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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE



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AUGUST 2023

## Severna Park Legion Baseball Honors Gold Star Families

By Mark Patton  
 mark@severnaparkvoice.com

### Warmup

Prince George's Stadium — home of the Bowie Baysox, a Double-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles — was buzzing for a three-game homestand that kicked off July 14.

The weekend led off with the Bowie debut of 19-year-old shortstop Jackson Holliday — the top pick in the 2022 Major League Baseball draft — and ended with members of the Severna Park American Legion Post 175 Spartans baseball team playing for something much larger than their team.

While Holliday hit .500 for the series against the visiting Akron RubberDucks, it's what happened after the conclusion of Sunday's tilt that put a baseball bookend of perspective on the weekend, thanks to the help of another American treasure — Gold Star families.

According to the United Services Organizations, or USO, the term Gold Star family has World War I roots. Military families would display service flags with a blue star for every immediate family member serving. The star's color would change to gold if the family lost a loved one in the war.

"The coaching staff had meetings early



**Left:** Kevin Kavanagh and wife, Karla Kavanagh, took in the sights of Prince George's Stadium in Bowie prior to Kevin's first pitch. Kevin's son, U.S. Army Private First Class Eric Kavanagh, was killed in Iraq in 2006. **Top Right:** Matthew Smith, a senior at Severna Park High School, pitched the final three innings for the Post 175 Spartans and provided a run to bolster his squad's lead. **Bottom Right:** Third baseman Cole Fletcher attempted to tag an Owings Mill player.



Photos by Mark Patton

in the season and wanted to have more involvement with the legion post and the community," said Spartans first-year head coach Ralph Suppa, noting that his team's coaching staff is made up of two veterans and two career fire service members who shared the vision of "never forgotten" for

those killed in the line of duty and their families. "That is when we decided on the Gold Star game, and we wanted it to be a special event and worked on having it at a large stadium."

The Severna Park team trotted onto the field of Prince George's Stadium on a

muggy Sunday afternoon following the 6-5 Baysox walk-off victory, taking in the amenities of the professional park while getting ready for their game against the team from Owings Mills Post 122.

"Guys, there's a bathroom in the dug-  
**» Continued on page 5**

## Magothy River Association Creates Video About Fort Grey

### Civil War Story Can Be Viewed On YouTube

By Zach Sparks  
 zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The Round Bay community contains a piece of little-known history: a hilltop that was vital to the defense of Washington, D.C. during the Civil War.

Magothy River Association (MRA) President Paul Spadaro and Round Bay resident Danielle Dupcak researched that history for three years, unearthing

documents, letters and newspaper articles. With the Berrywood resident Charles Germain as director, MRA released a 12-minute film, "Fort Grey, Mount Misery: A Local Civil War Story" in August.

The film is the latest in the MRA's Living History series, which includes videos on Beachwood Park, the Old Stone House and Goshen Farm.

During a screening at Boone Station Hall in July, MRA welcomed historians and community members to celebrate the newest filmmaking accomplishment.

"By preserving the history of Fort Grey, we will preserve the land and preserve the Magothy and the Severna rivers," Spadaro said.

The film combines interview footage, a New York Times letter penned by a soldier, and re-enactments based on

**» Continued on page 8**



Charles Germain (right) and his team directed actresses Laura Cooper and Milissa Rhodes during "Fort Grey, Mount Misery: A Local Civil War Story."

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## Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

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## Joe Angyelof Wears Many Hats For Earleigh Heights

By Zach Sparks

At 81 years old, Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company President Joe Angyelof does not ride anymore. Yet he stays busy.

One day, he may be in a meeting about Anne Arundel County's rezoning process, and the next day, he may be fixing items around the fire station.

"In a way, being president of a fire company is like being CEO or being president of the United States," Angyelof said. "There is no way you can know all things you will be involved in."

There was no way, as an adolescent, that Angyelof could predict the journey he would have with the county fire department — from firefighter to fire chief to president, with several other positions in between.

In his youth, he would fetch items from stores for his cousin, a volunteer at Earleigh Heights. That was his introduction to the fire station. Eventually, he found another role model, a driver named George Daniels.

"He kind of took me under his wing and showed me things he didn't show everyone else," Angyelof said, recalling one example when a brake line broke on their 1949 Diamond T fire engine. "He said, 'You're going to learn more here than in school.' He bled the brakes and made sure everything was working properly."

Angyelof officially became a member of Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company in 1959. From 1962 to 1964, he worked as a firefighter for the Friendship International Airport, which later became Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Thurgood Marshall Airport. His next role was engineman with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department in 1964.

"My ambition was to be a driver," he said, "but once I saw how the rank structure was, I had my eyes set on moving up."

He moved up to lieutenant in 1971, captain in 1977 and battalion chief later that year. By 1978, he was promoted to division chief. The fire department moved him all over the county, from Brooklyn Park to Glen Burnie to



After a career that included positions as engineman and fire chief, Joe Angyelof returned to Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company as a volunteer. He currently serves as president, as he makes important decisions and performs maintenance around the fire station, among other responsibilities.

Severna Park.

"When you get promoted, you go where they send you," Angyelof said. "Every place I went, I learned from it."

He learned much throughout his career, including how to bridge the gap between volunteers and paid firefighters. Earleigh Heights, unlike some other stations, had both types of firefighters.

He believes his willingness to listen helped in those situations.

"Even though I was in the paid service, I did have volunteer service," he said. "I wasn't pro-paid, but I wasn't pro-volunteer."

In retirement, he spent several years in Ocean City but kept his Severna Park house, returning home to help Earleigh Heights with roasts and its annual carnival.

"Then the bug hit me again," he said. "I just had a curiosity as to what was going on."

In his volunteer role as president, he enjoys working with the personnel at Earleigh Heights because "they're smart and they know how to get things done." Many of them feel the same about him.

"He takes a true interest in the

success of the company," said Dave Crawford, the chief at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. "For someone not getting a penny to do that, it's vital. Whenever we need something, Joe does it wholeheartedly, no matter the hour."

While Angyelof has spent his whole life giving to the community, his role as a dad was just as important. One of his sons previously served the county fire department and the other son was assistant chief for the Washington Airports Authority on 9/11 and was the first chief officer on the scene at the Pentagon.

His sons make him proud, as does his community service.

Angyelof has also volunteered with the Severna Park Elks and served the Anne Arundel County Retired Firefighters Association.

Early in his career, he served the Maryland Army National Guard for six years, achieving the rank of staff sergeant.

"He's very versatile," Crawford said. "You have to be able to wear different hats, work with people and genuinely care. The passion he has, it's rare."



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## SPAN: Leaning On One Another For Help

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



The other day, I was sitting at the traffic light while thinking about people and conversations from my day. I was thinking about one of our clients who has so much on her plate, caring for

multiple family members with health struggles and trying to have enough money to pay their bills. Things were just starting to move in a positive direction when they suffered another tragedy.

My thoughts were with that family and with another client who is fighting cancer, alone and overwhelmed with her bills. My thoughts also wandered to others battling cancer. Suddenly, I was jolted from my reflections when the song "Lean on Me" came on the radio. It was one of those moments that clicked and reminded me how

much stronger we are as a community and how all of us at some point need someone to lean on.

Some of our clients at SPAN are facing these devastating difficulties, though most of the clients we serve are in a unique temporary situation due to an emergency such as a job layoff, divorce, domestic abuse, illness or death in the family.

Hearing "Lean on Me" refocused me on how we all face problems at times.

**Read the full column online.**

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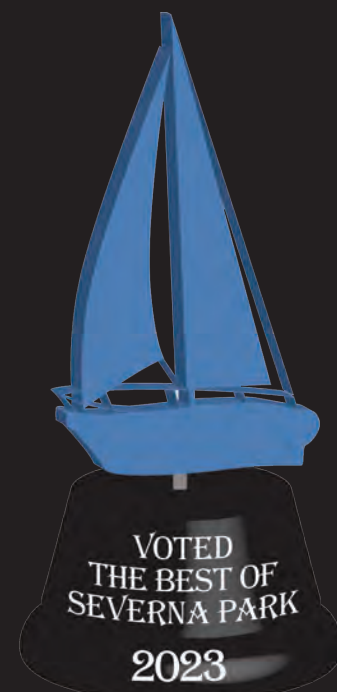
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# National Night Out Gathers Community At Kinder Park



Photos by Jonathan Katz In its first year at Kinder Farm Park, the Eastern District National Night Out drew a large crowd. Community members enjoyed games and activities while meeting the first responders who keep them safe.



## Severna Park Legion Baseball Honors Gold Star Families In Bowie

» **Continued from page 1**  
out,” said an excited voice while exploring the team’s area alongside third base.

Each of the Post 175 players were sporting jerseys that featured the names of four Severna Park service members who lost their lives serving their country: U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Eric Herzberg, U.S. Army Private First Class Eric Kavanagh, U.S. Air Force Airman First Class Nathaniel McDavitt and U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal William Taylor Wild IV.

### First pitches

Prior to the legion game, Post 175 players had a chance to talk to family members of three fallen service members from Severna Park.

“It puts things into perspective,” said 19-year-old Spartans shortstop Tucker McDonough, a Severna Park High School graduate who also suits up for his New York University baseball team. “You just really wanted to do everything for them.”

Three first pitches were thrown — each by a Severna Park Gold Star family member and each caught by a Post 175 senior captain. All three were on target.

Kevin Kavanagh, father of Eric Kavanagh, threw to McDonough.

Eric Kavanagh was killed in Iraq in 2006 when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was 20.

Kevin Kavanagh said Eric loved the water, whether it was boating, fishing, crabbing or swimming.

“He also loved playing the guitar and taught his younger brother Patrick to play guitar,” said Kevin Kavanagh, noting that Patrick released a CD with original songs 10 years following his older brother’s death under the band name of Ewe and the Kids.

The elder Kavanagh said he and his

daughter, Alanna, visit Arlington National Cemetery regularly, adding the Gold Star Families Memorial Gazebo in Severna Park is also a great respite to visit.

“There is not a day in my life that something does not remind me about Eric,” Kevin Kavanagh said. “Perhaps because I still live in the house where he grew up, and so many of his things are still there, or because I continue to do all the things all the kids and I used to do together — fish, crab and boat.”

Betz Wild, mother of Taylor Wild, threw to Daniel Villegas.

Taylor Wild died during a 2013 training exercise in Nevada. He was 21.

Betz Wild said her son’s laugh was loud, his smile was big and his hug was tight.

“That is what people saw on the outside, and inside he was a quiet reader, a brave young man, a loving and nurturing brother to his younger brother and sister,” Betz Wild said. “When his sister asked what his swallow tattoo meant, he told her that swallows know how to find their way home, and he will always find his way back to her. He found a way to let us know he will be with us always.”

He was also on the 2009 Severna Park High School state championship squad. It’s only fitting his mom tossed the first pitch with her husband, Bill, watching on.

“He was also a pitcher, and he used to always go through pitching motions in the kitchen, backyard, wherever,” Betz Wild recalled. “No ball, no glove. He would just lean forward into the stretch, nod at the pretend sign from the pretend catcher, stand up, check the pretend runner, pick up his leg, arm back, throw and follow through. That’s why I started that first pitch from the stretch. That’s how I remember him a lot.”

Harrison Sudano, brother of Nathaniel McDavitt, threw to Cole Fletcher.

Nathaniel McDavitt was killed in 2016 in Afghanistan. He was 22.

Fifteen-year-old Harrison said he thinks of his brother every day — the same brother who was an Eagle Scout, outdoor lover and former athlete for Severna Park High School. And his brother’s hero.

“I wanted to do my best out here and honor my brother with my pitch,” Harrison said.

Harrison also tossed the first pitch on Memorial Day at an Orioles game where O’s third baseman Gunnar Henderson caught the toss. Honoring his brother’s spirit is something he’ll always relish.

“He wanted to help others,” Harrison said.

### The game

The Severna Park American Legion Post 175 Spartans put three runs up before the number under the letter H on the digital scoreboard had to be switched.

While small-ball fundamentals gathered up a small cushion for the Spartans, along with a solid starting outing by Severna Park’s Sam Ross, a seven-run fourth inning by the Severna Park squad, followed up in the next frame by an inside-the-park home run by McDonough, put any hope of a comeback for Owings Mill to rest.

“When I saw the left fielder’s number, I knew it was over his head,” McDonough, who also notched a double in a four-RBI effort, said of his baseball rarity. “The stadium is beautiful, and to do it in this game that means so much is special.”

Ross pitched three innings to pick up the win, giving up just a solo hit and striking out four. Ross, who suits up for the Anne Arundel Community College team, also provided a hit, two runs and three stolen bases, a third of the team’s total, on

the evening.

Severna Park Post 175 ended the season with a 13-1 victory, and an 8-6-1 record on the season.

Suppa said while the team fell short of their goal to compete for a state championship and beyond this season, wrapping up the slate in Bowie was “a blast.”

“You could feel the energy and excitement in both dugouts,” Suppa said. “What brought me the most joy was how the team was smiling and joking around while still staying focused during the game.”

Severna Park Post 175’s Matthew Smith, a senior at Severna Park High School who was the team’s workhorse on the mound this season, pitched the final three innings of the game for the Spartans, striking out five while giving up a pair of hits and a run.

“It’s fun. It shows the respect they have for legion in general that they let us play on this field,” Smith said. “Makes you want to play a little better.”

### Extra innings

Severna Park Post 175 assistant coach Greg Coster presented the Gold Star families with a donation of \$1,000 from his business, The Big Bean.

Tryouts for legion baseball will start in April for the Severna Park team, with games beginning in June.

Suppa aims to have the Bowie game become an annual event, with the potential of it morphing into a tournament to benefit Gold Star families.

“I think seeing the families and talking with them helped the players understand the importance of the event,” Suppa said. “We, as coaches, try to explain and share our experiences, but when you’re talking with the families, the message just holds more power.”

# Overcrowded, Animal Control Continues To Waive Adoption Fees

By Doug Schwartz  
Student Intern

Earlier this year, Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control (AACACC) waived its adoption fees for all its animals due to overwhelming numbers at its shelter.

"There have been a variety of reasons that animals have come in," said administrator Robin Catlett. "People are finding themselves on hard times and are just not able to provide the care their animals need." In addition to these "give-ups," Catlett stated that the shelter is "seeing lots of stray animals that people are just not coming to reclaim."

Because AACACC is an open-access shelter, it is required to take in animals that it receives from Anne Arundel County. From January to June of 2022, the shelter took in 817 dogs and 690 cats. During that same time span this year, the shelter took in 894 dogs and 886 cats.

AACACC has been taking steps to deal with the overwhelming number of animals it has received, but it is still not enough.

"We do adoptions, redemptions, and we have been reaching out to all of our rescue partners as well," Catlett explained. "But unfortunately, during and after COVID ... a lot of the resources that we would normally rely on are just not able to help. Other shelters are also extremely full ... We are utilizing all of those options to the best of our ability."

The shelter is limited by space, and if it cannot decrease the number of animals it must care for, its final option is

ethanasia.

So, what can be done to help?

The best solution is adoption. Not only are adoption fees currently waived, but the process itself is straightforward.

"It is really easy to adopt a pet from us," Catlett said. "We have a one-page prescreen application."

Applicants must provide a photo ID, proof of homeownership, or, for renters, contact information for their landlord or a copy of their lease that confirms they are allowed to have a pet. Finally, as re-

## Animals Up For Adoption

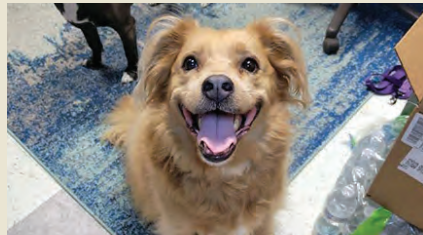
More photos are online. Check to confirm the availability of animals.



Cinnamon Stick — female rottweiler



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Lexi — Labrador retriever mix



Copper — red male coon hound

quired by the state, applicants need proof of rabies vaccination for any dogs, cats or ferrets they currently own. Additionally, all available dogs are spayed or neutered.

"We do recommend that people come into the shelter to do our one-page prescreen to see what animals we have here," Catlett said. "Coming here in person streamlines the process for people."

While adoption is the best aid the shelter can receive, there are other ways to assist AACACC, such as informing others about the situation and the need

for adopters.

Volunteers are always welcome.

"One of the things that is really important for the animals that we do have here is providing enrichment," Catlett said. "Having volunteers to help with their care or even help with our operations to free up staff to do things with the animals can make it better for those animals who are here in our custody."

There are options, such as fostering, for those who can't commit to pet ownership long-term.

"They are not making a lifetime commitment to the animal, but they are giving us short-term space in their home, caring for the animal and reducing stress on the animal by having it in a home environment rather than a shelter," Catlett said.

Foster care can be as brief as a weekend to give an animal a break from the shelter or as long as a few months. AACACC prefers families who can take animals for two weeks to one month at a time to provide the most relief for the shelter.

"We are extremely full, and we really want to spread the word and get people in here," Catlett said. "We are all working toward the same common goal, which is helping the animals."

More information is available at [www.aacounty.org/pets](http://www.aacounty.org/pets).

AACACC is located at 411 Maxwell Frye Road in Millersville. Hours are 10:00am to 3:00pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Wednesdays are extended three hours. The facility is also open one Sunday a month.



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## Brightview Severna Park Hosts Burgers For Badges



Corporal Dwayne Raiford (right) spoke with Brightview Severna Park resident Dan Connor during Burgers for Badges on August 3.

To thank first responders for their service to the community, Brightview Severna Park invited police officers, firefighters and other public safety workers to the retirement living community for burgers and fixings on August 3. “It’s an honor to be recognized for the job that we do,” said Corporal Dwayne Raiford, who enjoyed the

event, called Burgers for Badges. Several police officers attended. Firefighters were invited but had to respond to an emergency call. As for the experience, Raiford said it was great to interact with Brightview residents and staff. “I would love to have these interactions with more of the community,” he said.

## Social Media Use And Youth

**Rakesh Goyal**  
Psychiatrist  
Luminis Health



Due the shocking emoji: A staggering 90% of teens ages 13 to 17 are using social media. When used correctly, there are benefits to social media, but the negative impacts are contributing to this country’s historic mental health crisis. Excessive use can lead to cyberbullying, low self-esteem, addictive behavior, peer pressure and unrealistic expectations of how their body should look.

