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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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SEVERNA PARK, MD

DECEMBER 2023

## STATE CHAMPIONS

Two Severna Park teams made their mark in the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association record books this fall after winning state championships. The Severna Park girls soccer program broke a 20-year title drought with a 2-0 win over Mount Hebron on November 18. In cross country, the girls team captured their second straight state championship during a meet on November 7.

*Read more about their accomplishments on page 20.*



## Year In Review: Reflecting On 2023

Another year is about to be in the books, and this one was full of memorable events around Severna Park and Arnold. Several people showcased their entrepreneurship and game-show skills on television. Creative groups produced documentaries, new music and books. Students and athletes around town reached new academic and athletic heights.

The community also witnessed upsetting incidents, but some residents responded by taking a moment to reflect, preaching unity and kindness.

» Continued on page 10



### Inside

Community.....	<b>1</b>
Religion.....	<b>16-18</b>
Politics & Opinion.....	<b>19</b>
Sports.....	<b>20-36</b>
School & Youth.....	<b>37-44</b>
Arts & Entertainment...	<b>45-47</b>
Business.....	<b>48-56</b>

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## Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

Every month, the *Voice* recognizes the good work of a local volunteer to honor *Voice* founder and lifelong Severna Park resident Margueritte Mills.

The Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month is proudly sponsored by Heidler Plumbing.



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## Longtime Green Hornets Coach Recognized

By Zach Sparks  
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Mike McCarthy may share a name with a former Green Bay Packers coach, but the longtime Green Hornets coach has enjoyed a much different experience working with youth players.

After 34 years of volunteering with the Greater Severna Park Athletic Association, also known as the Green Hornets, McCarthy was invited to a youth game at Kinder Farm Park this fall and surprised with a ceremony and a letter from the Anne Arundel County Council.

"This was nice of (Green Hornets football commissioner) Sean Kilduff and his wife, Christie," McCarthy said. "They went out of their way (to plan the event)."

McCarthy coached Green Hornets teams from 1987-2021. Although football was his first gig, he later picked up lacrosse and basketball.

It did not matter that he did not have any kids on those teams. His dad, John, coached in Pennsylvania. His sister, Kim, coached high school volleyball, basketball, and track and field.

Coaching is in his blood.

"I enjoyed coaching the kids and being part of the community," he said. "Green Hornets is a great organization with a lot of support."

McCarthy said he was not much of a yeller. Instead, his style was to lead by example.

"I made sure the kids had fun and still tried to be competitive," he said. "If the kids don't have fun, they're not going to want to play."



Above: The first team Mike McCarthy coached, alongside Mike Whittles, was a 110-pound Green Hornets team in 1987. Right: Mike McCarthy was honored this fall after coaching Green Hornets teams from 1987-2021.



"I enjoyed coaching the kids and being part of the community. Green Hornets is a great organization with a lot of support."

— MIKE MCCARTHY

At one point, his teams were 47-1, he said. His football team lost the championship that year. But overall, he won an estimated five or six county championships between football and lacrosse.

He leaned on his peers and attended clinics to improve. This was especially important when he started coaching lacrosse, a game that was less familiar to him than football.

"I had a lot of help from Green Hornets coaches Gee Cospers, Ronnie Stains, Drew Larkin and Jay Whitelock," said McCarthy, who also spent time around revered football icons Andy Borland and Mike Whit-

ties. "Everybody learned from each other."

McCarthy was honored in 2018 with the Bilty Award, presented by the Bilderback Lacrosse Foundation, to recognize his dedication and service to lacrosse in Anne Arundel County.

When reflecting on his career, McCarthy can cherish the wins and the awards, but more importantly is the difference he made. That impact was evident in the support he received during the ceremony at Kinder Farm Park this fall.

"I didn't expect it," he said. "It surprised me a lot."

## Elks Provides Breakfast For Veterans



The Broadneck Elks served 17 veterans a complimentary all-you-can-eat breakfast on November 12, the morning after Veterans Day. Exalted Ruler Jolinda Murray thanked the veterans for their service and informed them of the many services the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks provides to veterans.



From our family to yours, may the magic of the Holiday season bring joy to your home and a New Year filled with the keys to new beginnings.



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# MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

## Nick Spence Is A Highly-Decorated War Veteran

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park resident Nick Spence always wanted to go into the military, and after the 9/11 attack on the United States, he was convinced he wanted to defend the nation against terrorism.

"I had graduated from Michigan State University and applied to law school, but I always wanted to go in the military," Spence said. "Then I saw the movie 'Black Hawk Down' and then I knew that's what I wanted to do."

Spence enlisted in the Army and went through basic training at Fort Benning (now Fort Moore). He was selected for ranger indoctrination training and was eventually chosen for the Army Special Operations Command with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

"The ranger training was extremely intense and challenging as we were preparing to go to Iraq and Afghanistan to capture terrorists who were threatening our freedom," Spence said.

Spence became a ranger team and squad leader whose mission was to capture terrorists who were hiding in remote sections of those countries and turn them over to the CIA and FBI.

"Ninety-nine percent of our raids were at night," Spence said. "Using special equipment, highly-skilled soldiers and using the darkness gave us a competitive advantage."

Most of the raids used multiple helicopters to transport the team of about 30 soldiers to the sites where terrorists were hiding.

"I remember the very first mission I was on in the Middle East, the helicopter I was in began taking enemy fire," Spence said. "I was scared, but I had to focus on the mission."

Spence led raids almost every night during his multiple deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"More often than not, we faced resistance from the enemy and had hostile gunfights," Spence said.

Spence recalled two of the most terrifying missions that he had during his three years fighting



*First Sergeant Nick Spence is still active in the Army National Guard but is also involved in the Severna Park community by coaching the sports teams of his daughters, McCall and Brooks. His wife, Lindsey, is an attorney.*

for the United States. The first one was when the enemy placed two tank land mines in the road that blew up the vehicle Spence was riding in. Luckily, Spence had the roof opened over his head and he was thrown through that opening and suffered numerous wounds.

"My team members who were in other vehicles said that this 26-ton armored vehicle was actually lifted off of the ground by the explosives," Spence said. "It was sheer luck the roof was opened and I wasn't killed."

The other mission that stands out for Spence was when he and his team were outnumbered on a rooftop in Afghanistan and they were taking on enemy fire.

"It was like the scene in the movie 'Pulp Fiction' where bullets were going under and over your arms, over your head and next to your feet, but you're shocked you didn't get hit," Spence said.

Spence credited his ranger and special operations training for getting him through the four deployments in the Middle East.

"We were so well trained that we never feared we would lose those skirmishes," Spence said.

For his courage and bravery, Spence has been awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal, a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal for valor.

Spence continued his military career when he returned to America by joining the Army National Guard. First Sergeant Spence is still in the National Guard and provides specialized training throughout the year.

Spence has also transitioned to being Under Armour's senior director of product supply services at the company's Baltimore headquarters.

"With my military and business background, I'm able to speak to companies all over the world on their textile needs as well as footwear and accessories," Spence said. "I have 40 people in my division across the globe and I travel to numerous international and national cities to represent Under Armour's product lines."

Under Armour's senior vice president of innovation, Kyle Blakely, is impressed by Spence.

"It takes a special kind of drive and tenacity to continue serving our nation while leading product supply services for a global brand," Blakely said. "I've had the privilege of working side by side with Nick for nearly a decade and continue to be in awe of his presence, sacrifice, and humility as an extraordinary veteran and teammate."

Spence is also involved in the Severna Park community as he coaches soccer with the Green Hornets and is active at St. John the Evangelist School, where his daughters McCall and Brooks attend.

## Lauren's Law: The Silly Side Of Terry Schoener

Lauren Burke Meyer



Church for 27 years.

He also baptized and confirmed me, and he even came out of retirement to officiate my wedding. Like many, he has had a profound impact on my life.

In his more than eight decades of life, humor was one of his many calling cards.

Andy and Katie Borland reminisced with me about their longtime friend, who they both called a "prankster."

It wasn't out of character for him to wear disguise glasses, complete with a big, furry mustache.

"It was always humor with him," Andy

Borland said. "He used that in his sermons too."

Schoener captivated his congregation often with that tactic, even instituting Joke Sunday the week after Easter as a strategy to bring people back when attendance was typically low. Joke Sunday is a tradition that continues at Woods Church.

"Everything was clean," Katie Borland said. "That was the beauty of it, whatever humor he had."

Nancy Lincoln Reynolds, associate pastor at Woods Church and director of the Woods Counseling Center, recounted the early days with her mentor.

"Not long after I came on board at Woods, Terry learned quickly that I was a vision person with ideas for change," she said. "One day, he stood in the doorway of my office and told me I was to have no new ideas for two weeks."

Three days later, Lincoln Reynolds went to his door and did not see him anywhere. This man, known for his decency and order, was hiding under his desk from her.

"Becoming aware that his staunch Presbyterianism was accompanied by a sense of humor colored our relationship from that point on," Lincoln Reynolds said.

Many people recalled another memorable moment of Schoener during a fundraiser for the mission trip called WoodsWork, which invites teens and adults to build or restore a house for the homeless. For nearly four decades, Woods Church has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for the cause.

While riding his bright red scooter, Schoener drove through the WoodsWork car wash, wearing his sailing foul weather gear.

Andy Borland shared an early memory of Schoener at his 40th birthday party. An unexpected visitor arrived on his doorstep in a wheelchair, wearing a rubber mask that looked like an old man with a sign on his chest that said, "Andy, remember when we were kids together?"

Borland had no idea who it was. When the man removed his mask, it was his

minister who had been with Woods for about one month.

Borland remembers Schoener saying, "I was told if I was going to make it at Woods Church, I had to be your friend."

"That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship," Andy shared.

Lastly, I'll never forget Schoener assigning me "homework." He wanted me to share why I selected my wedding ceremony readings, insights which were never used. I'm confident he never intended to incorporate my thoughts. I smile at his sneakiness with getting a busy bride to deepen her faith and reflect on her upcoming nuptials.

A celebration of life service for the beloved Schoener will take place at Woods Church on January 13 at 1:00pm. The service is slated for Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to honor the memory of Schoener's relationship with Martin Luther King Jr., who occasionally used Schoener's civil rights office in Cleveland for meetings and press events.

**Read the full story online.**

# Carrollton Manor Residents Roll Up Their Sleeves To Reduce Erosion

By Elizabeth Harwood

Carrollton Manor neighbors and friends met at the Severn River waterfront area of Hillbottom Beach in November to reduce shoreline erosion. Led by Carrollton Manor resident Kristin Silva, 18 volunteers planted 40 trees and shrubs of native species after their community was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT).

While there are several benefits of prioritizing native plant species, one benefit matters most to Silva.

"A big concern of mine is the loss of pollinators," Silva said. "One-third of the food we eat relies on pollinators and we're losing bees, birds, butterflies and so on. If we plant more native trees and plants, we will create a habitat that will be friendly for pollinators."

In 2021, Silva completed her Master Gardener certification through the University of Maryland Extension and her Master Watershed Steward certification through the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy. She began removing invasive plant species in her neighborhood and, over time, kept noticing the erosion damage and slope area at Hillbottom Beach, one of five community properties of Carrollton Manor. After discussing further with the Carrollton Manor Improvement Association (CMIA), Silva applied for the CBT grant that awarded \$2,000 to buy native trees and shrubs that will improve the slope area and attract pollinators. A longtime resident



Eighteen volunteers planted trees and shrubs of native species in November after Carrollton Manor was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust.

and president of CMIA, Jeff Rach, had a special interest in the project.

"I've lived here for 28 years, and we have seen many times where all of a sudden, for some unknown reason, there's a bunch of dead fish floating on top of the water," Rach said.

If dead fish in the Severn River is where it ends, the relationship between stormwater and nonporous surfaces is where it begins.

Nonporous surfaces (streets, sidewalks, roofs) are dirty. Residue from vehicles and construction chemicals accumulate until it rains, which rinses the nonporous surfaces and generates polluted stormwater. Fortunately, the roots of trees, shrubs and plants absorbing the polluted stormwater intercept its flow, act as natural filtration systems and either thwart polluted

stormwater from seeping into the Chesapeake waterways or help clean it before reaching them. However, as new development and construction continues to grow, for example, these natural filtration systems decline.

According to WSA's website, "From 2013 to 2017, Anne Arundel County lost over 2,500 acres of forests, the highest rate of forest loss in any urbanized county in Maryland." With the increase of nonporous surfaces and the decrease of natural filtration systems, polluted stormwater often flows directly into waterways "under-filtered." Moreover, chemicals from weed killers, mosquito sprays and other pesticides found in yards escalate the level of pollution as stormwater makes its journey into streams and rivers. Finally, the relationship between

stormwater and nonporous surfaces often generates sudden flooding, a water volume demand that erodes shorelines and overwhelms natural filtration systems.

Silva and Rach share a passion for educating the public. Minimizing the use of pesticides in yards, as well as populating lawns with native trees and shrubs, are good places to start.

"You don't have to get rid of your lawn completely, but do try to have more native plants," Silva said. "... Native plants establish deep roots, absorb water quickly, prevent drainage problems, require little maintenance and come back each year."

Rach is not only grateful for the improved shoreline and water quality, but as an avid volunteer, he also encourages others to get involved in future events knowing that service work benefits the community as well as the individual.

"Big thanks to the community and to Kristin for the effort and work put into this project," Rach said. "Volunteering is a win-win. A little bit of time goes a long way for all of us ... it's very gratifying."

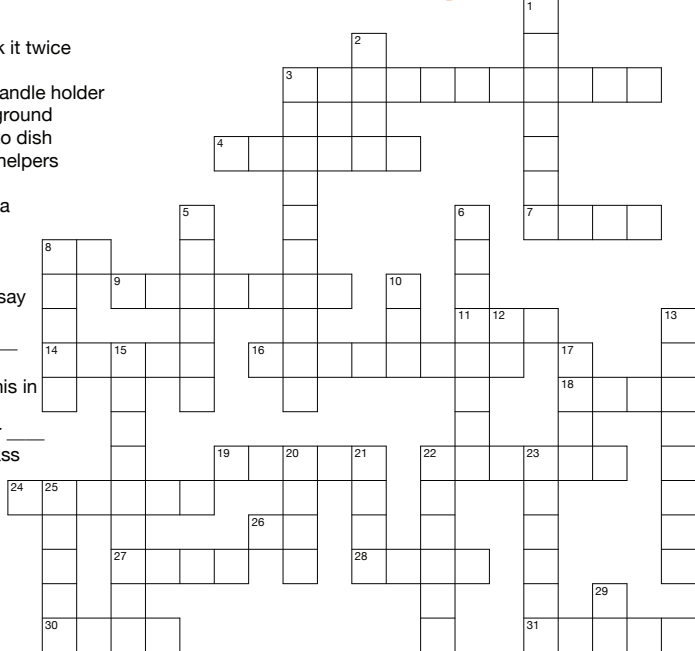
Carrollton Manor thanked the Anne Arundel County Forestry Board, Chesapeake Bay Trust and Watershed Stewards Academy for their support and participation in this project. To learn more, including how to get a free site assessment of your property, contact Kristin Silva at [ka\\_silva@verizon.net](mailto:ka_silva@verizon.net).

## boydarc's breakroom

### Season's Greetings!

#### ACROSS

3. seasonal jingles
4. frozen fellow
7. make one, check it twice
8. Ho Ho \_
9. nine-branched candle holder
11. cloud near the ground
14. Hanukkah potato dish
16. hooved holiday helpers
18. oak or pine
19. items from Santa
22. African heritage candle holder
24. relatives
26. another way to say hello
27. give them an \_\_\_ they'll take a mile
28. you might get this in your stocking
30. be good all year \_\_\_
31. to raise your glass



#### DOWN

1. spinning Hanukkah top
2. Hanukkah money
3. frosty precipitation
5. XMAS tree bling
6. celebratory paper bits
8. holiday garland
10. joy for both young and \_\_\_
12. either this \_\_\_ that
13. a \_\_\_ from above
15. yearly ritual
17. twinkle twinkle little \_\_\_
20. aluminum \_\_\_
21. coordinate
22. Kwanzaa feast
23. countdown to Dec. 25
25. tree topper
29. sack



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# Reasons To Be Thankful At SPAN

**Michele Sabean**  
Director of  
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During a recent Friendsgiving gathering, we shared some of what we are thankful for. You can probably guess some of the demographics of the group when coffee, drive-up orders, naps, the ability to exercise and search engines (for finding answers to questions such as how to get slime off a couch) were mentioned. In addition, common themes were health, friends and family.

I am so grateful for my health and for the people in my life. I am thankful for so many, from family and friends who are there when I need them and bring joy to my days, teachers and others who I have learned from both formally and informally, and the casual acquaintances with whom I may interact with only briefly. Isn't life so much better when those brief interactions include smiles and kind words?

I see goodness everyday – one of the benefits of working at SPAN is that so many people in the community surround me with daily reminders of kindness. I see lots of examples of people taking time to help others, whether donating food or money, volunteering their time – our volunteers step up in so many ways and our clients are often caring for a neighbor or family member. Reflecting on my days, the people around me make me smile and make life better – the ones who hold the door,

“If you have the power to make someone happy, do it. The world needs more of that.”

— UNKNOWN

smile, say hello, take time to listen and offer to help.

This is a busy season for SPAN, both with the giving and receiving. Many groups have donated food: Our Lady of the Fields Church, KinderCare in Arnold, Anytime Fitness, the English department at Anne Arundel Community College, the Friday Morning SUN Networking Group and Orthodontists of Maryland, among others. Food collections from groups like these are what keep our shelves stocked.

Food can always be donated to our bins in the Severna Park Community Center and in Severna Park Library or directly at our building. A good focus for food donations this month is rice, potatoes and meat – canned tuna, chicken, ham and little sausages.

Thank you also to all in the community who contribute to our Holiday Caring program. We were able to provide over 100 families with food for a good Thanksgiving meal and soon will start Christmas distribution.

