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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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MARCH 2023



Photo by Naptown Studios

## Severna Park Native Pitches Pet Safety Service On “Shark Tank”

By Zach Sparks

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

Arslan “Arsy” Khodabandelou appeared on the ABC show “Shark Tank” on March 10 to pitch his pet safety app, Woof, while giving investors something to chew on.

Khodabandelou graduated from Severna Park High School in 2007 and the University of Maryland in 2012, studying biology before transitioning to software sales after college. He spent his whole life in the Old Line State until he moved to New York City in September 2021.

It was in the Big Apple that the dog dad of three experienced a scary moment, one that would inspire him to create the app he would later pitch to the “Shark Tank” investors, known as “sharks.”

“So, I was driving and I almost got into a car accident, and rather than my life flashing before my eyes, my dogs’ lives flashed before my eyes because my family lives in Maryland,” he told the sharks. “I’m in New York and that terrified me. That’s when I said, ‘I can fix this issue with technology.’”

With the help of his best friend’s brother, a developer, he launched the Woof app on Memorial Day weekend in 2022. His goal: to rescue pets in the event of emergencies.

The app utilizes a geolocation timer that is linked to the user’s home address. That timer automatically starts when app users leave a boundary surrounding their home and the timer



Photo courtesy of ABC/Christopher Willard  
*Arslan “Arsy” Khodabandelou pitched his Woof app to “Shark Tank” investors during an episode that aired March 10.*

stops when they return.

Woof also has a home timer in case pet owners suffer a heart attack or other emergency.

“We get a trigger that time has expired,” Khodabandelou said. “If you don’t respond, we go through your emergency contact list. If no one responds, we contact the local authorities for a wellness check.”

One month after submitting a video pitch for “Shark Tank,” he got an email about moving to the next step of the process. He was assigned to work with » **Continued on page 6**

## Back To Back

The Severna Park boys indoor track team claimed their second consecutive Class 4A state championship at the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex in Landover from February 21-22. To win the title, the Falcons (46.5 points) edged Montgomery Blair (45), Northwest (35) and several other schools.

Read more on page 15.

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## Millersville Resident Breaks Code Of Longevity

By Judy Tacyn

A century ago, a movie ticket was just a quarter. To get to the theater, an automobile could fill up for just 14 cents a gallon. Bob Barker, Joseph Heller and Millersville resident Rose Merlaine “Mikki” Bowman Carpenter were newborns. The Severn

School, established in 1914, hadn’t even graduated its first senior class.

During her 100 trips around the sun, Mikki has seen more history unfold than many students have even heard about.

Mikki graduated from a Seattle high school in 1940, two years after the start » **Continued on page 5**





## 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.

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## Parent Volunteers Are Crucial To Rock 'N' Roll Revival

By Lauren Cowin

Rock 'N' Roll Revival has, for more than three decades, given Severna Park teens a chance to shine onstage.

What fans don't see, though, is that for every 15 seconds of fame under the lights, there are parent volunteers focused on all the small things that help make the show at the high school tick.

Shannon Powell and Jessica Haynie are two such parents.

"I get a lot of miles in," said Powell, a volunteer of four years and member of the Falcon Drama Booster Board.

Powell coordinates the team of parent volunteers and spends most rehearsals and shows in motion, checking to make sure all the bases are covered — hospitality, snacks, ushers and costumes to name a few.

"So many things have to happen for it to actually come together," Powell said.

Haynie got her start six years ago as a "tech mom," feeding the students who comprise the technical crew and spending full days, starting in January, working on set builds. She continues to help out on the technical side, supervising and pitching in wherever is needed.

Both women explain that they are but two of a cadre of volunteers who commit dozens of hours to the production and readily point out that while Rock 'N' Roll Revival does take a village of volunteers to produce, it's ultimately the students run-



Jessica Haynie (left) and Shannon Powell enjoy the energy students bring to Rock 'N' Roll Revival.

ning the show.

"The kids, with supervision and guidance, build everything you see," said Haynie, who has continued to pitch in even as her own children have graduated. "It's not adults doing it. I'm there ironing or doing hot glue, but they are designing, managing all the sound and lights. It's all pretty amazing."

Her favorite Rock 'N' Roll project wasn't one with which she helped, rather it was something created by her daughter. She fondly refers to it as "chicken."

"She used chicken wire to create this dragon that they got to breathe smoke," Haynie recalled. "That was

"The kids, with supervision and guidance, build everything you see. It's not adults doing it."

JESSICA HAYNIE

her first time doing Rock 'N' Roll, and they gave her amazing projects and trusted her with it."

For Powell, it's the energy and excitement of the kids that keeps her coming back.

"I feel like this happens every year — it might be at intermission or in between numbers — kids will be in the hallway and start a dance circle, just for fun, letting off steam; the fun that they have together makes me wish I was back in high school again," Powell said.

Powell and Haynie have volunteered together on various school events since their children's days at Severna Park Elementary School and agree that getting the extra time with their kids is well worth the effort.

This will be Powell's last year with a student in the show, as her son is a senior.

"You only have a few years with them before they're on their own. Just being with the kids is the best part for me," Powell said, quickly adding, "And the moms."

## RNR XXIV Showcases Students' Range

Photo by Zach Sparks

From powerful ballads to head-banging hits, a range of music was on display during the first weekend of Severna Park High School's 34th Rock 'N' Roll Revival from March 9-12. Talented singers, instrumentalists and tech crew will thrill audiences again from March 16-18. This year's theme is "RNR XXXIV Goes to the Movies," featuring some of the most beloved songs used in films. Once the show has finished its run, find more photos at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).



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## Corrections:

American Legion  
Baseball Coach,  
Severn School  
Swimmer

In the February edition of the *Severna Park Voice*, new American Legion Post 175 senior baseball coach Ralph Suppa was misidentified as a lieutenant in special operations with Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. He serves Fire Company 23 — Jones Station. We regret the error.

Also in that edition, we included a comment that Severn School swimmer Aliza Monaldo has committed to a college. She is a junior in high school and is still in the recruiting process.

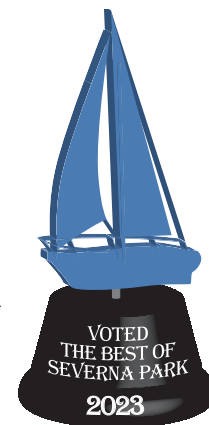
## “Best Of Severna Park” Voting Continues

You may have filled out your Best of Severna Park ballot in February or earlier this month, but if not, there is still time. Through March 21, we are counting votes to determine your choices for the best businesses, services and organizations in town. To share your favorites, visit [www.severnaparkvoice.com/bestofsevernapark](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com/bestofsevernapark).

When casting your ballot, we ask that you follow a few simple rules. Please list your name and fill out at least 25 categories. Print ballots must be made on original newsprint — no photocopies, faxes, scans or emails — and mailed directly to Severna Park Voice, P.O. Box 608, Severna Park, Maryland, 21146.

Which winners will receive the

Best Of Severna Park honor this year? Check out our next edition, due in homes and businesses on April 6, to find out.



## State Of The Magothy Set For March 31

The Magothy River Association (MRA) will present its annual State of the Magothy report at Anne Arundel Community College's Health and Life Sciences Building (HLSB) on March 31. Doors will open at 6:30pm for viewing of displays in

the lobby and presentations will begin at 7:00pm in the adjacent lecture hall.

Presentations include the Magothy River Index given by Sally Hornor and an overview of stream restoration sites in the Magothy watershed, a presentation given by Nasrin Dahl-

gren from the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works and its Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration.

Attendees are encouraged to park in Lot D, which can be found using the map at [www.aacc.edu](http://www.aacc.edu).

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## Lauren's Law: Toddlerisms, Take 2

**Lauren Burke Meyer**



Last year, my toddlerisms article struck a funny chord with so many of my readers. So, naturally, I wanted to follow up with some of the latest funny lines from the tiny people not

her tune and confidently said, "I'm the swim constructor because I'm an expert swimmer." She meant instructor. Oh, and she barely made it through three swimming lessons. My family still has nightmares from those lessons.

So many of my favorite toddlerism moments from my girls happen around mealtime and at the table.

"It's lemon Jell-O," said Charlotte. "It comes with juice in it."

She clearly heard her parents talking about limoncello.

"I'm accelerating," Charlotte said, not quite ready for dessert yet.

She meant digesting. Sometimes I wish my digesting could be accelerated, so OK then.

"I'm a lime," Charlotte said.

This one took a bit of detective work.

"You have to hold your voice," and then she began making a box in the air with her hands. Oh, she was mixing up mime.

Some sister-to-sister interaction included:

"Riley, peel your eyes open," Charlotte shouted at her 2-year-old sister as we went over the Severn River Bridge with the gorgeous water view last summer.

On the same drive, Riley was yelling in frustration about the music volume.

"Too loud, turn it up." That one really tricked me on whether to turn it down or up, so I simply pretended to adjust it.

"Ohh-kayyyy," Riley replied.

Please share the comments from your little comedians by emailing [Lburke15@gmail.com](mailto:Lburke15@gmail.com). I might just have to make this column topic an annual occurrence.

## Your Help Is A Blessing

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



One of the things I like about working at SPAN is that my desk is right by the door to our back porch. I can hear cars pull up, and I get to see so many people who come to SPAN. I

love meeting new people and seeing all the people who bring donations, which makes our work at SPAN possible.

A recent Monday morning started with members of Severna Park United Methodist, Severna Park Baptist and Our Lady of the Fields Catholic churches stopping by, almost one right after another, with the food that their congregations had donated that week. A few days before, members of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church delivered, and we always have lots of members of the community bringing bags of food.

One woman came with several boxes of cereal. She said that her trips to the big box store are not complete without picking up a couple of things for SPAN. Someone else stopped by with his son, part of their morning routine before naptime. Often, we have people dropping off collections from their neighborhoods.

As I think about my days, I understand why the community members contributing brings me joy, in the same way that I am thankful for our dedicat-

ed volunteers.

Also stopping at the porch are our clients. Often, the issues they face are overwhelming. "Lisa" is a woman on disability. Her husband has cancer, they have enormous medical bills, they are raising their grandchild and they have a turnoff notice for their electricity. "Stephanie" is a single parent who is raising two teens, helping them deal with trauma they have experienced, while trying to find and keep a good-paying job.

"Jasmine" is a single mother with a 10-month-old and a court-ordered eviction. We also have many clients come for food, which is a big help for them. It is great to be able to help.

I have been thinking of our clients, especially the ones whose burdens are overwhelming. I enjoy meeting all of the people who stop by. A little bit of it is the extrovert side of me, and a lot of it is knowing that we can do something to help. I know it from the appreciation that I hear over and over.

Although we can't solve everything, SPAN makes a difference. SPAN helped "Lisa" and her family with their electricity bill and food. SPAN helped "Jasmine" with rent money and referred her to additional sources for the rest of the funds needed for her and her daughter to stay in their apartment. SPAN provided "Stephanie," and many others, food that allows them to use those funds for other things.

Thank you for supporting SPAN. So many are blessed with your help! Say hello if you come by. I always love seeing who is at the door.

## Millersville Resident Breaks Code Of Longevity

» Continued from page 1

of World War II. She worked a few jobs and learned how to keypunch, which led to a job with Boeing Aircraft. But she wanted to do more for the war effort. The money was good, but the hours were long. Shortly after turning 21, she enrolled in the U.S. Navy WAVE program (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service).

"I felt really bad for all of the men dying in the war, and I felt I should be doing more," Mikki said. "I just didn't think it was fair not to be doing my part."

She and a trainload of female Navy recruits traveled from Seattle to Brooklyn for six weeks of boot camp. Mikki remembered those 3,900 miles in a train car fondly. Happy to begin service to her country, Mikki even found boot camp in Brooklyn enjoyable.

"We marched every place we went, singing songs," Mikki said.

Early in her military career, Mikki was supposed to be on duty early on a Sunday morning, but she had planned to attend church. Because of church, Mikki was five minutes late for her Navy obligation.

"I remember that I said, 'My God means more to me than anything on earth — the Navy or anything else,'" Mikki said. "I think they were ready to court martial me, but when they saw that I was that sincere and not frivolous about it, they said it was OK, but not to do it again."

After boot camp, Mikki was asked

where she wanted to be stationed. She told them where she didn't want to reside.

"Anywhere but Washington, D.C., and that's exactly where they sent me," Mikki said.

When asked what she wanted to do, she said she wanted to be a corpsman so she could take care of the men coming back from war. Once the Navy found out she had keypunch experience, she was assigned as a communications technician, where she ultimately earned a promotion.

Mikki recalled that she was required to wear her uniform anytime she was in public, and she proudly complied.

"I think it was very important for all of us women to show we supported the war," Mikki said. "We didn't fight, but we did everything we could to support those who did. I was proud of that."

Although not her first choice of assignment, a communications technician was involved in breaking down Japanese codes, which was important in winning the war. And it was then that she met Bill Carpenter, a chief petty officer in the Navy also working in code-breaking, who had been stationed in Hawaii after the Pearl Harbor attack. The couple married in 1946, which was also the year Mikki retired from the Navy to start a family.

They lived in Alexandria, Virginia, until the family was sent to Guam for a year. Next, they lived in Japan for three

years and then Germany for three years. In 1966, the family returned stateside and settled in Glen Burnie. After retiring from the military, both Carpenters worked at the National Security Agency.

During Mikki's tenure with the Navy and NSA, her work as a cryptologist included Japanese and Russian code breaking. Mikki didn't find her work particularly interesting, or for that matter valuable, but history will argue that code breaking and all of those involved played a pivotal role in ending the war.

"I think of all those who died and those who came back with difficulties," Mikki said. "I didn't do anything; it makes me feel bad. I am so glad I was in the war. I'm very glad I was in it."

After retiring from the NSA, the Carpenters spent time in West Virginia, Florida, and they even spent time traveling the U.S. in a recreational vehicle. Bill passed away in 2001, and Mikki returned to Anne Arundel County. In addition to volunteering throughout her community, she was a member of the garden ministry at Our Lady of the Fields Catholic Church in Millersville, where she was responsible for keeping the property picturesque.

"Mom has always lived a life of service, whether it be helping friends and neighbors or volunteering at Our Lady of the Fields, Meals on Wheels and Partners in Care, driving people to appointments who were much younger than she was," said her son, Bill Carpenter.

Mikki is enshrined in the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Several family members recently visited the memorial, where an administrator spoke with Mikki and thanked her for paving the way for women serving in the armed forces.

She may not see herself as important to the war effort or see significance in hitting the 100 mark, but some celebrities feel otherwise. "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat Sajak sent Mikki a signed photo and card congratulating her on her golden birthday, as did CBS journalist and anchor Scott Pelley. Mikki played golf with Pelley's mother when the Carpenters lived in Florida. When she voted last fall, a television news camera crew interviewed her, and she told them she first voted for Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) in 1944.

Mikki was active in her Brightwood neighborhood until recently, including volunteering for community events, especially those for children. In 2018, she was a cofounder of B.R.A.Ts. — Brightwood Retirees Active Tuesdays. Earlier this year, neighbor Jan Jones created a picture book to celebrate Mikki and another soon-to-be centenarian.

"Mikki is such a valuable member of Brightwood," Jones said. "The book is for everyone to reflect back and enjoy Brightwood's golden girls. One-hundred is a real milestone, and we want to celebrate it."



## Severna Park Native Pitches Pet Safety Service On “Shark Tank”

» Continued from page 1

a producer, he fine-tuned his pitch and he moved onto the next round in which two producers learned more about the app and Khodabandelou as a person. By late May, he was cast for a potential appearance.

“Shark Tank” has two filming sessions per year — July and September — so Khodabandelou flew to California in September, allowing him more time to craft his pitch while having the support of his family in Chartwell.

He binged the last four seasons of the show to prepare. Since his app was just created, he did not have to memorize many sales numbers.

“It was easier for me because I had 105 users the day I went to film,” he said. “Preparing wise, I went through about 10 versions of the script — what I say when I walk in, and then the music comes in, ‘Dun-da,’ and my background and why I applied.”

Despite the preparation, he was surprised by a question from Kevin O’Leary, known as Mr. Wonderful.

“I thought I would start talking about my background,” Khodabandelou said, “but I was thrown off guard when Mr. Wonderful said something like, ‘If I’m dead, what do I care about my pets?’”

Khodabandelou quickly recovered. He made his case for a \$100,000 loan in exchange for 10% of his company. He then informed the sharks that the app cost users \$2.99 per month or \$29.99 a year. At the time of filming,



Woof had 317 downloads and 102 subscriptions, after Khodabandelou spent \$2,400 on marketing.

“That’s not horrible. That’s impressive,” O’Leary said. “I mean, I had no idea that people would actually give you \$2.99. It’s actually like an emotional insurance.”

Investor Lori Greiner said she did not see it as the right opportunity for her. Daymond John eliminated himself as a potential partner, citing challenges with Khodabandelou not owning the Woof name. Robert Herjavec withdrew for a different reason.

“The problem with your entire premise is you’re catering to the very,

very small percentage of people who don’t have friends or family within a geographic location,” he said. “Because if I got sick, I would have one of my friends do this service for me.”

O’Leary said he saw merit in the idea, but not for the terms of a deal Khodabandelou was seeking.

That left Mark Cuban, the shark Khodabandelou coveted most as his investment partner.

“Look, I think it’s a great idea,” Cuban said. “The challenge is that in order to make a lot of money, you have to have a lot of subscribers. What I look at is, OK, can it get to a million or 5 million subs, right? I don’t see that.

I just don’t see a path from where you want it to be to [this] big, great return for investor.”

Although no sharks took the bait, Khodabandelou is grateful for the experience. He said the events depicted on TV are “100% real.” The sharks don’t meet participants before the presentations or see them after, unless the two sides strike a deal.

It was a big deal to make it on TV. In 2019, *USA Today* said “Shark Tank” receives 35,000 to 40,000 applicants each season. Of those, about 1,000 advance to a second round of vetting. During that year, the show filmed 158 pitches and aired just 88.

A “Shark Tank” representative said those numbers are accurate and that current stats for this season are not available yet.

“I have more respect for the show and how hard it is to get on the show,” Khodabandelou said. “All of the preparation is worth it whether I got a deal or not.”

After filming, Khodabandelou messaged Cuban to thank him. The billionaire responded by giving Khodabandelou his personal email address.

Next, Khodabandelou wants to get to 20,000 users. He also wants his journey to inspire others from his hometown in Severna Park.

“I want to get funding and bring pet parents across the country peace of mind,” he said. “I hope people in the area see this and think that they can be entrepreneurs too.”

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# Animal Care & Control Waives Adoption Fees

Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control (AACACC) in Millersville is waiving its adoption fees for all its available dogs, effective immediately.

AACACC administrator Robin Catlett said the fees are being waived because the shelter has reached the limit of its ability to house and care for the dogs it already has, even as more continue to arrive.

“Throughout the United States, many public, open-access shelters like ours that must accept all pets brought to them from their jurisdictions are experiencing capacity issues,” Catlett said. “Our own shelter is now over its capacity for care.”

A shelter’s capacity for care includes the space it has to house animals and its staff’s ability to provide adequate and humane care for those animals, Catlett explained. AACACC is now at the limit of its abilities to provide care to the dogs it already has, yet additional dogs are arriving daily as strays are being given up by their owners. The shelter’s existing foster families have taken many adoptable dogs into their homes, but they, too, are reaching their limit.

“Our shelter has not had to euthanize adoptable animals due to exceeding its capacity for care in many years, but we are currently on the brink of being forced to make those awful decisions for dogs,” Catlett said. “We hope that with the support of our community, we can avoid this, but



*AACACC is at the limit of its abilities to care for the dogs it already has, yet additional dogs are arriving daily as strays are being given up by their owners.*

we believe in transparency, and we want Anne Arundel County citizens to know what we might be forced to do if we cannot find homes for more of our dogs.”

