAYS, program. Orso has also dabbled in gymnastics and basketball over the years.

The junior standout has played on the varsity lacrosse team since her freshman year and has been fortunate to be on two consecutive state championship squads. Broadneck beat Arundel High School two years ago and was victorious over Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 2022.

"Olivia has been an invaluable addition to the Broadneck girls lacrosse program over the last two

years," said head coach Katy Kelley. "She adds intensity, grit and athleticism to the practice and game field while contributing in ways beyond her play. She is a true teammate, one who puts team above self and who strives to improve personally, while making sure those around her are working to do the same."

Orso sees herself as being more of a vocal leader on this year's team as their goal is to have a state championship three-peat. To enhance her leadership skills, she is part of the Broadneck Athletic Leadership Council (BALC) with athletic director Kevin Necessary. Orso hopes that she will gain awareness of what it takes to work and show leadership to younger players.

"Olivia plays all sports with the same enthusiasm, passion and determination no matter the score or outcome of the game," Necessary said. "This is infectious amongst her teammates and makes her a leader not with her words, but her actions."

Orso said her entire team is eager to repeat as state champs, even those who haven't been to the finals.

"It's such a great feeling that we want our younger players to experience that thrill," Orso said.

Orso has committed to Ohio State University on a lacrosse scholarship, and she's excited to get to the Ohio capital.

"I wanted to go to a Big Ten school and had interest from Penn State and Rutgers, but I just love the Ohio State campus and the area," Orso said.

Orso credits her love of sports and success to the coaches, teachers and mentors she's had over the years, including the BAYS program and Chesapeake Club Lacrosse.

Orso plans to study journalism at Ohio State with her sights set on sports writing or broadcasting.

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Severna Park Boys, Girls Win Indoor Track Regionals

The Broadneck boys finished in third place overall, taking second in the boys 4x800 meter relay.

» Continued from page 18 fourth place (8 feet).

Boys

In the 3200-meter run, the boys finished one, two, three thanks to seniors **Christopher Nunn** (9:39.23), **Liam Hagerty** (9:47.13) and **Sean Sullivan** (10:18.98).

Falcons **Alex Lecouras** (1:58.53) and **Brooks Steppe** (2:00.89) took second and third, respectively, in the 800-meter run.

For Broadneck, **Chase DeJesus** took third in the 55-meter dash (6:60) and **Patrick Robillard** earned third place in the 500-meter run. **Gunner Denius** took third in the 55-meter hurdles.

The Bruins added to their strong day by finishing third in the 4x200 meter relay and second in the 4x400 meter relay.

The 4x800 meter relay finals came down to Severna Park and Broadneck, and the Falcons got the win (8:15.96) over the Bruins (8:25.93).



Bruins Lead Basketball Standings



Michael Schwob, who brought down 10 rebounds, attempted a reverse layup.

» Continued from page 18

called a timeout, but Broadneck boys basketball head coach **John Williams** chose to let his players settle into the game and respond. And respond they did, answering the Mustangs with a 14-0 run of their own, forcing Meade coach **Mike Glick** to use a timeout.

Williams explained his decision, saying, "We have a battle-tested group and I'm of the mindset to save my timeouts. I thought they'd get their feet under them, but you kind of hold your breath until a couple shots go down."

Jordan Brown led the Bruins with 28 points and **Jalen Carter** added 14, while the Bruins were able to hold a good offensive team in Meade well below their season scoring average. Broadneck typically plays man-to-man defense, but

Williams used more zone against Meade.

"My assistants have been encouraging me to trust the zone," Williams said, "and we've done a good job of preventing dribble drive attacks, which has helped us become a better defense."

Michael Schwob and **Kyle Miles** each pulled down 10 rebounds to help limit second-chance opportunities for the Mustangs.

As the regular season winds down, Broadneck is playing some of its best basketball heading toward the playoffs. But first, a possible rematch looms with Meade in the county championship game, scheduled for Saturday, February 18. Awaiting the Bruins in the playoffs is a Severna Park team that is also playing well and a South River team that finally seems to be healthy.

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Jackson Merrill Skyrockets Through Minor Leagues

By Kevin Murnane

Helium is a word used in sports jargon to refer to an athlete on the rise.

The offseason of Severna Park's Jackson Merrill has had such a meteoric rise that he'll need to refill his helium tank to finish his ascension to Major League Baseball (MLB).

The San Diego Padres selected Merrill with the 27th pick in the 2021 MLB draft. He signed for a reported \$1.8 million to forgo college.

After two years in the Padres minor league system, Merrill has achieved numerous offseason honors including being named the Padres' top minor league player, being named the 19th best minor league prospect by MLB, and being pegged as the 22nd overall prospect by Baseball America.

The meteoric surge of Merrill's baseball abilities started when he was a freshman at Severna Park High School. He was an undersized shortstop with great defensive skills and was developing his offensive acumen.

"He was a 5-foot-5-inch talented shortstop and had a phenomenal freshman year," said Falcons JV baseball coach Dave Ferris. "He grew and really put on muscle during those pandemic years and was 6-foot-3 and 190 pounds by his senior year."

The pandemic shortened his sophomore and junior years of playing baseball for the Falcons, but that time period had a silver lining for Merrill.

"Because we were staying home for school, I learned to cook nutritious meals and lifted weights to get stronger," Merrill said.

During Merrill's senior season, MLB scouts flocked to see the Falcons. That season highlighted the hard work he had put in as he batted .500 with 13 home runs and 39 runs batted in (RBIs).

"The first game of the season, we had about three major league scouts and by the time the playoffs began, we had 60 scouts watching our games," Merrill said.

The Padres area scout, Danny Sader, had been following Merrill for several years as Merrill played on many

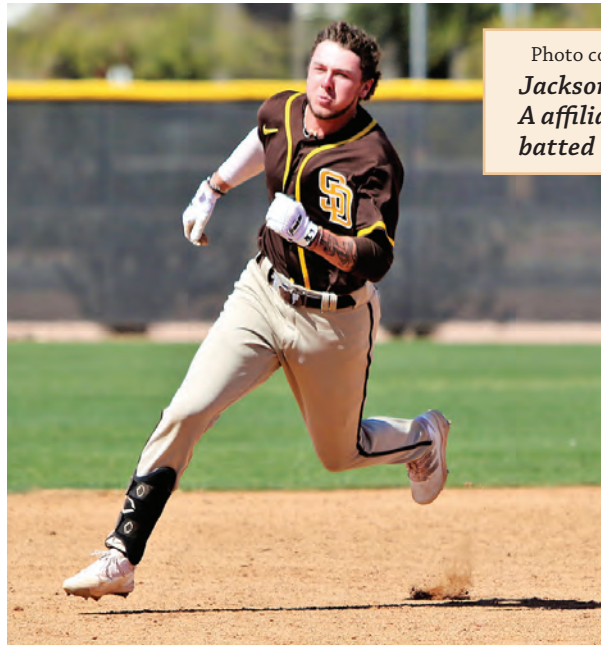


Photo courtesy of Jerry Espinoza

Jackson Merrill spent last season with the Padres Single A affiliate, Lake Elsinore, in the California League. He batted .325 with five home runs and 34 RBIs.

regional travel teams during the summer.

Merrill had committed to the University of Kentucky in the fall, but during the spring, he knew he had a chance to be drafted.

"My agent knew I was going to be drafted, and I still have the video of me hearing the announcement on MLB TV and trying to accept that this is really happening," Merrill said.

His first step after being signed was to report to the Padres affiliate in the Arizona Complex League. Merrill slashed a .280 batting average in his 107 at-bats that year.

"The schedule in Arizona was intense," Merrill said. "The temperature in mid-July is about 120 degrees and we practiced from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. I learned the importance of hydration that summer."

This year, Merrill was assigned to the Padres Single A affiliate, Lake Elsinore, in the California League. Merrill

was batting .393 before a wrist injury caused him to miss several weeks.

Merrill came back strong after the injury and finished with a .325 batting average with five home runs and 34 RBIs. During the playoffs, Merrill batted .647 to lead his team to the California League championship.

This fall, the Padres wanted to provide Merrill with another challenge and assigned him to the prestigious Arizona Fall League (AFL) where other teams send older players to get ready to compete in the major leagues. At 19, Merrill was one of the youngest players in the AFL and finished with a .261 batting average in 22 games. Merrill was also named to the AFL All-Star Game, and he tallied two hits in that contest. At the end of the season, Merrill was ranked the AFL's third-best prospect by Baseball America.

"The fall league was an outstanding league, and it was great to compete against the older guys in Double and Triple A," Merrill said.

Merrill came home to Severna Park for a few weeks this winter, but his fitness regimen continued as he lifted weights, and did sprint work and agility training to prepare for spring training.

Spring training begins in March. Many people within the Padres organization are hoping Merrill is assigned to their Double A affiliate in San Antonio. Merrill would again be one of the youngest players in that league.

Lake Elsinore manager Eric Junge is excited about Merrill's prospects, as evidenced by a recent comment in Baseball America.

"Merrill has been nothing short of a revelation," Junge said. "He brings the bat, he brings the glove, he brings energy. He's got a very bright future."

American Legion Baseball Appoints Senior Team Coach

By Judy Tacyn

Ralph Suppa serves as a lieutenant in special operations with the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, and he's recently added another title — head coach of the American Legion Post 175 senior baseball team.

The team is based in Severna Park's Manhattan Beach community. American Legion baseball was founded as a summer program in 1925 to teach young people the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. Teams are assembled after a tryout period, with players living or attending high school in the Severna Park, Broadneck or Pasadena areas.

"This is really a dream come true for me," Suppa said. "As a first responder and now as a head coach, I get to protect, serve the community I love, do what I love, and now coach the game I love."

Suppa can't remember a time when baseball wasn't part of his life. The longtime Severna Park resident grew up playing in the Green Hornets baseball program before suiting up for Severna Park High School. Suppa was a member of the school's 2003 baseball team that captured the school's first state championship in the sport. He then played for the American Legion Post 175 baseball team for several years.

"We are really excited to welcome Ralph Suppa back to American Legion baseball, this time as coach," said Ambrose Cavegn, commander of Post 175. "I



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Ralph Suppa has been named head coach of the American Legion Post 175 senior baseball team.

have no doubt that his experience and passion for our post and for baseball will continue to fuel the long and successful legacy that is legion baseball."

Outside the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, Suppa had been an assistant varsity baseball coach at Severn School since 2016, and he was thrilled with the opportunity to coach the legion's senior team. He reunites with his former Severna Park junior var-

sity baseball coach, Dave Ferris, who is the head coach of the American Legion Post 175 junior team.

Suppa approached Ferris last year with interest in assisting the junior league team, and when the senior legion coach position came available, Suppa was a fit.

"He knows Severna Park baseball very well, is very enthusiastic about this opportunity, and I know he'll do a great job," Ferris said.

Suppa's enthusiasm for coaching legion baseball comes from his sense of service to his community and the history of the Post 175 baseball community, where former Major League Baseball players like Mark Teixeira, Josh Banks, Michael Floyd and Gavin Floyd have played.

