



Earth Day Festival

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Let's Go! Music Concert

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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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MAY 2024

## Park Music Scene Expands With Parris Underground



Laura MacKay hopes to revive a favorite part of her teenage and young adult years in Severna Park — friends gathering to listen to local music.

By Lauren Cowin

A new music venue catering to all ages and genres opened in Severna Park this spring. Parris Underground, located on Ritchie Highway behind Donut Shack and Pitaya, welcomed its first acts on March 23.

Owner Laura MacKay, a Severna Park High School graduate who also owns neighboring business Magnolia Wellness, remembers fondly the experiences she had in her teenage years attending concerts with friends, particularly at the Manhattan Beach Clubhouse. She hopes to foster the same kind of environment in this new venture, she said.

An important tenet of Parris Underground is that it is alcohol-free — an

effort to give both minors and sober adults a safe space to perform, gather and enjoy music.

“Sometimes, as a sober person, it’s  
» Continued on page 5

## Michael Costa Dishes Mediterranean Fare As Concept Chef At D.C. Restaurant

By Meredith Winter

“Over the years, as Zaytinya’s ‘Greek Grandmother,’ I have had the privilege to work often with the wonderful kitchen team, led by concept chef Michael Costa. He is one of the rare people I know so obsessively dedicated to making everything as it should be, never cutting corners, on the contrary insisting, for example, that fresh chickpeas are used in the spring for the special green hummus although it is such a pain to peel the tiny pods. He makes sure that everything that comes out of the kitchen is absolutely as it should be, as José originally imagined it.”  
Aglia Kremezi, Foreword, “Zaytinya”

Long before he was named concept chef at José Andrés’  
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## Best Of Severna Park Winners Receive Awards



Each year, we ask Severna Park Voice readers to choose the Best Of Severna Park — the top businesses and services, the most beloved school and nonprofit, and everything else that makes the area a special place. We tallied the votes in March. Throughout April, the Voice staff stopped by your favorite spots to congratulate the winners. See more photos of the winners on pages 12-21.



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## Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

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

## Broadneck Parents Make Prom Breakfast Possible

By Zach Sparks

This was not a typical Friday-night party. A group of parents gathered with hot-glue guns to make hedges out of boxes.

The activity embodied the spirit of the Broadneck High School prom breakfast committee and its approximate 25 members. Hands on. Doing whatever it takes to make the event a success.

Liliane Corwin and Marisa Sherman are the co-chairs of this year's prom breakfast. Both have daughters who are seniors at Broadneck. Corwin's husband is in the U.S. Marine Corps, so her family has moved from California to Illinois to Maryland. When her daughter found a friend, Sherman's daughter, the moms also became friends.

Corwin knew Sherman was an active parent, often volunteering her time to help the music booster clubs and marching bands at her daughters' schools. When Corwin recruited Sherman to make this year's prom breakfast possible, Sherman may have taken the event name literally.

"I was not sure what I signed up for," Sherman said with a laugh. "I'm not a night owl."

The annual prom breakfast gives kids a safe and fun environment to enjoy after prom. Planning is not all fun, though.

"It's a PTSO event, but there's no budget for it and we were told it cost about \$10,000, which is a big number," Sherman said.

The parents quickly got to work with fundraising, partnering with Senor Chile, Broadneck Grill & Cantina, and O'Loughlin's for restaurant nights and then organizing yard sales.



*Liliane Corwin (left) and Marisa Sherman gathered volunteers to fundraise, craft materials and plan this year's Broadneck High School after-prom breakfast.*

"I asked everyone, 'Do you have anything you would donate?'" Corwin said. "My garage is full. We got so many donations."

The generosity was bountiful. Drama Decor donated \$1,200 in excess inventory from its holiday craft bazaar. Data Center Solutions made a generous donation. KinderCare Learning Centers gave away mini fridges and popcorn machines.

Paired with entertainment from DJ Rockin' Ed, breakfast food and door prizes for seniors, those giveaways are sure to make the event special.

"There's such a sense of tradition with this event," Sherman said. "When we were at the Christmas bazaar, people were remembering their prom breakfasts from 20 years ago."

This year's volunteers have done their best to make the event memorable. That process started with a series of pitches.

"Parents went all out with the theme," Sherman said. "Parents came with PowerPoint presentations and

posters."

Corwin and Sherman cannot share the theme, because that would ruin the surprise for students, but they said the Broadneck cafeteria and entranceway will be transformed.

"The decorations will transform the school into a whimsical space," Corwin said.

Volunteers are also making items reusable to make prom breakfast easier for the next committee.

The parents believe the class of 2024 will appreciate their hard work. After all, this is the class that has won the schoolwide wall-decorating challenge three times.

Last year's prom breakfast committee sold 500 tickets and 250 students attended. Corwin and Sherman hope for a similar turnout this spring.

The class of 2024 started their high school experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sherman and Corwin agreed that their girls are finishing on a positive note compared to where they started, and the moms hope their kids carry that momentum forward.

"We want them to know they are loved more than they can imagine and that the whole community supports them," Sherman said.

Each time they are hand-painting items, hanging tapestries or paper-macheting, the parent volunteers remember that the cause is well worth the effort to give their kids a proper celebration before graduation, and for some kids, college.

"They're off to an amazing journey and we did that (prom breakfast) for them," Corwin said. "They're special, with their quirks and their uniqueness, and they should take on the world and be as awesome as they are."



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The Severna Park Voice is published by

 THE VOICE MEDIA INC.

Family owned and operated since 1981

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P.O. Box 608  
Severna Park, MD 21146

410-647-9400

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The Severna Park Voice is partnered with **Evergreen Printing Company**, which examines all aspects of its operation to protect the environment and conserve resources. Evergreen Printing has installed 5,924 solar panels, uses soy- and vegetable-based inks and their process-free plates have no environmental impact and are 100% chemical free.

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## MRA Celebrates Arbor Day With St. Martin's Students



In late April, the Magothy River Association (MRA) and students from St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School observed Arbor Day by planting trees at Lake Waterford Park in Pasadena. The MRA donated three Virginia pines and three Virginia sweetspire trees to the county to replace a number of trees that were recently lost along the park's Champion Trail. One of the trees was planted in honor of longtime MRA volunteer Stephen Troy.

The first American Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska, when an estimated 1 million trees were planted. President Theodore Roosevelt issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States" about the importance of trees in April 1907. In 1970, President Richard Nixon officially designated National Arbor Day to be observed on the last Friday of April. It is typically celebrated with the planting of trees.

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# Severna Park Farmers Market Returns With Farm-Fresh Provisions, Locally Crafted Wares

By Meredith Winter

For over 30 years, the Severna Park Farmers Market has offered the community a wide array of fresh fruits, vegetables and other staples on Saturday mornings from spring through fall. The market's 2024 season kicked off on April 27, and it will run every Saturday from 8:00am-noon through October 27.

This year's slate of Maryland-based vendors includes numerous farmers, several area food vendors, and talented local makers selling products they create.

Farmers market attendees can knock out their grocery shopping while supporting local growers and producers by selecting from farm-fresh seasonal vegetables, fruits, eggs, meats, breads, pastries, herbs and more. "Market Master" Anita Robertson, who oversees the Severna Park Farmers Market, highlighted the unique opportunity afforded to market shoppers to have face-to-face conversations with the people who produce the food they purchase.

Among the participating farms are Rosy Side Farm, Pat's Produce and Gourds, Morris Hill Farm and Zahradka Family Farm. Longtime vendor My Nana's Kitchen will return with a selection of jams, jellies, eggs and cheese. Vera's Original Bakery will offer handmade pastries, and The Breadery will have a wide variety of fresh breads and baked goods for purchase. Local herbs, microgreens, honey, wine and rum will also be available.

Hungry market-goers can grab a snack as they shop, such as made-to-order waffles from Baltimore Waffle Co. or gourmet pickles from The Ville's Dills. Although the market is primarily a "fruit and veg" operation, according to Robertson, attendees can also bring home a bouquet of cut flowers to liven up their homes; stock up on treats for their canine friends; and perhaps pick up a handcrafted gift for someone they love.

Local makers showcasing their wares will include Joyful Clay (handmade functional pottery), Evie & Park (soy candles and wax melts), Chesapeake Fiber Crafters (hand-spun yarn and knit items) and Three Blue Bunnies (recycled denim creations).

Evie & Park owner Ashley Gibbs, who operates the small candle business with her husband, Chris,



Arnold residents Ashley and Chris Gibbs (pictured), along with their two children, enjoy selling hand-poured soy candles and accessories at the Severna Park Farmers Market each year.



The talented makers behind Chesapeake Fiber Crafters will offer market-goers demonstrations of how they create yarn on a spinning wheel, in addition to offering their handmade items for sale.

is an Arnold resident who began hand-pouring soy candles in 2018. Their company is named after their two children, and their participation in the farmers market each weekend is a family affair. Gibbs ex-

plained that while she focuses on selling candles, her husband and son run an adjacent booth where they make fresh-squeezed lemonade and cotton candy. Their daughter gets in on the fun, too.

"We put a lot of love and a lot of thought into what we do," Chris Gibbs said. "It's not necessarily about the product, it's more about the venue ... the people that organize and run (the Severna Park Farmers Market) are fantastic, and the customers are even better. People treat that place like it's a grocery store. ... We see the same people there every week and I think it says a lot about the status of the community."

Fellow Arnold resident Lori Beard is the founder and owner of Chesapeake Fiber Crafters. She and about a half dozen fellow makers who live near the Chesapeake Bay — hence the name — create hand-dyed and hand-spun yarn and knitwear such as socks. At an adjoining booth, they offer demonstrations of making yarn on a spinning wheel.

Like Gibbs, Beard always enjoys connecting with the community and her "regular" customers at the farmers market. She and her fellow crafters also look forward to seeing the cute dogs that people bring with them. Chesapeake Fiber Crafters will be at the market every other weekend.

In addition to being a great opportunity to shop local, the farmers market also offers an educational component for attendees interested in home gardening. The Anne Arundel County Master Gardeners, University of Maryland Extension will have representatives on hand each week to provide information on and answer questions about composting, fertilizing, pollinators, plants, soil and more.

The Severna Park Farmers Market will be open every Saturday, rain or shine (barring a significant weather event), from 8:00am-noon through October 27. The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the beginning of the 2024 season on May 4 at 10:00am.

The market is located in the park and ride lot at the intersection of Ritchie Highway and Jones Station Road. To learn more about participating vendors, check out [www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/severnaparkfarmersmarket) or follow the market on Instagram @severnaparkfarmersmarket.

## Park Music Scene Expands With Parris Underground

» Continued from page 1

intimidating to go somewhere where you know you're going to be around a ton of loud, drunk people," MacKay explained. "What we wanted to do here was have it really be about the music."

Parris Underground is a family affair for MacKay and her husband, Travis Guare, a bass player with a background in sound engineering. Her 9-year-old daughter has even assisted with stamping guests' hands at the door — a testament to the all-ages policy.

MacKay recalls the small venues where some of her musician friends launched their professional careers, and she hopes to provide that opportunity to today's young local musicians.

Some of those young musicians are Cammeron Blackburn, Keith Ivey and Nicholas Stohler, who perform as the band Ivy League. After performing at Parris Underground in March, they called the venue a "dream come true" for musicians and fans who want to witness the Severna Park music scene thriving.

The typical format of a night at Parris Underground will be an acous-



Musicians of all genres and experience levels can play at Parris Underground.

tic opener followed by two full bands. MacKay, who describes her favorite genre as gypsy punk, wants to create an environment where people of all ages can come together and enjoy a variety of music, all in one night, that bridges the decades.

"It's been really interesting to see the generations come together too, and people learning new music that they maybe never would have heard of or never been exposed to, and I think that's what we

aim to do with every show ... have that span of generations," MacKay said.

Having lost friends to suicide, MacKay strongly believes in the power of both music and community, and she wants her venue to serve as a safe haven for anyone to come clear their mind and improve their mental health.

"I'm hoping that we can be that place where people are like, 'OK, well I'm not having a good day, but let me go hear some music,'" MacKay said.

The name Parris Underground is a nod to Jeni Parris Brady, a friend of MacKay's who was a local music scene aficionado and died from a rare form of cancer in 2019. MacKay described her as a "bright light" in the music world, and her name combined with the venue's physical location were a perfect match.

MacKay hopes to eventually broaden the entertainment offerings beyond music and host comedians, poetry reading and board game competitions.

At the newly built bar, patrons can purchase soft drinks such as water, seltzer, sodas and "Botanically M'ades" — homemade lemon and limeades mixed with locally sourced, low-sugar fruit syrups.

Beginning the first weekend in May, Parris Underground will have live music on Friday and Saturday nights from 7:00pm-10:30pm, and open mic every Sunday. There is a \$10 cover charge on Fridays and Saturdays, and open mics are free on Sundays. Musicians interested in performing can email [parrisunderground@gmail.com](mailto:parrisunderground@gmail.com).

## Zumbathon For St. Jude Children's Hospital



It's almost time to move it, move it while supporting a great cause. The annual St. Jude Zumbathon is returning to Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the hopes of finding a cure and continuing research in the fight against all childhood cancer and other childhood deadly diseases.

This year's Zumbathon is set for June 9 from 10:00am-12:30pm. The event will include two hours of non-stop dancing with instructors from around the community, a children's performance, vendors, live music from a DJ, an online auction, a raffle and door prizes.

Anyone who cannot attend can still participate by ordering an event shirt, participating in the online

auction, or by making a monetary donation as an individual or team in the event link.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$30 for VIP (second and third front rows). For more

information or tickets, call Natalie Haskell at 831-402-7561 or visit the St. Jude fundraising page or Facebook event page, also available by clicking on the event at [www.facebook.com/workitwithnatalie](http://www.facebook.com/workitwithnatalie).

## Earleigh Heights Open House



Want to meet your friendly neighborhood firefighters? Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company will host an open house on May 11 from noon-3:00pm. The career staff and volunteers will have displays and exhibits set up to entertain families. Free refreshments and food will be offered. The fire department is located at 161 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park.

## County Executive Pittman Announces First Interagency Environmental Subcabinet

County Executive Stuart Pittman has formed the county's first environmental subcabinet, bringing together staff from across Anne Arundel County government to collaborate on various local environmentally focused initiatives.

"I am thrilled to announce the creation of the Environmental Subcabinet," Pittman said. "This group will ensure that progress continues on each of our environmental initiatives and that every relevant agency is doing its part."

The group is facilitated by Anne Arundel County's senior environmental policy advisor, Erik Michelsen, and will meet on a bimonthly basis. During the first meeting, staff from the departments of central services, public works, inspections and permits, recreation and parks, planning and zoning, and emergency management met with the executive director of the Resil-

ience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Matt Fleming, to discuss issues such as tree planting, invasive control and preservation efforts across the county.

"Anne Arundel County is doing tremendous work to protect and enhance the environment locally and manage the challenges associated with increasingly intense weather events," Michelsen said. "Regular communication between county agencies is critical to ensuring that this work moves forward efficiently and smoothly, and to identifying opportunities to collaborate and coordinate early in the process."

The group will also work closely with the Resilience Authority on climate resilience projects like sea-level-rise adaptation planning, flood mitigation, refining stormwater standards for new development, improving energy efficiency, and expanding renewable energy efforts locally.



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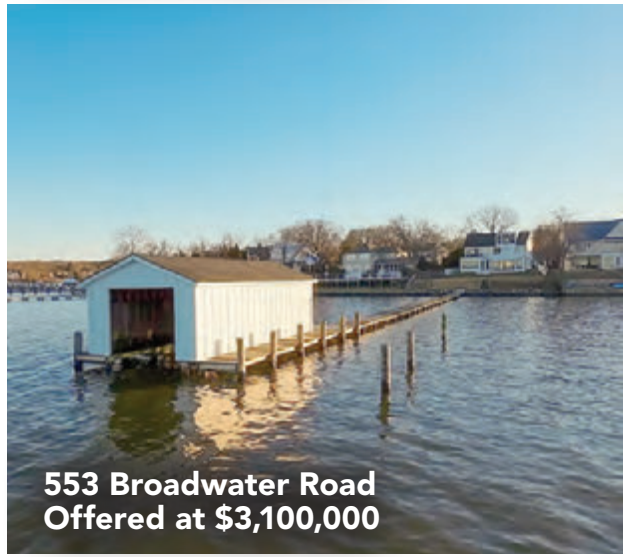
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# Good Neighbors Group Supports A Good Cause With Earth Day Festival

The 22nd annual Earth Day Festival, hosted by Good Neighbors Group, was held April 27 at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. Members of the community were invited to drop off their more difficult-to-recycle items, and revel in local art, music, advocacy, plants and snacks.



Photos by Lauren Cowin  
Community members strolled through the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company parking lot, exploring the offerings of the 22nd annual Earth Day Festival.



Oxblood Ink provided a canvas and paint for a community painting. Participants were welcome to add to the creation.



This year, Good Neighbors Group added a native plant sale to the Earth Day Festival, with proceeds going to the group's rogue gardeners program.



Oak Hill Elementary School Assistant Principal Christine Cheesman joined members of the school's "green team" for their yoga demonstration. The green team's theme for their Earth Day Festival table this year was "healthy minds, healthy bodies."



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## Sea-Fever

By Maggie Burri

Magothy River Sailing Association

The poet John Masefield put it best when he described the call of the sea in his poem "Sea-Fever."

"I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied." Those of us lucky enough to live near the Chesapeake Bay and its amazing rivers and creeks well understand sea fever this time of year.

What's calling to members of the Magothy River Sailing Association ([www.magothysailing.org](http://www.magothysailing.org)), besides the tide, herons, osprey and fair winds, is the kickoff to sailing and cruising season, the traditional sock burning party. Sock burnings began across sailing communities generally in the 1970s; it's a rite of passage that marks warmer weather, more time on the water, and less need for socks. We've been doing it on the Magothy River for as long as our organization has existed (since 1974), and we'd like to invite you to join us this year.

We will gather on May 4 at 4:00pm on Looper Beach on the western shore of Broad Creek. Besides burning socks, we'll have burgers, hot dogs and the makings for s'mores. For more information or directions by land, please email Ed Tracey at [commodore@magothysailing.org](mailto:commodore@magothysailing.org).

And if your children are feeling the call of the sea, we still have openings in our Junior Training Program, which takes place July 8 through July 19, from 8:30am-4:00pm. For more information and to register, visit [www.magothysailing.org](http://www.magothysailing.org).

## Walk The Walk Foundation Diaper Drive

For the second consecutive year, Anne Arundel County's Walk the Walk Foundation has joined diaper banks and organizations from across Ohio, California, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Tennessee, Texas and Washington to collect 2 million diapers in May to help those most in need. Partnering with the National Diaper Bank and local agencies, Walk the Walk Foundation provides free diapers to low-income families in Anne Arundel County while raising awareness of the essential health need for diapers.

One in two families struggle to provide clean, dry diapers for their children. A baby will use around 7,000 diapers before being potty trained. There aren't any government programs that cover the cost of diapers for families, and at over \$100 per month per child, this fuels the cycle of poverty. Three in five parents miss work or school because they can't afford the diapers required to leave their child. Walk the Walk Foundation is part of the National Diaper Bank Network, which helps many organizations with diaper donations. In 2023, the foundation provided Anne Arundel County families with over 250,000 diapers and supplies, 50% more than was distributed in 2022.

"When families struggle to afford diapers, it forces them to choose between their children's health and other needs," said Nicole Dolan, executive director of Walk the Walk Foundation.

"Families may keep diapers on for too long or empty solids and reuse disposable diapers, resulting in rashes, urinary tract infections, or worse," Dolan said. "We organize the diapers we receive, repackage them into groups of 25, and then give them to local nonprofits, food banks, baby pantries and shelters, who then distribute the diapers to families who need them."

### Ways to Participate

- Donate diapers: During May, consider visiting a partner location –BD Provisions, Rolly Pollies of Severna Park, or Face It! Spa and Wellness - to drop off

Photos courtesy of Walk the Walk Foundation

Walk the Walk Foundation Executive Director Nicole Dolan said that when families struggle to afford diapers, it forces them to choose between their children's health and other needs.



your donation.

- Support financially: Make a tax-free donation on the diaper drive page of [www.wtwf.org](http://www.wtwf.org).
- Purchase diapers: A shopping list found on the diaper drive page of [www.wtwf.org](http://www.wtwf.org) allows people to give directly to families in need.

