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SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome To The Hall Of Fame Part I

Severna Park High School Selects Class Of 2023



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

A five-time high school state champion, a Major League Lacrosse All-Star, a coach who nearly went undefeated in her career. These are just a few members of the Severna Park Athletic Boosters Hall of Fame class of 2023.

An 11-person committee chose eight inductees from a field of 17 candidates who were nominated. These individuals will be honored during a Severna Park home football game against Annapolis on September 14.

DAVE BRIGGS

Class of 1962

Credentials

- Senior co-captain in football, basketball and track
- Inaugural Outstanding Basketball Player Award winner in 1962
- Member of two track county championships
- Led track team in scoring during his senior year, with 82.5 points
- Served in Vietnam, earning a Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star.

As a junior, Dave Briggs was a member of Severna Park High School's first varsity football team. Opponents included St. Mary's, Annapolis, Edgewood and Aberdeen.

Briggs suited up as both an offensive end and defensive end before moving to tailback when coach George Roberts shifted to a single-wing offense to adapt after injuries of two quarterbacks.

"Against Howard County, I threw only about five plays and three went for touchdowns," Briggs said, referencing throws of 15, 38 and 28 yards that were caught by Anthony Bramble in a 27-12 win.

The 6-foot-tall athlete also made an impact on the basketball team.

"We played the old 2-1-2 defense, and I was the man in the middle," Briggs said. "I would have far more rebounds than points."

Briggs also ran the 440-yard dash and 100-yard dash, and he competed on the 4x400 and mile relay teams.

Severna Park did not offer soccer, lacrosse or field hockey during Briggs' tenure, but he enjoyed trying new sports. He earned a scholarship to play halfback for the Rutgers University football team and made the school's lacrosse team as a midfielder — an accomplishment because he had never

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Drivers, Cyclists Adjust To Robinson Road Signal System

By Diane Lewis

"Just push the button," Nestor Flores said as he advised trail users to use a new signal system to safely cross Robinson Road.

Flores, chief engineer of the traffic division at the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works (DPW), has spent a considerable amount of time planning and installing the system with help from the local community.

A recent study by the DPW provides

information that trail users are not using the system often enough and drivers are confused by it. There have been 11 crashes (three including bikes), multiple near-misses, and violations of bicyclists ignoring stop signs.

"Unfortunately, trail users have not gotten into the habit of using the signal's system, and drivers are unsure about how to react when they see people at the intersection," Flores said. "There are sensors and cameras that observe the use of [the] system. This information helps tweak the system to be more effective, if necessary."

The flashing yellow signal alerts drivers as they approach the crossing; motorists have the right-of-way during this phase of the signal's operation. When trail users press the signal button, the light will switch to a solid yellow to prepare drivers to stop at the designated line before the crosswalk. When pedestrians see the flashing walk symbol, it is safe to cross while drivers have a solid red light.

Flores added that trail users can expect



James and Rhonda Thomas, and their grandson Gabe (left), are experienced pleasure cyclists who frequent the B&A Trail.

a 12-second minimum wait to cross, with up to a 57-second wait if traffic is heavy.

"Using the button helps everyone navigate the intersection in the safest manner," said Jon Korin, a Severna Park

resident who is involved in the signal project as chair for the Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission and president of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis

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Unity Bands Continues Support Of Health Care Workers

By Lauren Burke Meyer

For some, the COVID-19 pandemic is in the rearview mirror. Not for Unity Bands, which was founded in late 2020 by Arnold resident John Schirrippa to aid health care workers.

Schirrippa launched the nonprofit three days before COVID vaccines were offered to frontline workers in the medical field. While based out of his home office in Arnold, Schirrippa — along with 10 family members and friends — participated in a virtual launch.

To date, Unity Bands has raised \$15,000 through monetary donations and the sale of its flagship product, a customized wristband that demonstrates a symbol of unity, as well as branded merchandise like T-shirts, mugs and water bottles.

“As an all-volunteer nonprofit, we started by donating it all to health care heroes and patients,” Schirrippa said.

Unity Bands funding went toward morale and resiliency efforts, including 800 COVID kits for increased-risk patients, personal protective equipment and an initiative, dubbed Feeding the Frontlines, that delivered free meals to health care workers risking their lives to help those sick with the virus.

Funding also enabled clinical studies at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the purchase of a specialized freezer to store virus samples.

Schirrippa said another notable moment was reading a few names at the U.S. Capitol of those who lost their lives to the pandemic support-



Born out of the COVID-19 pandemic, Unity Bands is a nonprofit started by John Schirrippa. His work continues to aid essential health care workers.

ing COVID Survivors for Change.

COVID Survivors for Change is a nonpartisan, nationwide community of people directly impacted by COVID.

“Our enduring mission moving forward is to support low-income health care heroes and provide credible public health information to at-risk communities to inform decision making,” Schirrippa said.

According to The Brookings Institution — a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that conducts in-depth research — nearly 7 million Americans are underpaid, essential health care workers.

“Even though many doctors and

nurses struggle with burnout and moral injury, the full spectrum of health care heroes includes nursing assistants, phlebotomists, home health aides, housekeepers, medical assistants and cooks,” Schirrippa said.

A September 2021 Morning Consult survey among 1,000 U.S. health care workers found nearly one in five quit their job since the start of the pandemic. Among those who kept their job, one in five considered leaving the medical field.

“These are people you need when you go in for help, and you need them at the top of their game,” Schirrippa said.

To further support health care workers, Unity Bands also hosts a virtual speaker series on the last Monday of every month at 7:00pm.

“These are engaging 30-minute segments with a ques-

tion-and-answer session designed to share ideas and raise awareness of the importance of our mission,” Schirrippa said.

Schirrippa plans to host an appreciation night to deliver meals and gift bags to health care workers. He is currently seeking partners to execute that program.

Additionally, the Unity Bands team plans to host more wristband giveaways at sporting events like they previously did with the Bowie Baysox.

There are several ways to support Unity Band’s mission including volunteering or offering financial support to the organization. Learn more at www.unitybands.org.

Drivers, Cyclists Adjust To Signal System

» Continued from page 1

and Anne Arundel County, or Bike AAA.

Bike AAA is a nonprofit organization that advocates for bike safety and accessibility for adults and children of all ages, including those with disabilities.

“We are fortunate to have the 13-mile B&A Trail; it is one of the most popular in the county and region,” Korin remarked.

James and Rhonda Thomas, and their grandson Gabe, share Korin’s assessment of the trail system. Members of the family are experienced pleasure cyclists who have ridden throughout Holland and on several trails stateside. The Thomas family uses the trail several times a week but less on winter days when the wind chill is harsh.

“People are lucky to have such an extensive and well-cared-for trail,” James Thomas said. “It’s one of the best in the country.”

The family praised the installation of the new signal system.

“The light is very helpful and catch-

es the attention of the driver,” James Thomas said.

Gabe Thomas noted there’s more of a consequence for a bicyclist who doesn’t stop than for a driver of a car.

“You’re just as dead if you’re wrong,” James Thomas remarked.

Jean Albaugh is frequently reclined in her recumbent bicycle on the trail and uses the signal at Robinson Road. She also has concerns about the Jones Station Road crossing.

“It is also a very dangerous spot because people don’t pay attention to who has the right of way at the four-way stop,” Albaugh said. “One time, I signaled that it was my turn to cross, and a pickup truck driver deliberately gunned his engine and sped across the intersection as if to hit me.”

Korin’s volunteer roles emphasize the need for educating cyclists and motorists on how to coexist safely on shared routes.

“There are other intersection projects along the bike trail that will be addressed

— Old County Road with Route 648 and Evergreen Road, Whites Road and Jones Station Road,” Korin said.

Jones Station Road will eventually become busier once the B&A Trail connects to the Broadneck Trail. Once fully completed, the Broadneck portion will allow riders to reach its end at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

Korin hopes residents will take part in the annual Lifeline 100 community bicycle event on October 1 at Kinder Farm Park.

“It is an inclusive event for riders of all ages, including ones with disabilities and special needs,” Korin said.

The event will feature fun activities and rides for families. For more experienced riders, there are scenic 65- and 100-mile county tours with water views and historic sites, and 15- and 30-mile flat and paved trail rides. Lifeline 100 started in 2014, and it has raised more than \$250,000 for charity. More information is available at www.lifeline100.com.



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Anne Arundel's Emergency Operations Center Works In The Shadows

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

At an undisclosed location in Anne Arundel County, a group of individuals is working to plan for emergencies and disasters of any type and to ensure the county is prepared to respond and recover.

Although September is National Preparedness Month, the crew that comprises the county's Emergency Operations Center, or EOC, have the topic on their minds around-the-clock, and they're ready and available to react during that same time frame.

"We are working in the background, in the shadows, to help prepare our county," said Kasey Thomas, public information officer for the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and coordinator of the Joint Information Center, or JIC in government parlance, when the EOC is activated.

On any given day at the county's EOC — whether it's planning for a possible situation, coordinating and participating in exercises that simulate emergencies, or actively monitoring or responding to an ongoing situation or event — there might be a mix of civilian clothes, medical garb, police and fire uniforms, and camouflage sitting amongst the rows of the center, whose layout is designed to optimize coordination and communication amongst the various local, state and federal officials who might be on hand at any given time.

Video screens to display news feeds, street cameras and information from various entities line the walls of the windowless EOC, and ham radios are ready for use in an adjoining room. In the event of the main EOC becoming inoperable, two predetermined alternate locations are set to welcome the EOC at a moment's notice.

The county's OEM coordinates the response to emergencies and disasters in the area, and that office, in turn, has the option to activate the EOC to facilitate a multi-agency response to emergencies and planned events.

"We're able to have a very quick turnaround," Thomas said.

Once it's determined that the EOC is being activated, whether by the director of OEM, the county executive or by a state-level coordinated response, the center uses an internal mass notification system to alert identified representatives from agencies that might be involved.

"Whether it's in the middle of the night or on a random Tuesday night, they'll get the message with instructions," Thomas said.

Captain Jenny Macallair is a Severna Park resident who serves as the communications director with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department's Office of Public Information. Macallair also serves with the EOC, usually in the information realm, but she pointed out that several members of her department also staff the emergency center during critical events.

"The EOC allows us to collaborate and train with many of our surrounding agencies ahead of time to reduce and minimize complications during emergency events," said Macallair, whose experience reads like somebody tailored for her position — communications



Above: The Anne Arundel County Emergency Operations Center was pictured during the 2021 presidential inauguration.

Right: Kasey Thomas, public information officer for the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management and coordinator of the Joint Information Center, part of the county's Emergency Operations Center, posed at the emergency center.



degree, FBI National Academy graduate and participant of Federal Emergency Management Agency training on critical incident communications. "The ability to bring us together gives each of us the ability to look at best practices in critical events and collaborate on the objectives and needs of all agencies to mitigate an emergency incident with the best outcome for our communities and our residents. Preplanning the primary and secondary agencies prior to the critical event allows for a better understanding and flow of the mission during the event. We all have the same mission to protect and mitigate the risks to life, property and the environment. However, we all play different roles depending on the incident."

Debbie Saylor is a nurse who works as a program manager at the Anne Arundel County Department of Health's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response. She's also tapped to serve as a Department of Health EOC liaison during either a county EOC activation, or one from Annapolis, a city that maintains its own EOC.

"The EOC allows for rapid and efficient communication, resource coordination and allocation, and an overall common operating picture for all agencies and organizations involved in an emergency

response," Saylor said. "Without it, agencies may operate in a vacuum — which could be a threat to responder and public safety, response redundancy and lack of information sharing."

Thomas pointed out the criticality of the information piece and ensuring that messaging — whether it's road closures or risks during severe weather, shelter locations for displaced persons, updates during acts of terror or guidance during a pandemic — is in sync and the right expert is chosen to articulate that messaging. The JIC must consider what audience they are communicating with and the best way to get information to them. She pointed out it may vary from event to event as different disasters can affect ways the public receives updates.

It's the latter example of messaging that first drew Thomas into her current role. In January 2020, Thomas was serving as a planner for the JIC and

working on new standards for the EOC. Shortly after, she was thrust into the heart of COVID-19 and her elevated role at the JIC.

"With COVID, one of the strengths that was brought out was our ability to do hybrid or virtual activations," Thomas said. "So, even if we aren't able to get everybody in person within 30 minutes, every single one of them can be on a call within that time frame as we're sending people physically to meet here."

With COVID, Thomas knew the EOC activation would happen. It was just a matter of how soon. The county's EOC was activated before the first case hit Anne Arundel.

"As soon as we knew there was a case in Maryland and then a case in Anne Arundel, we were able to start gearing up a lot faster because we were already ready to jump in and respond," Thomas said. "Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst, and that's what we did with COVID."

Thomas pointed out that it's not just disasters or emergencies that would cause the EOC to be activated, citing large festivals, an influx of travelers to the region or things such as elections and inaugurations. She said they receive intel on any credible threats. During the most recent presidential inauguration, the EOC was manned.

"Across the [Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia] area, everyone was kind of on a little bit more of a high alert," Thomas noted.

There's also a new permitting process in place that allows the EOC to assist large events before they take place by advising on things such as having enough water stations and bathrooms.

"That way we don't get to a point where there's a festival that goes wrong, and we've seen that happen all over the place, so we're just trying to prevent anything like that happening in Anne Arundel if we can."

While training and responding are crucial, prevention plays a big part, something Thomas tries to get ahead of by engaging with the community.

"When we go into the schools, we know that whatever we're feeding to them, they're going back and telling their parents, so they've become our little community advocates," Thomas said.

The Anne Arundel native noted visits to businesses and houses of worship, sometimes in partnership with the FBI, as other examples of helping to prepare before something happens as emergency responses aren't a one-size-fits-all for everybody.

Macallair praised the county's emergency services.

"As a member of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department and a county resident, I am proud of the preparation and work that goes into keeping our county safe," she said.

Open House Planned At Earleigh Heights

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is having an open house on October 1 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Displays and exhibits will entertain fami-

lies. Free refreshments and food will be offered as well. Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is located at 161 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park.

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Annapolis Powerboat Show Coming In October

The boating community is gearing up for the return of the Annapolis Powerboat Show to City Dock, Annapolis, from October 5-8.

With a legacy spanning more than 50 years, this boat exhibition is a highlight of the year for many boaters, industry professionals and adventure seekers alike.

Held against the backdrop of the Chesapeake Bay, the Annapolis Powerboat Show aims to be a beacon of innovation, luxury and maritime excellence.

Attendees will have the opportunity to board a wide array of powerboats from small trailerable runabouts to multi-million-dollar yachts. The latest advancements in marine technology such as state-of-the-art navigation systems, eco-friendly propulsion solutions and innovative accessories will be on display, as well as exhibitors catering to luxury boaters with a selection of lifestyle products, premium services and boating apparel.

Event organizers said what sets the Annapolis Powerboat Show apart is its devotion to the marine industry through strategic partnerships with other marine organizations, such as Coastal Conservation Association Maryland (CCA Maryland). Organizations share their wealth of fishing knowledge, boating expertise and conservation advice to attendees of all ages through fun, family-friendly activities such as reef ball making, free daily seminars, and displays of the latest gear. Local fishing guides, charter captains, outfitters and representatives from the Department of Natural Resources will also share their knowledge with anglers looking for their next big catch.

"We are excited to continue our partnership with the Annapolis Powerboat Show," said David Sikorski, executive director of CCA Maryland. "This partnership has provided us with a major platform to share information about invasive species, building habitat in the bay and connecting with boaters and anglers to share more responsible approaches to sharing our cherished and public natural resources. This show is a can't miss event."

BoatU.S. and the BoatU.S. Foundation are yet another crucial part of this fall's boat show. Representatives from BoatU.S., a recreational boating advocacy, service and safety organization, will be on hand to share their knowledge and membership opportunities and to supply loaner life jackets to children walking the docks during the show.

BoatU.S. Foundation will lead on-water training classes within the show gates. Classes include Intro to Boating, Women's Intro to Boating and Precision Docking and Boat Handling. Registration is limited, and attendees may purchase tuition online.

The Annapolis Powerboat Show is also proud to team up with the Marine Trades Association of Maryland (MTAM) to help grow the future generation of marine experts. A proud supporter of the Annapolis Boat Shows, MTAM hosts high school students at each of the fall shows as part of its workforce development initiative to teach these kids about the many careers within the industry. Each student is given the opportunity to speak with experienced boating industry representatives about the current trends as well as gain insights into the maritime world's exciting trajectory.

"This year's show promises to be a truly immersive experience, featuring not only the finest powerboats on the market but also a range of interactive demonstrations and workshops with the help of our friends," said Sheila Jones, general manager of the Annapolis Boat Shows. "And let's not forget the countless networking opportunities that will leave attendees inspired and informed."

The Annapolis Powerboat Show is a celebration of the boating community's passion and dedication. Organizers stressed it offers a platform for like-minded individuals to connect, share stories and forge connections, all while surrounded by the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay and the charm of Annapolis.

Tickets are available for advance purchase on the Annapolis Boat Shows website at www.annapolis-boatshows.com.

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Literacy Council To Hold Book Fair Fundraiser

The Anne Arundel County Literacy Council (AACL) will host a fundraiser book fair on September 30 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

The book fair will take place outside Discoveries: The Library at the Mall at the Crate & Barrel court. Westfield Annapolis Mall donated space and marketing support for the event.

The fair will feature hundreds of gently used books, including children's books, cookbooks, bestsellers, romance novels, memoirs, mysteries,

thrillers, historical fiction and more. Books will be priced at \$2 for hardbacks and \$1 for paperbacks. Shoppers can fill a special edition AACL tote bag with books for \$20. PayPal, credit cards, checks, and cash will be accepted. Also at the book fair: gift basket raffles.

Proceeds from the fair will support the council's free adult tutoring programs in Anne Arundel County.

Information about the book fair is available at www.icanread.org/bookfair.



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Welcome To The Hall Of Fame: Part I

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picked up a lacrosse stick prior to coming to Rutgers.

As an athlete, Briggs was revered as a leader, a trait that served him well in the military. Briggs was a first lieutenant during his tour in Vietnam from 1968-1969.

Reflecting on his Hall of Fame honor, he is excited to join a family tradition that includes his brother, Jon, being inducted into the Severna Park Athletic Boosters Hall of Fame in 2010. His father, Charles, and his eldest son, David, are in the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School Hall of Fame in New Jersey.

"I'm very proud, but there's a humble feeling," Briggs said. "Probably more athletes from those first few years [of athletics at Severna Park High School] deserve to be in the Hall of Fame."

BEN HUNT

Class of 2005

Ben Hunt is on the short list of Severna Park athletes to reach the pinnacle of success in a professional sport. He played attack and midfield for the Falcons, and later, he was a star for the Chesapeake Bayhawks.

Hunt's career can be summarized with a slogan he adopted from former Severna Park assistant coach and two-time NCAA lacrosse championship-winning coach Clayton "Bud" Beardmore: "Be the best."

"It's a slogan that applies to everything you do in life," Hunt said.

Credentials

High School Lacrosse

- State champion in 2004; runner-up in 2002, 2003, 2005
- First-team All-County in 2004
- Team captain in 2005
- First-team All-County and Player of the Year, first-team All-Metro, and finalist for C. Markland Kelly Award in 2005

High School Football

- First-team All-County in 2004

University of North Carolina Lacrosse

- All-ACC Team and USILA third-team All-America
- Scored 21 goals and had nine assists as a junior; 17 goals and 12 assists as a senior
- USILA second-team as a senior
- ACC All-Tournament team as a senior

Major League Lacrosse

- Three-time Major League Lacrosse national champion with the Chesapeake Bayhawks
- Three-time Major League Lacrosse All-Star

With that mindset, Hunt excelled while playing on the East Coast.