It’s become such a problem that several Maryland school districts are now suing social media companies, alleging that their platforms are contributing to mental health problems among teens. U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy even issued a warning recently, calling the impacts of social media on children an “urgent crisis.” It should be a wake-up call for all of us.

### Pros of Youth Social Media Use

Let’s first begin with the positive aspects of social media. Teens can stay connected with friends, meet new ones with shared interests, find a sense of community and feel more accepted, as well as explore and express themselves.

Of course, each child is different, and you know your child better than anyone. It’s important to realize the impacts of social media can depend on what they do and see online, their pre-existing strengths or vulnerabilities, and their living environment. Those between the ages of 10 to 15 years old are especially vulnerable to the influence of social media because their brains and emotions are still developing.

### Growing Brains and Evolving Emotions

The brains of preteens, typically between the ages of 10 to 12 years, undergo

changes that make social rewards start to feel much more satisfying. Receptors for oxytocin and dopamine — our “happy hormones” — increase, making young teens extra sensitive to attention and admiration from others. At the same time, adolescents are passing through a stage of psychological development in which they give a lot of importance to acceptance and validation from their peers.

The number of views, likes and shares are often important to social media users. It can cause small bursts of dopamine in our brains. Young people especially crave more and more of the “happy hormone” release. At the same time, a hurtful comment or being ignored by others can cause negative self-esteem and extreme sadness.

### Protecting Your Child

There are steps you can take with your child to encourage responsible use of social media and limit some of its negative effects. Consider these tips:

- Delay the age at which your child can use social media to 13 and above.
- Educate your child about the risks, pitfalls and red flags of social media use, especially about sharing personal information online.
- Monitor your child’s social media accounts and let them know beforehand that you’ll be doing so. You can mute accounts that are inappropriate.
- Set reasonable limits on how much time your child can spend on social media each day; include parameters about what time of day they are allowed to use it.
- Remind them to treat others on social media the same way they would treat others in person. If they wouldn’t say something out loud, they shouldn’t say it online.
- Be an example of healthy social media use for your child and report problematic content.

Social media is here to stay. But we must ensure teenagers enjoy the benefits of social media while protecting their mental health.

## Magothy River Association Creates Video About Fort Grey

» Continued from page 1

letters found in the Maryland Archives. Together, those elements tell the story of Fort Grey.

As U.S. Naval Academy professor Mary DeCredico explained in the film, Annapolis, Maryland’s southern counties and the Eastern Shore were pro-secession. The western counties, which did not “have as deep a stake in slavery,” were pro-Union.

“So here you have a conflicted governor, Thomas Hicks, who is trying to keep the state together,” DeCredico said. “He is pro-Union, but he realizes how strong secession sentiment is in the state, so he’s really walking a very difficult line.”

On April 15, 1861 — three days after an attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina and two days before Virginia seceded — President Abraham Lincoln called upon Union states to send 75,000 militia to defend Washington, D.C.

“It was in this dangerous situation

that Lincoln ordered General Benjamin Butler, a Massachusetts Unionist Democrat who despised secessionists, a political general who had his heart in the work he was doing, to occupy Annapolis and seize all the fortified areas and seize all the prominent high ground from which guns could command the transportation corridor between Annapolis and Washington,” said Rick Striner, a Lincoln scholar, author and retired professor at Washington College.

Fort Grey was situated on one of those areas of high ground, overlooking the nation’s capital. Mount Misery, as the hilltop was known by the Eighth New York Regiment stationed there, was a perfect position for the troops to protect the passage to Washington via Annapolis, either by land or by sea.

Butler ordered a detachment of the Eighth New York Infantry Regiment to erect a fort on the eminence known as Mount Misery.

For the rest of the story, viewers are encouraged to watch the film.

As for the team’s filmmaking choices, Germain said he wanted to create a short and fast-paced video. He used wide-angle shots to feature the State House in the background of certain shots. Sound effects of people marching and roosters crowing, and a regiment song, added another element of reality.

“We used sepia and old paper [as a background for the text], so you feel like people are talking from the grave,” Germain said.

A residential development is currently pending, and if approved, would be constructed on part of the hillside where Mount Misery was located. With that in mind, Spadaro and Germain emphasized the importance of sharing the site’s history.

Germain also wants to secure funding for bigger productions in the future. This video was supported in part by the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County

and the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning’s Cultural Resources Division.

“I try to find stories that have never been told,” Germain said. “If you don’t preserve your history, you have no future.”

Striner said the Civil War outpost in Severna Park was vital to securing Annapolis and the northern route to Washington for the Union.

“From the top of this promontory, viewers could look down upon Annapolis, viewers could look down upon the Severn River, viewers could look down upon the roads leading between Annapolis and Washington,” Striner said in the film. “They could train their guns on the area. It was absolutely vital for the defense of Washington, for the defense of the president and his cabinet, for this hill to be taken and held, and that is what troops under Benjamin Butler accomplished in the second half of April 1861.”



# Lauren's Law: Snowball Stands In Severna Park

By Lauren Burke Meyer

For many Marylanders, snowballs are life. It makes sense; many people claim that snowballs originated in our state. More on that history later.

It has been many years since a snowball stand existed in Severna Park. Thanks to B&A Snowball Station, the wait is over. Located behind The Big Bean at 4 Riggs Avenue, the new icy watering hole is the only snowball stand in Severna Park, and plenty of parking is available with easy access off the B&A Trail.

A snowball connoisseur, I worked at the previous snowball stand located at the intersection of Robinson Road and the B&A Trail in the early 2000s.

There was no rush like an entire youth sports team getting in line or a field trip of young kids. Ice, juice. Repeat. Repeat. Don't forget the occasional — and my personal favorite — marshmallow topping.

Still to this day, I love making my husband smile whenever our family waits in line for a snowball from Mr. Rob's white truck at St. Andrew's Swim & Tennis Club.

"How lucky that since July 1, our community now has a place to get a refreshing snowball? Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 10:00am to 9:00pm, Friday through Saturday from 9:00am to 9:00pm, and Sunday from 9:00am to 8:00pm.

B&A Snowball Station was founded by Patrick and Katie Codd, along with Dylan and Amanda Wood.

Both families are lifelong Severna Park residents. The Riggs Avenue property has been in the Codd family since the early 1920s and, as of recently, needed some updating.

"While helping clean up the property, Dylan and I thought this would be an amazing area to do something fun in the

community," Patrick Codd said.

The Codd and Wood families aim to offer the best snowballs at a great price. They use ice blocks and an old school style ice shaver.

Prices range from \$2 for a kid size to \$5 for a large.

"Our syrups come from the Maryland-based company Kavern," Codd said. "They offer all of the best flavors that everyone loves, and their quality is unmatched."

Egg custard is the new spot's most popular flavor, with skylight close behind.

Some historians say the unique and egg-inspired flavor, along with snowballs in general, can be traced to the Industrial Revolution during the mid-1800s.

Ice houses would ship wagons with huge blocks of ice from New York down south. When the wagons passed through Baltimore, kids begged for ice shavings



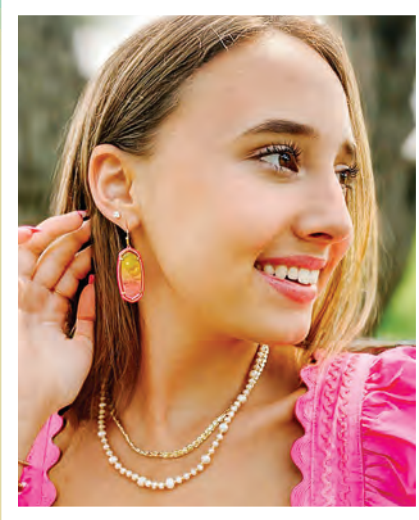
on hot days. It wasn't long before moms began to make flavorings for the ice, and the most common was egg custard made with eggs, vanilla and sugar.

For B&A Snowball Station, there's more in store for our community. For starters, a new acai and smoothie trailer.

"We will be adding steps off the trail, bike racks, a trail to the school, planter boxes, fire pit, more seating, among other things," Codd said.

I can't wait to sample one of the egg custard snowballs this summer. Lastly, if they ever need me to suit up, I'm ready.

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## A Trip Across The Pond Helps Lacrosse Players Bond

By David Bashore

Select girls from across Anne Arundel County arrived home late on August 2 from the United Kingdom, having participated in another successful Crosse Over two-week lacrosse trip.

Crosse Over handles the girls lacrosse portion of the annual Anne Arundel County Youth Lacrosse exchange program, which pairs players from all across Anne Arundel County with the Metros lacrosse club in Stockport, England, located just outside of Manchester. Beginning with boys lacrosse in 1976 and adding girls lacrosse in 1996, the program has brought Metros to Anne Arundel County to play local teams in even numbered years, and in odd numbered years AACYL takes teams of local players over to the United Kingdom to play area teams.

It's designed to foster goodwill between lacrosse programs across the Atlantic and to give young players a taste of the different history and culture.

The Anne Arundel County Crosse Over program takes a girls U13 and U15 team abroad, and players are nominated by their respective league commissioners,

» Continued on page 28



The Anne Arundel County Crosse Over girls lacrosse program paired players with the Metros lacrosse club in Stockport, England, this summer.

## College Coaches Help USA Men's Lacrosse Win World Championship

Severna Park's Joe Amplo, Millersville's Charley Toomey Orchestrated Stifling Defense

By Kevin Murnane

It was a five-year process that was interrupted by the COVID pandemic, but for two Anne Arundel County lacrosse coaches, it was a journey that will never be forgotten.

Loyola University lacrosse head coach **Charley Toomey** and Navy lacrosse head coach **Joe Amplo** were named the defensive coaches for the USA men's world lacrosse team in 2018. They were friends and rival coaches then, but through this experience, they became like brothers.

"We definitely have a kindred connection now," Toomey said. "Joe's awesome, and we worked so well together preparing our defensemen and goalies. We held most of our opponents to less than five goals each game."

Amplo said he and Toomey are best friends.

"We even go to the same barber in Severna Park, and our picture of us with the championship trophy is in that barber shop now," Amplo said.

Toomey and Amplo were joined by other coaches in Duke's **John Danowski** and Hofstra's **Seth Tierney**. These four coaches began assembling the team right after the 2018 world championship tournament.

"We started with over 200 players, and through practices and Zoom meetings, we invited 50 players to training camp in Florida," Toomey said. "We had to select 23 players for the final squad, and any of those 50 players could have been selected because of their outstanding talent."

During training camp, all four coaches spent time with each player, getting to know them as individu-

» Continued on page 28



Loyola's lacrosse head coach Charley Toomey (left), of Millersville, held the men's world championship trophy with Navy men's lacrosse coach Joe Amplo of Severna Park.

## Q&A:



University Of Maryland Field Hockey Coach Missy Meharg

By Tom Worgo - Photos courtesy of Maryland Athletics

Field hockey consumes the University of Maryland's **Missy Meharg**.

When Meharg took over as the school's field hockey coach at age 24 in 1988, she received some advice from **Sue Tyler**: stop playing the sport and concentrate on coaching.

Meharg, a Severna Park resident, took over the program from Tyler, who coached at the University of Maryland for 14 seasons.

"I was still playing on the U.S. Olympic team," Meharg recalled. "Sue told me, 'You need to retire from playing.' I was stubborn."

Meharg had such a passion for the sport, she played for three more years before retiring.

"In one of those years, we didn't make the NCAA tournament," Meharg said. "I should have listened to Sue."

Meharg can look back and laugh now. Her teams reached the NCAA tournament in 29 of the next 31 seasons. This fall will mark her 36th year.

Her achievements jump off the page. She's won seven national championships and compiled a 625-159-9 record. In 2021, she became only the third college coach ever to surpass the 600-win plateau.

The *Voice* recently talked to Meharg about her outstanding career.

Was it uncommon to coach and play field hockey at the same time?

» Continued on page 16



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# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



## LUKE MILLER

McDonogh School  
Lacrosse

By David Bashore

**L**uke Miller is comfortable with being uncomfortable.

The Severna Park resident opted for the Owings Mill-located McDonogh for his high school experience. He had to sacrifice a great public school option and most of his day-to-day social group for the right opportunity for him. More comfortable as a team player in lacrosse, he had to start showcasing and

selling himself when recruiting attention picked up. And when COVID hit, he had to find a way to keep his lacrosse fire burning.

The rising McDonogh senior found a way to stay sharp and help middle school lacrosse players do the same, almost by accident.

"That summer, my dad put out a little Facebook post with my lacrosse resume and where I'd be, and it kind of took off from there," Miller said. "I'd set up a goal at the middle school or at Kinder [Farm Park], and just have a couple of sessions with the kids. It was really fun, and I've stuck with it."

Now three summers in, Miller trains a handful of younger players from the Annapolis and Severna Park areas while doubling as a player for the Annapolis Hawks lacrosse club. It keeps him sharp from between lacrosse and football seasons, but it has also provided an outlet for another passion of his: paying it forward within lacrosse.

"I really enjoy being able to teach lacrosse and pass on the passion that I have and to inspire the kids to do something in the lacrosse community when they get older," Miller said.

That passion is self-igniting and carries over from his coaching into his play.

On the field this past season, Miller scored 46 goals and added 27 assists, earning All-MIAA honors as he helped McDonogh repeat as "A" Division champions this spring. In his three years at McDonogh, the team has never fallen short of the semifinals. Instead of embracing the individual honor, he paid tribute to the team's "awesome attack line."

During the team's run to the 2023 championship, Miller's young lacrosse life came full circle: the semifinals

were played at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, home to the now-defunct Chesapeake Bayhawks of the Major Lacrosse League.

"It's really fun to play close to home," Miller said. "Going to McDonogh, most of my games are up in Baltimore, so it was nice going to a stadium close to home and one I've always dreamed of playing in. My uncle played for the Bayhawks, so even at a young age, that inspired me to play lacrosse and get to that level."

Miller and his McDonogh teammates are angling for a three-peat in the 2024 season, after which Miller will graduate and continue his academic and athletic career at the University of Notre Dame, which won its first NCAA men's lacrosse championship in June.

Miller was in attendance in Philadelphia when the Fighting Irish beat Duke for the title, and he both took notes on what it would take to get to that level and drew inspiration from what he witnessed.

"Everything's faster, everyone's stronger, everyone's better and their stick skills are better," Miller said. "But just the pure joy on all the young men's faces winning the game was truly inspiring, and it made me want to work that much harder to experience that myself."

When Miller is able to sign, it will only be another start on his journey, but one with a platform built on stepping outside of his comfort zones.

"I knew if I take this risk and leave all my friends and stuff like that, it's going to be hard," Miller said. "But in return, I hoped I'd be able to get a great opportunity with academics and sports to get a great future for myself. It was a risky jump, but I'm really glad I did it."

Congratulations to all the exceptional student athletes who have been recognized as "Athlete of the Month" during the 2022/2023 school year.

Your hard work, dedication, and passion for sports have not gone unnoticed. Your achievements and commitment to excellence have set a shining example for your peers and the entire community. Whether on the field, the court, or in the pool, your talent and sportsmanship have been nothing short of inspiring.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the coaches, teachers, parents, and all the supporters who have played a pivotal role in nurturing and encouraging our student athletes. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in helping them reach new heights and pursue their dreams.

As we embark on year 5 of Student Athlete of the Month, I look forward to expanding and enhancing this award even further. Together, we can continue to provide a nurturing environment that fosters growth, teamwork, and personal development for all our student athletes.



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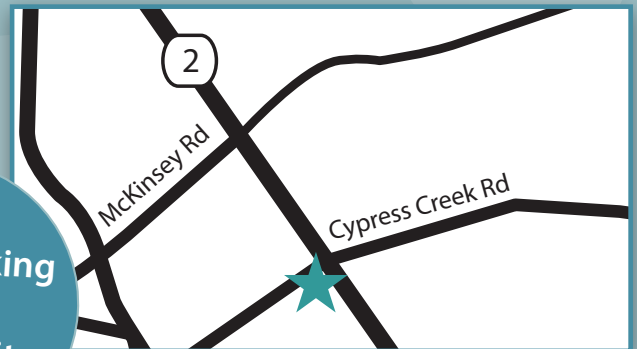
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# Q&A: Missy Meharg

» Continued from page 12

I don't really recall anybody else doing it. I think it was rare. And it was a rare time to be hired at 24. I was fortunate the people at Maryland had the confidence in me to take over the program. There were lofty expectations because Sue had just won Maryland's first national championship in 1987. It was a lot to take over. But I was so honored and fired up to take the job.

### Looking back, did you ever think you would be coaching at the same school for 36 years?

No. I did have more opportunities to look at other schools and be recruited.

Each time it happened, I enjoyed learning about other opportunities for me and my family. But there was always something special about Maryland. Was I ever close to leaving? No.

### What do you consider your biggest accomplishment?

We can look at numbers, but I am so proud of the legacy. We have had six Olympians. Those are life-changing events, and we are able to help those women achieve that goal. I love all the coaches that I've had and the players that I've



Missy Meharg encouraged her team as the University of Maryland Lady Terps defeated Syracuse in the elite eight in 2022.

had that coached here or went onto to coach at other schools. They have been impactful with field hockey clubs all over the country.

### What does it mean to put up all the numbers that you have?

I can say I have never really thought about it. I just feel it is what I do. When I have had meetings with athletic directors throughout the years, if we weren't putting ourselves in a position to win championships — whether it be league or national championships

— I think it is time for me to do other things. I have been honored that everybody has wanted to stay for so long.

### How would you explain why you have stayed so long in coaching?

I recently just turned 60. The feedback that I get from the players is super empowering. It is such a great place for me to coach and teach at Maryland. When I recruit, players ask, "Could you define your coaching philosophy? What is the

culture of the team like?" I say, "It's always changing." That's what I like about Maryland.

### How much longer do you want to coach?

I get asked that a lot. As long as I walk on that field every day and love it and love the interaction with the women. I'm pretty keen and perceptive on whether I am making an impact in their lives. Right now, I am doing that comfortably. I know when that time will be and it's certainly not right now.

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# Freedom HKY Players Forge Friendships During Club Championships

By David Bashore

When asked about Freedom HKY's second-place finish at the U16 field hockey national championships, Broadneck's **Raleigh Kerst** shared plenty of her experiences and thoughts.

She quickly added one last thing: "It was my birthday on the second day of the tournament. There's no better place to spend my birthday, and no better group of people I'd want to spend it with."