- Annapolis Blues Soccer: The Walk the Walk Foundation has been selected as a beneficiary of the Blues' home opener on May 15 at 7:00pm. Proceeds from the Community Shield game will go directly to support families in need, and diaper donations will be accepted onsite.

## Inaugural Pickleball Tournament To Benefit Critically Ill Kids

Calling all Maryland pickleballers! The PutAway Severna Park is hosting the Casey Cares Paddle Up for a Purpose Pickleball Tournament on May 11 from 5:00pm-9:30pm. Women's and men's teams will rally on the court to play pickleball in support of the Casey Cares Foundation.

Players can share their level of play (beginner, intermediate or advanced) at registration to be best matched in the tournament. Playoff and championship matches will be subject to change, time permitting. All proceeds will benefit the Casey Cares Foundation and its programs that provide fun activities to critically ill children and their families. Last year, the nonprofit provided 33,938 activities to 56,512 participants, which calculates to one activity every 16 minutes.

To learn more or register a team, visit [www.caseycares.org](http://www.caseycares.org).



**Left:** The Casey Cares Foundation provides fun activities to critically ill children and their families. In April, the foundation held its annual #CaseyCaresBiggestPJParty. Giana Gude, an 11-year-old acute lymphoblastic leukemia survivor, was happy to participate. **Right:** Students from McDonogh School joined the fundraiser.

## Michael Costa Dishes Mediterranean Fare As Concept Chef

» Continued from page 1

Washington, D.C.-based Mediterranean restaurant Zaytinya, Michael Costa found himself losing interest in his studies at the University of Virginia. A student of government and foreign affairs, the Virginia native would routinely ask his professors about their cookbooks that were on display rather than academic subject matter. During a government internship, between projects Costa daydreamed about what he would cook when he got home. Having loved cooking since childhood, he soon discovered his true passion was the art of food preparation.

Costa, who today resides in Severna Park with his wife and two school-age daughters, moved to Texas after college to be near his brother while Costa had aspirations to attend grad school. To make ends meet, he found work in restaurants. As he worked in better and better establishments, he said he became enthralled with service and the opportunity to spend his entire day thinking about what he truly loves — eating and drinking.

Costa attended culinary school in Dallas, where he studied under a Greek native who inspired his love for Mediterranean flavors. His career in the restaurant industry led him on an international journey from the Lone Star State to Washington, D.C., Paris, Baltimore, and ultimately back to the nation's capital.

Fourteen years into his tenure at Zaytinya — many of them spent as

head chef — Costa now serves as concept chef for the renowned restaurant, which is one of distinguished James Beard Award-winning chef José Andrés' original concepts opened in 2002. The restaurant offers an innovative mezze menu inspired by Turkish, Greek and Lebanese cuisines. Zaytinya also has locations in New York City and South Beach, Florida, and plans to expand to Las Vegas and Palo Alto, California, in the next year.

During Costa's time at Zaytinya, the restaurant has earned two three-star reviews from the Washington Post, was named the No. 9 restaurant in D.C. by The Washingtonian, and was awarded a Bib Gourmand in the first Michelin Guide.

Emphasizing that working in restaurants is a team sport, Costa noted that everyone who works at Zaytinya makes important contributions and is talented in their own way. In his role as concept chef, he is responsible for coherence between the restaurants in terms of brand, food and personnel training. He also works on new menu development with Chef Andrés and the store-level teams.

Costa shared that he loves to cook fish more than anything, though "vegetables are up there too." He expressed a deep appreciation for the seasonal nature of certain ingredients, citing a popular spring vegetable as an example. "At this time of year, asparagus is amazing, so I work with it as much as I can, and I generally don't use it a whole lot the rest of the year," he said.

Much of the last year of Costa's life was devoted to the engrossing, collaborative undertaking of creating a new cookbook by Andrés that was released in March 2024. "Zaytinya: Delicious Mediterranean Dishes from Greece, Turkey, and Lebanon" features over 150 recipes that educate cooks of all abilities on how to create Zaytinya favorites right from home.

"The goal with the cookbook was to represent the food of the restaurant, but to adapt it just enough to where people at home could actually do it," Costa explained. "Writing a cookbook that had a five-page recipe for hommus would have been a huge mistake, so there was a lot of really thoughtful editing that had to take place to make sure that the information was delivered in a way where it felt achievable."

The authenticity of Zaytinya's Mediterranean dishes is bolstered both by extensive travel by Andrés, Costa and others to the region, and an enduring relationship with acclaimed food writer Aglaia Kremezi, who resides on the Greek island of Kea.

"The farther away that food gets from the home and the heart, the weirder and less satisfying it tends to be. We like to keep that connection, and that's why the relationship with Aglaia is so important — to make sure that even though we do like to be creative, we like to be forward-thinking, we like to balance that with a healthy respect for tradition and authenticity," Costa said, noting that he

talks with Kremezi every Wednesday morning.

"Some people think that innovation and tradition are somehow separate or exclusive, but I totally don't," he added. "I think that everything that is now traditional was once new at some point, and if you want to participate in the evolution of any kind of cooking style of food, you have to understand where the food comes from and why."

Though he finds himself commuting to D.C. almost every day, Costa still makes time to prepare nutritious meals for his family a few times a week. A resident of Severna Park's Oakleigh Forest, the chef shares his love of food preparation with his community by overseeing the annual neighborhood pig roast — one of his favorite moments of the year. He also gives back through a yearly staff appreciation for the teachers at Folger McKinsey Elementary School.

Costa's hobbies include playing pickleball "as many days a week" as he can. And, of course, he collects cookbooks — an ongoing test of his wife Laura's patience. "I'm a huge fan of cookbooks," Costa emphasized, adding, "I made a commitment to my wife to buy more e-books, but I still do like paper a lot. But, we can't eventually have our entire home consumed by books."

To learn more about Costa's role at Zaytinya, peruse the menu, or explore the cookbook, go to [www.zaytinya.com](http://www.zaytinya.com).

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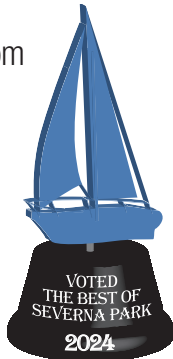
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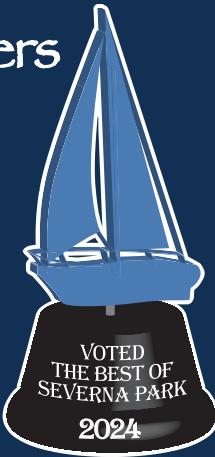
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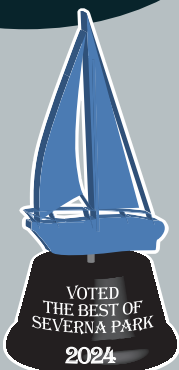
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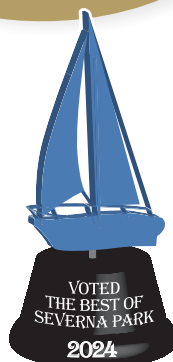
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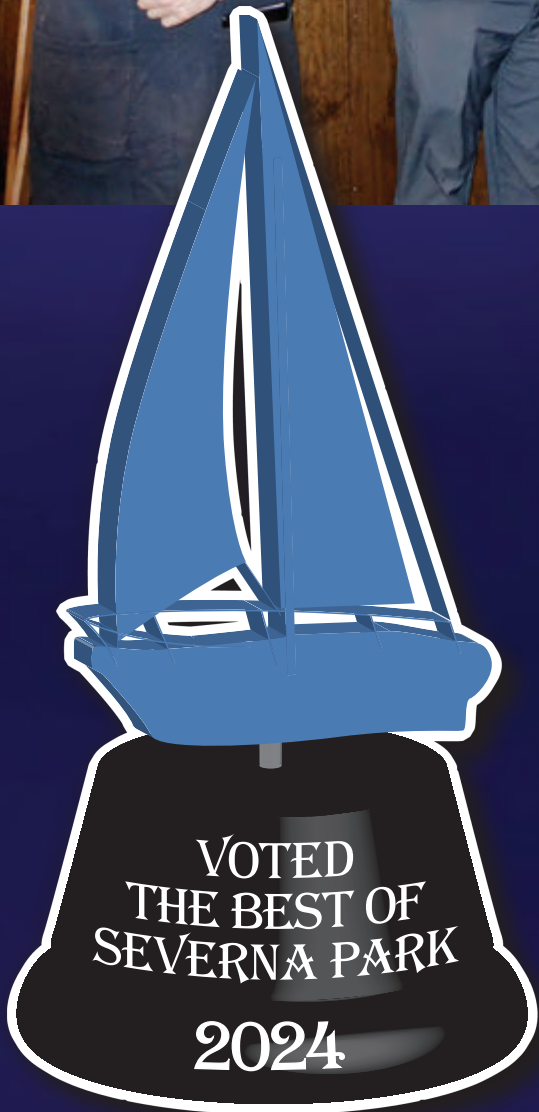
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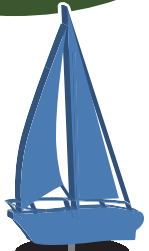
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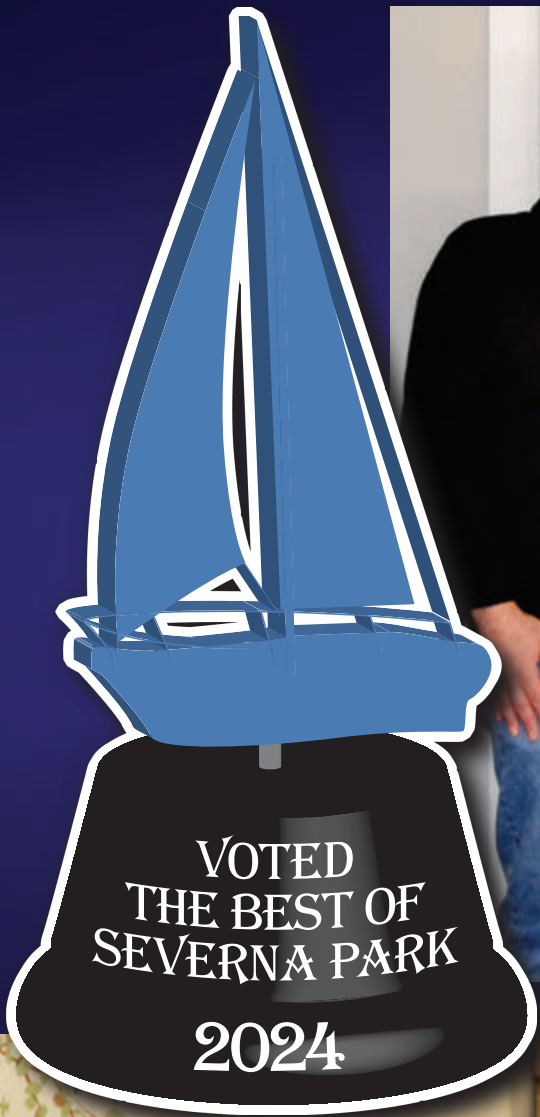
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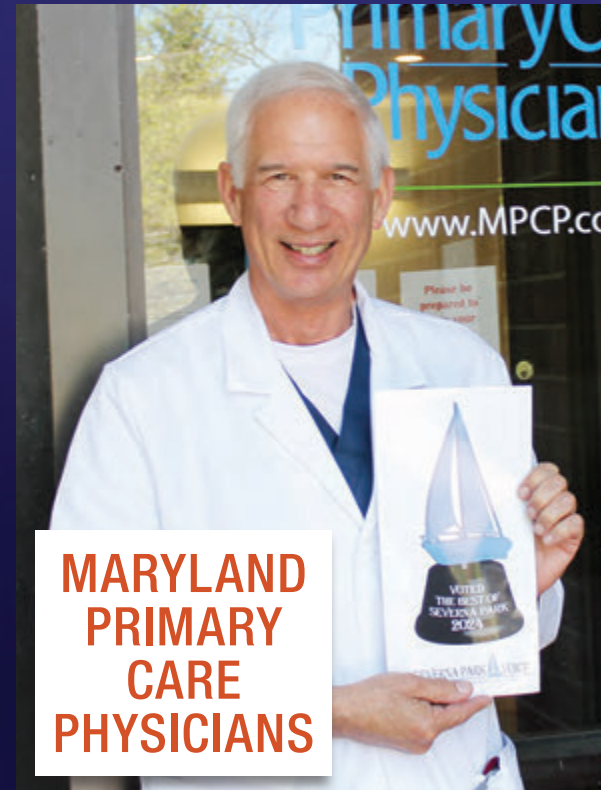


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# Comprehensive Rezoning And Fiscal Year Budget 2025

**Amanda Fiedler**  
Councilwoman  
District 5



There is a saying that “you don’t know what you don’t know.” As the Anne Arundel County Council has been working through comprehensive rezoning, we are learning along the way, navigating new

beginning, with the introduction of sister bills 27-24 and 28-24. There has already been a learning process with the bills the council has worked on for Regions 2 and 7. I will explain.

Most applicants seeking a change in zoning to their property have gone through a three-step, roughly 18-month review process. For those who applied late, there is a new requirement that they notify the public of their request to change their zoning by posting a sign on their property, including dates of the public hearing before the council.

This new step to comprehensive rezoning was initiated by a charter amendment that was passed by voters in 2018, but has not been necessary until now, as it only applies to ordinances related to comprehensive rezoning.

The charter amendment stipulated that notification was required. It did not detail the type of notification. The council could have done mailed letters, a simple post on the council website or an ad in the paper. Public notice signs on the property were decided because it was the most publicly visible option. The sign notification was well-intended to be as transparent as possible.

This county council passed Bill 69-23, effectively codifying these changes. During the public hearings on the bill, this council contemplated several time periods, including 10 days, 21 days and 30 days. Council staff who would be

tasked with implementing this policy walked through the calendar backward to estimate the most amount of time the council could give without running into a timing issue. The bill required that a sign be posted to the public for 14 days for any late zoning applications moving forward as amendments to the zoning bill, and in circumstances where an amendment would be introduced that was neither the zone the applicant applied for, nor the zone that was given in the final recommendation. I think of these as “compromise amendments.”

After the passage of Bill 69-23, the legal interpretation was that a sign would also need to be posted on the subject property even in cases where the council would like the existing zoning to remain, but increased zoning has been recommended. Meaning, it would be harder for the council to prevent an upzoning situation.

I support the new sign requirements, but it was never my intention to make it harder to stop zoning changes or be unable to assist the everyday citizen who is asking for a simple zoning change because everything around them is a uniform zone and they are the outlier. I think the general public imagines large-scale zoning amendments with huge up-zoning. While these are possible, so are the small-scale ones. It also became clear that if I was compelled by public testimony to change something in our area, I could run out of time to introduce an amendment, because of the 14-day requirement.

Bill 26-24 was introduced to course-correct the challenges that comprehensive rezoning was facing. The bill removed the requirement of signs for any amendment that retained existing zoning. In its original form, the bill also reduced the required time for public posting from 14

days to seven days due to the challenges described, which include the time a late application takes to process, our legislative meeting schedule, consideration and discussion of potential amendments, creation of the signs, and pickup and placement of the signs. These all take time and coordination, even before a sign is placed on a property. Fourteen days is essentially 40 days when you calculate all of the steps necessary.

Bills for Regions 2 and 7 have had to be held several times, due in part to the timing challenge of the two-week sign requirement. The council has had to add a legislative meeting to the calendar to accommodate the impacts of these delays. The addition of legislative meetings to the calendar is available only in the month of May, as the option to have these meetings was intended for the budget process, which I will reference later. While I do not speak for the legislative body, I believe we did our best to estimate the time frame for sign notice, but now that we are actually navigating it, complications have been identified. Any notification is still a step toward more transparency. In past comprehensive rezoning years, councilmembers could introduce an amendment with no notification to the public.

The council did pass an amendment to make the sign requirement 10 days instead of seven. This was a compromise to give more days for public notification but still allow the council to have time to fulfill our duties during comprehensive rezoning, if a scenario arises that requires more time. Please keep in mind that someone applying late for a zoning change may never see the light of day with an amendment. It is the council’s decision on what late zoning requests will  
» Continued on page 30

requirements that no other council had to consider during previous processes.

As I have written in previous columns, the county is required by state law to undertake comprehensive rezoning at regular intervals. Our county code provides that it shall be done every eight years. The county has been divided into nine regions, with three regions at a time under an extensive review process of zoning applications. Our district (District 5) is in Region 4 and is in the first round of review, along with Regions 2 (Jessup area) and 7 (Annapolis/Weems Creek area). Regions 2 and 7 have been underway since February 5 and will have their final hearing and vote in early May.

For each region, there are two sister bills. One bill updates the General Development Plans to coincide with the zoning changes proposed in the second bill. Our area’s rezoning process is just

## Recapping The Legislative Session

**Dawn Gile**  
Senator  
District 33



As your state senator, I am pleased to report on the legislative victories and historic progress we made for Maryland during the 446th legislative session, which recently concluded. Since the legislature

gaveled in on January 10, our primary focus has been on adaptively responding to evolving circumstances and emerging technologies and building upon the implementation of groundbreaking legislation passed in recent years.

We continued the hard work to advance critical bills on a myriad of topics. From improving our juvenile justice system to expanding the accessibility of affordable housing, protecting consumers and passing a Fiscal Year 2025 budget strengthening Maryland’s economic competitiveness, the legislature took historic steps on your behalf.

This session, I am proud to report that 19 of the bills for which I served as primary sponsor will go to the governor’s desk for signature. In addition, several more bills that I sponsored as chair of the Anne Arundel County Senate delegation are expected to be signed into law. Below

are some of the most significant bills that I sponsored, all of which passed with bipartisan support:

**1.** In an increasingly interconnected digital landscape, the **Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024 (Senate Bill 541)** is a comprehensive bill that provides crucial consumer protections. It addresses critical aspects such as minimizing data collection, ensuring the protection of personal information, and empowering consumers with control over sensitive data like biometrics, geolocation and mental health information.

**2.** In response to longstanding issues within the ticket industry, including astronomical concert ticket prices, the passage of **Senate Bill 539** marks a significant step toward enhancing consumer protections. By banning the controversial practice of “speculative tickets” and mandating transparent pricing throughout the purchasing process, the legislation addresses critical concerns surrounding fairness, integrity and transparency in ticket sales, ensuring that consumers are empowered with the necessary information and safeguards to make informed decisions.

**3.** In the event of an active shooter in a school building, it is imperative that first responders can locate that individual quickly. **Senate Bill 540** authorizes the school safety subcommittee to utilize

» Continued on page 30

## Earleigh Heights Needs A New Station

**Brian Chisholm**  
Delegate  
District 31



You suddenly wake up to the blaring sound of smoke alarms echoing loudly through your home at 3:00am. Your heart starts racing and you feel like it could burst out of your chest. You

rush to find your family members, ensure their safety, and determine the cause of the alarms that are still ringing. Do you have an emergency plan in place? Who needs to be rescued from the house? Who do you call for help and who arrives first on the scene?

For some residents living in District 31, the answer is Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. I hope and pray that you never find yourself in a situa-

tion that calls for a quick response like the one described here, but it’s reassuring to know that someone will be there to answer the call.

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company has been serving as a cornerstone of safety and support in the Anne Arundel community since 1918, making it of significant importance. Volunteer fire companies play a vital role in communities by offering immediate response to emergencies, promoting fire safety education, and fostering a sense of unity.

The Earleigh Heights station is strategically located on Ritchie Highway and has quick access to Route 100 and I-97, providing rapid response times to emergencies not only within Earleigh Heights’ local communities but across the county. The station’s mission is at the heart of the 154 members who serve the community selflessly, with 75 members actively operating the com-

» Continued on page 24

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## Let's Vote And Keep Anne Arundel On The Map

**Heather Bagnall**  
Delegate  
District 33C



April 8 marked the conclusion of the 446th session of the Maryland General Assembly and normally I would take this opportunity to talk about our successes, our challenges, our response to the Key Bridge collapse and our transition to the interim, and I will talk about all those things in the coming weeks, but I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to talk about the primaries.