"It was special being able to play week in and week out near my hometown in Arnold," he said. "My parents and grandparents came to many games."

Credentials

High School Volleyball (player)

- Capital Gazette first-team volleyball during junior year in 1997
- Player of the Year during senior year in 1998
- Volleyball All-Metro team in 1997 and 1998
- Led team to volleyball state finals in 1998

High School Tennis

- County and regional champion in doubles in 1999
- All-County in doubles in 1999

Gettysburg College Volleyball

- Led team to NCAA tournament three times
- First-team All-Centennial Conference in 2001
- Centennial Conference first-team and Player of the Year in 2002

Volleyball (coach)

- Severna Park assistant varsity volleyball coach from 2003-2006
- Severna Park JV volleyball head coach, 2007-2015 and 2023
- Helped start Bay Area Volleyball Academy in 1999

With his Hall of Fame ceremony approaching, he shared advice for students.

"High school goes by quickly," Hunt said. "Embrace every challenge you undertake. One way I grew at Severna Park was not only the wins but the failures."

LAUREN BOYD LEVENTRY

Class of 2009

Lauren Boyd Leventry has always been competitive, and she found the perfect outlet with sports.

"I liked the team sport aspect," she said. "It's not like soccer where you can score three goals."

She cherished the team sleepovers, sister bags and team culture at Severna Park.

"People I played with were best friends," she said. "Those bonds led to our success."

After her playing career, she supported Severna Park coach Tim Dunbar and South River coach Maureen Carter in starting Bay Area Volleyball Academy (BAVA).

"There were no other clubs in August 1999 when we started," she said. "Mo Carter from South River and Tim Dunbar said we need a place in Anne Arundel County ... get all these kids to play here and not in Howard County or wherever."

Read the full story online. This is the first in a two-part series. Other honorees include baseball coach Bob Felts; tennis coach Kathie Zingler; basketball standout Jim Ledsome; soccer, lacrosse and track athlete Erin Wylde Kindy; and lacrosse and field hockey player Becky Shank Mollot.



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Event Of The Month: Round Bay Carnival

Story and photos by Zach Sparks
zach@severnarparkvoice.com

Some communities are so tight-knit that they gather for unique events that can't be found in most neighborhoods. To get an idea of what makes the greater Severna Park and Arnold area so special, the Severna Park Voice is highlighting some of those celebrations in a new series called Event of the Month.

On a humid Saturday in August, children tossed softballs and hurled darts to win prizes. Others chuckled as they plunged into water inside a dunk tank. Friends munched on popcorn and cotton candy. A girl sat still at a picnic table by the beach, a swan painted above her left eye.

This scene was like the ones that families have enjoyed year after year. For 104 years, Round Bay has held an annual carnival exclusive to residents.

"It's an opportunity to get together as a community in summer, which is a very important time in this community, which is heavy into sailing and the [Severn] River," said Kristen McGovern, who oversaw the carnival this year. "It's a good time to play games, have fun, see your neighbors and say goodbye to summer."

Starting in April or May, Round Bay residents start planning the event, which is made possible by about 75 volunteers.



Left: Rose Dickerson had her face painted. **Right:** Lillie Johnson made cotton candy for hungry carnival attendees.



Jill Galloway's husband was raised in Round Bay during the 1970s, when the carnival was a fundraiser.

"They had a river carnival, boat shows, swimming and all kinds of things going on," Galloway said. "It kind of died off because a lot of kids moved out of the neighborhood for a while, and then when kids started moving back in around 2000, we started rejuvenating it again."

Other than a short hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the carnival has been a bustling event each year. Galloway estimated that 200 people attended the 2023 carnival, which is typical.

"My kids are older, they're out of

the house, but this is one of those rare events in the community where we have people of all generations come out and contribute," Galloway said. "They run the games or they're helping to cook."

They enjoy games and activities at booths created about 10 years ago by Kevin Russell of Maine Cottage Furniture.

In Round Bay, the carnival is a reminder of a time when their community was a destination for families between Annapolis and Baltimore. Attendees participated in friendly competitions that involved swimming, diving, boat races and even canoe tilt-

ing. Contestants would stand in their canoe and joust with their opponents using a padded pole.

While the 2023 version did not include canoe tilting, it did celebrate the spirit that the carnival started all those years ago.

"It's one of our founding traditions in our community, and I think it's so important for the old communities along the river to hold onto those old traditions," Galloway said. "It's what makes the community so special, that it is old and we hold onto what made it special in the beginning and keep it that way today. It's very Americana, right? It's nice."

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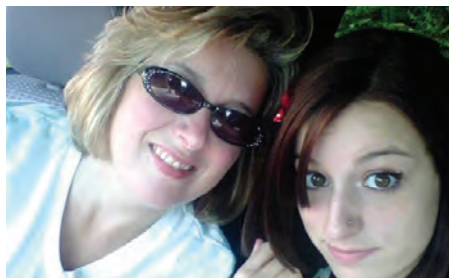
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Families Bring Awareness To Suicide



Kimberly Nelson-Beverly

By Judy Tacyn

“The challenges and pressures on kids pile up faster than resources are made available,” said Kimberly Nelson-Beverly, mother of Morgan Beverly, who attended Severna Park High School (SPHS) and then Broadneck High School before taking her own life at 16 years old in January 2009.

It was a typical Sunday evening. The family was home; the children were preparing for the school week. Nothing was out of the ordinary to indicate Morgan Beverly — a vivacious and empathetic teenager who just months before helped talk a would-be jumper off the Bay Bridge — would fabricate a noose from a headscarf and take her life in her bedroom.

The moments following the realization that her daughter was gone are as vivid today as they were then for Nelson-Beverly. She stoically held her daughter’s hand in the emergency room at Anne Arundel Medical Center and promised to take care of the family and assured her daughter that everything would be OK.

But Nelson-Beverly would never again be OK. Within weeks, she threw herself into suicide awareness and prevention advocacy and created the Morgan Beverly Suicide Prevention Foundation.

“I was screaming about awareness, whenever I could and everywhere I went,” Nelson-Beverly said. “Morgan was larger than life. This couldn’t be it for her. I knew she still had a message.”

Donations to the foundation poured in, and Nelson-Beverly was a force to be reckoned with. Over the decade and a half, Nelson-Beverly, along with the foundation she founded in her daughter’s name, was responsible for bringing the Out of the Darkness Walk, sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide

Warning: This story contains sensitive subject matter and graphic details about suicide. If you or someone you know is in crisis, the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline can be reached at 988.

The Anne Arundel County Warmline can be reached at 410-768-5522.

Prevention, to Anne Arundel County. She partnered with the QPR Institute to bring suicide training to public and private schools in Anne Arundel County. To date, Nelson-Beverly estimates 9,000 workbooks purchased by the foundation have been provided to train students, staff and administrators on the Question, Persuade and Refer model, which is a program that teaches community members how to recognize that a person may be experiencing thoughts of suicide and offer assistance until more experienced help is available. Additionally, the foundation was instrumental in supporting the University of Tennessee’s study on teen suicide in affluent areas. Every dollar was put back into the schools for suicide awareness and prevention.

Nelson-Beverly stressed the local community is better at recognizing at-risk teens and providing resources, but there’s still a long way to go.

Some residents may have heard Severna Park High School being dubbed Suicide High following a long-lasting rash of student suicides. In 2020, the Anne Arundel County Council voted to declare suicide a public health crisis, with hopes of addressing mental illness and providing more access to services for residents at risk of suicide.

After 15 years, the foundation named for Nelson-Beverly’s daughter will shut down after January 1, 2024.

“I’m tired,” Nelson-Beverly said. “The foundation was all about me being able to continue Morgan, and I think we did a pretty good job of that. I don’t think she will ever be forgotten.”

Beverly begs parents to be courageous enough to start a conversation with their children about how they are feeling and to support, not pressure, their children to a

notion of excellence.

“Our parenting has to be different,” Nelson-Beverly said. “Give your kids leeway. Be patient. Listen. Don’t push. Take lots of photos. This is not a club you ever want to be in.”

It’s not a club that Larry and Sherry Leikin ever expected to join either.

Since 2016, the Leikin family has also been a strong advocate for mental health dialogue. A visual reminder of suicide awareness in the area is Ellie’s Bus, a bright orange 1978 Volkswagen that some area residents have dubbed Mystery Machine after the van used in “Scooby-Doo.”

Immediately following their daughter Ellie’s suicide in November 2015, Larry and Sherry Leikin turned confusion and grief into action to try to understand why their free-spirited daughter and student at SPHS felt she had nowhere to turn. The Leikins have used Ellie’s Bus to travel to dozens of events in Anne Arundel County to spread the message of dialogue. Some Severna Park residents may have seen the vintage VW bus at Burgers and Bands for Suicide Prevention, concerts, high school events and other functions where the opportunity to discuss suicide awareness is present.

“We do not know where Ellie’s Bus will take us,” said Larry Leikin during a 2016 interview with the Severna Park Voice. “But we will continue along this road and seek places where our message can be shared with those who need us.”

They have also been active behind the scenes to support a Luminis Health part-time teaching position dedicated to student inpatients.

After reading Ellie’s journal following her death, Sherry Leikin learned how fearful her daughter was about falling behind in her studies. With money received



Ellie Leikin

through Ellie’s Bus, the Leikins contacted the medical center to see how they could help. The result was to provide funding to cover the salary of a teacher or educational coordinator to be part of a collaborative care effort between the medical center, county schools and families. The position is funded by the foundation and the Leikin family.

“We wanted to support kids and families by building a bridge between schools and providers,” Larry Leikin said. “Academics continue to be part of the young person’s life whether they are in school or not. This teacher/educational coordinator was designed to mitigate the stress of missing school and falling behind in homework.”

Donna Phillips, clinical director of Psychiatric Day Hospital at Luminis Health J. Kent McNew Medical Center, has been part of that collaborative care team since its inception in 2016.

“The teacher/educational coordinator is an extremely valuable member of a student’s care and treatment team,” Phillips said. “From the moment a child enters the medical center, we are collaborating with the schools.”

Phillips added that access to teachers is essential for students, and she said teachers are strong proponents for the educational coordinator.

The Leikins enjoy receiving letters from kids or parents letting them know how the resource was beneficial to them.

“Reading their letters is very inspiring,” Sherry Leikin said. “I think Ellie would be proud of us and to know she still has a voice. Mental stress isn’t going to go away, so we need to keep providing resources and support.”

To donate to Ellie’s Bus, visit www.elliesbus.org.

An Update From SPAN

Michele Sabean

Director of Development
SPAN Inc.



As the summer is winding down, I would like to thank everyone who continues to allow Serving People Across Neighborhoods (SPAN) to help so many in our area.

In our fiscal year that ended recently, SPAN gave more than two and a half times the amount of emergency financial assistance that we typically do in a year. We helped with more than \$280,000 in emergency financial assistance. As many of the COVID-19 pandemic supports ended and prices have been higher, we saw increases in our num-

ber of clients. Thanks to this community, we have been able to help more than 700 families this year who were facing utility shutoffs, court-ordered evictions or needed assistance with medical prescriptions.

Likewise, we helped almost 600 families with food. Those families are deeply grateful, and we want you to know how much this support means to them. I am always impressed by how our shelves are filled completely by community donations.

Thank you to all who donate financially — every dollar adds up and has allowed us to keep helping all who meet our criteria.

I am also amazed by how things work out. For instance, when I shared on Facebook that we were on our last set of a certain size of diapers, we received a box of them.

Thank you also to the local businesses that support us. Landmark Roofing, Checkmark Power Washing and Bear Landscaping have recently done work to keep our building looking and functioning well. We continue to have a wonderful partnership with Diehl’s Produce, as its customers round up purchases to provide gift cards for our clients. We have also had produce this summer from Langton Green Community Garden and several locals who have shared fruit and vegetables from their gardens.

We have many local businesses sponsoring our 11th Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot 5k race and one-mile fun walk. It is a community event that will be held November 4 at Kinder Farm Park. Registration is available at register.chronotrack.com/r/75552. If you are interested in sponsoring and or volunteering at the event, please contact us.

It will soon be time for another opportunity to help with a SPAN tradi-

tion, our Holiday Caring program. The program provides clients with holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children. Many families worry about Thanksgiving and Christmas because they can’t afford a large meal and gifts for their children. Unforeseen circumstances — such as a car accident, illness or job layoff — can throw family budgets into crisis mode. At SPAN, we can ease the burden a little bit. Please consider becoming a sponsor. For more information, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or call 410-647-0889.

Summer is our slow time for donations, and we welcome and appreciate donations that replenish our shelves. Food can be donated to our bins at Severna Park Community Center and Severna Park Library or directly at our building. A good focus for food donations this month is on breakfast items, such as coffee, tea, juice, cereal, pancake mix and similar items.

Thank you for your help. Together we are making a difference every day!



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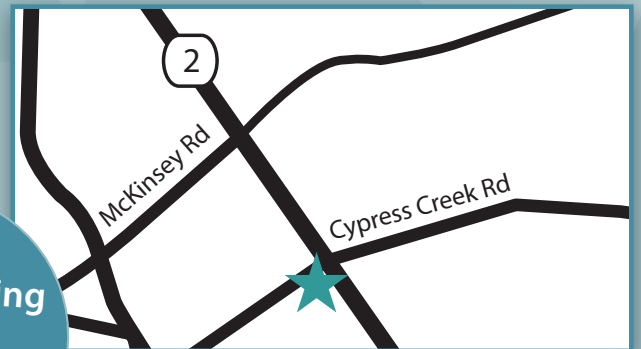
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Papal Honor To Be Bestowed On Former Spalding President

By Judy Tacyn

During her tenure as president and principal of Archbishop Spalding High School, Kathleen Mahar occasionally spoke to Archbishop William Lori, the Catholic leader of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

However, a recent phone call from the archbishop caught her completely off guard.

"I have to say it was a little unnerving, but in a really good way," Mahar said. "I am still stunned, frankly. It's hard to put into words how I felt when he told me why he was calling."

A year after retiring, Mahar, a current resident of Annapolis, is one of 10 individuals who will receive the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice ("for the church and the pontiff"), an honor conferred directly by the pope. Another seven individuals will receive honors in other categories.

"Our honorees for pontifical orders and medals demonstrate through their lives' work the ways the church is alive in mission and ministry throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore," Lori said. "These women and men have given of themselves — by nurturing, inspiring and protecting young people, by building vibrant communities of faith and by shepherding a new generation of priests and religious servants."

Lori said the recognitions were extended in gratitude for the awardees' contributions in education, service and evangelization.

Mahar, who has a combined 25 years at Spalding, including a stint as a teacher, was quick to note that an honor for excellence in Catholic education is not the work of one person but of an entire school community of faculty, staff, students and parents. Mahar said it should not be just her



Former Archbishop Spalding president Kathleen Mahar (center) has received a papal honor for excellence and leadership in Catholic education.

"She is truly one of my biggest role models and her authentic, unique leadership changed my life," Harding said. "She pushed, and continues to push, me to achieve my goals and push beyond them. Her impact on the Spalding community truly is immeasurable and my experience there would not have been close to as good without her at the helm of the school."

Stephen Cobbs is a 2019 Spalding graduate who now lives in Boston, but he said it's impossible not to make plans to catch up with "Mother Mahar" every time he returns to Severna Park.

"High school can be very stressful, but Mrs. Mahar treated students with the same respect and dignity that she treated everyone," Cobbs said. "She has so much faith in me that I continue to do everything I can to live up to those

standards. For her, each one of her students truly matters, and we feel that."

When asked what she might do for an encore now that she is on Pope Francis' radar, Mahar joked, "That's a pretty high bar, isn't it? I don't know if it's possible to top that!"

Lori will confer the papal honors at a public celebration of solemn lauds (morning prayer) September 23 at 9:30am at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. The papal honors will be conferred in the archdiocese for the first time in more than a decade, according to an Archdiocese of Baltimore press release.

"The woman is incredible, and she's humble. She wouldn't take sole credit for the great things at Spalding. She's a visionary with the ability to articulate a plan. She can say it was a team effort, but she was steering the ship. It was her charismatic leadership that got things done."

— CATHERINE HELLIE, WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT CHAIR
ARCHBISHOP SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL

receiving this honor.

"The woman is incredible, and she's humble," said Catherine Hellie, world languages department chair at Archbishop Spalding High School. "She wouldn't take sole credit for the great things at Spalding. She's a visionary with the ability to articulate a plan. She can say it was a team effort, but she was steering the ship. It was her charismatic leadership that got things done."

Catherine Harding is one of many former Spalding students who stay in touch with Mahar, often meeting for monthly lunch dates, even six years after graduating from high school.

Woods Church Receives Sustainability Award



Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church has been awarded one of the five Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Sustainability Leadership Awards for 2023. The four other award recipients are Luminis Health; the University of Maryland, Baltimore; the City of Frederick; and McClintock Distilling. These awards recognize Maryland Green Registry member organizations that have demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable practices, measurable results and continual improvements.

The Severna Park church's environmental achievements include reducing energy usage by more than 50 percent, capturing stormwater runoff from rooftops and paved surfaces in rain gardens and wooded areas; planting over 1,000 native trees, shrubs and perennials; restoring the habitat for a variety of birds, wildlife and pollinators; and refurbishing 500 sanctuary chairs for donation to other congregations in Baltimore, Delaware and North Carolina.

Maui Wildfire Relief Through UMCOR

Wind-driven wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage in August. UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to provide emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, the Severna Park United Methodist Church congregation has been praying for those affected. Gifts can be made directly to UMCOR (umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670) or through SPUMC (www.severnaparkumc.org). For anyone who donates online, select UMCOR as the fund, or if donating by check, include UMCOR in the memo section.

Back To School!

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



Students, teachers, staff and parents, welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I know this year will be a great one, and I look forward to seeing you at school visits and events this

fall. Below are resources to help ensure your start to the school year is smooth.

Buses

By now, we've all heard the exciting news that bus drivers are in place for all routes. This is huge, considering what we've all been through the last couple of years. Be mindful that we are still building a bench of substitute drivers, and there is still a possibility

» **Continued on page 18**

August Recess – Not A Month At The Playground

Amanda Fiedler
County Council
District 5



You have seen them. The memes that give a profession and then the perspective of “what my parents think I do,” “what my friends think I do,” “what my kids think I do,” “what the public thinks I do” and then, the kicker, “what I actually do.” The same meme could be applied to the August recess of the Anne Arundel County Council.

It is not uncommon for the public to have a misconception of what a legislative recess means for the county council. It is an understandable misconception, with limited to no information on what takes place during this one month of the summer. With the August recess now concluded, I thought it may be helpful to understand how your tax dollars are at work instead of playing in the sandbox for

summertime fun.

Unlike the Maryland General Assembly, in recess from mid-April until January, the Anne Arundel County Council takes only one month to recess every August. Don't get me wrong, members of the General Assembly work intensively for the three-and-a-half months they are in session, and it is an incredible amount of work in a condensed time frame. This differs from the county council, which meets on the first and third Monday of every month to discuss and vote on legislation, except for August.

Bills take time to craft, sometimes a lot of time. Drafting one piece of legislation means an initial request and several rounds of revisions before meeting with departments that would be tasked with implementing the legislation if passed. This feedback and input can be critical to the success of a bill. Council members use the August recess to set up those important discussions with stakeholders in the community and county agencies to review legislation being considered for introduction in the months ahead.