Kerst and several other local field hockey players spent the last part of June, into early July, in Virginia Beach, competing at USA Field Hockey's national club championships. Freedom progressed from preliminary pool play in position to reach the knockout phase, where they got to the final.

That normally would be the headline, but while the team took pride in their performance, players took even more pride in their energy, their improvement and their bond.

"We really celebrate the small wins, whether it's causing a turnover or even getting near our attacking goal," said Broadneck's **Katelyn Kearns**. "The bench goes crazy and it's fun to be a part of that. We like to call ourselves gritty and then high energy."

Kerst said, "We can be losing and you wouldn't know what team is winning; we might look like we're winning because we have more fun than the other team. We have a special atmosphere and that really impacts how well we do at tournaments."

Considering how the 2023 team came together, instant camaraderie was by no means a given.

An off-field development led to some on-the-fly integration in the early part of the season, as Freedom HKY absorbed another local club, SPark, which beat Freedom for the region's final U16 national tournament berth in 2022.

Suddenly, club rivals had to figure out how to work together for a common goal, instead of competing to deny each other.

"It was a little weird at first, but I think we bonded over that," said Severna Park's **Kelsey Rowe**, who came over from SPark after the merger.

Rowe said it was a funny thing that set them apart, but they grew closer as the season went on.

"All the players were really connected from the beginning, but it really started to come together in the winter," Rowe said. "We went to nationals for indoor and we won first place in our league. Just winning together inspired us to work together even more. It's a lot of great players to come together as one."

Not only did the two teams come into one, but the added experience



*Freedom HKY players spent the last part of June, into early July, in Virginia Beach, competing at USA Field Hockey's national club championships.*

Freedom went through the regular season and then qualified for nationals by winning the region championship. The team lost just twice at the national tournament, both to WC Eagles, a powerhouse team from Pennsylvania that swept all three age group national championships.

of playing at national tournaments helped bring new perspectives to the existing players, which in turn helped them stay focused at nationals on their run to the final.

"They beat us in the regionals final game first, so it was funny because we knew we would be playing with them in a couple of months," Kerst said, referencing the 2022 loss to SPark. "It was weird that our future teammates knocked us out of going to nationals. We knew a little bit from the past, but they definitely gave us some insight on a lot of the teams that we don't see that much unless we're at nationals."

The second-place finish at nationals, combined with the region championship and a stack of other finishes over the last two years, left Freedom as the eighth-ranked team in the nation at the close of their U16 run. USA Field Hockey uses a two-year sliding-scale points system similar to the FIFA soccer rankings, in which teams are rewarded for sustained success, but recent results carry greater weight.

"Not qualifying for nationals last year really hurt our ranking just because that's one of the main tournaments that decides that, but we took that and used it as motivation," Kerst said.

"Last year, that loss only helped us. We used it all season; that was our main goal was not only to qualify but to win regionals and do really well at the next national tournament."

The string of successes gives these players confidence headed into the high school season, which will see them paired off against their club teammates and paired together with some club opponents.

Both Broadneck and Severna Park high school players will face off against each other, and each program also has players from both Freedom and their main in-state rival club.

"I think it gives us variety," Kearns said. "We learn new skills from each other, and it gives us different perspectives on the game. We can take all this knowledge and put it into one. We all have similar goals. We want to be competitive. Last year, we won states and coming back this year, we have that same goal and we want to try to get a repeat."

Rowe said that it's always a competition with Broadneck.

"It's funny because we're rivals during the high school season, but we're also best friends during the club season," Rowe said.

Freedom HKY is comprised of players from all over the state and some from northern Virginia. Other local players for the U16 team included Severna Park's **Emma Weber** and **Siena Turner**, and Archbishop Spalding's **Madeline Lancione**, **Carys Donahue**, **Sophia Coleman** and **Eliza Jacobson**. Severna Park's **Hannah Pope** played at the regional tournament.



**Above:** Raleigh Kerst, a member of the Broadneck varsity team, battled a defender as she attempted to move the ball downfield. **Below:** Katelyn Kearns passed to Oli Bond for a score against Pride.





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# SP's Boucher Wins National Trophy With Club Team

By David Bashore

The year 2023 has been kind to **Caitlyn Boucher**.

The rising Severna Park senior found a college soccer home and hopes to close the year with a successful final run as a Falcons girls soccer player.

In the middle, she helped her club team win some national hardware.

Boucher and her Maryland United U17 Elite Clubs National Team, or ECNL, overcame stiff opposition and rallied from a goal down in the final to win the ECNL North American Cup in San Diego on June 29.

Maryland United beat Classics Elite (San Antonio, Texas) 2-0 in the first round, Davis Legacy (California) 1-0 in the quarterfinals, Ohio Premier 3-1 in the semifinals, and Oklahoma Energy 3-2 in the championship.

The North American Cup is akin to professional soccer's Europa League. Maryland United qualified for the tournament by finishing fourth in the ECNL's North Mid-Atlantic Conference.

The tournament format was simple, but switching tournament mentalities wasn't easy.

"If you lost your first game, you were out [of the championship], even though everyone was guaranteed three games because that's a long way to fly just to go out," Boucher said. "Most of our ECNL tournaments are strictly showcases for college recruiting. It was more pressure than normal because here you really are there to win. It was fun in a sense because we don't get to compete to win something all the time, so that pressure was fun for us."

Boucher, a center back, helped marshal a defense that conceded only three goals in four games played, though two of them were in the second half of the championship game.

Maryland United equalized on a corner kick in the second half and then went ahead for good by converting a penalty kick with just minutes remaining in the game.

"Every game, just to win the game, we had to leave everything on the field," Boucher said. "All the teams we played were great, especially the final two. The last game, after the penalty, it



*Caitlyn Boucher, a center back, helped marshal a defense that conceded only three goals in four games played.*

wasn't pretty soccer. They were trying to shove it into our box, and we were just trying to clear it, give everything that we had to hold on and win."

It was Maryland United's second straight victory in the U17 age group at the North American Cup.

Boucher said the team drew inspiration from their older counterparts to win it again, and she personally hopes to take this experience into her final high school season before moving on to Campbell University in North Carolina.

"It just makes you want to win more," she said. "We haven't won a state championship since I've been [at Severna Park High]. It makes you want to share everything with the teammates in high school. I want them to have this experience too."

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## Elvaton To Resume Soccer Program In Fall 2023

After a multi-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Elvaton Recreation Association in Millersville is reviving its soccer program for the fall 2023 season.

The program will be led by new commissioner **Anthony Perry**, who has experience in the Green Hornets soccer program. It will be a recreational program only, geared for children ages 4 to 10.

According to Perry, Elvaton Soccer's focus is equal playing and practice time,

with an emphasis on balanced competition, fun being active and learning skills, and creating a family-oriented environment.

The program is starting over from scratch. Perry expressed hope that the Elvaton recreational community will return, as well as some possible overflow from other recreational programs that have filled up. The current plan is to keep everything in-house, but older age groups may be registered within the Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association county league, depending on the number of teams Elvaton can fill.

The cost is \$120 per player, and on-time registration closes August 31.

Those interested in the program or who have further questions may email [soccer@elvatonrec.org](mailto:soccer@elvatonrec.org).



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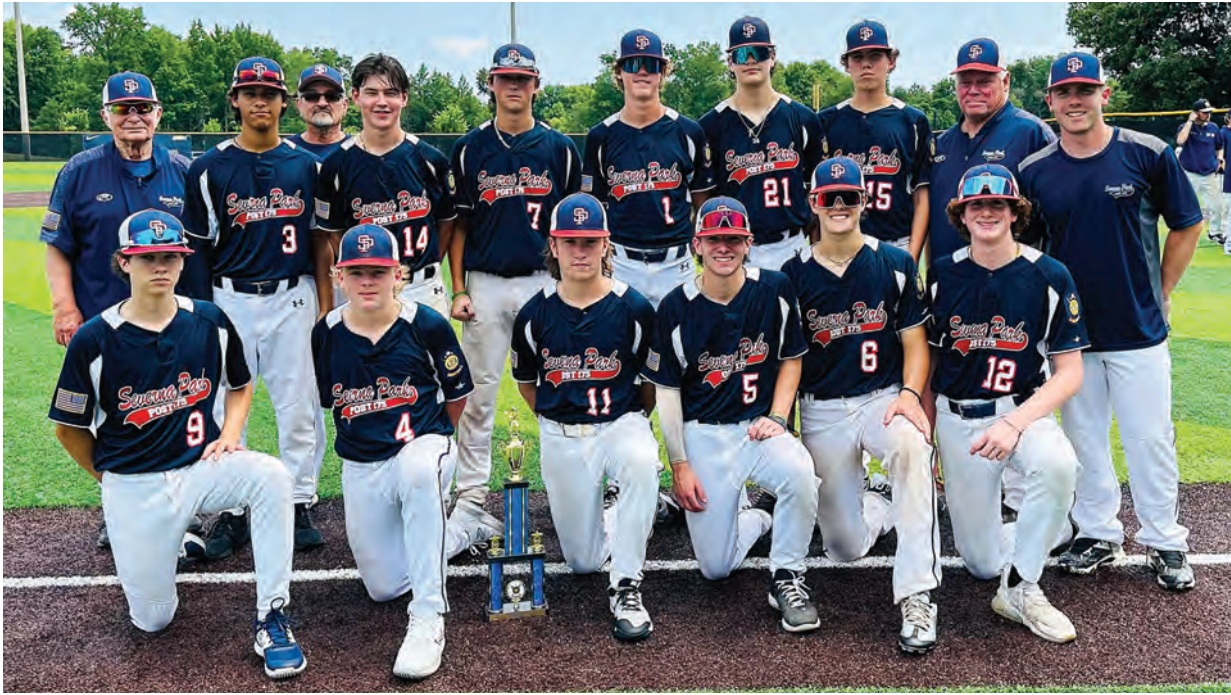
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## American Legion Junior Team Finishes Second In State Tourney



During the American Legion state tournament held at Joe Cannon Stadium, the Spartans gave St. Mary's their only loss of the season before dropping the next two games to the eventual champions.

The American Legion Post 175 junior legion baseball team finished in second place of the 2023 American Legion state tournament.

Winners of the Anne Arundel County League, the Spartans went up against a previously undefeated St. Mary's County American Legion Post 255 team in a best-of-three contest at Joe Cannon Stadium in Hanover from July 21–23. The Spartans gave St. Mary's their only loss of the season on July 21 in a comeback game that ended 9-6 in favor of Post 175. St. Mary's roared back with a decisive 10-0 win on July 22 and won again on July 23 by the score of 6-2.

The American Legion Post 175 team was led by head coach **Dave Ferris** and assistant coaches **Joe Zimmerman, Brendan Clark** and **Nick Scalse**. Team members included **Benji Beisler, Eric Benner, Evan Boucher, Jacob Burns, Adam Clark, Logan Clarke, Reese Davis, Ethan Dillon, Dylan Grice, Mason Gruver, Ryder Halloran, Ryan Jamison, Miller Ricker, Luca Sillitti, Brady Talbot, Teddy Uy, Kyle Witte** and **Matthew Zimmerman**.

On July 30, Witte, Clarke and Uy represented Post 175 in the American Legion All-Star game in the 15/16-year-old division, and Clark and Jamison represented Post 175 in the 16/17-year-old division. Games were held at Joe Cannon Stadium.

## Diamondbacks Claim 8U Rec League Baseball Title

The Diamondbacks, with co-head coaches **Roy Johnson** and **Sean Burke**, defeated the top-seeded Tigers, coached by **Mike Giles**, by a score of 20-13 this summer to win the Green Hornets 8U rec league baseball championship. Throughout the season, the Tigers lost only one game.

In the championship, the Diamondbacks scored six runs in the sixth inning to cement the victory. The rally was fueled by key hits from **Connor Groft, Jack Burke** and **Drew Farr**. Defensively, catcher **Andrew Monroe** caught a foul ball out, **Ben Johnson** made a key stop, and **Ben Cregger** and **Cameron Kraft** combined for an acrobatic final out.

The Diamondbacks included (bottom row, kneeling left to right) **Jackson Greenwood**, Cameron Kraft, Andrew Monroe, **James Varnum, Ben Varnum** and (second row, standing left to right) Drew Farr, Jack Burke, **Caleb Wolf**, Connor Groft, Ben Johnson, **Charlie Krick**, Ben Cregger and (top row, standing) **Chuck Krick**, co-head coaches Sean Burke and Roy Johnson, Mike Groft and **Cory Cregger**.



In the championship, the Diamondbacks scored six runs in the sixth inning to cement the victory. The team raised their trophies in excitement after the game.

## Elvaton Splitters End Season With Second-Place Finish



A 12U spring rec baseball team, the Elvaton Splitters defeated the EYO (Elkridge) 12U All-Stars Orange 10-2 in the semifinals before losing 13-5 to HCYP (Howard County) Blue 12U in the championship.

A group of local 12U spring rec baseball players from Severna Park and Millersville came together this summer and reorganized as the Elvaton Splitters to participate in some rec All-Star tournaments. They most recently competed in the War at the Shore tournament from July 7-9, finishing second by going 3-1 overall.

The Splitters went undefeated in pool play, defeating the GORC (Odenton) 12U tournament team 9-4 and Pasadena Eagles 12-9, which earned them a second overall seed in the gold elimination bracket. They then defeated the EYO (Elkridge) 12U All-Stars Orange 10-2 in the semifinals before losing 13-5 to HCYP (Howard County) Blue 12U in the championship.

Elvaton's roster includes **Liam Brown, Ryan Dougherty, Connor Winters, Jack Chojnowski, Shane Tomassi, Charlie Matthews, Arjun Carey, Julian Skinner, Tyler Wolf, Miles Richardson, Landon Hand, Josh Ottoson, Edvards Butkevics** and **Shane Lamb**. They are coached by **Matt Dougherty, Joe Lamb, Rich Ottoson, Ray Richardson** and **Phil Wolf**.

# After 24 Seasons, Dave Ferris To Step Down

By Judy Tacyn

When the 2024 Severna Park baseball season rolls around next March, the team will have a new look, and it won't be because of their uniforms. After several seasons of silently considering retirement, **Dave Ferris**, longtime junior varsity head coach, has decided to call it a career at Severna Park High School.

What a career it's been — 333 wins and 74 losses for a regular season winning percentage of 82 percent. One undefeated season. Three seasons with only one loss.

Since Anne Arundel County established state championships for junior varsity teams in all sports, Ferris' teams were in all three finals, winning one in 2023.

"After we won the county championship this spring, I felt now was a good time to go out on top," he said.

Ferris, who also coached many of those same players in the summer American Legion league, decided to wait until the American Legion state championship was over July 29 to make his decision public. His team would be the first to hear his decision.

"I knew when I wanted to do it. I wanted the kids to stay focused, so I waited until the end," Ferris said. "The kids won the Anne Arundel County American Legion league, and they finished runner-up in the state tournament. Now was the time to have that conversation."

Sitting outside Joe Cannon Stadium in Hanover on a blisteringly hot day, after a tiring loss, Ferris announced his retirement, leaving his players and their parents stunned.

High school baseball coaches in the county were also surprised, including Northeast High School junior varsity head baseball coach **Tom Caines**, who said few coaches are as focused and prepared as Ferris.

"Severna Park is always going to be good, but I admired the way Dave could be so competitive while also carrying a large squad," Caines said. "Up and down the bench, Dave's kids were prepared, but I also had to figure out a way to beat Dave."

Caines called Ferris a smart, competitive, and strategic coach like no other. He recalled one game where Northeast was down two runs in the seventh inning but had runners on first and second with two outs. Northeast just needed a good hit and then to hold the Falcons in the bottom of the seventh.

"I had a strong hitter coming to the plate. I knew a deep hit to center field would require Dave's team to do three things perfectly ... field the ball, then execute a two-throw relay to the plate. If one of those things wasn't perfect, we'd tie or go ahead," recalled Caines, who



Photo by Judy Tacyn

*Dave Ferris racked up 333 wins and only 74 losses in his career as JV baseball coach at Severna Park High.*

called timeout to talk to his batter.

During those few moments, Caines believes Ferris knew exactly what he was thinking and called out to his Falcon fielders to make position adjustments.

The Northeast batter hit a deep shot over the Falcons centerfielder, who fielded the ball perfectly and launched a missile to the shortstop cutoff man, who turned and fired the ball to home plate. A picture-perfect tag at the plate on the lead runner sealed Northeast's fate and a Severna Park win.

"That's how he coached. Every play was about strategy," Caines said. "Dave didn't just think about that play. He was already thinking about the next play and the play after that."

Ferris' high school coaching career began at the start of the 1999 school year when Severna Park High School varsity baseball coach and Greater Severna Park Athletic Association executive director at the time, **Jim McCandless**, approached Ferris about coaching the high school's junior varsity baseball team. At the time, Ferris was coaching an eighth-grade travel team through Green Hornets. He accepted McCandless' offer and juggled coaching two teams that spring. The following school year, the core of his Green Hornets team entered high school.

Ferris' son Andrew played only a handful of JV games before being called up to varsity. During his sophomore year, the younger Ferris, along with coach Ferris' core team that he'd coached from a young age — including **Chris Crum**, **Evan Richter**, **Harrison Taylor** and **David Sells** — were all part of Severna Park's first baseball state championship in 2003. They are still the only five baseball players to have won two state championships.

"That was a very special year knowing that those kids, including my own son, were able to step up to varsity and all make contribu-

tions in that first [state] championship for Severna Park," Ferris said. "And then for them to all win it again two years later as seniors was a very proud moment for me personally."

In Ferris' 24 years in the dugout, Severna Park's varsity team reached the state championship final game eight times, winning three titles.

"Knowing that I might have had a part of varsity's success is very, very rewarding," Ferris added.

Long before Severna Park topped the state in baseball, Ferris was himself a standout player at Northeast High School, earning All-County honors twice and All-Metro honors in his senior year when Northeast would win its own state championship.

In that game, down five runs in the seventh inning, the speedy center fielder came up big when his team needed him the most. Ferris hit a double and a triple, scored twice and had four RBIs in that last half inning to lift Northeast to the state title.

"That was pretty special," Ferris recalled, speaking of that big win for Northeast but also of sharing a state championship experience with his son. Ferris went on to play at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) where he hit .300 or better three out of four years and earned All-American status.