Adoptable dogs at AACACC are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. All available dogs have undergone staff observations to see how they behave with people and other dogs under a variety of situations, and all information the shelter has on each dog is available to adopters. Approved potential adopters can meet with individual dogs at the shelter and also arrange for their current dogs to

meet a potential new family addition.

Although AACACC is waiving its usual \$17 dog adoption fee, potential adopters must meet the shelter’s regular adoption requirements, which are outlined under the “adopt a pet” tab on its website, [www.aacounty.org/pets](http://www.aacounty.org/pets). Potential adopters do not have to live in Anne Arundel County or Maryland.

Photos of available dogs are on the shelter’s website.

Anne Arundel County citizens who are unable to adopt a dog can consider fostering one for the shelter to open up kennel space for the additional

dogs that are arriving. Anne Arundel County residents should send foster applications and required documentation to [accfoster@aacounty.org](mailto:accfoster@aacounty.org). Applications are located online at [www.aacounty.org/departments/animal-control/forms-and-publications/foster\\_application.pdf](http://www.aacounty.org/departments/animal-control/forms-and-publications/foster_application.pdf) or may be picked up at the shelter.

AACACC also has a live Facebook video that showcases its available pets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The video begins about 9:30am and is posted on its Facebook page for later viewing.

AACACC is located at 411 Maxwell Frye Road in Millersville. It’s open to the public from 10:00am to 3:00pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Wednesday hours are from 10:00am to 6:00pm. The facility is also open one Sunday a month with similar hours to Saturdays.

Although the shelter also has many cats and kittens, their situation is not as dire as it is for dogs, Catlett said. Cats and kittens younger than 9 continue to be \$14 each. Older cats and smaller pets, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, are free to qualified adopters.

“National studies have found that there is not a strong correlation between how much a person pays for a pet and how loved and well cared for that pet will be,” Catlett said. “Our own experience, and that of other shelters who sometimes offer their pets for free, bears that out. You just can’t put a price on love.”



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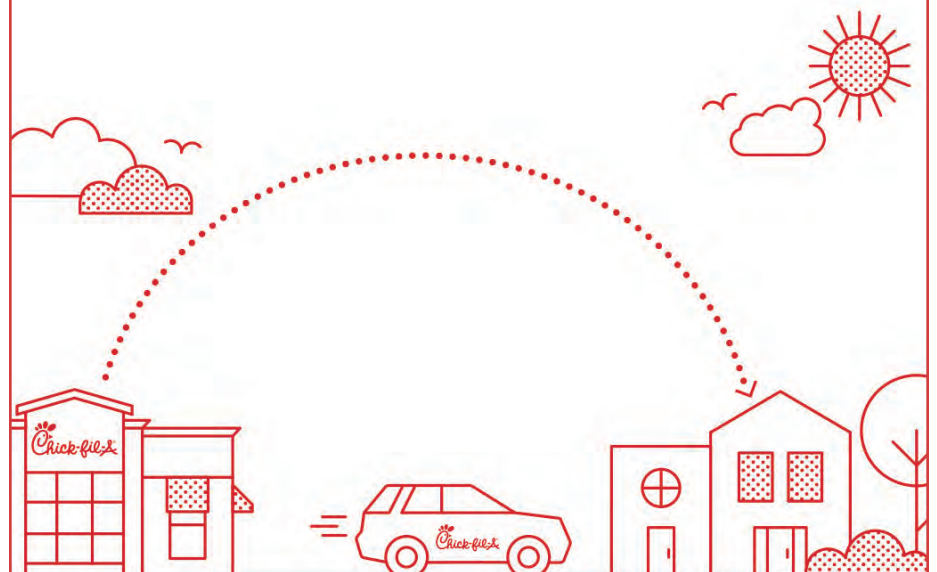


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# Arnold Resident Brings Charm To Cafe Mezzanotte Through Providence Center Support

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

It's not hard to spot Steven Patterson if you're visiting Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park. The 35-year-old Arnold resident will likely be the one sporting a perpetual grin, dancing to music in the kitchen and fist-bumping his coworkers.

"I love to work here," said Steven, whose day-to-day responsibilities at Cafe Mezzanotte include dishwashing, working in the kitchen, and cleaning the front area and bar. "I'm happy."

Steven is a worker with Down syndrome, and thanks in part to support from the Millersville-based Providence Center, he's able to thrive in the workforce. He's one of 55 area adults — 25 in Millersville, 21 in Arnold and nine in Severna Park — with disabilities who are supported by Providence Center staff.

"Just because a person has a disability doesn't mean they need special treatment; they just need to have the right support at the right time," said Jessica Holman, director of Providence Career Services. "Despite the challenges or the severity of their disability, if they want to work, we're going to make it happen."

Matt Pharr has been with Cafe Mezzanotte for 35 years and he currently serves as a manager and bartender. He noted Steven's attention to detail, sense of humor and unrivaled work ethic.

"It's a big team back there," said Pharr of the kitchen staff. "They love him, and he loves them."

Steven's mother, Angela Patterson, credited her son attending local public schools throughout his younger years as crucial to his development and confidence. At Broadneck High School, Steven even managed the wrestling team.

"It was his way to be a part of his community," said Angela, noting that although Steven is a man of few words, she considers him a "quiet trailblazer."



Photos by Mark Patton

Steven Patterson washed dishes during a recent shift at Cafe Mezzanotte.

Steven's positive energy goes beyond the walls of Cafe Mezzanotte. He is an avid sports fan, athlete, family guy and golfer. Steven has off on Wednesdays, when he enjoys going to lunch — preferably somewhere with a cheeseburger on the menu — and shopping.

Last year, Steven and his father won a gold medal for golf during the Special Olympics, and Steven has also competed in bowling, floor hockey, track and field, and dance. Years ago, he participated in horseback riding through a Special Olympics program.

When Steven was unable to continue working at his previous employer due to COVID-19, Cafe Mezzanotte came along at the right time.

After meeting with Cafe Mezzanotte owner Kosmas "Tommie" Koukoulis, Holman set up an internal paid internship for Steven through Providence Center. It's designed where Providence Center pays initial wages and provides insurance to cover liabilities, and Steven's position was slated to be a test run of a month at Cafe Mezzanotte. That test run didn't last that long. Koukoulis

knew after a week or two that Steven would be a perfect fit, and he became an employee.

"Tommie was phenomenal in his interacting with Steven," Holman said of their initial meeting. "They just clicked."

Steven's mom said her son truly feels like he's part of a team now.

"When he comes home, and I ask him 'how was your day?' there's always a smile on his face," Angela said. "People should look at this as an example of what is possible."

It's the team and family aspect that impresses both Angela and Providence Center associates. After receiving his first paycheck, "welcome to the team" was written at the bottom. Cafe Mezzanotte staff also helped Steven surprise his mom on Valentine's Day, assisting him in getting tulips, a card and dessert.

The difference in Steven since becoming part of the Cafe Mezzanotte family has been noticeable, according to Angela. She's not the only one that sees it. Holman, who has known Steven for nine years, describes him now

as Steven 2.0.

"Seeing him reach this new level of happiness is indescribable," Holman said.

Ashley Mundell has worked with Steven since 2019 as an employment consultant with the Providence Center. Mundell usually works with people to obtain employment in their preferred job fields with things such as creating a plan, building resumes and interview preparations. After obtaining employment, Mundell will assist them in getting acclimated to job duties until the worker and employer are both comfortable, at which point she transitions to weekly drop-ins or as needed.

"He had previous experience working in a restaurant and was able to jump right in," Mundell said of Steven. "He's built many natural supports and exceeds employer expectations, so my weekly check-ins are fairly short and simple."

Holman said if Providence Center had a hashtag, it would reference real jobs, real experiences and real pay.

"It's rewarding knowing that you're contributing to the way it should be," Holman said. "People with disabilities should be in their communities. They should be working. They should be treated as real adults."

Angela praised both Providence Center and Cafe Mezzanotte.

"We're grateful Steven has the support of Providence Center, and they really look at him as a stakeholder and allow him to make the decisions about his activities and what he does with work," Angela said. "Without Cafe Mezzanotte, Steven wouldn't have this opportunity."

It was hard for Steven to narrow down his favorite part of his workday when asked.

"Everything," Steven said, adding that he hopes to keep working there as long as he can.

It seems likely he'll be able to.

"As long as we're here, he has a place," Pharr said.

## Annapolis Boat Shows Return For Spring Season

The Annapolis Boat Shows, producer of in-water sail and powerboat shows for more than 50 years, has two upcoming spring shows: Bay Bridge Boat Show (April 14-16) and Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show (April 28-30).

Set at the foot of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge at the Bay Bridge Marina, the Bay Bridge Boat Show will feature a large selection of new and brokerage powerboats, as well as the latest in equipment, accessories and apparel. Favorites such as PropTalk's Demo Dock and BoatUS Foundation On-Water Training will return, and new features for 2023 are slated to be announced in the coming weeks.

Closing out the month of April is the Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show, which features new and brokerage boats



including catamarans, monohulls, family cruisers, daysailers and inflatables. Guests may meet with boating clubs, sailing schools and charters

companies, shop gear and equipment, and expand their knowledge with free seminars, the First Sail Workshop, and Cruisers University.

*The Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show will give guests a hands-on experience with catamarans, monohulls, family cruisers and daysailers from April 28-30.*

For those looking to enhance their visit, LaVictoire Finance will host the VIP Experience at the Spring Sailboat Show. This premier ticket provides an elevated experience at the show featuring a place to relax, buffets, and all-day drink tastings inside the Latitude 38 Waterfront restaurant.

Tickets are available for purchase on the Annapolis Boat Shows website. Admission is \$20 but discounted to \$18 per person when pre-purchased online. Children 12 and under gain admission for free. For more information, visit [www.annapolisboatshows.com](http://www.annapolisboatshows.com).



## Health Care Access And High Prescription Drug Costs

**Dawn Gile**  
Senator  
District 33



Spring is on the horizon and longer days are ahead, and so too have the days been long in the General Assembly with legislative work intensifying as Sine Die nears.

Over 1,200 bills were introduced this session in the General Assembly, and some of the most notable issues that have arisen include cannabis legislation, gun violence prevention, expansion of health care access, abortion care and more.

I serve on the Senate Finance Committee, and we hear bills related to financial institutions, insurance, health care, alcohol and tobacco, cannabis, and labor and employment. One issue of focus has been health care access, with legislation designed to improve health care delivery, lower the cost of health care and ultimately optimize patient health.

I was proud to sponsor Senate Bill 534 — Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023 — which would ensure Marylanders have access to health care in the modality best for them by preserving parity insurance coverage for telehealth visits, including “audio only” visits. By way of background, during the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, as we all stayed home to slow the spread of the virus, many Marylanders had to utilize telehealth to obtain routine health care. Emergency federal and state waivers during the declared public health emergency allowed telehealth to ramp up quickly.

During the 2021 General Assembly session, the legislature passed the Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021, which allowed health care providers to continue delivering safe, reliable care via telehealth at the right place, right time and the right modality for patients. The bill permanently removed originating and distant site restrictions and expanded remote patient monitoring (RPM) coverage for Medicaid participants. It also allowed providers to continue using audio-only means, such as a standard phone call, to deliver appropriate health care services and required reimbursement parity, meaning services delivered in-person and those delivered via telehealth are to be paid at the same rate.

However, the continuation of audio-only telehealth services and reimbursement parity flexibilities were slated to sunset on June 30, 2023. Senate Bill 534, which I sponsored, continues the success of the original Preserve Telehealth Access Act by extending the existing flexibilities and requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to submit a follow-up study focused on telehealth.

For some individuals, telehealth can be the difference between a visit to a health care provider, or no care at all, particularly for behavioral health services, which

have been critical in the aftermath of the pandemic. This legislation is a measured approach to continue current telehealth policies while fully understanding the role of telehealth in our health care system, and with support from payors, patients, and providers alike, the bill unanimously passed the Senate (which, by the way, was my first bill to pass the Senate).

Other health care bills that have passed the Senate include Senate Bill 234, which clarifies the authority of the Health Services Cost Review Commission to take into consideration the objective standards of effectiveness and efficiency to determine the reasonableness of hospital rates consistent with the All-Payer Model Contract. This bill will help ensure that the total costs of all services offered by a hospital are reasonable and that rates are set equitably among all purchasers of hospital services.

In addition, the Senate passed SB202, which would make clear that the Prescription Drug Affordability Board has the authority to cap prescription drug costs. As we know, many consumers have trouble affording their prescription drugs, and this bill is a step toward ensuring that Marylanders have access to affordable prescription medications. Among the other measures we have passed to alleviate health care and prescription drug costs was Senate Bill 184, which I was proud to co-sponsor with Senator Pam Beidle. This bill, which also passed the Senate unanimously, would require coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations without a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement.

The above bills — and so many others introduced this session — reflect the General Assembly’s ongoing commitment to improving health outcomes by increasing health care access and lowering costs. Please reach out to my office at [dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us](mailto:dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us) or 410-841-3568 with any questions or concerns.

## Making Homeownership Possible For Everyone

**Brian Chisholm**  
Delegate  
District 31



Homeownership has long been accepted as a core component of the American dream. There is no doubt that homeownership brings social benefits to a neighborhood, everything from neighbors

who are more willing to intervene in community problems to residents who are more likely to join Parent-Teacher Associations and neighborhood watch groups, which tends to lead to both lower violent and property crime rates.

We as lawmakers should be promoting homeownership considering it is one of the most effective ways to build wealth presently and historically. This is a vital first step for all income levels but

has proven to result in an even greater impact for our lower income earners. The lower the income of a homeownership household, the greater the share of its wealth coming from homeownership. Unfortunately, homeownership has continued to decline year after year in Maryland — down to 69% from 72% in 2020.

Part of the House Republican Caucus’ legislative agenda is building a strong economy. Serving in leadership as the assistant minority whip, I have introduced the Affordable Housing Act of 2023 (House Bill 766). The act would eliminate the state transfer tax on the purchase of primary residences priced

at \$350,000 and under. This is a small step that could generate an immense difference between approval or denial for those first-time homebuyers who do not have the benefit of escalating home prices that have created large equity positions for current homeowners.

Homeownership and the real estate market equity can create the advancement of self-reliance, individual ascension up the economic ladder to financial independence and freedom, and the ability for more Marylanders to acquire their own problem-solving resources. If passed, I see this having the most dramatic effect in communities that have been historically underinvested in by incentivizing homeownership over renting.

Maryland would not have to spend a single penny in order to put this program into effect. I am simply asking that we allow the Maryland citizen to keep the \$28 million so they can begin their journey up the economic ladder of financial security through the American

dream of homeownership. Furthermore, HB766 will hold counties harmless in their tax revenues and will not apply to county transfer taxes.

This is a commonsense approach to embolden the first-time homebuyers, and the lower-priced market consumers, to enter the current market space on their way to wealth creation.

I presented this bill in the Ways and Means Committee on February 21, but it must be passed by the committee and the House floor by March 20. If you’d like to offer your support, I encourage you to send emails asking members of the committee to vote favorably on HB766.

“We as lawmakers should be promoting homeownership considering it is one of the most effective ways to build wealth presently and historically.”

— BRIAN CHISHOLM

## Keeping Stolen Guns Off Our Streets

**Rachel Muñoz**  
Delegate  
District 31



Violent crime is far too prevalent in our lives. It is brought home daily when we turn on the television, listen to the radio or pick up the newspaper.

Last month, it came home for me, as it has for so many others. My husband, Andrew, and his pharmacy staff were held at gunpoint by a man who jumped the counter and demanded narcotics. Fortunately, Andrew and the pharmacy staff were not harmed

physically. For more than a decade, Andrew has served our community as an independent neighborhood pharmacist. He had never experienced any threats of violence, until that night. Our children and I have never feared him going to work and not coming home. In the blink of an eye, our five young children could have lost their father, and I could have lost my husband. Stories like this are happening all over Maryland, and far too often they end in tragedy.

These acts of violence are often committed by stolen guns. Maryland already has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation. Guns are both dangerous weapons and durable goods. They don’t disappear after being stolen. They are often trafficked to be used in violent crimes. FBI data from

2012 to 2017 showed more than \$829 million worth of guns were reported stolen. That’s an estimated 1.8 million guns. It is estimated that more than 15,000 guns were stolen during that period in Maryland.

Under current law, the penalty for stealing a gun is the same as the penalty for stealing a bicycle, a cellphone or a college textbook. This is unbelievable and unacceptable. Stealing a gun in Maryland should be a felony.

This is why I introduced House Bill 750. Passing this law will send a huge message to criminals that gun theft will not be tolerated. It will also help deter criminals from targeting law-abiding gun owners, because most thefts are not from gun dealers but rather individual owners.



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## Hogan Won't Enter 2024 Presidential Race

Former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan will not run for president in 2024.

In a statement provided to the media, Hogan said he had no desire to put his family through “another grueling campaign” just for the experience.

“I would never run for president to sell books or position myself for a cabinet role,” he said. “I have long said that I care more about ensuring a future for the Republican Party than securing my own future in the Republican Party. And that is why I will not be seeking the Republican nomination for president.”

Hogan also said he wants to avoid being part of “another multicar pileup” that could help Donald Trump recapture the Republican nomination. Instead, Hogan plans to continue running businesses, which he did before he was Maryland’s governor. He also wants to make a difference in other ways.

The former governor also addressed what he called “more angry, performative politics and bigger government” that he believes are prohibiting lawmakers from restoring America.

**Heather Bagnall**  
Delegade  
District 33



landscape with a new administration? The efforts to rebuild our state government? The hot-button issues?

I went back and thought about what has resonated in the past and decided I would talk about behavioral health and my favorite bill that I have in the legislature this session. Once again, I will add a caveat to this column with the advice I was given when first I entered office: never fall in love with your bills. I have repeatedly violated this advice, and this year is no exception. So, in this first column of our 2023 session, I’m going to talk about the Collaborative Care Model and our efforts to expand our pilot to a statewide effort.

As frequent readers are aware, I’m on the Health and Government Operations Committee, and recently I was appointed subcommittee chair of the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee. In our committee, we hear about the mental

## The Collaborative Care Model

After a several months hiatus from contributing, I really struggled as to where to put the focus on this month’s contribution. Should I talk about the changing

health crisis and deficit of services nearly every day, and many of us hear from our constituents asking for greater access to behavioral health care outside of crisis and emergency department settings. At times, it can feel as though we are operating continually in crisis without a means to move into prevention or even management of illness.

Maryland has been a leader in this effort, and in 2018, the Maryland General Assembly created a pilot for the Collaborative Care Model for Medicaid recipients, which creates a care coordination team to provide behavioral health care and resources in primary care settings. This model already exists for private insurers, but we didn’t have it as an option for our most vulnerable Marylanders. The Collaborative Care Model integrates physical and behavioral health services in primary care settings with care coordination and management, regular monitoring and treatment, and systematic psychiatric caseload reviews and consultation for patients who do not show clinical improvement. It is team based, patient centered, measurement based, evidence driven, cost effective and integrated care. In short, collaborative care brings behavioral health care, management and prevention to a comfortable setting where patients are most likely to utilize them, addressing the needs of the whole person.

This year, I, along with my Senate partner, Senator Malcolm Augustine, introduced House Bill 48/Senate Bill 101 — the Collaborative Care Model pilot expansion for Medicaid recipients.

Why now? Because the need is great, exacerbated by COVID but created by decades of disinvestment in and stigmatization of behavioral health care. Providing services in primary care settings normalizes and destigmatizes treatment for behavioral health disorders, encouraging patients to seek care in their regular primary care clinics, resulting in improved patient outcomes.

The Collaborative Care Model also allows Maryland to leverage state dollars for a 6% federal match, reducing the burden to the state. In fact, a 2019 report from the Healthcare Financial Management Association identified preventable emergency department visits at a cost of \$8.3 billion annually with the biggest driver of unnecessary emergency department use being mental health care. The return on investment in the Collaborative Care Model is about \$6 for every dollar spent.