August is also a time for county elected leaders from across the state to come together at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) annual summer conference in Ocean City. This is a four-day conference led by the nonpartisan leadership of MACo, giving elected leaders across the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland's education system collaborative opportunities on the issues we are all faced with in local government.

This year, I attended sessions on combating crime at the retail level; water, waste and workforce; and legal adult-use cannabis through the public health lens, especially how it relates to young children and our youth. These are just a few of the many educational opportunities across a variety of topics that are available for elected officials during this conference.

And while school may have been out, constituent services do not stop. Your Anne Arundel County Council District 5 office has been busy addressing the needs and concerns you send our way, with a caseload of over 200 for the

» **Continued on page 17**

Letter To The Editor

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to the county executive, the director of Planning and Zoning, and the director of Inspections and Permits about the proposed Enclave at Severna Park development on Ritchie Highway between the Brian Boru Irish Restaurant plaza and Joe's Seafood.

Enclave At Severna Park

The Berrywood community was not satisfied with the process of the Board of Appeals because our voice was silenced from the beginning of the hearing by the developer's claim that “everything was determined at the sketch plan phase,” which was demonstrably false. Of course, the decision went against us - we were not given the opportunity to present our case! This is an injustice to the entire community and especially to the professional engineer who had extensive documentation of the significant changes made to the stormwater design since the sketch plan phase.

It is also important to note that Berrywood never had the ability to appeal the sketch plan because approval of the sketch plan wasn't posted on the county Planning and Zoning site until the 30-day appeal window had passed. We immediately met with representatives from Planning and Zoning and were told, “So sorry, but don't worry — you can appeal it at the final plan stage.” We wrote letters and requested meetings and were promised that we would certainly be notified of final plan approval, but in fact, we were not notified that the final plans had been approved in November 2022. This was discovered

by chance by our attorney who was investigating a separate case! Where is the transparency when property owners with standing aren't notified of these approvals in a timely fashion? Why does the county consistently fail to follow its own rules?

The project planner for the Enclave testified that the county did not have a plat - either approved or proposed. This absence of a recognized plat made it impossible for our attorney and our engineer to obtain a copy for our team, despite the fact that multiple Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) requests were submitted by several people from February 2023 on. That is highly irregular.

The plat is public information and should have been available to us. The Enclave “proposed” plat does not reflect the correct state critical area line. This plat will need to be revised to reflect the correct resource conservation area line, which will then necessitate redesign of the stormwater plan to move the step pool conveyance out of the critical area. This is not a trivial design change as the developer's attorney tried to imply.

Furthermore, a required critical area report will now need to be included in the final plans. These final plans are not final at all, but a set of in-flux designs that do not meet the criteria that every homeowner needs to follow and thus should never have been approved. The county needs to apply its laws equitably, treating homeowners and developers alike. Going forward, the grading permit should not be approved until all issues with the critical area have been resolved and are available for pub-

» **Continued on page 14**

County Executive Pittman's Weekly Letter

Steuart Pittman
Anne Arundel
County Executive



Editor's note: This letter was shared with the public on August 24.

Dear neighbor, I'm not anti-development. In fact, I may be more pro-development — pro redevelopment, transit-oriented development, town center development, and housing for our essential workers — than any county executive before me.

But I'll fight like hell to protect nature from destruction by human beings. We created a Green Infrastructure Master Plan and called it that because nature is infrastructure, with a value and a purpose that has been ignored for too long in conversations about land's “highest and best use.”

Paved watersheds, eroding soil, and a lifeless Chesapeake Bay cost humanity dearly. Investments in responsible stormwater management, healthy soil, and life in the bay deliver a huge return.

I'm proud of our county's award-winning smarter, greener, more equitable Plan2040 and the way our residents, our staff and our elected officials worked together to create it. I'm equally proud of our Move Anne Arundel multimodal transportation plan, our town center plans, and our Land Pres-

ervation, Parks, and Recreation Plan. And I'm looking forward to our nine region plans, led by our nine stakeholder advisory groups.

But events of the past week have reminded me that Anne Arundel is a development-by-right county. Landowners have a right to build on their property whatever the law allows. Neighbors, county employees, county council members, and county executives are not empowered to deny grading or building permits for reasons other than noncompliance with county code, even when we'd prefer no development on the site.

Mount Misery is one name for a hill overlooking the Severn River where Union soldiers were stationed at Fort Grey in 1861. Today, expensive homes sit atop that hill, but two lots remain undeveloped. On Friday, [August 18], I got a frantic call from Magothy River Association President Paul Spadaro saying that chainsaws and heavy equipment were clearing that land.

Residents called on me to issue an emergency stop work order, but I don't have that power. The grading permit had been issued on Wednesday. The developer's lawsuit against me and the county was dismissed after the developer met all county requirements and the permit was issued. The developer had won the 21st century battle of Mount Misery. It had taken years.

I got an email over the weekend from a leader in the Berrywood community, upset about some things that were said at a

» **Continued on page 18**

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Continuing Service Beyond The Session

Dawn Gile
Senator
District 33



“It must be a lot quieter for you now that you’re not in session, huh?”

This question is a common one I have heard since the Maryland General Assembly adjourned sine die in April. As many are

aware, the regular session of the Maryland General Assembly spans a mere 90 days from January to April, during which we work in earnest to pass laws for the state. It might appear logical that the remainder of the year entails a lull in my responsibilities as a senator.

However, this couldn’t be further from reality.

Following our adjournment on April 10, I’ve been busily engaged in an array of activities, including:

- Participating in multiple bill signings alongside the governor. Notably, seven of my bills successfully navigated the General Assembly and received the governor’s signature. These events celebrated the bills’ transformation into law and acknowledged the dedicated advocates who supported their passage.
- Reviewing around 70 applications for my senatorial scholarship. Subsequently, my team and I awarded substantial scholarship funds to 39 deserving students within District 33.
- Crafting my post-session letter, summarizing the accomplishments achieved during the legislative session and disseminating it to constituents who had reached out to my office.
- Accepting an invitation to the National Conference of State Legislators Health Law Seminar in California. The seminar enriched my understanding of strategies and policies geared toward enhancing health and health care systems.
- Engaging with constituents through town hall gatherings alongside my House of Delegates colleagues and delivering speeches at multiple community association meetings.

Completing the Public Policy Conflict Resolution Fellowship program, presented in collaboration with the University of Maryland School of Law and the Maryland judiciary. This initiative helped me develop better consensus-building skills, striving for more effective and sustainable solutions to Maryland’s vital public policy matters.

Collaborating with my team to strategize our legislative agenda for 2024. This has involved evaluating, researching and analyzing the bills we intend to advance.

Engaging with numerous constituents on critical matters, attending community functions, participating in various ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new or established businesses, attending events like Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, interact-

ing with Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, holding discussions with fellow state and county leaders on community improvement, interfacing with stakeholders and advocates of upcoming legislative proposals, meeting with community groups, schools, and nonprofits regarding requests for state funding, and much more.

This is just a glimpse of my activities.

Even during non-session periods, my dedicated staff continues to work full-time, addressing constituent concerns. Whether it’s improving pedestrian crosswalks or navigating bureaucratic complexities, we’re here to assist and provide the necessary answers.

Beyond the aforementioned commitments, like all of you, I’m juggling family responsibilities through a bustling summer, which includes swim meets, summer camps and family trips. All of this is balanced alongside my “day job” as an attorney. Despite the long hours and demanding days, it’s an immense privilege to serve. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for affording me the honor of representing you.

We’re in the process of planning additional town hall events for the upcoming fall — stay tuned for dates. As always, should you have suggestions for legislation or require assistance from my office, please don’t hesitate to get in touch by emailing dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us.

Enclave At Severna Park

» Continued from page 13
lic scrutiny.

Why was the Berrywood community shut out of our PIA requests and our ability to present our case? Why did a property owner next to the Enclave property testify that she was required to revise her building plans for a single home multiple times to satisfy the critical area requirements and other aspects of the county code while a developer is not held to these same requirements? Instead of another round of, “Oh gee, we don’t know how that happened. Don’t worry, it won’t happen again” rhetoric from the county, the failure-to-notify issue needs resolution immediately.

Berrywood community members should not be second-class citizens in the Planning & Zoning office, where they were told by the project planner that he is “sort of the quarterback for the developer.” That is indicative of the systematic problem that citizens face every time they attempt to challenge a proposed development. The right-to-build is a right under the laws of the county code! The county system is clearly broken, is unfair to the citizens who live here, and needs to be fixed now.

Respectfully,

Karen Royer

**Berrywood Community Association
Environmental Committee**

Berrywood representative to the

Greater Severna Park Council

Magothy River Association

recording secretary



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Not A Month At The Playground

» Continued from page 13
summer of 2023.

The summer recess is also an important time for county council staff (administrative officer, assistant administrative officer, council counsel, support positions and the county auditor's office). For 11 months out of the year, council staff is focused on preparing for "legislative Monday" meetings. The August recess gives 31 days to do everything else that allows for the legislative branch to operate as is required by county code.

This includes personnel-related duties, such as evaluating work performance and preparing performance reviews of employees. Staff will also assess legislative matters on an annual basis to ensure that nothing is missed or overlooked based on what is required annually. Staff will check and recheck lists, agendas and other organizational tools to make sure all items and documents are in order.

Council staff also use this time to follow up on legislation that has additional "tasks." For example, if there were any bills passed that require approval from any state agencies, staff need to confirm that they received proof of that necessary action.

An assessment is also done in preparation for the council's return to session. What annual initiatives or events are upcoming and/or are required by code? For example, the council must meet as the board of health in October. Staff must coordinate with the Anne Arundel County Department of

Health for the planning of this critical meeting.

Our administrative officer also starts to lay the groundwork for new contracts or positions that were approved in the recent budget. In the current fiscal year, several new and necessary support positions are being added to the council office, including a dedicated information technology position for the legislative branch and legislative research staff member.

In the government, records are important. Council staff uses the recess to work on archiving closed files, a detail-filled task reviewing files for completeness and filling in any gaps with required details as a matter of record.

If 2020 showed the Anne Arundel County Council anything, it was a need to modernize. Council staff has continued to chip away at bringing past practices into the 21st century and deciding how to best proceed without violating important laws regarding transparency and the storage and accessibility of public information. This task includes scanning and filing into an e-library council documents dating back to 1970.

Maybe you have never thought of what the county council does during a summer recess. But if you have considered it, and images of tax dollars out on vacation came to mind, I hope this serves as a new image of "what we really do" when in recess.

As always, you can reach me for any county matters that concern you by emailing amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

The Rise In Our Taxes

Rachel Muñoz
Delegate
District 31



Home-owners across Anne Arundel County have been shocked to receive their 2023 property tax bills. It has been the talk of the town. Very few people realized that the Fiscal Year 2024 Anne Arundel County budget included a rise in our property taxes by 5 percent.

Our property tax rates since 1992 have been regulated by a voter-imposed cap, with a recent exception for education funding. The FY24 budget also increases utility costs: there has been an 8.8% increase in water and sewer usage rates, and the fee for residential trash collection per household has gone up 11.4 percent. These unexpected increases have caused many families to be concerned, and many need to re-evaluate their monthly budget and adjust accordingly.

It's important to realize that the FY24 budget also increases the transfer tax in some of our real estate transactions. The transfer tax rate will now increase from 1% to 1.5% for transactions over \$1 million. Now,

this may not seem like a big deal — family homes in our area may have been purchased for much lower than this, but by the time it comes to sell, many homes will surpass this.

The local government plans to use our taxpayer dollars to pay for eviction prevention programs, to subsidize affordable new construction, and as financial assistance to some select homebuyers. Finally, it's important to be aware that single filers with taxable income exceeding \$400,000 and joint filers surpassing \$480,000 will see an uptick in their income tax to 3.2 percent.

While we all have different opinions about taxes and the role of government in our lives, I think it's important to be aware of these increases so that we can, first and foremost, plan and care for our families. Understand that these tax increases have occurred directly due to the voting choices of our community and our state — elections have consequences. For my part, I have voted against every tax increase that has come before the Maryland General Assembly, including one introduced by another Republican, because I believe the government already has plenty of hard-earned money from its citizens. What I would like to see is the government be a better steward of our money, with more oversight and transparency.



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COVID, Football And The Health Of Our Democracy

Heather Bagnall
Delegat
District 33C



As a local legislator, I often feel compelled to look at the national landscape through a local lens and draw the line of demarcation to demonstrate how what we do locally relates to

legislation that establishes our public health commission so that other states could model our efforts. I heard the words that I had spoken during the presentation repeated throughout — “COVID presented many challenges, but it also created an opportunity.” An opportunity to evaluate how we operate, to assess not only our readiness for another public health crisis, but to rebuild our health system to be more efficient, more equitable, to modernize and streamline, to use technology in new ways, and to question if we were doing things because it was the best way or simply how we’d always done it.

Throughout our time in Ireland, we heard about the bipartisan support of America for Ireland, how until the U.S. applied pressure to and support for the Good Friday Agreement, peace in Northern Ireland was believed impossible; impossible until it happened. Today the peace walls still stand, yet they are regarded more as lines of division, a carryover to a part of history important to remember but wishing to move past.

The Northern Ireland Parliament has yet to be seated since the Brexit vote. Much of our time here was spent with American legislators trying to understand the political, historic and cultural dynamics that have created the stalemate while quietly and uncomfortably drawing parallels to our own political landscapes.

Through COVID, we learned how to conduct a safe, secure and socially distanced election. We figured out how to ensure a census where our response level was so high, you could visually outline District 33 on the map (I was very proud of us). We learned to be more vigilant with our research and more compassionate with our teachers,

health care workers and other public servants. We were more generous with our resources, more outspoken with our community and more engaged in our electoral process.

We learned to challenge our representatives and our own biases. We learned that health care, child care, food security and shelter were basic needs, and the ability to take time to care for ourselves and our families was not a gift but a necessity. We learned that remote work, like remote education, works well for some and is impossible for others. We learned child care and education are not synonymous and that transportation is an essential part of public education.

This year, we have a real opportunity to shape the future of Anne Arundel

County. In 2024, we will vote for the entire school board for the first time in our county’s history. The presidential race, the congressional races and the constitutional questions will take up a lot of the air in this election, so it’s essential to ensure we don’t lose sight of those down-ballot races. As education is the great equalizer, and we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a world-class globally competitive public education system that aims to provide every child opportunity regardless of zip code, let us be vigilant in our research of candidates and compassionate of the needs of our students, educators, staff and community. Let’s be generous with our resources, engaged in the process and aware of what is at stake.

our national policy. Today, I’m opening the aperture further as I reflect on an August week in which I engaged with the Irish Parliament, members of the Northern Irish Parliament, community advocates, members of Congress and members of state legislatures from 44 states. We reflected on the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which brought peace to Northern Ireland and enhanced its future with such strong ties to the United States in a post-Brexit world.

So, what brought this little-known legislator from the confines of the Broadneck peninsula across the pond to the shores of Dublin? American football. In 2020, the Navy Midshipmen were scheduled to meet in Dublin for a matchup with the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. When the game had to be rescheduled due to the pandemic, Irish Parliament Senator Mark Daly saw an opportunity to leverage the good will of American legislators in ensuring the continuation of peace in Northern Ireland in an otherwise uncertain future.

This was my second national conference with state legislators, having attended a public health conference in Portland, Oregon, in June where I gave a presentation on the newly passed

County Executive Pittman’s Letter

» Continued from page 13

Board of Appeals hearing on a project called Enclave at Severna Park. I visited Berrywood’s stream restoration project as it was being constructed four-and-a-half years ago and was warned at the time that the Enclave development had the potential to overwhelm the step-pool system that they were constructing to restore water quality. I’d thought the Enclave project wasn’t moving forward. But it was.

And then I got the email from Arundel Rivers Federation, calling on residents to once again weigh in with opposition to a housing subdivision called Glebe Heights off Loch Haven Road in Mayo. It’s a completely forested area on low-lying land spotted with wetlands not far from the South River. The Scenic Rivers Land Trust had made efforts to acquire the parcel for preservation after our Office of Planning and Zoning had rejected an earlier development proposal, but the owners came back with a scaled-down plan for development. I don’t know whether this new plan will meet the legal requirements to build what’s being proposed, but if it does, we may need to take another look at our laws. This is not the kind of land we want

developed in our county. It is valuable green infrastructure.

Sometimes our administration’s stricter application of environmental protection laws works. The Enclave at Crofton, Quiet Waters Retreat, The Forney property by Bacon Ridge, and the new addition to Severn Danza Park are all cases where the obstacles to development were so high that potential developers sold the land to public or nonprofit entities that will protect it forever. We’ll be announcing two more of these wins in the coming weeks.

A lot is at stake in these land use battles, and they can get pretty ugly. My job is to make sure that our regulatory agencies are implementing the laws fairly, that all parties are heard, that we act in accordance with our approved planning documents, and that we support our legislative body, the county council, in making good land use policy.

If we do all of that with transparency and community engagement, I’m convinced that we human beings can live in harmony with the natural world that created and sustains us. If we don’t, we won’t want to live here anymore.

Back To School!

» Continued from page 13

of uncovered routes when drivers call out sick. All bus schedules can be found at www.aacps.org/buses.

New this year is a targeted communication system for the entire community that will notify you if your student’s specific bus is running late or out of service. The system provides email and text message notifications in either English or Spanish to those who register. Subscribers are asked to provide the bus number and school for which they wish to receive the notification. Messages will be sent at 7:30pm the night before a school day to alert users of delays and cancellations for the following school day. Messages will also be sent beginning at 6:00am on each school day and periodically through 8:45am as updates are entered from bus contractors.

Subscribers will receive one message per delay or cancellation and will receive an additional message if there is a change in that bus’ status. At 12:30pm on each school day, messages will be sent to subscribers to remind them of afternoon-only impacts to bus routes. All bus disruption information will continue to be posted online. To subscribe, visit www.aacps.org/busnotifications.

New K-5 Math Curriculum

Reveal Math, a new math curriculum for elementary school students, debuts this year and is designed to develop the problem-solvers of tomorrow with rich instruction and real-life connections. The vision behind adopting this new math curriculum is to provide an accessible, high-quality math education through a community of learners who continually find the beauty of math and all the opportunities math affords in one’s everyday life. Hands-on instruction and aligning with STEM opportunities are cornerstones of Reveal Math. For more information about this exciting new curriculum, visit www.aacps.org/page/1532.

Back to School Events

All back-to-school events can be found at www.aacps.org/btsevents. The 2023-2024 School Year Plan A comprehensive document, the

2023-2024 plan is an example of the engagement efforts that are on track to continue throughout Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Superintendent Mark Bedell’s tenure to ensure that diversity of voice is present and considered in all that AACPS does and is a transparent look at our progress and projections for the next school year. As Bedell has stated repeatedly, every child has the ability to belong, grow and succeed within AACPS. A link to this document can be found at www.aacps.org/backtoschool.

It’s More Than Just Lunch

Applications for free or reduced-price lunch can be found at www.aacps.org/backtoschool. Beyond free and reduced-price lunch, qualifying students and families will receive a variety of opportunities with our community partners including free registration for NCAA eligibility, eligibility for select scholarships, and free or reduced-price fees for SAT, ACT, AP and CTE exams as well as college applications.

Tutoring

Our popular virtual homework help and tutoring is back again this year. Evening virtual homework help and tutoring will be available in math, English, science, world languages, social studies, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for middle and high school students. Virtual homework help will be a drop-in Microsoft Teams environment, while tutoring is an appointment-driven, small group setting. These sessions will run simultaneously.