But it was his time at Northeast and being coached by an icon, **Harry Lentz**, when Ferris saw the kind of coach he wanted to be.

"Some coaches are tremendous coaches, know the game inside and out, but cannot relate to kids," Ferris said. "Others can relate to kids but don't know the game well. Harry had the great ability to not only know the game but also relate to kids, so when you think about that, who do you want your kid to play for?"

Green Hornets travel coach **Tim Bowerman** wrote to Ferris to say he was sorry his son, a rising freshman, would not get a chance to play for him.

"Coach Ferris has been great with the boys," Bowerman said. "He started working with my team when we were 11U, coming out to our practices and sharing his baseball knowledge with the boys and coaches. Coach Ferris would always check in with me about how the team and individual boys were performing. He was great for the development of the boys and instrumental in getting them ready for high school tryouts. I personally enjoyed all our baseball conversations and all I was able to take away from them."

**Ralph Suppa** has the unique perspective of being both a player of Ferris' in high school and coaching with him with the American Legion.

"I will always hold coach Ferris in the highest esteem," Suppa said. "He was not only a coach but a mentor. His knowledge and experience are what has led to his success season after season at JV and junior legion. He's led his teams to be higher-caliber baseball players, and better men. I'm truly grateful for his help and leadership."

**Brendan Clark** played for Ferris and was an assistant coach for the last two summer seasons with the American Legion.

"My baseball career as a coach and player would not be the same without coach Ferris," Clark said. "He is a great coach, mentor and friend. Severna Park was incredibly lucky to have him over the last 24 years."

Clark was one of three brothers to play for Ferris at Severna Park High School.

"Dave has been a critical piece of Severna Park's baseball success. His commitment and dedication to the program will be hard to replace," said **Ed Clark**. "I am honored to say my kids play for him. Coach Ferris is Severna Park baseball, and he will be missed."

After being involved in baseball for more than 60 years, don't expect Ferris to step away from the game entirely. First coached by his father, then coaching his son, Ferris is looking forward to watching his grandson be coached by his son Andrew, and perhaps, one day, win his own state championship.

"I've been an umpire more than 40 years and a coach for more than 30 years," Ferris added. "I still like coaching, still like working with kids, so I cannot see myself giving up coaching altogether. It's just a matter of how much and at what level."

For the last nine summers, Ferris has teamed up with **Joe Zimmerman**, retired Archbishop Spalding JV baseball coach, to coach after the high school season ends. That team is now part of the American Legion league representing Severna Park and Post 175.

Ferris was also instrumental in bringing the 15U Sandlot league under the American Legion umbrella. Whether it's coaching in the summer or getting even more involved with the younger players in Green Hornets, coach Ferris will continue to have a strong presence in Severna Park baseball.

Twenty-four high school seasons, with roughly 24 players per season, equals nearly 600 kids and their families with whom Ferris has run the bases.

"Having great lasting relationships with kids and families is something that makes me very proud," Ferris said. "I run into kids, now adults, or their families and they always remember plays or incidents with me, and that's special. I hope that means I've made a positive impact."

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# Chartridge Tidal Waves Topple Glen Burnie Cruisers

By Mark Patton  
mark@severnaparkvoice.com

Photos by  
Mark Patton

The Chartridge Tidal Waves were victorious in the team's final dual meet of the summer swim season on July 22.

The Tidal Waves topped the visiting Cruisers from the Country Club Estates of Glen Burnie, 261-43.

Chartridge swimmers competed in the Central Maryland Swim League this summer. Qualifying swimmers wrapped up the season on July 29 at the league's Division IX divisional championships in Glen Burnie.



Left: The Chartridge Tidal Waves celebrated after the team's final home meet of the season. Above: Isabella Thanner led the pack during the girls 11-12 50-meter breaststroke event. Below: "Eat my bubbles" was a popular way to display team spirit this season for the Tidal Waves. Inset: Samantha Rodgers approached the wall during the butterfly portion of the girls 9-10 100-meter individual medley.



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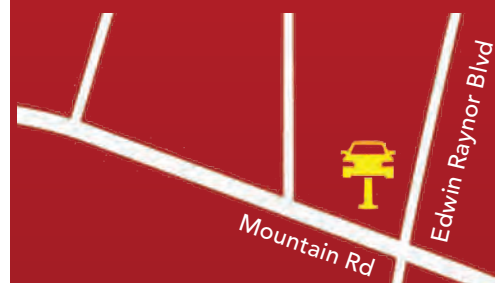
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# Nearly 50 Years In, Severn River Rugby Bigger Than Ever

By David Bashore

As Severn River Rugby Club nears its sixth decade as a fixture in the community, things could hardly look brighter.

Fresh off of back-to-back national final appearances and an increase in player base and club interest, Severn River is about to embark on its most ambitious season to date.

The club started in 1976 when Henry and Mike Posko, who played for a club near the District of Columbia, wanted to create a club that supported and developed within Anne Arundel County. Thirty years later, Severn River Women was born. Now the united Severn River Rugby boasts two men's teams and two women's teams, as well as an "Old Salts" team for the more "seasoned" players and members of the club's alumni association. Their board is combined, and the club also works in the community developing U-19 men's and women's teams.

"Not a lot of clubs have connected men's and women's sides like we do," said women's player **Lenni Ferreira**, the club's social media coordinator. "We have a joint board, and we work our events together. It's pretty rare and really cool."

The club plays within two of the three universal rugby codes: rugby union, which has 15 players on the field per side, and rugby sevens. Union boasts a mix of power, speed and battle tactics, with games equally capable of ending 35-30 or 3-0 over 80 minutes. Sevens, on the other hand, is faster paced, relying on moving the ball quickly and getting it to speedy players in plenty of space. The 14-minute game routinely sees both teams score in the teens and 20s, or even higher.

Severn River plays union during the fall and spring seasons and sevens in the summer, largely to stay sharp and keep camaraderie up.

"We are a very tight-knit club, and we have a great culture," said Severn River men's president **Joe Milluzzo**. "We enjoy being around each other. We don't go three months without seeing each other, without touching a ball."

All competitive teams participate in National Competitive Rugby's Mid-Atlantic



All competitive teams participate in National Competitive Rugby's Mid-Atlantic Conference. The men's side has teams entered in Division 3 and Division 4. Above: The women have finished second nationally in Division 2 the last two seasons. They plan to add a Division 3 team for the 2023-2024 season.



Conference. The men's side has teams entered in Division 3 and Division 4, and the women have finished second nationally in Division 2 the last two seasons. They plan to add a Division 3 team for the 2023-2024 season.

Teams that win their conferences advance to National Competitive Rugby's final four, where they face off against another conference champion in the semifinals for the right to compete for a national division championship.

The Severn River women have been

strong in their own conference the last two seasons and are looking to build on their national experience to finally get over the hump and win a division title.

"For a lot of people, [the last two years] was our first experience playing in the final four," said **Bri Leonard**, the women's club president. "If you played in college, you didn't usually make it that far; in college [at Kansas State], I only made it to the round of eight. It's different to play rugby and travel with your team than playing locally. You're in the same hotel and with

that team together, and that helps us come together."

While it helps to have athletic experience, the club welcomes people of any experience and skill level to try the sport.

"We're very used to and welcoming of folks who have never touched a rugby ball," Ferreira said.

Practice for the new season begins August 22. For more information on Severn River Rugby, visit [www.severnriverrugby.org](http://www.severnriverrugby.org).

**Read the full story online.**

## New Falcons Football Coach Hopes To Build On Recent Success

By Tom Worgo

For years, **Nick Marks** served as an assistant high school football coach.

Most of that time, he had his eye on eventually becoming a head coach.

"I have been working toward being a head coach," Marks said. "It's something I always envisioned."

Marks waited longer than most coaches — 17 years — to take that next step.

When the 42-year-old Marks finally made the move in the offseason, it turned out to be worth the wait. You could call it the closest thing to perfect fit.

Marks knows Severna Park well. He has worked at Severna Park for seven years as an assistant coach, and he spent another 10 years at Chesapeake High in Pasadena and one year at North County High in Glen Burnie.

"I am a member and resident of the



Severna Park community and I love this community," Marks said. "I have been teaching at Severna Park since 2015. I teach special education and I am chairman for that department."

Marks replaces **Mike Wright**, who held the Falcons' head coaching po-

Photo courtesy of Fincham Photography

**Nick Marks has worked at Severna Park for seven years as an assistant coach, and he spent another 10 years at Chesapeake High and one year at North County High.**

sition from 2019 to 2022. In his short time on the job, Wright turned Severna Park into a respectable program, going from 3-6 in 2019 to a 15-6 over the next three seasons.

The Falcons advanced to the playoffs for three straight years and hosted post-season contests the past two seasons.

"I thought that once coach Wright stepped down, it was my time to step up and do it," Marks explained. "I want to continue what Mike Wright was building and I want to make sure we stay headed in the right direction — that we continue to get better every year."

Marks knows defense. For 16 years, he coached linebackers, the defensive line and also served as defensive coordinator. Severna Park will run the same 3-3-5 defense as in past years and continue to employ 3-4 and 4-3 fronts.

"He is a real asset to the program," Wright said. "The defense has been solid for the past three or four years and I expect that to continue."

Marks likes the returning nucleus of players, and says they bring excellent leadership to the Falcons. The veterans include junior quarterback **Vince Nguyen**, senior offensive linemen **Evan Lawhorn** and **Price Conner**, and junior wide receiver **Jack Fish**.

Senior middle linebacker **AJ Iglesia** and senior safety **Kevin Bowles** highlight the defense.

"He has a good rapport with the players," Wright said of Marks. "And he is a teacher first and foremost."

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# Powerlifter Sets Record At Age 80

By Zach Sparks

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

For Chuck Mulligan, one activity is always sure to raise his spirits: powerlifting.

The Annapolis resident and member of the Y in Arnold competed in the United States Powerlifting Association nationals in Las Vegas during July. Mulligan said an estimated 900 powerlifters competed in the four-day event although he was unopposed in his weight class.

At 80 years old, Mulligan bench-pressed 286 pounds.

That weight is more than a giant panda, more than a dirt bike.

Even more impressive, Mulligan has overcome leg sarcoma and prostate cancer in the last few years to reach those heights.

"I said to the doctor, 'Please don't tell me you have to use chemotherapy,'" Mulligan recalled. "I weakened some with the radiation, but I was able to keep lifting."

Powerlifting athletes compete in squat, bench press or deadlift events, with three attempts to reach their maximum weight in one rep. A former sheriff from Newton County, Indiana, Mulligan competes only in bench press events. Although he had no direct competition in Las Vegas for his 100-kilogram class — a range from 198 to 220 pounds — he wanted to set a world record for his age group. He weighed in at 207 pounds.

That success resulted from a strict routine.

About four days a week, he lifts as much as possible, often to failure. He follows a pyramid method, increasing the weight to a nearly un-



*After overcoming multiple forms of cancer, Chuck Mulligan continues to bench press at the Y in Arnold.*

bearable amount and then decreasing weight.

"A lot of people do the same sets, same reps," he said. "You reach a point where you don't get stronger. I try to tear down as much muscle as I can and rebuild with protein and rest."

Mulligan tries to consume a recommended 200 grams of protein per day, mostly from chicken.

All that effort means nothing if his technique is off the mark.

"You've got to practice technique — feet flat and you can't lift your butt off the bench," he said. "There's a lot of things."

Mulligan has refined that technique over sever-

al years since discovering his joy for powerlifting at age 13.

"High school guys would come to our house to watch sports," he said. "[At the time], I'm in eighth grade and these guys bring weight to my house. It was my forte."

Now, he enjoys the comradery of about 10 to 15 guys of all ages at the Y in Arnold.

As far as Mulligan knows, no powerlifter has been able to bench press more than 300 pounds at age 80 during a sanctioned event for competitors nationwide.

Phil Poppino benched 320 pounds at 80 years old in 2016. That feat came during a NASA Powerlifting competition in Iowa.

At age 81, Virginia resident John Moore bench-pressed 281 pounds at the 2019 NAPF North American regional bench press championships in Panama. That accomplishment was in a different event, with equipment. Mulligan eclipsed that mark by five pounds and in the raw event, without using added equipment.

Neither Moore nor Poppino could be reached for this story.

Now that he has reached his goal of bench-pressing 286 pounds, Mulligan is at a crossroads. The United States Powerlifting Association is one of a handful of such federations. Another one, the International Powerlifting Federation, is hosting a worlds competition in England this October.

Mulligan can compete in England, or he can savor his accomplishments while spending more time with his wife, four daughters and 10 grandchildren.

As he also noted, he is one shoulder injury away from ending his powerlifting career.

"This is my identity," Mulligan said. "Family first, but if I'm not with family, I'm at the gym."

# Anne Arundel Fighters To Compete For Team USA In Taekwondo

By Zach Sparks

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

The taekwondo skills of **Sebastian Debsia** and **Luke Hynson** have taken them all over the country for competitions. Now, those skills will take them to Finland.

Team USA is gearing up for the International Taekwon-Do Federation world championship, set for September 4-10.

Both Debsia and Hynson will compete for Team USA in sparring and patterns. Debsia will also participate in board-breaking event, and Hynson will enter the specialty kicks competition.

"It's such an honor to represent our country," said **Carlos Patalinghug Jr.**, an instructor at Kick Connection in Millersville, where Debsia and Hynson train. "The East Coast and the Midwest are all coming together for this world tournament."

A three-time national champion, Debsia began practicing martial arts 14 years ago when he was 6 years old.

"I was always a crazy kid, jumping off the wall, and wanted to be a superhero," he said, naming Spider-Man as his favorite character.

A two-time national champion, Hynson started five years ago, when he was 8.

"I like the flying 360 kick and the hook kick," he said.

Both fighters have grown considerably, according to Patalinghug.

"When he was 8 or 9 years old, Sebastian wanted to quit because he was afraid of sparring," Patalinghug said. "A lot of students fear sparring, and his disposition is very kind and not very aggressive. But he's become our No. 1 fighter in our school. It shows a lot that he did not give up and he trusts his parents and trusts his coaches."

As Patalinghug explained, taekwondo is about more than punching and kicking.



*(L-R) Kevin Hynson, Luke Hynson, Sebastian Debsia and Carlos Patalinghug Jr. are excited for the two younger fighters to represent Team USA during the International Taekwon-Do Federation world championship.*

"The parents and students, everyone feels comfortable, and with that comes comradery and fellowship," Patalinghug said. "We want to create memories of good times and traveling the world. If you have good character and good morals, people will remember you."

Kick Connection gave a special thanks to **Jake Bowersox** from Warrior Martial Arts and **Noel Smith** from Noel Smith Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, both in Glen Burnie, for setting up sparring sessions with their fighters and the Kick Connection athletes to prepare them for Finland.

The fighters have sponsorship support from 2

Bold Chefs, Fulton Bank and Delegate Nic Kipke, and they welcome other corporate sponsors. They set up a GoFundMe page for anyone who wants to help.

Hynson's father, Kevin, also provides instruction at Kick Connection and sees the benefits taekwondo has for all ages.

"To have fun competing and with master Carlos, honing in on the mental aspect and the moral aspect of it," he said. "We take an oath that says we are going to build a better world. We are building connections in England, in Finland, all over. We are all coming together for a common cause."

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## A Trip Across The Pond Helps Lacrosse Players Bond

» Continued from page 12

coaches, former players, or family members. Selection criteria includes lacrosse skills and off-field attitude and maturity, and players must commit not only to going abroad but also to hosting a Metros player when it is their turn to come to the United States.

"I learned the importance of lacrosse in England and how we can learn from their game, as well as how they could learn from ours," said Severna Park's **Kendall Day**. "There is definitely some difference in our playing styles, but that is what makes it fun. We were very thankful for all the venues that we were hosted by for each game, as well as the reception following. Overall, I had such a great experience in England, and I can't wait to host my girl next year."

Their motto is "Friendship through Lacrosse," which is embodied by the nature of utilizing host families, playing in friendship games, and knitting the greater lacrosse community together as a whole.

"My favorite moment would have to just be the simple moment of watching TV with my host family as we ate dinner in the living room," said Severna Park's **Payton Gerwig**. "It just made it feel like I really belonged in the family."

Players from both sides got to

showcase their lacrosse skills, but there were more important things at play like camaraderie, building bridges and relationships, and sharing kindred spirits through a sport loved by girls in Maryland and Greater Manchester.

"This experience was probably the best thing I have ever chose to be a part of," said Arnold's **Kaylen Burnam**, who traveled despite being injured and unable to play, and was given the sportswomanship award as voted by the English players. "I've been a part of this program for two years and have got to meet so many people who are now my closest friends. I remember the day when I got that letter in the mail saying, 'You've been accepted.' All I could think about is the people I'd meet and the places I'd go."

"The first practice of my first year, all I could think about is how excited I was to go to England even though it was a year away. Now it finally happened and I'm so happy to be a part of Crosse Over. Even though I was injured for this year's tour, they still made me feel like I was a huge part of this team. I'm so happy I got to be close with my host girl and family, and the girl I hosted. This program really does show that friendship through lacrosse is a thing."

### Team Roster

#### Attack

Kendall Day  
Catherine Futch  
Kendall Kemezis  
Alexa LaChapelle  
Ashlee Overlee  
Kelsey Pozdol

#### Midfield

Abigail Bunker  
Stephanie Bunker  
Olivia Murphy  
Reese Pasko  
Isabella Scarfo  
Marissa Scott

Mollie Schiavone  
Alexandra Vosburg

#### Defense

Sol Cingolani  
Aidyn DeMarinis  
Anya Diggs  
Charlotte Goodwin  
Caroline Schilling  
Catherine King

#### Goal

Morgan Anderson  
Payton Gerwig

#### Injured

Kaylen Burnam (D)  
Maeve Byrne (D)

### Tour Directors & Head Coaches

Jeff Bunker  
Kelly Scott

### Assistant Coaches

Kevin Rose  
Megan Bunker

### "Huggy Moms"

Stephanie Anderson  
Jenn Beall

### Stateside Liaison & Coach

Donald Owen Harrison  
Karen Harrison  
(huggy mom emeritus)

## Coaches Help USA Men's Lax

» Continued from page 12

als and not just lacrosse players.

"It's a great honor to be selected to represent your country and we wanted to select players who were more than an outstanding lacrosse player," Toomey said. "The players that were selected were awesome people as well."