I am not being hyperbolic when I say expansion of the Collaborative Care Model will be a gamechanger for our state and, more importantly, for our district. I look forward to bringing this essential health policy across the threshold for Maryland and District 33.



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## Falcon Boys Win 4A Indoor Track Championship



Photos by Naptown Studios

**Top Left:** In the boys 4x800 meter relay, the team of Brooks Stepe, Liam Hagerty, Cody Smith and Alex Lecouras finished first with a time of 8:09.99. **Bottom Left:** The Severna Park 4x800 meter relay team of Cameron Glebocki, Lexi Ensor, Sarah Kelly and Kaylee Jenish finished second with a time of 9:44.74.

By Tom Worgo

The Severna Park indoor track team last year might have been considered coach **Josh Alcombright's** "dream team."

For one, opponents understood they didn't have much of a chance of beating the Falcons as a team in a meet.

It was plain and simple with their talent. Nine seniors — all of whom went on to compete in the sport in college — won the first Class 4A state championship in school history last March.

That left Severna Park with a lot of holes and a thin roster.

So, Alcombright didn't concern himself with team finishes and instead focused on individual performances.

But when Severna Park won a boys regional title in early February, things changed.

A small team could come up big.

Severna Park entered the toughest meet of the year, the state championships, with enough athletes to compete in only a combined five individual and relay events.

"We qualified people in a lot more events last year — maybe 10," Alcombright recalled. "This year, the boys had to be close to perfect because we only had five chances to score."

Long shots came in, and Severna Park delivered another state championship.

Senior **Liam Hagerty** won the 3,200 meters (8.09.99) and was part of the relay

» Continued on page 28



## BHS Wrestler Liam DeBaugh Takes Next Step With State Title



Liam DeBaugh cruised past Nelson Manzoeto of Montgomery Blair, 9-1, to finish with a sizzling 40-1 record.

By Tom Worgo

Broadneck wrestling coach **Reid Bloomfield** cleaned out any final items in all his wrestlers' lockers after the team left at the end of this season.

That's when he found **Liam DeBaugh's** 2020 second-place state finisher medal hanging up.

"He stared at that second-place medal every day," Bloomfield recalled.

DeBaugh forgot the medal. One of

» Continued on page 22

## Severna Park's Storybook Season Ends In State Semifinals

By Tom Worgo

Severna Park girls basketball coach **Kristofer Dean** said his team was brimming with confidence heading into the Class 4A

state semifinal against Glen Burnie.

The Falcons won three playoff games, beating North Point by five points, blowing out South River and edging Urbana by three.

That had Severna Park doing something on March 7 it hadn't done since 1988 — appearing in a final four.

Unfortunately, the Falcons ran

into the county champion Glen Burnie Gophers, who boast a 23-2 record.

Glen Burnie led from start to finish

» Continued on page 22



This year's Falcons girls' squad accomplished something that has been done only twice in program history, both times in the 1980s. They made it to the final four.



# Resilient Bruins Lose To Gaithersburg In State Playoffs



By Dennis McGinley

Going on the road for a state quarterfinal playoff game against a strong opponent, it is almost imperative to get off to a good start. Unfortunately for the Broadneck boys basketball team, not only did the start not go as they envisioned on March 4, but they fell behind big early and were never able to recover.

Gaithersburg used a 12-0 run to open the game, and held off every Bruins attempt to get within earshot as the Trojans won 67-52 and earned a semifinal berth against top-seeded Parkville. For Broadneck, a season that started slow in December before they found a rhythm in January ended a game short of the fourth state semifinal appearance in program history.

Gaithersburg scored in every way, running out to their big lead. **Ben Bradford** scored 14 of his game-high 32 points as the host Trojans led 23-7 after the first quarter.

"Ben Bradford was dominant today," said Broadneck head coach **John Williams**. "He provided challenges for us."

Gaithersburg continued their hot shooting to open the second quarter, extending to their biggest lead of the game at 33-11. The fast start was a surprise to Williams, who watched film ahead of the game.

"I didn't see them shoot the ball quite as well as they did today," he said.

After a timeout, Broadneck's **Jalen Carter** began to assert himself on the offensive end, scoring nine second-quarter points as the Bruins closed the gap to 36-22 at the half.

Broadneck emerged for the second half with increased defensive pressure, slowing down Bradford and the Trojans by employing different matchups and help defense. The teams exchanged baskets before a Broadneck timeout with three minutes left and the Bruins down by 12. Carter sandwiched a 3-pointer and a three-point play around a Gaithersburg bucket, and suddenly the Bruins were within eight points at 44-36.

After a defensive stop, Broadneck had a chance to get within five points but missed a couple of 3-pointers. The quarter ended with the Trojans up by 11, and the Bruins could get no closer in the fourth quarter.

Carter led the Bruins with 17 points, followed by **Jordan Brown** with 14 points and **Amare Jefferies** with 11. Despite the loss, Williams was appreciative of the way his team responded to their December start, saying, "The ride these guys took us on was a lot of fun."

Photos by Dennis McGinley



**Top Left:** Jalen Carter scored nine of his team-high 17 points in the second quarter for Broadneck in the 67-52 loss to Gaithersburg on March 4. **Bottom Left:** Jordan Brown lofted a shot over a defender in the third quarter. He finished with 14 points. **Top Right:** Amare Jefferies, who added 11 points, tried to keep the Bruins in the game with a second-half bucket. **Bottom Right:** Aureon Johnson dribbled around a Trojans defender.

## St. Martin's Girls Win Basketball Tournament

The St. Martin's-in-the-Field seventh- and eighth-grade girls basketball team won the Annapolis Area Christian School Eagle Invitational tournament, held in February. Eighth-graders **Lily Mosher**, **Reese Pasko** and **Izzi Scarfo** were named to the All-Tournament team for their outstanding play during the event. Coaches **Janet Mosher** and **Jay Pasko** not only led the girls to success at the tournament, but they also celebrated an undefeated season.







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# Green Hornets Excel In Girls Basketball

This winter, several Green Hornets girls basketball teams finished as champions in various age groups.



**12UAB** The 12UAB Green Hornets went 12-1, defeating Shooters (South River) 22-16 in the championship game. This team was led by head coach **Stephanie Hartman** and assistant

**Chad Coward**. Players were **Lucy Ambro, Claire Farley, Ella Hartman, Kendall Austin, Quinn Brady, Riley Buck, Chelsea Coward, Quinn Makarovich, Caroline Mosher** and **Carly Weeks**.

**13UAB** Also against Shooters of South River, the Green Hornets 13UAB team won 29-24 in the championship. The team finished 11-1 behind coaching from **Stacy Williams** and **Dan**

**Kelliher**. Leading the way were players **Quinlyn Bary, Isabella Bursleson, Tatum Davis, Pres Davis, Anya Diggs, Abigail Kelliher, Kendall Kemezis, Morgan Rausch, Paige Sanborn** and **Brynn Williams**.



**11UA** The Gators won their last seven games and beat a travel Amateur Athletic Union team from Columbia in the A division championship game, 11-10. They played great team defense anchored by forwards **Addy Doss, Layla Daniel, Riley Strom** and **Gianna Proccocini**. Guards **Emma Dooley, Scarlett Burrows, Ava Worthington** and **Sienna McPhee** were unselfish and contributed on both ends of the floor all season. Guard **Lola Phippen** hit two

buzzer-beating, game-winning shots in consecutive games to get the Gators to the championship. Due to an unfortunate injury to the team's second point guard, **Elizabeth Locher** was forced to play almost all of the minutes at point guard during the winning streak and was instrumental in handling the full-court pressure and running the offense. Led by head coach **Chris Locher** and assistant coach **Mike Worthington**, the team finished 11-4 and as 11UA Anne Arundel County champions.

## SEVERNA PARK DREAM TEAM

In the high school scrub championship, the Severna Park Dream defeated Team Defeo 27-24. The team included head coach **Brandon Goodman** and assistant **Brack Williams**, along with players **Charlotte Astle, Kacey Callaway, Abigail Goodman, Stella Kidney, Millie Knoepfle, Jessica Ricci, Lacey Toth** and **Jill Weeks**.



**10U** Made of fifth- and sixth-graders, 10U girls went undefeated in the Glen Arm President's Day Tournament with a combined score of 84-17. Overall, they went 11-1, defeating SRYA Lundberg, 19-11, in the championship game. The team was led by head coach **Kurt Cerny** and assistant coach **John Distler**. Players included **Aurelea Cerny, Lila Coard, Emilyn Cover, Grace Distler, Sia Duggal, Kolbie Phillips, Eliza St. John** and **Lea Trippett**.

## SEVENTH- AND EIGHTH-GRADE

This age group combines with BAYS for a co-op league so there are more teams and competition. The combined BAYS and Green Hornets, under the moniker Team Stafford, beat BAYS' Team Boyer 18-11 in the championship. **Greg Stafford** served as the head coach and **Michael Young** was the assistant coach. Their team included **Sydney Biel, Mary Joyce Beisler, Taylor Hans, Addie Matthews, Shaina Naran, Julie Pumphrey, Zoey Stafford, Emma Vancaster** and **Meghan Young**.



## THIRD- AND FOURTH-GRADE

Representing Team Cliffe, these fifth- and sixth-grade girls won their championship, 13-7, vs. Team Jordan. The team was led by head coach **Dawn Cliffe** and assistant **Kristy Wallace**. Team Cliffe got

contributions from **Naomi Baker, Else Cliffe, Akari Duncan, Hunter Flynn, Lillian Dunlap, Leah Hill, Ellie Hollway, Charlotte Mazzola, Esther Oluboyo, Harper Priem** and **Kathryn Wallace**.



**THIRD- AND FOURTH-GRADE** Team Kohler defeated Team Moloney 16-8. The Green Hornets team was coached by **Paul Kohler** and his assistants **John Strawbridge** and **Brian Freiss**. The team included **Nora**

**Bednarski, Lillian Cottle, Brooke Curry, Hadley Freiss, Finley Kohler, Lucy Kondisko, Caroline Ridley, Livia Strawbridge, Mia Ventrudo, Sarah Worthington** and **Eliana Nardone**.



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## Defense Sparks 11U Team To League Championship



*The 11U boys went 10-3, and got hot when it counted, winning their league title.*

**T**he Green Hornets 11U select team set high goals of winning the county and going undefeated. While they didn't go 14-0, the 11U boys were still able to secure a spot in the finals with a 10-3 record and ultimately win the championship.

Under coaches **Marshall Rumney** and **Patrick Connell**, the team started 6-0 with an average victory margin of 15.5 points per game. Their recipe for success was playing suffocating half-court defense and using that to create offensive opportunities.

A 3-3 stretch tested the team as opponents played to their tendencies, but the Green Hornets 11U team made it to the final four, where they got contributions from all players to avenge an earlier loss to SRYA and win the title.

"We knew we had the chance to be good, with a good mix of talent and size, but the most impressive part about this group is their willingness to embrace change," Rumney said. "We were in a

tough stretch in the back half of the season, and our players spoke up, held each other accountable, and worked extremely hard each practice to make the necessary adjustments and improve on our weaknesses."

Scoring was anchored by steady play from **Brian Feldmaier**, **Chase Connell** and **Finn Fowler** on the wing, and **Harrison Rumney** in the post. As the season progressed, standout efforts were put in from Rumney, **Parker Jackson**, **Berk Acikgoz** and **Bennett Hilgartner**.

The defense was led by Feldmaier, Connell, Jackson, **Luke Rex** and **Connor Pollard**.

"The best part about this team is their selfless play, with contributions from everyone, in every phase of the game, at different times throughout the season," coach Rumney said. "It's a special group of players that all checked their ego at the door in exchange for team success, and remained focused on their team goals, and paid it off with their hard work."

## Green Hornets 8U Team Takes B League Crown

**T**he Green Hornet select 8U team began the season with a tough schedule, losing a few games before rattling off seven consecutive wins to close out the season with the championship. The team is especially proud of their 49-point effort late in the season that secured the league championship.

In their first season together, the boys came together as a team and are looking forward to the spring season and beyond with a winning combination of tenacious defense and team offense.



*The Green Hornets select 8U team included (front row, l-r) Michael Duffy and Leo Matthews, (second row, l-r) Brian Staples, Joaquin Richardson, Will Young, Penn Shaklee, Nick Chase and Ezra Buterbaugh and (third row, l-r) assistant coach Glenn Staples, Channing Patterson, head coach Ryan Young and assistant coach Damion Buterbaugh.*



# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



## OWEN MULDOON

SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
BASKETBALL AND SOCCER

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park's **Owen Muldoon** is the youngest of three competitive brothers. The bruises, scrapes and sprains from playing against his siblings have transcended into life lessons for the driven athlete.

"My brothers taught me the love of the game," Muldoon said. "Being the youngest, I learned many lessons in the driveway and backyard during those

"Owen is a vocal leader as well as a spiritual leader. He's worked himself into our lead guard spot by knowing all of our stuff and making sure we are on the same page running it. He practices with enthusiasm and is a true student of the game."

— **PETE YOUNG, SEVERNA PARK BOYS BASKETBALL COACH**

friendly games."

Muldoon, who plays point guard for the Falcons, helped guide Severna Park to a strong finish, winning seven out of their last 10 games and earning a home playoff game against Leonardtown, which Severna Park won, 46-36.

"We have a good outside game and are capable of beating any team in the county," Muldoon said before the season ended in the regional playoffs. "We receive great support from our fellow students and have an outstanding home-court environment."

Being a point guard, Muldoon is responsible for distributing the basketball to other teammates and orchestrating the offense for the best shot available.

Muldoon said he prioritizes making great assists over scoring.

"It's good for the team chemistry, and I have great teammates," Muldoon said.

Muldoon played for recently retired coach **Paul Pellicani** last year. Longtime assistant **Pete Young** took over the reins as head coach this year.

"Owen is a vocal leader as well as a spiritual leader," Young said. "He's worked himself into our lead guard spot by knowing all of our stuff and making sure we are on the same page running it. He practices with enthusiasm and is a true student of the game."

Muldoon is also a standout soccer player, having

made the Capital Gazette's second-team All-County list in January. The same qualities that make Muldoon a competitive athlete on the hardwood translate onto the soccer pitch.

"I coached all of Owen's brothers, and because he competed with his older brothers in the backyard and driveway, he brought a winning mentality to the soccer team," said Severna Park head soccer coach **Ryan Parisi**. "He did whatever the team needed to win. We counted on Owen in critical moments. To his credit, he played as hard in practice as he did in games and brought up the competitive environment in practice."

His competitive spirit also transcends to the classroom, where he has a 3.6 grade point average and has taken seven Advanced Placement classes. Muldoon is also active in the One Love club and is doing an internship at the Charter Financial Group.

"Severna Park is a great school," Muldoon said. "We take pride in the school and its spirit. It also has an outstanding learning environment with the latest technology."

Muldoon plans on studying finance in college and will decide between Georgia, South Carolina and Loyola of Maryland in the near future.

Before he goes to college this fall, Muldoon, his parents and brothers will strengthen their family ties and rekindle their backyard battles during a trip to Dublin.

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## BHS Wrestler Liam DeBaugh Takes Next Step With State Title

» Continued from page 15

his teammates gave it to him after finding it in the pocket of a wrestling jacket.

"I didn't realize I was missing it," DeBaugh said. "I looked at it every single day, laced up my shoes, put on my knee pads and headgear and just went out to practice every day and worked as hard as I could."

DeBaugh left the medal there because he didn't want it anymore.

Now, he had the medal he wanted. All of DeBaugh's effort paid off. A more confident and polished DeBaugh won the Class 4A/3A state championship at 160 pounds on March 4 at the Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro. He cruised past **Nelson Manzoeto** of Montgomery Blair, 9-1, to finish with a sizzling 40-1 record.

DeBaugh, whose career started in the Central Maryland Wrestling youth program, edged his semifinal opponent, 3-2, and recorded a pin in a quarterfinal.

"All the dedication came to the forefront," DeBaugh explained. "I had a lot more confidence and I didn't get nervous at states. Last year, I went out there all nervous. I think my biggest strength was my mental approach. I was more confident in my skills and abilities."

What makes DeBaugh's state title even more impressive is the fact

that he moved up five weight classes. He went 37-8 last year at 126 while winning regional and county championships.

"Liam was much more mature this year in how he approached things," Bloomfield said. "His mat awareness was great, and he cleaned up his technique a lot. He was more coachable this year than in years past. He thought if he got bigger, he could be just as successful. He committed to the weight room and offseason workouts."

Broadneck had two wrestlers who placed second: seniors **Jake Chambers** (182, 39-7) and **Dax Avila** (195, 40-2).

Both are second-year wrestlers and rapidly improved their skills.

"They came out as juniors and made the state finals as seniors," Bloomfield said. "That's amazing, and it's one of the most proudest things in my time as a wrestling coach. They are two of the most coachable kids I've ever had. They worked the hardest and were practice partners."

Chambers really pushed Atholton's **Ivan Carrillo** (38-2) in the final, losing a 7-5 decision while Avila lost to Northeast's **Samire Brown** (38-4) by the same score.

"I would take 100 Jake Chambers and Dax Avilas on my team," Bloomfield said. "They are everything you want in a wrestler."

## SPHS' Storybook Season Ends

» Continued from page 15

and cruised to a 45-28 victory over Severna Park at Paint Branch High in Burtonsville. The Gophers beat the Falcons three times this season.

Severna Park finished with a 21-6 mark. Dean understood all accomplishments achieved by his team.

On top of the state semifinal appearance, the Falcons won a regional title and advanced to the county championship game.

"It was a pretty good run," said Dean, who is in his sixth season. "We had four great seniors (**Lilly Spilker, Hanna Verreault, Karli Kirchenheiter, Abby Kavanagh**) and they have been wonderful to work with."

Turnovers plagued Severna Park in the first half and poor shooting hurt the Falcons throughout the game. They shot 21% from the field (8-for-38) and 38% from the free-throw line (12-for-31).

Glen Burnie combo guard **Amourie Porter**, who has committed to California State Bakersfield and averages 21 points a game, didn't have one of her better nights against Severna Park. She finished with 12 points and added seven rebounds and four steals.

Porter found herself in foul trouble in the third quarter and came out of the game with 4:24 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Senior center **Aichatta Soumaoro** stepped up in her place and totaled 10 points, 17 rebounds and seven blocks.

"She (Soumaoro) showed she belongs on this stage," said Porter's father, Sam, a second-year coach. "That's one of her better performances. What happened tonight was major for her."

Senior **Lania Nick** had 12 points. Kavanagh, a 6-foot forward, led Severna Park with nine points and eight rebounds. Freshman **Maria Bragg** had seven points and five rebounds.

Kirchenheiter (four points), **Charley Coward** (four), Spilker (two) and Verreault (two) also scored.

Glen Burnie jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first quarter and the Gophers pushed their advantage to 15-6 by the end of the period.

The winners boosted their lead to 22-10 at halftime.

"With a team like that, you can't have a bad start," Dean said. "Tonight, it was too much of a hole to climb out of. All three times we played them, we were in a hole to start the game."

The Falcons cut the lead to 22-14 early in the second quarter on Bragg's layup. But Glen Burnie used a 9-2 spurt to take control.

"We clawed back, but it wasn't enough," Dean said.

The loss stung for the Falcons, but they stood proud. Severna Park's playoff run was full of uplifting moments, including Kavanagh's buzzer-beating 3-pointer over Urbana to send her team to the state semifinals.