K-5 families can avail themselves of virtual family support in math starting on September 26 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00pm-8:00pm. This is a drop-in service through Google Meet for assistance with understanding grade math concepts or problem-solving techniques.

More information, including middle and high school tutoring schedules, is available at www.aacps.org/tutoring.

As always, I can be reached at 443-534-2660 or dschallheim@aacps.org. Have a great start to the school year!

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Asbury Church Assistance Network (ACAN) recently celebrated the birthday of volunteer Linwood Jackson.

Jackson was 47 years old when he came to Christ. Following a funeral service for his mom, he was moved by the fellowship of church members who packed the church.

He later told the pastor he heard something growling at night.

"That's just the good lord cleaning your house," the pastor said, inferring that Jackson was ready to drop any vices in favor of his spiritual calling.

Jackson started working with his pastor to give people money they could use to pay their electric bills and rent. He then started helping Clinton Wallace, who led ACAN's food ministry.

That changed Jackson's life. He is now devoted to helping ACAN provide food and toiletries to more than 3,500 families in need across Anne Arundel County, including the homeless population at BWI Airport.

Jackson credits the support of his wife, a fellow ACAN volunteer named Rhonda, along with Wallace and the Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church congregation, for inspiring him to dedicate his life to community service.

"When you see a person who is giving like that, it makes you want to step up," he said of Wallace.

ACAN needs gas funds to keep delivering food to families. The nonprofit is also raising money for a new van. Send a tax-deductible donation to ACAN.

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Big Plays, Miscues Plague Severna Park In Opening Loss To Meade

By David Bashore

An opening-night matchup between the Severna Park and Meade football teams has become the norm over the last few years, with both teams looking to open their seasons with a promising start.

Unfortunately for Severna Park, most anything that could go wrong did go wrong this time.

Turnovers, untimely penalties, and Meade's big play capability conspired to down the Falcons 46-25 in front of a packed home stadium at Severna Park High School on Friday.

Severna Park's first pass attempt was intercepted and returned for a touchdown, a sign of things to come. The Falcons fell behind 18-3 in the first quarter and could never quite recover from there as Meade rolled up 303 yards on the ground between a duo of tailbacks, one powerful, the other speedy.

"You never want to spot your opponent an early touchdown like that,

but the kids showed a lot of fight," Severna Park coach **Nick Marks** said. "We got it back to within 8 at one point, but (Meade) had a great plan, and we're going to give them credit. They've got some good players over there and they'll win a lot of games in conference this year."

Severna Park's tempo offense allowed the Falcons to run 21 more plays than did Meade, but they were forced to nickel-and-dime their way down the field and only mustered a couple of big plays, most notably a 52-yard touchdown pass on a bubble screen from **Vince Nguyen** to **Jack Fish**.

Fish finished with 100 yards receiving, while Nguyen was 19-for-34 for 201 yards with one touchdown and three interceptions. Severna Park tailback **Demetrious Jones** touched the ball 27 times for 70 total yards and a touchdown. **Isaiah Green** scored the final Falcons touchdown on the game's final play, a 30-yard
» Continued on page 28



Photo by David Bashore

During the Falcons' 46-25 season-opening loss to Meade, quarterback Vince Nguyen (9) passed to Ryder Halloran (6).

Bruins Down Defending Champions In Soccer Thriller

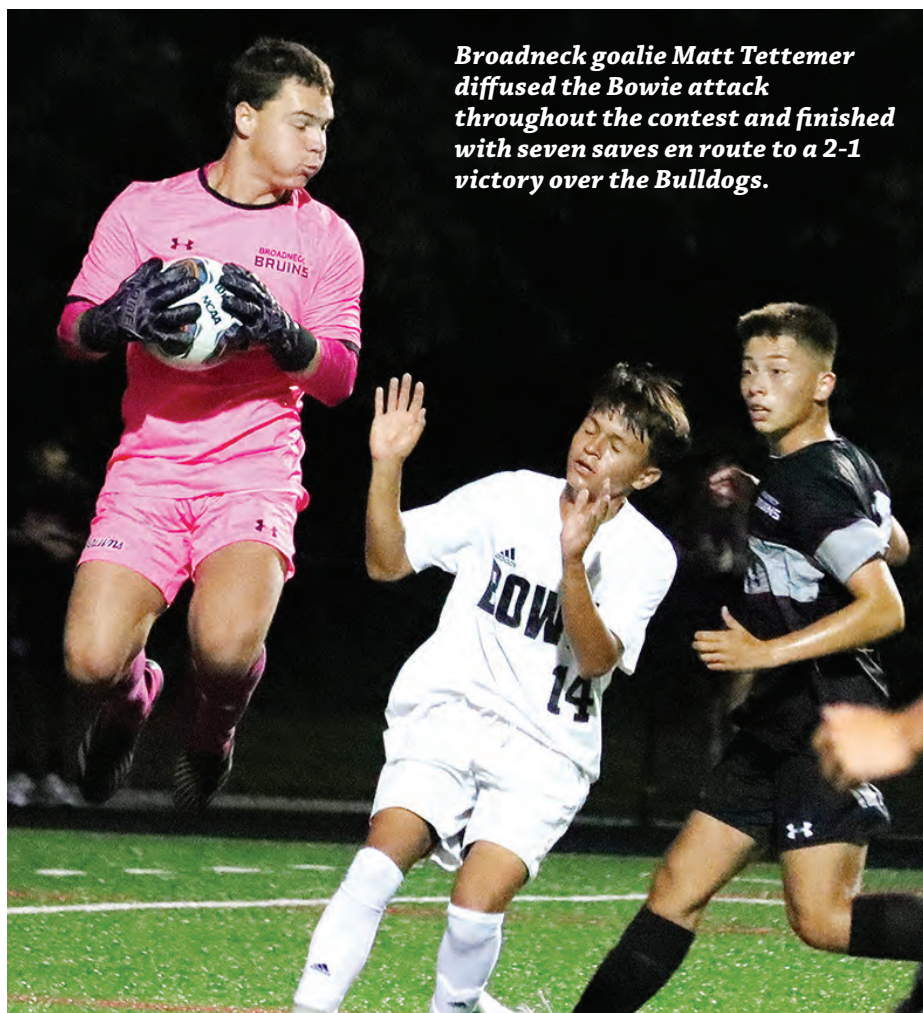
Story and photo
by Dennis McGinley

The Broadneck boys soccer team kicked off the 2023 season with a 2-1 overtime win over the defending 4A state champion Bowie Bulldogs. Broadneck scored early

in the first half on an **Ethan Colon** header off a corner kick. Bowie tied the game late in the second half to send the game to overtime.

Freshman **Wilson Banwell** scored the game-winner. Senior goalie **Matt Tettemer** added seven saves.

Broadneck goalie Matt Tettemer diffused the Bowie attack throughout the contest and finished with seven saves en route to a 2-1 victory over the Bulldogs.



BHS Field Hockey Determined To Keep Championship Standard



The Lady Bruins have high hopes for the 2023 season. They finished 15-0, which included a victory over Crofton in the county championship (pictured) and a victory against Winston Churchill to capture the state title.

By David Bashore

After going undefeated and winning the program's first state championship in 20 years, and returning seven contributors from that team, Broadneck field hockey might be forgiven for taking it a little easy.

There's just no way the returners will let that happen.

On the back of an historic season, the Bruins celebrated a little, but then told themselves: this is now the standard. Don't let it slip because you're now going to get everyone's best game.

"We know that's what we're capable of, so it's just a matter of putting in the work like we did last year and trying to do it again," said junior midfielder **Faith Everett**. "We do kind of have a target on our back because we were undefeated and won states, so people want to beat us. But that also helps us stay at that high level,

and we want to keep competitive that whole time."

Broadneck came to be known as "the passing team" last season, earning wins on the scoreboard and plaudits for its possession-based approach, which allowed the Bruins to focus more on themselves and dictate to their opponents.

That, combined with big experience for many players on both the state and national stage, has led to a lifting of expectations even in the little things. It just so happened that in 2022, everything they had been building for came together.

"I think we do set that expectation, but it comes through that we've had that expectation all along. It just took years to build it," said Broadneck coach **Shannon Hanratty**. "The things that made us successful last year are things that we've been asking of our teams for the years up
» Continued on page 29



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



LILY HAYES

St. Mary's High School
Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Track and Field
By David Bashore

A three-sport athlete and excellent student is headed to college on a lacrosse scholarship. Severna Park resident Lily Hayes recently graduated from the Annapolis-based St. Mary's High School, where she played three sports and graduated with a 3.8 GPA, earning a spot on the school's honor roll and National Honor Society chapter. She was a defender on the lacrosse and

field hockey teams, and she was a relay specialist for the indoor track and field team.

Juggling excellence in academics with excellence in three sports was a challenge Hayes knew she had to master early on if she was to be successful.

"My classes and practices were always 5:30 to 7:00(pm), so on the later side. It was getting my schoolwork done kind of early, realizing that I wasn't like most students," Hayes said. "I had to get ahead of things most times and really had to take time out. I wasn't going to want to go home and do homework (after practice), so I had to work ahead."

As she heads off to Cincinnati to play and study at Xavier University, Hayes believes finding that balance in high school will serve her well in the years to come.

"It's stressful switching from high school to college, making all new friends and that," she said. "You have to be connecting with people who aren't on your team, connecting with your professors to let them know you're a student-athlete. The classes are the priority, but you also have a sport. I think it's going to be [that] your professors don't remind you about due dates and stuff as your high school teachers do. You're responsible for your academics and being on top of everything."

Hayes chose to join the Musketeers because of a connection between her club coach and the coach at Xavier, as well as the appeal of building something that will last — a sentiment that matches her drive at St. Mary's.

"I really tried to encourage younger athletes to try new sports or come out for more than one

“

I really tried to encourage younger athletes to try new sports or come out for more than one sport. It's just fun to be part of a team and keep your fitness up. Getting people involved in sports is really important to me.”

— LILY HAYES

sport,” she said. “It’s just fun to be part of a team and keep your fitness up. Getting people involved in sports is really important to me.”

Xavier’s inaugural lacrosse season was last year, so when Hayes committed, they didn’t have a team yet.

“Having the idea of being one of the first people on the team and building that team dynamic was amazing,” Hayes said.

Though high school is now not far in her rearview mirror, Hayes credited her time in athletics at St. Mary’s with some of her most favorite memories at the school.

“A big one was winning the track championship for the second year in a row,” Hayes said. “I ran the last event (the 4x400 relay), so after that event, when we had secured our win, it was the best feeling ever. Beating our rivals, Severn, at home for lacrosse was also really big, and then when the boys team beat Severn too, it was amazing. Supporting other teams is always so much fun.”



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Girls Soccer Preview

By **Mauricio Palmar**
Student Intern

As the Women's World Cup ended in August, a new season began for the girls soccer programs in the area. Stars such as **Alex Morgan**, **Trinity Rodman** and **Rose Lavelle** all started at the high school level before they went to the women's national team, serving as a reminder that the next soccer star can come from anywhere. These high schools can showcase their talent in the fall.

Severna Park

The Falcons experienced a successful 2022 campaign, led by players **Hanna Verreault**, **Sydney Holmes**, **Ryn Feemster** and **Emerson Scott**. Coach **Rick Stimpson** got his squad to the regional championship, during which the Falcons' season ended at the hands of the Broadneck defense, which stifled Severna Park's attack on the way to a 1-0 victory. A penalty from **Sadie Wilkinson** in the first half provided the difference in that tightly contested battle, with sustained pressure from the Falcons failing to produce an equalizer. Since then, many key players have graduated, such as Holmes and Verreault, both of whom were named to the Capital Gazette All-County team.

Despite the rival Bruins spoiling the Falcons championship hopes, the Severna Park girls are excited for 2023 as they return a greater portion of their core than the boys soccer team. Feemster, who was also named to the Capital Gazette's

All-County team, is set for a breakout senior year, and underclassmen such as **Bella Van Gieson** and **Emerson Scott** have also shown promise throughout their high school careers, setting up the Falcons for a potential run at a seventh state championship.

Broadneck

Out of the four area high school programs, the Broadneck girls team was the most successful in 2022. Led by coach **John Camm**, the Broadneck girls carried a 14-0-4 record into their state semifinal appearance, where their dream season was thwarted by Quince Orchard. In that tightly contested semifinal battle, a 17th-minute goal from Cougar forward **Caroline Donmoyer** marked the difference in a 1-0 loss, sending Broadneck home, one step short of a state championship.

The team has had to stomach some losses since then, the most notable being the graduation of Wilkinson, who was named the Capital Gazette's girls soccer Player of the Year after her stellar season. Broadneck is returning many key rising seniors, such as All-County goalkeeper **Kyleigh Bland**, All-County midfielder **Maddie Capps**, **Lily Trout** and **Olivia Orso**. The Bruins are poised to put themselves in the conversation for a third state championship in 2023.

"Our goal is to compete for the region and state championships," Camm said. "We will miss the seniors but have more than enough skill and athletic ability to continue our aggressive style of play."

Archbishop Spalding

Led by a talented core featuring

Meghan Bernetti and **Sophie Thi-beault**, the Spalding girls ended the season with an 8-5-1 record. Bernetti and Thi-beault, who were both named to the 2022 All-State teams, have since graduated. While the team has several rising seniors to fill their shoes, such as **Maeve Konstantoulas** in goal and midfielder **Maria Cipolla**, coach **Ashly Kennedy** will have to rely on a younger core of players.

Severn School

The Admirals have a fresh face at the helm of their girls soccer team. **Denison Cabral** will lead the squad, with former head coach **Erika Mahon** working in an assistant role. Cabral, one of the most prolific scorers in the history of indoor soccer, tallying over 500 goals in his playing

career before transitioning to coaching. "Our goal will be to continue to be competitive," Cabral said. "This is a strong program and well respected in the soccer community — let's not change that. We will have fun, compete and challenge ourselves during the season."

Cabral won't have to endure a rough transition in his first year as coach, as the Severn girls lost only five members of a fairly successful 2022 squad to graduation this year. The rest of the team is largely made up of underclassmen, giving Cabral a talented core full of potential to grow as the season goes on. Rising seniors **Skyler Morton**, **Caroline Bing** and **Parker Collins** should all play key leadership roles for a young Admirals squad this season.

Boys Soccer Preview

By **Mauricio Palmar**
Student Intern

As a new school year begins, so does a new opportunity for the Severna Park, Broadneck, Severn and Spalding high school athletic programs.

The 2022 season was successful for the aforementioned soccer teams, with each of the four showing signs of progress throughout the year. Each school must withstand some losses, with plenty of senior players moving on to play at the collegiate level. However, many talented players are ready to fill their shoes, and all these schools stack up well going into the 2023 soccer season.

Severna Park

Severna Park is arguably the school that got hit the hardest by graduations. Led by a core of goalie **Peter Saunders**, All-County defenseman **Evan Souder** and All-County midfielder **Brad Dulin**, the Falcons achieved a 17-3 record under the tutelage of head coach **Ryan Parisi** last year, advancing to the state championship before falling to Bowie. A second-half goal by Bowie forward **Kareem Davis** was the only obstacle keeping them from their first state championship since 2013. Since then, most of their core has graduated, leaving Severna Park in a state of transition heading into 2023.

Parisi has handled senior losses in the past, and his style of play has consistently produced strong defenses. Rising senior **Jeffrey Chukwu** is primed for a breakout season as the leading man in the attack. Severna Park may have lost talent, but they still have a chance to compete for their fourth state championship.

Broadneck

Fresh off a 13-4 campaign in 2022, Broadneck is aiming to improve their record in 2023. Their season came to a bitter end with a loss to South River in the regional semifinals, and the team is hoping to progress past that stage this year. Fortunately, unlike Severna Park, the Bruins will return most of their key pieces from the past season, with All-County goalie **Matt Tetterer** and All-County midfielder **Harlan Welsh** returning to lead Broadneck in their senior years.

"We are working hard to improve each day," coach **Sean Tetterer** reiterated. "Hopefully we will become a better team and will be playing our best at the end of

the season."

The graduation of captain **Jaden Smith** and forward **Riley Erbe** will hinder Broadneck's efforts, but Tetterer has many intriguing players to work with. The experienced core that he's returning will give Broadneck a massive step up against the competition this season, with other rising seniors **Ethan Colon**, **Patrick Robillard** and **Sam Myers** also expected to play important roles for the Bruins. With this core, Broadneck is poised to make a run at their first state championship and their first state championship appearance since 2005.

Archbishop Spalding

In 2022, Archbishop Spalding managed to improve upon their 2021 season, earning a 9-11-1 mark to follow their 6-13-3 record, and coach **Frederick Sporrer** is aiming to build further on that success and advance deeper in the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association playoffs this year. Spalding is going to miss the contributions of the class of 2023, and especially All-County defender **AJ Sisson**. However, the Cavaliers have an interesting mix of rising seniors and talented underclassmen on the roster this year, giving the team reasons to be optimistic. **Chris Kin**, **Michael Lonergan** and goalkeeper **Clif Lehman** are among the rising seniors expected to play a significant role on the team this year, while **Marco Mazzola** and **Kyle Crawford** are among the top underclassmen on Spalding's roster.

Severn School

It would be hard for head coach **Mike McCarthy**'s squad to have a better season than they did last year. McCarthy was the 2022 Baltimore Sun All-Metro Boys Soccer Co-Coach of the Year, an honor bestowed upon him after his team finished 17-0 with a conference championship.

"The most obvious goal would be to go for a three-peat, aiming to win the [conference] championship for the third consecutive year," McCarthy said. "But for me, my main goal is to maintain our culture of excellence, professionalism and teamwork, both on and off the field, which will set the foundation for success."

It won't be easy for Severn to reach those heights again in 2023, as the graduation of **Davis Cawfield**, the Capital Gazette's Anne Arundel County Player of the Year, leaves the program with some massive shoes to fill. The return of key players **Alex Mussog** and **Hudson Lamb**, who both earned All-Conference honors in 2022, gives Severn a chance to replicate their success in 2023.

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Falcon Volleyball Angling To Beat Out Tough 3A Field

By David Bashore

The 2023 Severna Park volleyball team is working both smarter and harder.

The Falcons boast a young squad to build on a 2022 season where they hovered around .500 for most of the season. With multiple players from all four classes on the squad, the preseason has been one of growth but also learning to pick their spots.

"I've been trying to focus pretty heavily on being smart with my shots, instead of just swinging away — no-

ting empty spots on the court and trying to put the ball there," said senior attacker **Mikayla Williams**. "The decision-making is fast, because you have to see where the set is, where you are positionally, and you have to see the court as well. It's split-second to decide."

Each of the five seniors tasked with helping lead a young program — out of the program's 31 players, 23 are freshmen or sophomores — has taken it upon themselves to rise to that challenge and integrate all four classes

together into one unit.

"We've had a lot of positivity just supporting the younger girls, teaching them how to be a part of Severna Park volleyball," said senior libero **Annabelle Mora**. "We've passed down a lot of traditions and we'll keep passing those along."

The seniors are enjoying their last season to don Severna Park blue on the volleyball court, but they aren't planning their goodbye speeches just yet. There's too much still to do, and too many things still to focus on for their own benefit, and that of their teammates.

"We're just thinking about what's to come and not how fast it's going to end or it's going to be over before we know it. I feel like we're pretty in the moment and trying to enjoy it while we can," said senior outside hitter **Perry Stevenson**. "I feel like the more my teammates see out of me, the more drive they see I have, the more work they're willing to put in. It's contagious, the feeling that you want to work hard and be the best (you can be) on the court."