I am also thankful for good health. For many of SPAN's clients, an injury or medical condition has thrown a wrench into their budget. Extra medical expenses and or a loss of work hours have stretched an already tight situation. Those who donate financially to SPAN help us help those who are facing evictions and utility turnoffs.

I am thankful for the people in my life. We don't have to help each other, but it certainly makes life so much better. Thank you for helping us help our neighbors!

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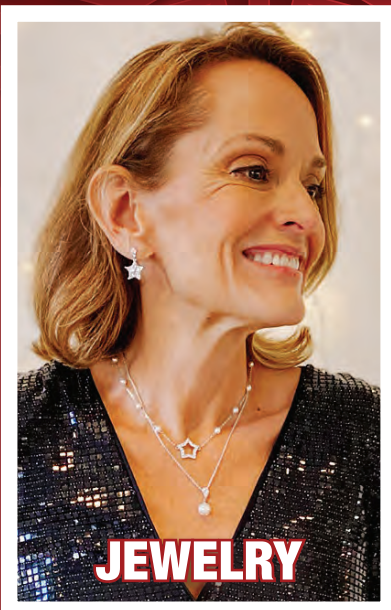
# Severna Park Library Adds Outdoor Learn And Play Space



Thanks to \$20,000 in funding from the Kiwanis Club of Severna Park and Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation, a new outdoor learn and play space is open to the public at the Severna Park Library on West McKinsey Road. The space features two Percussion Play instruments, four benches and an open area. Samantha Zline, the Severna Park Library branch manager, wanted the instruments to resemble the bellflower display featured at Brooklyn Park Library's sensory garden. "It's a different way for us to make the library available 24/7," Zline said. "You can use your Wi-Fi and work outside while the kids are playing or while you are waiting for the library to open, in the spring."

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# Year In Review: *Reflecting On 2023*

## WINTER

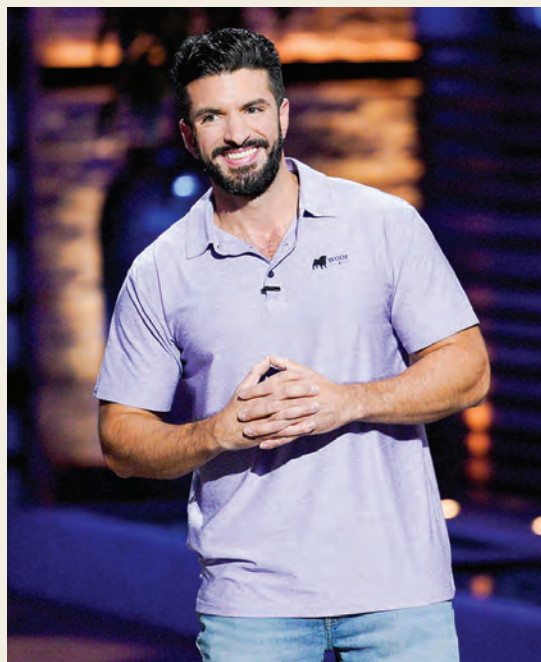
Anne Arundel County Public Schools held an event at Severna Park High School in January to address bullying after an incident at the school went viral. AACPS Superintendent Mark Bedell led a community conversation, which was followed by group discussions. To promote kindness and inclusion, Severna Park High School then held a series of events including a Vans shoe design contest in the spring. Senior Nadia Abdolahi and sophomore Jameson Murray tied for the most votes.

"Me and some of my friends have not had the kindest words said to us, so I feel like it was a good way to kind of talk about it," Jameson said. "This also makes me feel proud to go here because it's for such a good cause. It's not just like, 'Oh, design a pair of Vans just to design a pair of Vans,' so it's actual meaning behind it."

Severna Park High School honored one of its own by retiring the jersey of former record-setting shortstop and current San Diego Padres prospect Jackson Merrill on January 13. Since being selected in the first round of the Major League Baseball (MLB) draft in 2021, Merrill has ascended to the AA level. He hit .273 with five home runs and 31 RBIs in 187 plate appearances after being promoted to AA midway through the minor league season in 2023. The MLB website currently ranks Merrill as the ninth overall prospect in baseball.

When Severna Park High School's a cappella group, Sol, auditioned for the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA) in fall 2022, advancing in the competition seemed out of reach because it was the group's first time competing. On February 11, 2023, however, Sol placed second in one of the ICHSA Mid-Atlantic quarterfinals at St. Charles High School in Waldorf, Maryland, allowing them to reach the semifinals in March.

"My favorite part about the performance had to be how I saw how much I have grown with music in the time I have been in Sol," said student soloist Jenna Augustine said. "Sol has taught me to come



out of my shell, to not look at competition and be scared, but to see it as a learning opportunity and a space to grow as an artist."

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

While local schools enjoyed plenty of team success over the past year, so did individual athletes. Broadneck wrestler Liam DeBaugh won the Class 4A/3A state championship at 160 pounds on March 4 at the Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro. He cruised past Nelson Manzoeto of Montgomery Blair, 9-1, to finish with a 40-1 record.

During the winter season, the Severna Park girls basketball team was also near perfect. The girls won three playoff games, beating North Point by five points, blowing out South River and edging Urbana by three. That had Severna Park doing something on March 7 that they had not done since 1988 — appearing in a final four. Unfortunately, the Falcons ran into the county champion Glen Burnie Gophers, who ended Severna Park's season.

After 42 years of teaching across Anne Arundel County, Angie Germanos retired. The 1974 Severna Park High School graduate was best known as the school's drama advisor who oversaw Rock 'N' Roll Revival.

The school's new drama advisor, Karah Parks, took over the reins right away. From powerful ballads to head-banging hits, a range of music was on during the first weekend of Severna Park High School's 34th Rock 'N' Roll Revival from March 9-12. Talented singers, instrumentalists and tech crew will thrill audiences again from March 16-18. This year's theme was "RNR XXXIV Goes to the Movies," featuring some of the most beloved songs used in films.

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

## SPRING

Theater teacher, actor and professional wrestler Fred Fletcher-Jackson added "Wheel of Fortune" winner to his resume. The 2011 Severna Park High School graduate — or "The Purple Parrot" Colin Sheen when he's in the wrestling ring — appeared on an episode that aired March 21. Fletcher-Jackson played the show's first perfect game of the year and won \$75,800 in cash and prize winnings, including a trip to Costa Rica. As the cameras were rolling, game show host Pat Sajak placed a wrestling move on "The Purple Parrot." That move went viral.

"I was very surprised," Fletcher-Jackson said. "I think [Sajak is] great at spur-of-the-moment bits. He had me pretty tight in that hammerlock."

Karen and Bob Royer were honored at the Severna Park Community Center's annual gala on April 29 at Chartwell Golf & Country Club for their long-standing volunteerism and involvement in numerous Severna Park organizations.

Roughly one month later, the Falcons girls lacrosse team claimed the program's 15th state championship and first since 2019, beating Towson 12-8 at Stevenson University for the 3A girls lacrosse title on May 25. With the win, the Falcons (17-3) tied Mount Hebron for the most girls



lacrosse championships in Maryland public school history.

The three-headed attack monster of Charlotte Diez, Alyssa Chung and Regan McDonnell paced the Falcons offense down the stretch, while Lilly Spilker anchored a tenacious Severna Park defense that was good when it needed to be in the state semifinals, and then locked things down in the final.

The Broadneck boys were dominant, capping an undefeated season with a 16-6 win over Sherwood

on May 24 to win their first title since 1997. For the Broadneck girls, Mary Moore scored the last of her three goals with 4:24 to play in the game to propel her team to a 9-8 win over Dulaney at Stevenson University, capturing the school's third straight state title and the sixth in program history.

In a rematch of the 2022 Class 3A boys lacrosse championship game, the Severna Park boys rallied from a second-half deficit to beat Mount Hebron, 9-8. With that win, they set a state record with a seventh consecutive state championship.

# Year In Review: *Reflecting On 2023*

## SUMMER



Wayne Gerst, owner of Gerst Towing Service, was named grand marshal of the 2023 Severna Park Independence Day Parade.

Although was the first year that Gerst served as parade grand marshal, he has had a hand in the beloved community event for more than 20 years,

whether it's donating or providing time, land for prep, equipment such as rollback trucks for an emcee platform, or vintage vehicles.

"The people and the kids are what keep me coming back," Gerst said. "People give you thumbs up, holler and just have a good time."

The Severna Park American Legion Post 175 Spartans baseball team played in a game on July 16 to honor Gold Star military families at Prince George's Stadium, home of the Bowie Baysox, a Double-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles.

Back in Severna Park, the Magothy River Association unearthed documents, letters and newspaper articles in the process of creating a 12-minute documentary called "Fort Grey, Mount Misery: A Local Civil War Story."

JV baseball coach Dave Ferris had plenty of stories to share after he called it a career at Severna Park High School. The longtime coach racked up 333 wins, 74 losses and one undefeated season over 24 years.

Ferris, who also coached players in the summer American Legion league, waited until the American Legion state championship was over July 29 to make his decision public.

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

Another coach took over for the football program in place of Mike Wright. Assistant coach Nick Marks spent seven years as a Falcons assistant after 10 years with Chesapeake and one with North County before becoming a head coach.

Wright retired due to health concerns. He hopes

his time as both a Green Hornets coach and Severna Park High School coach resonated with players.

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) swore in its 50th student member of the board (SMOB), Eric Lin from Severna Park High School, during the summer. He campaigned for the position with five key policies in mind: no homework or assigned work on select SAT/ACT testing days, improving and diversifying school meals, reforming late attendance policies concerning student-athletes, revamping the world classical language curriculum so students can use their skills in the real world, and removing some dress code restrictions.

Julie Lowman, a math department chair at Severna Park High School, never stopped writing. Her first novel, "Leaving Us," was published in July. The story follows a 16-year-old girl who finds herself in a complicated and often confusing relationship with a boy with an unpredictable temper.

Featuring two former Arnold residents, rock band VEER released their second album "Soft Machines" in July.

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

## FALL

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

The community also recognized some of its most accomplished athletes as the Severna Park Athletic Boosters ushered in the Hall of Fame class of 2023. The Hall of Fame's newest members are Dave Briggs (class of 1962), Bob Felts (class of 1970), Erin Wylde Kindy (class of 1994), Becky Shank Mollot (class of 1996), Lauren Boyd Leventry (class of 1999), Jim Led-some (class of 2004), Ben Hunt (class of 2005) and Kathie Zingler (coach through 2011).

Oak Hill third-grader Nick Hoover was one of 12 Maryland children chosen to be a Chick-fil-A kid correspondent. In July, he filmed a commercial that aired in the fall.

In other food-related news, Hellas Restaurant and Lounge closed in September after two decades of serving Greek fare in Millersville.

"We greatly value all of our relationships in the community," said Mike Stavlas, who ran the restaurant with his family. "A lot of our regulars are customers who have been coming in since the beginning. We filled a role in the community as a unique establishment, and nothing is going to be the same as us. We truly care and love our customers. Those relationships will be irreplaceable."

That closure shocked many people around Severna Park. The events on October 7 in Israel shocked the world. A decades-long



conflict between Israel and Hamas resulted in my bloodshed, and former Severna Park and Arnold residents witnessed the aftermath from their homes in Israel.

Temple Beth Shalom in Arnold hosted a gathering one week later.

"The attacks eight days ago on Simchat Torah, a festival of joy, 50 years after the Yom Kippur War, the attacks eight days ago were barbaric, and they have shaken us to our core," said Rabbi Ari Goldstein. "And those attacks should be denounced without any qualification."

In lighter news, two Severna Park High School graduates and their bandmates, known as The Bards, released songs from their 14-song record "Tales From the Swindling Serpent."

The Severna Park's girls soccer team proved to be a sneaky opponent. The girls finished a perfect season by beating Mount Herbon 2-0 on November 18. With that win, the Falcons won the program's seventh state championship and the first in 20 years.

Cross country teams also had plenty to celebrate. The Severna Park girls captured their second straight state championship at Hereford High on November 7 while the boys team finished second.

Broadneck's football team came up one game short of a state title, losing to Wise on December 1. They have much to be proud of as they became the second team from Broadneck to make the state finals, joining the 2003 team.

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Victoria is a physician assistant, who joined Maryland Primary Care Physicians, LLC in 2023. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Maryland, College Park. She received her Physician Assistant master's degree from Towson/CCBC Physician Assistant Program in 2023.

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## What To Do After A Car Crash

David V. Diggs



As an attorney who represents those injured in car collisions, I am often asked questions about what to do in the aftermath of a crash. The choices made at the scene and immediately thereafter may affect your right to recover. Here are some questions I am asked by clients following car crashes.

### What Do I Do In The Event Of Collision?

No matter how minor a collision may be, you must stop. Failure to stop may result in criminal penalties. In the event of a minor and non-disabling collision, you should stop your vehicle nearest to the point without obstructing the flow of traffic. In the event of a more serious collision, vehicles should not be moved in order that a thorough investigation may be done.

### Who Should I Call First?

If there are injuries, you should perform first aid to the extent that you are qualified. A doctor and ambulance should be immediately called. An injured person should not be moved in any way that might aggravate an injury. You should call a state or local police officer as they are trained in collision investigation.

### What Information Should I Obtain From The Other Driver?

Gather as many facts as you are able. Do not trust your memory. Your cellphone can be a huge help in this regard; take photos of the other party's driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance information. Exchange telephone numbers and contact information. Obtain the identity of the owner of the vehicle if it differs from the driver, employment information and any other available information with respect to the other driver.

You may agree to exchange photos of each other in case the identity of the driver becomes an issue at some future point. Make sure to obtain the name, address and phone numbers of any witnesses. A copy of the police report number, if any, will be important. If circumstance allows, photographs of the scene, vehicles and injuries should be taken.

### What Should I Say At The Scene?

You should cooperate with the police investigation. However, do not admit responsibility, even if you think the collision was your fault. Through additional investigation, you may later learn of other facts suggesting that the other driver was at fault. Statements made in haste may be misconstrued or later misquoted by others. Discuss the collision only with the investigating officer, your health care provider, your insurance company and your attorney.

### When Should I See A Doctor?

Serious injuries do not always result

in broken bones and bloodshed. Go to the hospital or consult with your doctor if there is any chance that you may be injured. Due to the shock and trauma of the collision, you may not be able to immediately assess less obvious injuries. With muscle and ligament injuries, it is not uncommon to feel fine at the scene and to experience pain 24-48 hours later.

### When Do I Call My Insurance Company?

You should call your insurance company as soon as medical emergencies have been addressed and once you have consulted with counsel. Failure to promptly notify your insurance may affect your coverage and leave you without insurance for damages resulting from a collision.

### When Do I Call My Attorney?

If you have been injured in a collision or if you are facing trial on a traffic violation, the sooner your attorney is advised, the better. Your attorney will be helpful in handling matters with both insurance companies. Your attorney will be able to obtain necessary evidence, such as statements from witnesses, the crash report, photographs of the scene and vehicles, medical reports and bills, and lost wage documentation.

If you discuss matters with the other driver's insurance company, any statement made will be used against you later. An attorney will also assist in collecting benefits under your own personal injury protection, or PIP, coverage.

### What If The Party At Fault Is Uninsured?

Uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage is provided to all Maryland drivers. If the other driver is at fault, an attorney may be helpful in negotiating a settlement or, when necessary, filing suit in order to insure that your insurance carrier pays for all of your losses including medical expenses, lost wages and non-economic damages.

### Won't My Premium Go Up If I File A Claim?

Under Maryland law, premiums may not be increased where you make an uninsured motorist or PIP claim.

### How Much Will I Recover?

The law provides for reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses. These include lost wages (even if you have disability pay or take sick time from your employer), medical expenses (even if you have health insurance), other out-of-pocket expenses and non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, disability, inconvenience and disfigurement. Married couples may recover for loss of consortium — that is the detrimental effect the collision has on the marital relationship.

If you or a loved one is the victim of a careless driver, you might have questions. Consulting with an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law is a wise move.

*If you need further information regarding this subject, contact the Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 302, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1189 or by emailing [david@diggsllaw.com](mailto:david@diggsllaw.com).*



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# Rising Sun Lodge Has Deep Roots In Severna Park

By John Singleton

Signs and symbols. Conspiracy theories. Secret societies. For the members of the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge in Severna Park, such associations are taken in stride.

"We're not a secret society," quipped Louis Cannon, the senior warden for the lodge. "We're a society with secrets."

Sporting the square-and-compass symbol on shirts and jackets, these men are not hiding their builder's bona fides. Planted at the center of the famous masonic logo is a G. Some Internet searches say it stands for God. Others say it stands for a sacred geometry. Or maybe even the grand architect of the universe.

"I can't tell you what the G stands for," joked Cleveland McDowney, the master mason of Rising Sun Masonic Lodge. "That's one of our secrets."

Freemasonry traces its roots to the medieval guilds of European stonemasons. It's also deeply tied to the history of the United States. A handful of the founding fathers were members. Complicating that history is the masonic lodge's participation in the Ku Klux Klan, which persecuted Black Americans and the Nativist movement of the 1800s that violently opposed the immigration of Catholics to the U.S. For the Black men at the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, these open secrets are approached with candor.

"The history of freemasonry mirrors the history of the United States," said McDowney, the second-youngest master in the history of the Severna Park lodge. "On the other hand, masons were wel-



(L-R) The Rising Sun Masonic Lodge in Severna Park includes Senior Warden Louis Cannon, Treasurer Ralph Thomas, Master Cleveland McDowney, Past Master Greg Daniels, Secretary Cliff Hopkins and Master Mason Leon Porter.

coming to African American men as far back as the American Revolution."

Black freemasonry began on the American continent when a man named Prince Hall and 14 other free African American men petitioned a British garrison in Boston Harbor for formal membership and were accepted. After Britain lost the war and British troops no longer occupied American soil, Prince Hall conducted regular correspondence with the English Grand Lodge in London, growing the ranks of African Americans and eventually establishing what is called Prince Hall freemasonry.