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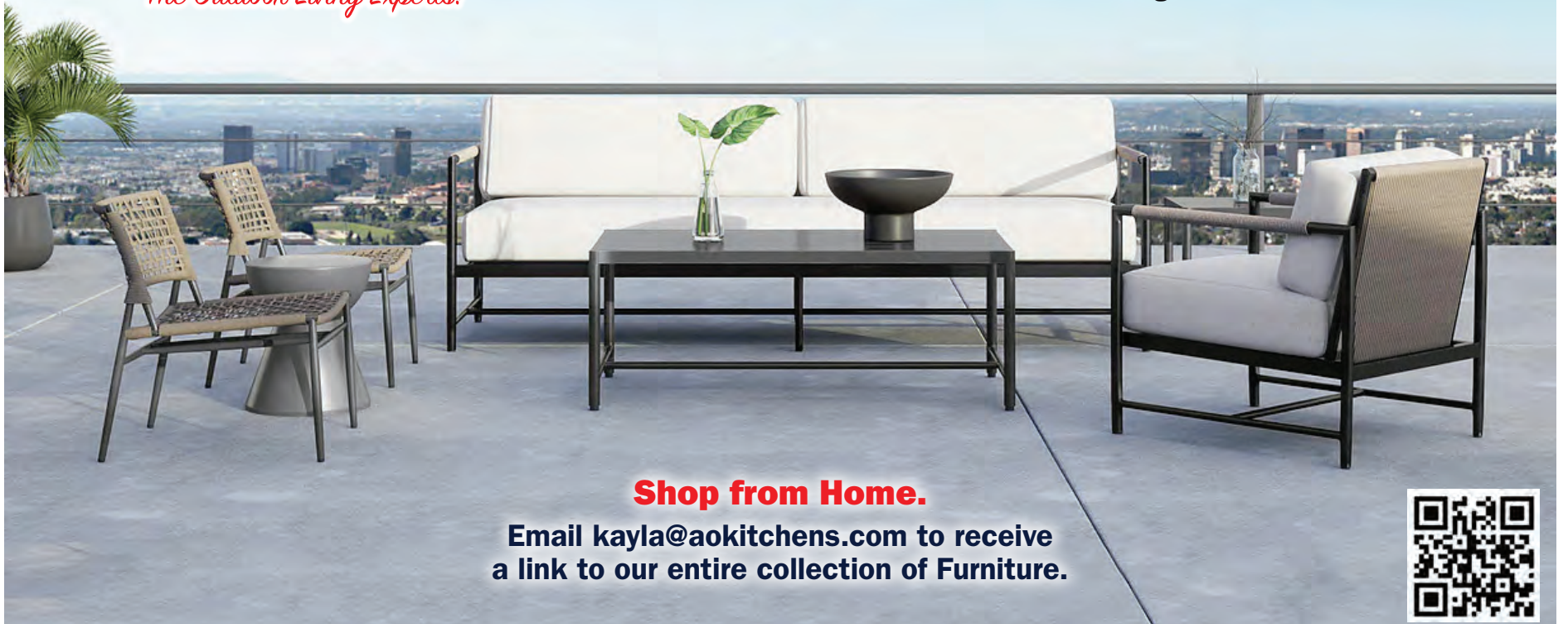
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# GIRLS LACROSSE PREVIEW



By Kevin Murnane

## SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Severna Park has a new coach in **Ann Houghton** and is coming off a season where they reached the state finals, only to lose to Marriott's Ridge, 11-10, in a hard-fought game. The Falcons also beat Broadneck twice and were county champions.

"We have a positive, strong and hardworking group of returning players, and we added some depth in every area," Houghton said. "They are a dynamic and athletic team and have been putting in a ton of work in the offseason."

Returning key players on attack for the Falcons include four-year starter **Charlotte Diez** (committed to Villanova) and fellow senior **Stella Bordone** (Lafayette).

At midfield, the Falcons have **Alyssa Gore-Chung** (Navy), who according to

Houghton, has an elite set of skills, as well as seniors **Regan McDonnell** (Salisbury), **Karli Kirchenheiter** (Louisville), **Sophia Miller** (San Diego State) and **Maddy Goger** (Columbia).

"These players will combine for a powerhouse midfield," Houghton said.

On defense, the Falcons have seniors **Olivia Tramontana** (San Diego State) and **Lilly Spilker** (Penn State).

In the cage are seniors **Ada Mutch** and junior **Allison Schiavone**.

"Our strength of schedule is more difficult this year, but playing harder games are what force us to learn and adapt," Houghton said. "These games will also help us when it comes time for playoffs."

Key games to watch are against Archbishop Spalding on April 12 and Broadneck on April 28.

## BROADNECK HIGH SCHOOL

Winners of two consecutive 4A championships, the Broadneck Bruins return many key starters from their squad that went 17-3 last year.

"We return seven starters, but we lost many seniors from last year, so we need to find our identity," said Broadneck girls lacrosse head coach **Katy Kelley**. "We return our midfield of **Lexi Dupcak** (committed to Maryland), **Mary Moore** (Villanova) and **Lilly Kelley** (James Madison). Our midfield is one of our strengths and is a good combination of

teamwork, speed and stickwork."

The Bruins outscored their five state playoff opponents 84-25, and that high-octane offense started with Dupcak controlling the draws with vital help from Moore and Kelley.

The Bruins' attack is headed by **Olivia Orso** (Ohio State) and **Lilly Trout** (High Point).

Broadneck faces a gauntlet of tough games, including playing numerous Howard County teams in a tournament at Troy Park in April.

"We're a hardworking, gritty team," Katy Kelley said. "Our philosophy is to take one game at a time."

Key games are the Troy Park tournament on April 8 and against Severna Park on April 28.

## ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Archbishop Spalding girls lacrosse head coach **Tara Shea** is also electrified about her squad this spring as she brings back several key players from last year's team that went to the quarterfinals of the IAAM's A Division.

"We believe we can compete for the championship," Shea said. "We have speed, quickness and we're smart."

The Cavaliers lost midfielder **Bella Saviano**, who is starting at Yale, but return a host of starters and their senior goalie, **Colleen Berardino**, who has committed to Temple.

Other key players for the Cavaliers include midfielder **Ally Keith** (Cincinnati), defender **Maddie Wrenn** (Clemson), and midfielders **Gabby Green** (Florida)

and **Lily Mullen** (Cornell).

Key games for the Cavaliers are March 28 against Severn and April 12 versus Severna Park.

## SEVERN SCHOOL

Severn School head girls lacrosse coach **Kathy Rudkin** calls the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) arguably the best girls lacrosse league in the nation.

Rudkin, who has been Severn's head coach since 2019, is optimistic that her nine seniors will add leadership and consistency to her squad that competes in the IAAM's A Division.

"The season's team is one I'm super excited about," Rudkin said. "The senior class is near and dear to my heart as they're the first class I've known since they were freshmen. We return 12 players who received significant minutes for us last year, and I'm also excited about our young players who are coming in with tons of potential."

The noteworthy players coming back for the Admirals are goalie **Cameron Christie** (committed to Duke), midfielder **Zoe Stencil** (Virginia Tech), midfielder **Erin Hooper** (Notre Dame), defender **Kacey Hopkins** (Akron), **Emma Ripley** (Rochester Institute of Technology) and **Sage Whiteside** (Dickinson).

"We aim to revenge some of those close losses this year and develop our depth," Rudkin said.

Games to circle on the calendar are March 28 against Archbishop Spalding and April 14 against St. Mary's.

## SEVERN SCHOOL

The Admirals kicked off the season with two wins, 13-8 against St. Albans and 9-6 over Landon. Led by head coach **Joe Christie**, Severn School is looking to improve upon last season's 10-8 record, which culminated in a 12-9 loss to Calvert Hall in the MIAA quarterfinals.

All-County midfielder **Justin Queen** graduated, but Severn School has part of its nucleus intact with attacker **Jacob Todd** and faceoff specialist **Reid Gills**.

## ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Archbishop Spalding finished with a 12-5 record in 2022, with their season ending in a 11-10 loss to McDonogh in the MIAA quarterfinals.

Gone are three of the team's All-County athletes — attacker **Race Ripley**, midfielder **Nick Gutierrez** and defender **Alex Ross**.

"They not only won us some games, but they changed the culture along with the 2021 class," head coach **Brian Phipps** said, adding that some of their lessons made an impression on the younger guys. "Rather than hoping or wanting, they know they have to meet the standard that's been set."

The Cavaliers elected midfielder **Jameson Coffman** as a captain, and Phipps expects big things from both him and defender **Logan Meighan**. Several other players will need to step up to keep Spalding at the top of the standings.

Two big tests will come early with Hill Academy on March 16 and Bullis School on March 24.

"Last year, we relied on a top-heavy offense with our guys," Phipps said. "This year will be more by committee, and I think you will see more spread-out scoring."

# BOYS LACROSSE PREVIEW



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

With two teams that made state title games last year and two others that were in their respective playoffs, the county boys lacrosse circuit is breeding tough competition. Those four teams are vying for supremacy this spring.

## SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Moving from Class 4A to Class 3A did not slow Severna Park's dominance in 2022. The Falcons cemented their status as one of the elite teams statewide when they won their sixth-consecutive state title and a state-record 11th title overall.

The top four scorers from the 2022 team were seniors. With a strong pipeline of talent, the Falcons hope to offset the losses of attackers **Jouquin Villagomez** and **Nolan Zborai**, midfielder **Parker Sealey** and defender **Bryce Stevenson**, among others.

"Anytime you win a championship, a lot of things have to go right," said Severna Park boys lacrosse head coach **Dave**

**Earl**. "With the experience of achieving our goals, we want to keep getting better every day."

Coming off a campaign in which he had 113 saves, **Ashby Shepherd** will man the goal. **Ryan LaRocque** scored 16 goals last season and expects to build off that performance.

Earl also anticipates big contributions from **Talan Livingston** and **Kevin Bredeck**.

Defensively, the Falcons won't tinker with the winning formula. Earl expects some changes to the offense.

"Anytime you change players, you should adjust the offense around personnel," he said. "We're still trying to figure out our offense. Our big question is at attack. **Nolan Grizzle** should be in the mix."

Not only will Severna Park face its regular slate of county opponents, but the team is also scheduled to play Landon, from Bethesda, Maryland, and participate in a state championship rematch with Mount Hebron.

"We want to develop these kids to be young men who make a positive difference in the world, and if we can do that, everything else should follow," Earl said.

## BROADNECK HIGH SCHOOL

By almost any measure, the Bruins had a stellar season in 2022 as they went 16-4 and won their regional championship. They reached all their goals but one, falling to Winston Churchill, 15-7, in the Class 4A state championship.

Head coach **Jeffrey McGuire** believes that experience will help this

year's group.

"Our four losses last year were under the bright lights," McGuire said, pointing to losses against St. Mary's and Severn School in the Public vs. Private Challenge, Severna Park in the county championship and Winston Churchill in the state finals. "For all of these guys who are returning, the best preparation for 2023 is 2022."

McGuire believes he has a strong core despite the loss of two graduates and All-County athletes: attackman **Davis Fisher** and defender **Nate Levicki**. Midfielder **Tyler Hicks** made big strides last year, as did **Jackson Shaw**, who finished as the team's second-leading scorer. **Tanner Boone** rounds out the midfield.

"Davis [Fisher] was the heart and soul of the team," McGuire said. "Now we have six guys who can contribute."

This is McGuire's first class of seniors that he's coached since they were freshmen. The boys have bought into the program, he said, allowing them to play up-tempo and excel at pushing the ball in transition.

Their chemistry will come in handy as the Bruins play a tough schedule that includes defending state champion Kent Island, state semifinalists Sherwood and Catonsville, and in conference, another state champion in Severna Park. McGuire is not daunted, though. The 2022 slate also had its share of formidable opponents.

"We had Hereford, who won [Class] 2A, Kent Island were runners-up and Urbana were 3A champs the last year," McGuire said. "We're fortunate to have Severna Park in our county. We want to play the best all of the time. I think the best lacrosse is being played around the Annapolis area."





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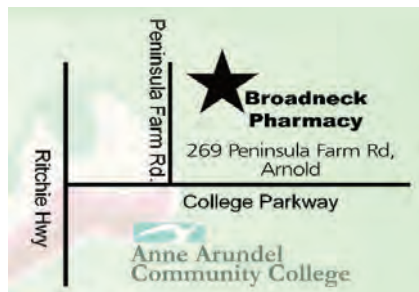


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# After Four Years, Lacrosse Rivals Meet At Clemson University

By Kevin Murnane

The high school girls lacrosse rivalry between Severna Park and Broadneck recently took a unique turn down south in Clemson, South Carolina, as former Bruin **Olivia Abe** and former Falcon **Mallory Martel** clashed as captains of their respective collegiate teams.

Last month, the women's lacrosse team from Clemson University played its first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) game against the Spartanburg, South Carolina-based Wofford University Terriers.

At the captains' midfield meeting before the game, the two former Anne Arundel County lacrosse players smiled at each other, shook hands and prepared to resume the "Battle of Ritchie Highway" like they had so many times during their high school careers.

"It was a cool experience," said Abe, who plays attack for the Terriers. "Clemson had a pregame ceremony and took lots of photos of both teams together as it was an historical game for them. Then, once I shook Mallory's hand, it was all business from there."

Martel, a defender for the Clemson Tigers, agreed.

"It was good to see her, and it was very exciting to have our first game as a new program," she said.

Clemson won the game 23-1, and Abe had the only goal for Wofford.

"My goal wasn't against Mallory as she turned to defend another player," Abe said. "Clemson has an unbelievable team with so many fifth-year transfers and very good freshmen players."

Both players played four years on varsity for their respective high schools and Abe and Martel faced each other numerous times in feeder programs and club lacrosse over the years.

"Mallory is a great defender, very aggressive and skilled," said Abe about Martel, who became her friend in the latter years of high school.

Abe said, "We really became friends during our recruiting trips. We both flew to Arizona to visit Arizona State, but it was too far for me, but Mallory liked it."

Martel had many reasons she liked the Sun Devils, because, like Clemson, it was a start-up women's lacrosse program and in a great conference, the PAC-12.

"It was an awesome opportunity, and the weather was phenomenal," Martel said.

She also liked the fact that she would be traveling to well-known universities such as USC, Stanford, Oregon, California-Berkeley and Colorado.

As well as Abe and Martel becoming friends on recruiting trips, those journeys enabled their respective parents to become close.

"The first person who greeted me at Clemson was Mallory's dad, who yelled my name from the stands and had a big smile and wave for me," Abe said.

Abe chose Wofford because of its scenic campus, small class sizes and new facilities. Wofford has 2,000 students on its campus.

"Everyone says that when an athlete chooses a college, make your decision as if you didn't play a sport," said Abe, expressing that she has cherished her time being a Terrier.

Both Abe and Martel have enjoyed outstanding college careers thus far, and being student-athletes, have learned crucial time management skills. Both of their schedules are packed with practice, weightlifting, classes, homework, film study and getting treatment for injuries.

Martel transferred to Clemson because she missed the water, and Clemson offered great academics, support systems and a welcoming coaching staff.



Photo courtesy of Wofford College



Former Bruin Olivia Abe (top) plays attack for the Wofford University Terriers and former Falcon Mallory Martel (bottom) is now a defender for the Clemson Tigers. The two college team captains continued their rivalry when Wofford and Clemson faced each other for the first time ever.

"Because Clemson recruited so many transfers from all over the country as well as highly regarded freshmen, we all met before fall practice and just started hanging out together," Martel said. "We quickly meshed, and we hope we make Clemson one of the top women's lacrosse programs in the country."

Since transferring to Clemson, Martel started an internship in the university's athletic department. After graduation, Martel plans to stay involved in college athletics and possibly coach.

Abe plans to graduate in May and attend graduate school at Queens College in Charlotte, North Carolina, with the goal of becoming a kindergarten teacher.

Both players are getting into the heart of their lacrosse schedules but will remember that historic day when two Anne Arundel County lacrosse players and former rivals shook hands and battled again for old times' sake.

"Great female lacrosse players come out of Anne Arundel County, and I am proud of Olivia and glad I was opposing her in my inaugural game at Clemson," Martel said. "The county produces great women lacrosse players."

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# Falcons, Bruins Wrap Up High School Swim Season



Photo by Mark Patton

Severna Park and Broadneck's state championship squads posed following the meet, held at the University of Maryland.

By Mark Patton and Student Intern Sarah Sternhagen  
mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park High School (SPHS) and Broadneck High School (BHS) came into the 2023 Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association swimming and diving state championships riding a wave of momentum.

Both squads notched impressive results in the regional championships on February 18, with the SPHS girls and BHS boys teams taking first place. The BHS girls and SPHS boys notched second-place team finishes.

"The energy on the pool deck was electric when they announced that we had won regionals," said first-year SPHS head coach **Trevor Brinton**. "The girls team worked so hard this season to earn that championship, and you could see it in all of their smiles."

The SPHS girls finished regionals with plenty of hardware. The Falcons raced to eight first-place finishes and four second-place swims. Severna Park also had seven swimmers crack the top six.

"We were all really excited and just ready to swim fast," SPHS sophomore **Sydney Sloan** said.

The Broadneck boys had five first-place finishes and a pair of second-place finishes en route to defending their regional title.

"Being the defending champs comes with some pressure to perform but knowing that our hard work had paid off again was relieving," Bruins senior **Jack Barrett** said. "My favorite moment was our [400-yard freestyle relay] win," Barrett said. "I was the anchor for the relay, and I knew I was going up against Severna Park's **Morgan Sloan** and that I most likely couldn't beat him if we were even. So right before our third swimmer, **Kohl Hanes**, dove in, I screamed, 'Get me my lead back.' And he did, and it ended up with us winning our relay."

Fast forward to the state championships on February 25 at the University of Maryland Eppley Recreation Center Natatorium in College Park, Maryland. The SPHS and BHS teams looked much different, and smaller in numbers, than they did at the regional competition. This was due to many Falcons

and Bruins swimmers also competing with club teams, which are part of the national USA Swimming organization.

USA Swimming is composed of 59 local swim committees, or LSCs, based on location. Maryland is divided between a pair of committees — Potomac Valley Swimming and Maryland Swimming. All counties in the state are part of the Maryland Swimming LSC except for Montgomery and Prince George's. Maryland Swimming runs its own championship meet the same weekend as the high school state championships, forcing most club swimmers who reside in Anne Arundel County to choose between competing in the club or high school championship meet. A query to MPSSAA asking whether efforts would be made in the future to deconflict schedules was not answered.

Despite the scheduling obstacle, the goal at the state championships remained similar to other meets for Severna Park and Broadneck. Improve times and score some points.

"It's really great to swim against people who are really driven, and it drives me more," said Broadneck junior **Sara Dreibelbis**. "It's always a fun experience to be here."

Severna Park senior Morgan Sloan provided one of the Falcons' highlights at states with his 100-yard butterfly effort. Going into the event, Sloan's seeded time of 54.92 seconds didn't even have him in the fastest two heats. But, with a strong start, speedy turns and efficient strokes, Sloan touched the wall after his race and quickly glanced at the scoreboard to see his time of 51.53 seconds. Ultimately, not only did Sloan trim his seeded time by more than three seconds, but it was also fast enough to earn eighth place in the state.

"I knew I had it in me," Sloan said. "I didn't think I'd go that fast."

With the swim, Sloan made the last individual event of his high school career matter as he scored 11 points for the Falcons while earning a coveted spot on the podium.

Severna Park's **Grace Morgan** achieved a personal best time of the year in the 100-yard backstroke. But beyond best times, Morgan is thankful to the sport for other reasons as well.

"Everyone is like family to each other," Morgan said. "Not only is swimming a good workout, but I can be with my friends and build relationships with the people around me while doing something that I love."

Broadneck's Hanes, a freshman, shaved more than two seconds off his best time in the meet's longest event, the 500-yard freestyle. At the state championships, Hanes' time of 4:48.78 earned him 12th place. With an upperclassman-heavy leaderboard in the distance event, Hanes is set up well for his sophomore campaign.