Severna Park moved down to 3A this season, along with several other quality programs that combine to create a gauntlet-style path on the way to the region and state tournaments.

Despite the youthfulness of the overall roster, the Falcons are bullish on their long-term chances.

"You're talking about volleyball players, you're talking about expe-

rience and volleyball IQ, so it's not like because someone's older they're better," said Severna Park coach **Tim Dunbar**. "They have a learning curve they have to go through, but there's some players with a lot of experience."

"(The seniors) all have so much experience both in terms of playing club ball, and for two of them, this is their fourth year on varsity, and two others, this is their third year. They have a lot of game experience on what goes on at high school as opposed to club or rec. It's a different thing and concept that you're playing with kids you're in class with all the time. They're unified in that way."

Two of those talented but young players are at setter, arguably the most important position on the court. The skill is there, and the seniors have taken it to heart that they need to help those setters get comfortable and confident quickly.

"It makes me more motivated to hold myself accountable and be the best I can be to help my setter out," said senior defensive specialist **Charlotte Marriner**.

Fighting for each other is a common theme for this year's volleyball team. The biggest thing for Severna Park this season is keeping confidence high while the team grows together.

So far, spirits are high, and optimism is even higher.

"We just have fun," said senior right-side hitter **Jackie Ball**. "The more fun you have, the better you play."

Broadneck Volleyball Eyeing Postseason Success

By David Bashore

More than any other sport, the game of volleyball is one that thrives on emotion and momentum.

But that doesn't mean there aren't machinations at work behind the scenes.

That's where the Broadneck volleyball team is going to work in 2023, building mantras and mechanisms upon a strong team culture so that they might be at their best when championship season rolls around.

The Bruins are replacing players in key positions, most notably four-year starting setter **Maddy Stewart**. This year's squad skews younger, but there's a balance of mentoring and care off the court and egalitarianism on it. Simply put, if you're on the team, you can ball.

"Our freshmen came in and it feels like they've been in the program forever," said senior outside hitter **Brin Chesnut**, a move-in transfer from Georgia and one of the team's captains. "Our chemistry really flows, and nobody sees anyone based on a higher or lower grade. If you're here, you can play."

Of Broadneck's 16 players, just more than half are freshmen or sophomores. The older players have taken it upon themselves to make sure the newer players to the program are adjusting well to the high school experience, and that's led to greater camaraderie on the court.

We feel like a family already; sometimes it takes a little bit to develop that, but we're doing really well with that," said senior attacker **Casey Gish**. "The freshmen have been really good at coming to us if we have any questions, and the seniors have been really open to those questions. And if we see each other in the hallway, we make sure to say hi and see how things are going."

Viewing their fellow players as equal peers, whether younger or older, has brought togetherness on and off the court. That has also allowed the team to focus on bringing a decisive mentality to a game fraught with ups and downs over three to five emotion-laden sets.

"No one ever feels like they're younger on this team. We all feel like

equals," said sophomore outside hitter **Kennedy Smith**, who also played varsity as a freshman. "The second we enter this gym, everything that happened that day is left at the door. Even though we're all in different grade levels, when we come into this gym, we are all the same, here to have a good practice."

"That gives you that mentality for the whole day, and we're so close that if someone has a bad day, we all come together and help them forget about it."

The aim for Broadneck is to combine the fun parts of volleyball — togetherness, emotion, intensity — with the mechanics — technique, precision, and ruthless focus — to be in position to compete again for the county championship and make a return to the state tournament, where the Bruins reached the final in 2019.

Though they will play the county schools as in every regular season, Broadneck's postseason path looks different from years past. The 4A East Region II has just one other county school aside from the Bruins: Annapolis. North Point, Bowie, Suitland and familiar foe Leonardtown round out the region, while Arundel, Severna Park and South River have all dropped to 3A for the 2023 season.

It will create a different kind of challenge for the Bruins, but one they think they're ready to tackle.

"Looking at the team we have this year, we feel like we have a chance to do well," Gish said. "Our communication is fantastic and our encouragement on and off the court is good. It's hard to tell with only two scrimmages, but we work well together, and we looked cohesive."

With regular season matches starting this week, it won't take long to test the foundation of the team's optimism. For now, it's a matter of next moment, next point, next set, next match.

"I think we do a really good job of, if we make a mistake, not dwelling on it and we're on to the next point. We're good at siding out and not giving up many long service runs," Chesnut said. "We really just go day by day and focus on the match that we have to play, and not really even who we're playing. We want to just focus on our side of the court and not really worry about any other outside things."

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Youth Rugby Recap

Green Hornets rugby hosted the Maryland Youth Rugby Festival at the end of July. Fourteen rugby clubs participated and produced 73 teams across all age groups.



U9 The highlight for Green Hornets rugby was the U9 team, which won the 2023 Maryland state championship. The team went undefeated in three standard pool and two championship games.

Gibson congratulated coach **Emma Naylor**, coach **Andy Naylor**, **Charlotte Gibson**, **Eli Letteney**, **Killian Glasgow**, **Ryder Carleton**, **Lucas Aquino**, **Audrey Clark**, **Leah Nelson**, **Elliott Naylor**, **Georgia McGrail**, **Amelia "Millie" Davis**, **Carter Herring**, **Hudson Merriman**, **Daniel Morgan**, **Ronan Dapkus**

and **Luca Coffman**.

The Green Hornets rugby program had its share of challenges during the training season. Wildfires, air quality and intense heat contributed to a brutal training season, but coaches said that everyone gave their all during practice. Leading up to the season, **Nate Curry**, **Harry Graham** and **Mabry Stevenson** trained with the team and regular season but could not make it to the tournament. Coaches **Dan Morgan** and **Mat Merriman** kept the team's focus during practices and games.

“As a lifelong rugby fan, to see hundreds of children, volunteers and parents show up for this event is awe-inspiring. We are very grateful to Josh Banks and his team at Kinder Farm Park for enabling this festival to happen.”

— **KEVIN GIBSON, GREEN HORNETS RUGBY COMMISSIONER**



U7 While there was no state championship at the U7 level, the team won most of their games, with coaches noting their squad's energy and enthusiasm as keys to their success. Coached by **Eric Dapkus**, **Derek Chell** and **Allen Murphy**, the team consisted of **Sophie Donze-Sanchez**,

Maxwell Jerdonek, **Austen Dumond**, **Julia Nelson**, **Samuel Nelson**, **Brendan Burghardt**, **Theodore Chell**, **Miles Fretwell**, **Jack Morgan**, **Daniel Murphy**, **Benjamin Davis**, **Max Lester**, **Lennon Naylor**, **Lochlan Dapkus**, **Max Letteney** and **Jasper Graham**.

U11 The Green Hornets U11 team won the State Shield final, 30-22, against the Andover Apaches. Their come-from-behind victory was capped by two tries in the final minutes from captain **Kieran Gibson**. After being eliminated from the championship final on points difference, the team brought home the silverware in a back-and-forth game.

U11s had a state classic tournament team that narrowly missed out on the playoffs. Having gone 1-1 in the team's opening two

matches, the squad lost out in the final minutes of their final game against the Apaches.

“I am so proud,” coach **Andrew Hollway** said. “They showed a lot of heart and never gave up.”

The team of **Rachel Werner**, **Elliot Clark**, **Delaney Hollway**, **Wes Kamas**, **Alex Ward**, **Colton Maccallair** and **Anna Nelson** showcased skills and tactical awareness to make it a close game. **Graham Fretwell** and **Catherine Cox** missed the tournament but plan to be back next year.



U13 & U16 These teams had success during the season but both groups came up short in the final push for state titles. Led by coaches **Kurt Prager**, **Adam Rosenberger** and **Sean Martin**, both teams showed moments of brilliance during the regular season.

“We put ourselves in a position to win the state tournament, but we were outnumbered on the final day, and with the summer heat, we simply ran out of steam in the end,” Rosenberger said.

Prager added, “So much was asked of our players, and we had a lot of 13-year-olds playing up on the 16s to help give us a shot.”

Martin emphasized that in his final season coaching, he could not have been prouder of the effort.

“We had a mix of new players and veterans,” he said. “We learned so much about the sport and how it is played. We practiced so hard, and we finished with our heads high. As coaches, we hope that we have given these young men and women a foundation to build upon ... we hope some of these kids will one day play in college because of the things they learned as part of the Green Hornets.”

The U13 team featured **Ellie Hollway**, **Noah La-grossa**, **Jeffrey Landis**, **Heath Gardner**, **Dorsey Berlin**, **Stuart Werner**, **Landan Wicciech**, **Aviana Epperson**, **Ryan Gallicchio**, **Zachary Nield**, **Gavin Prager**, **Lila Posey**, **William Gibson**, **Lincoln Latchaw**, **Elly Davis**, **Jacob Frost**, **Owen Tong-Holcomb**, **Vaiosina Aetonu**, **Evan Williamson**, **Jack Becker**, **Isla Clark** and **Madilyn Stevenson**.

For the U16 team, members included **Bailey Benyo**, **AJ Harmse**, **Chase Martin**, **Alejandro Almodovar-Vives**, **Aiden Prager**, **Grayson Robinson**, **Lucy Davis**, **Coleman Eaton** and **Michael Cooney**.



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Bruin Cross Country Team Using Fresh State To Kickstart Season

By David Bashore

With a new voice at the lead and a bundle of youthful energy in tow, Broadneck's cross country team is hoping for better things in 2023.

The Bruin boys finished seventh last season at the state meet, while the girls finished 12th. They return a good amount of talent from both sides and are benefiting from some crossover training from the track and field world.

Longtime head coach **Brianna Bostic** ceded the reins to the cross-country program over the summer and was replaced by **Ackeem Forde**, who was a college and professional sprinter and also competed for the Barbados national track and field team.

Forde has brought a lot of his track and field work to the cross-country sphere, which has given the Broadneck athletes more fundamental work to supplement the adage of, "The only way to run faster is to run faster." That results in a greater attention to core work and form work to enhance running capabilities that should also improve over the course of repetitions.

"A common perception that a lot of athletes have is that they think core work is mostly catered for track and field, when in fact core work can benefit anybody," Forde said. "We have a lot of issues with muscle imbalances, and so we're starting at the core to address the central issues. It's all about efficiency at the end of the day. Efficiency is very important. When you're running up and down the hills, in the woods, wherever the case may be, someone without a strong core is moving all over the place while someone with a strong core is just moving forward. Even if you do nothing else, if you strengthen your efficiency, you can improve your times with everything else staying constant."

The approach, though maybe unorthodox to some, is paying dividends already.

Senior **Fox Larson**, who finished 20th at last year's state meet and is also a distance runner for the track and field team, expects to lead the boys team to greater success this season. Larson pointed to the hard yards they are plowing now and anticipates reaping the rewards at the business end of the season.

"We started out here really struggling with a basic core drill — none of us could do it, it hurt, and we were all suffering, but in two weeks we're already a substantially better team in that respect," Larson said. "This is an endurance of the mind training, preparing your mind for the pain. You're going to be uncomfortable at points during the race, so we're preparing to enter that zone of being uncomfort-

able. There's a lot of the work you've put in, but there's a lot of mental strength that's required as well."

The Broadneck girls have a young squad and young leaders — some even though they're not seniors.

Like many things related to the cross-country program, it's a new feeling, but one they are trying to embrace.

"It's definitely really scary to know how to lead people, even when there are seniors on the team, I'm inclined to let them lead," said sophomore **Jeannette Manseau**. "I think it helps that I'm really good friends with all the girls on the team, and we know how to motivate each other. There's still the general feeling of excitement, happiness and pride to be here. But it's different with new leadership, with a new outlook on things. Coach Forde brings a new level of intensity, but it's accompanied with humor. I think it's a really good balance."

Forde lauded his charges for their discipline, their self-starting to get the work done, and their willingness to do above and beyond what they're being asked to do.

The thought is those things will help knit together a solid team of solid people, ready to do some solid things at the 4A level come championship time.

"A lot of coaches look to everybody else and try to push their athletes to get there, but I'm looking at each kid individually," Forde said. "I'm looking to fix what we can and focus on building each individual athlete, and with that, they'll run personal bests individually, and if you get them to do that together as a team, you can compete. If all the individuals can do that, we add it all up at the end, we can compete with those teams."

Larson strives for the entire team to improve holistically.

"I want us to have fun together," Larson said. "I want us to become better runners, better people, better leaders, and we're going to see what happens. I love that end of the season where you've been putting in all that work, and you try to win all those last races."

SP Field Hockey

The Falcons finished 11-7 last season, battling eventual state champion Broadneck in a Class 4A playoff quarterfinal loss, 3-1. Severna Park will have to overcome big losses to contend this fall. Gone are leaders **Meredith Schepens, Charley Kramer, Ava Drexler-Amey** and **Maddie Evans**.

Miscues Plague Severna Park

» Continued from page 20
pass from **Isaac Graves**, while **Colin Heffernan** booted a 37-yard field goal.

Not much broke right for the Falcons over the course of the game. There was the interception-turned-touchdown on the opening drive, five Meade scoring

plays of 39 yards or longer, and two back-breaking Falcon penalties: one a roughing the punter at the Meade 10-yard line, the other a bang-bang pass interference call that nullified an interception. Meade scored touchdowns on both second chances.

Severna Park will look to bounce back against South River next week.



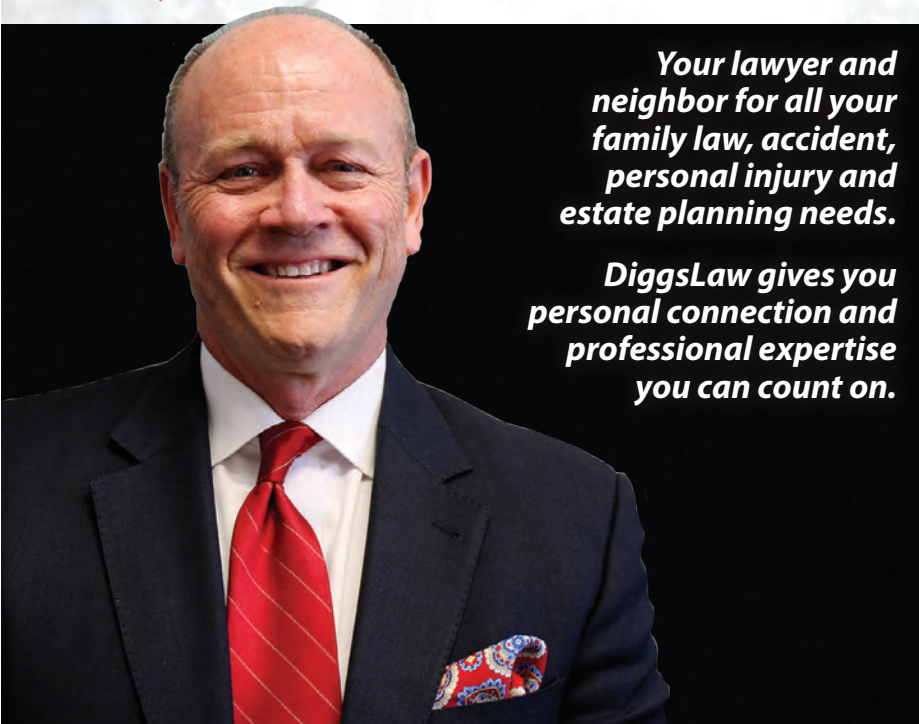
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Severna Park Runners Gear Up To Defend Cross Country Titles

By David Bashore

Regardless of classification, the expectation for cross country at Severna Park High School is sky high.

That's for good reason: the Falcons have been historically successful, and last year they claimed both boys and girls team championships, the fifth in a row for the boys.

Heading into a season at the 3A level, Severna Park is building on the boys side and loading up on the girls side, as the teams seek to end the 2023 season in a familiar spot: the state meet, running as a team.

"We have a pretty young team on both sides, so we're just looking to get better every day and see where we're at come championship time," said veteran Severna Park coach **Josh Alcombright**. "The girls are pretty experienced, but young. The boys are, I wouldn't say rebuilding, but we're a work in progress at the moment. It's always a good challenge to see how we can develop the team from year to year."

The Falcons' boys team graduated most of its top-end talent from last season, and the younger returning athletes are looking to keep the standard up.

That has resulted in a lot of team-building through long training runs and other exercises designed to knit the team together and push each other faster.

"It's all thinking about how we're going to do well at the end if we put in the work now to be successful in October," said junior **Dylan Newhard**. "The hardest part is just putting in the work, because you don't want to all the time, but you know you have to do it to be successful. It can be very mentally challenging, but it's something that you just have to work through. After the first couple of meets, you can gauge how mentally strong you are and then you can help your friends continue to push harder and get better."

The Falcon girls are strong on paper

already, even though they are similarly young. They graduated just one of their scoring runners from the state meet, but that doesn't mean the other six have spots set in stone.

The Severna Park stable runs deep on the girls side, and that provides a challenge the racers are already relishing.

"It's honestly just exciting being in the workouts and seeing how close everyone is," said junior **Rebecca Jimeno**, who finished 23rd at the state meet last year. "Everyone's running so much faster and it makes us work harder, seeing what we did last year and seeing that we can do it again."

"The competition is very tough. There's a lot of girls that can be in that spot. We don't take it personally, though, because we really want everyone else to succeed. I think that helps us because we aren't fighting each other; we are just working hard for those spots for the team. If you have everyone working for that spot, everyone's getting faster and that makes us all better."

A couple of key races on the calendar are the Great American race in North Carolina, which Jimeno mentioned as a measuring stick at a "really fun" meet, as well as running at the Bull Run Invitational, which also doubles as a state preview meet.

Regardless of the meet, the current Falcon runners have it in their minds to reach into the past and work through the present in order to be where they want to be in the future.

"I've been friends with the people that have graduated and I feel like we need to keep their legacy going; they worked so hard for this team, so we need to do the same," Jimeno said. "Ever since coach Alcombright came to be the coach, we've always talked about being a chain. When you graduate, you get a chain link. Everyone's always part of this team, and everyone's always working for you."

BHS Field Hockey Determined

» Continued from page 20

to it. It just clicked last year. We can look back and see why we were successful, and we can pull it forward, and that's how we play. We were complimented by a lot of people in the field hockey world about the way we play, and we drill that into the team about how we want to play."

The standard of play extends to everything the Bruins do. When it's time for fun, Hanratty said, they can pull pranks and pal around with the best of them. When it's time to work, though, they want to ensure nobody out there works harder.

That includes outworking each other through competition weeks, where the team splits into two and tries to outdo the other, in an effort to lift everyone's game toward the ever-rising standard.

"It keeps us competitive, but we really bond as well," said junior forward **Katelyn Kearns**. "We want to beat the other side, but we're still having fun together."

A large junior class has Broadneck thinking about big things in the next few years, but the Bruins are worried

about the day-to-day, making sure they're chasing perfection and catching success along the way.

"We don't want to go under what we've already met, whether passing, intensity — we just want to keep building higher and higher to become even better," said senior midfielder **Mady Quigley**. "They know us and what we accomplished last year, so they're always going to try to meet us and beat us, so we have to stay grounded."

While they enjoy playing quality opponents like Severna Park and Crofton, the Bruins are dialed in on themselves ahead of the new season, because they believe that's the best way to test strength on strength.

"Both of those games are exciting, and they're great competition and great for the community, but it's really about playing your game," Hanratty said. "If we bring our best, and we know that everyone else is bringing their best against us, then it really is a true battle of who is the best in that moment, and that's where our heads are at."