Suppa's grandfathers both served in the military, and he's proud to continue the family's service legacy. In his locker in the Severna Park firehouse is a photo of Lance Corporal Eric Herzberg, a Marine who played soccer with Suppa.

Herzberg was killed in Iraq in 2006. The photo reminds Suppa not only of his great friend but also to be grateful for Herzberg's sacrifice and to remind Suppa to always be thankful for what he has.

As the new senior legion coach, Suppa remembers his time as an American Legion baseball player and the men he met when playing.

"I am looking forward to this age group because I think back to my time

playing legion baseball and the coaching and mentoring that I received," Suppa said. "I think part of the job is not only to teach baseball, but to guide their path in the right direction. I want to help these guys become the best young men they can be."

The high school baseball season is just starting, so players will not be able to assemble as a legion team until the public schools' season is complete in early June. However, Suppa is already reaching out to local high school coaches and attending preseason workouts with high school players to talk about playing legion ball. The legion schedule will include at least 12 district league games, and Suppa is planning on playing in a couple of non-league tournaments.

The new coach believes the talent and drive of kids in the area could propel Severna Park's Post 175 back to the American Legion Baseball state championships.

"Winning games and weekend tournaments are great, but there is nothing like the feeling of being part of a state championship team," Suppa said. "It's that feeling I want to bring back to this legion baseball community."

Folks ages 19 and under and interested in playing for the senior legion baseball team can reach Suppa at suppa@wit2.net or 443-540-0726. Those 17 and under and interested in the junior legion team can contact Ferris at dbferris32@comcast.net or 443-848-1022.

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Basketball Camp Seeks Players

A Severna Park boys basketball camp is set for June 20-23 and June 26-29, from 9:00am to noon. Kids 8 years old through ninth grade are encouraged to register. Players will focus on fundamentals and participate in daily full-court games. The first 200 campers will be accepted and more than 50 of the slots were taken as of February 8. For more information, email spfalconhoopscamp@yahoo.com.



Broadneck Deepens Wrestling Squad

By Tom Worgo

One thing wrestling coaches dislike about their sport: forfeits.

Count longtime Broadneck wrestling coach **Reid Bloomfield** among them.

It's been a big problem during his five years on the job. He simply lacked wrestlers in several of the 14 weight classes. He'd have to forfeit points and sometimes a lot of them in matches.

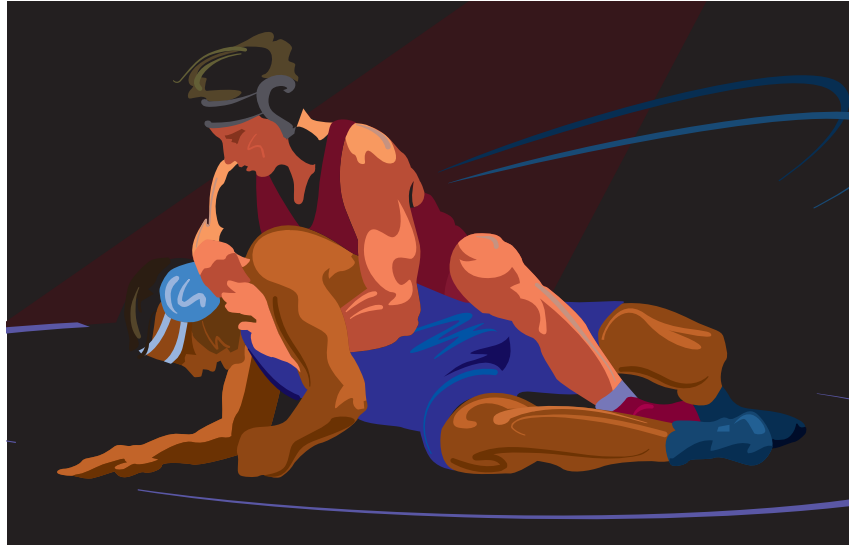
"We have had very, very good teams," Bloomfield explained. "We also have had three or four holes where we were giving away forfeits. The difference between this year and the other teams is that we are now solid throughout the lineup. We are not spotting teams 18 points, which has sometimes been the case in the past."

In other words, the Bruins aren't forfeiting points anymore.

This season has shaped up as one of Bloomfield's best. The team started the season with a sparkling 16-1 dual-meet record and was a No.1 seed in the 4A East state tournament. The Bruins beat Annapolis 39-34 on February 9 before losing to eventual champion South River, 38-30, in the region finals. The individual tournament looms on the March schedule.

The Bruins' best previous season under the coach came during his rookie campaign in 2018 when the Bruins went 11-2.

"From top to bottom, it's the most complete team I've had," Bloomfield said. "This is what you work for. It doesn't



happen overnight. It's been something we have been building toward for years."

The overwhelming strength of Broadneck's lineup lies in its string of seniors. It starts with **Liam DeBaugh**, the team's most accomplished grappler, at 160 pounds, and finishes up with **Calieb Collazo** at 295. In between, there's **Max DeMella**

(170), **Jake Chambers** (182), **Dax Avila** (195) and **Walker Young** (220).

Sophomores **Luka Podkrajac** (106), **Cam Williams** (113), **Brandon Whyte-Taylor** (120) and **Peyton Miller** (152) and seniors **Peter Saroch** (126), **Justin Henschen** (132), and **Ben Durkin** (138), **Rylan Woodward** (145) and **Peyton Miller** (152) complete the lineup.

"It means there's pressure on us to win and work harder in the wrestling room because we have a target on our back," said Avila, referring to the seniors at the end of the lineup. "It raises us to a higher standard because we have a full lineup and are capable of winning things."

DeBaugh wins as much as any Broadneck wrestler. He finished first in the county and region at 126 pounds last year and placed second in the Class 3A state tournament while going 37-8.

"From last year to this year, I think he is more serious about wrestling," Avila said. "He has put in a ton of work to gain a lot of weight. He's still doing as well as he was last year. That's very impressive."

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Severna Park Unified Bowling Team Brings Inclusion To Sport



Photo by Mark Patton

The Severna Park High School unified bowling team posed following their February 3 game against South River High School.

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park Lanes was standing room only earlier this month with spirit on display to rival any high school sport in the area.

The excitement was due to the Sever-

na Park High School unified bowling team's February 3 match against the Edgewater, Maryland-based South River High School.

The Special Olympics Unified Sports program is an avenue of carrying out and fulfilling the mission of Special

Olympics. Teams are put together in such a way as to provide training and competition opportunities that challenge and involve all athletes. The Unified Sports program in Anne Arundel County high schools are composed of co-ed teams with a recommended

balance of students on the roster — half with disabilities and half without.

Currently, high school students at Severna Park can compete in three unified sports. The school offers bowling in the winter, tennis in the fall and bocce in the spring.

"It's all about having fun and making friendships," said Severna Park unified bowling coach Nadine Hendler. "It's cool as a coach to see kids in a different environment outside of the classroom."

While fun and friendships were on full display, the scores also matter. Unified bowling is a sanctioned sport, complete with county standings and varsity letters.

Severna Park sophomore Grace Curtin encouraged her partner for the match, senior Natalie Recor, and offered high-fives after each bowl. It's much more than strikes and spares that bond the pair, though.

"Hanging out with friends is my favorite part," Recor said.

Curtin said she sits with Recor at lunch, and they even go out to get their nails done together.

"It's something to look forward to at the end of the day," Curtin said of her activities with Recor and bowling practice twice a week after school.

Senior Jaden Givens is participating
» Continued on page 30

"Peter Pan" Set To Fly Onto Jones Stage In March

By Judy Tacyn

In Peter Pan's Neverland, kids don't always get the chance to make the big decisions, but at Jones Elementary School in Severna Park, the kids were in charge of choosing their spring musical.

Nina McCarthy, the musical's producer, wanted to do something fun that offered ample opportunity for everyone to be featured. After several options were narrowed down to three, McCarthy and her production team let the kids vote on which musical they wanted to perform, and "Peter Pan" flew to the top of the list.

"I think not wanting to grow up is a theme that will never become unfamiliar to audiences," McCarthy said. "Especially when dealing with fourth- and fifth-graders who are on the precipice of entering the next stage of childhood and becoming one step closer to growing up. There's a comfort in childhood and elementary school that I think most people can relate to."

Auditions took place in November, and a cast of performers have been working hard ever since.

"This is a wonderful group of children who have taken ownership over the roles," McCarthy said. "Patrick Alden was literally born to be Peter Pan. He is the embodiment of boyhood energy. Sophie Miller has a lovely singing voice and a maternal instinct that fits her role

so well, and Liam Ellis has a sense of humor and command of the stage that the character of Captain Hook requires."

Patrick said the cast members are all friends, which makes acting easy.

"I play Peter Pan with high energy, happiness and comedy," Patrick said. "Because

we know each other well and know how each other will act, it's really fun to play off of each other. I think people can see how happy we are."

Best friends Carter Campbell and Charlie LaBrier play brothers John and Michael Darling, respectively, in the production. Carter is happy to portray John because he gets to act alongside Charlie.

"A lot of us are best friends, and this musical gives us a chance to perform together

as a group," Charlie said.

"Carter is a really good actor, and I like being his brother onstage."

Charlie likes the role of Michael because he admires his character's energy and thoughts and said Michael's thoughts are his energy.

Co-producer Kim Alden is in awe of the joy the cast exudes.

"These students love to sing and dance, and once the music starts, they are eager to run songs again," Alden said. "The hardest number of the show is the first one we learned with choreography, and it's great to hear them say, 'Can we do it again?' even after going through the song multiple times. I think it's just the chance to perform and be with other friends and tell a story that makes them so eager to continue."

Sophie, who plays Wendy Darling, is having a fun time because her best friend is also in the production. Now in her second musical at Jones, she's already looking forward to performing with the drama team at Severna Park Middle School.

Liam believes Cap- » Continued on page 36



Photo by Judy Tacyn
Jones Elementary School students will perform "Peter Pan" in March. The cast includes (clockwise from top left) Sophie Miller, Liam Ellis, Quinn McCarthy, Carter Campbell and Charlie LaBrier.

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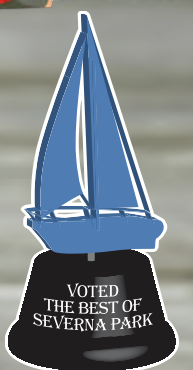
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Spalding Teens Stand Up To Blood Cancer

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Giving presentations, enhancing awareness about an issue, seeking sponsorships, working to raise tens of thousands of dollars for blood cancer research and leading a team.

While these may not be the first activities that come to mind when thinking about high school sophomores, it's exactly what a pair of Severna Park residents are doing.

Archbishop Spalding High School sophomores Clare Donovan and Madeline Lancione are serving as co-captains of a 10-teenager team, dubbed We Got CUREage, that's raising money for blood cancer research as part of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries of the Year campaign. The seven-week national fundraising competition concludes March 4.

"The mission that LLS has really spoke to me," Madeline said. "I figured this would be the perfect fit for me."

According to Andrew Steckel, a Baltimore-based campaign development manager for Student Visionaries of the Year, the campaign teaches students not only what LLS does, but it also provides the kids valuable leadership and business skills. Steckel said these lessons are all en route to the campaign's ultimate goal for each of the participants — becoming a better person.