"Swimming is something I've been good at for a while, and I love it," said Hanes, who has a strong grasp of pacing and strategy that longer swim events require.

Severna Park senior **Maddy Goger** is one of the team captains for the Falcons, and she also had a personal best high school time in the 50-yard freestyle at states. Her 24.99-second effort earned her 11th place.

Goger — who is slated to attend Columbia University, where she also plans to play lacrosse — spoke of the energy that her teammates had coming into the states after a successful regional meet.

"We're all really grateful to have this good bond," Goger said. "I'm going to miss everybody so much."

**Colleen Parr Winans** has helmed the Broadneck swim program for 16 years, and she also stressed best times and finishing in the top 16 in events to score team points. She quickly added additional priorities for her squad.

"Our third goal is to get on the podium as well as have fun and support teammates," said Winans, who also pointed out the solidarity among Anne Arundel County coaches and teams on the University of Maryland deck, where traditional rivals were rooting for each other's success at the meet.

On the girls' side, Severna Park and Broadneck finished states in 13th and 17th places, respectively. Severna Park's boys team finished in 16th place and Broadneck's boys finished in 18th.

The top 10 team finishers at the state championships for both girls and boys were from Montgomery County, where schools don't face the club and high school swimming schedule conflict.

## Falcon Boys Win 4A Indoor Track Championship

» Continued from page 15  
team with seniors **Brooks Steppe**, **Cody Smith** and **Alex Lecouras** that captured a title in the 3,200.

Severna Park (46.5 points) edged Montgomery Blair in the 25-team field.

"We knew it was going to be close," Alcombright said. "It was awesome to repeat because it wasn't expected, but we took advantage of the opportunity."

The performance of the 3,200-meter relay team had many Falcons jumping up and down with excitement. Lecouras, running the anchor leg, passed a Winston Churchill competitor in about the final 50 meters to secure the state title.

It highlighted the meet for the Falcons.

"Everybody was going crazy," Hagerty said of the celebration. "It was a lot of fun to watch. Alex just cranked it up for the finish. He always talks about how he likes the pressure."

The 3,200 belonged to Severna Park, too. Hagerty ran the event in a blazing 9:35.70. Lecouras finished 18 seconds behind him to take second place and senior **Steve Sullivan** (10:03.25) was sixth in the same event.

Hagerty didn't even run in the 3,200 during last year's indoor season because of all the elite runners ahead of him. He took fifth outdoors in the 3,200 last spring.

"Coach Alcombright said, 'We need a one-two finish because every point counts,'" Hagerty said. "In the last 600 meters, I thought I could pull the win off. I had that kick in me in the last lap."

Severna Park also has some other strong showings. Lecouras (158.66) placed second in the 800 and **John McInain** garnered a fifth-place finish in the pole vault while Brooks Steppe (800, 2:02.70) and **Taylor Jarvis** (1,600, 4:35.83) were seventh in their events.

"I don't think we were in the conversation to win states," Hagerty said of the perspective of the track community. "They didn't think Severna Park had enough guys."

On the girls side for Severna Park, senior **Lexi Ensor** won a state crown in the 800-meter run (2:19.53) to help the Falcons to a fourth-place finish overall. She beat Walter Johnson junior **Mackenzie Raue** by more than a minute.

"I had to stay up front in the race until I kicked in the last lap," Ensor said. "I saw all my teammates cheering and it made me run faster."

Ensor also ran the anchor leg on the second-place 3,200 relay (9:44.74) that also featured juniors **Sarah Kelly** and **Kaylee Jewish** and senior **Cameron Glebocki**.

Senior **Jillian Zukley** (third in shot put with 35 feet, 50 inches), Glebocki (seventh in the 3,200, 11:43.26) and junior **Audrey Denton** (eighth, 3,200, 11:52.81) also scored points for Severna Park.



# Severna Park Cheer Finishes Sixth At States

By Lauren Cowin

The Severna Park High School coed varsity cheerleading squad flipped the script this winter and landed a spot at states.

When coach **Brooke Glasgow** came on board in November, following the fall competition season in which the Falcons didn't advance past counties, she set a simple goal: to finish their winter counties in the top half.

"They didn't know how good they were; they didn't understand the talent that they had," said Glasgow, a former collegiate and professional cheerleader. "I saw it immediately."

Glasgow wasn't the only new face. The winter squad had some additions, including junior **Kian Williams** and his brother, **Matthew**, a freshman who joined the squad for winter after football season was over. Kian and Matthew moved to Severna Park from Germany, where Kian had prior cheerleading experience. The addition of these brothers broadened the stunt potential for the squad, but first the team had to gel.

"When you bring two energetic meathead kids on the team, everything kind of changes, but once we all got comfortable with each other the team vibe was really, really good," said the elder Williams.

After dedicating some time to team-building and acclimating to their new coach and the latest members of the squad, they got to work on perfecting their two-and-a-half-minute routine, practicing six days a week ahead of the mid-January county competition in Crofton.

"It was very obvious after the first week that this season was going to turn out very well," said **Paige Davis**, the squad's captain and only senior.



The Severna Park High School coed varsity cheerleading squad finished in sixth place at the state competition for division 4A.

Falcons headed back to the bus believing their season had come to an end. As they huddled in a circle in the parking lot where some tears were being shed, their coach got their attention.

Davis said they were expecting a quintessential "I'm proud of you anyway" speech, but Glasgow had just received the final results on her phone. Once again, the Falcons had finished sixth and were advancing.

"Nobody could believe it," Williams said. "Then she showed us [the screen] and everybody started screaming. It was a really cool moment to be a part of."

Once again, the Falcon cheerleaders had a short amount of time to rework the routine, this time for states.

"We decided we'd made it this far; let's just go big or go home," Glasgow said.

The Falcon cheerleaders made one last trip to Harford County for states. They ultimately finished the season ranked sixth in the state for division 4A.

"We knew it was our last performance with this team, so we all put our everything into it," Davis said. "It was an awesome, awesome experience."

Glasgow said the team had a familial unity amongst themselves by the end of the season.

"That was way more important for building a program than even making it to states," Glasgow said. "I would've been happy with just that, but the fact that they were so successful in everything that they did was just so fun to watch as a coach."

Their hard work paid off, and the Falcons were awarded a ticket to regionals. Glasgow's goal had not only been met, but far surpassed.

"[They] really left it all on the mat, probably their best routine they did all season," Glasgow said of the performance at counties.

They spent the next week enhancing their routine to maximize their potential score before heading to Harford Community College for regionals. The squad faced rigid judging this round, and despite a quality performance, they left with the lowest score they'd earned all season.

"Our score did not reflect how well we did, so once we figured out our score, we all were very bummed," Davis said.

While the top seven schools advanced to states, only the top three were announced at the event. The

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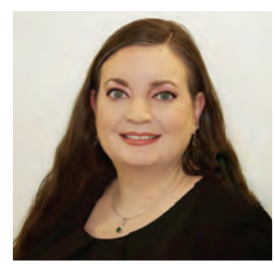
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## SPHS A Cappella Group Advances In International Championship

*Sol Takes Second Place, Other Accolades*

**By Cooper Powell**  
Student Intern

**W**hen Severna Park High School's a cappella group, Sol, auditioned for the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA) this past fall, advancing in the competition seemed out of reach. After all, it was the group's first time competing.

On February 11, however, Sol placed second in one of the ICHSA Mid-Atlantic quarterfinals at St. Charles High School in Waldorf, Maryland, allowing them to move on to the semifinals in March.

The group, composed of 12 members, is directed by Severna Park High School music teacher Sara Metcalfe. Former music teacher Michael Brisentine created Sol last year before passing the group onto Metcalfe and encouraging her to look into the ICHSA.

» Continued on page 38



Photos by Cooper Powell

**Above:** Olivia Blake (center) is one of several seniors with the Sol a cappella group. **Below Left:** Senior Gianna Dicks (right) rehearsed with Sol prior to the a cappella group's performance at the ICHSA quarterfinals. **Below Right:** Ronnie McIntyre, Deepak Thumma and Gianna Dicks took home multiple awards during the ICHSA quarterfinals in February.



## No Appeal Necessary: Mock Trial Team Heads To Regional Championships

**By Judy Tacyn**

**W**ith wins over Carroll and Howard counties, and after playing three consecutive nights, the undefeated Severna Park High School mock trial team earned the Circuit 5 championship on March 1.

The win advanced the Severna Park squad to the March 14 regional championships against the final eight teams in Maryland. To date, the team has prevailed in all 10 matches this season — six in the county, one in the county championship and three in the circuit round.

Christina Bowman, mock trial advisor at Severna Park High School, said the students have been hard at work with practice and creating their arguments.

"These kids are beyond dedicated," Bowman said. "But also, mock isn't a one-season sport. These kids have been practicing since October."

The 14-member team consists of three state's attorneys, three defense attorneys and eight witnesses. Teams prepare for their cases and then square off against other high schools in court — the prosecution for both high schools go against the opposing defense for each case. Not every case in their undefeated season

» Continued on page 41



The Severna Park mock trial team celebrated a courtroom win. Members include (l-r, back row) Maddy Sullivan, Morgan Terry, Jeremy Richter, Elliot Gerig, Athena Vangraefschep, Christina Bowman, Amelia Farrar, Markella Gatanas and (l-r, front row) Faith Mercer, Miguel Castañeda, Mia Slote, Abby Peacock, Kaylee Winters and Ellen Blain.





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# Educator Of The Month

## Christine McCallister Magothy River Middle School



By Lauren Burke Meyer

Christine McCallister — science department chairperson and seventh-grade science teacher at Magothy River Middle School — has done it again. She's received another Anne Arundel County Teacher of the Year nomination.

McCallister was nominated in 2015 while teaching at Meade Middle School. This year, she joins five others as finalists for the county's Teacher of the Year award.

"It is an honor and privilege to be selected the first time, but twice in my teaching career is amazing, and one I do not take for granted," McCallister said.

In 2015, McCallister was also nominated for the West County Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year as part of the chamber's Spirit of the Community Awards.

McCallister — who has been teaching for 29 years, 23 of which have been middle school science — has always loved working with children and got an early start as the most popular babysitter in her neighborhood. Parents would negotiate which day they wanted her to work. Every summer, she worked as a camp counselor and quickly moved up to supervisor.

McCallister knew early on that she wanted to be a teacher. Her favorite teachers throughout the years were the ones with creative ideas to help students learn. For instance, a singing French teacher, a chemistry teacher who blew up something and put a hole in the ceiling tile and an Advanced Placement history teacher who allowed students to play the stock market.

Magothy River Middle School

Principal John Noon said McCallister inspires a love of learning and an excitement for science.

"Ms. McCallister meticulously plans individualized instruction to engage all learners, maximizing growth while meeting students' unique needs," Noon said.

Both Noon and McCallister referenced her iconic, white lab coat and how it piques the interest of students as soon as they walk into her classroom.

"When I wear my white lab coat, the students know there will be hands-on collaboration, data collection and problem solving," McCallister said.

McCallister creates innovative lessons that are aimed to make her students want to learn science, which allows them to see how science is connected to all contents. Students dissect frogs and owl pellets, participate in scooter racing to show how increasing exercise affects heart rate, mix chemicals to differentiate endothermic and exothermic reactions, balance equations in chemistry to support math, engineer Rube Goldberg machines and learn environmental issues, such as how microplastics are affecting our waterways.

The favorite part of her job is when students are eager to learn and look forward to her class. She also enjoys teaching middle-schoolers because they love lab days, and they laugh at her jokes.

"It makes my heart smile when science 'fun' is the topic of conversation at the lunch table," McCallister said.

McCallister is proud that she instills in her students that learning will not always be easy but to call on strategies they've learned in order to persevere and succeed. Her enthusiasm and love of teaching science carries over to her students no matter their varying academic capabilities.

"I create risk-takers, problem-solvers and scientists that ask questions and find solutions through collaboration," McCallister said. "Learners that struggle with academic motivation are engaged and excel in my class because of the many creative strategies I incorporate into my lessons."

Additionally, McCallister has held the role of science department chairperson for seven years. With this role, she attends collaborative planning sessions, leadership meetings and school improvement team meetings; offers instructional walkthroughs; purchases supplies and equipment for labs and analyzes data. She also organizes the school-wide science fair and STEM night.

Her overall job is to motivate everyone in the science department to be their best, something that McCallister hopes her students and colleagues will do.

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# Severn School Team Grows As Members Emphasize Collaboration

By Doug Schwartz  
Student Intern

Most schools get excited about pep rallies and homecomings. And while that is certainly the case at Severn School, if you ask students what team generates the most excitement on a regular basis, some would point to the math team.

Severn's math team has dominated the Anne Arundel County math competitions as of late, taking home first place for the past two years. Once a month, dedicated students wake up early on Saturday morning

to compete at Anne Arundel Community College. Even with the hectic, almost anxious atmosphere at the college on competition days, the excitement in the air is palpable, with students scurrying up and down flights of stairs, searching for their classmates and competition rooms.

Once each school is in its respective room, students are given a sheet of paper with six questions, which they are challenged to solve without a calculator. After 30 minutes, the kids pile out of the rooms and into a common area on the first floor. Over coffee and doughnuts, they discuss their answers.

From there, teams go back into new rooms for the team round of the competition, which is also 30 minutes. After this round is over, scores are tallied, and the winners are announced.

This year, Severn math team captains and senior



Severn School's math team competes Saturday mornings at Anne Arundel Community College.

leaders Chris Fan and Jeffery Huang have led the charge and are hoping for a three-peat. Despite their success, the two seniors made it clear that, for them, the competitions are not about winning. Instead, they want to make Severn's squad a popular team so that students don't, as Fan stated, "think math is a horrible thing."

By all accounts, the math team has achieved this goal. Due in part to their high energy and school-wide announcements, the Severn math team has brought 15 to 20 kids to every math competition, which is sometimes three times higher than other schools.

Those who have gone to the competitions have had nothing but positive things to say about their experiences and the sense of community that they felt at each competition. And the participants are

not just Advanced Placement math students and upperclassmen; they include new freshmen, sophomores, and even seniors who, in the past, never would have imagined they'd be spending their Saturday morning doing math.

One junior claimed that in spite of the competition being an academic event, Severn's math team draws "a wide variety of skill levels," creating a more relaxed environment where students are encouraged to give problems their best shot without fear of repercussions.

Finally, the problem-solving skills that students pick up at these math competitions are not so niche that only an astrophysicist would use them. Severn lacrosse captain and recent math-enthusiast Jamison Wildt believes that the competitions not only helped him hone his math skills, but also helped him improve his ability to collaborate on difficult problems with his peers. And Wildt is not alone. When asked about their experience, most Severn mathletes mention the collaborative community that arises once a month on a Saturday morning.

As Fan stated, the math team's goal was not to have "a bunch of nerds in a room" doing math, but rather to "bring people together and make them like math." It's safe to say that Severn's math team has achieved that goal.

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# SkillsUSA Team's Community Service Projects Touch Many

By Judy Tacyn

Severna Park High School sophomore Lilly McCallister didn't know much about SkillsUSA before friends encouraged her to get involved. She attended an informational club meeting at the start of the school year and learned that the SkillsUSA organization has nearly 400,000 members, has been around since 1965, and includes students, educators and professional members. Additionally, SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor as a successful model of employer-driven workforce development.

Although the club at Severna Park High School, or SPHS, has only been incorporated for a few years, teams have already competed on national levels.

McCallister immediately joined the SkillsUSA club and volunteered to chair the community service committee. She recruited friends Adeline Faust and Jessica Bui, both sophomores. The trio got to work right away and started preparing for the three-part American Spirit competition, which mandated community service projects in the areas of nation, community and business.

For the national component, the students prepared "hero baskets" for the firefighters at Fire Company 23 — Jones Station and Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company and delivered them in late February. The team contacted local businesses for donations of snacks and gum, playing cards, hand sanitizer, and personal hygiene items and packed them with personal notes of encouragement and thanks written by Severna Park High School students. Also in the baskets were books donated by Park Books, muffin trays, and gift cards donated by Garry's Grill. They also assembled hero goody bags filled with similar items that will be shipped to deployed military personnel and to members of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

"We don't always get a chance to say it, but we all appreciate the hard work first responders and soldiers do, so giving back to them is rewarding," McCallister said. "Actually getting to meet the firefighters and seeing their surprised faces when dropping off the boxes of goodies



Adie Bui, Jessica Faust and Lily McCallister presented a "hero basket" to special operations firefighters Brett Costantino, Tony DiMauro, Sean Moore and Derek Brindle of Fire Company 23 — Jones Station.

was fulfilling. They appreciated our hard work, and this felt great."

Firefighter Brent Costantino was on hand to accept the surprise hero basket at Jones Station.

"Getting cards from SPHS students letting us know how much they appreciate what we do and for taking care of the community was really pretty great," Costantino said. "We really like Garry's Grill, so we are going to get lunch as a shift, and the snacks are really good, too. The hero basket was very much appreciated."

The community component was inspired by a former SPHS student who, in 2019, was hit by a car as she exited her school bus. During her extended hospital stay, she was given a blanket for comfort from the Project Linus organization. After learning how much the blanket meant to the former student, McCallister and team hosted several blanket-making sessions using fleece they acquired through donations. A total of 55 blankets were made to go to Project Linus to be given to sick children.

McCallister said the blanket-making parties were fun but knowing that their

creations would be handed out to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or in need felt special.

For the business component, the committee created posters promoting business classes at SPHS. The team was responsible for creating the concepts, content, photography and graphic design of each poster, and together they were hung on the walls throughout the school.

Through community service, McCallister and teammates learned important life and business skills such as improved communication by reaching out to businesses either in writing or verbally, acquiring donations, and organizational skills when preparing project plans.

"I like how SkillsUSA helps me gain skills that I can use like communicating with others, working with peers, problem solving and giving back to my community," Bui said. "Although obstacles happen, being able to work out problems with my peers helps a lot. I think more students should get involved in SkillsUSA because it prepares us for the real world, and it provides a great learning experience."

Faust admits she used to be nervous talking to business owners or in front of a big group, but SkillsUSA has provided opportunities to practice and gain experience and confidence.

"I really feel like I have improved my speaking abilities," Faust said. "Participating in Skills[USA], particularly the competition aspect, has helped me improve my project management skills."

Michelle Dugans serves as the SPHS faculty coordinator for the SkillsUSA team, and she invites students to learn more about the group.

"For students today, the jobs and careers they might have in the future haven't even been invented yet, but skills like work ethic, willingness and drive will always be in demand," Dugans said.

The community service team is slated to attend a state competition at the end of March to explain and present their projects. If they are selected, they will go to a regional competition and potentially nationals.

To learn more about SkillsUSA visit [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org) or contact Dugans at [mdugans@aacps.org](mailto:mdugans@aacps.org).

## Mental Health Matters At Severna Park High School



Photos by Zach Sparks

Severna Park High School students planned their second annual Mental Health Matters Week from March 6-11. Each day of the week celebrated a different theme, starting with Pajama Day on Monday and followed by Adam Sandler Day, Wear Green Day, Hats vs. Hoodies Day and Anything But A Backpack Day. To wrap up the festivities and promote mental health, students gathered on Saturday for a walk.



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# SPHS Is The Top School For Harvest For The Hungry

Since 1996, public schools in Anne Arundel County Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) have raised more than 6 million pounds of food for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank during its annual Harvest for the Hungry food and funds drive.

This year, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) collected the equivalent of 164,550 pounds of food with three Severna Park schools placing in the top five of total food and funds collected.

Out of 103 public schools in Anne Arundel County that participated in this school year's campaign, Severna Park High School (SPHS) came out on top, raising \$14,759 and collecting 860 pounds of food, for a combined total of 15,619 equivalent pounds of food.

Students from the Key Club were the main drivers behind the school's success. They hosted numerous events throughout October and mapped out ways to encourage participation from the entire school.