The coaches had the difficult task to mold these 23 lacrosse players into a team and compete for the world championship.

"These players battled each other on the collegiate lacrosse fields and were great competitors," Amplo said.

Thirty teams from all over the world competed in the tournament. Teams were divided into pools. The United States was in the A pool with Canada, Haudenosaunee, England and Australia. The U.S. squad was victorious in all the preliminary games and beat Canada 10-7 in the championship game, held in San Diego.

"It was a great experience to get to know these talented players," Toomey said. "I remember getting emotion-

al [while] standing for the national anthem before the championship game and looking at the players' faces and the pride they had in representing their country."

Part of that patriotism came from when the team went to tour the U.S. Navy SEALs training facility in Coronado, California. The team was able to speak with the training class, and many of those in the class mentioned that the most important aspect of becoming a team is to trust the person next to them in crucial moments.

"That was such a great day," Amplo said, noting that the class members in attendance were the loudest fans in the stadium. "The players came away with so much national pride and respect for what they do for the country."

Toomey, who was head coach for Severn School from 1996 to 1998, echoed those thoughts and emphasized "how lucky we are to have warriors like the SEALs protecting our country so we can do what we love to do."

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## Eric Lin Becomes 50th Student Member Of The Board



Photo by Sarah Sternhagen

*Eric Lin was sworn in as Anne Arundel County Public Schools student member of the board during a ceremony at the end of June.*

### By Sarah Sternhagen

**A**nne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) swore in its 50th student member of the board (SMOB), Eric Lin from Severna Park High School, this summer.

He campaigned for the position — the only one in the nation where the SMOB has full voting rights on a local school board — with five key policies in mind: no homework or assigned work on select SAT/ACT testing days, improving and diversifying school meals, reforming late attendance policies concerning student-athletes, revamping the world classical language curriculum so students can use their skills in the real world, and removing some dress code restrictions.

“Any SMOB is really there because they want to make sure the students’ voice is represented on the board,” Lin said.

Lin has been an AACPS student his entire school career and moved around in the school system enough to see a difference in resources between schools. This, along with his involvement in Student Government Association, Maryland Association of Student Councils and interactions with other SMOBs, culminated in his motivation to run.

“Just hearing all of the things that [other SMOB’s] counties are doing to improve the quality of education for their students really inspired me,” Lin said. “I wanted to bring some of these changes to AACPS, and I knew that one of the only ways that I was going to be able to do that was by running for the seat on the board and getting my voice heard.”

Lin is already assuming duties in his position, having spoken at the July 12 board meeting about adopting a policy that would ban certain flags from being

displayed on public school property in Anne Arundel County. He voted no for the decision after gaining feedback from students. The final decision came after four board members voted no, three board members voted yes and one abstained.

Next, the board will debate the proposed policy on special education programs for students with disabilities on August 23. As of early August, Lin planned to vote yes on the policy. Students can reach out to him at [elin@aacps.org](mailto:elin@aacps.org) with questions, perspectives and input.

“I’m always open to hearing perspectives and thoughts and what concerns that might be going on at schools,” Lin said. “I’m here to help, and I’m here to listen, and students can always feel free to reach out to me.”

Lin has tried to reach students through familiar avenues to stay connected. He’s active on his SMOB Instagram account, making video updates about board decisions and upcoming events. He also plans to create a SMOB newsletter to make short, monthly updates on board decisions for students to view.

“It’s just another way for me to reach out to students and another way for students to reach out to me,” Lin said.

Lin emphasized that he’s dedicated to being what the SMOB was intended as — a voice for the people the education system serves.

“We make some of the biggest decisions and sometimes the toughest decisions that relate and impact students directly when it comes to their education,” Lin said. “I feel like every time I talk to a student, it’s an opportunity for me to learn.”

## Former SPHS Tech And Engineering Chair Retiring

### By Mark Patton

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

**B**rad Hill sat in the backyard of his Cape St. Claire home, rocking in a homemade swing crafted from an old canoe.

“The tree growing out there, that’s a linden tree, and that’s native and the bees love it,” said Hill, pointing to a section near another bench made of skis that Hill crafted.

While Hill recently retired after 42 years as an educator, the outdoor lover, husband, father, sailor, mountain biker, paddleboarder and skier of double black diamond runs won’t have a hard time filling up his new-found time.

“I’m still effective, I still love what I do, I’m still an effective leader, but it’s time for somebody to bring in new ideas,” Hill said. “Also, selfishly, I’ve got my health, and it’s time to do things while I still have my health.”

Hill most recently served as the department chair of the Severna Park High School (SPHS) technology and engineering program — a vision he started in 2005 with one teacher. Under Hill’s guidance, it has grown to a department with seven teachers that enrolls more than 450 students annually.

“I’ll compare that department with any department in the country in tech and engineering,” Hill said.

Many graduates of the technology and engineering program at SPHS have gone on to impressive careers, including a pair of F-35 fighter jet pilots, coders for electric vehicle manufacturer Rivian, designers for Mars habitat, engineers who enhance prosthetics and one who works to prevent military suicides.

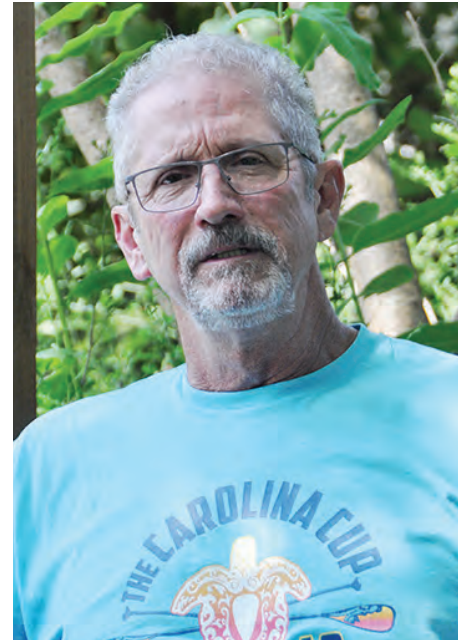
“We have to think about education different than we’ve ever done before,” said Hill, noting that China is set to double the U.S. fleet of engineers by 2025. “We are training our kids today for jobs that don’t exist.”

Past students in Hill’s classes may remember that his No. 1 rule was to laugh every day.

“These kids need more than just academics,” Hill said. “They need to understand that life is great, but sometimes it’s awful, sometimes it’s bitter, sometimes it’s brutal, and you have to come out of it stronger. We, as teachers, aren’t just there to teach our subjects, and if we’re not in there, and we’re not the most enthusiastic person in the room, I’m not sure if we belong there.”

Former SPHS engineering students may also recall the words on the sign hanging up in the hallway near Hill’s former classroom: Where theory ends and real life begins.

“We can teach kids all the theory we want, but if we don’t apply it, and we don’t know how to apply it, it doesn’t do any good,” said Hill,



*Brad Hill retired from the teaching profession after 42 years in the educational realm. Hill most recently was the department chair of Severna Park High School’s technology and engineering program.*

noting that tech and engineering courses incorporate most subjects that kids are learning in other classrooms.

Hill was also responsible for bringing Project Lead The Way (PLTW) to SPHS. PLTW is a four-year pre-engineering honors program that focuses on courses such as Introduction to Engineering Design, Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering and Principles of Engineering.

“Brad was endless in his pursuits as a lifelong learner,” said Steve Cahoon, PLTW coordinator and tech and engineering teacher at SPHS. “That is a mindset that our department really tries to encourage and foster in our students, and Brad was the epitome.”

It’s the constant curiosity that has enabled Hill to grow the tech and engineering program at SPHS. Hill credits his fellow educators for the department’s sustained success.

“When you’re with a group like that, they just make you better,” Hill said. “You don’t have the opportunity to sit back and not be good.”

Things were once different than the thriving program that’s still on display at SPHS. When Hill arrived at SPHS in 1997, the school had just a pair of working computers for the department, plexiglass windows in the classrooms were often falling out and Hill was tasked with teaching seven subjects a day. He was also trying to build the communication and architecture programs as well enabling more engineering principles courses.

“There were times that I had to question myself as to why I was

» Continued on page 35



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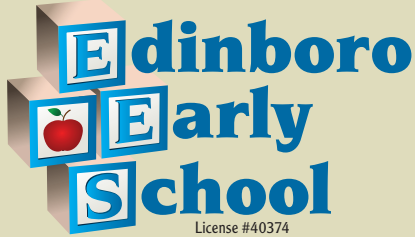
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# Educator Of The Month

## Karen Montoya Archbishop Spalding High School



By Lauren Burke Meyer

For 32 years in the Catholic school system, Karen Montoya has been busy building self-esteem in her students and a passion for science. The chemistry teacher at Archbishop Spalding High School was recognized for her efforts in May, when she received Archdiocesan High School Teacher of the Year honors.

Presented by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the award is the result of a long and thorough process.

"You have to win your school's Teacher of the Year, which is based on student surveys," Montoya said.

Next, school principals send recommendation letters to the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

In his letter, Archbishop Spalding High School Principal John McCaul wrote, "This teacher, in every moment, communicates to all of our students, with her words and actions, that she is so glad God created them and that they exist in this world."

McCaul also recalled a school-wide mass during National Catholic Schools Week — an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States — when 1,300 students rose to their feet to cheer for Montoya.

"She is, without a doubt, our teacher of the year," McCaul wrote.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore's Teacher of the Year Committee has a panel of educators that narrowed the selection from 40 archdiocesan elementary and secondary Teacher of the Year nominees. A panel member watched Montoya teach a class and interviewed her. The panel then narrowed down the list again, and Montoya had an interview.

"The archdiocese has many high school teachers, so to be chosen was a huge honor," Montoya added.

The Arnold resident received a

Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Maryland and worked as a chemist for six years at both government and private laboratories.

"I loved working as a chemist but always knew I was going to be a teacher at some point in my life," Montoya said.

While she considers herself a chemistry teacher, she has also taught biology and physical science. Most of her students are sophomores taking honors chemistry.

"All students should be exposed to the wonders of chemistry and how chemistry is found in their everyday lives," Montoya said.

The longtime Catholic school teacher was drawn to chemistry because it was challenging, and she likes to tackle difficult problems.

"Since I started my career as a science teacher, I was, and am, determined for each of my students to leave my course with a set of skills that will support them in college, the workforce and in daily life," Montoya said.

Her favorite lessons revolve around hands-on activities to learn or practice abstract concepts.

"I have always wanted to know how things work or why something happens in specific situations and science has the answers," Montoya said.

She prides herself on students having only a few D final grades over her 32 years in a challenging course such as chemistry. Struggling students are convinced to attend extra tutoring sessions, where they not only increase their knowledge of chemistry and raise their grades but also learn that persistence and hard work result in success.

"Many of my past students who were struggling have gone on to be scientists and chemistry teachers," Montoya said. "So, I do not have just one student I have had an impact on; I have many who will carry on the legacy of love and excitement of science into the future."

In addition to instilling a love of science and confidence in her students, Montoya also brings faith into her curriculum.

"Catholic schools allow me to not only help my students grow academically but to also grow to become adults that are faith-filled and service-oriented citizens," she said.

Montoya begins each class with prayer. When students complete their class unit on matter, they have a Post-it note board expressing "You Matter" to pray for the stressors students experience.

"Bringing faith when helping students with the social and emotional issues of the teenage years is a blessing I have as a Catholic school teacher," Montoya said.



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# Serving In The Outdoors: Troop 450 Harvests Food For Nonprofit



Photo by Sarah Sternhagen

Scout Troop 450 visited First Fruits Farm in Freeland, Maryland, to harvest produce on July 29. Troop members picked a patch of non-pickled peppers and filled dozens of crates with green peppers and baskets full of banana peppers. The troop has been volunteering at First Fruits Farm for at least a decade.

By Sarah Sternhagen

When most people think of food banks, they typically imagine pantries that accept donations of canned goods, nonperishables and toiletries. Boy Scout Troop 450 of Severna Park is no stranger to collecting food donations for those in need, but not in the way people may expect.

Every year, the troop drives one hour north to Freeland, Maryland, to help the nonprofit First Fruits Farm harvest produce that will be donated to battle against food insecurity.

"I know a lot of people that benefit from this, so it's

nice to know I'm helping out more people," senior patrol leader Jonathan Davis said. "I know a lot of people that can benefit from service projects, and it just feels good to help the community."

First Fruits Farm produces a bevy of food products including tomatoes, corn, peppers, beans, honey, animal products and more. The nonprofit partners with organizations across the mid-Atlantic region to help against food insecurity, with ample support from volunteer groups.

Troop 450 has been volunteering at the farm for, in the words of adults and Scouts, since before they joined. In

reality, it has been at least a decade-long tradition. This July 29, a team of nine Scouts and adults gladly gave their time to volunteer.

"[Nonprofits] give back," patrol leader Grant Miller said. "You're always consuming stuff, but you never really produce that much for other people. So, by going on service projects, you get to give back to your community and help other people."

The troop has harvested many crops over its annual visits, and this year, members picked a patch of non-pickled peppers. After two and a half hours of working in the sun, the troop had filled dozens of crates with green peppers and baskets full of banana peppers.

"I liked it; it's hard work, but it's fun," said Matthew Redmond, a first-class Scout. "I liked that I was helping people."

As pointed out by the troop's service project coordinator, Renee Beck, who has organized the event for the past two years, helpfulness is one of the 12 points of the Scout law. That, along with service to the community, are the driving forces for service projects. It's no different for this project.

"These outings not only benefit the organizations they support, but also help build a sense of brotherhood among the Scout ranks," Beck said. "Going out into the community is a shared experience where our Scouts can represent our troop and the Boy Scouts of America organization at large. It's always a rewarding experience, and although sometimes a lot of hard work, can also be fun."

Though Scouts, youth groups and schools bring big volunteer groups to the farm, individuals and families can volunteer as well. Forms and more information about volunteering can be found at [www.firstfruitsfarm.org](http://www.firstfruitsfarm.org).

Troop 450 also meets every Thursday at 7:30pm in the St. John the Evangelist School auditorium. Whether someone wants to get outside for some hard work or is looking for a way to serve the community, both groups are always welcome to newcomers.

"[It's good] to know what it's like to do other people's jobs — to give back to the community and be able to help other people," Grant said.

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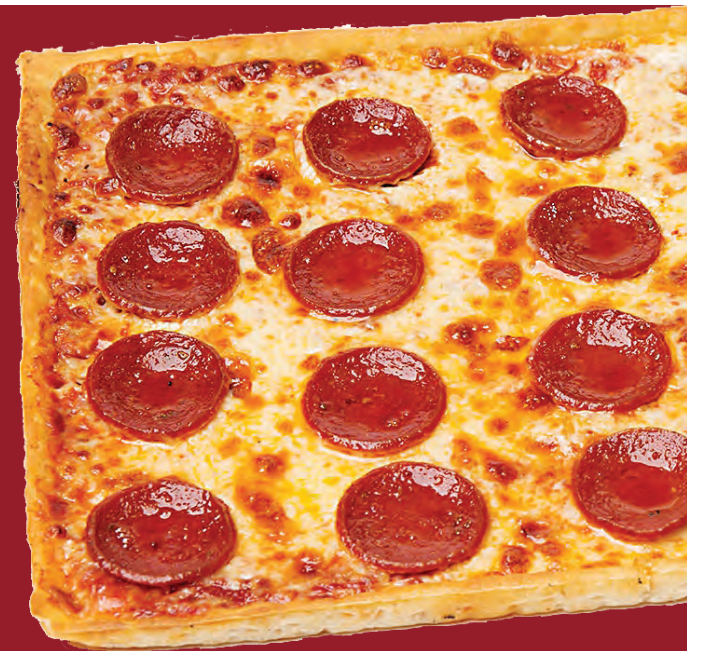
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Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local class. With kids on summer break, we asked a book club from Severna Park Tutoring & Educational Advocacy to answer this question:

### Who is your favorite book character and why?

Dog Man is a silly hero, and he has tons of adventures.

**Addison M.**

The Little Mermaid is my favorite because she swims really fast and is a really good singer.

**Adrianna Z.**

Spider-Man is my favorite because he saves people and he is really helpful.

**Alex Z.**

My favorite book character is Big Nate because he gets in detention all the time, even though I've never been in detention.

**Amin Z.**

Jasmine is fun because she can fly on a carpet.

**Brielle B.**

Elephant and Piggie are the best because they're good friends and they're funny!

**Caitlyn M.**

My favorite book is "Little Red Riding Hood" because she is brave and she is strong.

**Emma C.**

I like Mighty Meg because she gets magical powers, but she doesn't tell anyone, but she still helps people.

**Grace F.**

My favorite book character is Maggie from "Wiltoak" because she is curious and loves animals.

**Hanley M.**

I like Mercy Watson because she is a pig, and she loves to eat toast.

**Hannah B.**

I like Dog Man because it is kind of like a comic book and there's crazy stuff that happens.

**Jaxon M.**

I like Danny from "What Should Danny Do?" because he can make naughty choices.

**Justus G.**

## SEVERNA PARK TUTORING



I like Kristie from "The Baby-Sitters Club" because she is a great leader and she tries to help her friends be their best. And she is organized just like me!

**Kennedy B.**

I like Winnie from "Tuck Everlasting." I like her because she goes on adventures and she changes a lot in the book.

**Lilliana M.**

Sonic the Hedgehog because he's really fast, and he has a friend named Tails.

**Lucca B.**

I like Mo Willems' Piggie because she is kind of funny and one time she acted like a frog.

**Maddie F.**

I like Pete the Cat because he can eat three cupcakes at a time.

**Millie B.**

Captain Underpants is my favorite because he tells funny jokes.

**Patrick F.**

I like Nathan Hale because he tells history and makes it interesting.

**Patrick M.**

I like Mercy Watson because she is cute and she likes toast more than me.

**Wyatt B.**

## Former SPHS Tech And Engineering Chair Retiring

» Continued from page 30

there," Hill said. "We were the bottom-feeders when I first got there. We really changed the paradigm at Severna Park as to what tech ed was."

Hill's dedication to growing the program was obvious. He even composed recruiting letters touting the virtues of the area and developed a pipeline of potential educators from a Pittsburgh university.

"I was smart enough to hire people smarter than me," Hill said. "The only way that you get better is to get the best people."

Cahoon said Hill offered steadfast encouragement to the department and worked tirelessly to collaborate with teachers across the county, all while developing new study material and projects, revamping lessons and writing letters of recommendations for students.