Madeline and Clare both have personal reasons to participate in the competition. For Madeline, cancer is a disease that's touched her dad, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents.

Clare didn't hesitate to say why LLS research is important to her. Her grandmother had a stem cell transplant — made possible by LLS — to battle her blood cancer.

"I don't think she'd be here without LLS," Clare said.

According to the LLS, the organization has invested about \$1.6 billion in research as part of its mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and other blood cancers. It's also helped advance 70% of the blood cancer treatment options approved by the Food and Drug Administration



since 2017.

"What's great about LLS is 60% of all research done by LLS also carries over to other types of cancer as well," Steckel said.

Steckel touted the fundraising prowess that Archbishop Spalding students display year after year. Since 2018, teams from the school have raised more than \$410,000 for LLS.

He doesn't expect any letdown this year.

"They took leadership and ownership right off the bat, which is something you usually don't see from high school students," Steckel said of the We Got CUREage team.

Earlier this month, Maggiano's in Annapolis hosted an event designed to help the girls of We Got CUREage raise both money and awareness. The evening's guest speaker was Dr. Barry Meisenberg, chair of the department of medicine at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, who spoke about advances in cancer treatment.

Photo by Mark Patton

Severna Park residents Madeline Lancione (left) and Clare Donovan are co-captains of a team at Archbishop Spalding High School, dubbed We Got CUREage, that's raising money for blood cancer research. Maggiano's in Annapolis hosted an event this month designed to help the girls raise both money and awareness for team's cause.

Meisenberg also praised the members of We Got CUREage, pointing out that they're at an age where it's expected for them to focus on themselves rather than dedicating time like they are to battle blood cancer.

"I hope it will end up being a lifetime commitment," Meisenberg told the girls.

While Madeline was finalizing her speech that she'd give during remarks at the Maggiano's event, she reflected on how the Student Visionaries program has given her lessons she'll take beyond the campaign.

"Speaking in front of my English class isn't the same as speaking in front of 50 adults," Madeline said.

Clare echoed Madeline's sentiment. "A bunch of people in college are learning the skill of public speaking, and I'm getting it now," Clare said.

Each of the 22 Student Visionaries of the Year campaign teams in Maryland were given a choice for its fundraising dollars to go to one of the three pillars of LLS — research, advocacy or patient support. We Got CUREage chose research.

"Everything was impossible at one point in history, so a cure for cancer might be impossible now, but it might be possible later," Clare said. "The more people learn about it, the higher chance we have of a cure."

Madeline shares a similar vision to her co-captain.

"My dad always says, 'I want you to be the last generation to have to deal

with cancer,'" she said.

We Got CUREage is hoping donations will keep coming in so they can reach their goal of raising \$50,000 for blood cancer research by March 4.

On the final night of the campaign, an event titled The Grand Finale will take place at the BWI Airport Marriott. At the event, in which Madeline and Clare are already talking about getting to wear fun dresses, various awards will be given out for top teams, individuals, pillar achievements and those recognizing efforts to spread awareness.

For those interested in future Student Visionaries of the Year campaigns, email Steckel at andrew.steckel@lls.org.

To donate to the We Got CUREage cause, visit events.lls.org/md/svoy-md23/mlancione. Additionally, each Thursday through March 4, Garry's Grill will donate 20% of proceeds from dine-in customers at the restaurant to help the girls of We Got CUREage reach their goal.

Madeline explained that she wouldn't have the exposure to an event like the recent one at Maggiano's if it wasn't for the LLS initiative. But, as much as she's relishing the life lessons and opportunities the seven-week campaign offers, she's still focused on what her team is doing for others.

"I'm not just here for the experience, I'm also here to do something good," Madeline said.

Severna Park Unified Bowling Team Brings Inclusion To Sport

» Continued from page 28

in unified bowling for the first time this season.

"I love the atmosphere," Givens said. "There's a lot of positive vibes going around."

His mother, Tracy, is a special education attorney, and she touted the unified bowling program where race, disability, sex and other discriminators aren't a factor.

"I'm very proud that he's decided to be a part of it," Tracy said. "He knows everybody needs a space to grow and develop."

Severna Park junior John Burkhardt had never bowled before this season, but he's relishing the opportunity that unified sports allows.

"You're showing the kids who couldn't try out for a regular sport what it's like being on a team," Burkhardt said.

Melissa Masterson was at Severna Park Lanes cheering on her son, Brady, and daughter, Alexandra. They both compete on the Severna Park squad.

Masterson said unified bowling is a

great program for kids to be supportive of each other.

"It's a way for them to get to know other kids they might normally not see at school," Masterson said.

Many students said the fellowship is just as important to them as the sport. In between turns, tables were filled with bowlers laughing, joking, eating and encouraging their teammates. In short, they were able to be themselves — teenagers.

"I just love that they have the opportunity for all kids to participate in a varsity sport with no judgment," said Jenn Bonk, whose son Ryan bowls for the Falcons team.

Going into the matchup against South River, the Severna Park unified bowling team was in first place among the county's large teams. A county tournament is slated for February 17.

Hendler said Severna Park students interested in participating in unified sports can register just like other sports during each season.

"The program is about taking care of everybody," Hendler said.

Applications Being Accepted For Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Awards

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County is now accepting applications for the 2023 Candace C.W. Antwine Military Service Awards, an initiative designed to aid Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) students who enlist in the military after graduation.

The monetary awards are given each May in honor of Antwine, a Navy veteran who served on the Board of Education from 2018 until her death in 2021. The awards benefit AACPS students who have made a similar commitment by enlisting to serve in the United States military upon gradu-

ation. They assist awardees with initial expenses and aim to remove financial barriers to military service.

Three graduating seniors — Jemuel Bombay of Meade High School (Air Force), Chandler Dearborn of Severna Park High School (Army) and Luis Ramirez of Meade High School (Army) — earned awards last year.

Applications for this year's award can be found at www.aacps.org/serviceaward. The deadline to apply is 11:59pm on March 31.

To contribute to the funding of the awards, visit www.aacps.org/serviceaward.



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Educator Of The Month

Noelle Cruder Severna Park High School



By Lauren Cowin

Noelle Cruder's classroom is anything but ordinary. The Severna Park High School special education teacher has a traditional setup at first glance – tables, chairs, dry erase boards, but venture to the far side of her room and she'll excitedly point out the Cricut vinyl cutting machine, intentionally placed near the window to access the Wi-Fi signal, and a bevy of supplies to create jewelry and other handmade arts and crafts items.

"We want to make a small business," Cruder said.

Cruder likes to say special education chose her, not the other way around.

The Severna Park native and former political science major had plans of attending law school before an ill-timed bout with tonsillitis caused her to miss the LSAT and eventually take a corporate job.

"The more I sat at a desk, I thought, 'I can't do this,'" Cruder recalled.

She doesn't do much sitting these days.

As a teacher in the school's Alternative Classroom Curriculum (ACC) program, Cruder keeps herself, and her students, quite busy.

Along with typical school subjects such as writing, math and science, Cruder and her counterpart in the ACC program spend a substantial amount of time working with their students on life and social skills in an effort to promote independence and prepare them for employment after high school.

One such project is the coffee cart, which was started by her predecessor as a stationery coffee stand from which the students sold coffee to faculty. Cruder went a step further, first by mobilizing the cart and

adding items such as handmade spirit earrings, then by obtaining the green light from Principal Lindsay Abruzzo to sell coffee to students.

"It's amazing," Cruder said. "Our kids are like celebrities when they walk through the hall. It takes us so long to get from point A to point B because they're fist-bumping every kid. They know all their names. It really is great."

Emily Leizear's son is one of Cruder's students.

"This is one of our son's favorite things to do at school because it's an opportunity for him to interact with staff and practice job skills, such as making change," Leizear said. "Everything she does with her students is to foster independence and inclusion to ready them for life beyond high school."

An educator's job often extends well outside the classroom. For Cruder, working with students with disabilities means helping their families navigate the next steps in their children's education, development and independence.

"We become part of their families," Cruder said. "I always say [to parents], 'I become part of your support circle. You're in my support circle. Our goals are the same.'"

A viral video involving one of Cruder's students has ignited conversations regarding anti-bullying and how to promote inclusiveness in Severna Park schools and the community at large. Cruder thinks one avenue is for parents to encourage their kids to volunteer for the Special Olympics or other organizations affiliated with people with disabilities.

"After high school, you don't know who's labeled [special needs] and who's not," Cruder said. "They are going to have to work in all environments. Make sure they learn that patience and understanding."

As for her students, the coffee cart is just the tip of the iceberg. This spring, she's plowing ahead with a plan for them to have their own table at the local farmers market.

Achieving these big-ticket goals can't happen without first breaking down and mastering the individual skills required to perform each task, milestones many of us take for granted. That progress is what motivates Cruder, and it's her favorite part of the job.

"Every little thing is such a big deal," Cruder said. "A student asking me, 'What do we do next?' – that's amazing! You've been working for years to go that next step. Those little moments are literally my favorite. I would do anything for them. It makes everything else in the world seem so silly."



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Amanda Curry, CRNP

Ms. Curry is board certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and is trained in all aspects of primary care. She received a Master's degree in 2018 in Nursing Leadership and Management from Stevenson University and completed her Family Nurse Practitioner degree in 2022 from Chamberlain University. Amanda has a patient-centered approach to improving your health and well being, and is passionate about women's health, mental health and pediatrics in particular.

Amanda has 15 years experience in both adult and pediatric medicine and brings a focus on preventative medicine, patient education, and building meaningful relationships with patients as her clinical goals. We welcome the addition of this bright, enthusiastic provider to our practice!

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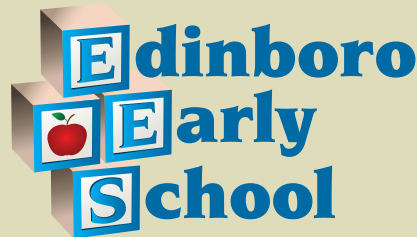
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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CAMP GUIDE



Be sure to check out the 2023 Camp Guide coming in the March issue of the *Severna Park Voice*. It highlights summer camps throughout Anne Arundel County.

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Information Night Set For Students Interested In 2023-2024 Board Of Education Seat

Shared by the AACPS Communications Office

High school juniors in good academic standing can get more information on becoming the 2023-2024 student member of the Board of Education (SMOB) of Anne Arundel County during a hybrid information night scheduled for 6:30pm on February 22.

Students may join via Google Meet or attend in person at the Carol S. Parham Building, located at 2644 Riva Road in Annapolis. The meeting link will be posted on the CRASC website, www.aacps.org/crasc.

This informational meeting is for all interested students to learn about the process of nomination, campaigning, election and appointment. The expectations of office will also be discussed at this information session.

Anne Arundel County's student member on the Board of Education is the only one in the nation on a local board who has full voting rights. The SMOB is elected by members of the Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils (CRASC) and appointed by the governor.

The nomination process for the 2023-2024 seat opens on February 23 and concludes at 4:00pm on March 13. Nomination forms should be emailed to the Office of Student Leadership at spellegrin@aacps.org. No nomination forms will be accepted after 4:00pm on March 13.