"Prince Hall freemasonry is the oldest predominantly African American fraternity in the United States," said treasurer

Ralph Thomas. "There are two main branches of Prince Hall freemasonry: the independent state Prince Hall grand lodges, most of which are recognized by state grand lodges, and those under the jurisdiction of the national grand lodge."

Today, almost 5,000 lodges trace their lineage to the first Prince Hall lodge in Massachusetts and there are almost 300,000 Prince Hall members nationwide. In 2023, no rules prohibit integrated lodges, however, Prince Hall freemasonry remains a masonic tradition.

"Our Severna Park lodge dates back to our charter on October 16, 1914," said Master Mason Leon Porter. "The building was rebuilt in 1976, but we kept the cornerstone from the original structure

dated August 24, 1919."

Charitable works are part of the history of the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge. When the original Jones Elementary School was being built in the 1940s, students were offloaded to classroom space in the lodge. Partnering with local churches is part of the organization's outreach. That would include Hope for the Living Ministries, whose pastor, the Rev. Jerome Howard Sr., rents space in the lodge for his congregation.

"We don't generally publicize our charitable works. We stay humble," said Cliff Hopkins, lodge secretary. "I joined the masons to be a part of a fraternal organization full of like-minded individuals that support the community."

In contrast to an elks club, a moose lodge, or a rotary club, freemasonry does contain a spiritual element. According to McDowney, many of its traditions are based on scripture from the Old Testament.

"It's a fraternity," said Greg Daniels, past master of the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge. "We help men become better men."

The men insist that freemasonry is not a religion despite its association with temples and altars, a moral code, vestments, feast days, and burial rites. Today, 51 grand masonic lodges and temples are spread across the U.S., one for each state and the District of Columbia, with a total membership of just under 2 million. The headquarters of the masonic order remains in the City of London. The grand lodge in Maryland is in Cockeysville.



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## Teen Lends Leadership, Example During Mission Trip To Poland



*Severna Park resident and Mount de Sales Academy sophomore Catherine Freymann became a member of the Leadership Training Program and earned missionary recognition from a Catholic community, Regnum Christi. The program is hosted by Regnum Christi and the Legionaries of Christ, who meet at St. John the Evangelist.*

**By Judy Tacyn**

Members of the Freymann family have devoted their lives to service, so when their youngest daughter, Catherine, entered high school at Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville last September, there wasn't a question of her serving in a leadership missionary position. The question was when and how she'd serve.

Catherine Freymann and her siblings grew up in the Leadership Training Program (LTP), a youth club of Regnum Christi, a worldwide community of mis-

sionaries whose motto is "Thy Kingdom Come," and whose mission is to bring Christ and his kingdom into people's lives.

As she prepared for the sacrament of confirmation at her parish, St. John the Evangelist, Catherine felt drawn to St. John Paul II and chose him to be her patron saint. Shortly after choosing St. John Paul II to guide and intercede for her, an invitation to serve as a missionary in Poland, the birthplace of the former pope, came from Encounters, Convictions and your Decisions (ECyD), an initiative



of Regnum Christi, whose members staff the LTP. Catherine believed the collision of her confirmation saint devotion and her opportunity to be a missionary in the country of his birth was anything but a

» **Continued on page 18**

## Peace On Earth

**The Rev. Stephen Mitchell**



Recently, an article online caught my attention. It had a headline arguing that scientific studies have confirmed that putting up Christmas decorations early could help you be

happier. It talked about how given all the anxiety and turmoil in the world around us, putting up our lights and trees and nativity scenes help evoke childhood excitement.

It has been interesting to watch as the social debate over when it's acceptable to put up Christmas decorations has been getting louder over the last few years, and I've noticed that more neighbors are putting out their holiday festive décor earlier. When I was driving the other day, I was belting out Andy Williams' "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" way ahead of schedule.

What's going on? Why are we so drawn to the wonder and awe of the Christmas season that we are willing to put up decorations earlier just to get a taste of the holiday magic? It's simple. The 2020s have been a rough few years so far, and whether we realize it or not, what we really are looking for this time of year isn't something you will find in an Amazon Prime deal or on a Black Friday sale at Kohl's. It's something intangible that only comes from being introduced to someone. One of those intangibles that we are all desperately longing for this Christmas season, I believe, is peace.

We live in a world filled with turmoil and conflict. Whether it comes in the form of the images and scenes from the recent carnage committed in Israel and the images of destruction we are seeing in the region or with the ongoing war in Ukraine, or if it comes in the form of culture and ideological battles or in our polarizing politics that seem to be headed for a rough election year ahead, it seems and feels like there is an underlying anxiety and anger in the world today. We see and read about so many examples of lawlessness where arguments can get out of control with civility and the ability to agree to disagree increasingly becoming scarce in our social conscience or when we are constantly bombarded with negativity and dread with every news story we read.

Maybe you've been lacking peace in your marriage, or in your job, or in your mind or in your family or with your neighbors, and ultimately within yourself. We typically look for an "escape room" of sorts from our pain, our anxiety, our depression, our loneliness, our dread. The Bible says, "But (those without the lord) are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters

» **Continued on page 18**

## Pam Johnson Wins Once-In-A-Lifetime Trip



*Pam Johnson met Christian rock artist Zach Williams after she won a concert-package giveaway sponsored by Williams and offered by bookstores nationwide, including His Way Christian Books in Pasadena.*

**By Judy Tacyn**

After a quick stop in His Way Christian Books, a store in Pasadena, Millersville resident Pam Johnson ended up with much more than the gifts she was shopping for; she picked up a VIP trip to see Mercy Me, Toby Mac and Zach Williams, a Christian rock artist, in concert November 3 in Atlanta.

"I saw an advertisement for a Zach Williams concert giveaway at the store, so I decided to fill out an entry," Johnson said. "A few weeks later, I learned that someone from Pasadena had won the trip, and then I received a phone call from the promoter. It was really exciting!"

Johnson was chosen out of entries from more than 200 Christian book-

stores nationwide. She was excited to learn that she was going to see one of her favorite performers, Zach Williams, in concert, but learning of the win was just the start of the rare adventure.

Sponsored by Williams, the Christian music concert package included round-trip airfare and accommodations for Johnson and a guest from November 2—5. Those accommodations included spending money, concert VIP tickets, and a meet-and-greet with the performers that included a gourmet dinner prepared by celebrity executive chef Paul Fields.

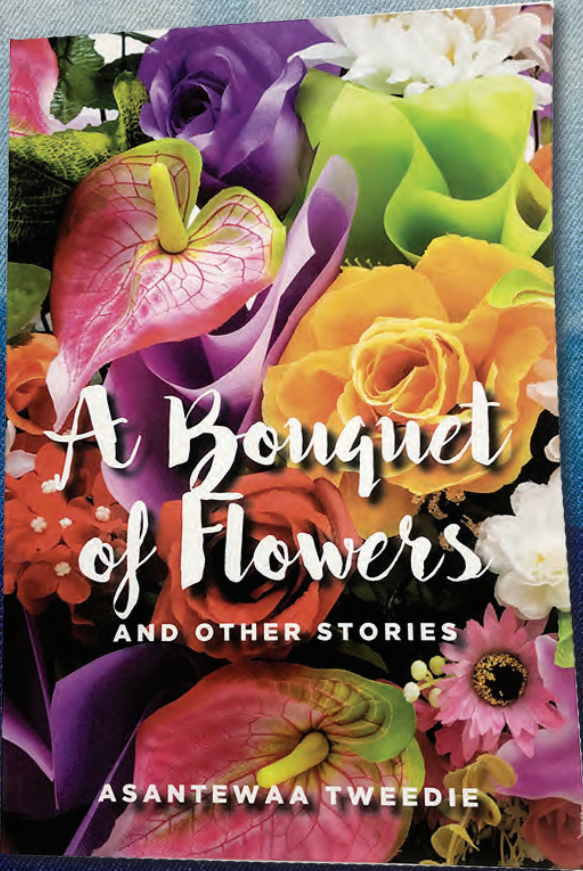
The one-time San Quentin corrections officer turned chef and founder of the Salvation Army Napa Valley Culinary Training Academy, Fields partners with Williams to offer graduates of the academy, and their dinner guests, a special meal at many of the venues along Williams' tour stops.

"All of the graduates of the culinary program were once homeless or com-

» **Continued on page 18**



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## Teen Lends Leadership, Example During Mission Trip To Poland

» Continued from page 16  
coincidence.

"I was super excited to learn that I would be going to St. John Paul's hometown!" Catherine exclaimed.

St. John Paul II, the 264th pope of the Catholic Church, was born in Wadowice, Poland, approximately 30 miles southwest of Kraków, where Catherine served last June 28 through July 28. There, she was a missionary leader in overnight camps and day camps, and she explored historical and religious sites, many of which were closely tied to the former pontiff.

She and a friend from Virginia were the only two Americans in their group of seven missionaries and two consecrated women who served as guardians for the month-long trip. Other members in Catherine's group were from Guatemala, Mexico and Spain, and all spoke Spanish; their Polish hosts spoke limited English. "That was a little challenging at first, but through prayer, song and worship, (the language barrier) got a lot easier," Catherine said. "It was really beautiful to hear different languages all around me and know that God was with us. There are no barriers for God."

As a missionary, Freymann helped to plan camp activities and coordinate all logistics, but most importantly, she said, was to simply be with the girls as an example as sisters in Christ.

"To make the world a better place, a missionary doesn't have to go to faraway

places or do really big things," Catherine explained. "We need to live holy, be an example of God and let him work through you. I can change the world every day."

Freymann said the Polish girls she met liked her "accent" and asked many questions about life in the U.S., like about school and food, including American-style pancakes, which Catherine prepared for one breakfast.

Though just a sophomore, Catherine is leaning toward a career in education. She hopes to take a gap year after her high school graduation to be a yearlong missionary with Regnum Christi. She currently volunteers with Giving Back: Living Legacy, LTP, and events at Mount de Sales.

"I cannot imagine my life without volunteering or evangelizing," Catherine said. "I think if there is any way you can spread God's love, you should."

Catherine received a plaque of recognition from Regnum Christi for her summer of service in Poland.

## Peace On Earth

» Continued from page 16

toss up mire and dirt" (Isaiah 57:20). And yet, all the while, there is a calm for the restless soul and a peace that can be had, if only we look to a child who was born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago to find that peace.

Ironically, the world at the time of the first Christmas was also a place of turmoil and hopelessness and dread for the future. It was a time of great anxiety for the people of Israel who had long been waiting for God to make good on his promise for thousands of years to one day send a deliverer for Israel and all mankind. Under the cover of darkness with shepherds watching their flocks, an angelic host appeared to bring a much-needed greeting and announcement that bears as much relevance today as it did then: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is Christ the lord ... Peace on earth and good will to men" (Luke 2:10-11,14).

Christmas brings peace, because God, in becoming a man in the person of

Jesus Christ, came to bring peace. Peace, first and foremost, between you and God, by trusting in and believing, that the greatest gift offered to us came not with special wrapping but rather came to us wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. He offers us peace with our creator and peace with our fellow man.

The question for all of us is whether we will find what we are all searching for every Christmas. Not just a chance to relive our childhood, or to have momentary but short-lived excitement and thrill at the wonder and awe of this time of year but rather a chance to have and experience true peace, absolute joy, and real hope — all of which is available to us if we would accept the gift that God offers each one of us this Christmas: the gift of his son. Will you make room in your heart for the prince of peace?

*"Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the presence of Christ."  
— Anonymous*

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

## Pam Johnson Wins Once-In-A-Lifetime Trip

» Continued on page 18

ing from bad situations," Johnson explained. "They learn cooking skills to get back on their feet. They are flown in just to prepare these VIP dinners."

While in Atlanta for the first time, Johnson and her daughter Caroline

explored the city by visiting the World of Coca-Cola, Zoo Atlanta, the aquarium and the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library. The Johnsons also took in a spur-of-the-moment second concert when they learned the Eagles band was in Atlanta for

a stop on their "The Long Goodbye" farewell tour.

"The whole trip was just great," Johnson added. "I would have never guessed when I filled out a ballot at His Way Christian Books that I'd ever win!"



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## Tolerance, Hope And Grace

**Heather Bagnall**  
Delegate  
District 33C



I don't really know what I want to say this holiday season because like so many people, I'm scared going into our longest night. I'm not embarrassed to admit it, because the last few years have been hard. Each year, we think that next year will get easier, but I think perhaps our perception of what easier is may well be forever altered, our lives having fundamentally changed, struggling with any sort of new normal in a landscape in constant flux.

Many of you know that my background is in the arts. The arts are always called upon to respond in times of crisis and social change, shining a light on injustice, driving a revolution for change, or bringing a smile to those who are suffering. I remember after the 9/11 attacks, how we were challenged to navigate this space where people needed to laugh

but weren't certain if they were ever allowed to again experience happiness. During the pandemic, I returned to my roots singing seasonal carols on porches and patios or masked in a lobby to bring a bit of joy during isolation.

Since October 7, we've seen antisemitic attacks increase by 400% and islamophobia rise exponentially, and a country already divided crack with seismic magnitude. People are trying to balance the real fear of another holocaust from a terrorist organization bent on their extermination, with the very real human cost of war. I would not dare try and encapsulate the nuance required to discuss the war in the Middle East or the longstanding tradition of scapegoating, which has followed the Jewish people for millennia, in a few hundred words after I have seen so many people fail to meet this moment, doing more harm than good in the attempt.

Instead, I will write about tolerance, hope and grace.

Before we had the concepts of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), we had tolerance. It was an uncomfortable term, tolerance, because every-

one wants to be accepted, welcomed, loved; no one wants to be tolerated. But let's look at what tolerance means. Tolerance is the ability or willingness to allow without interference something, particularly the existence of opinions or behavior with which one does not necessarily agree. It's essentially the bare minimum we as humans can do to co-exist, the great grandparent of DEI policy.

How did we get here? It isn't about a difference of religious beliefs or government overreach, or even diversity of thought. We believed that we were further along, but there are people who simply don't want to hear that they must welcome people that they don't like. Nothing we are experiencing is new; it is the latest incarnation of a long history of autocratic rise and retreat. What is alarming is how close we find ourselves to that threat and the tenuous nature of a democratic republic established on a commitment to its continuation without safeguards to ensure it.

Looking back over the last five years of my term, I have written about this rise in authoritarianism and our role in resisting and stopping extremism many times, yet it bears repeating. Tolerance is not the gold standard but a low bar we seem to struggle to surmount.

So how do we get across and what is on the other side? To answer these questions, we must look to the other two words: hope and grace. Hope, the ability to keep going even when it may feel as though all is lost (some call it faith), is steeped in the belief that we are never without redemption, that our potential remains in our ability to

“The new year gives us an opportunity to reset the clock, to do better. This holiday season, be intentional about modeling and teaching tolerance. Move with hope in your heart and actions. Look for opportunities to give grace to others and to yourself.”

be better tomorrow than we are today, as individuals, as a community, as a nation.

Many years ago, my best friend, who was always wise beyond her years, taught me about the concept of grace; creating space for someone to make mistakes without judgment or punishment, or assumptions about motive, and even forgiveness for those mistakes. It is an immensely powerful gift, one of the most substantial gifts which can be given because no one is entitled to grace. Grace cannot be required, it is not owed, and it is a gift which is deeply underappreciated.

I think of the words of Maya Angelou, “Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better.” The new year gives us an opportunity to reset the clock, to do better. This holiday season, be intentional about modeling and teaching tolerance. Move with hope in your heart and actions. Look for opportunities to give grace to others and to yourself. Always stand up against hatred and extremism, but never forget that without a path to redemption, there is little incentive to change.

## Republican Women's Club Announces New Officers



(L-R) The 2024-2025 officers for the Severna Park Republican Women's Club include Chris Ronk, Kathy Feldman, Dr. Kim Weir, Yuripzy Morgan, Amy Leahy, Nicolee Ambrose and Melanie Dunaway.

Severna Park Republican Women's Club (SPRWC) officers were sworn in for their 2024-2025 term by Maryland's national committeewoman, Nicolee Ambrose, at Cafe Mezzanotte on November 14.

Incoming president Yuripzy Morgan spoke of her plans for the almost 60-year-old club that included former Congresswoman Marjorie Holt as a founding member. The SPRWC is an award-winning member of the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) and

received its sixth Diamond Award for Achievement in September, with SPRWC President Amy Leahy accepting the award on behalf of the club at the NFRW biennial convention in Oklahoma City.

The club meets every third Tuesday of the month at various locations and welcomes guests. Check the SPRWC website ([www.sprwc.org](http://www.sprwc.org)) and the Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/severnaparkrepublicanwomen](http://www.facebook.com/severnaparkrepublicanwomen)) for more information about meetings and the club overall.

## Governor And First Lady To Host Holiday Public Open House

To celebrate the holidays and continue a tradition, Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Moore will open the Government House of Maryland during a public open house on December 9 from 10:00am-1:00pm.

“Over the last few months, our family has been deeply touched by Marylanders across the state who have supported us in a time of transition,” Wes Moore said. “Dawn and I look forward to opening the doors of the ‘people's house’ to the people of Maryland as we celebrate this season of reflection and renewal. The holidays call on us to embrace our communities, and this open house honors that beautiful tradition.”

Visitors are encouraged to

bring a donation of a new, safe, unwrapped toy to be collected by Maryland State Police and given to children in need across Maryland.

Government House is located at 110 State Circle in Annapolis.

“We could not be more excited to welcome you into the ‘people's house.’ Bring your families, check out some decorations, enjoy some homemade cookies, and maybe even get a Tucker sighting,” Dawn Moore said, referring to the family dog. “On behalf of our family, we hope your holidays are filled with joy, peace, safety and rest this season. The governor and I are honored every day to serve you, and we are so grateful for your partnership as we continue to move forward together.”