In 2020, we had to pivot in conducting the census and the elections amid a once-in-a-generation pandemic. We were creative and resilient, and I posed a challenge to our district and our county to make sure we were counted in the census. The result of that challenge? District 33 had the highest response rate in Anne Arundel County, and Anne Arundel County had one of the highest response rates in the state, which also translated to our ability to bring more resources home to our county.

Why do I bring this up now? We have an important primary on May 14, with early voting May 2-9 and vote-by-mail already underway, which is not yet on the radar for many voters as we are used to June primaries (or July following redistricting). What does this have to do with the 2020 census? We count by being counted.

In January, the Maryland State Board of Elections released a preliminary report on new polling sites, new drop box locations, and new early voting locations. One of the most

significant changes is that Severna Park Library, previously the primary early voting location for Broadneck and Severna Park, was moved to the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. Logistically this change made a lot of sense as they have more space, more parking and easier access, but as we know, for those on the peninsula and the southern end of Route 2, Earleigh Heights feels like the other side of the county. Working with the Board of Elections, my colleagues in the Anne Arundel delegation, the county executive, and several of our local organizations, we successfully secured an additional early voting location at the Broadneck Library, and we turned to the census and the subsequent voter turnout to demonstrate why it was necessary.

Additionally, we have a real possibility of sending an Anne Arundel local to Congress, but we must show up in the primary if we want our county to be taken seriously. Finally, our entire school board is up for election with Districts 1, 3, 4 and 5 having primaries. As these are nonpartisan races, independents and unaffiliates can vote in the primary and could be the determining factor in which candidates go to the general election. If you, like me, would like to see open primaries, we have to demonstrate that we'll show up, and this is our opportunity to make that case.

However you choose to vote — vote by mail, early voting or Election Day — make a plan to vote and let's rise to the challenge once again and keep Anne Arundel on the map by showing that we show up!

If you have questions about the elections, your candidates or your polling location, contact the Maryland State Board of Elections at [www.elections.maryland.gov](http://www.elections.maryland.gov).

## Earleigh Heights Needs A New Station

» Continued from page 23

pany's day-to-day operations.

In Severna Park, where Earleigh Heights operates, members provide not only fire protection but also emergency medical services, disaster response, and community education on fire safety. They bring people together through fundraising events, training sessions, or simply being a trusted presence during times of crisis.

However, the current station is over 65 years old and was designed for an earlier time when fire vehicles were smaller, emergencies were less complex, and there were no full-time living spaces. Volunteers only responded from home or work when there was an emergency. Volunteer fire companies like Earleigh Heights are deeply ingrained in the fabric of their neighborhoods. Hence, a new fire station is needed, which should have co-ed facilities and Americans with Disabili-

ties Act compliance.

Your District 31 team secured \$350,000 for Earleigh Heights to construct a new fire station to replace the outdated facility in the capital budget. This funding signifies a commitment to enhancing emergency services in the area. A modernized facility equipped with state-of-the-art technology and resources will enable the fire station to operate more efficiently and effectively, further enhancing its ability to serve the community and beyond.

Overall, Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is a testament to the importance of volunteer fire companies and their indispensable role in ensuring the safety and well-being of residents. The investment in its infrastructure underscores the community's dedication to supporting its firefighters and ensuring the highest standard of emergency response services.





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# Primary Election: Voters' Guide

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5

### How do your educational background and experience prepare you for the duties of this office and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

#### LaToya Nkongolo

I am an award-winning mental health expert and entrepreneur with acclaimed programs in Anne Arundel County and exceptional budget management skills. I served as the Severna Park representative for Anne Arundel County Public Schools' (AACPS) Citizen Advisory Committee, effectively advocating for enhanced mental health resources in public schools. Above all, I'm a proud mother of two high-achieving scholar athletes.

#### Dana Schallheim

I'm a public school parent with a Master of Business Administration and have served on the board for the last six years, chairing multiple committees. I work with billion-dollar budgets, served through a global pandemic, a national superintendent search, a transportation shortage, new school start times, and the passage of the Blueprint (for Maryland's Future). Improving early childhood literacy, expanding mental health counseling, fighting censorship and extremist policies, and implementing the blueprint with fidelity are my goals in a second term.

### What do you consider the area of greatest need in our county's public education system and how would you propose to address it?

#### LaToya Nkongolo

In less than a decade, AACPS, once top-ranked in the state of Maryland, has faltered, now mediocre at best despite rising taxes and increased funding for public school education. I aim to restore academic excellence, equip students and teachers, and enhance parental involvement. My goal is to revive our schools' former greatness and ensure taxpayers' investment yields returns.

#### Dana Schallheim

Improving early childhood literacy is a topic the board has discussed for years. We have addressed this issue by selecting a

The Primary Election is here. Marylanders can participate in early voting May 2-9 or vote on Election Day, May 14. For more information on how to vote, visit [vote.md.gov/vote2024](http://vote.md.gov/vote2024).

The League of Women Voters has published its Voters' Guide to educate the public about each political candidate's qualifications and plans for office. Below is an abbreviated preview of candidate responses. Find more responses at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

nationally recognized superintendent who has ample experience improving student outcomes. A new curriculum based on the science of reading will be implemented next year alongside enhanced supports for secondary students who continue to struggle in this area. Expanding access to full day prekindergarten, as well as community partnerships to mentor students, will also improve outcomes.

## REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, DISTRICT 3

### How does your experience prepare you for the duties of United States representative?

#### DEMOCRATS

##### Mark Chang

As a lifelong resident of the U.S. Congressional District 3, I know firsthand the needs of our diverse communities. As a son of immigrants, my personal experiences of being underrepresented and economically disadvantaged have instilled in me the passion to fight for justice in my public service career. As vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, I have a strong record of protecting women's health, building a more inclusive economy, and investing in our education system.

##### Michael Coburn

The candidate has not yet responded.

##### Malcolm Colombo

While I am not traditionally experienced in government relations, I am confident that my experience as a structural engineer will bring the necessary problem-solving and critical thinking that will be crucial to Congress. I am also confident in my ideals and will ensure that they will always be put at the forefront of any action that I take.

##### Abigail Diehl

The candidate has not yet responded.

##### Juan Dominguez

I am a first-generation Cuban American, husband, father, Gulf War combat veteran, and business leader who can bring people together from all walks of life to deliver real, lasting results that matter most. I have proven time and time again, through my military experience, professional career, and community service, that I am prepared to advocate for all, including the most vulnerable. My entire life has been about service, and it would be the honor of a lifetime to serve my community in Congress.

##### Lindsay Donahue

I do not have prior political experience. However, in my current job, I am a director for our managed services group. I make business decisions, prepare annual budgets, scope pricing proposals, and manage personnel hiring, mentoring, keeping people accountable and having hard discussions when needed. I work with several different customers, customer types, and C-level executives across our industry.

##### Harry Dunn

I am a lifelong public servant. I spent more than 15 years in the Capitol Police, protecting and learning the institution I now hope to serve in. I will go to Congress to be the voice of the people that sent me there. On January 6, 2021, I experienced the threat to democracy firsthand. I'm uniquely placed to fight against them, protect our rights, and preserve our democracy.

##### Sarah Elfreth

I serve in the Maryland Senate, where I passed 84 bills in my first five years, and I chair a budget subcommittee that oversees tens of billions of dollars of investments in transportation, public safety, and the environment. I earned endorsements from the National Education Association, International Association of Fire Fighters, League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, and more than two dozen current and former elected officials who know I am the best prepared to represent our community in Congress.

##### Mark Gosnell

I am the director of a medical intensive care unit in Baltimore who has adapted to shortcomings in our health care system long enough. I'm turning my anger into action. I use consultants in my work as I would in Congress to enact a vision of universal health care, preserved reproductive rights and gun control. I'm not a career politician with any other agenda or special interest influence.

##### Terri Hill

As a physician and legislator, I listen to complaints, identify causes and collaborate on solutions. I've been a district resident for over 50 years, practiced here more than 30, and represented its residents in Annapolis for nearly 10. Congress is broken. That puts our communities and families at risk. I understand the urgency of the moment and am committed to upholding our values and ensuring that congressional actions do not erode our rights or the prospects for our well-being and success.

##### Aisha Khan

The candidate has not yet responded.

» Continued on page 28

# Primary Election: Voters' Guide

## Clarence Lam

Over the last nine years, I've served in the Maryland General Assembly — first as a state delegate and now as a state senator. Throughout that time, I've sponsored and supported a multitude of bills on abortion, public health, the environment and education, among others. My experience in public office has shown me the importance of working collaboratively with my colleagues to pass commonsense solutions that benefit the most people. It's this same work ethic that I would bring to Congress.

## Matt Libber

The candidate has not yet responded.

## Kristin Lyman Nabors

Eight years as a nurse demands active listening skills and unfailing loyalty to cooperation and patient safety. Patient and family buy-ins to care plans equals colleague and constituent buy-in to legislation. Two more analogies between registered nurses (RNs) and reps: the privilege of assisting diverse populations. Both roles are service roles; nurses always remember that. A difference? A 2023 Gallup poll states 78% of Americans rate RNs as having "very high/high" ethical and honesty standards as compared with 8% of Congress.

## John Morse III

I have extensive experience crafting legislation to amplify the voices of people I represent. My job for over a decade was listening to union members and taking their priorities to the U.S. Congress to codify their needs into law so that they wouldn't have to negotiate what we can legislate. I know what it means to listen to all voices and to stand up for what's right based on the people I represent.

## Jake Pretot

I served in the Army for six years, (have been a) small-business owner since 2004, provide contract support for an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency budgeting system which manages a \$12 billion budget, served on my community homeowners association board for 12 years, and have a bachelor's and master's degree in computer science. I believe my troubleshooting capability and systematic approach, combined with my ability to bring people together to solve difficult problems, makes me the right person to represent you in Congress.

## Don Quinn

As a civil rights and employment attorney, I negotiate for workers' rights and find common ground with people who are paid to oppose me. As a litigator, I work to change federal law through the court system. Federal court cases take years, and I am skilled at winning the battle of inches to make incremental change. This ability to find common ground and make incremental change will make me an effective representative. As a combat veteran, I also bring defense and foreign policy insight.

## Mike Rogers

My 30-plus years of service in the United States Army, coupled with my service as a delegate in the Maryland state legislature, have prepared me to hit the ground running from day one as the congressional representative for Maryland's third district, the community I am proud to call home.

## Danny Rupli

My richest experience for success is coming within a few points of defeating an incumbent congressman in District 6 in 1976 due to my overwhelming victory in Howard County, which was then in that district.

## Gary Schuman

I have degrees in political science, communication, English and journalism. I managed political campaigns. I ran the district office for State Assemblyman Arthur Cooperman. I understand the workings of a legislature and the importance of constituent services. My columns and articles have appeared locally in the Mid-Atlantic Media magazines. I have business experience and extensive health care expertise. I do pet rescue, feed the homeless and have inspired others to do the same.

## Stewart Silver

I am an undergraduate student at Towson University, studying political science; a graduate of Ellsworth High School in 1979; and have voted in every election since 1980. As a creative problem-solver, I am the CEO/CFO of Plumb Puzzles INK, drop shipping packages of Lewiston Strong wristbands to Lewiston High School. I would propose multiple solutions first to the constituents of Maryland District 3, then to Maryland's delegation House colleagues and the U.S. public at large.

## Jeff Woodard

I have served as a campaign manager for over 30 campaigns and served in many governmental positions. My educational background has prepared me well for the rigors of the job.

## REPUBLICANS

### Arthur Baker Jr.

I am a native Marylander living here for 52 years and in Ellicott City for 26 years. I love Maryland. My professional life has been dedicated to law enforcement. I am an attorney, a retired FBI agent (30-plus years), and a former Baltimore County police officer. I held senior positions on Capitol Hill (seven years), on both the House and the Senate Judiciary Committees. I

was responsible for significant legislation from drafting language to the passage of what became law. I will represent you from day one!

## Ray Bly

Strong work ethics from poverty to five years of college. I ran two businesses for 45 years (and am) a Vietnam combat veteran.

## Berney Flowers

I am a husband, a father, a grandfather. I deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine before retiring from the U.S. Air Force. After private industry work, I served at the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security, where I helped resettle Afghans, Haitian refugees, and undocumented migrants in defense of the U.S. southwest border. Maryland's governor appointed me to the District 9 Judicial Nominating Commission, Howard County, Maryland. I am the most qualified candidate in this race.

## Thomas "Pinkston" Harris

The candidate has not yet responded.

## Jordan Mayo

I have three main roles in life - mother, wife and real estate professional. While I have an extensive background in work and education, who I am on a day-to-day basis is my reason for running. As a toddler mother, I am well trained in negotiations and keeping a level head in high pressure situations. As a military spouse, I have a deep understanding of the reform that Department of Defense families need, and as a real estate professional, I know firsthand just how broken this market is and exactly how to fix it.

## Naveed Mian

The candidate has not yet responded.

## Joshua Morales

I am here to represent an unheard voice of my district. My upbringing would have better prepared me for a life within the correctional facility than as a member of Congress. I believe that my ability to overcome an environment riddled with poverty, addiction and crime has allowed me to advocate for individuals in my district facing the same challenges I endured. I understand their concerns and interests, and I will vote on legislation that will have a positive impact on their lives.

## John Rea

The candidate has not yet responded.

## Robert Steinberger

I have successfully served as an executive leader in business and legal positions at an array of companies, including the biggest in the world (Walmart), as well as small start-ups. Focused primarily on strategic planning, finance and operations on the business side and corporate legal support on the legal side. I understand budgeting and financial and strategic planning. My legal background will serve me well in the House as well (admitted in New York, Connecticut and Maryland).

# Restore Our Schools To Excellence!



★ *LaToya* ★  
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**Board of Education - District 5**

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Authority: Friends of LaToya Nkongolo, Janelle Williams Treasurer

LaToya is the only candidate that is a parent, mental health expert, businesswoman and educator. She is an established leader who will leverage her diverse skill set to restore our schools to their former excellence, making them the best in Maryland once again.

## About LaToya

- 1 Parent.** As a parent of an AACPS student, I prioritize ensuring that parents are actively involved as partners in every decision made regarding their children. I will promote teamwork and shared responsibility for the success of all students.
- 2 Mental Health Expert.** I have helped thousands of children achieve mental wellness and I will use my expertise to advocate for the social and emotional well-being of all children within AACPS.
- 3 Educator.** As an adjunct professor for over a decade, I see the struggles facing students transitioning from high school to college. My focus will be curriculum adjustments to enhance academic excellence.
- 4 Trusted Leader.** For 17 years, I have dedicated my service to Anne Arundel County, focusing on program development, budget management and advocacy. Now as a business owner, I continue to contribute to our community.
- 5 Taxpayer.** With half of our county budget allocated to education, I am committed to making sure that every dollar is spent wisely.

## LaToya's Vision!

- 1 Increase Academic Proficiency:** Provide additional specialized instructional support for teachers and collaborate with local learning centers to offer after-hours tutoring and extended learning opportunities.
- 2 Focus on College and Career Ready:** Equip students with practical life skills essential for success in a global economy. Prioritize fundamental subjects like math, science, and reading.
- 3 Support Teachers and Staff:** Ensure fair compensation for all staff members and provide professional development opportunities and resources to empower educators in delivering the highest standard of education.
- 4 Keep schools safe:** Maintain school safety while simultaneously providing support and holding individuals accountable for disruptions that hinder the learning environment for both students and staff.

## Join LaToya for a Virtual Townhall Meeting



**Tuesday, May 7th**  
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# Comprehensive Rezoning And Fiscal Year Budget 2025

» Continued from page 23

move forward as an amendment. Several late requests have already been told “no.”

So how many proposed zoning changes are there in our area? The number is a bit daunting but ranges from small changes to larger ones.

There are 1,476 proposed changes. They are broken out as follows:

- 46 are owner applications to change the zoning on their property.
- 71 proposed zoning changes are from county staff (no property owner application to change zoning).
- 2 are proposed by the Planning Advisory Board.
- 1,354 proposed zoning changes come from the county. A lot of these are small map adjustments so that lot lines and zoning lines line up. But others are large-scale zoning changes over multiple properties. I am already hearing from community members about these changes, and I will refer-

ence one below.

The lion’s share of proposed zoning changes are coming from the county, not private property owners and/or developers. I don’t have a lot of concern over the small map adjustments, but I do have concerns over large-scale changes with no owner application.

A prime example of these types of changes is in the heart of the Severna Park commercial area (Park Plaza and Severna Park Marketplace and commercial areas north). The county has proposed changing this area from commercial (C3) to MXD-commercial.

### What is the difference between C3 and MXD-Commercial?

Residential uses are permitted by right in MXD-C zones, whereas in C3 zones, they are allowed only in certain conditions. Which means, if any of these

properties were to be redeveloped, multifamily dwellings would be permitted uses along with commercial, and there are prescriptive percentages of what is to be developed on the property: 15% to 45% residential, 40% to 60% retail, 10% to 40% office space, 0% to 25% industrial.

C3 conditions limit the number of multifamily dwellings to 15 units per acre and require 50% of the floor area of the development to be commercial. There is no office space requirement and industrial uses would not be permitted without variances.

In essence, this proposed zoning change could allow for more to be done on the properties than what is already allowed. I am considering amendments that would retain the existing commercial (C3) zoning, especially considering this was not property-owner driven.

I would love to hear your thoughts on this and others as I review proposals for our district. I am so grateful to the

Severna Park Voice for the opportunity to bring this important information to you, but also know a lot will happen between this edition and next month’s. If you would like more regular information as we move through this process, please reach out to the District 5 office and request to be added to the regular e-newsletter distribution list.

I have always been transparent and honest with residents of District 5 and members of the public. Some decisions in this process will be harder than others, but I will always communicate with residents along the way.

Please note that the Fiscal Year 2025 budget session begins with the county executive’s presentation of his proposed budget on May 1. Please visit the council website for budget hearing information.

To sign up for the District 5 newsletter, or reach out with any questions, comments or concerns, please email [amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org](mailto:amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org).

## Recapping The Legislative Session

» Continued from page 23

funds from the Safe Schools Fund for a grant program aimed at providing public safety officials with standardized, accurate school maps to ensure swift and efficient response to any emergency on a school campus.

**4. Senate Bill 109** ensures that state employees facing the profoundly tragic loss of a child are provided with paid parental bereavement leave and the time needed to grieve.

**5. Senate Bill 740** establishes the needed infrastructure to enforce existing laws that bar individuals who have been convicted of boating under the influence (BUI) from operating a vessel. The bill, which was introduced in response to the tragic death of Nick Barton of Crofton, also increases the maximum number of years these convicted individuals may be barred from operating vessels.

I was also proud to sponsor several

other bills that would provide greater support to veterans and military families. These initiatives encompassed expanding property tax breaks for disabled veterans, safeguarding servicemembers and military spouses against discrimination in housing and employment, establishing a commission to devise recommendations for enhancing Maryland’s military friendliness, and a host of additional measures aimed at honoring and supporting those who have served our country.

Additionally, with my partners in the House of Delegates, I secured signifi-

cant capital funding for our District 33 communities, including \$350,000 for the Earleigh Heights fire station and \$125,000 for the Severna Park Community Center pool.

While the legislative session demands long days and nights dedicated to serving the state, it remains an honor and privilege to represent you. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for entrusting me with this responsibility. If you have questions regarding any legislation enacted during the recent session, please contact my office at [dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us](mailto:dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us).

*Happy Mother's Day Severna Park!*

**Kyndle Quinones**  
Vice President/Branch Manager  
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## Bruins Softball Gaining Confidence As Season Progresses



Photos by David Bashore

Grace Purdum slid home safely during Broadneck's 8-1 victory over Severna Park.

By David Bashore

After playing just two games in March, and coming off of a two-week break between games, Broadneck's softball team faced Murderer's Row: Crofton and Northeast, arguably the two best teams in the county, sandwiched around Dulaney, the Bruins' opponent in last year's 4A state semifinal loss.

Crofton beat Broadneck 6-0 on April 8, Dulaney won 3-2 a day later and Northeast won 5-4 on April 11, but Broadneck gained valuable confidence in how they played over those three games, turning that experience into seven wins out of the next nine.

The Bruins breezed through county play following that sequence, beating Old Mill 10-0 on April 12, Severna Park 8-1 on April 15, Annapolis 15-0 on April 17,

South River 21-6 on April 18, Southern 2-0 on April 22, Arundel 2-0 on April 23, and Meade 17-0 on April 24.