The following are other key dates in the process:

March 1: First of two campaign clinics

offered by the CRASC. These workshops are designed to help students prepare for elections including SMOB, CRASC officers, class officers and student council offices. This clinic will focus on platform development. It begins at 6:30pm via Google Meet.

March 8: Second of two clinics sponsored by CRASC. This clinic will focus on campaigning and election presentations. It will begin at 6:30pm via Google Meet.

March 13: 2023-2024 student member of the board nomination period closes at 4:00pm.

March 20: SMOB application packets are due to the Office of Student Leadership by 4:00pm. All essays, letters of recommendation and resumes must be submitted by email to spellegrin@aacps.org.

March 27: All nominees for SMOB will be scheduled for an interview. These interviews are scored and used to select the three finalists who will advance to the SMOB election.

April 18: CRASC will host a live debate at 6:30pm between the three SMOB finalists. This debate will be moderated by a student, and the format will be determined by CRASC. It will be livestreamed on AACPS' YouTube channel.

CRASC will host the student member of the board election in late April. The name of the candidate who receives the most votes in this election will be forwarded to the governor for appointment. To find out more about this opportunity, check out the latest episode of "Teen Talk" on AACPS' YouTube channel.



A Look At The Severna Park High School Math Team



Photo courtesy of Janna Kintzley

Comprised of students from all high school grades, the Severna Park math team competes five times during the school year against other Anne Arundel County schools, public and private.

By Sarah Sternhagen
Student Intern

Severna Park High School offers dozens of clubs, sports and extracurricular activities to students. One of those clubs is the school math team.

Composed of students from all grades, the team competes five times during the school year against other Anne Arundel County schools, public and private.

At a competition on January 21, the Severna Park math team placed second overall for the team round. All the Falcons put up strong showings in the individual round, with senior Dennis Malikov placing first with a perfect score.

The competitions are traditionally held at Anne Arundel Community College. Both the team and individual rounds take 30 minutes and include six questions. Individual round questions vary in difficulty, but for the team round, every question is meant to challenge the students in ways they wouldn't normally see in the classroom.

"We solve a bunch of complicated math problems," sophomore Sabrina Richter said. "They're more critical thinking than just solving, so you really have to think hard about them."

The competition questions are unlike the problems students see on their math tests or homework in class. These questions are more outside the box. Students have to use diagrams or work through more complicated word problems than in their math classes. Some problems can take an entire meeting to work through and require an entire whiteboard to solve.

The team has reached first place in previous years and hopes to achieve the spot again. With several competitions already under their belt this year, and lots of practice, they hope to reach their goal.

"We'll have preparation where we just go through old, previous years' competitions and work through their

"We solve a bunch of complicated math problems. They're more critical thinking than just solving, so you really have to think hard about them."

— SABRINA RICHTER,
SPHS SOPHOMORE

problems, solutions, whatnot," Malikov said.

Always there to cheer on their students are faculty sponsors Janna Kintzley and Michele Staisloff, who hold team meetings in their classrooms, provide practice items and guide students through new material. Many times, students will teach each other material they're confident in. That way, everyone improves their skills.

"Each student has different strengths, so team members take turns explaining practice problems and teaching the others new content," Kintzley said. "My favorite part about sponsoring the math team is witnessing the excitement of students so eager to learn and master new skills. I love how well the students work together, support each other and share the same goal of learning and applying mathematics."

Between the many math problems and the regular classes students take, the team offers a chance for students interested in mathematics to expand their thinking to more high-level concepts.

"It's a fun extracurricular to do outside of school, and it just helps you improve," sophomore Margot Argeles said. "I think it's helped me improve my everyday math and being able to solve problems."

No matter how the scores turn out, or how many points are scored, the skills the students learn are indispensable.

Attention Middle Schoolers: National Civics Bee Is Underway

The Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce is launching the 2023 National Civics Bee, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

Organized in partnership with the Civic Trust of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Anne Arundel County competition will inspire middle schoolers to become better informed about American democracy, to engage respectfully and constructively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions.

Middle school students from public, private, charter and home schools are invited to take part in the first-round civics essay competition. After a panel reviews the 500-word essays, the top 20 students will be selected to advance to the final round of competition: a live quiz event to test their civics knowledge.

The Crofton Chamber of Com-

merce is scheduled to host the event on April 20 at the Michael E. Busch Library in Annapolis. The finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including a \$2,000 cash award for the first-place student.

"We are excited to launch the first Civics Bee event in Anne Arundel County," said Clifton Harcum, executive director of the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce. "We welcome all middle-school age students to submit their civics essays as their entry consideration to the Civics Bee. There will be cash awards for the top three student finalists."

In addition, the top three winners will advance to the Maryland State Civics Bee, where they will compete against other winning students from Frederick, Howard and Baltimore counties.

The deadline for student essay submissions is February 24.

To apply, visit bit.ly/3jx2gfk or www.croftonchamber.com.

Folger McKinsey To Go Under The Sea With "The Little Mermaid Jr."

"Peter Pan" Set To Fly

» Continued from page 28

tain Hook is the best character in the production.

"I think Captain Hook is hilarious, and people say we have the same personality," said Liam, who makes Captain Hook gestures and speaks in Hook's dialect even when not rehearsing.

Tiger Lily is portrayed by Quinn McCarthy, who loves her character's bravery. Quinn said Tiger Lily exemplifies the courage it takes for her to get on the stage in front of an audience.

"I'm honored to have a great cast that makes me laugh and also who work very hard," said director Malarie Zeeks. "I don't doubt that I will see many of these kids continue in theater, music, dance or set and technical design."

The stage will be brought to life by a student stage crew, parent volunteers and Jones Elementary alumni. There are four main scenes: the Darling nursery; Neverland; the Underground where the Lost Boys live; and the Jolly Roger, Captain Hook's ship.

Performances will take place on March 17 and 18 at 7:00pm, and March 19 at 2:00pm. Tickets will be available at the door at 122 Hoyle Lane in Severna Park.

Zeeks said the team has flexed their creative muscles by creating new ways to tell the story and to fly.

"Audiences will be guaranteed to leave with a smile on their faces and new songs to sing," Zeeks said.



The "Little Mermaid Jr." cast at Folger McKinsey includes about 35 students.

Students at Folger McKinsey Elementary are asking community members to be part of their world as they present their adaptation of "The Little Mermaid Jr." in March.

The show is made possible by director Atticus Boidy, music director Andrea Lawrie, choreog-

raphers Tina Larson and Sierra Bastillio, and producers April Gianvittorio and Jennie Ewing.

Folger's main cast for "The Little Mermaid Jr." includes Kate Hibbard as Ariel, Payton Seagroves as Prince Eric, Aislyn Sowa as Grimsby, Samantha Sanner as King Triton, Mia

Matthews as Sebastian, Alayna Williamson as Flounder, Ana Gianvittorio as Scuttle and Sidrah Kohlhepp as Ursula.

Showtimes are 7:00pm on March 10 and 1:00pm and 7:00pm on March 11. For tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com and search for "Folger."



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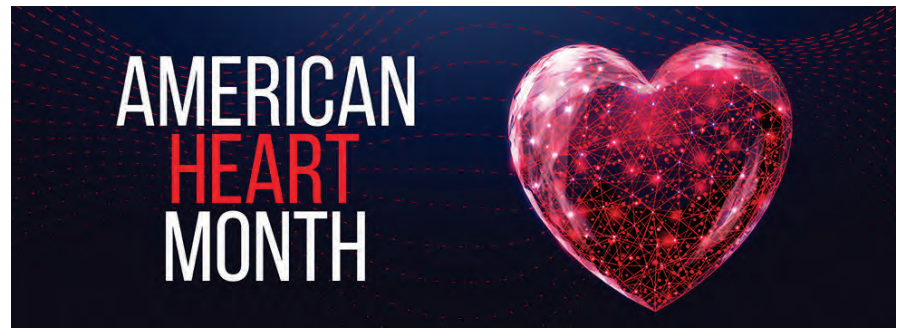
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Practicing Great Heart Health

February is American Heart Month. So, in honor of the 59th year the U.S. has shined a spotlight on heart disease — the No.1 cause of death nationwide — here are simple ways you can prioritize your heart health.



Tips From Luminis Health

By Lauren Meyer

Murtaza Dawood, an experienced cardiothoracic surgeon for Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, shared several recommendations to prioritize heart health.

Dawood specializes in performing operations to correct valve diseases and arrhythmia. Since the center opened its new Luminis Health Heart Surgery program two years ago, the heart surgery team has treated more than 200 patients with coronary artery disease, heart valve disease, vascular disease and cardiac arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation.

DIET

Diet is important for overall health. Dawood explained that all foods in moderation are acceptable. Naturally, he shared that some foods are better than others.

“Vegetables, fruits and lean meats should be the cornerstone of meals,” Dawood said. “The goal is balance.”

Berries, nuts, salmon, beans and oats are just a few things touted as heart superfoods.

EXERCISE

Exercise can be intimidating to some people who don't know where or how to start. The good news is that you don't have to exercise vigorously to get

benefits. While vigorous exercise is ideal, any physical activity is good.

“Staying active is one of the best ways to improve your heart health,” Dawood said. “The activities don't have to be complicated. Simply walking is a start.”

The American Heart Association recommends five 30-minute moderate exercise sessions each week. Walking, jogging, swimming and biking are just a few workouts to consider. If 30 minutes is hard to fit into your schedule or even to physically complete in one window of time, you can still receive great benefits from 10- to 15-minute segments two or three times in one day. Small things like parking farther away when you go to the grocery store or taking the stairs at work can add up too.

“The use of pedometers or step-counters can help track the level of activity,” Dawood added.

AVOID SMOKING

“Cigarette smoking is one of the strongest risk factors for heart disease and probably one of the hardest habits to break,” Dawood said.

If the benefits alone aren't enough to push you to quit smoking, keep in mind that the benefits of stopping aren't limited to heart disease prevention. There's an overall positive impact on the body.

To learn about free resources to assist in kicking

the habit, call 443-481-5366 to speak with a Luminis Health tobacco treatment specialist.

PREVENTIVE CARE

It's important to be proactive about your health. Therefore, preventive care under the guidance of a primary care physician is incredibly important as well.

“I frequently tell my patients that heart disease is like a moving train; we cannot stop the train but only affect its speed,” Dawood said.

There are factors out of our control such as race, family history and gender. However, there are behaviors or actions we can do to change that speed.

“Poor diet, sedentary lifestyle, smoking, high blood pressure and diabetes will accelerate that train whereas physical activity, balanced diet and medications [to control other illnesses] will slow that train,” Dawood said.

The goal is to delay the disease process long enough to not affect quality of life. Heart disease is a broad category, and heart attack is usually the first sign that comes to mind. Chest pressure, shortness of breath, swelling in the lower legs and fatigue can be signs of heart disease. If you're experiencing any of those symptoms, make an appointment with your provider immediately.

Learn more at www.luminishealth.org.