"One club focused its efforts on running the Harvest for the Hungry campaign," said Elizabeth Meadow, advisor for the Severna Park Key Club and Harvest for the Hungry coordinator. "It's one of our big projects and these students help push it and really get it going. Student-led made a big difference."

Each year, SPHS students set ambitious goals, and each dollar raised is

tracked on a poster displayed in the school's lobby. During their spirit week, students raised more than \$2,000 with the Dollar Dash, held food drives at football games and raised money through candy grams and boo grams. However, the biggest success was the competition between advisory classes, which brought in the bulk of their fundraising dollars.

"The Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive is an important campaign for Anne Arundel County Public Schools and our students," said Cynthia Bischoff, family involvement specialist at AACPS. "Our students are brimming with kindness and want to help others. This food drive gives them the chance to help other families in our community in a way they can see the results by bringing in food and funds themselves. It's so fun to see them get into the spirit of giving."

Leah Paley serves as the CEO of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, and she praised the support her organization receives from partners like the students of AACPS.

"The number of people coming to our local food pantries has almost tripled since the years prior to the onset of the pandemic, and with the high cost of food and other basic necessities, food insecurity remains a serious hardship for many people in our community," Paley said.

To learn more about food insecurity in Anne Arundel County and how you can get involved, visit [www.aafoodbank.org](http://www.aafoodbank.org).



## FUNDRAISING LEADERS

The top five schools for food collected and money raised (\$1 equals one pound of food):

**First place:** Severna Park High School — 15,619 pounds

**Second place:** South River High School — 9,090 pounds

**Third place:** South Shore Elementary — 6,368 pounds

*(South Shore will also receive a certificate for the top school with 350 students and under)*

**Fourth place:** Oak Hill Elementary — 5,526 pounds

**Fifth place:** Severna Park Middle School — 5,271 pounds

**Above Left:** Natalie Frank made an encouragement poster for her advisory class at Severna Park High School. **Above Right:** Student leaders Avery Mead and Ruby O'Neill encouraged students to bring their donations. Severna Park was less than halfway to its goal after the second week of October.

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Q.

Question  
of the month

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

### What is the luckiest thing that has ever happened to you and why?

Being left-handed because 10% of people are left-handed in the world and ambidextrous is one out of 100.

**Jackson Bennett**

The luckiest thing that has happened was being born.

**Sutton Brown**

Having family, pets and friends to love me.

**Kelsey Castro**

Having a caring and loving family that supports me with everything I do!

**Victoria Collins**

My grandma bought me a scratch-off ticket, and I won \$500 off it.

**Chris Cox**

I won a basketball game by one in double overtime.

**Jacob Crosby**

The luckiest thing that ever happened to me was adopting a dog I had never met or seen from Puerto Rico and finding out he was the

## Broadneck Elementary School



most amazing dog ever.

**Jesse DeMattio**

Having blue eyes because 8% of people in the world have blue eyes.

**Brendan Fisher**

I have green eyes, and only 2% of the world has green eyes.

**Nolan Gaither**

Getting my dog, Gracie, who is now 2 and the cutest thing ever.

**Parker Gassen**

Getting my two rabbits, Marshmallow and Cookie.

**Jordyn Guenther**

Having a loving and caring family that supports me in many ways and helps me when things are hard.

**Lucy Hepting**

When I scored a hat trick at NITs (national indoor tournament) for

field hockey, my family was really cheerful, and it made me happy and proud.

**Annemarie Imber**

When I got my new kitten, Turbo, who is now a friend for my older cat, Zipper.

**Samuel Long**

Getting my new dog for my birthday for a surprise.

**Evoeth Lopez-Colmenares**

Going to a surprise Ravens football game on Christmas Eve!

**Carson Lorance**

Getting 600 bucks in one day because it was my birthday, and six uncles were giving me \$100 each.

**Aayan Malik**

Ending up with quirky parents that are just like me.

**Zoë McGranahan**

When I met my two besties from Broadneck in fourth grade.

**Sambhavi Panth**

My two cats are lucky to me. Why? Because we picked one up from the street and the other was given to me. That's why they are lucky to me.

**Luhana Perez-Zapata**

The Steelers beating the Ravens in a close game.

**Danny Pittinger**

When I went to a car show with my family in South Carolina and we found a dog that we could adopt, so we adopted her, and now she is my best friend.

**Jake Pruitt**

When I first got my dog, Wanda, because she makes me feel better when I am sad.

**Evelyn Shaklee**

Having two cats named Missy and Stanley.

**Caroline Shauger**

Being able to fly to and from Florida to see my grandparents.

**Piper Shenton**

I like basketball and soccer, and I play with my friend, and I like pizza and chicken.

**Tom Tran**

When there was a bearded dragon for sale, and my mom got it for me for no real reason.

**Mila Viguers**

Going to Myrtle Beach for the first time.

**Bentley White**

Meeting my fiancé in 2022 at the Annapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade.

**Ms. Baker**

## SPHS A Cappella Group Advances In International Championship

» Continued from page 31

"I decided, 'You know what, this is my first year doing a cappella. Why not enter a big competition?'" Metcalfe said. "I especially wanted to do it because I felt like the seniors really needed a challenge."

The group began preparing for the competition in January; however, Sol was sharpening their a cappella skills long before then. With this being Metcalfe's first year teaching a cappella and many of the members' first year in the group, there was much to learn before competing in an international tournament.

"Sol have been really great teachers, and so has Mr. B, and I'm really grateful they've been patient with me," Metcalfe said.

Together, the students collaborated with Metcalfe and Brisentine on their setlist, choreography and vocals. Students rehearsed four nights a week leading up to the competition.

"When I called rehearsals, tons of rehearsals, [students] really made the effort to come and do it," Metcalfe

“When I called rehearsals, tons of rehearsals, [students] really made the effort to come and do it. They're teaching me what it really is like to have a chorus family.”

— **SARA METCALFE, SEVERNA PARK HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER**

said. "They're teaching me what it really is like to have a chorus family."

Despite their hard work, the group faced some challenges, including setbacks with song arrangements and losing members due to scheduling conflicts. Regardless, the group persisted.

Sol competed in an ICHSA Mid-Atlantic quarterfinal on February 11. Their setlist included the Harry Styles tune "Music For A Sushi Restaurant" with senior soloists Olivia Blake and Jaden Givens, Bonnie Raitt's "I Can't Make You Love Me" with senior soloist

Gianna Dicks, and Lady Gaga's "Edge of Glory" with sophomore soloist Jenna Augustine.

"My favorite part about the performance had to be how I saw how much I have grown with music in the time I have been in Sol," Augustine said. "Sol has taught me to come out of my shell, to not look at competition and be scared, but to see it as a learning opportunity and a space to grow as an artist." Sol placed second in their quarterfinal, meaning that they will move on to the semifinals of the ICHSA along with first-place winners Evolve from Chesapeake High School in Pasadena. Additionally, the group received two other awards, including Outstanding Soloist for Dicks and Outstanding Choreography for seniors Dicks and Deepak Thumma, and junior Ronnie McIntyre.

"The fact that we were able to do that as a group that has existed for less than two years is really something, and it shows that we have something really special here," Thumma said.

Sol members seem to agree that the

thing that sets them apart from other groups is the passion behind their performances.

"You can see the love of it and the energy through the performance, and I think that definitely makes people shine out," Dicks said.

Thumma touched on the group's fitting name.

"Sol means the sun and to be bright, and that was what we kind of based our whole thing around, to be fun and energetic and bright and beautiful," Thumma said.

Sol will return to the stage March 25 at Neptune High School in New Jersey for the Mid-Atlantic semifinals. Those interested in buying tickets or learning more about ICHSA may visit [www.varsityvocals.com](http://www.varsityvocals.com).

"I think, most of all, I do love the connection of having an a cappella group for the first time because it's very new," Dicks said. "It's a different type of sound, it's a different type of support both musically and group-wise, and it's very tight-knit. It makes me really happy that we have this."





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## Mock Trial Team

» Continued from page 31

came without its fair share of drama, plot twists and suspense.

Bowman, who mostly spends trials in the back row, said her team doesn't take any case for granted, and even when they think they're winning, they question it.

"The biggest twist for me was the first time the notebook didn't get in as evidence," Bowman said. "It was an important trial, and the other team was solid. There is no coaching allowed, so I just sit in the back and can't help. But during that trial, I watched them fight. Did the evidence get in? Nope. Did they win? Yes, they did, and I think it's because they didn't just give up or get emotional. They adapted."

The 2022-2023 mock trial team consisted of 11 returning students and three seniors who'd done mock trial since they were freshman.

Athena Vangraefschepe is a co-captain witness on the team. In addition to skills she's learned as part of the team, she believes the best parts of mock trial are the relationships she forged with her teammates.

"We spend months preparing for this case, and in that time, we get to learn so much about each other and really become a family," Vangraefschepe said. "It's just cool to be a part of a team where everyone is so connected and passionate about what we do."

Amelia Ferrar has been a four-year member of mock trial and plans to attend law school. She feels she's always been politically inclined with a knack for debate. In addition to co-captain, Ferrar is the lead state's attorney in criminal cases, direct-examining the lead witness for the state and cross-examining the defendant. She presents the closing argument for the state and studies the defense for new arguments.

Ferrar has a huge role in the team and said her closing argument is her favorite part of her role.

"You get a lot of creative liberties since it's one of the only areas where nobody is allowed to object or interrupt you," Ferrar said. "It's my job to highlight our evidence we demonstrated in trial and prove that they meet the charges presented beyond a reasonable doubt."

For Elliot Gerig, a four-year team member who said he improved his public speaking, memorization and ability to stay calm under pressure, mock trial is something that students should consider.

As co-captain, Gerig feels his main role is to create a close-knit community.

"At Severna Park, we have a tradition of excellence, and I have the confidence that each member of the team is individually incredible even without my support, but a team can only achieve greatness with complete synergy," Gerig said.

Bowman has been coaching the mock trial team for the past 12 years. She enjoys watching the kids grow in confidence and as people.

"They learn how to handle not just success but how to grow in failures and struggles," Bowman said. "The students are capable by the end of delving into a case, possibly 100 pages, and developing nuanced arguments. Then they stand in front of a judge. It's an amazing real-world application of what we teach in the classroom every day."

Read the full story on the Voice website.

## Penn State Player Returns To Broadneck With Children's Book



During a March visit, Landon Tengwall told Broadneck Elementary students about his favorite dinner meal, his favorite music, his preferred vacation spot and more.

Penn State football player Landon Tengwall, the subject of a new children's book called "The Men Up Front," visited Broadneck Elementary to read to students on March 6.

Tengwall visited with his former fourth- and fifth-grade teachers and their students, along with first-graders at the school.

Tengwall was a student at Broadneck Elementary and Magothy River Middle School before attending St. Vincent Pallotti High School in Laurel and then Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, Maryland. After racking up accolades in high school, he received scholarship offers from Alabama, Georgia, LSU, Michigan, Miami (Florida), Notre Dame, Tennessee and other schools. The 6-foot-6-inch, 314-pound lineman chose Penn State, where he is the starting left guard. He was also a member of the U.S. Naval Academy junior water polo team and a Junior Olympian in water polo.

"The Men Up Front" was written by Andy Vodopia, with help from Tengwall, and published by Exit 56 Publications LLC.

## "SpongeBob" Musical Is Coming To SPMS



At Severna Park Middle School, the cast of 50 students has been rehearsing for three to four days a week.

Bikini Bottom is coming to life on a stage near you for the first time in Severna Park.

The Spartan Lyrical Society, in partnership with Severna Park Middle School, is proud to announce its 2023 spring show — "The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition." So, gather your pals and prepare for the best day ever.

SpongeBob, the familiar underwater pineapple resident, beloved by people of all ages, reminds us of the importance of inclusivity and finding your true purpose in this lively and optimistic youth musical. Under the direction of Kylie Sjolie, Arden Titus, the new chorus teacher at Severna Park Middle School as music director, and Sierra Basilio as choreographer, the cast of 50 students has been rehearsing for three to four

days a week. The tech crew of 20 additional students will join for tech week to assist in making the musical run smoothly behind the scenes.

When on the Broadway stage, "The SpongeBob Musical," was nominated for many Tony awards, including a nomination for Best Original Score. Additional lyrics are by Jonathan Coulton. Additional music is by Tom Kitt.

The musical production was conceived by Tina Landau. Showtimes are Friday, April 28, at 7:00pm; Saturday, April 29, at 2:00pm and 7:00pm; and Sunday, April 30, at 2:00pm.

Tickets sales are open to the public for \$10 per ticket. Visit the Spartan Lyrical Society website, [www.spmssings.org](http://www.spmssings.org), for ticket sales and more information.



## County Health Officer Takes State Position

Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health announced in March that the county's health officer, Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman, will assume the role of deputy secretary for public health services at the Maryland Department of Health. Kalyanaraman's last day is March 21.

"We all knew that Dr. Kalyanaraman was a superstar when we hired him, and he turned out to be exactly the leader that we needed," Pittman wrote in a statement. "Dr. Kalyanaraman led with compassion, strength and brilliance, integrating public health into every corner of local governance and leading our defense against a virus that took the lives of 1,255 county residents."

Pittman said he is thrilled that Kalyanaraman can now serve not only the 600,000 residents of Anne Arundel County but also the 6 million residents of Maryland.



**Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman**

During his four years as health officer, Kalyanaraman championed the county's efforts to expand accessibility to health services, led its response to the COVID pandemic and worked to address the social determinants of health.

Kalyanaraman led early initiation of contact tracing and case management, resulting in the county having the third-lowest death rate from COVID in the state, and he developed the Community Health Ambassadors program, which invests in community and faith-based organizations to conduct health outreach as trusted members of their communities. Under Kalyanaraman's leadership, the department launched the Office of Health Equity and Racial Justice to

identify and address health disparities along racial/ethnic, income and geographical lines.

"We've accomplished a lot, including responding to a global pandemic, that improved the health of all residents in Anne Arundel County, particularly those with the greatest needs," Kalyanaraman said. "I look forward to the opportunity to continue advancing public health at the state level."

Kalyanaraman also tackled several issues plaguing communities on a national and local level, including leading the development and implementation of the Gun Violence Intervention Team to address gun violence as a public health issue. He also worked to increase the county's scope of opioid interventions, leading to a multiyear decrease in opioid overdoses and deaths through an expansion of treatment options and harm reduction services.

"I was proud to work with some-

one so dedicated to serving the residents of our county," said Anne Arundel County Council Chairman Pete Smith.

Under Kalyanaraman's leadership, the Department of Health also relaunched the Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition to address community identified health priorities. The department expanded services in South County at Lula Scott Community Center, provided clinical care for substance use disorder and tuberculosis, and produced its first strategic plan along with integrating a comprehensive behavioral health plan.

"Kalyanaraman's knowledge and leadership has been invaluable over the last four years when we have had to make some tough decisions to ensure the resilience of our communities," said Anne Arundel County Council Vice Chair Allison Pickard.

The appointment of a new health officer will be shared in the coming days.

## Lung Cancer Screenings Save Lives

Did you know preventive lung cancer screenings are recommended for many people annually? The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends current and former heavy smokers ages 50 to 77 get annual low-dose CT scans, which may detect cancer in early stages.

### Are You At Risk For Lung Cancer?

The top cause of lung cancer is smoking cigarettes. Smoking cigars or pipes can also cause lung cancer as well as exposure to secondhand smoke. Exposure to radon in the home or workplace and exposure to chemicals like asbestos can also cause lung cancer, as can genetics.

### Who Needs A Screening?

All current heavy smokers 50 and older should get screened for lung cancer. If you have quit smoking in the past 15 years and smoked the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years, you should also get screened.

Lung cancer screening is noninvasive and uses a low-dose CT scan to find the disease early — before you have symptoms — when treatment is most successful.

"The key to beating lung cancer is early detection," said Gavin Henry, chair of thoracic surgery at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center, or UM BWMC. "Lung screening is extremely import-

ant, like those we perform at the Tate Cancer Center at UM BWMC. Our goal is to find screening candidates early so we can save as many lives as possible."

*To schedule an appointment for a lung cancer screening with the Lung Screening Program at the Tate Cancer Center at UM BWMC, visit [www.umbwmc.org/lungscreening](http://www.umbwmc.org/lungscreening). Not sure if you qualify for a lung cancer screening? To better understand your risk for lung cancer, take the medical center's health risk assessment at [www.umbwmc.org/lunghra](http://www.umbwmc.org/lunghra).*



**Lung cancer screening is noninvasive and uses a low-dose CT scan to find the disease early. The Tate Cancer Center at UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center performs lung screening and is celebrating its 20th anniversary.**





# Colorectal Cancer: Troubling News

**A. Steven Fleisher**

*Luminis Health*



There's good news and bad news when it comes to colorectal cancer. More people are surviving colon and rectal cancer, but adults are being diagnosed at younger ages, which is alarming.

According to a recent American Cancer Society report, one in five new cases are among people in their early 50s or younger.

There also appears to be an overall shift to more diagnoses of advanced stages of cancer.

Screenings are important because colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the United States, and it's the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in men younger than 50. If you are at average risk, it is now recommended that you start screening at age 45. Getting a colonoscopy is not exactly fun, but there are now more convenient options.

## Types of Colorectal Screening Tests

Several screening tests can be used to find polyps or colorectal cancer. These tests can be divided into two main groups, each with different risks and benefits.

Stool-based tests check the stool for signs of cancer. They are less invasive and easier to have done, but they need to be done more often. Visual (structural) exams look at the structure of the colon and rectum for any abnormal areas. This is done with either a scope — a tube-like instrument with a light and tiny video camera on the end — put into the rectum, or with special imaging (X-ray) tests.

## Stool-Based Tests

Stool-based tests are typically done at home, so many people find them easier than a colonoscopy. Although these tests are easier to implement, they need to be done



more often. If the result from a stool test is abnormal, a timely colonoscopy is required to check for cancer.

The guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) uses the chemical guaiac to detect blood in the stool. It is done once a year and requires a test kit that is received from your health care provider. At home, you use a stick or brush to obtain a small amount of stool, which is then returned in the test kit to the doctor or a lab where the stool samples are checked for the presence of blood.

The fecal immunochemical test (FIT) uses antibodies to detect blood in the stool. It is also done once a year in the same way as a gFOBT.

The FIT-DNA test, also referred to as the stool DNA test, combines the FIT with a test that detects altered DNA in the stool. For this test, you collect an entire bowel movement and send it to a lab, where it is checked for altered DNA and for the presence of blood. It is done once every three years.

The pros of stool-based tests include stool sample collections done at home, no need to empty the colon ahead of time and no need for sedation. Some cons include these tests are less sensitive than colonos-

copy at detecting precancerous polyps and if abnormalities are found, additional tests might be needed. Additionally, the tests can suggest an abnormality, or false-positive, when none is present.

## Visual (Structural) Exams

A colonoscopy is an example of a visual exam for colorectal cancer. During a colonoscopy, a long and flexible tube (colonoscope) is inserted into the rectum. A tiny video camera at the tip of the tube allows the doctor to detect changes or abnormalities inside the entire colon.

Colonoscopy takes about 30 to 60 minutes, and screening is generally repeated every 10 years if no abnormalities are found and you don't have an increased risk of colon cancer.

Some pros of this exam is that colonoscopy is one of the most sensitive tests currently available for colon cancer screening, doctors can view your entire colon and rectum and abnormal tissue, such as polyps, and tissue samples (biopsies) can be removed through the scope during the exam. Some cons are the exam might not detect all small polyps and cancers, a thorough cleansing of the colon is required before the test, diet and medication modification may be required before the test, sedation is almost always used, rare complications may include a tear in the colon or rectum wall, and cramping or bloating may occur after the exam.

## The Bottom Line

You have options when choosing a colon cancer screening test. Talk to your doctor about which choice is best for you based on your personal risk factors. Keep in mind that the earlier colon cancer is detected, the easier it is to treat.