The Broadneck bats came alive in the Old Mill game, but it was especially important in the win over Severna Park, in which freshman **Rylan Crisafulli** tossed a complete game. It was a tight contest until **Aliceanna Weibley** blasted a home run over the left-field wall to break open the game, which allowed the freshman No. 2 pitcher to breathe and just focus on getting outs.

"It was a great experience to pitch against our rivals and to finish the entire game. I was trying to just throw some strikes and hope for the best," Crisafulli said. "The offense took off all the pressure, because even if they get a run off of" **» Continued on page 42**

## Falcon Girls Heating Up As Stretch Run Arrives

By David Bashore

Thus far, the Severna Park softball team has endured an uneven, up-and-down season. But the Falcons closed a nine-game, 19-day stretch with three straight wins, giving themselves some much-needed confidence heading into the final week of the regular season.

Severna Park started the stretch with a 4-0 win over Arundel on April 8 that saw freshman **Quinlyn Bary** hurl a no-hitter, punching out seven Wildcats in the win. Then it was a 6-1 loss to Chesapeake, followed by an 18-3 win over Glen Burnie. Broadneck got the Falcons 8-1, and then Crofton (3-1) and Northeast (9-2) both followed suit. But wins over Old Mill (8-2), Baltimore City College (18-0) and Annapolis (24-4) had the Falcons at 8-7 entering the last week of April.

Though the Broadneck-Crofton-Northeast gauntlet was Severna Park's toughest three-game stretch of the season by far, the Falcons know that sequence is going to provide a wealth of experience to build on when the pressure of postseason ramps up in May.

"I'm not worried about the rest of the season. We had Broadneck, Crofton, Northeast, which was the toughest week of the season," said Severna Park coach **Bailey Benedick**. "After that, things tapered off a little bit. We're hoping to take this, get back up and use it as fuel."

The young Severna Park team, which



Photo by David Bashore

Severna Park's Jennifer Hong attempted to throw out a Bruin runner at first base.

features five freshmen in the starting lineup, is starting to figure things out. In the circle, Bary eclipsed the 100-strikeout plateau in late April. At the plate, the Falcons put up 50 runs

**» Continued on page 42**

## Broadneck Boys Bouncing Back After Win Streak Snapped

By David Bashore

Going undefeated again was never the goal for the Broadneck boys lacrosse team. After their win streak ended at 26 in April, the Bruins turned the page and honed their sights back in on attempting to repeat as 4A state champions.

Broadneck bounced back reasonably well from the April 12 setback, an 11-4 loss to Severna Park, by winning all three ensuing county games. They beat Southern 17-6, Crofton 10-4, and Arundel 14-4, as they head into the county playoffs with a 9-3 record.

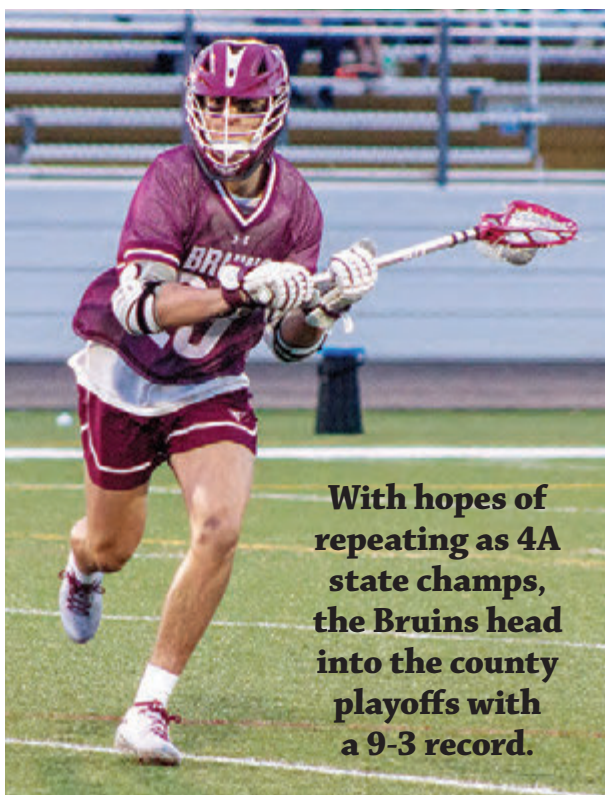
"They've responded well. The senior class banded together, looked inside themselves, and they see a different opportunity compared to last year," said Broadneck coach **Jeff McGuire**. "As coaches, we may never get another team like that again. That year happened, (now) it is what it is, we're done talking about it and we're moving past it. This senior class knows they have the opportunity to right some wrongs and that will hopefully make lifting a trophy that much sweeter. That's kind of their plan, and they've taken action to pay more attention to detail and demand more of others."

Over the last month, the Bruins have gotten offense from a variety of players, including hat tricks from **Tyler Hicks** (twice), **Brayden Schmidt** and **Liam Komlosy** (twice). **Graham Hartman** dominated the faceoffs, winning 82% of his draws across seven games, while **Matt Tetteimer** saved 42 shots across six games played. **Braden McCassie** netted a double-overtime winner against Mount Hebron on April 8.

The only thing that has halted Broadneck's momentum is a pair of out-of-state opponents: the Bruins lost to Yorktown (Virginia) 11-7 on April 20, and then to Cape Henlopen (Delaware) 7-3 on April 27.

What seems to be an up-and-down April is really a matter of fine margins. Broadneck is dominating faceoffs and getting sufficient scoring opportunities, but attack selection and a deviation from what makes Broadneck difficult to beat is the work in progress.

Bridging that gap through the county tournament is what McGuire hopes will get the team untracked and headed back toward another potential **» Continued on page 34**



With hopes of repeating as 4A state champs, the Bruins head into the county playoffs with a 9-3 record.

Photo by David Bashore

Broadneck's Zach Mengel carried the ball downfield against the rival Falcons on April 12.

# Falcon Boys End Bruin Win Streak, Have Own Streak Snapped By South River

By David Bashore

Two long boys lacrosse winning streaks ended in April, and Severna Park had a hand in both of them.

The first, an 11-4 win over Broadneck on April 12, snapped the Bruins' 26-game win streak. But the very next time out four days later, the Falcons' own 16-game run went by the wayside when they lost 12-6 to South River.

Despite the setback, though, Severna Park feels like an eighth straight state title is well within reach.

They flexed their muscle against Broadneck by capitalizing on turnovers and showing ruthless efficiency on their offensive sets. **Tim Sullivan** led the attack with four goals, as normal spearhead **Jack Fish** was far more content to play facilitator and attract Broadneck's attention away from his teammates.

"That's a great win, but really it was a great performance from the guys. We had a great week of practice and we came out strong," said Sullivan. "They're a great team, and it's always fun to play them. Always a great battle, and it's fun during and after the game."

Though the offense gets the highlights, the defensive unit has proven especially sound, despite replacing a couple of key cogs. That has made life much easier for new goaltender **Calvin Winship**, who has thrived on the season and made 12 saves against Broadneck.

"I'm just so proud of this team and our defense to make those saves saveable. Everybody's on their A game and when the lights are brightest, they play great," Winship said. "The first saves are always important, as they set the tempo for the whole game. Being able to play from ahead early on is really important as well. Just knowing the entire team is ready and able to defend and go forward really helps me a lot."

Severna Park beefed up in early season play, which left the Falcons with a lighter schedule heading into county tournament play. By the time they strap up for their county quarterfinal game on April 30, the Falcons will have had two separate weeklong breaks between games: after beating Marriotts Ridge 16-4 and then topping Broadneck, the Falcons lost to South River on April 16 and beat Southern 19-5 on April 23.

With that length of time between games, it's easy to think Severna Park will be rusty. That, they believe, would be a mistake.

"That's one of our huge goals is to come out fast with a lot of energy," said Sullivan. "We do this every day in practice, and we have great chemistry. You have to take a deep breath before big games."



Photos by David Bashore

**Left:** Severna Park celebrated one of 11 goals against Broadneck during the Falcons' win on April 12, which ended the Bruins 26-game win streak. **Right:** Nolan Grizzle maneuvered with the ball against the Bruins defense.

## Bruin Girls End Month With Three Straight Wins



Photos by David Bashore

**Left:** Broadneck's Nya Williams looked downfield as she raced out of defense with the ball during Broadneck's 11-10 overtime loss to the Falcons. **Right:** BHS' Cecilia Facciponti dodged a Severna Park defender.

By David Bashore

After an up-and-down March, Broadneck's girls lacrosse team found April pretty fruitful, going 4-1 on the month to head into county tournament play at 7-4.

The Bruins beat Mount Hebron 17-7 on April 8, Southern 17-6 on April 16, Crofton 19-5 on April 19, and Arundel 16-4 on April 23. The only setback was an overtime 11-10 loss to Severna Park on April 12.

An early learning curve seems to be almost conquered for the Bruins, who alternated wins and losses for the first eight games of the season but have now won three straight.

"We've been talking about discipline. We're a young team, we have some new faces, so I think it's all in the learning and in the process," said Broadneck coach **Katy Kelly**. "We have stuff that

we want to do; we just have to be disciplined enough to be patient and actually be able to do it. ... But we're young, so it's kind of what I expected this year to be, an up and down learning season with all the new faces. We're getting there."

The Bruins had Severna Park on the ropes, but turnovers in transition and inconsistency up front resulted in the rivalry game feeling like more of a missed opportunity.

Still, Broadneck has go-to attackers in **Sienna Miller**, **Lily Trout** and **Oliv-ia Orso**. It's just a matter of getting the right progressions to create space for those three and the supporting attackers and midfielders.

"You have to be really refined through the midfield. That's something we haven't really struggled with, but (against Severna Park) we really struggled with that," Kelly said. "We're still trying to

figure out the face of the offense. We're saying 'run this,' whether it's their most confident thing or it's not. We've had go-to (plays) in the past, and we need to identify what that is for us now. And that's what these games help with, and they get the conversation started, and they get everyone grinding again."

## Broadneck Boys Bouncing Back

» Continued from page 33  
state championship run.

"We showed up and expected to be Broadneck lacrosse instead of going out and earning it. They've realized they need to put in a little different work ethic and demand more of others, and bond together," McGuire said. "They've realized what they're capable of within themselves, and

they're good players and can make a run. It's just a matter of how they put it together. There's a little bit of give and take, and we're going all-in with the seniors and really game-planning each game as much as possible to give them all that we have as coaches to make sure this group is up to speed when it comes time to hopefully win some hardware."



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# Dramatic OT Win Highlights Park Girls Lax Run



Photos by David Bashore

**Above Left:** Severna Park's Erin Hussey looked to pass through a tough Broadneck defense. **Above Right:** The Falcons mobbed Bella Van Gieson after she scored the winning goal in overtime to beat the Bruins 11-10.

By David Bashore

Absent their star player and down three goals in the third quarter against rival Broadneck, Severna Park's girls lacrosse team needed to look deep for an answer.

They got help from two expected sources and an unlikely third.

**Maria Bragg** scored four straight goals for the Falcons, the defense smothered Broadneck in the middle third of the field, and **Bella Van Gieson** cashed in a rebound with four seconds left in the first overtime period to rescue the game and beat Broadneck 11-10 on April 12.

Broadneck controlled the ball for most of the overtime period but couldn't find the winning goal. Severna Park took possession with seconds left, and **Erin Hussey** was unfairly impeded on her way to the goal. The free shot was saved, but Van Gieson was on hand to bury the rebound, then quickly found herself snowed under by a maelstrom of overjoyed teammates.

"I'm just so happy I was there," Van Gieson said. "I was nervous I was going to not catch it, but I did, and I placed the shot. It took maybe five seconds until everyone tackled me and my goggles came off that I realized we had won."

Severna Park played long stretches of the game without star senior **Alyssa Gore-Chung**, who left in the opening minutes with a leg injury and didn't return until the fourth quarter. She looked limited in returning but scored a go-ahead goal early in the fourth.

Devoid of their best player, the supporting cast stepped up.

"Our whole attack unit is good at redefending and we work really well together. So having someone else push a defender my way, that helps me get the ball back so we can attack again," said Bragg, who scored a highlight-reel solo goal in which she stole the ball in transition and lobbed the goaltender from nearly 30 yards. "We were really struggling because their drives and cuts were really good in the beginning. At halftime we had to step up, stay marked and stay more together as a unit, and we did."

The victory was a highlight in Severna Park's 5-1 run over the last three weeks to end April. The Falcons also beat South River 13-5 and Southern 17-4 in their other county games, and topped Marriotts Ridge 15-8 and Mount de Sales 13-10. The only loss came to Archbishop Spalding, where they fell 14-11.

Now they head into the county playoffs knowing that their biggest goal, repeating as state champions, is in sight. And if they do it, it's going to be on the strength of a battle-tested unit, on top of offensive firepower.

"Our defense is very adjustable, so I think we all just see what's going on and make the adjustments in the moment," Hussey said. "We know that anyone can step up at any moment. We are all fully capable of scoring and being on the redefend. We kept our heads up and we have faith in each other."

## Falcon Girls Host Green Hornets Night

For the second year, the Severna Park girls lacrosse program hosted a Green Hornets night. About 50 youth players attended this year's event, which was held during the Falcons' home game against Mount de Sales on April 25. Green Hornets players were introduced with members of the high school varsity starting lineup.

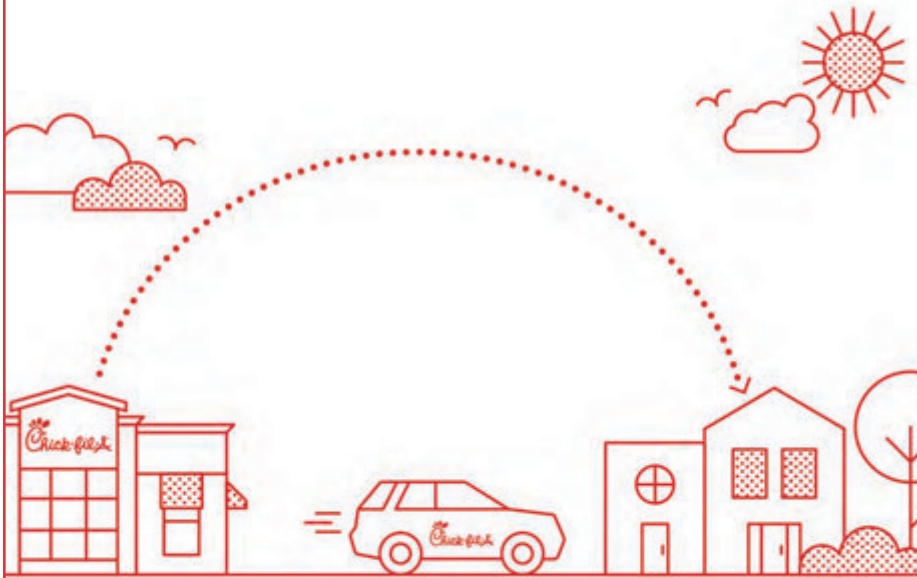
"Community engagement is very important to our coaching staff and our school's administration," said **Annie Houghton**, head coach for girls varsity lacrosse at Severna Park. "Nights like these draw bigger crowds, including students, parents, alumni and community members, and foster a sense of unity and school pride. The presence of a lively crowd motivates our student-athletes. Rec nights showcase the value of sports and encourage more students to participate in athletics when they come to high school. We are grateful to have such a supportive community. Go Falcons!"



**Above:** Sophomore defender Bella Mazzola escorted a Shipley's Choice Elementary first-grader, Natalie, during the introduction of starting lineups. **Left:** Bella Van Gieson, a junior midfielder, escorted Oak Hill Elementary third-grader Natalie, who then high-fived coaches.

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# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

## CARSON BOTELER

Broadneck Track and Field

By David Bashore

Carson Boteler doesn't like free time. The Broadneck senior goes to school, comes home, does whatever homework is left, hits the gym, goes to track practice, comes home, and finds something else to do. It's as regimented as her year-round dedication to one sport: first gymnastics, and now pole vault.

Boteler's payoff has been manifold: a 4.63 GPA, a preferred walk-on roster spot vaulting for Coastal Carolina, and three pole vault state championships.

Boteler hopes to make it a clean sweep of both indoor and outdoor her junior and senior years when championship time rolls around in May. To do that, she fills herself with training, activity, and motivation that the other girls around the state are doing everything they can to match her.

"At a lot of my in-season meets, I don't have the same amount of competition as I do at regions or counties. At those higher-level meets there's a lot more competition, so clearing those higher marks (consistently) is a big deal," she said. "I try to just stay relaxed and not think about it too much. If I overthink too much, I won't do as well — my coach tells me she'll do the thinking for me. I want to be the best I can be, so I just try to relax and keep my mind off of pole vaulting until I have to get up there and vault, and not overly think about it."

Boteler knows that feeling well, having lost out



on a state title as a sophomore on misses, having cleared the winning height but taking more attempts to successfully do so. That's what made her recent indoor championship the sweetest.

"Going into junior year indoor season, I wanted to not have so many misses so I could get first, so it was a super cool feeling to win it for the first time," she said. "But this indoor was the best feeling I've ever felt. I had the most competition

Carson Boteler has a 4.63 GPA, she earned a preferred walk-on roster spot vaulting for Coastal Carolina, and she has three pole vault state championships. She hopes to make it a clean sweep of both indoor and outdoor pole-vaulting championships for her junior and senior years when championship time rolls around in May.

I'd had all year, I set a personal record at 11-9, and I made everything on the first try. Normally you don't know if you've won because it comes down to misses, but when I jumped my 11-9, I knew that I'd won it, so the feeling was incredible."

Beyond her own accomplishments, Boteler aspires to inspire younger athletes and students in the community. As part of the Broadneck Athletic Leadership Council, and a member of the school's Unified PE and dance programs, she engages with elementary school students, special needs students, and others in the community that look up to high school athletes.

These activities provide one more way for Boteler to fill the free-time voids she tries to avoid, and give back to the community at the same time.

"I've always struggled with not doing something all the time. I don't like free time. I like to be on the go, active, moving, whether it's going for a walk when it's nice outside, going to the gym, boating," Boteler said. "With the leadership council, we get to go to elementary schools and read to kids and do other things in the community. It's fun."

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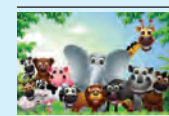
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# Falcons Baseball Rounding Into Form

By David Bashore

Over the course of a baseball season, there are bound to be ups and downs. It's just the nature of the game. And nobody knows that better than Severna Park.

The Falcons were upended 10-4 by Chesapeake, and they took two more losses in a three-week span. But they headed into the final week of the regular season at 11-4 after winning seven of their 10 games.

They opened the stretch by beating Arundel 12-1, then followed that with a loss to Chesapeake. But they beat Glen Burnie 13-2 and Broadneck 10-2 to right the ship, before falling to Crofton 14-4. They finished the stretch by winning four of five, falling only to Archbishop Spalding 7-0 in a rescheduled game that was rained out in early April.

Severna Park won its four public school matchups in that run of five games, beating Northeast 4-2, Old Mill 3-0, Baltimore Polytechnic 8-6 and Annapolis 14-5.



The biggest win of those, by far, was the win over Broadneck, which came on April 12 and helped start a renewed focus on the season. **Angel Santiago-Cruz** blasted two three-run homers, and **Charlie Hartman** added a solo shot. That came in support of ace pitcher **Sean Williams**, who yielded a home run in the first inning but settled down the rest of the way.

"Especially with our field, giving up home runs is an easier thing here, so for us, getting that lead can kind of limit the pressure," Williams said. "If they hit one out, and it's a solo shot, it's not going to kill us. I can pitch to more contact and let my defense work. They can barrel up some balls and they can get on

base, but I can relax and know that if the runner from second scores, it's not going to hurt us too much, and we can still go on to win the game."

That kept the Falcons from losing back-to-back games, which is one of the key points of focus in a grinding game like baseball. But it also gave them the balanced perspective that they can use as they continue to move forward to the rest of the regular season and postseason.

"You look at our team on paper and it's a good group of guys. That experience against Chesapeake motivated us to come out and do the best we could," Santiago-Cruz said. "Anyone can win a baseball game. The best team in the nation can come out and make errors, not be hot at the plate, something wasn't clicking, and the other team can come in and roll right through them. The better you understand that, the more you have to prepare yourself every day to perform the best you can. That means taking warmups seriously, stretching seriously, getting your reps in the cages seriously, so you can perform and feel comfortable, and replicate your mechanics to the best of your ability."