Take This To Heart: Advice For Good Cardiovascular Health

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

About one-third of heart attack patients never make it to the hospital.

“The heart doesn't get enough blood, or the heart goes into a funny rhythm,” said Dr. Kelly Miller, a physician at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC).

According to an October 2022 report from the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, heart disease was the county's leading cause of death in 2020, the most recent year for which data is available. Heart disease was responsible for 1,044 deaths, while the second-leading cause of death, cancer, took 1,022 lives.

Physicians at UM BWMC are urging the public to recognize warning signs for heart attacks and other cardiovascular diseases and to call 911 if an emergency occurs.

Miller, one of those physicians, has been saving lives since 2007. She treats acute coronary issues, heart attacks, rhythm disturbances and patients referred for procedures. Sometimes, stents or bypass surgery are required. Other times, patients are prescribed medications if their arteries are blocked in multiple places.

She said people should be aware of several risk factors: family history, smoking, diabetes, cholesterol levels and age. Men should be especially mindful of the risk factors as they reach age 50, and women should more closely monitor these factors as they reach age 60.



If a coronary issue is detected, patients may need to improve their diet, stop smoking and exercise more often.

Dr. Ratnakar Mukherjee, another UM BWMC physician, said people need lifestyle modifications, not a wholesale dietary regimen. He advises patients to avoid most carbohydrates and find healthy alternatives when eating and cooking — for example, substituting margarine for olive oil.

Miller doesn't follow the philosophy that only red meat is detrimental for overall health.

“I recommend a plant-based diet, and limiting animal protein, if patients are really high risk [for heart disease],” she said. “I don't know about the idea that it's OK if it's not red meat. Meat is probably meat is meat.”

She suggests a Mediterranean-style diet with olive oil, vegetables, nuts, seeds and grains.

“The worst things are processed, like hot dogs and ham,” she added.

Diet alone is not enough for maintaining a healthy heart. Miller agreed that 30 minutes of exercise five times per week is a good fitness benchmark.

For older patients, she recommends strength training in addition to cardio.

“I strongly recommend weight training because as you lose muscle mass, it helps keep the metabolic rate up, and reduces falls and fractures,” she said.

Both doctors stressed that patients should listen to their bodies, consult their primary care physicians and request a stress test if necessary. If patients are smokers, diabetics, sedentary or obese, they may need medical therapy or long-term medications like beta blockers and cholesterol medications.

If a heart-related emergency does happen, people should call 911 and wait for an ambulance instead of driving. Emergency medical technicians can send electrocardiogram (EKG) images to the hospital while the patient is on the way, preparing the emergency room. That way, the hospital will get notified in advance and begin preparing for the patient's arrival.

“Heart attacks are random events,” Miller said. “There is chest discomfort, but not everyone uses the word ‘pain.’ It can be pressure or a severe tightness ... anywhere from your chin to your upper abdomen. It doesn't always radiate to the left arm.”

Mukherjee agreed.

“It can be neck pain, jaw pain or a toothache,” he said. “They think, ‘Oh, I just pulled a muscle,’ and instead they had an arrhythmia and dropped dead.”

Brightview Residents Show Off Creative Sides



By Mark Patton
mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Brightview Severna Park was transformed into a gallery last month as the senior living complex held a resident art show.

While it may not rival the display scope of the nearby National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Brightview show offered plenty of art, a harpist, display sections, food and even some bubbly to complement the smiles of pride that residents were sporting.

“My idea was to bring them back to what they could do,” said 90-year-old Brightview resident Don Weak, who was excited to contribute ideas to the planning. “It gets their minds thinking and working.”

Weak exhibited his wood carvings at the show, including walking sticks with various national park emblems attached to them — a reminder of his life working for the National Park Service before he retired.

Hillary Gibbons serves as the vibrant living director at Brightview Severna Park. It’s a role that residents appreciate, with many going so far as referring to Gibbons as “her vibrancy.”

“Just seeing the pride in ev-
» Continued on page 40

Photos by Mark Patton

During an art show held last month, residents at Brightview Severna Park displayed various forms of artwork they created. **Top Left:** Peggy Weber — her prize-winning ceramic vase from the 1971 Anne Arundel County Fair. **Top Center:** Danni Johnson — some of her glass art. **Top Right:** Ginny Kuhn — two of her paintings of wood-hulled boats. **Bottom Left:** Lois Lorenz — an award-winning photograph of her grandson. **Bottom Center:** Yvonne Taylor — work with the Japanese art form of tsumami. **Bottom Right:** Carolyn Parsons — two paintings of local life.

DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK

Photos by Mary Cobbler



Above: The crab cake from Buddy’s is slightly larger than some of its local counterparts. It’s full of lump crab meat, with seasonings on top. **Below:** The crab cake at Carrol’s Creek Cafe is minimally processed, with hardly any filler, if at all, with tiny scallions and an almost creamy, slightly sweet taste.



Try The Best Crabs Cakes Around During Annapolis Restaurant Week

By Mary Cobbler

Crabs, glorious grabs! Aren’t we lucky to live near the Chesapeake Bay, where we can indulge in the best crabs around? This month, I sampled crab cakes from three restaurants — Blackwall Hitch, Carrol’s Creek Cafe and Buddy’s Crabs & Ribs.

All three are Annapolis favorites with their own vibe and culture, and all feature fresh meat from Maryland blue crabs.

Blackwall Hitch, on the corner of 6th Street and Severn Avenue, just over Spa Creek, has become a favorite in Eastport. It’s chic, lively and fun. With huge windows and contemporary lighting, it’s bright and airy. The name refers to a blackwall hitch knot that sailors use to connect their boats to docks. The restau-

» Continued on page 43

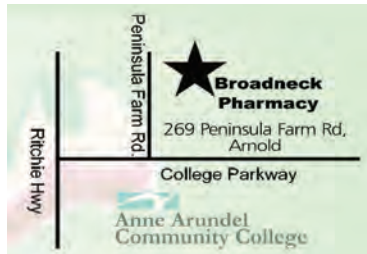
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BEST OF SEVERNA PARK

GRAZIE for voting Mezzanotte Best Restaurant, Dinner, Italian and Best Special Occasion

Local Home Displays The Woodwork Of Chainsaw Paul



Located at 229 Riverside Drive in Annapolis, the yard of Michael DeStefano is furnished with eagle, bird and bear tree carvings by "Chainsaw Paul" Waclo. A Pennsylvania resident, Waclo spent 25 years in corporate sales and design before launching his new venture in 2012. As he carved larger and more elaborate sculptures, his work took him all over the United States and Europe. See more of his designs at www.chainsawcarvingbypaul.com.

Brightview Residents Show Off Creative Sides

» Continued from page 38

everyone's work," said Gibbons of what stood out to her during the show. "It's a little more lively."

Barbara Harrison displayed quilted art she's created over the years. Even though Harrison was forced to give up her craft due to arthritis, the Brightview show rekindled her artistic spirit.

"It makes me feel good that maybe it's appreciated," Harrison said about her quilting. "We don't know what each other's talents are until we have this."

Most of the pieces on display were items that the artists have hanging in their own apartments at Brightview. Each piece was labeled with its title, artist and year it was created.

One such piece was a ceramic vase made by resident Peggy Weber in 1971. The vase, emblazoned with a seahorse, had a first-place ribbon from that year's Anne Arundel County Fair attached to the handle.

"It's an opportunity to reflect back and an opportunity to see my fellow residents' treasure and to talk to them," said Dick Clingan, whose work included a large swan carving that he made in memory of his late wife. "That has probably touched me the most."

Glass artist Danni Johnson was pleased with the steady flow of art admirers that passed by throughout the day.

"At first, it's embarrassing, but then I thought, 'Well yes, I deserve that. I did that,'" Johnson said.

The exhibit wasn't limited to residents. Friends and family of the artists also came to enjoy the day's festivities.

"I've enjoyed hearing you tell stories about each piece," Annapolis resident Jacquelyn Stern said to her father, Brightview resident Howard Gelman, after he showed his three clay and marble sculptures to an onlooker.

Yvonne Taylor displayed her tsumami art, which is a traditional Japanese form of cutting and folding silk to make three-dimensional representations of flowers.

"I never dreamed of being in a show," Taylor said. "They've just been hanging on my wall."

Christiana Boyd's display was centered around sterling silver candlesticks that were her journeyman piece for her senior year at the Rochester Institute of Technology's School for American Crafts in 1960.

Sherry Moe, who has lived at Brightview Severna Park since the day it opened, spoke about her quilting, which she still does up to four hours a day, and her love of colors. She also touched on the importance of the show.

"We're a closer community because of it," Moe said. "You don't come here to die, you come here to live."



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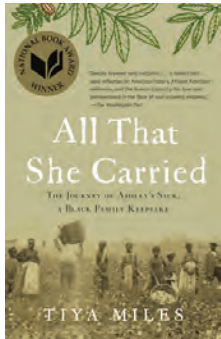
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A Black History Month Reading List

In recognition of Black History Month, the Anne Arundel County Public Library staff suggested reading options for adults and youth. This list includes just some of those suggestions. For more choices, visit www.aacpl.net.

ADULTS

“All That She Carried” by Tiya Miles

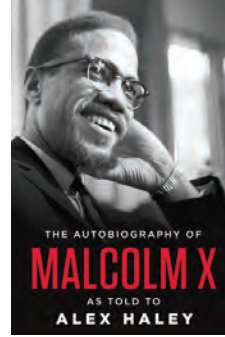


Sitting in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture is a rough cotton bag, called “Ashley’s Sack,” embroidered with a handful of words that evoke a sweeping family story of loss and of love passed down through generations.

In 1850s South Carolina, just before 9-year-old Ashley was sold, her mother, Rose, gave her a sack filled with just a few things as a token of her love. Decades later, Ashley’s granddaughter, Ruth, embroidered this history on the bag — including Rose’s message that “it be filled with my love always.”

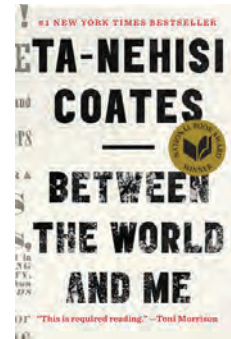
Historian Tiya Miles carefully follows faint archival traces back to Charleston to find Rose in the kitchen where she may have packed the sack for Ashley. From Rose’s last resourceful gift to her daughter, Miles then follows the paths of their lives and the lives of so many like them to write a unique, innovative history of the lived experience of slavery in the United States.

“The Autobiography of Malcolm X” by Alex Haley



As explained on the book jacket, “In the searing pages of this classic autobiography, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement to veteran writer and journalist Alex Haley.”

“Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates



For Ta-Nehisi Coates, history has always been personal. At every stage of his life, he’s sought, in his explorations of history, answers to the mysteries that surrounded him — most urgently, why he, and other Black people he knew, seemed to live in fear ... In this book, Coates takes readers along on his journey through America’s history of race and its contemporary resonances through a series of awakenings — moments when he discovered some new truth about our long, tangled history of race, whether through his myth-busting professors at Howard University, a trip to a Civil War battlefield with a rogue historian, a journey to Chicago’s South Side to visit aging survivors of 20th century America’s long war on Black people, or a visit with the mother of a beloved friend who was shot by the police.