## Falcons Soar To First Girls Soccer Title Since 2003

By David Bashore

In the final 30 seconds of the Class 3A girls soccer state championship game on November 18, the enormity of the moment finally started to set in.

Severna Park defender **Ryn Feemster** booted the ball aimlessly up the field — anywhere away from the Falcons' goal would do. Goalkeeper **Lily Diedrich** glanced toward the giant Loyola University scoreboard behind her goal, silently willing the final few off the clock. The team's reserves bobbed up and down on the bench. The stadium announcer counted down from 10, and when he hit zero, the whistle went, and bedlam ensued as the Falcons raced to mob Diedrich just outside her penalty area.

Behind two first-half goals and yet another defensive clean sheet, Severna Park blanked Mount Hebron 2-0 to claim the program's seventh state championship, and the first in 20 years.

The Falcons capped off a perfect season in perfect fashion, and they made good on all their goals following the 2022 season, where they were defeated in the region final by Broadneck.

"After last season's disappointment, we really had a mindset shift in the group. We had always talked about winning the last game, but we hadn't even got there," said Severna Park coach **Rick Stimpson**. "We didn't set out for perfection, but we just always wanted to win the next game."

The Falcons nearly put their stamp on the game in the first minute. Freshman **Izzy Burleson** was denied three times in succession from close range, the first two by the keeper and the third being cleared off the line by a defender. It was a statement of intent, but it would take more

» Continued on page 34



Photos by David Bashore

**Above:** The Falcons stormed the field after securing a perfect season and the program's first state title in 20 years.

**Below Left:** Sarah Stefancik battled past a Mount Hebron player during Severna Park's 2-0 win on November 18.

**Below Right:** Francesca Dunoyer absorbed a challenge for the ball, while retaining possession.



## Twice Is Nice: SPHS Girls Cross Country Repeats As State Champs

"Last year was a surprise that we won. This year, we just wanted to carry on the program's tradition."

— KAYLEE JENISH, SPHS SENIOR



The Severna Park boys and girls cross country teams gathered to show off their plaques after finishing as state runners-up and champions, respectively, at Hereford High on November 11.

By Tom Worgo

In his early years of coaching Severna Park High School's boys and girls cross country teams, **Joshua Alcombright** would get anxious at the Maryland state championships.

He felt a lot of pressure.

"I was way too nervous," Alcombright recalled.

Alcombright is calmer now at meets and the reason is summed up in one word: winning.

The Severna Park girls team captured their second straight state championship (3A this year; 4A last year) at Hereford High on November 11 while the boys team made a solid run at the title and finished second.

The Falcons' boys team has won the state crown eight times since 2012, including five in a row from 2017 to 2022.

Severna Park (66 points) posted a convincing state win over Howard (119) this year.

"It's good to see the girls in the spotlight," Alcombright said of the girls titles. "It means a lot to us because the

» Continued on page 35



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# Baseball Player Represents Chesapeake Team In All-State Select Championship

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The holidays came early for 12-year-old **Will Viera**. Not only did he travel to Houston with his family in November, but he also got to play for the Chesapeake team in a national showcase against some of the country's most talented baseball players, including the son of two-time Major League Baseball MVP Miguel Cabrera.

With a stellar performance in June and August tournaments, Will was invited to a four-game tryout during the Chesapeake All-State Games in Salisbury, Maryland. Players from Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and West Virginia faced off. Will again impressed coaches and was one of 13 kids chosen for the 12U Chesapeake team that competed in the Perfect Game National All-State Select Championship in the Houston suburb of Rosenberg, Texas.

Will has played baseball since he could walk and travel baseball for Green Hornets since 2020. He also plays soccer and basketball.

"I like to play against the best of the best," Will said. "Being the leadoff hitter, if I can hit (the pitcher), the rest of the team can hit him."

Will hit nearly .500 through his team's first four games of the Perfect



Game national championship tournament and he pitched.

"For a 12-year-old, he was never overwhelmed or overpowered," said **Jim Viera**, Will's father. "He always felt like he could get a hit when he stepped in the box."

*Will Viera was one of 13 kids chosen for the 12U Chesapeake team that competed in the Perfect Game National All-State Select Championship in Texas during November. His favorite part of the trip was meeting two-time Major League Baseball MVP Miguel Cabrera.*

Will's success in the tournament came as no surprise to his Green Hornets travel baseball coach, **Michael Kessler**.

"Will is always engaged, competitive, friendly, dedicated, humorous, hard-working, and a selfless teammate with a great attitude regardless of how well he, or the team, are doing," Kessler said. "Our Green Hornets team has won a few highly competitive tournaments and Will is undoubtedly the heart of the team, batting leadoff and playing first base like a brick wall. He has no fear in the field or at-bat and sets the tone for the team week in and week out."

Kessler recalled one of Will's at-bats in the championship of a tournament game last spring. Will faced "the hardest-throwing pitcher we had seen to date, by far," Kessler said, "and probably one of the best in the area."

Green Hornets players watched anxiously as the pitcher warmed up before the game.

"Will got up his first at-bat leading off the game, with everyone on the fence, excited for the first at-bat in a championship, but also kind of nervous about what was going to happen," Kessler said, "and Will absolutely ripped a base hit up the middle. Everyone took a collective sigh like it was going to be OK, and we ended up winning the championship after we got to their ace pitcher. I am more than convinced that if Will struck out and came over with a look like, 'This isn't happening, boys,' we would have absolutely lost that championship."

Will enjoyed competing in Houston and doing other activities with his parents and two older brothers. Together, they attended a Houston Rockets basketball game and played a baseball version of Topgolf.

One of those brothers, Tyson, assisted Will in his rehab from an arm injury that sidelined Will from the end of May through mid-July.

Will wants to make the Severna Park High School varsity team and eventually play in college and the major leagues.

He has the dedication to make that dream a possibility.

"He loves competing," Jim said. "He is a smaller guy, but he has the heart of a lion. Everyone likes to take a picture when a bigger guy is at first base (next to Will). He doesn't consider himself a small guy."

"Will is always positive, listening to coaches," Jim said. "He hustles and ... he is one of those kids who always has a smile."



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# Green Hornets Athletes Visit Duke University



Members of the Severna Park FORCE Green soccer team, (l-r) Kate Wallace, Ava Worthington, Hunter Flynn, Duke player Delaney Ott, Kate Leinemann, Emma Dooley, Duke players Ellie Lazzaretto and Cam Christie, Grace Distler, Elizabeth Locher and Sienna McPhee, gathered for a special visit in November.

**By Lauren Cowin**

Severna Park athletes past and present convened on the lacrosse field at Duke University in November.

When the Green Hornets soccer team **Marci Flynn** manages, Severna Park FORCE Green, was scheduled to attend a tournament in Raleigh, North Carolina, she decided to make the most of the trip.

“Just kind of out of the blue, I emailed **Kerstin Kimel**, who’s the Duke women’s lacrosse coach,” said Flynn, noting that several members of FORCE also play lacrosse. “She wrote back right away and said, ‘Yes, please come to our practice.’”

When Kimel asked for volunteers on her team to show the younger players the ropes, she may have had a few in mind. **Delaney Ott**, who attended Severna Park High School, and **Cameron Christie**, a Severn School graduate, are currently on Duke’s roster.

“I obviously volunteered,” said Ott, a graduate student who transferred from the University of Georgia. “It was fun and cool to meet the girls and parents who were from the same area.”

Ott, Christie and another teammate led the way for the eight Green Hornets athletes, who traveled to North Carolina a day early for the opportunity.

They observed a Duke lacrosse practice, toured the training facilities and

were given insider access to Cameron Indoor Stadium, which is typically closed to the public.

The Green Hornets players were also able to chat with coach Kimel and get her advice on topics such as recruiting.

“I think it really struck home with them that this is what college might be like,” Flynn said.

For Ott, who plays goalie for the Blue Devils, hosting players from the Green Hornets was a walk down memory lane.

“I played (for) Green Hornets since I was sticklets pretty much, so it was cool to be able to see where I came from and where I am now, and hopefully it was a little inspiring for them to show them there is a path for them ... to play at a

higher level,” Ott said.

The feeling was mutual.

“It was really cool to see girls from Anne Arundel County make it to that level of play! It shows me how far you can get in your lacrosse career if you work hard,” said seventh-grader **Emma Dooley**.

It turned out that touring Duke was just icing on the cake – Severna Park FORCE Green won their tournament.

“It was absolutely the best weekend-spending time with the Duke women’s lacrosse team, being a Cameron Crazie at the women’s Duke basketball home exhibition match and winning the soccer tournament,” said seventh-grader **Elizabeth Locher**.

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# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



## GISELLE MUTETEKE

Chesapeake High School Track & Field  
By Kevin Murnane

Everything seems to come naturally for Severna Park resident and high school student Giselle Muteteke.

Muteteke was accepted to the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) before the school

## Giselle Muteteke Named To National Society Of High School Scholars

year. She blends her academic achievements with participating in cross country, indoor and outdoor track, and learning to play the piano.

The Chesapeake High School senior moved with her family to Severna Park in July 2022 from Egg Harbor, New Jersey. She wanted to be involved with her new school, so she tried out for the cross country team that fall.

"I wanted to meet new friends, so I thought I would try out for cross country and I liked it," Muteteke said. "My time has really improved from last year to this year."

Muteteke finished 12th at The Chase, an invitational at Arundel High School this fall. She also joined the indoor and outdoor track teams and accepted the challenge of throwing the discus and shot put. She qualified for regionals in shot put and finished fifth in the discus throw in April with a toss of 73 feet, which was a personal record.

Muteteke is a 4.0 GPA student and is currently enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) calculus and language classes.

"She is a very dedicated student," said her school counselor, Kacie Ciampoli. "She had applied to some top-notch schools, including the service academies."

Muteteke has applied to West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy. She said she has also been accept-

ed into Penn State and has applied to Virginia Tech, Maryland, Johns Hopkins and Princeton.

Her older sister, Colette, is currently a junior at West Point.

Muteteke would like to follow an educational path in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, and her preferred schools are known for their excellence in those curricula.

She is also involved in church activities and volunteered for the Annapolis 10-Mile Run last August.

"Giselle also took a trip to Africa last summer and she told me it was a life-changing and eye-opening experience," Ciampoli said.

Muteteke said, "My family and I went to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and it was the first time I've traveled outside the United States. The trip was very interesting and a cool experience."

NSHSS recognizes outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. It was co-founded by the grand-nephew of Alfred Nobel. NSHSS is inspired by the mission of the Nobel Prize to support academic achievement and world betterment.

"Giselle is incredibly sweet and her dedication to her schoolwork will lead her to being successful in life," Ciampoli said.



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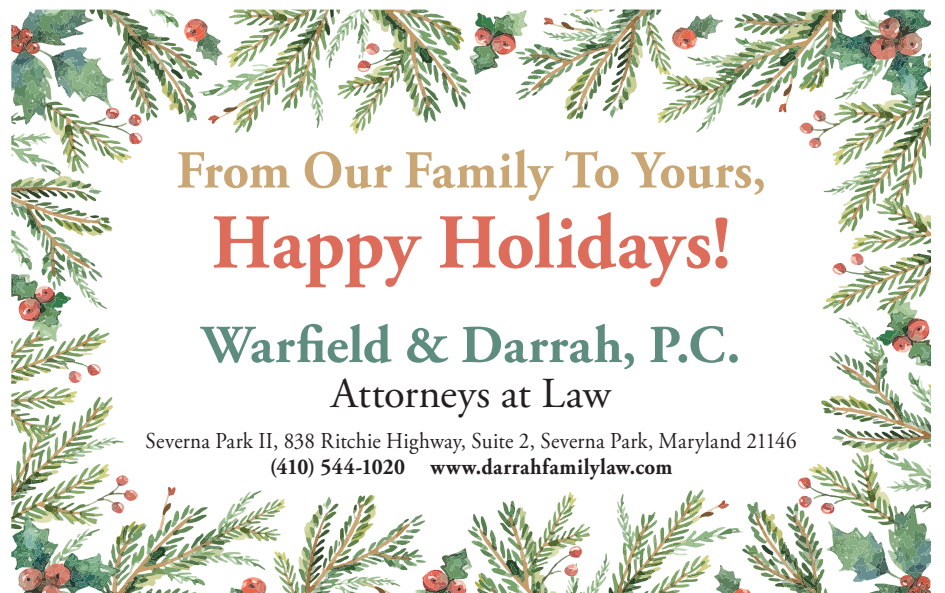
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# Archbishop Spalding Wins Second Consecutive Football Conference Championship



**Left:** Archbishop Spalding's football team repeated as champions of the MIAA's A Division on November 18. **Right:** Tight end Jameson Coffman (left) of Severna Park and wide receiver Dom Buonassisi displayed the Mike Whittles championship trophy. The trophy is named after Whittles, Spalding's previous football coach who died from pancreatic cancer.

By Kevin Murnane

## Unrelenting Defense Is Paramount In Victory

Defense wins championships. An example of this adage was on display when Archbishop Spalding used a suffocating defense that recorded seven sacks, three interceptions, two pass breakups and bone-jarring tackles to defeat the McDonogh Eagles 40-7 at Towson University's Johnny Unitas Stadium on November 18.

The win marked the Cavaliers' second consecutive Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) A Division football championship.

Spalding received the opening kickoff but appeared nervous and out of sync. Their receivers had uncharacteristic drops and McDonogh was applying pressure to the Cavaliers' all-conference quarterback, **Malik Washington**.

As the first quarter ensued, the Cavaliers' defense stopped McDonogh's young

but talented offense, but sophomore quarterback **Braeden Palazzo** used a combination of sweeps, reverses and passes in his team's third drive to move the ball downfield. Those plays catapulted McDonogh to a 7-0 advantage with 1:11 left in the first quarter.

The Spalding offensive coaches gathered before the next drive to discuss a strategy that would counter McDonogh's blitzing defense scheme. However, it was the Cavaliers' sophomore cornerback and Severna Park resident, **Sean Johnson**, who put the Cavaliers on the board with a pick-six with 10:46 left in the second quarter.

"That was the turning point of the game," said Spalding football head coach **Kyle Schmitt**. "Our defense was not going to let us lose."

McDonogh was visibly shaken from the huge momentum swing and never recovered as they didn't add any points the rest of the game. The onslaught of sacks began with Arnold resident and nose tackle **Tyler McVicker** in the second quarter. The Cavaliers continued the pursuit of Pala-

zzo. **Delmar White** and **Zack Philpott** had multiple sacks, as did linebacker and Maryland commit **Keshawn Flowers**.

"It was the Loyola game that we decided to let Keshawn roam free and make plays," Schmitt said. "He's such a dominant player and he had another great game."

Tight end and Severna Park resident **Jameson Coffman** echoed Schmitt's thoughts on Flowers.

"I used to play against Keshawn in the youth leagues and he used to take my head off then," Coffman said. "He's so strong and quick."

In the second quarter, the Cavaliers added two field goals by kicker **Cooper Welch**, and went into the locker room with a 13-7 lead.

McDonogh started the second half on an ominous note as within 45 seconds of the quarter, Cavaliers defensive back **Trent Gillis** read Palazzo's eyes and intercepted the ball at the 15-yard line and easily strolled into the end zone. The two-point conversion failed, making the score 19-7.

From that point on, Spalding's defense was unrelenting. They smothered Palazzo again and again and he was either sacked or was hurried with his passing attempts.

The Eagles had no choice but to repeatedly punt the ball to the Cavaliers, whose offense used that energy to march down the field throughout the second half.

A four-yard rushing touchdown by Coffman and two-point conversion made the score 27-7 at the end of the third quarter. That was Coffman's 17th touchdown of the year (seven receiving and 10 rushing).

Spalding leaned on their ground attack in the fourth quarter, utilizing senior running back **Kaden Curtis'** speed and enabled him and Washington to score two more touchdowns. They had one two-point conversion fail.

As the final seconds of the game wound down, Schmitt was doused with a Gatorade bath and the celebration began.

Schmitt was quick to credit his defense and coordinator **Tyrone Forby**, who he has referred to as the best defensive coordinator in the state.

"He's an awesome coach and his players love to play hard for him," Schmitt said. "He doesn't want a lot of credit, but he always has our defense playing at an unbelievable level, especially in the playoffs."

The postgame celebration included a mix of jubilation and tears. Many members of the Cavaliers' senior class did not want this dream to end.

"I have many mixed emotions right now," Coffman said. "I don't want to take off these pads. But as seniors, we had to set the example and leave a legacy of hard work and being resilient. We lost to McDonogh two years ago in the semifinals and we did not like that feeling, so it was up to us as underclassmen to lead us to the championship title."

This senior class is also special to Schmitt, who coached that group to a 33-4 record over the last four years.

"This senior class is an amazing group of student-athletes, and I loved coaching them because of their work ethic and camaraderie," Schmitt said.

Washington, who was named MIAA A Conference Athlete of the Year, shared a similar sentiment.

"This is such a great feeling as we have put in many long days and long nights to be here," he said. "We really need to thank our seniors for their dedication and leadership."

## SPHS And BHS Students-Athletes Make Official Commitments

With National Signing Day in November, athletes nationwide signed letters of intent and announced their college plans. Severna Park and Broadneck athletes from several sports will compete at the next level.