"We know we have the talent, ability and work ethic to perform."

Photo by Dennis McGinley

**Angel Santiago-Cruz** blasted two three-run homers in Severna Park's win over Broadneck.

## AACC's Men's Golf Team Going To Division II National Tourney

### Two Golfers From Severna Park, One From Arnold Are Key Players On Championship Squad



Photo by Kevin Murnane

**Anne Arundel Community College's (AACC) golf team members (l-r) Ryan Brophy of Severna Park, Darren Hoffman of Arnold, Tim Brophy of Severna Park and head coach Dave O'Donnell of Baltimore enjoyed putting practice before the national Division II tournament in late May. The Riverhawks recently won the Maryland JUCO and the Region 20 golf tournaments.**

By Kevin Murnane

Anne Arundel Community College's (AACC) Division II men's golf team recently captured championships in both the Maryland Junior College (JUCO) and Region 20 golf tournaments.

The team is led by two Severna Park brothers, **Ryan Brophy** and **Tim Brophy**, as well as Arnold resident **Darren Hoffman**.

"This team is extremely talented and they just love to play golf," said head coach **Dave O'Donnell**. "We had 11 golfers join the team this year, and this is our first year that we moved up to the Division II level."

Their love for golf was tested early and often this spring as the team had to conquer continuous weather challenges.

"This year has been exceptional for our golf team with the remarkable achievements in our first season at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II level," said **Hillary Fisher**, assistant athletic director for communications. "The team faced inclement weather conditions throughout the spring, including a match in the rain, but persevered throughout the season."

The Riverhawks won the Maryland JUCO title by 17 strokes with three of

their golfers finishing in the top five. They continued their stellar play by winning the Region 20 tournament by 29 strokes.

In the regional tournament, Ryan Brophy was the overall champion with a score of one over par, and younger brother Tim Brophy finished second with a score of four over par. Hoffman finished in sixth place with 19 over par.

The Brophy brothers began playing golf at a young age. "I believe I was 2 years old when I was putting golf balls into plastic cups and was 5 when my dad took me to Queenstown and Eisenhower golf courses to play," Ryan Brophy said. "My dad also placed me in the Baltimore area's Elite Players Tour from when I was 7 to 12 years old."

Tim, who is six years younger than Ryan, started young as well. He remembers playing in the Baltimore Classic Five Courses (Clifton Park, Carroll, Mount Pleasant, Forest Park and Pine Ridge) in tournaments throughout his childhood summers.

Ryan Brophy played golf at AACC in 2018 and then set out to gain as much knowledge about the game of golf as possible. He began caddying at many prestigious golf courses throughout America, including Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia.

"I always wanted to be on the same golf team as Tim, so when the opportunity came up to play at AACC, I came home," Ryan Brophy said. "This has been the coolest thing ever, to play on the same team with my brother."

Hoffman played golf at Broadneck and his dad, Matt, is the head pro at the Golf Club at South River in Edgewater. That golf course is AACC's home golf course as well.

These three golfers all rely on different strengths in their game to carry them throughout these tournaments. Ryan Brophy's forte is his putting acumen while Tim Brophy and Hoffman use their outstanding iron game to get them closer to the pin.

As these golfers play in these tournaments, they may play up to 36 holes per day. All of the golfers said that they have to stay hydrated and carry food with them to maintain their stamina.

"I always have Gatorade, water, subs and snacks in my bag," Ryan Brophy said. "I just nibble all day."

The other aspect of the tournament is the mental challenge that golfers endure.

"You really need to be locked in for five hours for these 18-hole tournaments and that's difficult if you make a bad shot or miss a putt," Hoffman said.

In late May, the Riverhawks golf team will compete in the national Division II tournament at the Chautauqua Golf Club in western New York.

O'Donnell believes his team will represent the college well in the national tournament. "The better the course, the better they play," O'Donnell said. "I believe they will rise to the challenge."

Because of the great turnout for the golf team this year, O'Donnell is planning to add an AACC women's team in 2025. That might become a popular decision around campus.

"I'm thrilled by our golf team's success," said AACC's director of athletics, Duane Herr. "It's a testament to the hard work of our student-athletes and coaching staff as well as an indicator of the great talent within our community."



# Bruin Baseball On A Roll As Playoffs Approach



Photo by Dennis McGinley

Broadneck's first baseman Devin McGowan stretched to catch a high throw as he attempted to retire a Severna Park runner. The Bruins lost to Falcons 10-2.

By David Bashore

Broadneck's baseball team is putting together quite the season, with about everything they could possibly hope for: lots of wins and a couple of hard, valuable lessons.

Heading into the last week of the regular season, the Bruins sit with a record of 14-2 and a healthy dose of perspective.

In the last three weeks, Broadneck has played 10 games, winning nine. They topped Crofton 8-0 on April 8, Arundel 14-0 on April 9, Northeast 4-3 on April 11, Old Mill 3-0 on April 12, Annapolis 11-0 on April 17, South River 3-0 on April 19, Southern 10-1 on April 22, Meade 14-0 on April 24, and North County 6-2 on April 26.

In that stretch came three complete-game shutouts, two from **Noah Forman** and another from **Kobe Owen**, as well as a combined five-inning no-hitter from Owen, **Devin McGowan** and **Cooper Mengel**. At the plate, there were homers from **Calvin Cook** (twice), **Ethan Hopkins** and **Michael Swick**. There was also the Bruins' third extra-inning win, made possible when Broadneck punished a Northeast baserunning error in the bottom of the seventh inning and Forman scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the eighth.

Their only loss was a tough one, though, as an otherwise perfect run through April was interrupted by a 10-2 setback at Severna Park on April 15. In that game, the Bruins scored first on a Calvin Cook solo homer, but they gave up three homers in the first two innings and couldn't recover.

"It felt great in the first inning to score first, which gives a lot of confidence to your team. But we didn't want

"Baseball's a game that's going to humble you, and if you haven't been humbled recently, it's going to humble you at some point. It's one game, and they all count exactly the same"

— **MATT SKRENCHUK**  
BROADNECK BASEBALL COACH

their best player to beat us, and he beat us twice. That was the difference in the game," said Broadneck coach **Matt Skrenchuk**. "Outside of that, I'm proud of how we competed, and to get a great pitcher out of the game in the fifth inning, I thought our guys did a nice job with the approach there."

Still, the Bruins seem poised to potentially defend their county championship, sitting with just one loss in county play and three county games left to go: rematches against Arundel and Chesapeake this week, followed by a game at Glen Burnie on May 3.

Broadneck eased past both Arundel and Chesapeake earlier this season, and they'll be wary of feeling too good about themselves as another county championship game berth looms.

"Baseball's a game that's going to humble you, and if you haven't been humbled recently, it's going to humble you at some point. It's one game, and they all count exactly the same," Skrenchuk said. "We hope that we have an opportunity to play in the county championship game again this season. Whoever we would play, we'd look forward to that opportunity (if it comes)."

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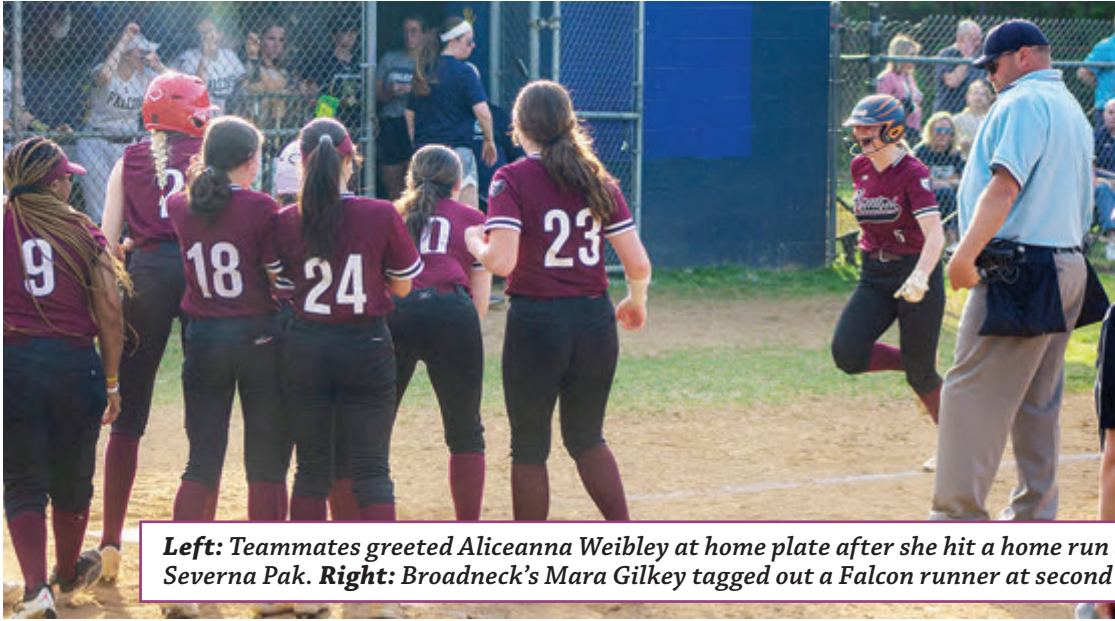
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# Bruins Softball Gaining Confidence As Season Progresses



**Left:** Teammates greeted Aliceanna Weibley at home plate after she hit a home run against Severna Pak. **Right:** Broadneck's Mara Gilkey tagged out a Falcon runner at second base.



» Continued from page 33  
me, we're still in the lead."

More than that, it was momentum for the whole team. Weibley's blast was the highlight of a run that saw Broadneck score 60 runs in five games. Over the 12-game stretch, Weibley led the team with nine RBIs, while **Abby Favazza** drove in seven runs, **Grace Purdum** plated six and **Bella Herrera** drove in five. Weibley, **Sam Waters** (twice), **Mara Gilkey** and **Addie Cornelius** (twice) had three-hit games.

Waters and Crisafulli, packing a one-two punch, picked up the wins in the circle.

The only setbacks after the first brutal week were a 7-6 loss to John Carroll, and

a 4-2 loss to North County that was the Bruins' eighth game in 12 days.

The results have Broadneck heading into the final week of regular-season play at 9-5 and looking forward to a potential state tournament berth.

"It was a little rough on us, because we know that we can beat these big teams," Weibley said. "Even though they were good games, it took a little off of us because we think we're good enough to beat them. It takes a while to get back into it, but we're working that way. I think we're doing well right now, but we just needed to get back into the stretch of games. We're just going to keep going and hopefully we realize we are good enough to go far."

## Falcon Girls Heating Up

» Continued from page 33  
in just three games, including the 24-run effort on senior day.

That, combined with senior leadership from **Sally Trent** behind the plate helping the young pitching staff of Bary and sophomore **Taylor Moran** navigate the season, and the stalwart defensive play of other upperclassmen like **Katherine Boord** and **Christina Ballagh**, has the team in good spirits.

Still, there is some growth to make, and that sometimes comes with resetting the team as it continues to gain needed experience. That sometimes

comes with changing pitchers mid-game not so much for effectiveness reasons but an opportunity to clear the mind.

"It's a little bit to throw off the batters and it's a little bit to reset too because (Bary) is a freshman, and freshmen are still figuring it out," Benedick said. "Our starting lineup has five freshmen, and sometimes you have to sit them down and reset them just because they don't have the experience. It's all new to them. Sally does a great job helping (Bary) out and helping get her through it."

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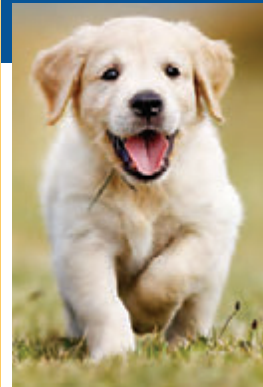
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## Falcon Thon To Support Children, Families At Johns Hopkins

Thanks to Severna Park High School's Key Club, students will dance the night away on May 3 to raise money for Johns Hopkins Children's Center and Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Students Nora Devine and Samantha Lavallee are in the last stages of planning for the dance marathon fundraiser, called Falcon Thon. Severna Park High School attendees will enjoy raffle prizes, music courtesy of a DJ, free food, T-shirts, games, giveaways and endless dancing.

Samantha was once a pediatric cardiologist patient at Johns Hopkins Children's Center. She heard about the dance marathon program through the Baltimore hospital when she had a cardiology checkup in 2022.

"I immediately fell in love

with the idea of it because it was a fun, healthy activity that my classmates and I could do, which also benefited kids who were in the hospital," Samantha said. "I felt that I needed to bring it to Severna Park High School the following year! Children's Miracle Network helps to fund surgeries, research, families' stays at the hospital, and child life programs too."

The Key Club hopes to raise \$10,000 through Falcon Thon. Samantha can relate to what some current patients are experiencing, and she knows the fundraiser can make a positive impact.

"As a baby and toddler, I spent many months in the hospital recovering from numerous open-heart surgeries

» Continued on page 46



Samantha Lavallee (left) and Nora Devine are planning Falcon Thon, a dance fundraiser at Severna Park High School to benefit Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

## Six St. John The Evangelist Students Earn Prestigious Knott Scholarships



To celebrate the scholarship achievement, the following people gathered: (back row, l-r) the Rev. Erik Arnold, Reagan O'Brien, Theresa Quigley, Zoey Fellner, Casey Buckstaff and (front row) Marie Johnson, William Breslin and Madelyn George.

By Judy Tacyn

The Knott Scholarship Funds recently announced recipients of the 2024 Knott Scholarship Competition winners. These scholarships, funded by the Marion Burk Knott Scholarship Fund and the Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Scholarship Fund, cover four-year, full tuition in the Catholic school of the scholar's choosing.

Since its inception in 1981, the Knott Scholarship Funds have provided support for more than 2,000 academically talented Catholic students who reside in parts of the Archdiocese of Baltimore to attend Catholic schools. Six of

the 28 scholarships for 2024 have been awarded to St. John the Evangelist parish community members.

"I am so proud of the students from our parish school and homeschool community chosen as Knott Scholars this year," said the Rev. Erik Arnold, St. John the Evangelist's pastor. "We share in the joy of their parents, families, and teachers who have encouraged them, and I am grateful to the Knott Scholarship Fund for the work they do encouraging and empowering our Catholic students to grow in their faith as leaders in their schools, parishes and communities. Congratulations to our newest class of Knott Scholars!"

The Knott Scholarship scholars are:

William Breslin and Madelyn George (attending St. John the Evangelist Catholic School)

Zoey Fellner and Theresa Quigley (to attend Archbishop Spalding High School)

Marie Johnson and Reagan O'Brien (to attend Mount de Sales Academy)

O'Brien is enrolled in the St. Thomas Aquinas Tutorial program, while Breslin, Fellner, George, Johnson and Quigley are enrolled at St. John the Evangelist School.

"We are grateful for the Knott Foundation's commitment to Catholic education

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## AACPS Student Services Team Serves Behind The Scenes

By Meredith Winter

In addition to the thousands of teachers, administrators and others who work daily to educate over 84,000 students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), there is a lesser-known team of individuals supporting students in every school who help them overcome barriers to achieving success.

AACPS' student services team consists of over 440 staff members who serve as school counselors, psychologists, social workers and pupil personnel workers, all with the common goal of coming alongside kids and their families.

Ryan Voegtlin, AACPS director of student services, explained that there are over 250 school counselors across the county — at least one at every school

— who teach lessons on social skills, college and career, and other topics. They provide individual counseling for mental and behavioral health issues, and work with families to connect them with support outside of the school.

Shari Endo has been a school counselor for 26 years and serves as the counseling department chair at Severna Park Middle School (SPMS). She explained that SPMS has a counselor for each grade level, and that she also supports students with special education needs as well.

"When they say it takes a village to raise a child, I feel like it takes a village to service kids in a school," she said, noting that her team of counselors works closely with the special education department, school nurses and other student services team members.

For classroom situations requiring greater behavioral intervention, school psychologists are available at every school and are able to provide de-escalation support. School psychologists are also key members of the special education team, Voegtlin noted, as they conduct educational assessments.

At Windsor Farm Elementary School, 20-year veteran school psychologist Kate Howlett said she overlaps with the school counselor by providing counseling services, facilitating crisis intervention, and leading student groups on topics such as social thinking.

Working with elementary-age children, Howlett strives to engage with students through games, hands-on activities and crafts in her counsel-

ing sessions. "It's about connection with kids — having that connection where the student knows (that) even if you're giving them feedback that they don't want to hear, that you care about them, and that you value them, and that their feelings and their thoughts are important even if you disagree with how they handled a situation," she said.

For students needing additional support outside of the school facility, social workers and pupil personnel workers come alongside families by connecting them to community resources and helping them with essential needs.

Social workers — of which there are about 60 in the county — are licensed clinicians who provide

» Continued on page 47



# SHIPLEY'S CHOICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Each month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Mrs. Emery's class at Shipley's Choice Elementary School answered the question:

## If you could switch places with a fictional character for a day, who would it be, and why?

I don't really want to switch up with anyone, but my favorite books would be the PVZ (Plants vs. Zombies) books.

**Alex W.**

Mr. Underpants because he has superpowers.

**Andy V.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character for a day, I would choose Freddy Fazbear from "Five Nights at Freddy's." I chose this character because it's an escape and survival type of book and I like that type of stuff.

**Ben S.**

I would be Kung Fu Panda because of how brave he is and does not give up when something bad happens. He is always working hard all the time and doesn't give up when something is more powerful than him. The theme is follow the path.

**Ben W.**

I would switch places with Melody Brooks from the books "Out of My Mind" and "Out of My Heart" because even though she has a disability, she is really smart and has great opportunities. So I think it would be cool to be her for a day.

**Caroline R.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character for a day, it would be Hamilton "Ham" Porter because I would love to smack talk the other teams' batters behind the plate and yell at them when they strike out.

**Chris D.**

I would switch with James from "Book Scavenger" because I love code breaking and solving puzzles. Solving puzzles and code breaking are both super fun to do!

**Cole H.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character, I would switch with Ava from the book "Click" because she is a cheerleader and flies stunts. I love flying stunts in cheer. I would give all my free time to cheer and competitions just like Ava from "Click."

**Emma M.**

I would switch places with Percy Jackson from "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" because he has so much courage and empathy in him, and the book series itself is so adventurous and humorous.

**Ethan P.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character for a day, it would be Junie B. from the book series "Junie B. Jones." She is never afraid to speak her mind. She is confident in herself and what she does. Another reason is whenever she has a problem she finds a way to a solution. Lastly, Junie never lets anyone stop her or change her personality.

**Finley K.**

I would be Lexi from "No Such Thing as Perfect" because she is sassy and confident. Lexi is a French bulldog who is also someone named Emma's spirit guardian.

**Fiona W.**

I would switch with Lizzie Peterson from the "Puppy Place." I would be her because first, I would love a dog. Second, I would also love to be able to foster dogs of any kind and give them the best homes.

**Floor V.**

If I could be any fictional character, it would be Belly from "The Summer I Turned Pretty" because I love the show and the book. I would also love to stay in the house in Cousins Beach.

**Harper M.**

I would switch places with Willy Wonka, written by Ronald Dahl. I would switch with Willy Wonka because then I would be the best chocolate maker in the whole entire world. I could eat chocolate all day, eat from the magic garden, drink from the chocolate river, live in a giant factory and give out golden tickets.

**Hunter B.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character, it would be the skinny guy from "Little Giants." I like how funny he is and how his mom puts him in all the pads because she is so scared he will get hurt.

**Jameson B.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character for one day, I would trade places with Harry Potter. I would switch places with him because it would be fun to learn magic at Hogwarts.

**JJR-C.**

I would be Barney because it is one of my favorite books. Barney is a nice character and funny. I have always wanted to meet Barney since I was a little kid.

**Juli T.**

If I could be any fictional character for a day, I would be Harper from "12 to 22" because all of Harper's wishes come true and Harper becomes a worldwide influencer. Becoming a worldwide influencer is one of my wishes in life.

**Julia B.**

I would say Agent Venom, he gets consumed by the symbiote Venom, but instead of becoming evil like everyone else who was consumed before him, he turns out to be good. This is why I like him. Now he is a superhero who has all the powers of the symbiote Venom.