*A. Steven Fleisher is a board-certified gastroenterologist with more than 20 years of experience.*

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## Annual Film Festival Sails Into Annapolis



Photo courtesy of Searchlight Pictures

The festival will open on March 23 with “Chevalier,” a film set in the 1780s, leading up to the French Revolution.

By Judy Tacyn

Jack Gerbes, director of the Maryland Film Office, once called Maryland “America in miniature,” speaking about the diverse patchwork of the state’s geographies as film-setting options.

Nearly 100 films and five television programs have been filmed in Maryland since 2000, according to the Maryland State Archives. Not only is Maryland a filmmaker’s location choice, but Derek Horne, director of programming for the Annapolis Film Festival, said Marylanders love and appreciate good cinema.

The 11th annual Annapolis Film Festival returns March 23 with an impressive array of films planned. Festival director Patti White thinks this year’s offerings could be the most highly regarded lineup in the festival’s history, noting that several new films from this year’s Sundance and SXSW film festivals will be on tap.

“We are truly embracing our new theme, ‘Looking Beyond,’ which challenges audiences to move past their preconceptions, world, their boundaries and old beliefs,” White said. “This

truly will set the stage for our most exciting, diverse film slate yet.”

Horne said Annapolis area movie buffs are sophisticated and open-minded, and he believes the Annapolis Film Festival rivals any other festival in the world.

“Like the city of Annapolis, Marylanders have many layers, a lot of history and pride,” Horne said. “They are very smart, discerning connoisseurs of art and entertainment.”

Perhaps Annapolis lacks the name recognition of Cannes or Sundance, but its impact on the film industry is no less impressive.

In 2022 in Annapolis, “Emily the Criminal” — now on Netflix — earned the top Jury Award for Best Feature Film, and it’s now nominated for four Independent Spirit Awards. “Fire of Love,” which earned the top Jury Award for Best Documentary, and “Night Ride,” which won the Jury Award for Best Short Film, are both nominated for 2023 Academy Awards.

A pair of feature documentaries will make their world premiere in Annapolis this year. “MELGES: The Wizard of

» Continued on page 47



Photo courtesy of Colin Cross

“No Legs. All Heart” is a documentary about André Kajlich, a double amputee wheelchair athlete who completed the Race Across America.

## Dining Out Around The Park

### Garten Offers A Unique Old-World Dining Experience

By Mary Cobbler

Garten in Severna Park is much more than a restaurant or even a modern beer and wine garden — it’s an experience.

The restaurant, which opened last fall, is the newest concept from the married team of Jeremy and Michelle Hoffman, known for their award-winning Annapolis restaurant, Preserve.

The exterior is fashioned like a castle with a bright garden mural reflecting Garten’s commitment to fresh, organic and sustainable food. Enter in the back through a vine-covered arch for indoor dining or to a patio with twinkle lights, making it fairy-tale like. It was chilly on the night we visited, so we opted for indoors, though there are patio heaters outside.

The restaurant is designed to make visitors feel comfortable in a

» Continued on page 48



Photos by Mary Cobbler

**Above Top Left:** The spinach sauerkraut dip appetizer had a unique zip from the sauerkraut, and the homemade pretzels were soft, salty perfection. **Above Top Right:** Chicken schnitzel is a signature dish at Garten. The meal includes brined, lightly breaded chicken and a side salad. The jager sauce is worth \$4. **Above Bottom Left:** The black forest mousse is a delectable mix of light fluffy mousse, soft brownie, dark chocolate bits and a cherry sauce. **Above Bottom Right:** The winter salad is a mixture of salad greens, oranges, beets, cheese, nuts and a honey vinaigrette. **Below:** Customers can enter the back of the restaurant through a vine-covered arch for indoor dining or to a patio with twinkle lights.







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## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub server Tierra Love (left) and bartender Shyann Love prepared Irish decorations for Brian Boru's St. Patrick's Day celebration. Brian Boru starts the merriment at 10:00am on March 17.

### Bars And Restaurants Offer Irish Spirit

By Kevin Murnane

Each year, people of Irish heritage, and those wanting to be Irish for a day, celebrate St. Patrick's Day with singing, dancing and the wearing of green.

According to *TIME* magazine, St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and converted thousands of poor Irish citizens to Christianity in the 17th century. After the potato famine in 1845, nearly 1 million Irish residents fled to the United States.

Annapolis and Baltimore have a rich history that includes Irish immigrants who found jobs in the maritime and railroad industries in the 19th century. Since that influx of immigrants, many U.S. cities remember their patron saint with parades and revelry.

In Severna Park and Arnold, these celebratory traditions will continue this year at some local bars and restaurants.

Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub will have the longest local St. Patrick's celebration. It will open at 10:00am with a "top of the morning" theme, where breakfast food and libations will be offered. Five musicians and Irish dancers will rotate throughout the day.

"We'll have entertainment and food inside and outside in our tent," said manager Kendall Yingling. "In fact, we'll celebrate St. Patrick's Day all week with live music and drink promotions."

In the Park Plaza shopping center, Sullivan's Cove will have live music beginning at 2:00pm, with George Evans and Jay Speigel taking the stage at 7:00pm. A new local band, TMI, is slated to open the evening of tunes at Sullivan's Cove.

Park Tavern will transform into O'Donnelley's Tavern for the day, giving the restaurant an authentic feel of an Irish pub. In the Severna Park Village Center, Garry's Grill will turn into Conway's Pub and utilize the outside patio for patrons.

Further down Ritchie Highway, Copper Creek Pub & Ale House will feature Irish Jell-O shooters, and Mother's Peninsula Grille will have live music from 8:00pm to 11:00pm.

Severna Park Taphouse will have live music, photo opportunities and Guinness pint carving. Bob Quinlan will provide live music starting at 7:00pm.

Irish dancers from the Hunt School of Dance will entertain guests at O'Loughlin's in Arnold at 4:00pm, and Hal the Piper will perform at 6:00pm. The restaurant will offer various drink specials and a menu that includes corned beef and cabbage with roasted red potatoes, fish and chips, shepherd's pie, Irish stew, bangers and mash, corned beef Reubens, Reuben egg rolls, and Irish coffee ice cream.

Enjoy all the festivities the community has to offer. And, as the Irish proverb goes, "May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide, and may your pockets always have a coin or two inside." Sláinte!

## Maryland Hall To Celebrate Free Open House April 2

ArtFest is approaching. Set for April 2 from 1:00pm-4:00pm, the all-ages event features the arts at Maryland Hall, including art and dance demonstrations, art sales and exhibitions, live entertainment, hands-on activities, children's crafts and more.

Through the venue's classrooms, galleries and stages, Maryland Hall will

showcase a variety of programming and happenings. ArtFest will also coincide with the launch of Crab Radio. Streaming live from The Cafe at Maryland Hall, the event will feature interviews and performances. ArtFest is made possible by Chesapeake Crossroads and Maryland Day. Learn more at [www.maryland-hall.org/events/artfest-2/2023-04-02](http://www.maryland-hall.org/events/artfest-2/2023-04-02).



## CAC To Get Freaky With Upcoming Musical

Disney's "Freaky Friday the Musical" is coming to Anne Arundel County from March 23 through April 2 courtesy of Chesapeake Arts Center and the Maryland Theatre Collective.

When an overworked mom and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again. "Freaky Friday," a new musical based on the celebrated novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films, is a heartfelt and comedic update on an American classic. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate each other's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter.

The local show is directed and choreographed by Atticus Boidy and Tommy Malek. Rachel Sandler will provide music direction.

Showtimes are at 8:00pm on March 23-24, March 26, March 30-31 and April 1, and at 3:00pm on March 27 and April 1-2.

The cast will perform "Freaky Friday" in Chesapeake Arts Center's Studio 194 Theatre, located at 194 Hammonds Lane in Brooklyn Park. For tickets or more information, visit [www.showtixqu.com/event-details/68550](http://www.showtixqu.com/event-details/68550).

## Ballet Theatre Of Maryland Premieres "Don Quixote"

### Nicole Kelsch's Staging Of The Spanish Ballet Brings Company's Season To A Close

Ballet Theatre of Maryland will premiere the iconic "Don Quixote" on April 28-29 at Maryland Hall for the Arts in Annapolis.

Staged by artistic director Nicole Kelsch after the traditional Petipa choreography, the ballet tells the story of the brave and befuddled Don Quixote, who believes himself to be a heroic knight. This Spanish ballet, known for its virtuosic steps and spirited storytelling, will conclude the company's 2022-2023 season.

"At Ballet Theatre of Maryland, we always aim to provide programming our audiences will enjoy while also expanding the classic repertory that's performed here in Annapolis," Kelsch said. "'Don Quixote,' with its lighthearted, whimsical story and its energetic score by Ludwig Minkus, is a ballet that I can't wait to share with the community."

Based on a section of Miguel de Cervantes' 17th-century novel, this family-friendly ballet follows the romance of the fiery Kitri and her paramour, Basilio, as they seek permission from Kitri's father to marry. Don Quixote, who initial-



Photo by Clara Molina  
The sizzling Spanish ballet "Don Quixote," known for its virtuosic steps and spirited storytelling, will conclude the company's 2022-2023 season April 28-29.

ly mistakes Kitri for his elusive Dulcinea, is swept up into their adventure along with his trusted sidekick Sancho Panza.

In addition to being a company premiere, "Don Quixote" also marks the retirement of beloved principal dancer Emily Carey. After an 11-year performing career, Carey will step into a full-time position as ballet mistress and conservatory principal. She will take her final bow as a dancer playing Kitri at the 4:30pm performance on April 29.

Ballet Theatre of Maryland performs "Don Quixote" April 28 at 7:30pm and April 29 at 1:00pm and 4:30pm. In-person tickets are on sale now at \$50 for adults, \$40 for seniors and military, and \$30 for children and students. For virtual audiences, tickets are \$30 per household. To purchase tickets or learn more, visit [www.balletmaryland.org](http://www.balletmaryland.org). BTM cautions that [www.balletmaryland.org](http://www.balletmaryland.org) and [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) are the only official websites for purchasing tickets to "Don Quixote." Ballet Theatre of Maryland is not responsible for tickets purchased through unauthorized third parties.

## Annual Film Festival Sails Into Annapolis

» Continued from page 44

Zenda" explores the life of sailing legend Buddy Melges, who has won Olympic medals and world championships. "No Legs. All Heart" is a documentary about André Kajlich, a double amputee wheelchair athlete who completes the Race Across America, where the finish line is in Annapolis.

About 75 percent of the films chosen are sourced by Horne and team from other film festivals and distribution companies, and the remaining are filmmaker submissions.

"We have nurtured our relationships with some top film distributors who respect our festival and its quality programming," Horne said. "Some of the distributors we worked with this year include Searchlight Pictures, Roadside Attractions, Bleecker Street, Music Box, and NEON. Many of them were very impressed to hear about last year's quality film slate with films that are now nominated for the Oscars and the Spirit Awards."

Out of this year's lineup, Horne said each film is a can't-miss offering. Horne added that his favorite narrative feature film that he saw at Sundance this year was "The Starling Girl."

"I'm so excited we get to screen it in Annapolis," Horne said. "It is a masterfully directed and written film that stars Eliza Scanlen as a 17-year-old girl struggling under the confines of her strict Christian fundamentalist community and her attraction to the pastor's son who returns to town. I was mesmerized by every detail of the story and the performances."

Kiersey Clemons stars as Susie in "Susie Searches" — a film centered



Photo courtesy of Phil Uhl

"MELGES: The Wizard of Zenda" explores the life of sailing legend Buddy Melges, who has won Olympic medals and world championships.

around a crime podcast host who must solve the mystery disappearance of her rival podcaster. This is from the producers of "Ingrid Goes West," which was a similar dark comedy and satire of celebrity and social media culture screened at the Annapolis Film Festival in 2017.

Eva Longoria makes her directorial debut with "Flamin' Hot," based on a true story of a Mexican American janitor at Frito-Lay who came up with the idea for the flamin' hot flavor of Cheetos. Other films include "The Grotto," a film about a woman who inherits a struggling nightclub when her fiancé dies unexpectedly, and "How to Blow Up a Pipeline," a thriller about a group of environmental activists going to extremes to sabotage an oil pipeline.

Some local films will also be shown at the upcoming festival, including "Project Home," a documentary about how 3D printed homes could solve the global housing crisis. The film is directed by Laura Waters Hinson, an award-winning filmmaker and assistant professor in the film and media arts division of American University's School of Communication. "Las Abo-godas," a documentary about women immigration attorneys on the front lines of the migrant crisis, is one of the festival's offerings, and it's directed by Victoria Bruce, a Washington, D.C.-based filmmaker.

Waters Hinson said few festivals are as well organized and professionally run as the one in Annapolis.

"They really treat filmmakers well, and our films are honored," Waters

Hinson said. "It's the kind of festival that you want to come back to."

The Local Shorts program will screen on March 26 and include a mix of documentaries, animation, narrative films plus an experimental dance piece about Ocean City.

"Many of our documentaries this year will strike a chord with our community and inspire some passionate discussions following the screenings and Q&As with the filmmakers who are attending," Horne said.

The festival will open on March 23 at 7:15pm in Maryland Hall's main theater featuring Searchlight Pictures' critically acclaimed "Chevalier," a film set in the 1780s leading up to the French Revolution. It is based on the life of composer Joseph Bologne, a biracial son of an African slave and a French plantation owner, who becomes a celebrated violinist and receives the title of Chevalier de Saint-Georges by Marie Antoinette.

More than 70 films will be showcased over four days. Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley recognizes the impact the festival has on residents and the film industry worldwide.

"The Annapolis Film Festival is earning its place as a top destination for movie buffs, and it's one of our most diverse arts events," Buckley said.

For more information, a full list of films to be shown, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.annapolisfilm-festival.com](http://www.annapolisfilm-festival.com).





## Garten Offers A Unique Old-World Dining Experience

Photo by Mary Cobbler

*Garten's exterior is fashioned like a castle with a bright garden mural reflecting Garten's commitment to fresh, organic and sustainable food.*



» Continued from page 44

modern yet old-world feel. Every part of the restaurant — from lighting and shadow play around the clean, uncluttered look to the plants of all sizes artfully tucked around — gives it a unique and inviting atmosphere. When I went, Moroccan-type music played softly in the background.

We were ushered to a table for two, and Steve, a personable and knowledgeable waiter, greeted us, offered his recommendations, and took our drink and appetizer orders.

We were appreciative because Steve didn't point us to the most expensive dishes; rather, he highlighted diners' favorites and his personal choices before he provided us with helpful information about what enhanced the flavor and taste of each dish. Steve also explained that though Garten is German inspired, and there are German dishes on the menu, Garten really offers an overall international, old-world cuisine. He also explained that the food is sourced locally.

Steve suggested we try the spinach and sauerkraut dip with homemade pretzels. We were intrigued, not sure how sauerkraut and spinach would mix, but they melded wonderfully. There wasn't a strong kraut taste, but it gave the dip a piquant, flavorful bite. The pretzels, which looked more like dark baguettes, were unlike any I've seen or tasted. Lightly salted and crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, they paired perfectly with the warm, savory dip.

For our main course, my husband and I ordered to share. He chose the winter salad, and I picked the

chicken schnitzel. How can you not pick something that has such a fun-sounding name? The schnitzel was brined and breaded — definitely not the kind that comes in a bucket.

Brining the chicken infused it with a tart, salty flavor that you don't find from other cooking methods. Steve suggested the jager sauce on the side for an extra \$4, and it was worth it. Jager sauce is a fresh mushroom sauce with an aftertaste that hints at the taste of wine. My husband called the mix of the jager sauce and chicken a taste explosion. The chicken came with a side frisee salad with lemon, capers and Dutch labneh. The salad had a slightly bitter taste (it was supposed to) that didn't appeal to me, but my hubby liked it and finished it off, inferring my palette isn't as sophisticated as his.

The winter salad was large and had an assortment of healthy goodies — blood oranges, beets, hazelnuts and a good helping of Monterey Jack cheese with hot honey vinaigrette. The combination of fruity, crunchy and savory made this dish a pleasurable, satisfying meal. The

vinaigrette was almost sweet and subtly flavored the dish well. It tasted similar to champagne dressing.

Save room for dessert. You do not want to miss it. We chose the black forest mousse. It is a chocolate lover's dream. Delectably light and airy mousse was topped with freshly made soft chocolate brownies (not chewy and not dry — just right) with scattered pieces of dark chocolate. Drizzled with a sweet, pleasantly tart sauce, this was a winner. I love chocolate-covered cherries, so this especially appealed to me. Paired with a strong cup of coffee, it's the perfect ending to a super meal.

Servings were large, and prices were comparable to other area restaurants. Our cost for the food was about \$60.

We're looking forward to visiting for brunch and choosing from smoked salmon potato pancakes, challah stuffed French toast, pretzel bun breakfast sandwiches or a Garten breakfast platter.

Garten is considered a natural wine and beer garden. You'll find a wide assortment of international and domestic craft beers and wines with a staff that is skillful in providence and pairing suggestions.

The restaurant has a Garten Wine Club with quarterly signups. Members get a monthly box of wine in three-, six- or 12-month increments, as well as exclusive discounts and offerings.

### Where To Find

### GARTEN

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# Woods Memorial To Present “Jesus Christ Superstar”

By Sharon Mager

Severna Park’s Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (WMPC) will present the play “Jesus Christ Superstar” leading up to Holy Week.

“I love community theater, and within the church atmosphere, this is something special,” said David Merrill, WMPC’s director of music and arts.

“Jesus Christ Superstar” is a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice that has been entertaining audiences since its Broadway debut in 1971. The show, often referred to as a rock opera, is based loosely on the gospels and tells the story of Jesus Christ’s last days. For those who saw the production in their younger days, it brings nostalgia and fond memories of the show and its popular soundtrack. Others are seeing the play with fresh eyes and new appreciation.

Scott Wiley, a member of the ensemble who plays one of Pilate’s guards, saw “Jesus Christ Superstar” when he was a teenager.

“As soon as I heard David say he was going to do it, I rushed over here (to the church),” Wiley said. “I said, ‘I can be a hippy!’”

Brad Sperber, an understudy for Caiaphas and a member of the ensemble, saw the auditions advertised on social media. Sperber, who grew up with the show, said he’s appreciating what a complex show it is.

“The only time I’ve seen it done is with a small cast, with everyone playing like 17 roles,” Sperber said. “Here, we’re a little more specialized. I’m really impressed



Photos by Sharon Mager

**Left:** Mary Magdalene, played by Sarah Kent, comforted Jesus, played by Jehan Silva, during recent rehearsals for Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church’s production of “Jesus Christ Superstar.” **Right:** The “Soul Girls” practiced their choreography.

with the talent assembled for this.”

Jehan Silva portrays Jesus in the production. He saw the revival show on Broadway while he was still in high school and just getting into theater. It made a strong impression on him, and he jumped at the chance to be part of this production.

“I’ve always found the show to be fascinating — how it humanizes these biblical figures, really bringing out the emotional core and humanity there,” Silva said.

Silva’s favorite song in the production — “Gethsemane (I Only Want to Say)” — is sung by Jesus as he wrestles with accepting his impending death. It’s one of the more dramatic numbers in the show.

“I think musicals are at their best when the music and lyrics come together, and

the form matches the function,” Silva said. “Gethsemane is the perfect example of that.”

Merrill pointed out several scenes to watch for, including the number “Try it and See,” sung by Herod, played by Jeff Sprague. He also highlighted the temple scene, which Merrill said will be an immersive experience, as well as the 39 lashes moment.

“One of the cast members said you feel Jesus’ humanity in yourself, you feel his anguish,” said Merrill, emphasizing that the crew is careful to represent the scene while being respectful of the space in the sanctuary.