### SPHS

#### BASEBALL

Nathan Murphy, *George Washington*

Jackson O'Brien, *Beloit*

Kody Phillips, *Lebanon Valley*

Angel Santiago-Cruz, *Richmond*

Sean Williams, *Penn State*

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Brendan Abell, *Penn*

*State-Altoona*

#### MEN'S LACROSSE

John Burkhardt, *Bellarmine*

Nolan Grizzle, *Coast Guard Academy*

#### SOFTBALL

Sally Trent, *College of Charleston*

#### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Kate Evans, *Gettysburg*

Ryn Feemster, *VCU*

Alyssa Gore-Chung, *Navy*

Sara Kreis, *Charlotte*

Allison Schiavone, *Wilmington*

Sarah Stefancik, *Mercer*

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Caitlyn Boucher, *Campbell*

Kasey Thompson, *South Carolina-Beaufort*

### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Perry Stevenson, *Canisius*

### BHS

#### BASEBALL

Calvin Cook, *Middle Tennessee State*

#### FIELD HOCKEY

Zoe Bjelac, *Quinnipiac*

Madelyn Quigley, *Susquehanna*

Paige Reilly, *Albright*

#### MEN'S LACROSSE

Tanner Boone, *Mary Washington*

Austin Combs, *Flagler*

Graham Hartman, *Mercer*

Tyler Hicks, *Virginia Military Institute*

Braden McCassie, *Jacksonville*

Albert Palsa, *Lynchburg*

Tyler Stewart, *Limestone*

#### MEN'S WATER POLO

Jack Clark, *U.S. Naval Academy*

#### SOFTBALL

Samantha Waters, *Hood College*

#### SWIMMING

Nathan Decker, *Utah*

Tristan Tosoni, *Loyola*

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Samantha Miller, *St. Mary's Mackenzie Wharton, Keystone College*

#### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Olivia Orso, *Ohio State*

Lily Trout, *High Point*

#### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Mya Durham, *Susquehanna*

#### WOMEN'S WATER POLO

Olivia Mitchell, *Virginia Military Institute*

To see photos of the student-athletes, visit [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).

# Broadneck Football Reaches Second State Title Game

*Bruins Finishes As 4A Runner-Up In Deepest Playoff Run Since 2003*



Photos by Dennis McGinley

*Broadneck students and fans filled a section at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis to support their school's second-ever visit to the football state finals.*

By David Bashore

After a big punt block set Broadneck up deep in Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. territory with a chance to halve a halftime deficit in the 4A state championship football game on December 1, the offense stalled inside the 10-yard line and a short field goal attempt drifted wide right.

Moments later, Wise went the other way and punched in their third touchdown of the night, every play of the drive a run.

It was that kind of night for the Bruins. Every time it looked like things were turning in Broadneck's favor, something bad soon followed.

The Bruins never really found their rhythm offensively, the stubborn defense finally was worn down after a grueling playoff run, the penalties stacked up, and Broadneck's bid for a first state title fell short as the team fell 21-0 at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium.

"We wish we could have started faster, but they did a great job in field position and using their line to lean on us," said Broadneck head coach **Rob Harris**. "One less first down and we aren't starting (a possession) at the 1. Another return, two penalties and we're back to the 3. We didn't even get a chance to run our opening plays until the second quarter because we were so backed up and didn't want to throw. That eats at you a little bit, but ... credit to them."

After raising eyebrows by dispatching Montgomery County teams on the road in the first two rounds of the state playoffs, Broadneck tried to muster up one more surprise against Wise in the state championship. But the well was dry at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

The bend-don't-break Bruins defense, which carried the team through the regional and state playoff rounds,

largely did their job. But Wise wore them down and continued to pound the running game play after play after play.

The Pumas completed just one pass and leaned heavily on their three-man running back stable, which proved difficult for the Broadneck run defense to withstand despite the players throwing everything they had at it.

"We keep our heads high until the very end. I feel like that's been our mentality all season," said senior line-backer **Jed Pellicano**, who anchored the heart and soul of an intense, physical defense that became Broadneck's calling card down the stretch.

Perhaps more critically, Wise didn't turn the ball over, which blunted an opportunistic defense that had forced three turnovers in each of the last two games.

The Broadneck offense continued on their gauntlet of quality defenses against their toughest test to date, and the Bruins couldn't generate sustained offense against the Pumas. Most of their gains came on plays outside of the numbers or forced improvisation by quarterback **C.J. Watkins**.

To top it off, the team collectively was undone by penalties — a hallmark of the team all season but something that was shored up in the last couple of games.

Special teams gave Broadneck hope, with a 24-yard punt return from **Eli Harris** late in the first half and the punt block from **Tyrin Chinn-Thompson** early in the second, but the Wise defense stiffened each time and kept the Bruins out of the end zone on both occasions.

When tasked with moving the length of the field, Broadneck found it tough sledding against a combination of size, speed and physicality few teams in Maryland can boast.

It wasn't until Wise led 21-0 that the Bruins put to-

gether a sustained drive, but that ended with the Pumas intercepting Watkins for the third time.

"We were missing things just by a few inches. I had a catch in the corner (of the end zone) and it misses by a foot," Eli Harris said. "It's a game of inches, and unfortunately we were on the wrong side of it."

The Bruins will have to settle, as it were, for being the second team from Broadneck to make the state finals, joining the 2003 team that also came up aching short of putting the first football championship trophy in the school's cabinet. But no team has gone further than this one, and there were signature moments along the way.

There's **Michael Swick's** interception return for a touchdown that sparked a 45-0 rout of Parkville in the opening round of the playoffs. Then the 17-6 slugfest win over Dundalk to get to the states rounds. Then, most memorably, **Logan McGill's** pick-six to beat Northwest 21-20 in the 4A quarterfinals, followed by a 31-7 drubbing of Churchill to get to the championship.

After the game, the players rued the feeling that they had not played their best. But one day, Rob Harris said, they will look back on the season with fondness despite coming so close to fulfilling their mission.

"This was a ride that in October somewhere, we never would have guessed that we would go on this run," Rob Harris said. "Sadly, we all feel like we could have done better, but it's a great testament to these guys to fight and get to this point. The heart of this defense was inspiring to see. ... It's special to share this moment at this time, with these families and these kids."

Said Eli Harris, "Being able to do this with (Rob Harris, my father) and my best friends is a great feeling, and to be able to get here for the first time in 20 years is a blessing."



*The bend-don't-break Bruins defense largely did their job. But the Pumas wore them down and continued to pound the running game play after play after play.*

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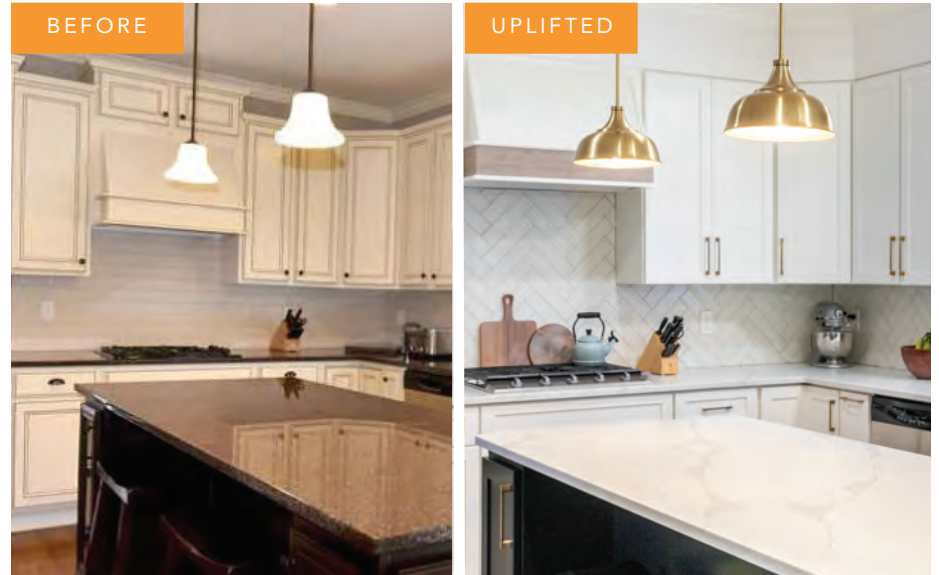
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# Green Hornets 10U Football Team Wins County Crown

The Green Hornets pulled off an overtime victory over the Dunkirk Warriors to win the Anne Arundel County Youth Football Association B championship in November. The Hornets and Warriors traded leads the entire game to a tie score, forcing overtime. Each team gets at least one possession from the 10-yard line in overtime. The Warriors won possession first and scored a touchdown, but the Hornets defense denied them the critical extra point. Hornets quarterback **Wyatt Priem** handed off the ball to running back **Kia Husman**, who ran the 10 yards for a touchdown. Starting tackle **Tighe O'Brien** cleared a hole and helped Husman into the end zone. The score was 25-25. Priem executed a left-side play fake to the running back. He disguised the ball and ran to the right side of the end zone for the extra point and the county championship. The final score was 26-25. **Find the full recap and postgame comments online.**




The Green Hornets prevailed in a 26-25 overtime victory over the Dunkirk Warriors to win the Anne Arundel County Youth Football Association B championship in November.


# Hornets 9U Football Team Claims AAYFA Title



The Severna Park Green Hornets 9U tackle football team won the 2023 Anne Arundel Youth Football Association national championship by beating the South County Bulldogs 18-6 on November 12. The team — coached by **Matt Bruffey**, **Chris DeLuca**, **Eric Shadowens** and **Monte Hausmann** — capped a 9-1 season by avenging their only loss and ending South County's bid for an undefeated record. Led by quarterback **Michael Duffy**, the offense scored on the opening drive as running back **Blake Tomago** punched in the first touchdown behind stout blocking from left tackle **Liam Cooke**, left guard **Beau Bruffey**, center **Grady Shadowens**, right guard **Joey Potocek** and right tackle **Aiden Cooke**. After the Bulldogs turned it over on the next possession, running back **Austin Hausmann** took the first snap 70 yards to the house for the second touchdown of the game. **Find the full recap online.**



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# 2023 Green Hornets Rec Soccer League Champions

## THIRD/FOURTH-GRADE BOYS – STRIKERS



**Coaches:** Marc Procaccini and Thomas Hamlett

**Players:** Connor Burdette, Benjamin Deitz, Luke Hamlett, Dexter Guo, Luca Lembo, Jason Fan, Micah Turner, Braxton Reppert, Thomas A'Beckett, Dominic Procaccini, Caden Howells and Lawton Bloomfield

## THIRD/FOURTH-GRADE GIRLS – STARSTRUCK



**Coaches:** Ryan Keperling and Mike Maycock

**Players:** Abigail Etter, Adelyn Keperling, Ava Maycock, Ava Morgan, Caroline Hayslip, Katherine Sysko, Lauren Hepp, Lillian Cottle, Madison Andelman, Nora Bednarski, Quinn Wisner and Vivienne Tolios

## FIFTH/SIXTH-GRADE BOYS



**Coaches:** Brad Carey, Sam Mitchell and Altin Pelteku

**Manager:** Jaime Trevillian

**Players:** Emilio Alarcon, Cooper Carey, Oliver Daccarett, Connor MacQuilliam, Andrew Magette, Elliott Martin, Noah Mitchell, Darren Morrissey, Cameron Ochalek, Stephen Pelteku, Gavin Simmons, Shane Tomassi, Maverick Trevillian and Christopher Tsai

## FIFTH/SIXTH-GRADE GIRLS – BLUE ANGELS



**Coaches:** Ross Brinson, David Greenwood and Victor Mesa

**Players:** Cassandra Brinson, Sloane DeCosmo, Lucy Distin, Olivia Flanagan, Abigail Fritz, Allie Greenwood, Emma Greenwood, Emerson Hall, Lillie Jarrell, Mikaela Kern, Wesley Laffey, Isabela Mesa, Louie Miller, Addison Roth and Madelyn Soraparu

## SEVENTH/EIGHTH-GRADE BOYS – ZOMBIES



**Coaches:** Steve Matters and Adam Pegues

**Players:** Zain Al-hadidi, Andrew Binnie, Nathan Chen, Zachary Comboy, Grayson DeCosmo, Lachlan Ewing, Liam FitzGerald, Maxwell Gilman, Noah Gray, Brooks Gronowksi, Dylan Hopkins, Nathaniel Kelley, Thomas Martin, Logan Matters, Bryan Pegues, Robert Rice, Carson Robinson, Kyle Schuller, Owen Tong-Holcomb and Stuart Werner

## SEVENTH/EIGHTH-GRADE GIRLS



**Coaches:** Jason Hepp, Scott Petrey and Brian Quill

**Players:** Lily Carlton, Lily Fithyan, Charlotte Forthofer, Addison Gray, Sophia Hepp, Adrianna Hernandez, Jenny McClure, Hannah Mckinstry, Morgan Miller, Juliana Mufareh, Caitlynn Nunn, Nora Petrey, Ryleigh Quill, Emily Rausch, Grace Shelling, Allyson Stansbury, Olivia Tomassi and Kristen Wilson

# Fall 2023 AAYSA Green Hornets League Champions

## U8 Boys Division 1



**Coaches:** Anthony Malcolm and Mat Merriman  
**Players:** Christopher Comegys, Hudson Merriman, Mitchell Baker, Callen Viera, Christian Ribeiro, Oliver Taddeo, Liam Harvey, Bennett Copper, Leo Malcolm, Vincent Marino, Ethan Phippen and Remington DeOrio

## U8 Girls Division 1 – Lady Cheetahs

**Coaches:** Casey Banks and Megan Taylor  
**Players:** Harper Bloomfield, Rylan Taylor, Adaline Lee, Reese Laddbush, Olivia Banks, Izzy Riley, Savannah Rohe, Savannah Watts, Savannah Harlin and Kennedy Gilliam



## U18 Girls 11v11 – Maroon Team



**Coaches:** Scott Ayers, Greg Hayes and Nadia Abdolahi  
**Players:** Ally Chase, Zoey Evora, Breanna Foreman, Caitlin Gaver, Ally Jones, Lydia MacFarland, Ava McPhee, Kaitlyn Miller, Paige Miller, Emma Ritter, Ashlyn Rose, Avery Serpa, Linnia Warner, Becca Widmer, Tabitha Brewis, Bess Carr, Kate Livingston and Peyton Westlund

## U9 Boys Division 4 – Galaxy



**Coaches:** Jeremiah Grossman, Scott Petrey and Chris Capasso  
**Players:** Emerson Grossman, Owen McCluskey, Niko Capasso, James Hofstetter, Wells Ashton, Brooks Bass, Charlie Dann, Brecken Dunlow, Ellis Petrey, Jake Fava, Barrett Kondratyuk and Benny Powdrell

## U11 Boys Division 5 – 2013 GSPAA Black

**Coaches:** Mike Little and Dan Neal  
**Players:** Reid Nowakowski, Matthew Little, Cameron Osborne, Gabriel Murphy, Declan McCluskey, Jackson Rohrer, Noah Mills, Ethan Simm, Luke Kelly, Andrew Neal, Eddie Kling, Pacston Harvey, Ben Rogers, Abram Wissel, Keller Pollock and Jagger Eschenburg



Read more about all the Green Hornets soccer teams at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).



## U18 Boys Division 2 Champions – GSPAA Maroon



**Coaches:** Doug Mules and Scott Ayers  
**Team Manager:** Matt Dove  
**Players:** Ryan Graves, Nate Campion, Jude Lascola, Robby Haufe, Gabe Slater, Casey Booth, Andy Glesmann, Will Love, Finn Ackerman, Aidan Johnson, Andy Ligterink, Spencer Feldman, Joey Tomar, Arley Mules, Jameson Murray, Kiley Curran, Reed Kimmel and Rachel Carmon



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## Green Hornets Boys Soccer Squad Goes Undeclared



The 2013 Green Hornets White boys soccer team went 10-0 this fall in the EDP South Atlantic Premier IV Red league. The boys were coached by Ed Morrell, Brett Kirkland and Matt Barksdale. Although there are no playoffs in this league, the White proved their resilience in other competitions. The team won the Gettysburg Battlefield Blast in August and reached the semifinals in the Pasadena Classic tournament in November.

## Severna Park 2014 Boys Take Home PSC Classic Title



The Severna Park Green Hornets 2014 boys Lightning won the U10 Elite division of the PSC Classic the weekend of Nov 11-12 in Pasadena.

## Falcons Soar To Girls Soccer Title

» Continued from page 20  
than half an hour before the deadlock was finally broken.

With both teams still feeling each other out and perhaps a little anxious, there were precious few serious scoring opportunities. But the matter was decided with two goals in 64 seconds, the first coming from senior mainstay **Sara Kreis**. Kreis ran onto a flicked header from Burleson just outside the penalty area, and with nobody within 10 yards of her, she took a smooth first touch and hit a dipping shot just over the keeper and just under the crossbar.

"Just a great team goal. It came all the way from the defense, through the midfield, and I'm just the one who scores

them," said Kreis, who had a hand in four of Severna Park's six goals in the state tournament. "I love to score goals for my team."

Barely a minute later, **Ava Scott** found herself through on goal when an attempted clearance skipped right into her path. The sophomore applied a composed finish past the onrushing goalkeeper to double Severna Park's advantage, then clutched at her face and then the Severna Park crest on her jersey in a mixture of pride and disbelief. Scott and the Falcons were suddenly in command.

There were still 44 minutes to play, but it felt like the game was already decided. The Falcons conceded just three times all season, and never more than once in a

## Green Hornets U7 Soccer Team Crushes The Competition



The Orange Crush, a Green Hornets U7 boys soccer team, went undefeated this season and finished as county champions.

## SP 2010 Boys Win PSC Classic



The Severna Park Green Hornets 2010 boys Lightning won the PSC Classic soccer tournament on November 11-12. Although only a U14 team, they entered and won the U16 bracket against bigger boys. After the title game, head coach Anthony Perry said he was proud of the "phenomenal team effort" the boys put together this season and especially in the PSC Classic tournament.

game; they weren't about to let a two-goal lead slip with the championship trophy so close to their grasp.

"We remembered going behind against South River (in the region championship game), and we did not want to feel that again," said Feemster. "That's why it was so important for us to get a goal, because that lets us settle down."

The closest Mount Hebron came to getting on the score sheet came with 15 minutes left in the contest, as a whipped cross from the right side was headed down from eight yards toward the lower-left corner of the goal.

But Diedrich, despite facing only long shots for most of the game, was ready for the challenge. She dove down to her right and smothered the ball before it could skip across the line. Multiple Mount

Hebron players had their heads in their hands, sensing that was perhaps their last chance — so it proved to be.