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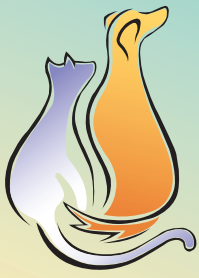
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Oak Hill Elementary Student Stars In Commercial

Representing Chick-fil-A, Nick Hoover recently filmed a public service announcement on recycling.

By Lauren Cowin

Eight-year-old Nick Hoover shouldn't have any trouble answering the question, "What's the most interesting thing you did this summer?" The Oak Hill Elementary third-grader was selected as a Chick-fil-A kid correspondent, and filmed a commercial at the Fox45 studio in Baltimore in July.

"I told one of my friends, and he didn't believe it," Nick said.

But he has the pictures, and soon, the airtime, to prove it.

In May, Nick's mom, Jennifer Hoover, signed him up for the contest after her mother saw an advertisement for it while watching "Judge Judy."

"Nick's very outgoing," Hoover said of her son, who readily agreed to her sending an application on his behalf.

The contest spanned 10 Maryland counties in the greater Baltimore area. Twenty applicants were randomly selected to come in for an in-person audition.

Much to his family's surprise, Hoover said, Nick was one of them.

The next hurdle was the audition: Nick had to deliver a report at the Fox45 news desk for a panel of judges from the television station and Chick-fil-A. His topic was why he would be the best kid correspondent, citing his affinity for the company's milkshakes and nuggets.

His report must have been convincing, because Nick was selected as one of the 12 Chick-fil-A kid



correspondents.

For his commercial, Nick had to memorize a 12-second script about the importance of recycling.

"My mom made me do it every single day, even though I didn't want to," Nick recalled of the days leading up to the taping.

But practice makes perfect, and before the big day, he was a willing student.

"By the end, he was practicing a lot on his own," Hoover said.

Nick returned to the Fox45 studio to film his commercial in front of a green screen.

"It was just me talking, in a suit," Nick said of the experience.

While at the station, he and his co-correspondents had the opportunity to watch a taping of "Bmore Lifestyle," and meet some of the on-air personalities.

In addition to his television spot, Nick was gifted a couple of Chick-fil-A cow stuffies, a sweatshirt and several free sandwiches.

Nick likes to play video games and football in his free time. He would like to be a professional football player when he grows up, a route that could afford him the ability to blend his interest in the sport and television.

"If you are an NFL player, if you're popular enough, you can get on TV," Nick said, citing Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes as an example.

Nick's commercial is expected to run during the morning news on Fox45 this fall.

Nick's Script

*Care for our environment by recycling!
Recycling means less waste, less litter and
a more beautiful community.*

*Be an environment educator to others
and care for our community.*

Falcon Marching Band Prepares For Season



Photo courtesy of Adam Slote/PhotoDlux

The Severna Park High School marching band is excited for the fall season, which will include a battle-of-the-bands-style event called Marching in the Park. The community is welcome to attend the day-long event, which will be held at the school's football stadium and feature more than 20 high school marching bands.

How Free Play Creates Resilient Children



By Roman Hardgrave

Founder, Acton Academy Annapolis
Remember those carefree days of our youth when some of us roamed the neighborhood until the streetlights came on? Memories of running wild are dear to many of us, yet we often underestimate how much this freedom shaped our character.

We're seeing our young people face rising levels of anxiety, depression and loneliness. While some people point to technology and social media as part of the problem, the decline in free play also plays a major role.

Children today have far less time to play and roam wild. The length of the academic year has expanded by five weeks between 1950 and 2010. Children today spend considerably more hours in classrooms and on homework — a 2004 study by the University of Michigan estimated an increase of 11.4 hours weekly over three decades. Playtime during recess is dwindling, if not disappearing altogether in many schools. Moreover, extracurricular pursuits like sports are more time-consuming and rigorous than in the past. Consequently, many of today's youth spend significantly more time under adult supervision than perhaps we did.

So what's the problem? Additional time spent on academics or sports should improve performance, right? But at what cost?

The developmental benefits of free play

Having the liberty to wander and engage in imaginative play presents several developmental benefits:

Imagination and creativity: Rescue mission? Zombie outbreak? Running a pretend cafe? That's just one good afternoon! Free play fosters imagination and creativity through children inventing narratives and scenarios without strict guidelines or predefined outcomes.

Social skills: Watch a group of children playing and you'll notice they spend a lot of time negotiating the rules. This is how they acquire essential skills in communication, dispute resolution and empathy.

Executive functioning and self-reliance: Unstructured play exposes children to unexpected situations, helping them develop flexibility and adaptability. Children learn skills like planning, organizing

and problem-solving, while also improving emotional regulation and independent decision-making.

Risk-taking and courage: Climbing a tree can be a scary experience. However, these experiences habituate and desensitize children to risks and failure, making them more resilient in the future. Research also shows that being apart from mom and dad decreases separation anxiety as they get older.

Physical well-being and confidence: Part of why young animals play is to develop physical skills and coordination. We're no different. Overcoming physical challenges, like conquering the monkey bars, provides a major boost to self-confidence.

Ever been frustrated by some young adults lacking the ability to manage themselves and execute? It's no surprise when you consider the limited freedom some have had to mature. For most of their lives, some youths have been accustomed to adults directing their every move. So how can we expect those that fall into that category to magically switch into adult mode?

What about the risks, like kidnappers?

Statistics reveal that risks have generally been on the decline. "Free Range Kids" is a book by Lenore Skenazy that states the risk is slim.

"The chances of any one American child being kidnapped and killed by a stranger are almost infinitesimally small: .00007 percent," Skenazy wrote.

British author Warwick Cairns wrote in his book, "How to Live Dangerously," that if you wanted your child to be kidnapped and held overnight by a stranger, you would have to keep the child outside, unattended, for about 750,000 years for it to be statistically likely to happen.

How to bring back free play

Online resources like the "3 Keys to Balancing Safety & Risk in Parenting" provide an overview of how to get started with some simple steps.

The Let Grow Project provides resources for integrating more free play into schools or creating a play club outside of school. Speak with neighbors to help build a supportive community that fosters a sense of collective responsibility.

Building A Strong Foundation

How The Maryland 529 Plan Shapes Educational Opportunities

By John O'Callaghan

Certified Financial Planner

With each passing summer, the countdown to the start of college draws nearer, bringing with it the formidable challenge of financing higher education.

The escalation of college expenses has been nothing short of meteoric over the past few decades, and this upward trajectory shows no signs of abating. According to projections by the U.S. Department of Education, the cumulative cost of a four-year degree is estimated to exceed \$205,000 by the year 2030. The average annual cost of public colleges has increased 6.5% each year over the last decade, vastly outpacing the general rate of inflation and wage growth over that same time period. Put simply, it's getting harder to pay the price tag for college.

This prevailing trend underscores the urgency of establishing a robust savings strategy for your children today.

How Does The Maryland 529 Plan Work

The Maryland 529 plan requires a minimum \$25 investment, and the total maximum amount you can contribute to a Maryland 529 plan is \$500,000 per beneficiary. The plan allows you to choose from a broad range of investment options, and as the investments grow, hopefully, you pay no taxes on any of the growth.

When you sell your investments and take money out of the Maryland 529 plan to pay for qualifying educational expenses for the beneficiary, both your contributions and all the earnings come out tax-free. Qualified educa-

tional expenses include tuition, fees, room and board, books, course-specific fees and supplies.

Funds from the account are versatile and accepted at nearly any accredited college or university in the country for undergraduate or graduate education. A noteworthy feature allows for up to \$10,000 per year, per beneficiary, to be used toward tuition at kindergarten through grade 12 public, private or religious schools. The money in your account can also be used for apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor or for the repayment of qualified education loans.

Tax Benefits Offered By The Maryland 529 Plan

If a taxpayer contributes to a Maryland 529 plan, a portion of the contribution can be subtracted from their income on their Maryland tax return.

Contributions up to \$2,500 annually, per beneficiary, are eligible for a Maryland state income tax deduction for those filing a single return; and \$5,000 per year, per beneficiary, for those filing a joint return. Excess contributions can be deducted for up to the next 10 years.

For example, if you have three children, and you and your spouse each contribute \$2,500 to all three 529 accounts in a calendar year, you'll get a \$15,000 state income tax deduction.

The tax deduction serves as the icing on the cake, complementing the array of advantages offered by the Maryland 529 plan.

For more information on benefits and features associated with the Maryland 529 plan, John O'Callaghan can be reached at john@impactfinanciallifeplanning.com.

East Coast Martial Arts To Host Kids Self-Defense Class At Annapolis Town Center

As kids across Maryland prepare to head back to school, Annapolis Town Center will host an event to teach them how to stand up to bullies.

On September 30 from 9:00am-10:00am, the town center will host a kids self-defense class to help children develop confidence, discipline, character, focus and respect. The seminar is taught in partnership with East Coast Martial Arts and will teach the nationally renowned program Gracie Bullyproof.

Gracie Bullyproof is a kids jiu-jitsu program that teaches children the specific circumstances in which they can use self-defense techniques. The program focuses on teaching the five "rules of engagement" to ensure children understand responsible use of their skills.

"We understand that bullying can be


a serious issue for kids, and we want to provide a safe and empowering environment where they can learn how to protect themselves," said Tommy Lee, owner of East Coast Martial Arts. "We're excited to partner with Annapolis Town Center to offer this class and equip kids with skills and boost their self-confidence."

The seminar will be held in the East Green Village and is open to kids ages 5-8. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Registration is required and can be done on the eventbrite website. Tickets are \$5, and all proceeds will go to the Blue Ribbon Project.

This informative and interactive class will teach kids how to avoid dangerous situations, control their emotions and build self-esteem. The class will run for approximately one hour, and attendees should wear comfortable clothing.



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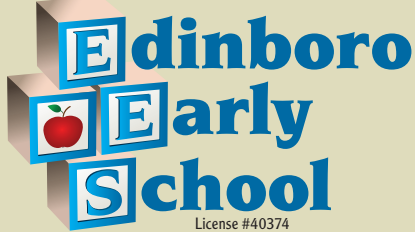
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Educator Of The Month

**Margaret Abed
Edinboro Early School**



Margaret Abed enjoys seeing children grow socially, emotionally and intellectually at Edinboro Early School.

“Making friends and learning routines is just as important as whether you can count to 20 or know the alphabet. When parents say, ‘My child is happy coming to school,’ we love to hear that because they are starting on a lifelong journey of learning.”

— MARGARET ABED

her daughter. Before that, she worked for Montgomery Child Care Association, at the nonprofit's Silver Spring location.

At Edinboro, she got another chance to work with preschool students, shaping their early development. With that age group, she witnesses many proud moments.

“We always talk about it ‘clicking in,’” she said. “The children don’t know the letter A from an elephant and then they get it. It’s really fulfilling and rewarding when a parent says, ‘My child has been counting to 20’ or classifying colors or singing ‘God Bless America.’”

Language, reading and math are important. So is developing the physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth of each child.

“Making friends and learning routines is just as important as whether you can count to 20 or know the alphabet,” Abed said. “When parents say, ‘My child is happy coming to school,’ we love to hear that because they are starting on a lifelong journey of learning.”

To pique kids’ interest in learning and encourage their curiosity, Abed engages them in creative projects. For a Native American unit, she makes vests. For another occasion, she created costumes of the characters Anna, Elsa and Kristoff from the Disney movie “Frozen.”

“She is a unique and creative seamstress,” Gerbracht said.

Ever since she played with baby dolls as a child, Abed knew she wanted to be an educator. She plans to transition back to a part-time role soon so she can spend more time with her grandchildren, but she wants to stay involved at Edinboro Early School.

She offered simple advice for anyone who wants to join the teaching profession.

“Make sure it’s a job you love,” Abed said. “If you love it, that makes a world of difference.”

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

At Edinboro Early School, Margaret Abed’s peers call her the kid whisperer.

“When she has challenging kids, she never raises her voice,” said Edinboro Early School director Suellen Gerbracht. “She’s what we call firm but kind.”

Fellow teacher Allison Jacob said, “She’s very compassionate and cares about children. She is very calm in all emergencies.”

Abed asks to teach the children with challenging behavior because she is passionate about helping them discover joy for learning. But she enjoys teaching all her students and she loves Edinboro Early School.

“The parents are wonderful, and Edinboro gives teachers leeway in how they present the material,” Abed said. “I make up my own songs, make up my own games.”

“Play is learning,” she said. “Sitting there only doing papers is not what kids should be doing in preschool.”

Abed is Edinboro’s longest-tenured teacher. She joined the school part-time in 1995 and moved to full-time, all after taking a teaching hiatus following the birth of



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Question of the month

THEATER IN THE PARK

Each month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to a local class. With kids on summer break in August, we asked Theater in the Park campers to answer this question:

If you could play any character from a musical, movie or show, what role would you want?

Elphaba in "Wicked" because she has a cool personality.

Chloe Bailey, age 13

I want to be Claire from "The Nutcracker" because she dances, and I like dancing.

Claire Donder, age 8

Rafiki in "The Lion King" because I did it for my first play at Broadneck Elementary.

Olivia Earley, age 12

The little mermaid because she gets to live underwater.

Eloise Jacobs-Ban-Merlin, age 8



In "High School Musical," one of the characters sings and dances. She says goodbye to her

best friend.

Liv Knight, age 7

From "Star Wars," either Rey, Poe or Finn. Ray because she knows how to move with the force. Poe

is a really good pilot. Fin because he knows everything about the dark side.

TJ Krause, age 11

I would be Lady from "Lady and the Tramp" because she gets to eat pasta.

Dylan Murdock, age 8

Albus Dumbledore. Even though he made mistakes, everyone makes mistakes, but he learned from his and that gave him greater wisdom.

McCall Pence, age 10

In "Inside Out," there is a blue character, [Sadness], that is able to spy on her family and has the color hair I like. I love her personality. It's nice.

Harper Pollard, age 7

I would do Cosette from "Les Misérables" because she has a pretty voice.

Payton Seagroves, age 11

Gabriella from "High School Musical" and Zendaya from "The Greatest Showman." Zendaya does trapeze. I would be Gabrielle, or Vanessa Hudgens, because I like her voice and personality.

Ashley Sindler, age 13

If "Tangled" was a stage play, definitely Rapunzel. Also, either Elsa or Anna from "Frozen." Elsa is blonde like me, obviously, and I love her voice and character.

Karly Tufo, age 12

Probably Delia in "Beetlejuice" because she has the same name as me.

Delia Warner, age 12

Queen Mal from "Descendants" because I like to dance.

Charlotte Woodworth, age 8

I would be Alexander Hamilton from "Hamilton" because he gets to do all the fun stuff and acting, and he's the main character.

Elliott Zapf, age 8



The Question of the Month is proudly sponsored by Just-in-Time Renovations
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"LIKE" Screening At Park Books

Parenting for a Different World is screening the 2018 social media documentary "LIKE" and holding a panel discussion on the role of smartphones and social media in our lives on September 26 at 7:00pm at Park Books in Severna Park.

This event is appropriate for ages 10 and up, as well as adults who work or interact with youth or families seeking to create balance in a digital world.

Parenting for a Different World offers communication and programs on improving the coping and help-seeking skills of Severna Park's youth. The nonprofit organization has a goal of promoting wellness for kids, including growing help-seeking skills, building resiliency and addressing mental health concerns.

Doors open at 6:30pm, and event organizers expect the film and panel discussion with youth mental health and social media experts to conclude by 8:30pm.

To register for the free event, visit tinyurl.com/3r2j589z.

Grant Helps Backpack Buddies



"With the grant money, we can now serve 120 participants for the 2023-2024 school year, 13 more than last year, and purchase quality food for participants"

— **DONNA WILSON-JOHNSTON**
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER OF SERVICES FROM THE HEART

The Severna Park-based organization Services from the Heart has received a \$25,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County (CFAAC) to support its Backpack Buddies program, providing nutritious meals to food insecure

children in Anne Arundel County. The award comes from the Fund for Anne Arundel, a fund of CFAAC.

Donna Wilson-Johnston, president and founder of Services from the Heart, said the funds will be used to provide weekly food backpacks to 120 children

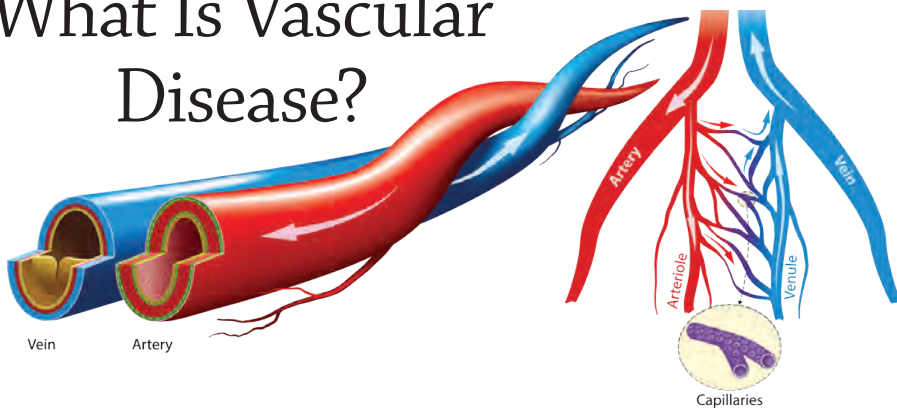
at Belle Grove, Eastport and Hilltop elementary schools in Anne Arundel County during the 2023-2024 school year. Each week, participants are provided eight healthy meal items, four nutritious snacks, two beverages and three pieces of fresh fruit. The program also accommodates food allergies and cultural preferences at the request of parents.

"With the grant money, we can now serve 120 participants for the 2023-2024 school year, 13 more than last year, and purchase quality food for participants," Wilson-Johnston said. "In addition, the funds will help support our allergy, cultural, and holiday meal bags for Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Mary Spencer, CFAAC president and CEO, said CFAAC not only helps children who are at risk of going hungry over the holidays but also during weekends throughout the school year.

"It's CFAAC's goal that Fund for Anne Arundel grants will help nonprofits like Services from the Heart continue to provide children and families access to much-needed physical, mental and behavioral health programs in our county," Spencer said.

What Is Vascular Disease?



Deidre Smith
UM Baltimore
Washington
Medical Center



Vascular disease affects your cardiovascular system. The heart and blood vessels are essential to this system of the body. Veins and arteries are the names of the blood vessels

from the heart through the arteries. It then gets to the capillaries and goes to each cell in the body. Afterward, it returns to the heart through veins. Veins carry blood without oxygen back to the heart, moving continuously all over the body. Even though veins and arteries are different, they work together to supply the body with oxygen.

Screening for Vascular Disease

Vascular disease is a condition that affects many people in the United States. If it is not treated, it can cause health problems like less blood flow to body parts, leading to nerve damage, ulcers and infections.

The Vascular Center at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) offers free screenings to detect major vascular problems including abdominal aortic aneurysms, peripheral arterial disease and carotid artery disease. These screenings are quick and painless, lasting less than 20 minutes.

To learn about common risk factors for vascular disease, and to understand if a vascular screening may be right for you, visit www.umbwmc.org/vascular-screening.

that move blood to and from the heart. They help transport oxygen and important nutrients to all parts of the body. Arteries carry oxygen-rich blood away from the heart. Veins bring oxygen-poor blood back to the heart. Understanding the difference between veins and arteries is important to know how the body works.

Difference Between Veins and Arteries

One part of the circulatory system involves blood going from the heart to the lungs. The lungs are where blood drops off carbon dioxide and picks up oxygen for the body to use. The second part is how blood travels in a closed circuit throughout the body. Arteries and veins are the blood vessels that transport nutrients, while capillaries connect the two.