TEENS

“Black Was the Ink” by Michelle Coles



Despondent 16-year-old Malcolm Williams finds new strength and courage as he is transported between his family’s modern-day Mississippi farm and the life of his ancestor Cedric Johnson, a congressional aide in post-Civil War America.

Malcolm feels like nothing good ever happens for teens like him in Washington, D.C. With growing violence in his neighborhood, his mother ships him off to his father’s family farm in Mississippi. He learns from his great-aunt that the state is acquiring the farm to widen a highway. One minute, Malcolm is drawing in the farmhouse attic, and the next, he’s looking through the eyes of his ancestor Cedric Johnson in 1866. As Cedric, Malcolm meets the real-life Black statesmen who fought for change during the Reconstruction era: Hiram Revels, Robert Smalls, and other leaders who made American history. After witnessing their bravery, Malcolm knows that the gains these statesmen made were almost immediately stripped away. If those great men couldn’t completely succeed, why should he try?

“Chlorine Sky” by Mahogany Browne



Picked on at home, criticized for talking trash while beating boys at basketball, and always seen as less than her best friend, a girl struggles to like and accept herself.



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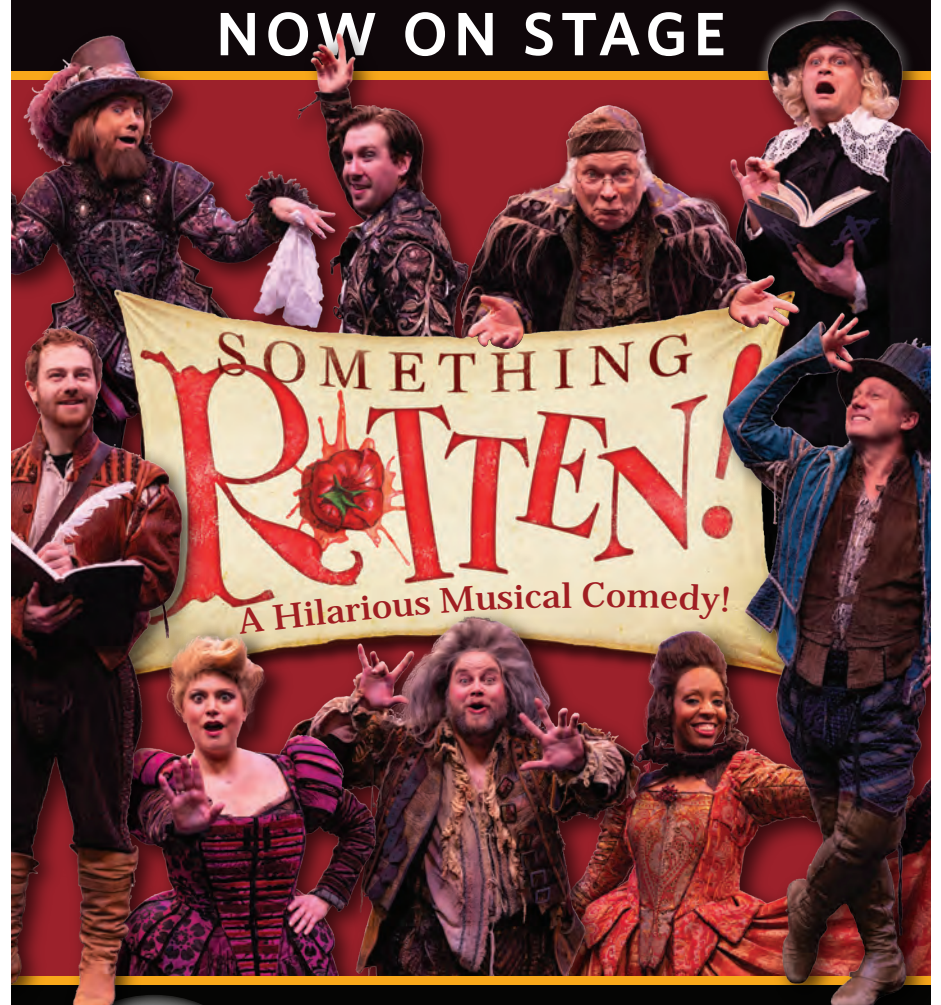
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Don't Answer The "Knock At The Cabin"

By Audrey Ruppert
Film Critic

The people at Rotten Tomatoes must be on bath salts, because they've rated "Knock at the Cabin" an extremely generous 68 percent. The critics' consensus declares it "Top Tier Shyamalan." To be fair to them, "Knock at the Cabin" is peak M. Night Shyamalan, because it contains all his greatest hits: an intriguing (though unoriginal) idea that is heavy handed, badly scripted, poorly acted, terribly directed and ends with a predictable "twist." Hooray!

The film opens with an obvious metaphor of a little girl named Wen trapping grasshoppers in a glass jar and making them her experimental playthings — she is the god of her own little grasshopper globe. They are subject to her every whim, just as humans are to the whims of the supernatural. So deep!

She is confronted by Leonard, a burly man who tries to befriend her and her "two dads." Leonard and his friends (there are four friends in total) explain to Wen and her parents, Eric and Andrew, that the family must choose one member to die as a "sacrifice," or the world will end (oh look, is it ... *the trolley problem*? Wow, M. Night has never explored that theme before).

If the family does not choose or make the sacrifice, each of the four friends must die in succession, and each of their deaths will bring destruction, death and calamity to the Earth. Could these four friends be ... the four horsemen of the apocalypse? Oh sorry, that was the twist at the end. I'd apologize for spoiling it if it wasn't completely obvious from the first five minutes — hardly a spoiler unless you've lived under a rock your entire life. Eric and Andrew, of course, do not believe their captors and think the four friends are having a psychotic episode or are members of a religious doomsday cult.

Right away, we are presented with the classic Shyamalan archetypes, seven characters who all represent something

Photo courtesy of Universal Photos
(L-R) "Knock at the Cabin" stars Kristen Cui as Wen, Dave Bautista as Leonard and Abby Quinn as Adriane.

different about humanity — and we know this, because they *tell us*. I think Shyamalan needs to go back to film school and learn what "exposition" is. He has a compulsive need to spell out everything in black and white immediately, and he is utterly incapable of telling stories through demonstration.

The metaphors are as heavy handed as the axes they kill each other with (again, not a spoiler because this happens within the first 10 minutes). I was ready to sacrifice *myself* by the second half. I can't even decide if the acting is bad, or if the actors have so little to work with that not even Meryl Streep could make it watchable. John Bautista tries and shows decent range, but Ruppert Grint is cringeworthy. He's terrible for his 2.5 minutes of screentime — he cannot hide his English accent at all. Call it a reverse Keanu Reeves!

The only parts that aren't torture to watch are flashbacks of Eric and Andrew adopting and raising Wen, because it's our only peek at scenes that resemble anything vaguely human. Honestly, has Shyamalan ever even *met* a real human being? Maybe this film was entirely made by artificial intelligence — that would be very 2023.

I wanted to give the director credit for one thing and one thing only: much like in Shyamalan's last film, "Old," the premise of "Knock at the Cabin" is a good one — even if the concept has been covered already (see "10 Cloverfield Lane" or certain episodes of "The Twilight Zone"). I was going to say, classic Shyamalan — interesting idea, poor execution. But the idea is not even his. I have come to discover (much like with "Old") that the film is an adaptation of far more powerful source material.

In Paul Tremblay's novel "The Cabin at the End of the World," Eric and An-



drew attempt to regain agency over the situation by reaching for a hidden gun, but they accidentally shoot their own daughter in the process. This wasn't intentional, so the death doesn't count as a sacrifice and now either Eric or Andrew must die. Their captors feel doubt about their choice after this event. In the end, Eric and Andrew decide that if God is real, he's a cruel god for finding the loss of their beautiful daughter and all the suffering they've been through as gay men to not be enough.

The couple refuses to choose. They spite God, they accept their fate and they usher in the apocalypse — maybe. You never find out if the whole thing was real or not. It's a powerful story about agency, tragedy, fate and death — a true Stoic parable.

In Shyamalan's clumsy hands, the fact the apocalypse is real is evident early. There's never any doubt in the end about whether the right choice was made, from either the captors or the family. His arrogance transforms a poignant fable into a muddled allegory about the power of love and sacrifice or something, and *wow, the gay family is the purest and chosen by God*. How beautiful! His self-important need to shove everything into his signature "twist" format takes precedence over respect for his source material. He thinks he's

so deep, and he has to *tell everyone*, but I think we have a serious case of the Dunning-Kruger effect on our hands.

It's true that the dialogue for the first 75% of the story is directly lifted from the book, but a more capable director (and writer, and producer) could have tweaked the dialogue and exposition and brought out the spirit of the story in a convincing way. Shyamalan has managed to lazily ignore proper translation of the written word to the silver screen for less important scenes, while completely overhauling the important bits that made the novel worth reading. He should give Jordan Peele a call next time — and maybe some other people too. Maybe one person shouldn't fill all three of those roles unless they're exceptional. His continued insistence to be in control of all aspects of his projects smacks of narcissism.

In the end, Shyamalan can't execute good ideas properly, even when they are his own. He's like George Lucas' more pathetic cousin — he did one thing right, and ever since then has been getting in his own way. He says he makes films that push boundaries, but the only boundaries he pushes are my patience. I've informed my editor that if he sends me to another M. Night Shyamalan film, it's going to cost him double.

Try The Best Crabs Cakes Around During Annapolis Restaurant Week

» Continued from page 38

rant also has its own designated parking lot, a premium in Annapolis.

I purchased a crab cake sandwich sans the bread and fixings — just so I can compare apples to apples — well, crab cake to crab cake.

An average size, about the palm of a hand, this delectable dish was well balanced, with tender lump crab meat lightly seasoned, no shells, lightly breaded, and just enough light sauce to hold them together.

Buddy's Crabs & Ribs, located at 100 Main Street, is more laid-back and eclectic. It also has a fun atmosphere, with lots of smiling crab caricatures and decor. Plus, there's a great view overlooking Annapolis Harbor.

The crab cake from Buddy's reminded me of the classic crab cake from decades ago — slightly larger, fried to a crispy brown, full of lump crab meat with proba-

bly some other pieces mixed in with light breading, a perfect amount of a binder, seasonings on top and the whole package, all slightly spicy and full of flavor. There were few shells.

Carrol's Creek Cafe, located at 410 Severn Avenue at the Annapolis City Marina, has a more classic look and

ambiance with fresh, bright colors and a gorgeous bar area where classic rock was playing. This is a perfect spot for a romantic evening or a wedding reception with a million-dollar view overlooking Spa Creek.

The crab cake offering was a lighter version — lump crab, minimally processed,

with hardly any filler, if at all, with tiny scallions and an almost creamy, slightly sweet taste. Really, this one allowed the crab flavor to shine through on its own.

Staff members at Carrol's Creek were professional, kind and accommodating.

All three restaurants offer crab cakes as entrees or sandwiches. Each spot pairs crab cakes with vegetables, rice, salads or homemade sauces.