"I have such trust in my defense that they're going to stop the cross, and if they don't stop the cross, they're going to stop the header," said Diedrich. "And if they don't get that, it's just (for me to) read and react."

The clock eventually drained to zero, setting off jubilation and a coronating fitting the queens of 3A soccer. Severna Park's final line from the 2023 season reads: 17 games played, 17 wins, 14 shut-outs, 60 goals scored, three goals conceded, county champions, region champions, state champions.

"We just kept working to earn the next day," Diedrich said. "And we earned all of them."

## Twice Is Nice: SPHS Girls Cross Country Repeats As State Champs

» Continued from page 20

girls were in the shadows of the boys.”

Severna Park freshman **Josephine Kamas** paced the Falcons with a fourth-place finish and five of her teammates placed in the top 25 to lead them to the title.

“Sometimes, it’s hard to run with that bull’s-eye on your back,” Alcombright said. “They were the best team in the state all year.”

Kamas, who had no running experience before high school, started the season on the junior varsity team, but Alcombright quickly promoted her to varsity.

Once there, she moved from No. 6 to No. 1 by the end of the season.

Kamas, who finished third in the county championships, ran a 19:27.59 at states to place behind Great Mills winner **Carter Brother** (18:33.65), runner-up **Claire Sivitz** (19:01.29) of Howard and third-place finisher **Lauren Stein** 19:10.48 of Towson.

“She has a big engine in terms of aerobic capacity,” Alcombright said. “She learned a lot as the season went on. She realized she could run closer to our top two girls, and then at the state, said, ‘I can do this.’”

Severna Park’s other top performances came from

sophomores **Kathryn Murphy** (14th; 10:56.85) and county champion **Jocelyn DiAngelo** (15th; 19:56.10) and seniors **Kaylee Jenish** (23rd; 20:41.69) and **Madi-son Davis** (27th; 20:58.64).

The group guided the Falcons to their third state championship since 2018.

“Last year was a surprise that we won,” Jenish said. “This year, we just wanted to carry on the program’s tradition.”

On the boys side, Severna Park senior **Jarvis Taylor** (16:18.58) finished third at states behind Towson winner **Kieran Mischke** (15:50.10) and runner-up **Joey Ensor** (16:00.38) of Howard.

“He was our number-one runner for all or a majority of the season,” Alcombright said of Taylor, a second-place regional finisher. “At the end of the season, he really started to make his presence known state-wide. He did his job at states and just got beat by two really good runners.”

The Falcons’ other top finishers who helped them to second place overall (97 points) behind Towson (72) were juniors **Caden Lazzor** (11th; 16:41), **Cooper Alahuerdian** (25th; 17:04.11) and **Leo Havens** (33rd; 17:21.73) and sophomore **Ty Maddox** (22nd; 17:03.13).

## Emma Patrick Dominates IAAM

What Severn School sophomore **Emma Patrick** achieved in the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland cross country championships is no small feat.

Patrick, a Severna Park resident, won the IAAM B Conference’s 3.1-mile race in convincing fashion by running a blazing 18:14. That performance was more than a minute faster than runner-up **Maddie Wassin** of John Carroll.

Patrick’s time was so good that it beat A Conference winner and McDonogh School senior **Mark Gorsky** by 47 seconds.

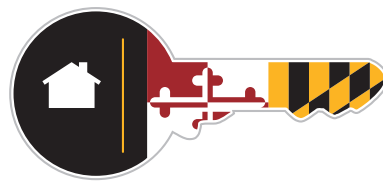
Beating the time of an A Conference championship is an uncommon occurrence especially when considering this fall marked Patrick’s first time running cross country. The 5-foot-9 Patrick ran track as a freshman.

“She had a phenomenal season and improved throughout the year,” Severn School cross country coach **Skip Sensbach** said. “She has put in the time and effort to make herself the best she can be.”



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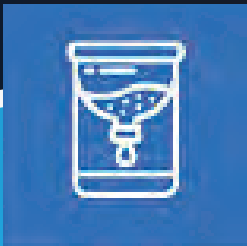
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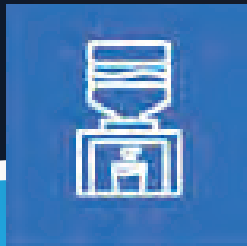
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## BHS Performs “Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood”

**By Mauricio Palmar**  
Student Intern

The legend of Robin Hood has persisted through several centuries of Western folklore. Yet it took on a new form this November when Kevin Whewell, Broadneck High School’s theater director, chose an adaptation of the story for the school’s play prior to Thanksgiving break.

Whewell had various reasons for selecting “Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood,” such as its focus on a female-centric cast instead of a male-centric cast. But chief among those reasons was the opportunity that the play presented for his actors to showcase several new skills.

“It has a number of skills that I haven’t been able to work with my students, like stage combat and physicality,” Whewell said. “I also wanted to switch it up and try different styles and techniques.”

The play, which ran from November 16-18, tells the classic story of Robin Hood with an added comedic twist. In the play, Robin Hood is the secret

» **Continued on page 43**



**Left:** Robin Hood (Castor Bryant) pleaded with Alana Dale (Ari Chamberlain) to rescue him. **Right:** Prince John was helped by a servant while his two guards watched. Actors in this scene included Teagan Yokanovich (back left), Brayden McDowell (front left), Iz Taylor (center) and Vida Sullivan.



## Chesapeake Connections: Students Restore Area Near Mill Creek



### Schools, County Groups Partner On Environmental Project

**By Zach Sparks**  
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Sixth-graders from Severna Park, Severn River and Magothy River middle schools got to envision a future as scientists, engineers and environmental stewards during a hands-on project this fall.

Before students got involved, the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works’ Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration did summer construction near Mill Creek in Arnold as part of a capital project to help the county meet some of its clean water goals.

“The area where we went had existing erosion as a result of water coming off the area near Anne Arundel Community College and the schools there, rippling down the channel into Mill Creek,” said Erik Michelsen, deputy director of the Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration.

“With the construction, we erected a sand and

*Students from Severna Park, Severn River and Magothy River middle schools partnered to plant trees and shrubs, conduct water-quality testing, and perform other tasks to beautify an area near Mill Creek this fall.*

woodchip bed down the mouth of the eroded channel with stone-grade structures,” he said, noting that the structures will capture sediment and stormwater.

Once the bureau finished construction, it informed the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Environmental Literacy and Outdoor Education Office.

Through the office’s Chesapeake Connections program, sixth-graders across the county learn about the environment. With two of the middle schools located close to the site, they were a natural fit for a one-month project involving the planting of trees and shrubs, water-quality testing, and other activities.

The site had good access, safe spaces for instruction and restoration work, and the opportunity for students to engage in the local environment, according to Eóin O’Neill, a program specialist with the AACPS Environmental Literacy and Outdoor Education Office’s Chesapeake Connections program.

Prior to their field experience, students engaged in a virtual lesson to learn about stormwater runoff and erosion.

“We also place a lot of emphasis on climate change and how such stormwater projects play a role in adaptation and resilience,” O’Neill said. “While stormwater runoff is a longstanding issue, climate change increases the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall and exacerbates the issues of runoff, sediment pollution, and nutrient pollution.”

Students planted about 1,100 native trees and

» **Continued on page 42**

### WHAT STUDENTS SAID

“Chesapeake Connections was a great learning experience and taught me so much about my environment and my surroundings.”

**CLAIRE NOONAN**

“The science field trip was a great and fun way to help the environment.”


**KATE COMEGY**


“We planted trees to help the environment and looked at water from the area under a microscope. One of my favorite field trips ever.”

**MASON HARRIED**

“We planted trees and learned to help the environment. It was super fun.”

**JOEY GREENWALL**





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## SPHS Senior Partners With Hero Dogs For SkillsUSA Project



By Noel Castillo and Anna Reilly  
Student Interns

**H**ero Dogs Inc., a Maryland non-profit, improves quality of life for U.S. heroes by raising, training, and placing service dogs and other highly skilled canines, free of charge, with veterans and first responders.

With a small staff and more than 150 dedicated volunteers, including students like high school senior Kyle Smith, Hero Dogs is committed to this mission. Its headquarters are in Brookeville, Maryland, and it serves the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

"SkillsUSA is a student-led organization that prepares students for the workforce. Also, in SkillUSA, we compete. That is where my project comes into play," Smith said. "This year, I am doing the project called Community Action and we decided to work with the organization Hero Dogs to sponsor a service dog to donate to a veteran."

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit career and technical student organization (CTSO) for

*Kyle Smith and other SkillsUSA volunteers have sold T-shirts and planned other fundraisers to raise money for Hero Dogs.*

high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations across the nation. According to the Maryland SkillsUSA website, Region 3 — which includes Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City — will have its next competition in February 2024.

"With this project, our goal was to get as many people as possible to help and get involved," Smith said. "So far, I have had a handful of people [who] have contributed to my project including Daryl Thomas, Kirra Heward, Jonae Hargrow, Jaeda Raup-West and many more."

SPHS hosted a Harvest for the Hungry tournament-style competition between classes this fall. Teacher Bethany Fish won first place in the bracket, while her coworker Heather Allam won "no duty all of second semester" since she does not teach a class during the 1A period. Many students in organizations such as SkillsUSA, National Honor Society and Student Government Association have donated to and volunteered for many fundraisers this first semester.

"For this project, my short-term goal is to raise \$5,000 and our high-end goal was \$10,000," Smith said. "Also, to get as many people [as] possible to get involved."

In October, SkillsUSA held its first event at senior night for football, with volunteers selling T-shirts.

"We are planning to do many more events soon at the basketball games and other winter sports games this winter season," Smith said.

Those who cannot attend any games can go online on the SPHS SkillsUSA Instagram page (@skillsusa\_sphs) and locate the post about Smith's project to buy a shirt or donate to the cause.

## Park Teens Fold Hope Into Gifts For Hospice Patients



Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen

*SPHS juniors Hannah Kim, left, and Kateri Jarvis displayed some of the origami cranes created by members of their school's chapter of the Wishing Crane Project.*

By Elyzabeth Marcussen

Hospice of the Chesapeake

**T**he art of origami starts with a flat square of paper. Then, with careful intention, a series of folds begin to tell a story. When finished, there is something beautiful in the palm of your hand. Something like a crane.

Kateri Jarvis and Hannah Kim hope classmates will help them make hundreds of origami cranes to give to Hospice of the Chesapeake patients. Inspired by the Wishing Crane Project, a nonprofit organization started by high schoolers in Arizona, the Severna Park High School juniors worked through the summer to start a chapter at their school.

Jarvis said that in Japanese culture, cranes symbolize power, strength and good fortune.

"By gifting origami cranes with positive, uplifting messages, we hope to send a token of peace, hopefulness and

support to those in need," she said.

So far, about 20 other students have joined them, gathering monthly to create paper cranes that bear a handwritten message of hope. One purple crane's wing reads, "We love you!" while an orange one promises, "You are not alone."

Hospice of the Chesapeake's volunteer services team was honored when the students reached out to form a partnership. About 100 cranes have traveled with volunteers to patients in their homes as well those who are in the hospice's inpatient care centers. Integrative Arts Manager Alena Dailey said her not-for-profit organization hopes to add residents of local assisted living centers to the recipient list.

"This one tiny gesture of kindness can mean so much," Dailey said. "Especially for those who have few visitors."

Both Jarvis and Kim have a history of volunteering.

**Read the full story online.**

## Green Hornets Cheerleaders Perform At Navy Game



*The 14U Team SPark includes girls ages 10-14.*



*The 10U Competition Team SParkles includes girls ages 6-9.*

**G**reen Hornets cheerleaders performed at halftime of the Navy versus University of Alabama at Birmingham football game on November 11.

The performance was part of the "Cheerleaders of America" extravaganza and featured 400 cheerleaders ages 6-17. Approximately 75 Green Hornets cheerleaders participated.

For the second year in a row, the Severna Park Green Hornets have been selected as the Navy crowd favorite, said Green Hornets cheerleading commissioner Brooke Glasgow.



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## Educator Of The Month

### Shelby Ledger Broadneck High School



By Lily Saunders  
Student Intern

**B**roadneck High School's Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year candidate Shelby Ledger hopes that all her students "look back at Spanish class like they look back at a football game, with lots of long-lasting memories and positive experiences."

Ledger is an integral part of the world language department at Broadneck High School and has been a part of the Broadneck community for six years as the department chair of world languages for the school. She is the only Advanced Placement teacher for Spanish classes at Broadneck, and she also teaches other Spanish language courses, and runs Broadneck's chapter of the Spanish Honor Society.

When asked about her experience at Broadneck High School, Ledger answered, "I love it here. I feel really happy at Broadneck."

Originally from Frederick, Maryland, Ledger developed a love of languages and learning from a young age to get where she is today. Her passion for teaching stemmed from family members, including her mother and grandparents, who were teachers in various subjects. She recalls how her mother inspired young children with her warm demeanor, which has inspired her to carry on her ideas and represent herself as a "warm person" in the classroom.

To continue pursuing her passion, Ledger double-majored in Spanish language and Spanish education, and double-minored in French and Latin American studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She then moved back to Maryland and began her teaching career in Anne Arundel County Public Schools at North County High School for one year, then two years at Southern High School, before she transferred to Broadneck High School.

When asked about her teaching philosophies, Ledger emphasized how much she strives to build an inclusive classroom environment. Specifically, she shared that she "creates routines where speaking Spanish is equitable and everyone feels like they are contributing at the same rate, but at different levels."

Ledger also aims to ensure that every student feels comfortable, valued and confident in themselves and their Spanish speaking abilities.

"I think learning should be fun," Ledger said. "It's important to remember to have fun in the journey of learning."

Ledger has also coordinated two abroad trips to Spanish-speaking countries to further her students' knowledge of the Spanish language and culture. In 2019, she took a group of students to the Dominican Republic for a service-learning trip, where students volunteered in impoverished communities and educational programs for young children. This past summer in 2023, she took a more advanced group of students to Costa Rica and Panama for the opportunity to build their fluency in Spanish and see sites.

Ledger added that going on trips with students and being able to connect to students along the way "were moments that I know I love what I do."

Mack Watkins, a former student of Ledger's and a current sophomore at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, co-majoring in Spanish, had quite a lot to share about her.

"Mrs. Ledger is the most impactful educator I've ever had," Watkins said. "I could always tell how much she cared individually about all her students."

Watkins also was able to receive an internship right when graduating in 2022 and holds a current job as a legal services and outreach coordinator at a clinic catered to Latino immigrants, all because of the guidance Watkins received from Ledger during and after high school.

Madeleine Stern, another former student of Ledger's and a current sophomore at Northwestern University stated, "Even now in college, what I learned in her AP Spanish class has built an excellent foundation for everything I have done since then."

Ledger's love of language learning has not diminished. She is learning American Sign Language and Vietnamese, alongside being well-versed in both Spanish and French.

"I love the idea of continuing to be a learner," Ledger said. "It's kind of like I have a forever love of learning!"

Ledger is proud to continue working with students and helping them create long-lasting memories.

"I am very, very fortunate to wake up each morning and love what I do," Ledger said. "It means the world to me."



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## Chesapeake Connections

» Continued from page 37

shrubs, including several species of oak, beech, birch, sycamore, holly, spicebush and others.

"The field trip was really fun because we planted trees, observed creeks in our area, and looked at water from the creeks under a microscope," said Severna Park Middle School sixth-grader Shane Tomassi. "My favorite part was planting the trees. It was so much fun."

O'Neill explained that tree planting and water-quality measuring techniques were just a few facets of the experience, which served to further the connections between the AACPS curriculum and the outdoors.

"Students develop analytical skills as they make qualitative and quantitative assessments to answer questions such as, 'Is this aquatic ecosystem healthy?' and 'What does a healthy aquatic ecosystem look like?'" he said. "Students use scientific methods and principles

learned in the classroom and apply them to this real-world experience as they take measurements such as dissolved oxygen levels, nutrient loads and turbidity."

Severna Park Middle School teacher Carolyn Chew and her classes have participated in Chesapeake Connections since 2014. She and fellow science teachers Alice Fenn and Lidia Futey-Murphy oversaw about 500 students from their school.

"Severna Park Middle School has always done submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs) or planted trees," she said, noting that other county schools engage in different projects. "One year, we went to Olde Severna Park's Hatton Memorial Beach and planted SAVs and got in the water."

Other schools participate in water-quality monitoring and exploration at state and county parks, tree plantings with private partners, and through

oyster restoration experience offered by Annapolis Maritime Museum.

Chew said her students participated in a spring project last school year where-as this year's unit occurred in the fall. Either way, the lessons benefit the kids.

"They learn about the Chesapeake Bay in the third quarter," Chew said. "In unit one, they learn about environmental literacy goals.

"They will name the tree they plant," she said. "It makes them feel good about themselves."

Through the Chesapeake Connections program, sixth-graders satisfy a 10-hour service learning requirement.

Michelsen thanked the school system for supporting the partnership, despite construction sometimes being disruptive. He sees the collaboration as a way for students to become environmental stewards and to see what projects their parents, the taxpayers, are funding.

O'Neill agreed that the projects encourage students to take pride and

ownership through the tangible act of planting a tree.

Chesapeake Connections is one of four main programs run by the Environmental Literacy and Outdoor Education Office, which has a headquarters located at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville. Other outdoor education office programs include the Trees are Terrific program for kindergarten students held at Downs Park in Pasadena, the Arlington Echo fourth-grade program, and the Water Ready with Drownproofing program for fifth-grade students.

"If students have positive experiences in the outdoors, they may feel more closely connected to the natural environment and develop a sense of environmental stewardship," he said. "Our other activities also focus on introducing students to real-world skills and possible career paths such as water-quality testing or assessing the biodiversity of an aquatic habitat."

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# Q

## Question of the month

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

### If you could give one gift this holiday season, what would it be, and to whom?

I would give an assisted living home in the area with equipment and resources for the people living there so they can exercise to stay healthy so their lives can feel more comfortable during their time there.