"Brad always made himself available to students and staff alike and was a daily presence in the hallway, with good mornings, fist bumps and daily check-ins with students to see how they were doing," Cahoon said.

Allison Lee, a 2020 SPHS graduate who is currently heading into her senior year at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County while working as a software developer for the Department of Defense, was one of Hill's former students who wrote letters of thanks and congratulations to Hill for a retirement gift.

"I'll never forget the experiences and lessons PLTW gave me and how it helped me form my goals and interests," Lee said.

Hill began teaching at Liberty High School in Sykesville, Maryland, in

1981. He coached cross country and track at the school and more kids called him coach than mister.

"I still had acne; I could barely grow a beard," Hill recalled. "I was teaching kids just a few years younger than I was."

A month after his honeymoon with wife Mary Ann, he was searching for a new campus as he was let go in a reduction of force.

He next moved to Central Middle School in Edgewater, Maryland, as a part-time tech ed and physical education teacher.

"It was a time where we really had to rethink what we were going to do in tech ed," Hill recalled. "We were calling ourselves tech ed, but we were honestly still shop."

Hill was at a crossroads. He knew he missed teaching at the high school ranks, but he had internal questions — Is he effective? Is he making the world a better place? Is it best for his family?

That's when the opportunity at SPHS opened, along with school leadership that seemed to be on a similar page, and Hill never looked back.

"My philosophy has always been, 'Teach like you want your kids to be taught,'" Hill said. "Every day, they should be getting something out of your classroom."

In the case of the Chaisson family, they knew exactly what their sons would be offered.

David Chaisson had Hill as a teacher at Liberty High School, where David graduated in 1982. Hill went on to teach the Chaisson's three sons — Thomas, Alexander and Matthew, SPHS classes of 2016, 2019 and 2020,

respectively.

All three are now, or soon to be, engineers.

Thomas serves as an engineer at Lockheed Martin, Alexander studied nuclear engineering at North Carolina State University and serves with the U.S. Navy, and Matthew studies mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland.

"Your efforts to bring and run PLTW has been life-changing for all of your students," read a letter from the Chaisson family to Hill.

Hill spoke highly of changes he's witnessed in his 40-plus years in the educational realm, such as the

growth of female students interested in engineering. During Hill's first year at SPHS, one female student was in the program. Now, about half of the program's graduating class are girls.

"We can't continue to keep doing the same things that we're doing," Hill said. "Kids come into school, and it's been proven that they come in with more imagination and more curiosity than when they leave as graduates. They have to color their hair purple, let them get in the coloring book and color outside the lines ... whatever it is, stop taking away their creativity."

## Round Bay Proves It's Got Talent



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Children of all ages convened at the Round Bay beach pavilion for the community's annual talent show on July 13. Traditionally the culmination of "beach camp," the talent show invites friends and families of the campers to be entertained by various acts. This year's theme was "Hollywood," complete with a red carpet and walk of fame.

Dressed in ice cream costumes, Maura Cavanaugh, KabreyAnn Wright, Rose Dickerson and Clare Schieffen danced to Katy Perry's "Firework" and made 'em go, oh, oh, oh!

## Vinny Hager Makes A Digital Splash With National Brands



Baltimore-based artist Vinny Hager works with national brands, such as Time magazine, Tommy Hilfiger and Meta.



Vinnie's work includes art in support of Time magazine's "Artists for Peace" initiative, featuring a collection of digital artworks from more than 60 global artists in support of relief efforts in Ukraine.

**By Lauren Burke Meyer**

For 26-year-old visual artist Vinny Hager, the pandemic surprisingly opened a new world.

Hager — who grew up in Severna Park and now lives in Baltimore — was spending plenty of time on social media, particularly Twitter, which just underwent a rebrand to X. While casually posting his art on Twitter, he stumbled upon the Web3 and NFT space.

Web3 is a new iteration of the World

Wide Web, incorporating concepts such as decentralization, blockchain technologies and token-based economics. NFTs — known as non-fungible tokens — can represent digital or real-world items like artwork and real estate.

"I was really interested in this space and how it empowers artists to share their work in different ways, monetize their art and explore new technologies," Hager said.

» Continued on page 42

## Julie Lowman Publishes Young Adult Novel

**By Judy Tacyn**

Anyone who may believe math and creative writing proficiency is an unlikely duo surely hasn't met Severna Park High School (SPHS) math department chair Julie Lowman.

A prolific writer since a preteen, Lowman earned a master's degree in applied mathematics and statistics from Johns Hopkins University and followed her love of math and teaching to SPHS.

But Lowman never stopped writing, and her first novel, "Leaving Us," was published in July by an Olney, Maryland-based publisher, Level Best Books.

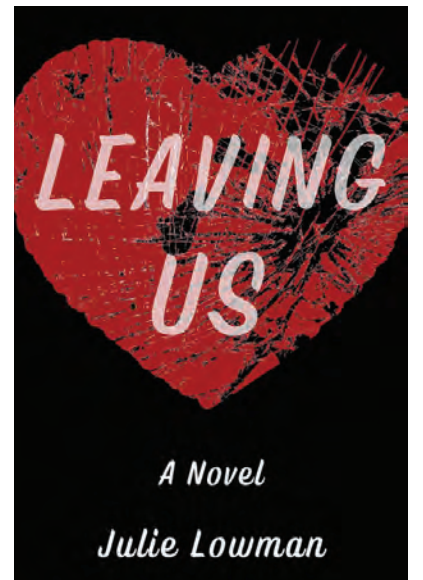
In Lowman's debut, the story follows a 16-year-old girl who finds herself in a complicated and often confusing relationship with a boy with an unpredictable temper. Something is off, but is it abuse? Is she imagining things? Should she share her concerns about what's happening, and if so, with whom? The storyline is a culmination of her past experiences and what she sees in young people.

When Lowman was in college in 2010, Maryland native and University of Virginia student-athlete Yeardeley Love was murdered by an abusive

» Continued on page 42



Severna Park High School math department chair Julie Lowman added another title in July — published author. Her first novel, "Leaving Us," is available for purchase at booksellers.



## Maryland Seafood Festival Returns To Downtown Annapolis

**By Kevin Murnane**

After 30 years at Sandy Point State Park, the Maryland Seafood Festival is moving to Annapolis City Dock.

"We're super excited to bring the festival to Annapolis where it all started over 50 years ago as the Annapolis Clam Festival," said Daryl Cooke, vice president of ABC Events, which organizes and promotes the event.

The festival will be held August 19-20 from 11:00am to 7:00pm.

The event will have its seafood attractions such as the crab soup cook-off, beer and oyster tent, and live music throughout the day.

"We are so excited that the Maryland Seafood Festival is at City Dock," said Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley. "It is the perfect place to showcase the bounty of the Chesapeake Bay. For generations, the City Dock was where fresh seafood was brought to market. We want those people to make those connections to the water and that history."

The seafood festival promotes the event as a safe

*Will be held August 19-20 at City Dock.*

and entertaining one for the entire family.

"It will be educational and fun for kids as we'll have a Chesapeake Bay workboat on display, build a reef ball activity, demonstrations on crab picking and oyster harvesting, bounce houses and pop-go-stick demonstrations," Cooke said.



*The festival will return to its original home in Annapolis after several years at Sandy Point State Park.*

As always, the variety of seafood will be one of the main attractions as the soup cook-off is on Saturday from 11:30am to 2:30pm and will have local restaurants and caterers competing for the titles of Best Maryland Crab, Best Cream of Crab, and Best Alternative Soup. The contest will have first-, second- and third-place champions from the judges' choice and people's choice categories.

Last year, La Prima Catering won first prize from the judges and for the people's choice category for its Maryland crab soup. DoubleTree Hotel won for its cream of crab soup in both categories, La Prima won the people's choice for Best Alternative Soup, and Jimmy's Seafood won the judges' choice

» Continued on page 40

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# Summer Blockbusters Live Up To The Hype

By Audrey Ruppert

Many of us have seen the “Barbenheimer” memes. Christopher Nolan was reportedly upset that Warner Bros. chose to release Barbie on the same day as his epic thriller, but inadvertently, the publicity likely means his film got far more viewership. Both are excellent summer blockbusters.

## “OPPENHEIMER”

Undoubtedly Christopher Nolan’s magnum opus, “Oppenheimer” has the intricate plotting of “Inception” with the war backdrop of “Dunkirk” and the political, multilayered character arcs of “The Dark Knight” trilogy. It has a runtime of three hours, but not a second drags or is wasted — those who felt otherwise likely lacked the necessary historical context to follow what was happening.

Admittedly, if you’re not brushed up on your Cold War and Manhattan Project history, it’s easy to get lost. Even if you understand what’s going on, with about 25 characters of major importance scattered across various locations presented in a non-chronological order, with much splicing and jumping back and forth, it can be challenging to keep up with the breakneck but layered story — most people would benefit from a second viewing, particularly after going down a Wikipedia research rabbit hole of all the main players.

“Oppenheimer” neither lionizes nor vilifies its subject. The film divides itself into four main arcs — J. Robert Oppenheimer’s complex personal life and inner beliefs, his work as a scientist, his skillful execution of the Manhattan Project, and his political persecution — but the film



isn’t really about Oppenheimer at all. That’s the point. It’s an epic about man’s extraordinary ability to create, to work together, and also to produce terrible, self-destructive results through lack of foresight and misplaced insecurity. Lesser men quibble about the politics of it all — politics which dominate the film — but in the end, none of that really matters.

This marks Cillian Murphy’s most impressive performance to date. The cast has incredible support in Robert Downey Jr., Florence Pugh, Emily Blunt and Matt Damon. There are quite a few additional stars in this you may not have known about, as the promo didn’t advertise much beyond Cillian.

## “BARBIE”

With “Barbie,” I was expecting a meme parody of a toy commercial for Mattel, smattered with corporate feminist re-branding, which I absolutely was willing to subject myself to as a palette cleanser after the weighty “Oppenheimer.” I got all that, but I also got a film that was a bit more profound than I was expecting, without being too much.

It boasts a great message for younger girls (and lots of, at times, depressingly accurate jokes for the adult women — the bit about watching the 1995 BBC version of “Pride and Prejudice” repeatedly was too on the nose. I didn’t ask to be called out like that).

Barbie lives in Barbieland and believes all of women’s problems have been solved in the real world as a result of her feminist existence. Ken wants to be Barbie’s everything, but he’s just Ken. After having some intrusive, very human-like thoughts amidst her Barbie dream house paradise, Barbie has to go to the real world (on advice from “weird Barbie,” who is permanently in the splits and whose hair is chopped — casted perfectly in Kate McKinnon from “Saturday Night Live”) with Ken. They are horrified and delighted, respectively, to discover patriarchy in the real world.

“Barbie” is self-aware and recognizes that the toy has been weaponized against women over the years — we’ve been compared to her unrealistic body, and songs like Aqua’s “Barbie Girl” reinforced a sexualized image that was never intended for the toy line. Barbie was meant to be an



independent woman without a husband who had her own career and could own a credit card before that was even legal in the real world.

The film grapples with this paradox skillfully and simply, in a way modern growing girls can understand, and in a way adult women can wearily recognize. Heavy themes aside, “Barbie” is funny, well scripted, well casted, wonderfully scored, and well worth your time.

Full of incredible colors, hilarious songs and delightful choreography, with a touching message to boot, “Barbie” is a must see whether you’re an adult or a child. If you’re a man upset about the message, take a seat; this film wasn’t made for you anyway. Perhaps you can start with a clerkship position at the Barbie Supreme Court and work your way up, so your views can eventually be heard in limited contexts.

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# AACC Students Win League For Innovation's Student Writing Competition

Two students from Anne Arundel Community College achieved top honors in the League for Innovation's annual student writing competition. Zoe Hunter won the fictional short story category with her piece titled "The Hour House," while Jessie Ehrenreich's one-act play, "Sheila," earned her first place in her category.

"My reaction to winning the League for Innovation Award was shock and disbelief," Ehrenreich said. "I honestly never thought I'd be an award-winning anything, let alone an award-winning playwright. I am absolutely honored that 'Sheila' took first place."

The Student Literary Awards celebrate outstanding literary pieces from community college students across North America. This year's competition, hosted by Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, featured 41 literary works from students at 14 league board colleges in the categories of fictional short story, one-act play, poetry and personal essay.

"This is a pretty big feather in our cap to have AACC take two out of the four categories in the contest," said Garrett Brown, professor and coordinator of creative writing.

Both winners will receive a cash prize and certificate of merit, and



Zoe Hunter



Jessie Ehrenreich

their works will be published in the league's student literary competition publication. Additionally, Hunter and Ehrenreich will be featured in a student reading at AACC later this year.

The jurors for this year's student literary awards included Taslim Jaffer (personal essay), Katherine Barrett (fictional short story), Preeti Kaur Dhaliwal (poetry) and Jan Sims (one-act play).

The competition's theme, "Spaces of Belonging," inspired students to explore this concept and express their full, true selves through their writing. The jurors were particularly impressed by the participants' ability to connect personal experiences to broader themes, create compelling and complex characters, and evoke emotion through vivid imagery.

Anne Arundel Community College will host the 2025-2026 competition.

# VEER Releases "Soft Machines"

Rock band VEER released their second album "Soft Machines" with a launch party hosted by 98 Rock and Cult Classic Brewing in Stevensville on July 22, and their vision for the record is out of this world.

The band's self-proclaimed "space album" comes more than four years after Ronald Malfi, Jon Malfi, Ryan Fowler and Christian Mathis created their debut record, "Apocalyptic, Baby." That effort led to them being awarded Best Rock Band by the Maryland Music Awards and receiving Best Rock Song for their single, "Come Clean," by the World Songwriting Awards, an international organization that promotes and recognizes songwriting in various genres throughout 129 countries worldwide.

"As a band, we pushed this second album in a different direction than the first," Ronald said. "It's sonically more mature, with layered melodies and more intricate and nuanced chord structures. It's arguably a concept album, running a thematic balance between the organic nature of humankind and the dreamlike, fanciful notions of transcending beyond that humanity — a literal 'blast off' from the human race."

The Malfi brothers grew up in



*VEER considers "Soft Machines" their space album.*

Severna Park, and with their bandmates, they cultivated a following that supported VEER at shows statewide. They have performed during shows for Buckcherry, Sponge, Fuel, Puddle of Mudd, Trapt and 40 Below Summer.

VEER hopes that rock fans appreciate their new album, which is chock full of heavy riffs, catchy choruses and thought-provoking lyrics.

"The title, 'Soft Machines,' which comes from a line in our song 'Red Tide,' is just another phrase for people," Ronald said. "We're all just soft, fleshy machines, toiling about on this pale blue dot."

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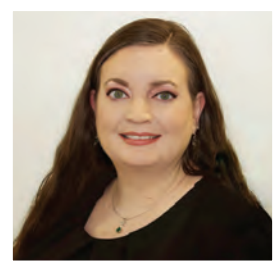


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# Second Annual Annapolis Songwriters Festival Set For September

both ticketed and free showcases in a walkable area with unique stops along the way featuring all the iconic venues Annapolis has to offer. The festival will close at City Dock with an all-ages show featuring Grammy Award winning superstar LeAnn Rimes.

Venues include restaurants, shops, and landmarks while festival-goers make their way along “songwriters trail” from Metropolitan Kitchen to The Garden at Market Space. Free showcases lead visitors to spaces at Rams Head Tavern, The Graduate Hotel, The Capital Hotel, Stan & Joe’s, The King of France Tavern, Red Red Wine Bar and Latitude 38.

The Annapolis Songwriters Festival is modeled after the Key West Songwriters Festival, which in its 27th year, continues to be the largest festival of its kind. Highlighting the specialized craft that is the essence of music, this festival aims to give music lovers a chance to get to know the names and faces behind the songs in an up-close and personal setting.

Proceeds from the Annapolis Songwriters Festival will benefit AM/FM, a nonprofit organization created in 2006 to provide temporary financial relief to professional Annapolis musicians who cannot work due to sickness, injury, or any other circumstance leaving them unable to perform.

Get tickets or find more information at [www.annapolisongwritersfestival.com](http://www.annapolisongwritersfestival.com).

**F**our-Day Festival To Feature Blondie, Patty Griffin, LeAnn Rimes, Others

BMI (Broadcast Music Inc.), Rams Head Presents and Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County are preparing for the second annual Annapolis Songwriters Festival (ASF). The stages are set for showcases and concerts that unify the city in music discovery featuring major songwriters and the industry’s biggest hitmakers.

Event organizers said the excitement is building throughout Annapolis for the four days and nights of music on boats, hotels, restaurants, bars and City Dock. The festival kicks off on September 14 and will continue with free showcases at several venues across town. Music-filled days on September 15-17 will offer concertgoers an opportunity to attend

## Notable Shows

September 14

**Amanda Shires**

at Rams Head On Stage (ages 21 and up)

September 15

**Blondie**

at Annapolis City Dock (all ages)

**James McMurtry**

**with BettySoo**

at Rams Head On Stage (all ages matinee)

September 16

**Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives**

at Maryland Hall (all ages)

September 17

**LeAnn Rimes**

at Annapolis City Dock (all ages)

**Patty Griffin and Jonatha Brooke**

at Maryland Hall (all ages)

Additionally, Annapolis Songwriters Festival puts a spotlight on one-of-a-kind songwriter showcases. Artists invited to perform include:

**Arlis Albritton**  
**Madisun Bailey**  
**Maggie Baugh**  
**Pete Best**  
**Ronnie Bowman**  
**Laura Brino**  
**The Brummies**  
**Julia Cole**  
**Anthony David**  
**Tony Denikos**  
**Daphne Eckman**  
**Bryan Ewald**  
**The Young Fables**  
**Paul Guzzone**  
**Dan Haas**  
**Jimi Haha**  
**Poet Hawkins**  
**Rebecca Lynn Howard**  
**Dracula Jackson**  
**Michael K**  
**Charles Kavooosi**  
**Justin Klump**

**Kevin Koa**  
**Danah Koch**  
**Earl Bud Lee**  
**Alec Lytle**  
**Jesse Lynn Madera**  
**Jess Marie**  
**Kevin Martin**  
**Coley McCabe**  
**Matt McConville**  
**Kristen McNamara**  
**Jenn Van Meter**  
**Angie Miller**  
**Grayson Moon**  
**Meg Murray**  
**Dan Navarro**  
**Kelly Paige**  
**Jacob Panic**  
**Abe Partridge**  
**Alexander Peters**  
**Gage Rhodes**  
**Jacob Rice**

**Dean Rosenthal**  
**Jennifer Schimpf**  
**Justin Schools**  
**Doug Segree**  
**Thom Shepherd**  
**Chris Shupe**  
**Tommy Sims**  
**Jordan Sokel**  
**David Sparrow**  
**Jeffrey Steele**  
**Ava Suppalsa**  
**Dave Tieff**  
**Keesy Timmer**  
**Twinnie**  
**Heath Warren**  
**Mel Washington**  
**Michael Waskey**  
**Ray Weaver**  
**Hall Williams**  
**Carly Winter**  
**Aaron Yealdhall**  
*(The lineup is subject to change.)*

# Maryland Renaissance Festival Enters Its 47th Year

*The Event Starts August 26 And Runs For Nine Weekends*

**By Kevin Murnane**

**F**ormer Baltimore Oriole Cal Ripken was known as the “Ironman” due to his astonishing streak of playing in 2,632 consecutive baseball games. But locally, a similar feat is continuing in Crownsville as the Maryland Renaissance Festival’s president, Jules Smith, enters his 47th year.