Arteries: There are two types of arteries — elastic and muscular. Elastic arteries near the heart widen to allow more blood flow. Muscular arteries have a smooth layer of muscle that delivers blood to tissues. Arteries have thicker walls than veins and can handle higher blood pressure.

Veins: Veins have thinner and less elastic layers than arteries. However, they can hold a lot of blood at lower pressure. Unlike arteries, veins have one-way valves that prevent blood from flowing backward. The pulmonary veins are the only veins in the body that carry oxygen-rich blood from the lungs to the heart. Systemic veins carry deoxygenated blood from all body parts back to the heart.

Capillaries: Capillaries are the smallest vessels that exchange nutrients and waste between blood, cells and tissues. Blood then flows from the smallest veins, called venules, into larger veins.

How Do Veins and Arteries Work Together?

The circulatory system looks like a tree. The aorta is the largest artery and main trunk connecting all the branches. Blood with lots of oxygen moves

Senior Health And Safety In Extreme Weather

Maresa Henry
Spring Arbor of
Severna Park



As many of us look to cooler fall temperatures for some relief, hot weather is likely to stick around through at least the first part of September. If you felt that the summer heat this year was extreme, you're not alone. NASA scientists reported that July 2023 was the hottest month since at least 1880 and estimate that 2023 will be the warmest year on record.

Heat affects all of us but especially seniors who are more susceptible to extreme weather. As we age, our body responds to weather changes differently. Seniors are more likely than others to suffer from heat stroke, dehydration, heat rash and other ailments.

With at least a few weeks of hot weather remaining in Severna Park, it's important for seniors, their caregivers and loved ones to remain vigilant about the heat. What can you do?

Three keys to senior health and safety during hot weather include hydration, body temperature control and nutrition.

Hydration is crucial for everyone, and this is especially true for seniors because water is essential for various bodily functions, including digestion, circulation and temperature regulation. Dehydration can negatively impact cognitive function. Encourage seniors to consume an ample amount of water throughout the day.

Herbal teas, diluted fruit juices and clear soups can also contribute to daily fluid intake. Due to decreased thirst perception, seniors may forget to drink water regularly. Set reminders or use smartphone apps to establish a water consumption routine.

Helping seniors maintain appropriate body temperature is also important. Ensure that seniors have a comfortable and cool place to relax and be active when the thermostat rises. Stay indoors between 10:00am and 4:00pm to avoid the hottest temperatures and exposure to the sun. Clothing matters too. Seniors should wear light fabrics and loose-fitting clothing to allow more air flow around their body and to assist their body's natural cooling processes.

Nutrition is another key to bolstering senior health during hot weather. Avoid food that is high in fat, sodium, and cholesterol and beverages that can dehydrate you, such as alcohol and caffeinated drinks. Instead, prioritize more fresh fruits and vegetables. The vitamins and nutrients in fruits and vegetables can help reduce inflammation, combat cell damage and improve circulation. Also consider produce with high water content to aid in hydration.

It will still feel like summer for the next few weeks, so remember to check in with your senior loved ones and make sure they're staying safe during these hot days.

Maresa Henry is the executive director of Spring Arbor of Severna Park, a local assisted living and memory care community. She can be contacted at tmhenry@springarborliving.com.

Pickleball Injuries Rise With The Sport's Popularity

Submitted by Luminis Health

What's not to love about the nation's fastest-growing sport that's taking the country by storm - pickleball? The sport combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong and is easy to learn and slower paced. As more Americans pick up a paddle, there are also growing numbers finding themselves in a pickle when dealing with a pickleball-related injury.

Luminis Health physical therapist Shelby Schaefer and her colleagues have noticed an increase in injuries related to pickleball amongst their patients, particularly in the older population who have more limited movement in their spine and hips. Schaefer said the low-impact sport gives players a false sense of security. Your chances of strains and sprains increase because you're pushing your body too hard with a lack of preparation. Common pickleball injuries include strains and sprains of the back, knee and ankle, as well as elbow and wrist injuries.

Prep Your Body

All levels of sport require some training

and warm-up. The greatest risk for injury in any sport, including pickleball, comes from not preparing your body for the sport or warming up.

Here are some recommended pre-pickleball stretches for different parts of your body:

Shoulders - Cross-body stretch. Begin standing in an upright position. Raise one arm in front of your body with your thumb pointing up. Grasp the outside of your arm with your other arm and apply gentle pressure until you feel a stretch.

Hamstrings - Forward lean stretch. Begin sitting upright with one leg straight forward and your heel resting on the ground. Bend your trunk forward, hinging at your hips until you feel a stretch in the back of your leg. Hold this position.

Quadriceps - Standing knee bend. Begin standing in an upright position. Step forward with one foot and lower down into a mini-lunge position. Return to standing and repeat on the other leg.

Calves - Standing calf stretch. Stand facing a wall with your hands on the wall. Put one leg about a step behind the other leg, with toes pointed toward the wall. Keep the back heel on the floor, bend your

front knee until you feel a stretch in the back leg. Repeat on the other leg.

Helpful warm-ups before playing pickleball include squats, lunges, walking butt kicks or marches and army swings.

It's also important to exercise outside of pickleball to keep up your upper and lower body strength.

Overuse Injuries

When considering how often to play pickleball, think about your typical routine. If you haven't played the sport and aren't typically active, ease into it by playing once or twice a week. If you are regularly active and physically fit, daily pickleball play may be just fine. Remember to listen to your body — it will tell you when you need some rest and recovery time.

Complements for the Court

Other activities that are a nice complement to pickleball include water aerobics, yoga and Pilates. One final tip to ace the sport — play pickleball against an opponent who is at a similar ability level as you. It's best not to play competitively when you are learning the sport.



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Angela Germanos' Next Chapter

By Lauren Burke Meyer

It's been less than a year since Angela Germanos retired from teaching at her alma mater, Severna Park High School (SPHS). Germanos taught for four decades in the Anne Arundel County School system, spending 22 of those years at SPHS, where she taught French and theater arts.

During her tenure at SPHS, she was also drama advisor and held roles as director and producer of Rock 'N' Roll Revival.

Retired for a few months, Germanos is already back behind the scenes. She's directing "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical" for 2nd Star Productions, a volunteer-run community theater that performs at the Bowie Playhouse in Whitmarsh Park. It's fitting because Germanos had hoped to continue her love of theater and directing.

When comparing the commitment to SPHS, Germanos noted what it's like to simplify her role to director without the producer responsibility.

"I can focus on the acting and elements that directly affect the quality of the show," Germanos said.

The Tony Award-winning "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical" is from the Royal Shakespeare Company. With the book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim



"She has a great deal of patience, is able to work with both adults and children in a respectful way, and is so talented."
— MALARIE ZEEKS

Photo courtesy of Laura Fisher

Retired Severna Park High School teacher and Rock 'N' Roll Revival leader Angela Germanos is directing "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical."

Minchin, "Matilda" has won 47 international awards and appears for sold-out audiences around the world.

Locals can see the musical from September 15 to October 14. Friday performances are at 8:00pm with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00pm.

One aspect unique to the show is the

cast. This is the first time in the area that age-appropriate casting for this show has occurred. Typically, schools and community groups have children playing all the roles, even the adults.

"Our kids are seeing adults as role models and learning a lot from their example," shared Germanos, whose youngest actor

is 8 years old and whose oldest adult in the production is 50 years old.

Germanos finds it refreshing to work with adults in addition to children and teens.

Malarie Zeeks — who plays Mrs. Wormwood — shared what it's like to work with Germanos.

"She has a great deal of patience, is able to work with both adults and children in a respectful way, and is so talented," Zeeks said.

Zeeks noted how Germanos has a creative directing approach too. All aspects are thought of and not forgotten.

"It has been incredibly impressive to see her vision come to fruition during rehearsals," Zeeks said. "You can actually see the cogs turning and what she was going for with individual scenes, lines, songs and dances."

Audiences can look forward to magical effects.

"We have worked hard to recreate the childhood nostalgia most of us had as a positive experience yet addressing the negative aspects in the show of power abuse and highlighting the way that Matilda overcomes her negative experience through the love and support of her teacher," Germanos explained.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.2ndstarproductions.org.

Directing isn't the only way the retired teacher continues to stay active with her passions. Germanos plans to teach theater in the fall at Cornerstone Tutorials, a homeschool group based at Severna Park Evangelical Presbyterian Church, where she is also a member.

Veterans Find Camaraderie In Glass At Maryland Hall

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

"If it wasn't for glass, I don't think I'd be alive."

Those are the words of Clare Shepherd, a retired Army transportation logistics officer and now instructor of a glass fusing workshop, dubbed Veterans Glass Studio, at Maryland Hall in Annapolis.

The free workshop for veterans and servicemembers is designed to teach the fundamentals of glass fusing and offers those who have donned the uniform a haven to explore artistic expression.

"I have PTSD, and I struggle with it all the time," Shepherd said. "Relating to people my own age is hard."

She has no trouble relating to fellow vets — even more so if glass is involved. Shepherd initially tried some pottery classes at the Bethesda, Maryland-based Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, but she was seeking more vibrancy than the earthy colors that medium provided. Once she found glass, she didn't look back and embraced the heightened challenges that working the new material afforded her.

Amongst the sounds of breaking glass and military memories being

» Continued on page 42



Photos by Mark Patton

A free workshop at Maryland Hall in Annapolis offers veterans and servicemembers an opportunity to bond over glass fusing. Above: Susi Cooper showed off some of her workshop glass creations in the backyard of her Arnold home. Cooper participated in both the July and August offerings.



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Veterans Find Camaraderie In Glass At Maryland Hall

» Continued from page 40

shared, Shepherd could also be heard giving advice or nudges of recommendations as the Edgewater resident strolled the workshop, appearing as comfortable in civilian clothes commanding a room as she once was when she was the recipient of salutes.

Shepherd doesn't only instruct fellow veterans on the art of glass fusing, but she also was instrumental in bringing the monthly workshop to the building that used to house Annapolis High School until 1979.

"I always wanted to offer a class to veterans to give back," Shepherd said.

By sharing her story of trauma in the military, Shepherd helped Maryland Hall secure a \$10,000 grant through the Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant program. The program is part of the National Endowment for the Arts' Creative Forces initiative, and this grant program aims to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers, through experiences of art.

Arnold resident Susie Cooper is a retired Marine Corps major who spent more than 21 years serving her country. She now works as a therapist. It's no surprise that Cooper was able to push to have her thesis topic at the Naval Post Graduate School switched from what the Marines wanted her to do, Russian weaponry, to what she wanted to do, operational stress control and rehabilitation.

"I believe in doing exercises in meditation, catharsis, experimental things to



Clare Shepherd introduced herself and showed a shape design to participants of an August 17 glass fusing workshop.

get out of my head," Cooper said. "As military, there were extra things that kind of invade our brains, experiences outside of the civilian norm, and anything that is a nervous system reliever to me is super important as a self-care."

Cooper was so impressed with Maryland Hall's initial workshop offering in July that she did it again in August. That's no small feat to garner the attention of the San Jose, California, native, who has stood on the summit of Mount Fuji in Japan, strolled in Siberia during

the height of the Cold War, participated in an international cold-weather military exercise in Norway and lived in Israel for four years.

During the workshop, participants have multiple styles and colors of Bulls-eye Glass material to use when making a decorative dish. Shepherd pointed out that striving to create something abstract is an easier undertaking for a beginner than to create a more literal design. As students began by preparing borders, making it easier to cut glass to fill in, rulers came out for measurements, and the snaps of glass breaking filled the air of the workshop.

The August participants created a variety of pieces from a flamingo to abstract. Some had a plan going in, others were winging it. But for two hours, the veterans in attendance were able to get lost in camaraderie while creating art with glass.

For Cooper, she didn't have a plan, but her head was filled with anxiety.

"This is what we're letting go, this idea that you have to be perfect, and I worked through that," Cooper said. "I deserve to have fun, let me chill the F out, and then I shifted to that."

Once students finish a piece, the creation is fired in a kiln and then put in a mold to shape it like a dish where the art can be picked up in the following days.

Both Shepherd and Cooper stressed that not only does glass fusing offer a multisensory experience but doing an art activity surrounded by people with a common bond, such as the military, provides something classes for the general public can't offer.

"I think we experience what I call tolerance fatigue," Cooper said. "We are bombarded with so much extra and so the tolerance and fatigue has us tired, and we're even more tired when we anticipate a conversation with somebody who won't understand where we're coming from."

Shepherd estimated that each class consists of a \$115 value for the veteran. But the opportunity to work with a medium like glass, which not everybody has access to, and the ability to try something they may never would have, are points Shepherd is big on.

"I love it, and I want them to love it too," Shepherd said. "Glass is like yoga for my brain without having to do anything physical."

Cooper noted that the mindfulness aspect of the workshop allows participants to be in the moment, channeling one of her sayings at work — present over perfect.

"I think we were getting all our senses filled in a safe environment, with the fun factor, because we all knew we were either doing this for fun or self-care," Cooper said.

Shepherd looks forward to welcoming new faces to future workshops. The current grant provides resources to provide the free monthly workshop through July 2024.

"I love watching new students try something because they're less inhibitive," Shepherd said.

More information is available at www.marylandhall.org/classes/fall-2023-glass-fusing-classes. Class sizes are limited to 12 participants each month.

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Art On Display At Monument Sotheby's



Carolyn Councill's styles range from realism to abstract, and she usually combines both approaches in her paintings.

"I try not to set boundaries in painting, leaving the door open to inspiration, which can come from various experiences"

— CAROLYN COUNCELL

Artist Carolyn Councill is displaying her artwork at Monument Sotheby's International Realty in Severna Park through September 29.

A graduate of the Maryland Institute of Art, Councill has styles that range from realism to abstract, and she usually combines both approaches in her paintings. Subject matter includes people, landscapes, seascapes and flowers. Her preferred media includes watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, and oil.

"I try not to set boundaries in painting, leaving the door open to inspiration, which can come from various

experiences," she said in an announcement shared by Monument Sotheby's International Realty. "I feel each painting has a life of its own, and attempt to go with what each one suggests to me, such as mood, color, composition, balance and all of the elements of art. I let the painting speak to me. By continually growing as an artist, I feel there are no limitations to what can be achieved in the world of art."

Hours are 9:00am-4:00pm Monday through Friday. The Monumental Sotheby's office is located at 537 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, suite A.

2023/2024 Season



At BTM Opens Sept. 16

Before Ballet Theatre of Maryland (BTM) kicks off its performances in residence at Maryland Hall for the Arts, it will hold two events in downtown Annapolis: Ballet in the Garden on September 16, followed by BTM's 45th anniversary gala on September 24. Both events will give audiences the opportunity to see the company up close.

The historic Hammond Harwood House will open its grounds for the VIP event Ballet in the Garden on September 16 at 5:00pm. This intimate performance features smaller classical works in a charming garden setting. All tickets include a complimentary glass of wine.

"This marks our fourth year collaborating with Hammond Harwood House," said Nicole Kelsch, Ballet Theatre of Maryland artistic director. "We have always loved performing for our audiences in an outdoor setting, but what started out of necessity in 2020

has grown into one of the hidden gems of our season."

The gala will take place at Acqua Al 2 in Downtown Annapolis on September 24 at noon. Guests will mingle with the company dancers while they enjoy authentic Tuscan cuisine, drinks and a silent auction. The evening will also include a dance performance. The gala will commemorate BTM's accomplishments and raise funds to bring new works into the company's repertory.

Ballet In The Garden And 45th Anniversary Gala Are On Tap

Expanding the repertory has been a goal for Kelsch since she was appointed artistic director in July 2020. Since then, Ballet Theatre of Maryland has performed classic ballets such as "Giselle," "Les Sylphides" and "Don Quixote" for the first time. For the 2023-2024 season, BTM will premiere new productions of "The Firebird" and "The Sleeping Beauty."

To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.balletmaryland.org.

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Annapolis Songwriters Festival Q&A With LeAnn Rimes And Ray Weaver



By Lauren Burke Meyer

Following last year's inaugural Annapolis Songwriters Festival, the four-day event returns to the area this year with initial acts hitting the stage on September 14.

The festival is modeled after the Key West Songwriters Festival, now in its 27th year. Both festivals are designed to showcase and celebrate the crafts of songwriting and performing. The Annapolis Songwriters 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.

From some of the industry's biggest hit-makers to prominent new acts, songwriters will visit downtown Annapolis over four days and nights of music on boats, hotels, restaurants and bars. The festival will close at Annapolis City Dock with an all-ages show featuring Grammy-winning artist LeAnn Rimes.

The "Can't Fight the Moonlight" singer shared a preview of what fans can anticipate.

Rimes and Weaver are just two of the 100-plus acts to look forward to at the Annapolis Songwriters Festival. Get tickets and learn more at www.annapolis-songwritersfestival.com.

LEANN RIMES

Photo courtesy of Norman Seeff

What songs do you plan to perform at the Annapolis Songwriters Festival?

My set list changes a bit from show to show, depending on what I feel moved to sing that day, so you never know what you're going to get. However, we do revisit almost 30 years of music, everything from "Blue" all the way through to my latest album, "God's Work."

And, with this being a special event celebrating songwriting, I will definitely dig deep into my catalog and pull some of my favorites that I've written.

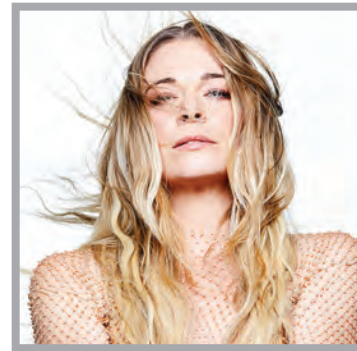
In your opinion, what's your most popular song amongst your fans? Is there a song that fans consistently sing the loudest when you perform?

My fans are so diverse in what they want to hear. You think it would be the hits, which it definitely is, but I find my fans really dig into the albums, and I'm

always surprised by the deeper cuts that have imprinted on their hearts.

How do you plan to approach performing at a unique venue like Annapolis City Dock? Will anything change about your performance?

I always stay as authentically true to my heart as I can, no matter where I'm performing. I like to take the audience on a ride and into all the feels. Feelings that they otherwise may not touch, until the music pours into them. I believe my purpose is to provide a safe place for them to take me in and meet me at the core of the song, and we experience that joy or sorrow together.



Have you ever performed in or visited Annapolis? If yes, what do you think of the city?

I've been touring since I was 13 years old. It all runs together after a while. I honestly don't remember if I have.

Any bucket list items you hope to do while in the area?

Wherever I go, I like to find delicious food. That always brings me joy when I'm on tour.

What is something most people don't know about you?

I'm an avid tennis player. I started playing about five years ago, and when I'm home, I play two or three times a week. I absolutely love it!

While Rimes, Blondie and Michelle Branch are well-known national performers, there are other acts to check out.

For one, seasoned musician and storyteller Ray Weaver, whose influences span across multiple genres, including country, Irish,

blues and folk.

Weaver has played throughout the area for more than 50 years at pubs, honky-tonks and coffee houses.

RAY WEAVER

Are you from the area and if so, where?

I am a Pasadena boy, born and raised. I live in Denmark now, but I am a Chesapeake son!

What songs do you plan to perform at the Annapolis Songwriters Festival?

It's hard to say exactly which songs I'll play. It kind of depends on what the other writers on the rounds I am in do. If they are doing a lot of ballads, I'll choose a fast one, and vice versa. I'll almost always do "Confession" and "I'd Know You Anywhere." And my song "Broke Down" that was used in the "Supernatural" television show.