I thoroughly enjoy getting a feel of a restaurant — because they all have their own culture and draw — the location, decor, staff, food (of course) and even the music.

Note that some restaurant staff apologized for the high prices of crab cakes (averaging about \$28 to \$30), sharing that there is still a crab shortage, for various reasons, driving up prices. That doesn't stop the orders.

Remember — we're in Maryland, hon, and we love our crabs!

Annapolis Restaurant Week

While planning your dinner excursions this month, remember that Annapolis Restaurant Week is just around the corner. From February 25 through March 5, area restaurants (including the ones featured in this article) offer fabulous deals — you can indulge in a two-course breakfast between \$9.95 and \$15.95, a two-course lunch between \$12.95 and \$19.95, or a three-course dinner between \$29.95 and \$39.95. Some restaurants have additional deals.

While visiting these restaurants, be assured that in addition to crab cakes, they have a variety of dishes sure to please the palate.

For information on all participating restaurants, visit www.annapolis-restaurantweek.com.

What We Can Expect From Secure Act 2.0

Jason LaBarge
LaBarge
Financial



As a financial planner, I often talk to clients about required minimum distributions, or RMDs. It is a topic that confuses and angers clients at the same time.

The IRS generates the RMD table based upon life expectancy, and that table dictates the withdrawal percentage. The IRS evaluates the IRAs value on December 31 of each year and applies the withdrawal percentage to that figure to determine the amount that needs to be withdrawn. It is important to note that these rules do not just apply to IRAs; they apply to all qualified accounts, excluding Roth IRAs and employer plans that are being contributed to currently.

The Secure Act of 2019 increased the age from which withdrawals were required from 70.5 to 72. Starting this past January, the Secure Act 2.0 increased the age again from 72 to 73. Now, individuals don't need to start taking RMDs until age 73. This change applies to people who have yet to begin taking RMDs. The Secure Act also states that the RMD age will rise again in 2033, to 75.

An important factor relevant to this topic is the stretch IRA. None of these acts prevents a spouse from inheriting a deceased spouse's IRA tax-free. At the death of your spouse, you are still able to inherit that IRA tax-free. You will pay taxes upon taking withdrawals. Non-spouse beneficiaries have a

» **Continued on page 51**

Regardless of how one feels about the topic, we all need to be aware of how RMDs factor into our retirement plan. The Internal Revenue Service (IRA), over the past few years, has made several changes to RMD rules, and in late 2022, it made even more changes. These rule changes can offer relief in some areas, and generally speaking, I am in favor of them.

Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) were created in 1974 with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. RMDs were a part of this legislation and were initiated because of the tax-deferred nature of IRAs. The IRS naturally wants its tax revenue, and allowing accounts to go tax-deferred forever prevents the IRS from collecting its tax. As a result, it created required minimum distri-

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



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

Senior Chile Café – Family owned and operated, this is owner Fredy

Salmoran's third Senior Chile restaurant and fourth restaurant overall. The Severna Park location opens at 6:30am each day, offering an authentic Mexican breakfast and Rise Up Coffee as well as lunch and dinner.

House of Design & Co. – House of Design is a family-owned event planning and custom design company. Building its foundation on family values and ethics, the company works to ensure that your vision in mind comes to life. The team's reputation is built on performance, trust and, most importantly, creativity.

Phronesis Wealth Management – (silver member) You might have an attorney, an accountant, a stockbroker and an insurance agent, but who is coordinating all of your financial affairs? Who works with you to en-

sure that decisions made are aligned with your financial goals? In these volatile times, financial planning is no longer a do-it-yourself project. Phronesis Wealth Management is a fee-based financial services firm in Severna Park dedicated to providing hands-on financial advice, service and support.

Sunshine + Saltwater - This company brings beach vibes and the Aloha spirit to products inspired by the Delaware coastal beaches and the Hawaiian islands. Its beach-inspired designs make your soul shine like the sun, reminding you of warm beach breezes, the sound of the waves, salty air and sandy feet.

Magothy HR Consulting LLC – Marie Hagigh has spent over 20 years as a human resources director and consultant. As a consultant, she has focused on helping individuals and businesses with day-to-day human resources responsibilities. She founded Magothy HR Consulting LLC to help individuals and business owners navigate the ever-evolving HR world.

LongBridge Financial LLC – LongBridge Financial LLC is an innovative company committed to responsibly helping homeowners reshape their » **Continued on page 51**

A Cut Above: Barber Celebrates 63 Years

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

For six decades, barber Harry White has been moving at a good clip.

Known by customers and friends as "Whitey," the Olde Tyme Barber Shop employee was introduced to the industry at 8 years old when he started shining shoes and running errands for a local shop.

The first person he shaved was his father, who later told a bar full of patrons that his son was shaving for free.

"By the time I got done, I think I was drunk," White said with a chuckle.

He got his master barber license at 15 years old and served as an instructor at a barber school before being drafted into the Army. He was assigned to transportation operations and got to drive to Germany, France, Italy and Spain. In Germany, especially, he felt comfortable enough to let his hair down.

"Germany is like Maryland," he said. "It's the same type of weather. They had snow and everything else, and it reminded me of home. I felt relaxed."

After his tour, he opened his own barber shop at the intersection of Charles and Fayette streets in Baltimore. When he started, haircuts were 75 cents for men, and 50 cents for kids, with another 25-cent discount for kids on Wednesdays.

Whitey's Barber Shop served an interesting cast of characters, and White personally cut the hair of Baltimore Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas, future Baltimore Ravens owner Art Modell and many opera singers.

"Being a barber, you meet a whole lot of people



Photo by Zach Sparks

Harry White, known as Whitey, has spent the last 25 years of his career at Olde Tyme Barber Shop after owning his own business in Baltimore.

White also hosted exchange students from France, Ireland and China.

He continues to build relationships at Old Tyme Barber Shop, where he has worked for the last 25 years since closing Whitey's Barber Shop. Old Tyme Barber Shop owner Brian Mears said White is dependable, hardworking and lives life to the fullest.

"He will do anything for anybody," Mears said. "If they're sick, he'll go to their house and give them a haircut. We do haircuts for the homeless every year [through Winter Relief] and have done fundraisers for hospice patients before. There's nothing I can ask him to do that he wouldn't do."

When White is not at work or with his family, he enjoys other hobbies, such as being a member of Ravens Roost 27, shooting pool or walking a few miles each day to stay active.

As he looks toward the future, he shared advice for young adults entering the workforce.

"Thank God for what you have and what you don't have because you'll eventually get it," he said. "If you want something that bad, work for it and you'll get it."

White will celebrate his 79th birthday in May. He has no plans to leave his scissors and clippers behind.

"It's like psychiatry," White said. "People come in and sit in the chair, and if they're really relaxed, they tell you about everything in their life."

— lawyers, judges, and doctors from Johns Hopkins and Mercy Medical Center — different people from all walks of life, from the big wigs down to the people who pick up the garbage," White said. "I learned things about life from them."

A husband and father of three, White learned that most kids, and not just his, went through similar challenges growing up. He also learned that he could use his connections to spread the word about the Jaycees, Special Olympics and other charitable causes.

"With my influence, I talk to people about what they do in life, and if they want to help, they do it," he said.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Spring Arbor Serves With Heart



(Clockwise from back row) Resident care director Lynette Pettiford-McKenzie, resident Dorothy Johnson, executive director Maresa Henry, sales and marketing manager Nikia Thomas, and residents Mary Kay Graves and Fred Rausch are proud to be at Spring Arbor.



By Lauren Cowin

The team at Spring Arbor of Severna Park wants their residents, and their residents' families, to feel at home from the moment they enter the building.

Spring Arbor of Severna Park executive director Maresa Henry said guests often say it isn't what they were expecting when entering.

"It really is like a hotel, but we care," Henry said.

The assisted living and memory care facility has 88 resident apartments — 14 dedicated to memory care in a wing called "the cottage," with the other 74 for the general assisted living population. Most of the residents are in their late 80s and early 90s.

"It really is another home away from home. It's just a smaller, more manageable space for them," said Henry, an original staff member of the facility, which opened in June 2015.

A typical day in the life of a Spring Arbor resident starts with breakfast and then rolls right into activities, of which there are many: arts and crafts, games, spiritual-based activities, exercise, live music and outings are just a few. Henry explained that Spring Arbor tries to have five or six options daily so that all residents can find something that suits their interests.

According to Henry, medication management is one of the initial driving factors for many families who seek assisted living for their loved ones. In addition to this service, Spring Arbor residents have access to around-the-clock nursing as well as in-house medical care, as many providers come to the facility. Henry is especially grateful for

their partnership with Bayada Home Health Care, who provides residents with physical therapy.

Spring Arbor of Severna Park's sales and marketing manager, Nikia Thomas, equated Spring Arbor to a one-stop shop.

"It's a beautiful feeling to not have that worry in the back of your mind, and it gives the family some peace," Thomas said.

Thomas explained that choosing a senior living facility can be like shopping for a car — you want the bells and whistles, but you need it to run like a well-oiled machine.

"It's going to run in here," she said.

One of the highlights of life at Spring Arbor is a Yorkie-Bichon dog named Maizy, which sometimes accompanies her owner to work, according to seven-year resident Dorothy Johnson.

"Everybody smiles when they see Maizy," Johnson said.

Henry experienced the toll Alzheimer's and dementia takes on families when they take on the role of caregiver for their loved ones, both as a child and as an adult, as she watched these diseases befall her own grandparents.

"My reward at the end of the day is helping a family be able to release that guilt and know that their mom or dad are here in a safe place getting loved on and cared for and everything they would want for them," Henry said.

Henry reminisced on one of her team's favorite resident stories. A resident with middle to late-stage dementia, who had trouble conversing at this point in his life, was given his old accordion.

"He played it and it was beautiful, and at the end as he's playing that last note, the smile on his face, he was beaming," Henry said. "That moment of joy that we got to see with him, it gives me chills. When those things happen, that's why we're here."

For more information, call 410-544-7774 or visit www.springarborliving.com.

Oak Ridge Builders Opens New Boutique



By Darrell Mak

After getting 12 years of hands-on experience as an apprentice craftsman under his grandfather and uncles, third-generation family member Shawn Thiess believed it was time to start Oak Ridge Builders, his own family-owned and operated custom home building and renovation company, in 2009.

Over his decade of meticulous training, Thiess was instilled with integrity, knowledge and trust.

"We believe actions should speak louder than words, and that's why our attention to detail, creativity, quality workmanship and accountability permit Oak Ridge Builders to consistently deliver outstanding value in our residential services," Thiess said.

Since the business' inception, most of its work was in and around the Severna Park area, and Thiess especially wanted to express his sincere appreciation to the Severna Park community for supporting his business over the years.

"We do not advertise," Thiess said. "All of our referrals have been through word of mouth, and I have always been grateful for that."

Oak Ridge Builders is a general contractor that provides the full gamut of home improvement and renovation services.

"There's really nothing in the residential world that we don't do," added Thiess, although the company's specialty is with custom kitchens and baths. "We've done so much in this area over the years that it has become our concentration."