**Marin Bailey**

If I could give one gift this holiday season, it would be two large boxes filled with food. This will be for anybody that needs food or homeless people. I hope this will help world hunger!

**Angela Chan**

I would make a food bank/homeless shelter for all of the homeless people because everyone deserves a good and comfortable life.

**Edmund Cowell**

I would give a gift to my BFF, Sadie. She has always been there since I was little and she has been funny, nice, kind and overall the best friend I have ever had. I would give her a check for \$1 million if I could so she could get whatever she wanted.

**Sloane DeCosmo**

I would give my mom new cooking supplies because we are getting our kitchen redone. I would like her to have new knives, forks, spoons and cutting boards to match it.

**Luca DiMauro**

If I could give one gift for this

# OAK HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



holiday season, I would give my parents \$10,000 because they put on Christmas every year for me and my siblings. I thought it was time they got a little more than "thank you."

**Landon Ervick**

I'd give my friend Edmund a trip to a good hunting spot because he likes to go hunting.

**Jagger Eschenburg**

For this holiday, I would give my friend Keegan \$100,000 to Ulta and Sephora. I would also give her four Taylor Swift tickets because she is nice to me, makes me laugh and she is my best friend.

**Grace Fithyan**

I would give my mom two Taylor Swift tickets so I could go with her. Also, she is a big Swiftie.

**Emily Gallicchio**

I would give a kind homeless person a shopping spree and buy them a bunch of stuff that he or she needs to live a happier life.

**Dylan Gursel**

I would get a premium ticket to the spa for my mom because she is always doing so much for my family.

**William Hopkin**

If I could give one gift this holiday season, I would give dog toys to the Senior Dog Sanctuary. Those are dogs that I would want to be really happy on one of their last Christmases.

**Jace Kerley**

I would like to donate food and supplies to a homeless shelter as they need the stuff we use every day. It would put a smile on my face to know that I could change a life for the better if I donate something as simple as a food.

**Henry Kreiner**

I would give a homeless person a day of anything they want. Why? Because it would make him or her feel appreciated and feel like they live a normal life. That is why, out of anything or anybody, I would choose to give a homeless person the best day ever.

**Lucas Ladika**

I would give a card, a baking book and a Starbucks gift card to my Aunt Liz because even though she is not in my family, she has always supported me and loved me like I was her kid.

**Rosalie Larson**

I would give Grace a \$100,000 Ulta gift card because she likes Ulta and can get more skin care. I would give her this because she is my best friend.

**Keegan Merriman**

I would give my parents a super fun trip to wherever they want.

**Dylan Moore**

I would buy my parents a one-week vacation in Paris, and when that's done, then they would fly from Paris to Hawaii for one week there, too. I would give it to my parents so they can have a time without kids.

**Alexander Mufareh**

For this holiday season, I would give a weighted blanket to a very sick child in a hospital. I would give this

because if they are that sick, they must be really scared and nervous, so I would give them that to calm them down.

**Lilliana Mysek**

If I could give one gift this holiday season, it would be a new house in my neighborhood to my friend Nicholas, because I think he would love to play with his best friends in the same neighborhood.

**Ethan Nguyen**

I would give a pink axolotl to my sister because she likes them and I think it would make her happy if she got one.

**Chase Paulson**

I would give it to a person who is struggling in life. I would give them whatever they need, plus more. For example, to a person with cancer, I would give the gift of surviving. For a homeless person, I would give them a house or money to pay for rent or food.

**Anna Pilholski**

I would get my mom a library with plants because she absolutely loves plants and books. There will also be an alpaca farm because she also loves alpacas.

**Henry Russell**

I would give my brother front-row tickets to an NFL Ravens game so he can meet the players. I think that this would make him really happy, and it would also make me the sister of the year.

**Aubrey Scott**

I would get my grandmother a new puppy. Since she misses her old dog, Reese, this would make her happy.

**Nora Shephard**

If I could give one gift this holiday season, it would be money. I chose this because so many people don't have money. It could benefit them in every way possible. Also, it would bring me joy to know I'm helping people in need of help.

**Lillian Soll**

I would give my parents a trip to Santorini, Greece. My parents deserve a trip with no kids because they work hard and take care of us. Also, they take us to sports around Maryland. They need it!

**Riley Thomasson**



The Question of the Month is proudly sponsored by Just-in-Time Renovations  
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## BHS Performs "Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood"

» Continued from page 37

alter-ego of Maid Marian, a woman who leads a ragtag band of outlaws, known as Merry Men, against injustices committed by Prince John, the primary antagonist of the story.

"It's an incredibly loose interpretation of the story of Robin Hood," Whewell said. "There's a lot of turning tropes on their head and seeing what would happen if certain elements of the story were different."

The play begins with an archery competition. Alana Dale finishes second to an old man, who is then discovered to be Robin Hood and promptly arrested. After Robin Hood is rescued by Dale, he reveals himself as Maid Marian in disguise and recruits Dale to join the

Merry Men. Throughout the rest of the play, the Merry Men attempt to deal with the complex relationships forming between members of the group, while simultaneously trying to fight against the tyranny of Prince John. At the conclusion of the play, Marian dies in battle and Dale fills her role as Robin Hood for future generations to come.

Broadneck's adaptation starred Ari Chamberlain as Dale, Castor Bryant as Marian/Robin Hood, and Brayden McDowell as Prince John.

The play's theatrical run was the culmination of several months of work put in at rehearsals, as well as a grueling tech week from November 4-15. Tech week often consisted of up to six hours of rehearsal per day, with cast members

expected to stay until 9:00pm after school.

While getting into character can often present a challenge for some actors, Broadneck's talented cast was up to the task, as the students often rehearsed lines together to get in the right mindset to portray their characters.

"We all have similar ways of getting into character. Once you memorize your lines, it's a pretty simple process," stated Magen Evers, a senior on the cast.

Evers played the role of Sir Lenny the Observant, a royal assistant to Prince John. She also served as the head of costumes for the play, and emphasized how visualizing her costume helped her fully capture the character.

Whewell didn't expect audiences to be

overwhelmed by the themes presented in the show, as his primary intention was to provide a light and entertaining show for those who attended, with occasional thematic messaging sprinkled in. However, he added that he hoped the show would cause the audience to question the importance of traditional gender roles.

When asked what she hoped for audiences to take away from the play, Evers recalled her first experience watching a play.

"I remember seeing how much fun the experience was, and I immediately decided I wanted to get into theater," she said. "I hope that this play (had) a similar effect on the people that come to see it."

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## “Napoleon” Is Entertaining But Not Quite Epic



Photo courtesy of Apple TV+  
Joaquin Phoenix portrays Napoleon Bonaparte in “Napoleon,” an Apple film released theatrically by Columbia Pictures.

By Audrey Ruppert

If 2021’s “House of Gucci” was overambitious, 2023’s “Napoleon” was not ambitious enough. Between those films and box office flop “The Last Duel,” Ridley Scott has been firing a lot of scattershot blanks lately.

Despite the film’s nearly three-hour runtime, I walked out of the theater without learning much about Napoleon. The promotional posters read, “Tyrant, Lover, Conqueror, Emperor, Soldier, Thug,” and he is indeed portrayed to be all those things — but we never get an insight into his childhood or the forces that formed Napoleon and gave him those qualities. Exposition is sparse, and there’s a lack of gravity in transition; it feels as if in one scene, Napoleon is a soldier, and then suddenly he is second in command of the

army, then a consul, and before you know it, he is emperor of France.

Events casually progress, without much explanation of that progression. We get little insight into Napoleon’s inner dialogue or how he might have felt in the face of such world-altering events. I don’t envy anyone who has to simplify the incredibly complicated French Revolution into film format, but regardless, it doesn’t feel particularly well done.

The historical accuracy of the film has already been the cause of gripes. The French certainly never fired cannonballs at the pyramids of Egypt. I don’t mind historical edits if those edits simplify a narrative with underlying truth — sometimes it’s more effective to present the past in a tidy, simplified fashion that’s easy to digest. A figure like Napoleon will always be a hero to some, and any portrayal of him as less than perfect is bound to draw some ire, and this film does not portray him as particularly sympathetic.

He’s shown to be a borderline incel with an inconsistent temperament and a lack of emotional maturity.

Other inaccuracies involve scrambled timing of certain events, or the presence of Napoleon in situations he did not attend in real life. History buffs will never leave a Hollywood production happy, and these inaccuracies are not my primary complaint. The real problem with “Napoleon” is a lack of conviction about its subject. He’s portrayed as a small, insecure man who has great power but also great limitations, yet his motivations are never properly explored. It feels like a real waste of Joaquin Phoenix’s talent. The American accent for the heroes is also a bit strange, considering every other accent is accurate to the character’s origin (British, Russian, etc.).

There are a few saving graces. The costumes are fantastic, and Scott knows how to stage battle scenes. The battle

» Continued on page 47

## A Turkey, A Princess And A Few Lessons

Author Julia Inserro Pens New Children’s Books



“Who Will Bring the Turkey?” is a story about a misunderstanding that leads to a turkey’s meltdown.

Severna Park children’s author Julia Inserro is back with two new stories this holiday season. The first — “Who Will Bring the Turkey?” — was the result of a two-year writing journey and a one-year process to perfect her illustrations. She called this a “fun story about a misunderstanding that leads to a poor turkey’s meltdown.”

“I really love the expressions of the turkey, and kids are telling me they love trying to find his hiding spots on the pages,” she said.

For her other new release, “A Princess Never Farts,” Inserro drew more than 100 princesses.

» Continued on page 47

## Local Photographer Shows The Majesty Of Kent Island Nature With Photo Book

By Alyson Kay

In her new photo book, “Kent Island Waterscapes,” Dale Hall considers the ever-changing beauty of the Chesapeake Bay’s largest island.

“There’s so much happening here,” Hall said. “Between the sunsets, nautical imagery, work boats, charter boats, birds migrating in and out and the change in seasons, you have such different pictures.”

Hall grew up in Linstead on the Severn and became interested in photography when she started reading Life magazine as a teenager.

“I guess I had that creative mind,” Hall said. “I appreciated the work.”

Hall attended the New England School of Photography from 1976-1978. Although she originally wanted to become a fashion photographer, she returned home to Maryland from Boston.

“I wanted to be home with my friends and family,” Hall said.

She worked at camera stores, including Severna Park Photo, and did some freelance work, including portraits and real estate photos. She also worked for a wedding photographer.

Following six years working at Forensic Technologies International’s photo lab, Hall got married and had a son. While raising him as a stay-at-home mom, she started doing covers for Chesapeake Family magazine. She loved it so much that she started a business doing environmental portraits of people and pets on Kent Island beaches.

Hall’s pivot to nature photography started when she moved near Price Creek.

“I was so enthralled with all that I saw at my back door,” Hall said. “I stopped doing portraits and got immersed in the nature around me.”

The ever-changing conditions involved in nature photography means that most of the pictures that Hall takes come from being in the right place at the right time.

“I’m just always shooting,” Hall said.



Photo courtesy of Pat Appel  
Dale Hall stood on the shoreline while holding her new book, “Kent Island Waterscapes.”

When Hall went to a 2017 book signing at the Kent Island Federation of the Arts for the photo essay book “Natural Wonders of Assateague Island” by Mark Henrick, a thought hit her.

“I realized that I had a good amount to do a comprehensive photojournalistic book about Kent Island,” Hall said.

Hall used Hendrick’s publisher, Schiffer Publishing, which employed a unique tactic for soliciting new authors: bookmarks that read, in part, “If you have a fresh idea, we would love to hear from you, as we are continually seeking new authors and their ideas.”

“I sent my idea to them, and they

liked it,” Hall said.

Although Hall felt that she had enough of a back catalog for a book, she realized that she wanted to include more pictures from Kent Narrows.

These photos included shots of the stuck Ever Forward container ship, the inaugural fleet blessing at Kentmorr Marina and the charter boat Marylander, racing a storm. She also got shots of a sunset while having dinner on opening night for Libby’s Coastal Kitchen + Cocktails.

The large coffee table book contains almost 200 photos taken around Kent Island, themed and organized around the different seasons.

“I believe that it covers everything, and the seasons are very vivid here,” Hall said. “I was taking pictures every season, so I had a good amount for every season, and I felt like it pulled it together really well.”

Hall had a strategy of how she organized the photos that she used within each section.

» Continued on page 47

# Midnight Madness

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## “Napoleon” Is Entertaining But Not Quite Epic

» Continued from page 45

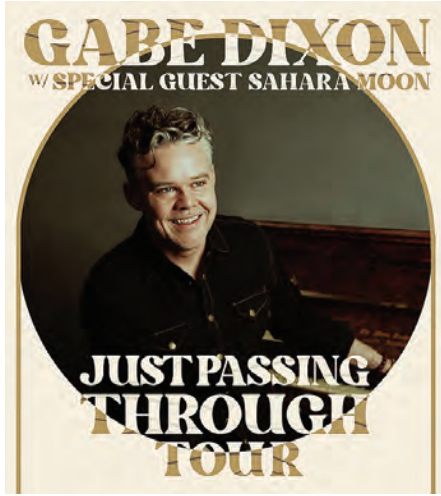
on the lake of ice rivals the Battle of the Bastards from “Game of Thrones” for one of the best war scenes I’ve seen in the last 10 years. It’s undeniable the spell his empress, Josephine, casts upon Napoleon. At times, their chemistry is palpable, even if his infatuation with her isn’t particularly well explained.

I also appreciated a portrayal of such a great military conqueror, up there with Genghis Khan and Alexander the Great, as a nervous wreck who really struggled to get himself together in battle but managed to pull through in the end. I imagine that might be true of many great figures in history.

A few scenes are particularly poignant: Napoleon standing on a box to match the height of a mummy and look into the eyes of an ancient king, and Josephine telling Napoleon in a seductive whisper that without her, he is nothing, and he knows it. But it feels like a smattering of compelling scenes stuffed with an excessive amount of filler.

I’m not sure who this film was designed to please. History buffs will likely complain about the accuracy, and as someone who knew little about Napoleon beforehand, I don’t feel as if I learned much about him. It’s a shame considering the wealth of material Scott had to work with. I doubt “Napoleon” will be a film much remembered.

## Gabe Dixon To Perform At Rams Head



Singer/songwriter and Tedeschi Trucks Band keyboardist Gabe Dixon is embarking on his “Just Passing Through” headline tour this winter with a stop at Rams Head On Stage on December 16.

The tour is named after Dixon’s latest EP, “Passing Through.”

Born and raised in Tennessee, Dixon is a Nashville-based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Since he emerged on the music scene in 1999, he has been penning heartfelt tunes that have been covered by Garth Brooks, Parachute, Ben Rector and Erin McCarley, to name a few musicians. Dixon’s music has also appeared in films such as “The Proposal” and TV shows such as “Nashville,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Vampire Diaries” and “Parks and Recreation.” Along with his own appearances on “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” and “The Late Late Show,” Dixon has performed with Paul McCartney, Alison Krauss & Union Station, Supertramp, Loggins and Messina, and O.A.R.

In 2019, he became the full-time keyboardist and vocalist with Tedeschi Trucks Band and recorded and helped write most of the songs on their 2022

four-album tour-de-force, “I Am The Moon.”

Over the past two years, Dixon has stayed busy, releasing his own full-length studio album, “Lay It On Me,” along with three live EPs and a studio EP, with “Passing Through” released this September. Last summer, he was on the bill along with Tedeschi Trucks Band and Los Lobos for the 36-show “Wheels Of Soul” tour.

## A Turkey, A Princess And A Few Lessons

» Continued from page 45

“I knew she had to be just right; the perfect combination of smart, sassy and adorable,” Inserro said. “The feedback I’m getting from readers of ‘A Princess Never Farts’ is reinforcing the fact that waiting to get her just right was completely worth the time spent drawing princess after princess after princess. One reader said, ‘Literally the best book we’ve bought. Shows the unreasonable rules put on little girls and calls it out by a strong little girl and reinforces it at the end by making new rules that treat people like people.’”

A second book in the series — “A Princess Never Peeks” — debuted in late October. The other two books were released in September. To learn more, visit [www.juliainserro.com](http://www.juliainserro.com).

## The Majesty Of Kent Island Nature

» Continued from page 45

“I tried to get two pictures that complemented one another and made it pleasing to go from one page to another when you had it open,” Hall said. “I wanted the colors to coordinate. I wanted it to work well together.”

Each section includes an introductory page with a few paragraphs describing the season.

The forward for the book was written by Jack Broderick, president of the Kent

Island Heritage Society. He also attended the book launch event.

Outside of the United States, Hall’s book is sold in bookstores in Paris, England and parts of Asia.

“It’s very strange that my book on Kent Island would be ordered by these bookstores overseas,” Hall said.

“Kent Island Waterscapes” is \$34.99 and is available at Park Books in Severna Park, along with major book retailers including Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

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## Driven By Community:

### Severna Park Automotive's 25-Year Roadmap Of Resilience, Relationships And Reliability



Miker McNealey has forged friendships with members of the community since he started as a mechanic in the 1990s and later became the sole owner of Severna Park Automotive.

By Steven Jacobs  
Student Intern

In an era when businesses often come and go as fast as fleeting speedometers, Severna Park Automotive has not only weathered the storms of economic shifts and technological revolutions but has also thrived for 25 years.

Shop owner Mike McNealey was a technician for 20 years and co-owner of Severna Park Automotive with his two business partners, Andy Wollentin and Lonny Wiezorek, before becoming full owner of the business. Throughout that time, he has witnessed the evolution of cars, customers and the fabric of the greater Severna Park community.

"Essentially, 25 years ago, three of us that were working here partnered up and bought out our previous boss," McNealey said. "And then, 20 years later, my two partners retired, and then I bought them out. And that's the 25 years. But we were involved with the business much longer. I have personally been here now for 44 years.

"There was a lot of people saying that a three-way partnership wouldn't survive. But we were three different personalities, so we kind of divided up the responsibilities early," McNealey said.