**Justin H.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character for a day, I would pick Belly Conklin from "The Summer I Turned Pretty." I would switch places with her because she does not give up and she is really strong. She also has a positive attitude about a lot of things. Lastly, I would switch places with her for a day because she is so pretty!

**Laney M.**

If I could change places with a fictional character, it would be Missy Cooper from "Young Sheldon." I

would pick Missy because she is funny and I love how she doesn't care what others think.

**Livia S.**

I would switch places with the girl named Charlie from the book "Wish." I would choose her because she is super brave, and in the book, she ends up saving a dog, so she is also a good person. Also, she has a hard family life and I love how she puts it off and helps save a dog.

**Lucy K.**

I would switch with Alex from the book series "The Land of Stories." Alex is a 12-year-old girl who discovers she is a fairy when she accidentally travels to the fairytale world. Alex and her twin brother, Conner, go on dozens of dangerous, exciting or magical adventures. I would love to travel across the fairytale world on my own unique journey.

**Maya C.**

If I could switch places with a fictional character for a day, I would be Percy Jackson. If I were Percy, I could just walk into the ocean and see what no human could see. And if someone made me angry, I could make all the toilets explode and throw the toilet water at them.

**Nathan I.**

I would be Garfield and Nermal from "The Garfield Movie" because they are funny and show lots of expression.

**Nicholas W.**

I would be Kristy Thomas from "The Baby-Sitters Club" because she is really nice and she loves to babysit.

**Reagan W.**

I would be Robert from the second book of the Casey Grimes books because he is an extremely experienced fighter when it comes to words, spears and daggers.

**Rocco C.**

If I were to switch places with a book character for a day, I would switch with Squirrelflight from "Warriors." Squirrelflight can get along with almost any cat, so I would get to see and be with any cat I wanted to. She can occasionally share feelings with Leafpool, her sister. I would enjoy running, leaping, pouncing and climbing like a cat. I could fit into small spaces. I would take hikes in places humans cannot go.

**Zoe D.**



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## Falcon Thon

» Continued from page 45

and dealing with complications, among other things, but if you were to ask me what I best remember from my time in the hospital, none of those things would come to my mind first," Samantha said. "In my mind, these were insignificant details. I remember going to the playroom, singing along to the entire 'Mulan' movie, going to Wednesday bingo, making fun snacks at a cool cooking class, and playing games with my family and the nurses, too. This ex-

perience for me was insanely positive, but I know that many kids do not have the wonderful experience that I did. However, through this program, that can change."

Johns Hopkins Children's Center cares for more than 100,000 patients and families each year, according to the center's assistant director of development, Bethany Chance, who shared a letter praising the Falcon Thon fundraiser and the work done at Johns Hopkins.

"Thanks to the care of our wonderful doctors, staff and groundbreaking medical research, the Hopkins Children's

community extends across the world," Chance wrote. "Some patients walk to our clinics; others travel from across the U.S. and distant countries for the world-class pediatric care for which we are renowned. With the support of the community, Hopkins Children's will continue to fulfill our vision of a positive outcome for every child we treat."

With Falcon Thon just over one week away, Nora and Samantha are already thinking about the fundraiser's long-term potential.

"Through a dance marathon, we not only excite students, but we introduce

them to an amazing cause that many of our students, like Samantha, have directly benefited from," Nora said. "It is such a uniting experience and can help foster a sense of giving in all students that will carry on into the future. This is our first ever Falcon Thon, and we hope it will soon become an annual tradition!"

Anyone can donate by searching for the fundraiser at [dancemarathon.childrensmiracletnetworkhospitals.org](http://dancemarathon.childrensmiracletnetworkhospitals.org). All donations are tax-deductible but must be made before Falcon Thon on May 3.

# AACPS Student Services Team Serves Behind The Scenes

» Continued from page 45

both individual and group student counseling services and support for their families. “They really work connecting families to outside resources, mental health resources, food, clothing, health care access — any of those things that are barriers to learning, they’ll be that connection to help families overcome those barriers by giving them access to resources,” Voegtlin said of AACPS’ social workers.

Kate Hicks, who has worked in schools since 2011, is a social worker at SPMS and Severna Park High School (SPHS). “I would encourage families that are having difficult times to reach out to the school and communicate what they need, because there are people out there that can connect them to resources,” she said. “We’re here to help.”

Working closely with school social workers, AACPS’ 35 pupil personnel

workers (PPWs) focus primarily on students facing challenges with attendance, residency, custody and homelessness, but they also connect families with needed resources such as food and clothing as well.

“People think the Broadneck cluster is free of poverty and free of homelessness, but we do have families experiencing those things right here in the Broadneck cluster,” said Allison Mathews, who has served as the cluster’s PPW for nine years.

She explained that she operates a Severn River Middle School clothing closet that is stocked with clothes, shoes and blankets donated by churches and other entities. Along with Broadneck High School’s social worker, Mathews also started a food pantry where families come once a month for staple foods and receive fresh produce and meat that are purchased through

funds raised by the high school’s sports teams and clubs.

Magothy River Middle School PPW Kim Perillo shared a success story of a family experiencing homelessness. Perillo’s team was able to help that family get into a home. She explained that she and other PPWs also partner with organizations including Happy Helpers and HOPE For All that assist families in obtaining food and home furnishings, respectively.

“This is a wrap-around community — you let them know there’s a need, and people from the community, the PTO (parent teacher organization), the staff members of the schools — they will wrap their arms around a family so tight, and it’s beautiful to see,” said Perillo, who is now in her 22nd year with AACPS.

Gwen Henderson, PPW for the Severna Park cluster schools since 2011, also expressed enthusiasm for

contributing to students’ success. She counts it a win when a student who had faced challenges graduates.

Henderson spoke to the faulty perception that people in Severna Park and on the Broadneck peninsula don’t have significant needs, acknowledging the stigma that can come with asking for help. “There is no judgment,” she emphasized. “We want to help students and their families.”

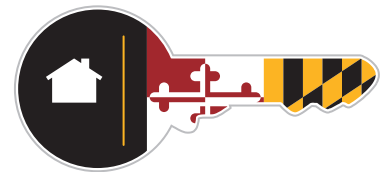
Voegtlin praised the entire student services team, stating they are doing amazing work to support families in Anne Arundel County.

Quick to applaud their colleagues, the Severna Park and Broadneck student services members agreed that student success is a team effort. “It really does take a village to collaborate and support kids and make school as successful of an experience as possible for them,” Howlett said.



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## Educator Of The Month

### Amy Hughes Severna Park Middle School



Math teacher Amy Hughes has been at Severna Park Middle School for 19 years.

By Zach Sparks

At Severna Park Middle School (SPMS), sixth-grade math teacher Amy Hughes has worked with many children, but one constant never changes.

"Every child wants to learn," Hughes said. "Some have different tools or need more support. Some kids might come to my class and say, 'I hate math.' My goal is to make them comfortable with math so they can persevere and try."

Hughes grew up in New Jersey, often "playing school" with her sister because they both appreciated the nurturing, caring qualities needed to be a teacher. Education also runs in the family. Hughes' mom teaches special education at a high school, her sister teaches elementary students, and she has aunts and uncles who teach.

She went to college for elementary education, but after spending a year as a substitute, she realized she liked being involved at the middle school level. Hughes could not find a job in New Jersey, but family members in Maryland told her to apply with Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Nineteen years later, she is still at Severna Park Middle School.

"I absolutely love this community," she said. "I have taught a lot of families, and I have had a lot of siblings (in my classes), and the sixth-grade math team is absolutely amazing. Everyone I work with is amazing."

One of those coworkers was

"If you enjoy the students for who they are and their quirky personalities, it makes the job worth coming to. I never thought I would come teach middle school and now I cannot imagine not teaching middle school."

— AMY HUGHES

also a mentor, fellow SPMS math teacher Phyllis Crabbe, who has since retired.

"She was my lifeline when I moved here and I was new to the school system," Hughes said. "She helped me with planning and with my classroom management."

As a team leader for the Dolphins — the name for the sixth grade at SPMS — Hughes plans field trips and conferences, and she sends weekly updates to the staff. She also runs the school's math club and oversees competitions for MathCounts and the "24 Game."

SPMS has advanced to the MathCounts state competition all 19 years Hughes has been at the school. That success has come regardless of changes in statewide math curriculum over the years.

"The biggest change is the concept of not wanting students to just know how to do something but also the why," Hughes said. "It helps them get a deeper understanding of math."

The SPMS administration sees Hughes' contributions as an integral part of the school. Each Anne Arundel County public school nominates a teacher for the annual Excellence in Education awards dinner, and this year, SPMS Principal Dennis Kelly chose Hughes.

"It's humbling," Hughes said. "I'm very honored that Mr. Kelly thought I should be honored. I am excited to represent Severna Park Middle School."

Hughes emphasized that teaching can be a rewarding profession. Even with the many surprises in education, the benefits are always present.

"If you enjoy the students for who they are and their quirky personalities, it makes the job worth coming to," Hughes said. "I never thought I would come teach middle school and now I cannot imagine not teaching middle school."



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# St. John The Evangelist Pastor Announces New School Principal



Photo by Judy Tacyn

**The Rev. Erik Arnold introduced Glenna Blessing as new principal of St. John the Evangelist School.**

**W**hen Casey Buckstaff, current St. John the Evangelist School principal, announced her plan to step down at the conclusion of the current academic year, a search committee was formed to identify a gifted and passionate leader who shares the mission of St. John the Evangelist School before the end of the current academic year. Many qualified applicants were reviewed; however, the new principal was already part of the St. John family. On April 22, the Rev. Erik Arnold announced that Glenna Blessing has been appointed as the new principal, effective July 1.

With more than 22 years of combined classroom and leadership experience, Blessing is a seasoned educator and administrator who has worked in both public and private school environments. Her dedication to the field of education has involved various leadership roles, including teacher, department chair, assistant principal, principal and assistant professor. For the past two years, Blessing has served as the beloved assistant principal at St. John the Evangelist School, where her commitment to the community's mission is evident in her work with faculty, staff, parents and students.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Goucher College and her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University

of Oregon. Currently, she is working toward a Doctor of Education in educational leadership, specializing in curriculum and instruction at Wilkes University, with expected completion in the spring of 2024. Additionally, Blessing holds a graduate certificate in leadership in technology integration from Johns Hopkins University, an advanced professional certificate (APC) and an Maryland State Department of Education administrator I/II certification.

"Please join me in congratulating Ms. Blessing as she assumes her new role as principal of St. John the Evangelist School," Arnold said. "With her exceptional qualifications, love for our faith, and dedication to fostering student success, I am confident she will continue to inspire students, support staff, and strengthen the bonds within the St. John school community. Thank you for your commitment to St. John the Evangelist School and to Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Baltimore."

Buckstaff is stepping down after nine years as principal. She is relocating out of state to take on the role of president of a Catholic high school. Following the 11:00am Mass on May 19, a reception in Buckstaff's honor will be held in the parish activities center. All are welcome to attend.

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# Young Authors Recognized In County And State Contests

## COUNTY WINNERS

### BENFIELD ELEMENTARY

**Amelia Michel**  
Second place, grade 2, short story  
**Emma Ramsey**  
Second place, grade 5, short story

### BROADNECK ELEMENTARY

**Morgan Courtney**  
Second place, grade 1, poetry  
**Henry Smith**  
First place, grade 4, poetry  
**Leah Davis**  
Second place, grade 5, poetry

### FOLGER MCKINSEY ELEMENTARY

**Kadia Johnson**  
Second place, grade 1, short story

### MAGOTHY RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Milana Zenke**  
First place, grade 6, poetry  
**Mila Viguers**  
Second place, grade 6, short story  
**Audrey Fleishman**  
Second place, grade 7, short story  
**Ellen McKean**  
First place, grade 8, short story

### SEVERNA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Ava Lewnes**  
Second place, grade 6, poetry  
**Laila Bivens**  
First place, grade 6, short story  
**Izzy Williamson**  
Second place, grade 7, poetry  
**Isaac Shoemaker**  
First place, grade 7, short story



Jones Elementary student Lily Price won the fifth-grade poetry portion of the State of Maryland Literacy Association's Young Authors Contest. She was recognized during a conference in Towson in April.

At a young age, students around Anne Arundel County are realizing the power of the written word. The State of Maryland Literacy Association (SoMLA) sponsors an annual writing contest, featuring poetry and short stories, for students in grades one through 12. Several Severna Park and Arnold kids participated in the Anne Arundel Young Authors' Contest, with one writer earning first place in the state competition. Jones Elementary student

Lily Price was honored in early April as the statewide winner for fifth-grade poetry. Her poem was titled "Watercolor Sunrise." The avid reader was inspired by nature. "I think all the books I have read have helped me become a better writer," Lily said. "I like reading books by Erin Hunter because of the way she talks about nature in such a descriptive way." Congratulations to all of the 2024 winners.

## "Watercolor Sunrise"

By Lily Price

The grays and blues and pinks  
Combined and swirled  
And made the night sky weaken  
To let the sun push through

Mingling around the luminous forest  
Are little sunbeams  
That cast yellow spotlights  
Above the shadow-casting trees

The cold breath of wind  
Pushed the hair out of my face  
And my toes were tickled  
By little blades of grass

The flaming ball of fire  
Was slowly pulled up to the sky  
By the invisible string  
Grasping with all its might  
To illuminate the things  
That we have yet to see

The song of the birds  
Calling us to rise  
To seize the earth into the morning

The smell of sap  
Clinging to the bark  
On shady trees

The grays and blues and pinks  
The dancing sunbeams  
The feel of cold bursts of wind  
The slowly rising sun  
The morning birdsong  
The smells of sap

All make my watercolor sunrise



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# County Seniors Display Artwork In Annapolis

“**B**elonging,” an exhibit of more than 60 unique pieces of art created by Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) seniors, is currently on display at Maryland Hall in Annapolis.

The exhibit showcases art using a variety of mediums. Students from Broadneck and Severna Park high schools created 10 of the featured pieces. “Belonging” is open to the public and can be found in the Earl and Martino galleries on the first floor of Maryland Hall. The exhibit runs through May 15.



Corah Klein of Broadneck High School used crocheted wire to construct “Bzzzzz,” a visual representation of the sound a flying insect makes.



“It’ll Last Longer” by Emerson Golladay of Broadneck High School represents the facade people put up when posting videos and pictures online.



Photos by Lauren Cowin Severna Park High School’s Darby Shroust’s digital photograph “Looking Up” encourages the viewer to do just that.

# Knott Scholarships

» Continued from page 45

and their partnership with our St. John the Evangelist students and families,” said Casey Buckstaff, St. John the Evangelist School principal. “I am excited for the opportunity this scholarship provides to students moving forward in their Catholic school education. The St. John recipients are outstanding leaders in the classroom, in activities and in their service to others.”

Parents Terry and Katelyn George feel that the Knott Scholarship demonstrates the passion the St. John the Evangelist community has for students and parishioners, allowing Madelyn to flourish academically, socially and spiritually, while gaining confidence, friendships and a hunger for learning that will continue to enrich her life for years to come.

“We are proud to see Theresa receive such substantial recognition for all the hard work she has put into her studies over the course of her time at St. John,” Kathryn Quigley said. “This type of acknowledgement really helps to reinforce the value of character traits like perseverance, openness to learning, and leadership in the face of contrary ‘normative’ forces that will help her be successful in life.”

“This will also provide direct exposure to the real impacts that charity and service can bring back to the community, instilling a sense of the importance of contributing to society in a positive and additive way as she shapes how she will live her life in the coming years.”

The newly designated scholars will attend the Knott Scholarship Funds Pinning Ceremony on May 5, which will include Mass and breakfast. To learn more about the Knott Scholarship Fund, visit [www.knottscholar.org](http://www.knottscholar.org).



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## AACC Theatre Audiences Devour Delicious Cult Classic

By Judy Tacyn

The 1932 story “Green Thoughts” by John Collier has inspired several short stories, movies and musical adaptations. A human-eating plant from outer space sounds completely plausible, right?

Though the story was not originally well-received, various productions since have earned positive reviews, not to mention a voracious cult classic following. “Little Shop of Horrors,” the musical offshoot, took root in Arnold last month, delighting Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) Theatre guests with its biting humor and overgrown set.

“I thought (‘Little Shop of Horrors’) was just tremendous,” said Kristen Oberright, a Rockville resident and AACC alumnus. “So many talented students and alumni, but also actors from the local theater scene, made for an exceptional, very professional show. I thought the acting, singing, music, choreography and set were all excellent.”

Most entertainment venues were hit hard by the pandemic, and AACC was no exception. Students who had been involved in productions in theater continued to take classes, graduate,



The Anne Arundel Community College theater program, AACC Theatre, put on a production of “Little Shop of Horrors” in April.

transfer and otherwise move on. This AACC production marked the return of musical theater to AACC since the pandemic.

“When the theater reopened with ‘Clue: On Stage’ in April 2022, our students were starved of performance opportunities and incredibly eager to be back in a venue. It took us a few semesters to get our production process back onto its feet properly,” said Madeline Austin, AACC Theatre department adjunct professor and “Little Shop of Horrors” director. “We felt not only had we gotten back into the rhythm process-wise, but our AACC students (both current and former)

really wanted to do a musical. We also wanted to choose a title that would be appealing for audiences. And, for me as a director, I wanted the challenge of working on a musical.”

The “Little Shop of Horrors” show began 10 minutes before the curtain went up with a Skid Row wino (Adam Lee Conklin) discreetly crawling out and “falling asleep” to the far right of the stage. With his dingy clothing barely noticeable against the black backdrop, the movement was just enough to catch the audience’s eyes to signal the beginning of Act I, which opened on equally dreary Skid Row. The only colorful aspect of Skid Row

was the surprisingly upbeat personality of the trio of presumably high school dropouts (Abby Burns, Elaina Kohrs and Susanne Whitney).

The choreography was playful or downcast as the scenes required, highlighting the physical acting and vocal talents of the entire cast. Throughout the musical, the storyline quietly took on social issues including domestic violence (flower shop employee Audrey, played by Ally Baca, and an abusive dentist boyfriend, played by Andrew Agner-Nichols) and homelessness, and questioned how far some people will go to achieve fame and fortune (fledg-  
» Continued on page 59

## “Civil War” Is A Thriller That Hits Close To Home

By James Buxton

Given the movie’s title, marketing and the current political climate, you’d be forgiven for thinking that Alex Garland’s “Civil War” is a movie about the growing divide between Americans and the potential fallout of a crucial election year. Truth be told, it’s barely about America at all, and even then, it has nothing to do with who’s in the right and what it means to be a good citizen.

There’s no commentary on right or left, and any allusions to the main players of the real world are relegated to a passing, inconsequential resemblance. Had it been set in any other country, it could have been the same movie with few alterations.

“Civil War” is a movie about the ethics of journalism, and your response to that statement will likely determine your opinion of the whole movie. If the idea of a slow, introspective look at what it means to document a war through the same lens one would a nature documentary appeals to you, this may be a favorite of the year. If  
» Continued on page 60



Photos courtesy of A24

Set in the United States, Alex Garland’s “Civil War” is a movie about the ethics of journalism.

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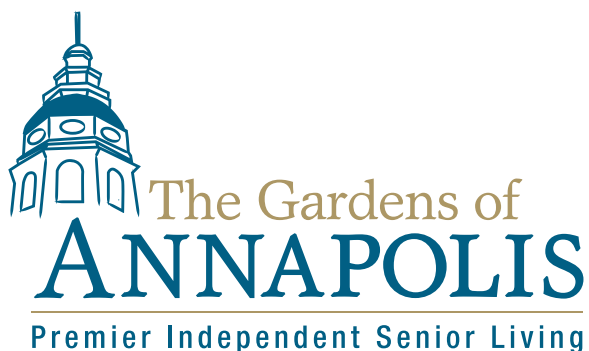
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## Audiences Devour Delicious Cult Classic

» Continued from page 56

ling flower shop owner Mr. Mushnik, played by Martin Egna, and Seymour Krelborn, the inventor of the menacing plant obsessed with “being seen,” played by Ethan Keller).

The action onstage was captivating in part because of the performances audiences didn’t see. The Audrey II (the man-eating plant puppet) required multiple puppeteers inside the structure under the direction of lead puppeteer Erik Binnix and voiced elsewhere by Sarah Johansen. The coordination of the puppet onstage, and the vocalist below the stage, Johansen, watching the entire performance on a monitor tucked away under the stage, had to be in perfect sync with Binnix’s puppeteer movements. Their coordination was so well done that the audience had no idea that the vocals weren’t coming from a puppeteer inside the plant.