In addition to the actors and singers, Merrill expressed his appreciation for all who helped, including the designers,

painters, costume workers and those who just lent a hand wherever they could. He also emphasized that his wife, Elysia, has poured herself into the choreography.

“She made some incredible pictures with her movement — we could never have done this without her work, her spirit and kindness,” Merrill said.

While the play does not include the resurrection of Jesus, it is acknowledged.

He expressed his appreciation for the incredible support of the church, including interim pastor and head of staff Randall Bush and associate pastor Nancy Lincoln Reynolds.

Performances are 7:30pm on March 24-26 and March 31-April 2. Doors open at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$15. Tickets are available at [www.woodstix.org](http://www.woodstix.org).

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## Everyone's Favorite Season

**Jason LaBarge**  
LaBarge  
Financial



It's that time of year. Tax season is among us yet again, and there are a few things to be aware of before you go through this process.

I always want to make sure my clients are max-

ing out their yearly contributions to their qualified plans, like their Roth IRAs and traditional IRAs. If you are not 50 years of age yet, your yearly contribution limit for these accounts is \$6,000; if you are older than 50, the limit is \$7,000. Luckily, for 2023 contributions and onward, the limit has increased by \$500 for both limit amounts. The deadline for contributions is the same as Tax Day: April 18. Though Tax Day is in April, there are millions of people who file for an extension each year. An estimated 13.56 million people filed for an extension for 2021 taxes. To file for an extension, you can submit Form 4868 to request a six-month extension.

A Roth IRA conversion can be a good way to transfer assets from individual retirement plans, or an employee plan like a 401(k), into a Roth IRA. This can be beneficial because account owners can be eligible to make tax-free withdrawals after the account has been open for five years. One thing to keep in mind when deciding to a Roth IRA conversion is that the account owner must pay income tax on the money they convert first. A Roth IRA conversion might also be a good idea for someone who believes they may be in a higher tax bracket in the future because it could help them save money on taxes now rather than later.

If you are self-employed or have a small business, it is important to know that there is an individual retirement account you can open called a Simplified Employee Pension, or a SEP. For 2022, the IRS states that contributions from an employer can't go above 25% of an employee's salary, or over \$61,000. That limit has been raised to \$66,000 for tax year 2023 and onward. Another good factor of having a SEP IRA if you work for a small business is that contributions to the plan by your employer are immediately 100% vested.

This time of year has some people anxious about their finances. Though I am no tax expert or certified public accountant, I am here to help guide you through your questions and your financial plans. I believe everyone deserves to be more educated on their financial options.

*The views depicted in this material are for informational purposes only and are not necessarily those of Cetera Advisor Net-*

» Continued on page 55

## Chamber Update

**Liz League**  
CEO  
GSPACC



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

**Edward Jones Investments**  
— **Brian M. Conrad, CFP**  
(new gold member)

— and his marine biologist wife, Mei Len Sanchez-Barr — Eco Adventures provides a variety of hands-on conservation programs in hopes to inspire young conservationists. Eco Adventures houses over 100 native and exotic animals on display and as animal ambassadors. Its one-of-a-kind facility features a simulated rainforest full of animal exhibits and a glowing volcano, an "Underwater Pier" discovery room, an outside sluice and fossil dig, and an outside field and classroom (Pixie Hollow) that neighbors the Severn Run Wildlife Area — 1,700 acres of pristine wilderness!

**Integrative Family NP LLC** — Integrative Family NP LLC is a concierge family medical practice starting as telemedicine and home visit services for routine appointments and acute care. As a nurse practitioner in family practice, owner Katherine Grote recently completed a certificate in holistic and integrative medicine for health care providers. She believes in treating the whole person, taking time to listen to the patient and developing a comprehensive treatment plan.

**Abend Services** — In 1952, Abend Plumbing was founded by Carl Abend and his wife, Catherine. Carl had the distinction of being granted the second plumbing license in Maryland. This company has been family-run ever since, and the reins have switched

» Continued on page 55

In 2002, Brian began his Edward Jones career as a financial advisor in St. Louis and became a limited partner with the firm in 2010. His company wants to understand what is important to you, and once it does, it will use an established process to build a personal strategy to help you achieve your goals.

**SpeedPro Charm City** — Make your ads more noticeable with larger-than-life graphics that will help you improve brand recognition and visibility so you can "brand boldly." You can rely on the professionals at SpeedPro Charm City for help with everything from corporate marketing and in-store branding to event and custom graphics production. The company takes pride in delivering meticulous work on every job, and its studio offers fast turnarounds.

**Eco Adventures** — Owned by National Geographic's herpetologist, personality and book author Dr. Brady Barr

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Annapolis Aesthetics Helps Patients Find Their Beautiful



By Lauren Cowin

Melanie Erb Shushan understands firsthand how exhausting life as a working parent can be, but with her help, her patients don't have to wear their weariness on their faces.

Commuting to her job at a medical spa in Washington, D.C. didn't leave Shushan much time at home, and friends who wanted her cosmetic services found the drive to the nation's capital to be logistically prohibitive.

Seeing an opportunity right here in Severna Park for a boutique luxury med spa, Shushan met with a Realtor last spring and fell in love with the first space she saw. In December of last year, Annapolis Aesthetics opened.

"I'm really excited about the space, and so I want patients to feel excited when they get here," Shushan said. "It's been going great, better than I could have imagined."

Shushan brings nearly two decades of experience with cosmetic injectables and laser treatments to her practice in Severna Park. She was working as a nurse practitioner in the division of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital when Botox first entered the public lexicon. Shushan was tapped to train residents on this new product.

She explained that early on, there was a lot of fear and misunderstanding surrounding Botox.

"My friends were like, 'Melanie, we're concerned. Why are you doing that to your body?'" she recounted with amusement. "Now, everybody does this kind of stuff — I have patients that are 22, and I have patients that are 82."

These days Shushan's friends aren't critics but clients. And the Botox business is booming.

"It's such a good bang for your buck, and I like it because I'm a busy mom. I want to get stuff done," Shushan said. "Knowing that something so quick can be so useful and make patients feel so good, I love that."

In addition to Botox, Annapolis Aesthetics offers fillers, microneedling, chemical peels and laser treatments.

One of Shushan's favorite prod-



Photo by Lauren Cowin

**Melanie Erb Shushan opened Annapolis Aesthetics, a luxury boutique medical spa in Severna Park, in December 2022.**

ucts for her clients is filler, which differs from Botox in that it is a gel made out of hyaluronic acid (Botox is a liquid protein), and the results are immediate.

"It's really nice to be able to sit there and watch somebody go from looking rundown and tired to looking and feeling amazing," Shushan said.

Shushan recognizes that making changes to one's face and appearance is highly personal and perhaps a bit daunting at first. Her approach to the initial consult is for patients to explain what bothers them when they look in the mirror and go from there.

"Our tagline here is find your beautiful," she said. "I don't want to make them look like a different person."

The treatments offered by Annapolis Aesthetics may have the effect of reversing time, but when it comes to Shushan's decision to open a business in Severna Park, there's no looking back.

"Everyone here has been so welcoming and have sent so many of their friends in, so I'm so appreciative and so thankful for that," Shushan said. "It's been awesome. Making people feel better about themselves, I have the best job in the world."

*Annapolis Aesthetics is located at 537 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard. For more information, call 410-793-5135 or visit [www.annapolisaesthetics.com](http://www.annapolisaesthetics.com).*



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# Preserving Your Assets or Children's Inheritance

By Tara Frame, Esq.

Whether you are planning to leave a small savings account, a long-established IRA, or a legacy of wealth, inheritance issues are best resolved *before* you pass on. As a matter of fact, there are some legal strategies you can take now to minimize inheritance taxes, avoid probate in Maryland, and reduce fighting amongst your heirs. In this article, we'll show you why it's important to preserve your inheritance in Maryland and resolve any potential inheritance issues before the death of a loved one, and how to approach the topic with your family!



**Probate & Tax Considerations**

Without proper planning ahead of time, your estate will likely have to go through the probate process in Maryland. Maryland is one of the few states that has both an inheritance tax and estate tax, so there are important planning strategies that can help you and your family reduce the tax burdens. Our estate planning and probate attorneys can advise you on the benefits of a setting up a trust, life estate deed, LLC or other legal instrument to minimize these issues.

**Family Dynamics**

Even the most loving families can be wrought with emotions and challenges when a family member

passes away. The family dynamics can be compounded with spouses, children, and grandchildren. Inheritance can be a touchy subject even for families that have always gotten along in the past. Many of these family dynamics can be avoided with proper planning to help preserve your family's inheritance so that it goes to the people you choose. Your attorney can also help you sort through some of the family dynamics ahead of time, to ensure that the legal measures you put in place will withstand any anticipated challenges.

**Communicating with Your Heirs**

According to Forbes, less than a third of parents talk about their estate plans with their children. Many prefer to keep matters private, but talking

with your family, about your decisions, is the best way to keep problems from arising after you are gone. You have your reasons for bequeathing certain assets or property to whom you wish, but your heirs may not understand these reasons unless you explain. If you discuss your estate plan with your children ahead of time then you will have time to change your estate plan, if that is what you wish to do.

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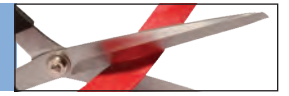
An attorney can help you and your family plan for the best outcomes. During a time of crisis, such as an illness or even death, your legal advisor can work on your behalf to communicate with the family and to ensure that your wishes are carried out in accordance with the legal instruments you put in place.

For more information, download the *Free Guide to Wills, Trusts & Probate* or schedule a free consultation with an experienced attorney at **FrameAndFrame.com**





# RIBBON CUTTINGS



## Annapolis Aesthetics Hopes To Rejuvenate Area Residents

*The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce welcomed Annapolis Aesthetics to the community with a ribbon-cutting. During the event, owner Melanie Erb Shushan discussed the latest treatments for healthy and younger-looking skin. The business is located at 537-B Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park.*

## Chesapeake Holistic Health Center Celebrates Anniversary



*During a ceremony in February, Jennifer Salos invited guests to Chesapeake Holistic Health Center to celebrate her facility's 25th anniversary. Located in Annapolis, the business combines science-based technology with a holistic approach to offer services for each client's specific physical, emotional and mental health needs.*

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# Have You Built An Emergency Fund?

**Brian M. Conrad**  
CFP  
Financial Advisor



**M**any people make financial New Year's resolutions, such as reducing their debts or contributing more to their retirement accounts — both of which are certainly worthy

goals. But among those who planned to make a financial resolution for 2023, the primary reason was the desire to build an emergency savings fund, according to a December 2022 study by research firm Morning Consult.

When building an emergency fund, where should you keep the money? You'll need it to be accessible, so you'll want it in a liquid investment vehicle. At the same time, you don't want to take risks with this fund, so you'll want to be confident that your principal will likely be preserved. Some possibilities might include short-term certificates of deposit (CDs) or money market accounts. But wherever you put the money, keep it separate from your regular checking or savings account — it's called an emergency fund for a reason, and you don't want to mingle it with the accounts you use every day.

Factors such as economic concerns and the sharp rise in inflation seem to be driving this greater interest in building an emergency fund. But it's valuable to maintain this type of fund in any economic environment. An emergency fund can help you prepare for a temporary job loss or early retirement. It can also help pay for large home or auto repairs, sizable medical bills and other needs.

Given the high cost of living, it's not always easy to store away money for emergencies — and if you wait until all your bills are paid before addressing an emergency fund, you may only make very slow progress. One possible strategy is to pay yourself first, so to speak, by having some money automatically moved from your checking or savings account each month into your emergency fund. And whenever you get a financial windfall, such as a tax refund or a year-end bonus at work, you might use some of it for this fund.

So, how much do you need to keep in an emergency fund? The answer depends on your stage of life. If you're still working, you might want at least three to six months' worth of living expenses in your emergency fund. If you're already retired, however, you may need at least three months' worth of expenses for emergencies, plus another 12 months' worth of expenses, after accounting for your other sources of income, to cover your everyday spending needs.

It will take time and discipline to build and maintain an emergency fund. But once you've got such a fund in place, you'll feel more confident in your ability to deal with unexpected costs that could potentially disrupt your progress toward your financial goals. So, make it a priority this year to build or strengthen your emergency fund. It will be worth the effort.

*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](mailto:brian.conrad@edwardjones.com) or visit [www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad](http://www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad).*

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

# Eagle Title Acquires New Title Company



## Acquisition Expands The Eagle Title Footprint To Baltimore

**E**agle Title has offices in Severna Park and Annapolis, and now it has acquired American Land Title Corporation (ALTC), located in Towson, Maryland. The new branch location, named Eagle Title Towson, began operations on January 1, expanding Eagle Title's footprint into the greater Baltimore region.

In 2022, Eagle Title began searching for additional locations outside Anne Arundel County. Simultaneously, American Land Title Corporation sought a partner to support the continued growth by providing additional support services, including title attorneys, advanced technology, and commercial and builder services divisions. The two companies aligned in values and commitment to exceptional experiences, making a seamless alignment.

"After an exhaustive search for a partner, it was clear that Eagle Title was the right match for our ALTC team," said Betsy Jiranek, former ALTC founder and president — now Eagle Title

Towson branch manager. "I am happy to align with another Maryland-based, family-owned, and operated boutique title company."

Both parties acknowledge the cultural fit — citing the similar work ethic, commitment to clean insurance practices and a focus on community service.

"With more than 20 years of exceptional work, led by owner Betsy Jiranek, a partnership with ALTC was a natural fit for our culture," said Eagle Title's CEO, Jay Walsh. "We recognized the great foundation Betsy and her team created, and we are excited to add them to our footprint and family. We believe that aligning with like-minded professionals will be the path to excelling in our present market conditions — how we will continue to thrive in the future."

Eagle Title Towson will continue to work out of the former ALTC offices located at 16 Willow Avenue in the heart of downtown Towson right off York Road. In addition to Jiranek, settlement officers Marylee Dannenberg and Gabbi Perrella-Jager will continue their settlement services throughout Maryland with the added convenience of two Eagle Title offices in Anne Arundel County.

# Better Business Bureau Offers Tips On How To Build A Competitive Edge

**N**ow more than ever, customers are being careful who they choose to do business with. What gives your business a competitive edge? How do you increase your exposure, establish trust, and stand out against your competitors?

Whether you are an established business, or just getting a running start, here are a slate of action items to help build your competitive edge.

## 1. Increase visibility

Maximizing online visibility is critical for small businesses. Listing your business in online directories can be a catalyst for a growing customer base. BBB's online business profiles provide a one-stop resource for consumers wanting to learn more about your business.

## 2. Use social media to establish trust

Brand experts tell us that customers look online to find information about your business. Give your customers a reason to

get vocal about your products and services. If your business is BBB accredited, remind your social media following of the commitment you made to operate honestly and ethically. Share how you've fostered trust in your organization and then encourage followers to recommend your business.

## 3. Stand out from the pack

The BBB seal is the most powerful symbol for communicating your commitment to trust and integrity. The BBB seal is only accessible to businesses that meet the standards for BBB accreditation. This familiar symbol can put consumers at ease, helping you build a trustworthy customer base.

## 4. Don't just read your reviews — respond to them

In today's marketplace, online reviews are one of the most crucial components of operating a successful business. A key differentiator in giving your business a competitive edge is making sure you

respond to customer reviews. Your BBB business profile gives you the opportunity to respond to your customers but be sure to also make a point of responding on any other platform that allows it. Regardless of whether the reviews of your business are good or bad, responding to customer feedback should be a top priority.

## 5. Reacquaint yourself with BBB benefits

Accredited businesses have access to exclusive benefits. These benefits are designed to give your business a boost with easy and more affordable access to events and webinars, an exclusive suite of digital tools for your business, dispute resolution services, and so much more.

## 6. Get your team on the trust bandwagon

Did you know companies that establish a high trust culture are twice as likely to also be high-performing revenue orga-

nizations? Tell your company how you are building a culture of trust. Do your employees know they're working for a BBB accredited business? Tell your team why your BBB accreditation is important, how it aligns with your values, and what it means for your company culture.

## 7. Receive recognition for you ethical business practices

This could be the year to submit your first, second or third application to the Torch Awards, BBB's annual celebration of businesses knocking it out of the park. Applications open later in the year, but check with your local BBB and start thinking about how your organization rises to the occasion when it comes to character, culture, customers and community.

Better Business Bureau is committed to providing the most relevant, up-to-date information to help your business. For more business tips, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).



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# Everyone's Favorite Season

» Continued from page 50

*works LLC. They should not be considered specific advice or recommendations for any individual.*

*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.*

*Converting from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA is a taxable event. A Roth IRA offers tax-free withdrawals on taxable contributions. To qualify for the tax-free and penalty-free withdrawals or earnings, a Roth IRA must be in place for at least five tax years, and the distribution must take place after age 59 and a half or due to death, disability, or a first-time home purchase (up to a \$10,000 lifetime maximum). Depending on state law, Roth IRA distributions may be subject to state taxes.*

*Jason LaBarge, financial advisor and president of LaBarge Financial  
7 Riggs Avenue, Severna Park, MD 21146  
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» Continued from page 50

hands a couple of times over the years. The current owner is Katie Abend, who took over in 2014. Adding residential services, including HVAC, the company is now called ABEND Services.

**Hardshell Coatings LLC** — A floor shield polyaspartic coating system professionally installed from Hardshell Coatings dramatically transforms any garage space, residential and commercial. This business provides free estimates and expert service.

**Committed Change Health and Wellness** — Owner Courtney Capece understands the weight and frustration of feeling like you could be living a fuller life, or that your body deserves better, but not knowing where to turn. Her mission is simple: give parents and caregivers wellness education, tools, and support they need to feel fulfilled. Services include one-on-one coaching, movement support and food store tours.

**Delmarva Financial Group** — Knowledge is power. It's also the foundation for intelligent, well-considered decisions. When you have retirement in sight, sound decisions are vital in helping you pursue your goals and avoid potentially costly mistakes that can affect your future. As financial professionals, they are committed to helping people just like you create strategies for their retirement assets.

# Chamber Update

**Edward F Herold Jr., CPA, LLC** — Ed Herold has provided accounting and business planning services since 1991 with five-star reviews. You may recognize his name as the chairman of the planning committee for the Anne Arundel Walk to End Alzheimer's. He also supports many nonprofits in the community with his time and resources.

**Weboshe** — Weboshe is a Western Bohemian boutique in Severna Park with the aim of elevating your closet with sustainable pieces that are all made in the USA. Visit Weboshe's website and the store. Plan to attend its ladies night on March 21 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the store, located at 561 Ritchie Highway.

**Edward Jones Investments - Raymond McKeating** — Edward Jones is a privately owned company in America, known for its shrewdness in financial and investment options for its clients. For close to a century, its financial advisors have transformed the fortunes of individuals, giving them financial security due to its diligence in investment strategies as guided by its mission and vision statements.

The chamber held a ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of **Advance Auto Parts** in Severna Park. At the celebration, district manager Chip Simons presented a check for \$500 and

a gift card for \$1,000 to Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Center for Applied Technology. The center has a program to train future auto mechanics, and the donations will help the teachers immensely.

We held a ribbon-cutting celebrating the grand opening of Docksider Dermatology in Millersville. **Docksider 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.

The **Chesapeake Holistic Health Center** celebrated 25 years of business success in February. Owner Jennifer Salos has been on the leading edge of the natural health movement for 25 years, opening the first holistic practice in the county.

The Successful Women in Business "First Cup Club" was held at the beautifully renovated **Image Creators Salon and Spa** in Severna Park. More than 40 attendees enjoyed coffee, conversation and a tour. Owner Silvia Campana is looking forward to a 35-year anniversary celebration in June.

The Wellness Business Coalition held its monthly meeting at **The Social**. The meetings are open to wellness practitioners and are held on the third Thursday of each month from 4:30pm-6:00pm.

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