McNealey, Wollentin and Wiezorek developed a collaborative synergy, so they each held a specialized role in the

» Continued on page 54

## What Is Going On With The Markets?

Jason LaBarge  
LaBarge Financial



I want to share a quick note to offer some perspective on the many headlines floating around.

There are plenty of things to be worried about right now, so I'd like to pause for a

second to remember the abundance in our lives.

Especially when so many folks are suffering.

When the world stresses me out, I remind myself to be grateful for what I have.

I'm grateful for my family and friends.

I'm grateful for my health.

I'm grateful to have a roof over my head and food on the table.

I'm grateful to have work that gives me purpose.

What are you grateful for right now? Let's dive in.

What's going on with markets right now?

A lot of fear, volatility and sudden relief, I think.

We just experienced three months of losses while markets were driven by fear.

And then a sudden bounce on jubilation that the Federal Reserve might be done raising rates this year.

These whips and snaps are not an unusual pattern for markets. It's common to see major drops just about every year. Data from J.P. Morgan Asset Management shows corrections of 10% or more have happened in 15 of the last 23 years, even in years when the overall market was positive.

What will markets do next?

That's hard to say because we've seen "good" news get mixed reviews by traders.

Recent data shows that the economy seems to be doing well.

Consumer confidence remained high in October, showing Americans are feeling upbeat, according to CNBC.

Paychecks rose more than expected in the third quarter, which is great news for American workers but suggests inflation remains persistent.

The first estimate of third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) showed that the economy grew even faster

» Continued on page 51

## Chamber Update

Liz League  
CEO  
GSPACC



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a Congressional Committee Physician of the Year award. In 2002, he opened Maryland's first cosmetic surgery and luxury medspa, now known as PURE: Positive, Uplifting, Rejuvenated, Enhanced. The practice and medspa recently relocated to Millersville. ([www.mdcosmetic.com](http://www.mdcosmetic.com))

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**First Savings Mortgage** – A former

» Continued on page 54

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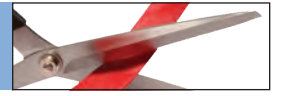
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# RIBBON CUTTINGS



## Hudson & Fouquet Salon Comes To Arnold Station

*The Arnold Station shopping center has a new tenant, a Hudson & Fouquet salon. Members of the business community gathered on November 18 for a ribbon-cutting to mark the grand opening. Owners Matt Hudson and Luc Fouquet have been operating their Annapolis salon for more than 20 years and this marks their third location.*



## Magnolia Wellness Focuses On The Mind, Body And Spirit

*Founded by Laura MacKay, Magnolia Wellness provides a variety of holistic health and wellness services that support mind-body-spirit wholeness. The team of practitioners enjoyed a ribbon-cutting and open house event while collecting donations for Warrior Music Foundation in November. Magnolia Wellness is located at 497 Ritchie Highway, suites 1A and 1B, in Severna Park.*

## Maryland Curiosity Lab Hosts Kid-Friendly Opening

*The Maryland Curiosity Lab held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting at Gloria Dei! Church in Arnold this fall. Staff invited the community to engage in family activities, including a petting zoo with mini cows and piglets, pumpkin bowling, and slime-making. Plus, the lab had student-led tours of its new Acton Academy, which will serve kids in preschool through eighth grade next year.*



## Good Hair Collective Comes To The Park

*With its team of extension specialists, colorists and artists, Good Hair Collective marked its arrival in Severna Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in November. The hair salon offers personalized services that are tailored to meet the specific needs of each client. Find Good Hair Collective at 487 Ritchie Highway, suite 104, in Severna Park.*

# David Orso Celebrates 20th Anniversary Of Real Estate Business



David Orso and his mother, Mary Ann Orso, attended the Severna Park Community Center's 2022 gala in which David was the gala honoree.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

David Orso may be the only real estate agent in Severna Park ever to sell more than \$1 billion of real estate. However, for the 20-year business owner, it hasn't always been easy.

David went broke in the real estate recession of 2008. His wife, Dawn Orso, fought breast cancer in 2015. He then battled throat cancer in 2020-2021.

"With each challenge, my perspective shifted, my heart grew bigger and my faith grew stronger," David said.

David believes part of being in business for two decades means there will be tough seasons.

"I have found breakdowns are breakthroughs," David said. "I'd hope to encourage anyone going through a dark season to hang in there and keep putting one foot in front of the other."

Amongst the lows, there have been many highs. David has been ranked among the top 10 agents in America. He has won many industry awards, is commonly referred to as the GOAT (greatest of all time) among his colleagues, and he is asked regularly to speak about residential real estate. He has represented more than 2,000 clients.

What truly sets David apart from other agents, though, is his commitment to philanthropy. Despite David having a career that is known for high stress and long hours, philanthropy remains at the core of his business. The David Orso Team has donated more than \$500,000 to hundreds of local charities.

Dawn helps David with the couple's

philanthropic efforts and the business, which is located at the corner of Evergreen Road and Riggs Avenue. They share children Max (age 22), Olivia (age 17) and Mia (age 14). This year, Olivia is interning at the real estate office after school. She has committed to playing lacrosse at Ohio State University next year.

"When Dawn and I started our family foundation and thought through giving strategies, we agreed we could make the largest impact by donating our wealth, wisdom and work to small, local nonprofits," David said.

The Orsos have supported the Severna Park Community Center, Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, Sarah's House, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), the Severn River Association, the Magothy River Association, the Annapolis Light House shelter, Bello Machre, Boys Hope Girls Hope, Stef Ripple and Hospice of the Chesapeake.

"We feel these nonprofits make daily contributions, which are so immediate to our community, and the majority of our contribution goes toward the respective cause," David elaborated.

David credits his parents, Don Orso and Mary Ann Orso, for laying a foundation of a service-first mindset.

When reflecting on the most important lesson learned in 20 years of real estate efforts, David said, "Each day I get to use my profession to enhance a community I love and help connect the community."

His space has become a community hub for events such as a shredding day in the spring, bleachers for the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's annual Fourth of July parade, a costume collection site for underprivileged kids at Halloween, and toy collection site during the holidays for sick kids spending Christmas in the hospital.

What is David's advice for success?

"If you really want to be successful, then life needs to be much bigger than yourself," David said.

Looking ahead to the next 20 years, David knows it will be incumbent upon him to teach the next generation about leading with a giver's heart.

"The world is starving for leadership currently, and we need leaders who bring people together with a clear vision to bond communities," he said.

To work with the David Orso Team of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices PenFed Realty, call 443-372-7171 or email david@davidorso.com. Visit www.davidorso.com to learn more.

again if the Fed signals another hike or recession headlines return.

**Bottom line, while the economy is still strong, investors are feeling jittery.**

It's hard to know which way markets will turn next and we're expecting more volatility ahead.

When the world stresses you out, remind yourself of all the things you are grateful for. Keep these in mind in the new year ahead.

## What Is Going On With The Markets?

» Continued on page 51

than expected, growing 4.9% at an annualized rate.

If investors feel optimistic about future business prospects, the rally could continue.

However, they could get fearful

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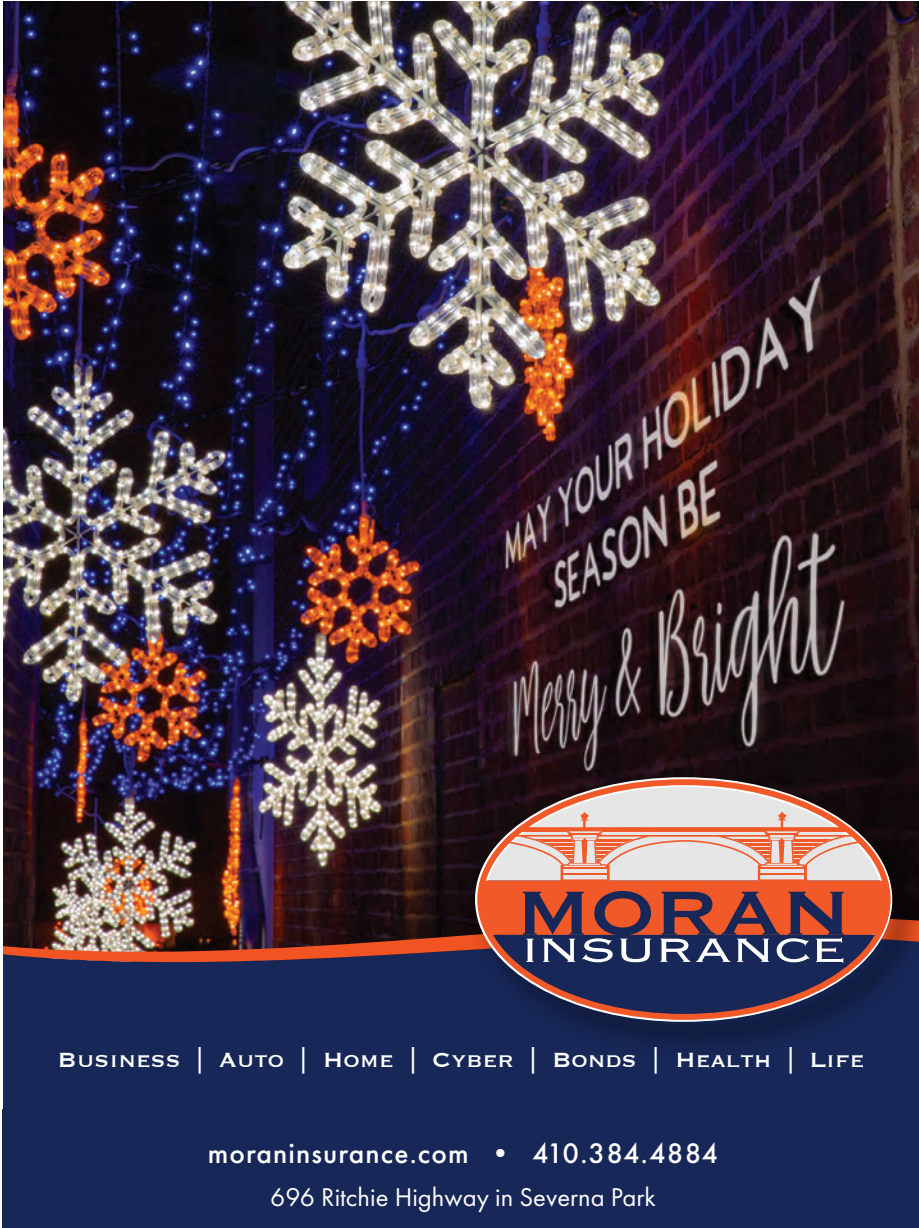
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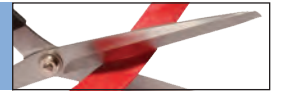
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# RIBBON CUTTINGS



## Split Ends Beauty Spa & Wellness Gets A New Beginning

*In business for more than two decades, Split Ends Beauty Spa & Wellness welcomed the community to its new space in Severna Park on November 15. Joined by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, Split Ends treated guests to food and drinks, holiday gifts and raffles.*



## Women's Clinics Completes Rebrand

*One of three Women's Clinics locations, the Severna Park spot celebrated a rebranding on November 28. The clinic provides free services to women for pregnancy health, wellness screening, breast exams and more, and it's located at 650 Ritchie Highway, suite 307, in Severna Park.*

## New Year's Financial Resolutions

**Brian Conrad**  
Edward Jones



**N**ow that we have almost reached 2024, you might be thinking about your goals and hopes for the new year. But in addition to whatever personal resolutions you might make — volunteering,

other, possibly more productive, ways of using credit. And if you truly can't afford something that's nonessential, don't go into debt for it. "Live within your means" is an old piece of advice, but it's just as valid now as ever.

**Build an emergency fund.** If you suddenly needed a major home or car repair, or received a large medical bill not fully covered by insurance, would you have the funds available? If not, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or other long-term investments. To avoid this possibility, try to build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that's separate from the ones you use to meet your daily expenses. It can take a while to build such a fund, but if you make it a priority and contribute regular amounts each month, you can make good progress.

**Avoid emotional decisions.** Too many people overreact to events in the financial markets because they let their emotions get the better of them. If the market is temporarily down, it doesn't mean you need to sell investments to "cut your losses" — especially if these investments still have good fundamentals and are still appropriate for your portfolio. It can be hard to ignore market volatility, but you'll be better off if you focus on

the long term and continue following an investment strategy that's designed to meet your needs.

**Review your goals.** Over time, your goals may have changed. For example, while you once might have wanted to retire early, and planned for it, you may now find that you'd like to work a few more years. If that's the case, you may also need to adjust your financial and investment strategies.

**Revisit your estate plans.** If you've married, divorced, remarried or added children to your family within the past few years, you may need to review the account titling and beneficiary designations on your 401(k) and other retirement assets, along with your estate-planning documents, such as your will or living trust. You might also need to revise these documents in other ways.

Of course, you may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work at them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 and beyond.

*Brian Conrad is a financial advisor with Edward Jones. His office is located at 479 Jumpers Hole Road, suite 202, in Severna Park. To learn more, call 410-544-8970, email [brian.conrad@edwardjones.com](mailto:brian.conrad@edwardjones.com) or visit [www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad](http://www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad).*

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.*

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## Rutzen Eye Specialists Adds To Physician Team



**Sara Francomacaro**

**S**ara Francomacaro has joined Rutzen Eye Specialists & Laser Center. She attended Bucknell University for her undergraduate degree in neuroscience and studio art, graduating with the highest honors.

Francomacaro attended the University of Maryland for her medical degree and graduated with honors and recognition for excellence in ophthalmology.

Born and raised locally, she settled down in Maryland with her husband and daughter, and she remained at the University of Maryland for ophthalmology residency, where she graduated as a glaucoma fellow at the University of Maryland and Howard University, where she completed her training to become a glaucoma specialist.

## Chamber Update

» Continued from page 48

private banker and certified financial planner, Matt Palmer has been helping clients with their mortgage needs since 2013 and has personally closed over \$300 million in volume. Matt enjoys working with all clients - from nervous first-time buyers to luxury homebuyers and savvy investors. ([www.palmerhome-loans.com](http://www.palmerhome-loans.com))

**Hudson & Fouquet Salon** – At Hudson & Fouquet, the team believes that your salon experience should not be transactional - it should be personal. The lifelong relationships they build with their guests are rooted in creativity, communication and integrity. They love to collaborate, and they are committed to maintaining the integrity of your hair. ([www.hudson-fouquet.com](http://www.hudson-fouquet.com))

**TGA of Greater Annapolis** – What began as a single program offered in the hallways of one school in Los Angeles is now a nationwide network of passionate franchise owners. They believe sports change lives and seek to make their students better players and better people. TGA combines athletics, academics and life lessons to create fun and engaging youth programs. Keep swinging! ([www.playtga.com/greaterannapolis](http://www.playtga.com/greaterannapolis))

We held nine ribbon-cutting celebrations over the last month. Four were grand reopenings and included **Club Pilates Severna Park, SE Beauty Spa and Wellness (Split Ends Salon), BeBalanced Weight Loss Center in Crofton and the Severna Park Women's Clinic.**

Four grand openings included **Magnolia Wellness, Maryland Curiosity Lab Elementary School, Good Hair Collective and Hudson & Fouquet Salon in Arnold.**

**Crofton Yoga** celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Our Successful Women in Business held a wonderful wine-tasting event at **Cheers & Spirits** in Arnold. The store carries a variety of libations and has fantastic gifts too, especially hostess gifts. In December, the store is featuring its "Polar Express" model train for the holidays.

Our annual tree-lighting festival was held on December 1 at the chamber. Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors who made the lighting of the magnificent tree possible: **Maryland Lighting and Sprinklers, The Big Bean and Matt Wyble of Next Step Realty.**

Thank you to our event sponsors: **Sweet Satisfaction, Fieldstone Animal Inn, Delegate Heather Bagnall, Senator Dawn Gile, Lean on Dee Senior Home Care, Smart Fit Kids Academy and Chick-fil-A - Severna Park.** Thank you for the entertainment from **Creative Force Dance Center, the Severna Park Elementary School chorus, the Severna Park High School band and the Severna Park High School cheerleaders!**

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

## Driven By Community: Severna Park Automotive

» Continued from page 48 business.

"One partner, Andy (the business strategist), was doing most of the book work, human resources stuff ... I (the expert craftsman) was a mechanic by trade, so I was still working as a mechanic. And Lonny (the customer whisperer) [with his] great personality, friendly, was our service advisor and would call out to talk to people in the community about work they needed on their cars," McNealey said.

Severna Park Automotive's journey through economic downturns, such as the 2008 global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, showcases not just the team's resilience but also how they could turn adversity into opportunity.

Staying afloat in tough times also goes hand in hand with giving back to the community. As a lifelong resident of Severna Park, McNealey has been able to forge friendships with members of the community since he started as a mechanic in the '90s.

"We've always been involved with the community, donating our time and resources," McNealey said. "And I've pretty much expanded on that. I support a lot of local organizations, sponsor different events. We have so many great resources in our little community. And growing up here, I actually used a lot of them. And so I definitely see the value involving ourselves in different organizations, and so I donate to them, I support them. And, it's a great feeling to be able to give back,

right?"

Severna Park Automotive isn't just reflecting on the past but looking to the road ahead. McNealey appreciates everyone who has been a part of this remarkable journey, inviting them to continue riding shotgun as the business gears up for the miles yet to come.

Among others, he credited former owner Gordon Mann, along with Wollentin and Wiezorek, for helping the business succeed.

"And I do want to thank also a lot of my crew," McNealey said. "They've been here for a long time. And I certainly would not have been able to survive without all my employees that I have here. I am very thankful and very proud of their accomplishments as well."



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- ✓ Personalized Risk Analysis
- ✓ Managed Portfolios
- ✓ Holistic Retirement Planning

**Retirement can be overwhelming.** Having an Independent financial professional to help set the groundwork can help **ease the stress and bring the joy to your golden years.**

Call to schedule your **complimentary consultation today!**



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