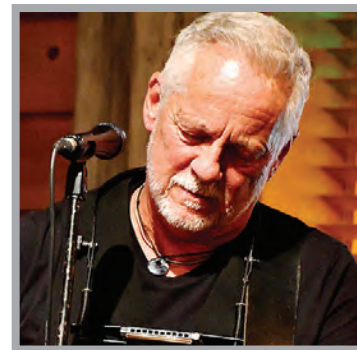
In your opinion, what's your most

popular song amongst your fans? Is there a song that fans consistently sing the loudest when you perform?

The folks that follow my music most consistently request my song "Princess Years," which is about my two daughters. It's not a singalong, it's a tearjerker.

Given the venue for this festival, will that impact your set list or overall experience for your fans? What can attendees anticipate?

The festival sets are short and sharp.



I'll be onstage with one or two other writers, so they get to hear my songs and songs by other great writers as well. Some of the best songwriters in the world will be in Annapolis. I'm looking forward to listening as much as I am to performing!

What is something about you that people would find surprising?

That although I've been performing for many years as an Americana singer/songwriter, back in the '70s, I was in a glam rock band and wore makeup and glitter high-heeled shoes.

"Sister Act" Is Onstage At Toby's



Ashley Johnson-Moore stars as Deloris, pictured here with the Queen of Angels sisters, in "Sister Act."

A "divine" musical comedy is coming to Toby's Dinner Theatre from September through November.

In "Sister Act," a woman hiding in a convent helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she rediscovers her own. "Sister Act" is based on the 1992 film starring Whoopi Goldberg. This uplifting musical was nominated for five Tony Awards including Best Musical. A sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, Sister Act is a reason to rejoice.

This show is onstage through November 5. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com or the best tickets can be purchased by calling the Toby's box office directly at 410-730-8311.

Maryland Hall To Present:

"Landfill Harmonic: Recycled Orchestra Of Cateura"



Garbage picker Nicolas Gomez made these two instruments using discarded materials from a landfill.

On September 22 at 7:00pm, the stage will be set for a featured documentary screening of "Landfill Harmonic" and a live performance featuring the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, presented by Maryland Hall Film and Goldstein-Cunitz.

"Landfill Harmonic" chronicles the journey of the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a Paraguayan musical ensemble. What sets this orchestra apart is that its instruments are crafted entirely from discarded materials found in the landfill where its community resides. Organizers said these instruments, born from refuse, produce a symphony of beauty and hope, echoing the indomitable spirit of the human soul.

"This will be an exciting evening with both film and live music," said Jackie Coleman, executive director of Maryland Hall. "We are grateful to Betty McGinnis from World Artists Experience for finding hosts for all the musicians coming to Annapolis from Paraguay to play in the orchestra."

To purchase tickets or to learn more, visit www.marylandhall.org.

Next Step Realty Merges With Wyble Team To Form Next Step Realty South



Matt Wyble, Lynn Peaper and Joe Smith were named as managing partners and co-owners of Next Step Realty South. Next Step Realty co-owners James Weiskerger and Kelly Schuit have joined the ownership group of the new setup.

Next Step Realty and Wyble Team are merging to create Next Step Realty South. This strategic alliance combines two real estate entities, leveraging their collective strengths and expertise to provide services to clients across the region.

At Next Step Realty, the team stresses

a commitment to quality over quantity, and Matt Wyble said Next Step Realty has established itself as a preferred brokerage for some of the top-producing agents in Maryland and boasts a track record of more than \$1 billion in volume sold since.

Similarly, Wyble Team has demon-

» **Continued on page 50**

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
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Office Phones Plus – Excellent communication technology is critical for the smooth operation of your small business, and you need reliable, affordable business phone systems to stay connected. Office Phones Plus provides a wide range of business phone systems through partnerships with Comcast, Verizon, Net2Phone, Digium and Nextiva. They take care of your initial installation, relocation, or upgrades and ongoing service.

» **Bay Area Counseling & Consultation**

LLC – This is a mental health group practice that specializes in evidenced-based, trauma-informed care and behavior modification psychotherapy. The agency is founded on cultural competence and a patient-centered approach to enhance the quality of mental health delivery for the surrounding community. Its motto is “Where Mental Health Meets Happiness.”

Ink + Numbers – Ink + Numbers hosts monthly events that include shopping, bourbon tastings, happy hours, breakfast parties, lead exchanges, seminars and much more. Founders Stacey Munsell and Lisa Carmichael are excited to begin this journey and help women connect and thrive.

Tucker Painting and Handyman LLC (Klappenberger and Son) – Serving thousands in Anne Arundel County for its painting and repair projects since 1989, the company also works on commercial and historic buildings. The U.S. Court of Appeals building, the Pentagon, the Smithsonian and the White House are all places the company has been hired to work. It provides 10-year warranties on all services and quotes within 24 hours.

BL Technical Services – BL Technical Services is a small group of information technology network engineers and their supporting staff that small businesses

» **Continued on page 50**

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Molly Maid Offers Cleaning While Serving The Community

By Mark Patton

mark@severnaparkvoice.com

When you hire cleaners, you’re not just paying for a clean home. You’re buying your own time.

Those are the words of Michael Reilly, a partial owner, along with his mother, Donna, of Molly Maid of Central Anne Arundel County. He pointed out that a lot of people spend a good portion of their weekends cleaning.

“That’s time you can be doing stuff with your kids, enjoying whatever your hobbies are, do what you want to do and not scrub the toilets,” said Michael Reilly, who also serves as the general manager.

Donna Reilly first started thinking about working for herself as her kids got older. She also knew she wanted to be a part of an established brand and franchise.

“The proven systems they have in place were appealing. Why reinvent the wheel,” Donna Reilly said.

As the family matriarch was contemplating industries that she would be interested in, she settled on something that she knew how to do — clean a house.

“I had also utilized several of

the services over the years and felt there was room for a service that offered top-notch customer service and really cared that our clients got what they pay for,” Donna Reilly said. “From there, Molly Maid was attractive because the people in the home office had a like mindset when it came to customer service.”

The mother and son duo at the helm of Molly Maid of Central Anne Arundel County credit customer service, treating employees right and dedication to the community for staying in business 25 years, a mark the company will hit this month.

Molly Maid of Central Anne Arundel County works for any client’s cleaning needs, offering free estimates for customized cleaning plans and schedules, along with one-time cleanings. Molly Maid will also work within a client’s budget to optimize their resources. The company guarantees all its work and will send somebody out the same day or the next day to fix any deficiencies.

The younger Reilly joined up with his mom’s business ambitions almost 15 years ago. Although he



Michael Reilly, partial owner and general manager of Molly Maid of Central Anne Arundel County, pointed out certificates showcasing his company’s Excellence in Action All Star Hall of Fame national award winners. The award is a national competition open to all Molly Maid franchises.

had worked at Molly Maid as a teenager after the final bell rang at nearby Broadneck High School, the cleaning industry wasn’t initially



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on his radar. Instead, he turned to leading construction crews.

After realizing the construction business was taking a toll on his body, his vision started expanding into a long-term career.

Running a crew of construction workers requires a different set of interpersonal skills than overseeing a cleaning crew, but Michael Reilly settled right in.

“I like the challenges of it,” Michael Reilly said. “It’s something different every day.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Molly Maid of Central Anne Arundel County was dubbed an essential service and the business was only out of operation a single day.

During this time, Michael Reilly would be the only one in the office, and he would arrive early to fill the cleaner’s supplies and load them up. It was this dedication to employee comfort and ease during a

» **Continued on page 49**



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Lynn serves Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Harford County and Cecil County. She has been an agent for more than 15 years and she specializes in working with first time home buyers and investors.



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Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements Transitioning To Next Generation



Tom Albrecht, owner of Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements, will turn the reins over to his son, Alec, over the next year to continue the company's tradition of providing top-quality home improvement services.

By Darrell Mak

After 30 successful years of providing home improvement services to Severna Park, Pasadena and surrounding areas, Tom Albrecht, owner of Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements, will turn the reins over to his son, Alec, over the next year to continue the company's tradition of providing top-quality home improvement services.

"It's been a long time, and I'm ready to hand it over to Alec," Tom Albrecht said.

The Albrecht duo has been working together with the company since Alec Albrecht was 14 years old. Since

that time, the younger Albrecht has gained considerable hands-on experience, including attending Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Center for Applied Technology North Carpentry I and II programs, and he is working toward a degree at Anne Arundel Community College for architectural design and construction management.

Tom Albrecht said in addition to understanding traditional practices, his son is also familiar with the latest home improvement techniques and technologies.

"He knows both the old school and new school products and practices," Tom Albrecht said. "With home improvement aspects changing almost as quickly as

information technology does, keeping up with the latest knowledge can almost be a full-time job in and of itself."

The elder Albrecht praised several of his subcontractors for support over the years, including Brenda Garver with Permit Services Inc., Nathan Foster with Foster Enterprises (electrician), Zach Vito with ZV-HVAC (heat and air), Richard Brown with Brown Plumbing (master plumber) and Brian Martin's Architectural Design.

Tom Albrecht said Zach Bedford has been an excellent worker and faithful employee of Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements for 25 years, spending much of that time helping Alec Albrecht learn the trade.

Tom Albrecht started his home improvement business after serving in the military as a combat engineer.

"The Army taught me carpentry and masonry," he said. "Little did I know this would lead me to a career that would last a lifetime."

Working with different types of people was one of the most enjoyable aspects of the job for the father and business owner.

"I really enjoyed meeting new people, talking to them and making their dreams come true," Tom Albrecht said.

Albrecht Properties & Home Improvements specializes in kitchen/bath remodeling and finished basements.

He boasted about his son's talents with tile.

"He's an excellent tile layer and has exceeded all my hopes," Tom Albrecht said. "Alec is particularly fond of expressing his creativity in tile flooring, backsplashes, custom showers and even curbless shower designs, which is the new trend."

Tom recommends that anyone seeking a home improvement contractor do their due diligence.

"Look for a Maryland home improvement contractor who is licensed and insured and check public resources such as the Better Business Bureau," Tom Albrecht said.

Alec is eager to continue in his father's footsteps.

"Learn everything you can, because with knowledge comes professionalism in your craft — you can never know enough," Alec Albrecht added.

For more information or a free estimate, visit www.albrechthomeimprovements.com or call 410-360-7703.



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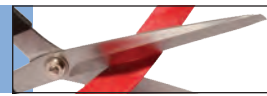
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RIBBON CUTTINGS



The PutAway Aces Its First Match

Millersville is now home to a new 23,900-square-foot indoor pickleball facility, The PutAway. The staff at The PutAway was joined by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce in August to celebrate the business' first achievement: opening to the public. Attendees enjoyed food and free play while learning about the facility's professional-grade courts, located at 254 Najoles Road, suite A-K.



Delmarva Financial Group Celebrates 20 Years

For two decades, Beau Breeden has helped people achieve financial freedom through their partnership with Delmarva Financial Group. To mark that milestone, his team held a ribbon-cutting and open house on August 23. The Arnold business recently expanded its office and doubled its team membership in the last year.

Molly Maid

» Continued from page 46

worldwide health scare that also led the Reilly duo to guarantee certain wages for cleaners during the pandemic, no matter how many clients they serviced.

The Reillys also have the luxury of multiple employees with more than 15 years at the business, many of whom have plaques honoring national award titles from corporate headquarters lining the local company's office.

"That is a long time in this business," Michael Reilly said of his longest-serving employees.

With life and business models returning to normalcy, the Reillys' crew of 25 workers arrive at the Arnold office around 7:30am to load up supplies and go over paperwork before heading out for the day.

The Molly Maid cars are loaded with tracking units that enable the office staff to track progress for the day and notify customers if there might be a potential delay.

Besides cleaning clients' homes, Michael Reilly said his company's proximity to the YWCA allows their business to serve the community in other ways.

The YWCA is a nonprofit known

for being an advocate for women, including victims of domestic violence. Donna and Michael's company donates a portion of proceeds from every cleaning toward raising awareness about the topic. Molly Maid of Central Anne Arundel County is also a major sponsor of an annual gala at the local YWCA.

The Reillys have also provided free cleanings for area organizations and even families that are battling major and life-altering health conditions.

As to cleaning crews being something that only wealthy people utilize, Michael Reilly said it's a different tune in 2023.

"I think that stereotype is gone," Michael Reilly said. "A lot of people have cleaners now."

Donna Reilly said having a legacy to pass on to her son, and perhaps grandchildren one day, gives her satisfaction. That's not the only thing, though.

"What makes me most proud having started Molly Maid and kept it going is the difference we have made in the lives of our employees and customers," Donna Reilly said.

Information on the company and services is available at www.mollymaid.com/central-anne-arundel-county.

Eagle Title Expands Services To Delaware And Ocean City

Eagle Title, an Annapolis-based company with an office in Severna Park, is expanding into Delaware and Ocean City, Maryland.

With over a decade of experience, Eagle Title aspires to offer peace of mind to clients throughout the real estate transaction process. The company's expansion responds to the increasing demand for professional and reliable title services in the region.

"We are excited to bring our title services to the state of Delaware," said Jay Walsh, Eagle Title CEO. "The expansion to the beaches aligns perfectly with our strategic growth plans, allowing us to serve our clients in this dynamic real estate market."

Eagle Title's expansion to Delaware and Ocean City will provide a comprehensive suite of title services to the region's home buyers, sellers, lenders, builders and real estate professionals. The company's team of title profes-

sionals, combined with state-of-the-art technology, ensures efficient and accurate title searches, title insurance, and closing services, making the real estate transaction process seamless and stress-free for clients.

"We have seen a rise in our clients asking for services at the beach and specifically in Delaware, often for a second home, investment property, or a relocation to the tax-friendly state of Delaware," said Brad Walsh, president of Eagle Title. "Our clients know we will get their transaction across the finish line – from Virginia to Delaware. We look forward to providing the same exceptional service that has earned our trust and loyalty in our current markets."

Eagle Title will operate out of Georgetown in Delaware and off Ocean Gateway in Ocean City, Maryland. Both locations will offer residential, commercial and builder services.

The expansion to the beaches aligns with Eagle Title's strategic growth plans, allowing the company to serve clients in a dynamic real estate market.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 46

have come to trust. Its senior network engineers are Microsoft Certified Systems Engineers (MCSE), which qualifies the company to support systems that are based on Microsoft Windows and Windows Server. In addition to the MCSE certification, its engineers also hold many other certifications from other vendors including CompTIA, Cisco and Citrix.

The Goddard School in Millersville – This is a premiere spot for early childhood learning, providing excellent education and child development, which comes from its dedication to holistic development and academic preparation. The Goddard School in Millersville serves ages infant through prekindergarten and is the winner of the Educational Excellence Award for two years in a row.

Heartlands Assisted Living at Severna Park – Heartlands Assisted Living at Severna Park knows what it takes to make you feel at home. You need people who are always there for you, ones who know just how you take your coffee and

always say “good morning” with a smile. You need dependable care. And you need the freedom to do what you love. It is all there for you in its beautiful and spacious senior living community.

On the first Tuesday of the month, we celebrated National Night Out, of which the chamber is a sponsor and committee member. This annual event takes place simultaneously across all 50 states and is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community camaraderie. This year, the event was held at Kinder Farm Park and was as popular and well-attended as ever with more than 60 exhibitors, police and fire units, a rescue helicopter, and more than 1,000 visitors.

We held two ribbon-cutting celebrations in August. The first was to celebrate the official grand opening of **The PutAway**, the largest indoor pickleball facility in the county. There were hundreds of attendees, five sponsors and free play until closing. Owner Tim Schnupp has already amassed a large membership base and the facility features beautifully groomed courts and a lounge area.

The second ribbon-cutting celebrated the 20-year anniversary of **Delmarva Financial Group**. Owner Beau Breeden has more than 20 years in the industry and many certifications in all areas of

investing.

Our TGIF Cookout at the chamber was generously sponsored by **The Lash Lounge** in Annapolis. This always-fun event featured burgers of all kinds and an ice-cream bar from **Bruster’s Real Ice Cream**. We will hold an official grand opening ribbon-cutting celebration for **The Lash Lounge** on September 21 at noon in Annapolis. See the beautiful space and treat yourself to some lash and brow services!

Our Successful Women in Business Committee held its monthly First Cup Club coffee at **Dockside Dermatology** in Millersville. Attendees met the two dynamic and local young dermatologists who own the practice, Stephanie Clements and Lesley Sutherland, and toured the beautiful space.

We are planning our Shop Local Extravaganza, known as Shoptoberfest. The event will be held on Saturday, October 21, from 11:00am–3:00pm in the parking lot at **Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club** in Millersville. There will be fun, music, entertainment, shopping, trick-or-treating, a costume contest and much more! Fun for the whole family.

For more information about the chamber and our events, visit www.gspacc.com.

Next Step Realty South

» Continued from page 46

strated its prowess in the real estate industry since joining Century 21 in 2019. The performance of its team members propelled it to the eighth position among all Century 21 teams nationwide in 2022. Based in Severna Park, Wyble Team has sold and settled more than \$500 million in real estate sales since inception and has agents who have built their personal brands while collaborating closely to ensure mutual success.

In this merger, the formation of the Wyble Team will be dissolved. Former team leaders Wyble, Lynn Peaper and Joe Smith were named as managing partners and co-owners of Next Step Realty South. Next Step Realty co-owners James Weiskerger and Kelly Schuit have joined the ownership group of the new setup.

The group said Next Step Realty South’s collective leadership brings together a wealth of experience, a deep understanding of the market and a shared vision for providing exemplary service to clients.

For more information, visit www.nextsteprealtymd.com or call 443-901-2200.

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www.sprfc.com

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838 Ritchie Highway, Suite 3, Severna Park, MD 21146
www.springarborliving.com

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301 Hospital Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21601
www.umms.org/bwmc

WRIGHT ORTHODONTICS 410-544-0072

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www.homesteadgardens.com

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Severna Park, MD 21146
www.savvyconsignment.com

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www.sidestreetframers.com

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ARUNDEL FEDERAL 410-544-9600

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www.arundelfederal.com

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534 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park, MD 21146
www.bofgb.com

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8 Evergreen Road, Severna Park, MD 21146
www.davidorso.com

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www.diggslaw.com

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181 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.eagletitle.com

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485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D, Severna Park, MD 21146
www.flslawyer.com

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www.frankandbills.com

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www.gardinerappelgroup.com

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www.moraninsurance.com

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Hanover, MD 21076
www.remax.com/real-estate-offices/
remax-concierge-realty-hanover-md/102270227

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www.severnaparkautomotive.com

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4100 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122
www.calvertvet.com



Side Street Framers

Paul Deremigis Jr.
Jessica Graves

564 Gallery

Sandy Travis Bildahl
Mary Ellen Geissenhainer
Cindy Fletcher Holden
Richard Niewerth
Michael Brown
John Bildahl
Evelyn Brumwell
Christina Young
Carolyn Councill
Brenda Larson

Local by Design

Sheri Ruiz Studio
Resouled
Merry Mermaid Gourmet
Ophiouridea
A Touch Of Fancy
Crazy Ray Glassware
Liz Sork Art
Art C Candles
Sage Vintage
Page Winter Studio
Old Things New
Restorations by Grace
Mary Bowan Art
Carol Tessier

Art

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SUNDAY 10.01.23
AT CAFE MEZZANOTTE**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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**LOWER CASE BLUES &
SWEET LEDA**

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