“I started with the festival [by] helping my dad in 1977 while I was in college,” Smith said. “I helped build components for the festival and had so much fun in the first year, I had to do it again. Now the family business has grown to include my three brothers, my wife, son and a nephew working here.”

“Rennfest,” as the event is locally known, sits on 27 acres in Crownsville. It averages 15,000 people per day and has nearly 300,000 local and regional visitors each season.

The premise of the festival is to fictionally depict England’s 16th century when King Henry VIII ruled. The festival offers a wealth of entertainment, crafts and food reflecting that era.

“We have so much entertainment throughout the festival including jousting, music, variety acts, dancers and dramatizations on our 10 stages,” said artistic director Carolyn Spedden. “We also have jugglers, street performers, magicians, mimes and daring feats of skill. We truly have something for everyone.”

Some of the widely known acts are Jacques Ze Whipper, who has a large following on TikTok, as well as musical acts Albanech and world-renowned Ally the Piper.

To keep the festival fresh and inviting, the entertainment changes every weekend and there is turnover with new vendors and crafts.

“We have 22 new vendors this year with new products,” Smith said. “We also have new food stations, however, the festival’s favorite food, like the one-pound turkey legs and Steak on a Stake, will be available.”

Because Rennfest is entering its 47th



Photo courtesy of David Moore

*The jousting show is a popular event at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, which includes fascinating equestrian feats.*

season, Smith is proud that many generations have been to the festival and return each year.

“As I go through the festival each day, I have folks come up to me and say they started coming here in the ‘70s and ‘80s and now that have their children and grandchildren with them,” Smith said. “The festival has truly become a regional attraction as we have many families coming from Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Virginia spending the day with us.”

The festival also gives the local economy a big boost as it employs 420 local residents — about 200 are entertainers — and the event features 140 businesses selling food, refreshments and crafts.

Rennfest features bagpipes and drummers this year, as well as birds-of-prey demonstrations.

The festival is open from 10:00am to 7:00pm on weekends from August 26 to October 22. More information is available at [www.rennfest.com](http://www.rennfest.com).

## Seafood Festival Returns

» Continued from page 36 for Best Alternative Soup.

There will also be steamed crabs from Jimmy’s Seafood at the event, but participants must order them in advance at [www.mdseafoodfestival.com](http://www.mdseafoodfestival.com).

“We will also have the Naptown seafood sampler, which features eight types of seafood as well as a drink for \$25,” Cooke said.

The Annapolis restaurants and businesses are also thrilled about the festival coming to City Dock as the event always draws a large crowd of local and regional visitors.

“We have a great partnership with the city, and we hope that after the festival is over on those days, the visitors will stay in the city and have dinner and shop at

the local businesses,” Cooke said.

The festival will offer shuttles to and from the U.S. Naval Academy Stadium on the days of the event. Tickets to the festival are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to [www.mdseafoodfestival.com](http://www.mdseafoodfestival.com).

“For six decades, the Maryland Seafood Festival has brought together residents, families and visitors to experience our Chesapeake culture,” said Kristen Pironis, executive director of Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. “Events and festivals are a major draw to Annapolis, and we always look forward to welcoming them to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, and this year to City Dock.”



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## Vinny Hager Makes A Splash

» Continued from page 36

Hager met a new group of creative friends online, which led to professional work and job opportunities.

"A lot of the projects that I have done over the past two years have focused on the digital space," Hager said.

Some of these opportunities have included distributing his artwork digitally, designing digital wearables and collectibles, and creating for companies' digital artwork releases.

"My artwork is based in drawing," Hager said.

Most of Hager's drawings are made up of lines, shapes, characters, and symbols that connect through form and structure to create a pattern.

"Through my drawings, I like to experiment with different types of materials from the traditional paper and canvas to furniture, sculptures, architecture, clothing and digital applications, [and] technologies," Hager said.

After signing with United Talent Agency (UTA), Hager has collaborated and partnered with companies including Meta, Harvard Business Review, Inkbox, Cameo and OpenSea, to name a few.

Hager also worked with Time magazine. One initiative was titled "Artists for Peace," which featured a collection of digital artworks from more than 60 global artists in support of humanitarian and relief efforts in Ukraine.

For the Tommy Hilfiger partnership,

Hager designed three digital wearables for Metaverse Fashion week. Additionally, he was commissioned to create the first digital art piece in Tommy Hilfiger's collection. The title of that artwork is "Starting Point," foreshadowing future collaborative efforts between Hilfiger and Hager.

In addition to partnering with companies, Hager has worked on personal projects, speaking engagements, interviews, gallery shows, and architecture and public art activations.

Hager has exhibited work in group shows at Artspace Gallery in Richmond, Virginia; Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Maryland; Circle Gallery in Annapolis; and Terrault in Baltimore.

"I'm really keen on spreading my art in as many outlets, mediums and ways as possible," Hager said.

Looking ahead, Hager hopes to speak at a conference in Seoul, South Korea, this September, join an artist residency program in Japan after that, as well as participate in a traditional art show in London.

"My ever-changing and growing to-do list continues, but I am really proud and excited to see how my art and career continue to expand and evolve," he said.

Hager provides updates to projects and collaborations on his X and Instagram accounts, both @vinniehager. His online store can be accessed at [www.vinniehager.store](http://www.vinniehager.store).

## Julie Lowman Publishes Novel

» Continued from page 36

boyfriend. The event hit home because Lowman had friends and family members in some "not great" relationships at the time.

Immediately following Love's murder, her family founded the One Love Foundation. The foundation's message of domestic violence and relationship abuse awareness became a campaign for many universities and high schools across the country.

Lowman said that One Love club signs can be found around the SPHS campus, adding her belief that toxic relationships may be more prevalent than those reported.

"Yeardley's murder has always stuck with me," Lowman said. "I've attended several of the One Love club meetings here at school, and I think it's a very important message."

Lowman has been writing short stories about a fictional family for many years. Each new story adds new facets and situations to force the evolution of her established characters. When Lowman's first manuscript failed to be published, a friend encouraged Lowman to think about what she's most passionate about and how those interests could be woven into storylines.

"I love being a teacher," Lowman said. "I find teenagers fascinating. They are not children. They are not adults. How their brains work is very interesting to me."

Being a high school teacher, and a mother of preadolescents and teens, Lowman is concerned with healthy relationships and feels she has a particular vantage point to see how young people relate to one another, and how they communi-

cate. As a writer, she also saw a void in the young adult genre for showing teens a way out of an abusive relationship.

"In an abusive relationship, things escalate and then go back to normal," Lowman said. "After the fact, things don't seem so scary and are harder to share. There are lots of books about girls falling in love with these guys, but not about realizing something is wrong and trying to get out of it while it's happening."

With the protagonist in a situation with a controlling boyfriend, the novel walks the line between physical and emotional abuse, so it might be hard for the girl to see how bad it was, or why it's hard for her to tell someone about it.

"My hope is that people realize that these relationships exist, that they can get out of them, and all abuse isn't necessarily physical abuse," Lowman said. "Everyone deserves to be happy."

Writing will always be a passion and a creative outlet for Lowman, who said she also has a pair of novels in the works, but don't expect her to quit her day job anytime soon.

"I am excited to get this novel out and live through the process, but I can't imagine not teaching," said Lowman, who feels that writing is also a form of teaching. "I like the life of a teacher over the life of an author. If my writing takes off, that would be amazing, but I don't think I could ever write without teenagers. I love their energy and their vibe. I hope to make a difference in their lives as a teacher."

A book launch was held at the Severna Park-based store Park Books in August. "Leaving Us" is now available at booksellers.

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# Stellar Artists, Musicians Headline Art In The Park

By Judy Tacyn

**A**rt in the Park, the event hosted by the Severna Park Voice and Cafe Mezzanotte, will once again tantalize attendees with inspiring live music, compelling art in multiple mediums, and savory foods on October 1.

The third annual event is family friendly and allows guests to meet musicians and artists, watch their demonstrations and purchase their art, all in a quaint setting behind Cafe Mezzanotte on Ritchie Highway. Local art galleries will bring a collection of their artists' work, and individual artists will provide demonstrations and answer questions. Providence of Maryland, an organization dedicated to supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is this year's charity partner.



Get to know some of this year's participating musicians and artists.

More than 100 pieces of art and two bands will be showcased during this event. For tickets, click the link on the online version of this story at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).

*Zach Sparks contributed to this story.*

## Sweet Leda

**S**weet Leda, a band out of Pasadena, will take center stage for their first Art in the Park festival. Lead singer Julie Cymek said there wasn't ever a question whether Sweet Leda would bring their rock and soul sound to the event after she received a call from Cafe Mezzanotte owner Kosmas "Tommie" Koukoulis.

"Tommie called and said, 'I want this event to be awesome, and you guys play so many events and different venues, so I value your opinion,'" Cymek recalled. "He wanted us to

come over to walk the courtyard. I thought that was so lovely. He could have sent an email asking, 'Hey, do you want to play?' But instead, he made us feel important like we are not just the entertainment but helping to plan the event."

Sweet Leda has been together for 15 years and shared the stage with Galactic, 311 and Jefferson Starship. In a recent interview with the *Severna Park Voice*, Cymek described the band as a "blend of new-school funk, psychedelic rock, soul and pop." More specifically, "a female-fronted, soul-based, [Led] Zeppelin meets [Red Hot] Chili Peppers."

A big fan of Cafe Mezzanotte's pasta bowl and casa salad, Cymek is excited for her band to play but also to meet other musicians and artists.

"We are fortunate to have an incredible music scene in our area, really just bursting with talent," Cymek said. "Musicians support each other, and there is not any competition. We genuinely celebrate each other's success. And our fans support other bands, too."

And as for the Cafe Mezzanotte venue, Cymek predicts, "Art in the Park will be a wonderful, magical celebration of so much that our community has to offer: the artists, local farmers through Cafe Mezz's farm-to-table recipe, local art, music and delicious food. It will be a special day."

Delaware Blues Hall of Fame and Rehoboth Beach-based Lower Case Blues will also be onstage sharing their blues, rock and funk brand of music.



Photo courtesy of Corsica Studio

*The bluesy rock band Sweet Leda is excited to perform with Lower Case Blues during their first Art in the Park festival.*

## Sheri Ruiz — Local by Design

**A**native New Yorker, Sheri Ruiz moved to Annapolis with her husband in 2020, and she soon began selling her prints and designs. While traveling to Nevada, Old San Juan in Puerto Rico, and other locations, she snapped imagery that she later enhanced using her specialty: black and white.

"If I see something that interests me, I just start shooting," she said of her inspiration. "I look for moments."

Her interest in photography was sparked during a field trip when she was 8 or 9 years old. She borrowed her dad's Nikon camera and continued to develop her skills.

"I was so at home in the darkroom," she said. "This was in the early '90s and it was so hands-on."

For Art in the Park, she plans to bring prints from her Annapolis series and home products with her designs, whether it's textiles or tank tops.

She loves the culture of women and artists at Local by Design, and that makes her excited to participate in her first Art in the Park experience. "I love the sense of community," she said.

## Sandy Travis Bildahl — Gallery 564

**S**andy Travis Bildahl will participate in her third Art in the Park festival.

She feels the transformed locale at Cafe Mezzanotte is a joyous experience of merging community and arts. "[It's] a hidden place where all of a sudden, you're in a very special space and you've gotten away when you're still in the heart of Severna Park," Bildahl said. "It's a very joyous experience of merging community and arts."

Bildahl has been creative her entire life. An artist, a writer and a certified life coach, Bildahl feels that Art in the Park fosters a conversation between artists and the community.

"When you're being curious, you're growing, you're learning and life becomes exciting," Bildahl said. "I love hearing what they think my painting is about, even if that's not what I was thinking about when I was painting it."

Bildahl began painting flowers 30 years ago and has never stopped. Still, she often works well into the evening. Her subject matter flows out of whatever she's currently curious about, or where she is personally.

Today she works on canvases from six-inch square to 60-inch square. She will share her abstract acrylic on canvas techniques with festival attendees and other artists, while her framed work will be on display and for purchase with other work from Gallery 564 artists inside Cafe Mezzanotte.

"Art in the Park has a very comfortable atmosphere, almost like you're at a party," Bildahl said. "I have great conversations, and if anyone there wants to talk to me about my process or their desire to explore creativity in their own life, I'd love to talk to them. It's fascinating to see how people express themselves."

Bildahl is enthusiastic about the charity partner for the event.

"This is a tremendous community event, and community means helping each other and encouraging each other," Bildahl said. "The arts and Providence both are about encouraging others to be their absolute best, that they belong. It will be a very wonderful day."



*On October 1, Sandy Travis Bildahl, pictured in her studio, will bring her abstract acrylic paintings to Art in the Park for the third consecutive year.*

## Kathy Daywalt — Benfield Gallery

**W**atercolorist Kathy Daywalt is thrilled to return to Art in the Park to share her latest passion, watercolor on Yupo.

"Merging the arts in one fabulous event is a very interesting way to go," said Daywalt, who has been creating art for nearly 60 years. "The arts scene is so robust in our area, yet there is never enough for people to do. There are so many local artists to entertain and enrich us."

Daywalt said she is currently "on a mermaid tangent" and exploring Yupo, a synthetic paper. She loves demonstrating her techniques before other artists and viewers.

"Everyone brings their own self and interpretation to what they are viewing," Daywalt said. "I love it when people ask me about my art. Art is a great way to connect with people."

Daywalt's art has been shown in galleries across the country. Her framed art will be on display and available for purchase with other work from Benfield Gallery artists inside the Cafe Mezzanotte galleries. Daywalt will be outside sharing her art with others, mingling with and learning from other artists, and enjoying the sounds of inspiring live music.

"Art in the Park is fabulous," said Daywalt, reminding people to practice the arts in big ways and in little ways. "Support artists, go to concerts, come to galleries. These places don't exist without people supporting them."



*Kathy Daywalt will demonstrate her latest passion, watercolor on Yupo, during artist demonstrations at the third annual Art in the Park.*



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## To Buy Or To Sell?

**Jason LaBarge**  
LaBarge  
Financial



Have you ever tried to merge? If you live around here, you know there are plenty of merge lanes on Ritchie Highway. You can merge onto the highway using the lane closest to you, but a lot of the time, people wait for all three lanes to be clear just to merge into the merge lane, which has been open and available the entire time. This drives me crazy.

You can use this as an analogy to the market and when either to buy in or sell out. Rarely do I receive calls from clients wanting to buy when the markets are low or “bad” or requests to sell when the market is up or “doing well.” In fact, the calls I get regarding buying or selling are the opposite of this. When the market is down or bearish, I get requests to sell. When the market is up, I get calls to buy.

Human nature tells us that this makes total sense. From an investment standpoint, this is the opposite of what one should try to do. When

the market is up significantly, it goes against every fabric of our being to sell. What if the market continues to go up? “I’ll miss that upside” is something clients will tell themselves. Subscribing to the adage of “buy low, sell high” sounds easy enough, but it can be so hard. Kind of like merging onto the merge lane. Sounds easy but is clearly difficult for some people to do.

The S&P 500 was up 6.47% in June, bringing the year-to-date return to 15.91% through late July. Most investors might look at this as the market being up. We are not in a broad market upsurge. It’s a targeted market focusing on specific companies and sectors. Artificial intelligence is coming on strong this year, and I think this will continue into 2023 and 2024. It is yet to be determined if the performance created by artificial intelligence will trickle into other sectors and create a broader market increase.

The question to ask is whether we want to buy in or sell out based upon the performance or the market thus far this year. A conversation with your financial advisor can help you address this question. If you think about things using my analogy above with the merge lanes into Ritchie Highway, it’s a much easier merge or you can wait for all three lanes to be

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## Chamber Update

**Liz League**  
CEO  
GSPACC



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

**Sweet Bamboo Boba LLC** – Boba tea originated in

Taiwan in the 1980s and eventually made its way to the U.S. sometime in the ‘90s. Milks can range from whole and skim to non-dairy substitutes like almond and coconut — or often there’s no milk (or milk-like product) at all, as in the case of cold tea-infused or juice-based drinks. The tapioca pearls can be fat as marbles, small as peas, square shaped, red or crystal clear. This business is veteran owned.

**Lighthouse Carwash** – Have a clean car all the time with services from Lighthouse Carwash. The business offers seven self-serve bays and three automatic wash bays that are touch-free and guaranteed not to scratch your finish.

This business is always open. Choose options such as pre-soak and tire shine to customize your wash and clean the inside of your car with its high-powered, self-service vacuums. Different membership levels are offered to give you the best price for your frequent washings.

**Kitchen Tune Up of Annapolis** – Its

mission is to provide sound, functional advice with quality kitchen makeover solutions. The business specializes in five approaches in updating kitchens and cabinetry, reducing expenses and messes, while eliminating hassle and stress and saving you time and money!

**Remedy Green** – Nurse practitioner Willingham has been practicing for more than 15 years and is an expert in safe and effective symptom management. Remedy Green was founded with the goal to use a holistic and personalized approach to enhance your immune system with infusion-based cellular support that promotes increased energy, improved moods, reduced pain and healthy skin.