In the past, Oak Ridge Builders provided the design and construction aspects of the renovation projects but had to refer clients elsewhere to purchase materials like cabinetry, countertops, vanities and hardware. However, Thiess was pleased to announce that Oak Ridge recently established its own materials service and has set up a new boutique in the Severna Park-based Dawson's Corner where clients can see samples of materials available, making the entire renovation process even more convenient.

"Our studio has five different lines of cabinetry to fit most budgets," Thiess said. "Cabinetry and all other supplies can now be provided in-house, making it much easier for the client by providing a



Shawn Thiess started Oak Ridge Builders, his family-owned and operated custom home building and renovation company, in 2009.

one-stop shopping experience."

In addition to the boutique studio, Oak Ridge Builders has brought on a full-time, in-house kitchen designer with more than 30 years of experience, provided to clients at no additional cost. Unlike some home improvement stores that simply provide a design plan to begin the renovation process, Oak Ridge Builders makes its designer available from project start to finish.

"The whole goal is for the client to have a personal designer to hold their hand from concept inception to construction completion," Thiess said. "It'll be a turnkey process for the entire renovation process."

Thiess explained when people start a home renovation process, they typically go to a showroom, meet a designer to create a design, but then must put all the pieces together after that point.

"It's a very difficult process to manage," Thiess said. "With Oak Ridge Builders, you'll be working with a team that will help you manage the project all the way through successful completion."

To learn more about Oak Ridge Builders, call 443-336-1794, email oakridgebuilders1@live.com or go to oakridgebuildersmd.com.

"Our service does not end at project completion," Thiess said. "Oak Ridge Builders wants to create a lifetime relationship with our customers."

Can You Count On Social Security?

Brian M. Conrad
CFP
Financial Advisor



If you're getting closer to retirement, you might be thinking more about Social Security. Specifically, can you count on it to contribute part of the income you'll need as a retiree?

average, Social Security benefits will provide about 30% of a beneficiary's pre-retirement earnings, according to the Social Security Administration. But the higher your earnings before you retire, the lower the percentage that will be replaced by Social Security.

Still, you'll want to maximize the benefits that are available to you — and that means deciding when to start taking Social Security. You can begin as early as 62, but your monthly payments could be as much as 30% lower than your normal retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67.

Even if you were to wait until your normal retirement age before collecting Social Security, you'll also need to draw on other sources of funding. So, while you are still working, it's a good idea to keep contributing to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

The amount you contribute should depend on your overall financial strategy and your financial needs. For example, you probably shouldn't put so much into your retirement accounts that you feel significant stress in your monthly cash flow. But when you do get a chance to invest more in these accounts, such as when your salary goes up, you may want to take advantage of the opportunity.

Ultimately, you should be able to count on Social Security as part of your retirement income. You may want to consult with a financial professional to determine when taking Social Security makes the most sense for you and how you can also get the most from your other retirement accounts. You'll want a retirement income strategy that's built for the long run.

Brian Conrad is a certified 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.

There's been an increase in alarming language surrounding the solvency of Social Security. In reality, its prospects are not nearly as gloomy as you might have heard.

Here's the story: Under current law, Social Security is estimated to exhaust its trust funds by 2035, after which, benefits could be cut by 20% according to the 2022 Social Security Trustees report. However, the large cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, which is 8.7% for 2023, could cause the trust funds to use up their resources sooner.

But this outlook may represent a worst-case scenario. For one thing, the cost of the 2023 COLA will be somewhat offset by higher taxes on workers contributing to Social Security. The maximum amount of earnings subject to the 6.2% Social Security tax jumped from \$147,000 in 2022 to \$160,200 in 2023. Looking down the road, further increases in this earnings cap may also help reduce the gap in the trust funds. Increasing the payroll tax is another possibility for boosting funding to Social Security.

And here's a political reality: Social Security is a popular program, and it's unlikely that any future Congress wants to be blamed for reducing benefits. Of course, there are no guarantees, but it seems fair to say that you can reasonably expect some benefits from Social Security when you retire.

But perhaps the bigger issue is just how much you should depend on Social Security for your retirement income. On



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Jing Ying's Silent Auction Supports Good Neighbors Group



Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi celebrated its 22nd anniversary in 2022 with a series of fundraising activities that raised more than \$11,000 for charitable organizations. The Arnold business ended the year with its 19th annual silent auction on December 17, with 2022 funds benefiting the nonprofit Good Neighbors Group. The nonprofit engages people to help one another in and around Anne Arundel County with projects based around human services and environmental issues. On January 25, Jing Ying owners Nancy and Billy Greer presented a check for \$4,500 to Julie Shay, executive director of Good Neighbors Group.



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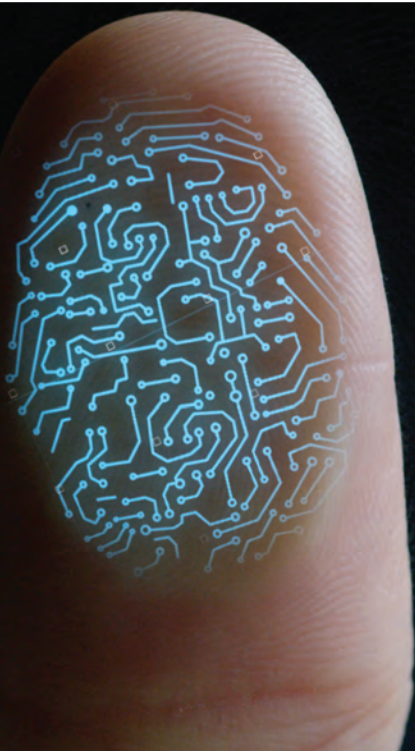
Don't miss out on this special edition, highlighting home and garden tips and ideas from local experts.



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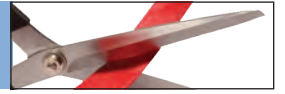
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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Oishi Serves Japanese Cuisine Under New Leadership

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in January for Anita Wong, the new owner of Oishi Japanese Cuisine in Arnold. Guests enjoyed a lion dance performance from the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi as a symbol of good luck to the restaurant.

Dockside Dermatology Provides Cosmetic Care

Dr. Stephanie Clements and Dr. Lesley Sutherland both grew up in the greater Annapolis area and are excited to provide care in their hometown community. With their new business, Dockside Dermatology, they will serve patients at 8601 Veterans Highway, Suite 201, in Millersville.



Talk About Good News: Play & Thrive Speech Therapy Opens

Community members gathered to welcome Anne Marie Flood and her new business, Play & Thrive Speech Therapy, to Arnold on January 23. The business creates a natural learning environment using play-based therapy practices. Flood believes that play not only engages children but actively supports their learning as well.

Advance Auto Parts Shifts Gears To Severna Park Store

Severna Park drivers found a new Advance Auto Parts store by Clement Hardware in January, and the business made its opening official with a ribbon-cutting on February 8. The shop sells automotive replacement parts, accessories, batteries and maintenance items for domestic and imported cars, vans, sport utility vehicles, and light and heavy-duty trucks.



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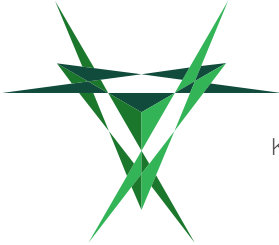
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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 44

financial future by educating them on Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM) — and helping them unlock the power of their homes.

Affordable Outdoor Kitchens

– Affordable Outdoor Kitchens was formed in the spring of 2011 with one thing in mind, to provide the best outdoor appliances and furnishings to contractors at a price that puts outdoor kitchens within the reach of their customer — the homeowner. Outdoor kitchens can offer as much as a 133% return on investment. Visit the 5,000-square-foot showroom and see the incredible designs and appliances.

Churchill Mortgage – With an extensive financial background as a certified public accountant for eight years and now a mortgage advisor for 19 years, Jodi Hillmar specializes in reviewing her clients' entire financial picture to offer them the education and options to make the best financial decisions for their future.

Thrive 4 Life Holistic Health – As a certified holistic gut health coach, Carrie Chojnowski has been helping countless people, mostly women in their 40s and up, go from surviving to thriving.

She utilizes microbiome science, function, diet and movement and incorporates practices that will empower you to adequately nurture all of these aspects of yourself for ultimate health.

Holding Hands Speech – Owner Aimee Pharr is a highly trained speech pathologist who worked in the

Anne Arundel County Public Schools system and The Summit School. She is a certified Phono-Graphix provider, with knowledge and experience in reading acquisition and a special interest in language-based learning disabilities. Her practice works to establish a positive and flexible environment using evidence-based practices where children and their families become active partners.

The Lash Lounge (coming soon) – The Lash Lounge Annapolis — West Street is a premier eyelash salon, specializing in lash extensions, tinting, brow threading and more. Come in. Relax. Then face the world with confidence. It's the company's goal to work with you to develop a custom lash look that celebrates your natural beauty and simplifies your everyday life.

Vida Fusion Health and Wellness – These qualified medical professionals deliver intravenous (IV) hydration therapy to rapidly replace fluids and electrolytes in your body needs to recover from migraines, brain fog, heavy workouts, bouts of illness, or even poor skin health. Visit its Anne Arundel County clinic and join hundreds of people in your area who look and feel their best thanks to IV hydration. The team even has mobile services to see you at your home or office.

Dockside Dermatology – Dockside Dermatology was founded in 2022 by Dr. Stephanie Clements and Dr. Lesley Sutherland, who both grew up in the greater Annapolis area. They are excited to provide care in their

hometown community. Dockside Dermatology specializes in comprehensive skin cancer services including screenings, diagnosis, and surgical treatment including Mohs surgery. In addition to care for skin cancer, the company offers treatment for inflammatory skin conditions and cosmetic services. The business is located in Millersville.

Helping Hands of America

– Helping Hands of America offers direct services to low-income children, families and individuals by providing critical emergency resources, services and family support to improve lives. Help includes, but is not limited to, a baby and toddler pantry, a clothing closet, parent resources, housing and mental health referrals, educational opportunities and case management support.

The chamber held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Senor Chile Cafe in Severna Park. There was a large crowd complete with a mariachi band. The restaurant has quickly become a hot spot for dining in and carrying out.

We also held a ribbon-cutting celebrating the new ownership of Oishi Japanese Cuisine. Anita Wong has owned the business for one year, and she greeted attendees with a bounty of food, drinks and hospitality. The Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi performed a lion dance for good luck.

Our last ribbon-cutting in January celebrated the grand opening of Play and Thrive Speech Therapy in Arnold.

For more about the chamber, visit www.gspacc.com

What We Can Expect From Secure Act 2.0

» Continued from page 44

different set of circumstances — they can employ a stretch IRA. A stretch IRA allows for a child, for example, to inherit an IRA and not pay full tax on that money in the year they inherit it. They could historically stretch that over their lifetime, effectively minimizing the tax liability. The Secure Act of 2019 changed this too, allowing for a 10-year maximum stretch. The Secure Act 2.0 made no changes to this important estate planning tool, and that is unfortunate.

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

This is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information on the subjects covered. It is not, however, intended to provide specific legal, tax, or other professional advice. For specific professional assistance, the services of an appropriate professional should be sought.

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