**First Home Mortgage** – First Home Mortgage Corporation is a licensed, full service, residential lender. Its dedicated loan officers guide borrowers throughout the entire mortgage process and offer continued support long after a loan has closed.

**Stephen J. Tant Plumbing LLC** – The business has been proudly supporting the Baltimore-metro area for more than five years. From minor leaks to major mishaps in both residential and commercial properties, Stephen J. Tant Plumbing can address all your plumbing problems. The company also provides full HVAC installation, sewer and water line repair, and home renovations. And the team loves to give back to many community organizations.

» Continued on page 48

## Following Suit: Sisters Hope To Set A Trend With New Attire For Girls

*Lila (right) and Georgia Knoepfle overcame supply chain issues to create their own formalwear boutique, LilaPants. The direct-to-consumer website launches in September. The sisters want their suits to be stretchy, comfortable, stain-resistant and wrinkle-resistant.*

**By Zach Sparks**

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

It’s clear who wears the pants in the Knoepfle family.

Tween sisters Lila and Georgia are launching LilaPants, an online boutique for their line of formalwear, in September.

The seeds of the idea were planted after Lila’s kindergarten graduation, when she decided she was done with dresses because they were itchy and tight.

“The boys’ suits were boring and there was nothing formal enough to replace a dress,” Lila said.

The girls’ mom, Jenny, supported the decision as long as Lila was dressed appropriately.

“Obviously, she couldn’t wear jeans



and a hoodie to a wedding or funeral,” Jenny said.

Lila wanted to feel pretty, comfortable and confident, but nothing in the marketplace appealed to her.

» Continued on page 50

## BD Provisions Roasts Own Coffee Beans, Offers Specialty Foods

**By Sharon Mager**

BD Provisions, located at 844 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park, offers hundreds of specialty bulk items and on-site coffee roasting.

It’s the latter item that makes BD Provisions unique in the area.

“We’re the only business in Anne Arundel County that has their own roaster and sells coffee,” said Philip Peters, who co-owns the store with Debra Saltz.

On Saturday mornings, Peters roasts various imported coffee beans.

“We have nine different roasts and 13 different coffees,” Peters said.

Peters and Nyla Everett, an assistant manager at BD Provisions, funneled beans into the roaster as Peters pointed out the flame inside and the port to watch the beans rotating. Depending on the roast, they’re done in about 15 minutes. The machine gives off a whistle — somewhere between a teapot and train — alerting shoppers to the opportunity to watch coffee beans tumble down the shoot.

BD Provisions, which is more spacious than the exterior of the business would suggest, offers more than 80 spices, more than 40 tea selections, health and wellness items, nuts, peanut butter machines, pet supplies, oils and vinegars, local raw honey, local fresh eggs and maple syrups.

“We have 240 bins on the floor that have everything from flours, sugars, pasta, dried fruit, trail mixes, chocolates, cookies — you name it,” said Peters, noting there’s also a gluten-free area.

Customers will also find hearty soup mixes with recipes on a QR code. And there are libation mixes.

“If someone you know likes Old Fashioneds, add a fifth of bourbon, wait four or five hours and let the sugars dissolve.”

Peters emphasized that there is no waste at BD.

“Here, everything is sold by weight, so you can buy as much or as little as you want,” Peters said.

There are compostable bags throughout and a jar exchange

» Continued on page 47

## Brian Conrad Receives Edward Jones Award For Building Client Relationships



**Brian Conrad**

**B**rian Conrad is one of 2,223 Edward Jones financial advisors to receive the Jim Phillips award.

The award is named after Jim Phillips, who joined Edward Jones in 1986, opening an office in Waynesville, North Carolina, and contributing to the well-being of his clients, colleagues and community.

The Edward Jones branch-office business model, with more than 15,000 branches throughout North America, allows the firm's nearly 19,000 financial advisors to identify what matters most to each individual client and create personalized strategies, with the goal of developing long-lasting relationships to help keep them on track toward their goals.

Edward Jones has nearly 19,000 financial advisors who serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.7 trillion in client assets under care at the end of March 2023. The firm's purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better its communities and society.

Learn more at [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com). Member SIPC.

## To Buy Or To Sell?

» **Continued from page 45**

come available. However, it's quicker and keeps the flow of traffic moving if you simply pull into the merge lane that is right in front of you.

Waiting for the broader market to improve is like waiting for all three lanes to become available. Pulling into the merge lane is jumping into the market now while things are going well. Determining the right approach is going to be unique for all of you.

I do know one thing is for sure: pulling into the merge lane when available is going to make the driver behind you very happy. That is particularly true if that driver is me.

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## RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Atlantic Blue Water Services Hopes To Make Waves

To help Anne Arundel County residents improve the quality of their drinking water, Atlantic Blue Water Services has opened a Severna Park location. The new addition to the community was celebrated by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce in July. Services include water treatment, water testing, salt delivery and more. The store is located at 844 Ritchie Highway, Suite 103, in Severna Park.



### Healing Paws Hits 10-Year Milestone

For 10 years, Healing Paws Veterinary Wellness Center has promoted and maintained the health of animals. To recognize that accomplishment, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting in July while honoring Dr. Jennifer Levitsky and her team of veterinarians.

### BD Provisions Roasts Own Coffee Beans, Offers Specialty Foods

» Continued from page 45  
program. A 64-ounce jar, the largest, is \$5. Peters explained that customers buy the jars, fill them, take them home and return them clean to reuse, or bring them back dirty and exchange them for clean ones.

On the right side of the store, visitors can sample various flavors of vinegar and olive oils.

Max Dustin, a senior at Severna Park High School who serves as a sales associate at BD Provisions, demonstrated how to taste and fill decorative jars with vinegar and olive oils. Dustin was offering suggestions of different olive oils, such as the blood orange oil, and vinegars, such as the Cask 10 vinegar, aged 10 years in Modena, Italy.

Saltz brings specialty bread she buys from the local farmers market for customers to sample the vinegar and oils on most Saturdays.

It was a New England road-trip tradition that inspired Saltz and Peters.

Saltz and her partner, Matthew, would travel



**Left:** Nyla Everett, assistant manager at BD Provisions in Severna Park, poured beans into the roasting machine. **Right:** Philip Peters roasted fresh coffee beans on a July Saturday morning.



Photo by Sharon Mager

to Saltz's home in Maine with Peters and his wife, Melinda. Saltz and Melinda were longtime friends who bonded after running marathons in all 50 states. On the way to and from Maine, they always

stopped at a BD Provisions store in Connecticut, owned by their friends, to stock up. They would stop again on the way home.

The couples were wishing that there was a BD Provisions near their homes in Maryland, and then the idea hit. Why not bring one to Severna Park? Peters was seeking to transition out of the construction business and Saltz, a criminal trial lawyer by day, was looking ahead to a future transition.

Now, Peters oversees sales and engages customers.

"Phil is in his element," exclaimed Hans Ruppenthal, a colleague from Peters' previous business, during a visit to BD Provisions.

Saltz, who oversees the administration, staffing and scheduling agrees, adding that Peters is a "natural."

The owners are both looking forward to the holidays with simmer pots of clover and other spices and gift baskets.

"We're happy," Saltz said.

# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## For 50 East Remodeling, Every Job Is The Most Important One

By Zach Sparks

The 50 East Remodeling team doesn't cut corners.

Based in Arnold, the team takes pride in being efficient, being clean and making sure customers are satisfied with their home improvements whether the project is a roof, siding, kitchen, bathroom or outdoor space.

"We're not just sending the guys," said Stephen Wheatley, who opened 50 East Remodeling in April 2015. "We want the leadership onsite at least at some point during the day ... every customer wants to feel like they're your only customer. They are paying for that, and they should get that."

Wheatley assembled his team from family members and friends who were skilled in their respective trades. A friend from elementary school is the lead painter. Wheatley's brother, who has 20 years of experience, works for 50 East. Their mom answers phone calls.

"We're definitely a family-run business," Wheatley said.

Operations manager Daniel Stefany is the son of Wheatley's high school principal.

Stefany believes 50 East Remodeling is different from most companies because it's all-encompassing.

"I speak with a lot of people, friends in the trades, and if you want a bathroom done, you call [a company] and you get a demo team, a framer and got to get the plumber in and the electrician," Stefany said. "[Then you hear], 'The tile guy is held up. I need my drywall finisher and my painter. Oh, the tub is leaking. Let's get the plumber back.' And then what we, [50 East], can accomplish in seven days takes three, four, five weeks for some people."



At 50 East Remodeling, owner Stephen Wheatley (left) and operations manager Daniel Stefany take pride in doing their best work for every homeowner.

The electricians, plumbers and other contractors 50 East partners with are all from local companies with licensed workers.

Wheatley prefers to take jobs around the Ritchie Highway corridor so he can stay in the community where he lives, building relationships through referrals.

"By doing local work, we are currently finishing our third project for a family," Wheatley said. "We have done work for the uncle, we have done work for the aunt, we have done work for the children."

Most importantly, he wants homeowners to be able to control their budget. And while the 50 East Remodeling team recommends certain materials over

others — such as not using glass tile in the bathroom because it can be slippery — they leave those choices to the customer.

"I'm not going to sell them my cabinets and then give them a design, because I'm not a dealer for Wellborn Cabinet," Wheatley said. "You can ... find the cabinet that you want rather than me trying to sell you something that I have."

"Tile is the same way," he said. "We can transform your entire bathroom. You get to pick the colors, the thickness, the size, and the shape of your tile. We can set you up with a designer at one of the local shops who can help you pick out some really nice stuff that your neighbor



doesn't have, and then we are going to put it all together."

At 50 East Remodeling, the team uses real porcelain and marble tile. For siding, they utilize multiple teams.

"For the siding team, if you're doing vinyl, if you're doing Hardie Plank, or if you're doing LP SmartSide siding, or if you're doing cedarwood, they're not all put on by the same people and you definitely don't want the same people putting them on your home," Wheatley said.

Regardless of the job, it may take a few days for an estimate when homeowners call 50 East Remodeling. Wheatley attributes any delay to his team wanting to do the best job for every customer. When 50 East responds, customers will not get a sales pitch, just an answer to their problem, Wheatley said.

"I apologize in advance to a customer who calls our company and doesn't have a salesperson respond within five minutes with an estimate," Wheatley said. "Honestly, Dan is probably on a roof, or I may be in a crawlspace."

It's a rewarding job for both Wheatley and Stefany, who treat every job as the most important one.

"I also take pride in work, and the work I enjoy gives me instant gratification," Stefany said. "When I am doing a bathroom, which I have done probably 200, day one is demo. 'Alright, here are the bones. Here's what I get to work with.' I feel good about that. I go home and I share a picture with my wife every day."

To learn more about 50 East Remodeling, call 410-500-2266 or visit [www.50eastremodeling.com](http://www.50eastremodeling.com). The company has a near-perfect rating on Google with 4.9 out of 5 stars.

## Chamber Update

» Continued from page 45

**People Rise LLC** – People Rise is not your typical outsourced human resources department — the team at People Rise is full of proven leaders who believe that people are more than resources. Allow the staff to show you what it's like to want to call your "HR person." The business provides HR concierge services, career development, and coaching and project work.

**Arthur Murry Dance Center Arnold** – Arthur Murray Dance Studios has been realizing its students' dreams for more than 100 years. The center's mission is to provide the community with a high-quality dance experience in a nurturing environment. The staff believes that dancing opens doors to improved health, closer relationships with loved ones, and produces a greater passion and joy for life. Student discounts are currently being offered.

**Sand & Silo Marketplace LLC** – Sand & Silo Marketplace offers custom-built and new furniture as well as refinished pieces. It specializes in coastal, farmhouse, bohemian and mid-century modern finishes. Visit the businesses' showroom or Facebook page for access to current inventory. In addition to furniture, Sand & Silo Marketplace features Maryland-made items and offers unique home decor, jewelry,

clothing and gifts.

**PC Repair of Severna Park** – At PC Repair, the staff take great pride in being able to provide all of your computer support needs. From on-site to in-house, networks to home users, PC Repair of Severna Park is your support team. In addition to repair, the business offers virus removal, firewalls, networking, network security, backup solutions and more. The business is a certified Dell partner.

We held three ribbon-cutting celebrations in July. The first was the 10-year anniversary of **Healing Paws Veterinary Wellness Center** in Severna Park, founded by Dr. Jennifer Levitsky. Healing Paws combines traditional pet care with holistic practices for more comprehensive treatment of animals in its care, and Healing Paws now has five full-time veterinarians at the office.

Next, we celebrated the grand opening of **Atlantic Blue Water Services**, owned by Chris Mather. The business does everything from testing and treating your water to supplying well water products and more.

Finally, we celebrated **Providence of Maryland's** unveiling of its new logo and branding, and learned how it is expanding its services beyond the county. Providence of Maryland has been supporting our spe-

cial needs community members for more than 60 years, and its vision is to bring its services to other counties.

Of course, our signature event of the month was our wonderful Independence Day parade, held on July 4. Our grand marshal was **Wayne Gerst**, long-time Severna Park resident, business owner and philanthropist. Wayne donated a portion of his Millersville farm to **Orphan Grain Train** so the nonprofit could build a warehouse for its operation that supports children in need locally and internationally.

We had 99 parade entries ranging from first responders to community floats, and even the Severna Park High School marching band!

Many thanks to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church and Our Shepherd Lutheran Church for allowing us to stage the parade entries in their lots.

The decorated bike contest was held at the chamber for the smallest members of our community. Many thanks to Colette Barnes of KinderCare Learning Center and Suellen Gerbracht of the Edinboro Early School for your support in making it a fun event, and congratulations to the winners.

There are so many people to thank including our volunteers, participants, the *Severna Park Voice* for the incredible pa-

rade guide and stories about the parade, and our sponsors.

On that note, our sponsors were:

**Community Champions:** Chick-fil-A, Kogen Dojo

**Community Awards:** Budding Voices, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, Bradford Counseling Services

**Judges Sponsor:** Severna Park Automotive

**DJ Sponsors:** The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company, SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park

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**Decorated Bike Contest:**

Lean On Dee

**Media:** *Severna Park Voice*

**Comfort Station:** Severna Park Community Center

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For more information about the chamber, please visit [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com).



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**Do You Have a Family Member with Special Needs?**

By Sharon Ritter Beall, Esq.



If a member of your family has special needs, you may be concerned about how to provide for their long term care and financial security. Many people write these loved ones into their wills, with the best of intentions, thinking they are

acting in that disabled person's best interest. After all, it may be difficult for a person with special needs or other disability to earn their own income, now or in the future. However, by acting without knowledge and legal guidance, you could actually be endangering the long term care of a person with special needs.

**Why an Inheritance Can be Detrimental**

Not long ago, we had a case come to us where a client left a large, one-time lump sum inheritance to a family member with special needs. They did not realize the implications of this action and sought our help. Unfortunately, the special needs individual was *disqualified* from receiving Supplemental

Security Income (SSI) and they were no longer eligible for health coverage through Medicaid. So, a lump sum inheritance can impact their ability to qualify for such programs, now or perhaps in the future.

**What is a Special Needs Trust?**

A special needs trust is used to provide for your disabled family member, without making them ineligible for SSI or Medicaid. The money in the trust is not readily available for the beneficiary (the disabled loved one), and is in complete control of the trustee, who acts in the beneficiary's best interest. As such, the money in the trust is not technically an available resource, as the money in trust can only be used for the disabled person's incidental expenses and other expenses not covered by Medicaid. Additionally, the money in the special needs trust cannot be used for food or shelter, as that is what SSI is used for. The special needs trust can be used for everything else, from vacation to education to transportation.

It is important to seek the guidance of an attorney who focuses on family with special needs to ensure you are making the best possible decisions for you and your loved ones.

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# Sisters Hope To Set A Trend

» Continued from page 45

A few years later while fishing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the girls' father, Matt, posted a question to then 10-year-old Lila and 8-year-old Georgia. He asked, "If you could start any business, what would it be?"

Lila declared that she would make suits for girls who don't like dresses. Georgia shared her enthusiasm for the idea, and the family started brainstorming ideas that day, deciding their suits would feature a detachable lapel.

LilaPants will sell suit colorways in ruby, peacock, black and floral.

They plan to offer optional lapels in ruby sequin, peacock sequin, black sequin and floral satin.

"You can put the floral [lapel] on one of the solid suits, so you can mix and match," Jenny said. "So, if you invest in a suit, you're going to get multiple looks. As

opposed to having a closet full of dresses like [Georgia], you can have maybe one or two suits and wear the living heck out of them."

The family is custom-making the fabric because they wanted to make the suit they would want to buy.

"I wanted, as a mom, something where if there was a rogue chicken nugget, I could throw it in the washing machine instead of having to take it to the cleaners," Jenny said, "because taking a 6-year-old's clothes to the cleaners seems ridiculous. So, we wanted it to be stretchy and comfortable, stain-resistant, wrinkle-resistant. It's very forgiving."

Before creating their products, the family consulted Debbi Schultz, the co-owner of a Bethesda-based specialty boutique called Lilac, which caters to girls ages 8 to 14.

Schultz told the girls there is a big

need for the kind of formalwear they are making.

"When we started, we noticed there was tremendous difficulty in finding outfits that girls felt stylish in but that their moms also found age appropriate," Schultz said. "We had been looking, looking and looking to find another option."

Schultz is "really, really excited" to see how the LilaPants suits look, especially because they potentially fit into a "niche market that tends to be forgotten," between young girls and teens.

As they continue to forge those business partnerships, the girls have been enjoying their journey.

"I learned the process of creating a complete new thing because we did a sewing camp for a little bit and we learned to make pants and socks," Georgia said. "Those things we learned in a week because there were so many patterns for those, but for a girls' suit, there was noth-

ing. So, it was like starting from scratch. It took a long time, but I'm very happy with how it turned out."

As for the goal, Lila said, "Maybe having girls be able to wear what they want to wear instead of just fitting to the closest alternative. They get the freedom of wearing pants instead of a skirt."

Georgia wants to empower girls by giving them options.

"Maybe I want to wear a dress or maybe I want to wear a suit," she said. "Just having the option there and not like, 'I want to wear pants. Why can't I find any?'"

While the process was not always easy, the family is proud of the outcome and every "no" they heard from manufacturers along the way.

"Even with every no, you learn something," Jenny said. "Even if it was telling us no, it motivated us to get that yes because we believe this is something that is long overdue in the market."

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