Also adding to the performance were the musicians in the pit, led by Jack Benedict, who volunteered his time as a rehearsal pianist and first piano in the band. Linda Christensen (synth), Bailey Dicus (bass guitar, ensemble), Billy Georg (drums) and Joe Matthews (guitar) rounded out the band, also camouflaged under the stage with Johansen.

“It was also a joy working with Sean Urbantke (set), Maggie Cunningham (stage manager), Steph Condon (sound) and Michelle Hickman (costumes) again,” said Austin of other behind-the-scenes production team members. “After three previous productions together, we have really strengthened as a collaborative team. I was also given the opportunity to collaborate with the talented David Zajic (our pit director) and Adam Beres (our vocal coach), as well as having current AACC student Aidan Henderson design the lighting and Gabby Bly and Erik Binnix design Audrey pods 3 and 4.”

Another highlight was that Austin got to work with her eldest son, Benedict.

The “B-movie” musical adaptation received straight As from the audience. Lori Bader of Annapolis came to AACC’s “12 Angry Jurors” show last fall and “absolutely” loved it. “In our area we have many theater options, but I truly believe the AACC Theatre company is a hidden gem in our community,” she said.

AACC biology student and Audrey II puppeteer Kestrel Watson appreciated the diverse cast and felt that the collection of student and community actors made for an even better production.

“Individually, everyone is tremendously talented,” added Watson, who has also performed in the community college’s Black Box Series (short plays written, designed, acted and directed by students). “But when a production is put together, I am always amazed at how great we are collectively as a cast and crew.”

AACC has open auditions for all of its shows. If interested in auditioning, or to follow the show schedule and purchase tickets, visit [www.aacc.edu/campus-life/attend-a-performance](http://www.aacc.edu/campus-life/attend-a-performance).

## Naptown MusicFeast Offers A Smorgasbord Of Live Entertainment And Fun



*Petty Coat Junction is a Tom Petty tribute band scheduled to perform around 8:00pm during Naptown MusicFeast at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds on May 11. The band is fronted by 98 Rock’s Kirk McEwen.*

By Zach Sparks

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

**A**fter opening a large concert venue in South Florida around 2000, Cal Brockdorff got hooked on promoting live music and never looked back. He later got involved with the Vans Warped Tour and Outlaw Jam.

“It was a biker jam that had Mötley Crüe, Toby Keith, Bad and Company, and other bands,” Brockdorff said of Outlaw Jam.

Now, he is the promoter of a day-long music and food truck festival, Naptown MusicFeast, which will return to the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds in Crownsville on May 11.

The rain-or-shine event will benefit Anne Arundel County robotics clubs and will feature more than 20 food trucks serving barbecue, seafood, burgers, vegan options, Jamaican and Greek fare, cupcakes, ice cream and other specialties. Naptown MusicFeast will also have over 30 vendors, a mechanical bull, a rock-climbing wall, bounce houses, face painting, arts and crafts and, of course, live music.

Bands will include Petty Coat Junction (Tom Petty tribute group), Son of Pirates (Jimmy Buffett beach music), Jah Works (reggae), The Regal Beagles (yacht rock), Sweet Leda (rock and soul), and Midnight Madnezz (Priddy Music Academy students).

Petty Coat Junction is fronted by Kirk McEwen, co-host of 98 Rock’s “Kirk and Marianne” radio show and “Ravens Gameday.” McEwen went to Old Mill High School and grew up in the Waterbury Heights community, five miles from the fairgrounds.

“When you get a chance to play at a fairground, that’s pretty big, bigger than any bar,” said McEwen, who is excited to perform in his hometown.

McEwen was in eighth or ninth grade when Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers released the “Damn the Torpedoes” album, which included the songs “Refugee” and “Don’t Do Me Like That,” among others. Since people can’t see Tom Petty live anymore — he

died in 2017 — seeing Petty Coat Junction locally is the next best thing.

“He’s a great American storyteller, like Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp and Bob Seger,” McEwen said. “I put him in that same category. He tells good stories, with great melodies.”

Last year’s Naptown MusicFeast raised \$2,500 to split between two Anne Arundel County robotics teams: Power Hawks Robotics Team 1111 (South River High School) and Team 9072, the TigerBots (Chesapeake Science Point).

Although the TigerBots were formed just two years ago, the team won its Severn district event, qualified for the FIRST Robotics Competition playoffs, won the Hopper Division, and placed fourth in the FIRST championship Einstein Playoffs on the weekend of April 20. Funds from Naptown MusicFeast and other fundraisers are a big help to the club.

“Robotics is an expensive endeavor,” said Sean Schneider, a TigerBots business media mentor and a parent of two kids in the club. “Between the parts and tools, computers, motors and everything that’s needed, it does take an investment.”

Students from the club will show off their skills at the music and food truck festival.

“Last year, the kids had a blast,” Schneider said. “Kids look forward to being there this year with (the activity), ring shooter. They will drive the robot in a limited space for the crowd. The team has a vision and mission, and part of that is to inspire (each other and others) to be their best selves through STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).”

Brockdorff is the neighbor of TigerBots founder David Kravets, an alumnus of Chesapeake Science Point. While taking his kids to some of the competitions, Brockdorff was impressed, and he decided to help through Naptown MusicFeast.

“Doing this event in conjunction with supporting the team was just a great opportunity to have a fun event and do community good at the same time,” Brockdorff said. “David mentioned what they were up against competing with some of these national teams that come from areas with heavier tech, defense or aerospace industries that give huge corporate donations to the robotics teams. Here, they’ve had a bit more challenge getting significant corporate support. The event doesn’t raise a ton of money, but it all helps.”

McEwen is eager to support the cause and rock out. When asked what he hopes fans will take away from his band’s performance, he shared the story of a woman who recently traveled with her walker from Pasadena to Annapolis. She was in the crowd, partying.

“She can hardly get around, but she came to get down,” McEwen said. “Music gets into your body, and it keeps you alive. I hope people get to have that experience.”

The fun runs from noon to 10:00pm on May 11. Individual tickets for Naptown MusicFeast are \$25. Discounts are offered for groups of four. Children under 12 can attend for free, but they must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket.

Attendees are welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets. To learn more, visit [www.naptownmusicfeast.com](http://www.naptownmusicfeast.com).

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Just Like Home  
Lisa’s Luncheonette  
Menke Boys BBQ  
Quinn’s Ice  
Rita’s Italian Ice  
Taco Bar  
The Hot Dog Hideout  
Top Nach  
Wanna Pizza This

## “Civil War” Hits Close To Home

» Continued from page 56

you were expecting what the marketing seemed to promise — namely a guns-blazing, high-octane action movie about the downfall of the United States — then you’re going to be left wanting more.

That’s not to say there isn’t any action at all — the final act offers 10-15 minutes of a bloodthirsty siege that rivals the likes of Tom Clancy, and the rest of the movie is spotted with the occasional burst of unspeakable violence, but it’s never the focus. Even when embroiled in flames and gun smoke, the movie never lets up from

its modus operandi of showing just how far someone is willing to go for that perfect photograph.

The main theme here is the idea that to be an effective journalist in times of trouble, you have to completely disconnect from what’s happening around you. An early scene shows Lee, a veteran photographer played by Kirsten Dunst, walking among a sea of corpses that had, not 10 seconds earlier, been full of life. She doesn’t mourn nor cry; she simply crouches beside them to grab the perfect shot of the slaughter. Does that total mental divorce make her a bad person? Is the act of observ-

ing without getting involved a moral one? That’s what we’re here to explore.

Lee and her team’s decision to separate herself from events results in them treating it like a game, refusing to share plans with rivals and competing for the best angles. There’s this impression that none of the journalists at the core of this story see the war as what it truly is: a slaughter. It’s the main drawback of setting this movie during a fictional war — the idea that they’re denying reality is only supported by how ridiculous the setting is.

Had this movie been set in the Middle East, or had it been a period piece during Vietnam, the moments of clarity where the protagonists realize what’s actually happening around them would have been a much stronger scene. The upside to the American setting is that it might, with a bit of luck, hammer home just how devastating wars can be when painted across a familiar canvas. Seeing mass graves and summary executions conducted across the American Northeast reveals just a fraction of what occurs elsewhere during times of political and military unease.

The real drawback of the movie has nothing to do with the filmmaking at all. The screenplay, camerawork and particularly the acting are all stellar throughout, and after the dust settles, it will likely be regarded as a solid capstone to Alex Garland’s directing career. What fails is how it was marketed. Realistically, “failed” might be too strong a word, considering how the film will likely become one of studio A24’s highest-grossing releases of all

time, but it can’t be overstated just how misrepresented “Civil War” has been by its trailers, posters, title and press tour.

Despite being an excellent writer and generally impressive director, Garland has done this movie no favors by pushing the worldbuilding and background logic of the film to the forefront. The idea of California and Texas teaming up to conquer or liberate the rest of the United States is a ridiculous notion, but it works as a narrative device to keep the politics of each opposing side ambiguous, to allow focus on the story at hand. By trying to explain the reasoning and promoting the film as a story about the whole country at the close of the American empire, the actual story feels more like a misdirect, like we’re not being shown everything we were promised.

If “Civil War” had met the expectations of its trailers, and if it had Nick Offerman’s nameless, party-less president as a main character instead of a background figure with no stake in the story, would it have been a better movie? Maybe, but it wouldn’t have been this movie, which is, by and large, a solid thriller that’s more than worth the price of entry. Every cast member gives a career-defining performance, including Jesse Plemons, whose single scene is perhaps the most haunting of the whole picture. It’s the kind of movie that’ll likely reveal countless more details on subsequent viewings, and while the final scene may seem abrupt, the journey that leads to that final showdown in Washington makes it all worthwhile.

## Vocal Competition Is Coming To Maryland Hall

The Annapolis Opera’s 36th annual vocal competition will treat an audience to the talents of rising stars at Maryland Hall on May 5 at 3:00pm. The free event showcases singers selected by a panel of renowned judges, from hundreds of applicants from across the nation. Judges include Katherine Jolly (semifinals), Justina Lee (finals),



Grant Loehnig (semifinals), Craig Kier (semifinals and finals) and Lee Anne Myslewski (finals).

Be a part of the audience, cast your vote for the Audience Choice Award and see if your favorite wins

the first prize. This event is made possible in part by James and Sylvia Earl of the Helena Foundation. No tickets are required. To learn more, visit [www.annapolisopera.org](http://www.annapolisopera.org).

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# Children's Theatre To Present "Descendants: The Musical"



Based on the popular Disney Channel original movies, "Descendants: The Musical" is bringing comedy, adventure and hit songs to Children's Theatre of Annapolis from May 3-19.

Imprisoned on the Isle of the Lost — home of the most infamous villains who ever lived — the teenaged children of Maleficent, the Evil Queen, Jafar, and Cruella De Vil have never ventured off the island, until now. When the four troublemakers are sent

to attend prep school alongside the children of beloved Disney heroes, they have a difficult choice to make: should they follow in their parents' wicked footsteps or learn to be good?

Children's Theatre of Annapolis is located at 1661 Bay Head Road. Show-times are 7:00pm on Fridays, 11:00am and 4:00pm on Saturdays, and 2:00pm on Sundays.

For more information or to get tickets, visit [www.childrenstheatrofanapolis.org](http://www.childrenstheatrofanapolis.org).

# Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre Takes Audiences To "The Prom"

Four fading Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage in "The Prom," playing May 23 through June 15 at Annapolis Summer Garden Theater.

When the Broadway stars hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town Indiana prom — and the press is involved — they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the dance on the straight and narrow — but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. Now, Broadway's brassiest are coming to join the fight and they are ready to kick-ball-change the world.

The Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre show is based on the

book and lyrics by Chad Beguelin, book by Bob Martin and music by Matthew Sklar. David Merrill is the director and music director,

Elysia Greene Merrill is the choreographer and assistant director, and Atticus Boidy is the stage manager and assistant director. Melody Volkman is serving as production manager and producer. The Merrills

have put on several productions at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, and Boidy has directed numerous shows at Severna Park schools.

Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre is located at 143 Compromise Street in Annapolis. Please note, this show contains adult language.

For tickets, call 410-268-9212 or visit [summergarden.showare.com](http://summergarden.showare.com).



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# Let's Go! Music Festival Is Made For Memories



**Left:** Singer-songwriter and guitarist Chris Carrabba is Dashboard Confessional. He will perform on May 31. (Photo courtesy of Salma Bustos) **Center:** Fronted by Gavin Rossdale, Bush is a British post-grunge rock band that achieved fame in the 1990s with the songs "Glycerine," "Comedown" and "Machinehead." They will take the stage on June 2. (Photo courtesy of Troy Larson) **Right:** Taking Back Sunday is set to perform on May 31 as well. (Photo courtesy of Keeyahtay Lewis)

## By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The fourth annual Let's Go! Music Festival will return to the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds from May 31-June 2 with a staple of musicians that includes Taking Back Sunday, Dashboard Confessional, Motion City Soundtrack, The Revivalists, Bush, Daughtry and several other acts.

Brother-and-sister duo Chris Hartman and Liz Rawlings started the festival after the COVID-19 pandemic slowed down and after attending the KAABOO music festival in San Diego, California. Their ideal event was an Anne Arundel County outdoor concert experience on a smaller scale than KAABOO.

"We wanted to create a special environment and a unique kind of boutique-ish, intimate setting area where you can enjoy a good show, where you're not standing crammed in with 150,000 fans," Hartman said. "(After) X amount of people, Liz and I cut it off. We don't want anything too crazy and out of control."

Rawlings said, "Coming out of COVID, we were missing live music, we were missing going to KAABOO, we were missing just being out with people and listening to live music, and to Chris' point, we wanted to bring

all of that, the best we could, to our hometown."

Over the last four years, Lets Go! has brought musicians from varying backgrounds to Anne Arundel County. The event has featured alternative



**Brother-and-sister duo Chris Hartman and Liz Rawlings started the Let's Go! Music Festival four years ago to give Anne Arundel County residents an outdoor, hometown concert option.**

rock and pop groups including Smash Mouth and Gin Blossoms (2021), Goo Goo Dolls (2022) and 311 (2023). The Crownsville stage has also welcomed classic rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd (2022) and country artist Chris Young (2023).

"I'm a '90s girl at heart and '80s too," Rawlings said. "I'm more (into) pop and Chris is more indie. So we try to blend that together with both of our styles to bring a show that is locally something people will enjoy."

The planning process can be nerve-racking, but it is all worthwhile when Rawlings and Hartman get to watch musicians perform up close. Rawlings called their role with the festival "the best job in the world."

"The stress, the highs, the lows, it is all worth it because we have one weekend where we get to see it all come together," she said.

The most rewarding aspect is seeing families bond and fostering a love of music, just as the siblings did in their youth.

At 12 or 13 years old, Hartman spent his summers baling hay in Texarkana, Texas, which is where he saw hair metal bands Van Halen, Boston, Dokken, White Lion and Whitesnake entertain crowds.

"When you see some of those

bands and you watch everybody from Eddie Van Halen to everybody in Boston – like Brad Delp and those guys – wow," he said. "You're blown away at 13, 12. Holy smokes. Liz is a little different because she's into like Elton John (type of music) ... but that was it for me in a nutshell. I was sold."

Rawlings likes to see any band live.

"I think when you get to see a band live, it just changes your perspective on potentially them, and you get exposed to new music that otherwise you wouldn't listen to," she said.

Now, Rawlings and Hartman are seeing their guests enjoy similar experiences.

"When we had Lynyrd Skynyrd, for example, we had grandfather, father, son. That's impactful," Hartman said. "That's what we like to create, something cool like that. Watching it grow, for me, that's what it's all about. That whole family vibe, like just come out and have fun, and it's just with national artists, it's a completely different experience."

Last year, music lovers whose first concert was 311 came to Let's Go! to see 311 with their kids.

"You just get goosebumps when you think that those memories for people and this impact will last a lifetime," Rawlings said. "It's quite rewarding."

## What's New For 2024

New for 2024 is a partnership with School of Rock. Four Maryland School of Rock locations competed in a battle of the bands, with the Columbia and Annapolis locations earning spots to open the festival on Saturday and Sunday.

With the Roadie for a Day program, School of Rock musicians will go backstage and have access to musicians from All You Need and The Dave Tieff Experiment.

"They get to see, if you blow up, this is the lifestyle you'll have," said Adam Moore, who does marketing for Let's Go!

For anyone who wants to attend the festival, multiple ticket options are available: general admission (GA) party pass, GA party dock and VIP.

"We added a GA+ party dock ticket that gives an elevated experience over our regular GA ticket by giving you private bars, air-conditioned bathrooms, closer parking and an area for some shade and seating," Moore said. "We upgraded our VIP owner's box experience to include front-of-stage viewing as well as access to the all-new Osprey's Nest, a standing area above the front-of-house sound booth where you'll experience the best sound and a

view over the crowd."

Lets Go! will offer dining options from 17 food trucks, along with beer and spirits. This year, the event is partnered with Maryland-based RaR Brewing.

Rawlings and Hartman have also teamed up with Annapolis Green to minimize the environmental impact of the festival. The Naptown Tap will be onsite, filling up water bottles for free.

**For tickets or more information, visit [www.letsfest.com](http://www.letsfest.com).**



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# Colonial Players Of Annapolis Presents “The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time”

Now through May 18, Colonial Players is performing “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” a show that delves into the wonders of life.

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon and adapted by Simon Stephens, the Colonial Players show is directed by Steve Tobin. Fifteen-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain: He is exceptional at mathematics but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. Now it is seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher stands beside his neighbor’s dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden fork. Finding himself under suspicion, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, and he carefully records each fact of the crime. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world. Winner of the 2015 Tony Award for Best Play, this show has been called beautiful, eloquent and dazzlingly inventive.

### Director’s Notes

To be able to “walk in another person’s shoes” is probably one of the hardest but most valuable skills we can have as a member of the human race. Empathy forms the basis for so much in our life. It is the essential element



that allows us to create and sustain meaningful connections between each other. And so we have this remarkable play that provides us with a powerful, empathetic connection into a person - and a people - that are too often ignored, misunderstood or marginalized. We do need to be careful because our

hero, Christopher, is no more a stereotype of the neuro-diverse community than any individual is of a race, religion or gender identity. Christopher is doing what we all do - trying to find his place in a world that he doesn’t fully understand. We are all individuals, and we all deserve to be met where we are, and

treated with empathy and respect. It is a noble goal, but one more honored in the sentiment than the practice. Perhaps we can and will be inspired to do better.

And speaking of respect, I am in awe of the group of people that has worked on this production. This has been an extraordinary process. I don’t think CP has ever attempted anything as complicated as this show (at least in my knowledge and experience). You are witnessing an amazing collaboration of technologies and artistry, of electronics and ensemble acting. The design/tech team and crew of this show are some of the finest and most skilled people to work in our theater, and the ensemble have poured their passion (not to mention their patience) into inhabiting their characters. All for the purpose of telling this unforgettable story with the humanity it deserves.

Lastly, I want to thank my family - especially Jo and Diana - for putting up with me during this intense and all-consuming journey. It has been a complicated year to say the least, and I don’t know how I would have made it without the strength and love I have received from you.

“I would not wish any companion in the world but you.” — *Shakespeare*  
**Steve Tobin**

To learn more and view showtimes, visit [www.thecolonialplayers.org](http://www.thecolonialplayers.org).

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## The Silent Threat Of Strokes: What You Need To Know And How To Protect Yourself

**Bryan Pugh**  
Brain Injury  
Association of  
Maryland



**"S**troke" can be a daunting word, but do we really understand what it means? Knowing more about strokes, how to spot them and how to aid in preventing them could make a lifesaving difference.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS A STROKE?

Think of your brain as the control center for your entire body. A stroke happens when something cuts off the blood supply to part of your brain. It could be a clot blocking a blood vessel or a burst blood vessel unable to get vital blood to a portion of your brain and creating pressure between your brain and your skull.

Either way, your brain cells are starved of oxygen and can start to die within minutes. That's why acting fast is so crucial, and why Anne Arundel County has worked so hard to earn a "Stroke Smart" designation.

### KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS – ACT FAST

*The FAST acronym is your best friend. It could save your life or the life of someone you love:*

- F - Face Drooping:** Does one side of the face look saggy or numb? Ask the person to smile and see if it's lopsided.
- A - Arm Weakness:** Can the person lift both arms and keep them up? Or does one arm start to fall?
- S - Speech Difficulty:** Is their speech slurred, jumbled or hard to understand?
- T - Time to Call 911:** If you see any of these signs, don't waste a second. Call 911 immediately!

### MONITOR OTHER SYMPTOMS

*Pay attention to sudden changes such as:*

- Numbness or weakness, especially on just one side
- Confusion or trouble understanding people talking
- Trouble seeing out of one or both eyes
- Dizziness, loss of balance or trouble walking

### TAKE CONTROL

*Strokes can be scary, but many can be prevented by following these steps:*

- **Lower your blood pressure:** High blood pressure puts huge stress on your blood vessels. Eat well, get moving and talk to your doctor about keeping it in a healthy range.
- **Watch your cholesterol:** Think of high cholesterol as gunk building up inside your arteries. Lifestyle changes are important, and sometimes medication may be needed too.
- **Ditch the cigarettes:** Smoking seriously ups your stroke risk. Quitting brings huge benefits.
- **Control diabetes:** Keeping your blood sugar in check protects blood vessels throughout your body.
- **Manage your weight:** Carrying extra pounds can strain your whole body, including those precious arteries.
- **Eat for health:** Focus on fruits, veggies, whole grains and lean protein.
- **Get moving:** Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate activity most days of the week.

Strokes can happen at any age, so be proactive, know the signs, and act fast to protect yourself and those you love.

*Bryan Pugh is the executive director of the Brain Injury Association of Maryland (BIAMD) – now in its 41st year of serving Maryland families confronting the challenges of acquired brain injuries. To learn more about strokes, acquired brain injuries and BIAMD resources/community outreach initiatives, visit [www.biamd.org](http://www.biamd.org).*

## Can A Gadget Monitor Your Heart Health?

By Salvatore Lauria  
Luminis Health Cardiology

**W**ith the popularity of wearable smart devices today, it's likely you and your loved ones use one of these gadgets. These devices connect us to our families, friends and colleagues, assist in managing our calendars and grocery lists, and even aid in navigation. But can they effectively help us maintain our health?

### Heart Rate

Fitbits and most smartwatches use specialized sensors to track your heart rate both at rest and during exercise. Monitoring your heart rate with a smart device is preferable to not monitoring it at all, although there can be some margin of error. The most accurate heart readings are obtained in a doctor's office. While these devices might alert you to potentially concerning heart rate changes, they are not substitutes for medical equipment.

### Blood Pressure

Blood pressure readings present an even greater variability with smart devices. Fitbits, for example, estimate blood pressure using heart rate data, activity levels and other factors. However, it's important to note the term "estimate."

The gold standard for accurate blood pressure monitoring is the old-fashioned way of a trained health care provider using a stethoscope and upper arm cuff. The accuracy of smart device readings can be affected by several factors, including body size, skin pigmentation and even lighting. However, one way it could be helpful is if it indicates a sudden rise or dip in blood pressure, which could signal a potentially dangerous health condition.

### Irregular Rhythm

Several smartwatches collect heart rhythm and motion data to check for signs of atrial fibrillation, or AFib, a condition that affects more than 2 million people in the U.S. AFib is an irregular heartbeat that can lead to blood clots, stroke and other complications. The sensitivity and specificity for detecting AFib by smart devices is greater than 90 percent, making them comparable to medical-grade devices. However, the results are most accurate among those who are older, while young and healthy people sometimes get false positives leading to unnecessary health care visits. Overall, this feature is promising, and in time, better sensors and algorithms will enhance accuracy.

### Fitness

Fitbits, smartwatches and similar devices are best known for tracking activity levels, including daily step counts. You've probably heard you must get 10,000 steps a day. A recent study published in the Journal of



American Cardiology (which was a combination of 12 other studies) revealed health benefits start at 2,500 to 2,700 steps per day.

The study recommends 7,000 daily steps for strong cardiovascular defense and suggests that aiming for 9,000 steps can promote longevity. You don't have to reach 10,000 steps daily to gain health benefits.

Here are a few tips on how to best use a Fitbit or similar device to set goals and stay motivated:

**Set Realistic Goals:** Start by setting achievable goals for yourself, such as a certain number of steps per day, active minutes or calories burned. Fitbit allows you to set personalized goals based on your fitness level and objectives.

**Wear it Consistently:** Wear your Fitbit device throughout the day for precise activity monitoring.

**Track Your Activity:** Use your Fitbit to track steps, distance calories burned, active minutes and floors climbed. Check your progress regularly to ensure you're meeting your goals.

**Utilize Workouts and Challenges:** Smart devices provide features and challenges to keep you engaged and motivated. Try different workout modes like running, biking or swimming, and join challenges with friends or online communities.

**Stay Active Throughout the Day:** Use your Fitbit to remind you to move throughout the day, especially if you have a sedentary job. Set up hourly reminders to take a short walk or stretch break to keep your body moving and avoid prolonged sitting.

### Tracking Helps You Stay on Track

Whether you're counting steps or monitoring other health metrics, smart devices can be a useful tool. Just don't rely solely on them and neglect professional medical advice. The biggest advantage of wearing a Fitbit or similar device is that it keeps you consistently mindful of your health, leading to better choices.

*If you have heart health concerns, you can schedule an appointment with Luminis Health Cardiology by calling 443-481-6700.*

*Salvatore Lauria is a cardiologist with Luminis Health Cardiology.*



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and President of  
LaBarge Financial



The relationship between many people and their finances is troubling: More than half of Americans say they feel way behind where they should be with their emergency savings, almost 80% have admitted to feeling anxious about their financial situation, and thanks to the worsening retirement crisis, the number of U.S. workers above the age of 75 is expected to nearly double over the next 10 years.

Given today's turbulent economic environment, it's more important than ever to seek sound financial advice. One way to go about strengthening your finances is by working with a financial advisor, who can create a personalized plan for your specific needs. Choosing a financial advisor can feel like a daunting process, so how do you know when you've found the right one?

### Passion is Paramount

My father was a firm believer in the saying, "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life." I live out this philosophy every day as I help guide people toward a stable retirement. I enjoy my work so much that a running joke with my clients is, "Don't tell anybody, but I would do this for free."

Now am I saying you should ask a potential advisor if they love their job enough to work for free? No, but I am saying that it should be clear they are passionate about their work. Their main focus should be cultivating a meaningful relationship with you. When you're having a conversation with them, they should be asking you all kinds of questions to learn about your unique story, dreams and goals.

### Going Beyond the Money

You also want to consider a holistic and independent financial advisor whose approach to financial planning goes beyond portfolio management to include tax strategy, legacy planning, Social Security and health care coverage.

» Continued on page 70

## Chamber Update

**Liz League**  
CEO  
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members and enjoy reading about all the small businesses that make our community the best place to live! Find them in our

directory at [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com).

**Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake** – Girls on the Run has fun, evidence-based programs that inspire participants to recognize their inner strength, increase their level of physical activity, imagine their possibilities, and confidently stand up for themselves and others. Girls on the Run was founded in 1996 with 13 participants and has now served over 2 million from coast to coast. ([www.gotrchesapeake.org](http://www.gotrchesapeake.org))

**Health & Vitality Clinic** – Nestled in the heart of Crofton, this premier medical spa is dedicated to enhancing your natural beauty and promoting overall well-being. Health & Vitality offers a range of transformative experiences, including personalized weight loss programs, invigorating IV infusions and beauty-enhancing Botox treatments. ([www.healthvitalityclinic.com](http://www.healthvitalityclinic.com))

**Superior Softwash** – This business' Authentic SoftWash uses a 12-volt battery-operated agricultural sprayer system to apply a water-based, biodegradable cleaning solution at about 50 psi. The cleaning solution emulsifies the

dirt and grime, and kills the mold, mildew, algae, bacteria, fungus, moss and lichens (all the funky stuff discoloring your home). The "superior secret sauce" also breaks down spiders' webs and bugs' nests. ([www.superiorsoftwash.com](http://www.superiorsoftwash.com))

**Matador Mobile Advertising** – Mobile billboard advertising is a bold, dynamic, and attention-grabbing form of advertising that has taken the marketing world by storm in recent years. With a mobile billboard, you can quickly reach a target audience and cover broad distances, all while displaying high-definition imagery, video and sound to promote your business or basically anything. ([www.matadormobile.com](http://www.matadormobile.com))

**Strategic Sequoia Group Inc.** – The team at SSGI prides themselves on finding the right employee benefits package for you and your employees, ensuring that you have the right support, potential cost savings, and the education needed. This is your local employee benefits brokers offering group health, dental, vision, disability and life insurance plans in the small business community. ([www.ssgibenefits.com](http://www.ssgibenefits.com))

**Nexus Cloud IT** – This company operates a multiservice IT and support business with a focus on leveraging cloud technologies and their Kaseya-based suite of services to help minimize cost and enhance IT operations for their clients. It supports the HVAC, legal services, and financial services sectors with the ability to assist clients requiring NIST compliance due to government contracting or otherwise. ([www.nexuscloud.systems](http://www.nexuscloud.systems))

» Continued on page 69

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Guardian Gutters Protects An Important Asset For Homeowners



Joshua Hahn started Guardian Gutters earlier this year because he saw a lack of quality options catering specifically to gutters in Anne Arundel County.

#### By Zach Sparks

Joshua Hahn doesn't want homeowners to throw their money in the gutter.

After spending 10 years in the home improvement industry and then helping small businesses grow and scale, he started his own company, Guardian Gutters, to help people care for an often-overlooked aspect of their homes.

"For gutters, there is a tremendous need," said Hahn, who grew up in Severna Park. "A lot of companies sell gutters. There are not a lot of companies that care about selling gutters."

Hahn focuses on each homeowner's needs and not a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead of selling gutters as part of a larger operation with other priorities, Guardian Gutters specializes in everything gutters: replacement, repair, cleaning and gutter guards. The maintenance-free systems come in 5-inch to 6-inch sizes with various protection options.

Not only do gutters improve a home's curb appeal, but they serve an important function, one that served as an inspiration when Hahn named his business.

"Gutters are really the guardians of the home in the sense of protect-

ing the home from water damage," he said. "Gutters are designed to protect water from getting close to the foundation."

Whether they need to remove leaves, debris and other obstructions or replace gutters entirely, the team at Guardian Gutters wants to ensure that rainwater flows freely away from the home. They also want to make the process as simple as possible, providing quality service with no hidden fees.

"I hear from a lot of people that the home improvement industry makes it difficult for homeowners," Hahn said. "Someone comes out and they do an assessment, and they say they will give a quote, and then days go by, and the homeowner is asking for the quote and they are told, 'This other company is going to call.' With gutters, it's quick and efficient."

Even if replacement gutters are needed, the style and colors are simple, so the process is straightforward. But that does not mean that anyone can do the job.

"If the right solution isn't offered, it will overflow," Hahn said, noting that the climate also affects the type of materials that should be used. "You can't just use the same products in each area. It should be custom,

per area and per weather pattern."

"Guards fall apart depending on where you put them," he said. "People are told they have a lifetime warranty, but if you read the fine print, it says the warranty does not cover damage from the climate. Here, we have really hot summers.

Anything with plastic falls apart."

Hahn's team uses LeafBlasterPro gutter guards, which are "only aluminum, with no plastic or binding agents," he said.

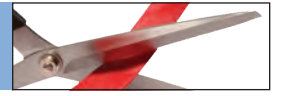
With skilled professionals, quality craftsmanship, and prompt and reliable service, Guardian Gutters wants to ensure that Anne Arundel County residents have gutters that function flawlessly year-round.

Hahn's goal is to expand to surrounding areas but keep his focus on Anne Arundel County.

To schedule service or request a free estimate, call 443-775-2349 or visit [www.gutterssevernaparkmd.com](http://www.gutterssevernaparkmd.com).



## RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Severna Park Ledo Pizza Relocates

After more than 26 years in the Park Plaza shopping center, Ledo Pizza has a new home. The restaurant has moved one mile north to 342 Ritchie Highway. Owner Martin Gorman and his staff held a ribbon-cutting with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce on April 23.



### Pedal Pushers Enjoys A 35-Year Ride

Rod Reddish started his own business, Pedal Pushers, as a repair and rental shop right after high school. Over 35 years, the business has expanded to carry a larger selection of retail items. The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, along with community officials, joined Reddish to commemorate the milestone on April 17.



### The FaceBar Gets A New Home

After three years in Pasadena, The FaceBar Aesthetic Medicine relocated to a new space and celebrated the move with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce on April 13. Now located at 4231 Postal Court, Suite 100, in Pasadena, the business offers age-reversing treatments designed to rejuvenate skin while enhancing each person's natural beauty.



### Vida Fusion Assists Patients With Health And Wellness Goals

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce welcomed Vida Fusion Health and Wellness to the community on April 20. The business offers a variety of injections and boosters from its "shot bar," and helps patients build their treatment around their wellness goals, whether that is weight loss, detoxification, beauty, muscle recovery or migraine relief. Vida Fusion Health and Wellness is located at 1514 Jabez Run in Millersville.



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**Brian M Conrad, CFP\***  
Financial Advisor

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# Financial Focus: Don't Let Investments Take A Vacation

**Brian Conrad**  
Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones



So, how can you prevent your investments, and your overall financial strategy,

Summertime is almost here, and for many people, that means it's time to hit the road. But even if you decide to take a vacation, you'll want other areas of your life to keep working — especially your investments.

from going on "vacation?" Here are a few suggestions:

**Check your progress.** You want your investments to be working hard for you, so you'll need to check on their performance periodically — but be careful about how you evaluate results. Don't compare your portfolio's results against those of a market index, such as the S&P 500, which tracks the stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies listed on American stock exchanges. This comparison may not be particularly valid because your own portfolio ideally should include a range of investments, including U.S. and foreign stocks, corporate and government

bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other securities. So, instead of checking your progress against a market index, use benchmarks meaningful to your individual situation, such as whether your portfolio is showing enough growth potential based on a compounding rate of return to keep you moving toward a comfortable retirement and other long-term goals.

**Invest with a purpose.** When you work intensely at something, it's usually because you have a definite result in mind. And this sense of purpose applies to investing, too. If you buy a stock here, and another one there, based on "hot" tips you might have seen on television or the internet, you may end up with a jumbled sort of portfolio that doesn't really reflect your needs. Instead, try to follow a long-term investment strategy based on your financial goals, risk tolerance, asset accumulation needs, liquidity and time horizon, always with an eye toward where you want to go in life — how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.

**Be strategic with your investments.** Over the years, you will likely have a variety of competing financial goals, and you'll want your investment portfolio working to help achieve all of them. That means, though, that you'll likely need to match certain investments with specific goals. For example, when you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan, you're putting away money for retirement. But if you want to help your children

go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary education or training, you might want to save in a 529 education savings plan, which allows tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. Or, if you want to save for a short-term goal, such as a wedding or a long vacation, you might choose an investment that offers significant protection of principal, so the money will be available when you need it. Ultimately, this type of goals-based investing can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

When you take a vacation, you will hopefully be more relaxed and refreshed. But if you let your investments stop working as hard as they should, the results could be stressful. So, be diligent about your investment strategy, monitor it regularly and make those moves appropriate for your situation. By doing so, you can't necessarily guarantee a long day at the beach, but you'll have a good chance of enjoying a sunny outlook.

*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.*

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

## Chamber Update

» Continued from page 65

**UBS** – UBS makes a real impact in the lives of its clients by guiding them through major life events and helping them preserve and pass on their wealth. Its customized approach focuses on thoughtful financial planning and wealth management, encompassing all aspects of your financial life. Contact Alex Johnson through the link at [advisors.ubs.com/quantumfamilywm](http://advisors.ubs.com/quantumfamilywm).

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We held five ribbon-cutting celebrations this past month. The first was the grand opening of **Pasadena Wine and Spirits**. In addition to its impressive inventory of libations, you can "try before you buy."

Next, we held a ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of **The FaceBar Aesthetic Medicine** in Pasadena. In just a year, the team tripled their space and added many more practitioners.

We had yet another grand opening, this one featuring **Vida Fusion Health & Wellness** in Millersville, which provides IV drips specific to your personal needs with the goal of long-term wellness.

**Pedal Pushers Bike Shop** celebrated 35 years of business success at its location in Severna Park. Owner Rod Reddish worked at the shop right after high school graduation, purchasing the business five years later. Congratulations to Rod!

Finally, we performed the grand opening ceremony for **Ledo Pizza's** new location in Severna Park. Owner Martin Gorman opened his business in 1998 in Severna Park, and it has been a hit ever since.

Our Successful Women in Business "First Cup Club" enjoyed a delicious breakfast and great networking at the beautiful **Arthur Murray Dance Center in Arnold**. Owner Autumn Dawn spoke about the school, which offers classes for all ages.

Our Spring Shop Local Fun Festival is on May 4 from 11:00am–3:00pm at Park Plaza! We are so excited to have over 60 exhibitors, food, music and fun for the whole family. Our gold sponsors are **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, Landmark Roofing, SERVPRO Annapolis/Severna Park, CheckMark Power Washing** and **Kogen Dojo**. Silver Sponsors are **Griswold Home Care** and

**Kwon's Taekwondo**. Bronze sponsors are **Mosquito Squad of Annapolis, Severna Park Community Center, LogoZone Promotions, Delegate Heather Bagnall, Park Hardware** and **Allstate Insurance – Alex Schwab**.

Registration is open for our Independence Day Parade, to be held on Thursday, July 4, from 10:00am–noon in Severna Park. We will again offer a \$500 prize in three categories — Best Overall, Best Theme and Most Patriotic. We encourage communities to gather their teams and start building their floats!

*For more information about the chamber and our events, visit [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com). As always, remember to shop local and support our small businesses!*

## Side Street Framers & Gift Gallery Turns 35

*To show their appreciation for 35 years of support from the community, Side Street Framers & Gift Gallery invited patrons to join them at the Severna Park location for sales, cake and refreshments on April 20.*



## VCA Calvert Veterinary Center Celebrates Two Decades



*To celebrate 20 years of service to the pets and families of Pasadena and the surrounding community, the VCA Calvert Veterinary Center staff held an open house on April 20. Attendees were treated to raffles and door prizes, food and drinks, options for adopting pets through local rescues, and more.*

## Helpful Ways To Choose The Right Financial Advisor

### » Continued from page 65

An ideal financial firm has attorneys, certified public accountants (CPAs), Medicare professionals and experienced Social Security professionals working in their office to assist with all of your needs under one roof. This eliminates the inconvenience of having all of your services scattered in different places.

### Good Financial Advisors Don't Compete

The field of financial advisory centers around service and impact, which in my

opinion means advisors focus more on serving families and positively impacting lives than bringing in new clients or getting more assets under management. We know there is a tremendous need for our services, so we're not competing. We look at one another as colleagues with a common purpose. We respect one another, exchange ideas and root for our collective success. At the end of the day, we want to know that people are getting the financial support they need. It's not about whose firm has more clients.

So, what does all of this mean as you search for a financial advisor? Carefully

gauge the sincerity of the person you're potentially going to sign on with. How someone speaks about other practitioners in their field says a lot about their character. It's also an indication of how they might treat you as a client.

An advisor who truly has your dreams and goals in mind will have a thorough process for finding out if their firm can fully support your needs. They'll ask the right questions to ensure they can help you reach your goals. My mantra is that I can't serve everyone because I'm only one person. Great service is about quality over

quantity. If you try to serve everyone, you will not adequately serve anyone. For me, it's about properly guiding those who walk through my door to find out if I'm a good fit for their financial needs or if I can point them in the right direction.

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## Landmark Roofing Improves SPHS Dugout

Landmark Roofing noted that Severna Park High School's baseball home dugout was in need of a new roof. So, the Landmark Roofing crew sprang into action and donated a new roof in April. Landmark Roofing has been a Severna Park High School athletics sponsor for the last six years, as well as supporting "Rock 'N' Roll Revival" and other school programs.



"I recently worked with Brian to secure my first loan. Brian is very knowledgeable and responsive. The loan process was relatively painless and we were able to quickly and effectively resolve issues as they arose. I would definitely recommend Brian to someone looking for a loan." - Alex O.



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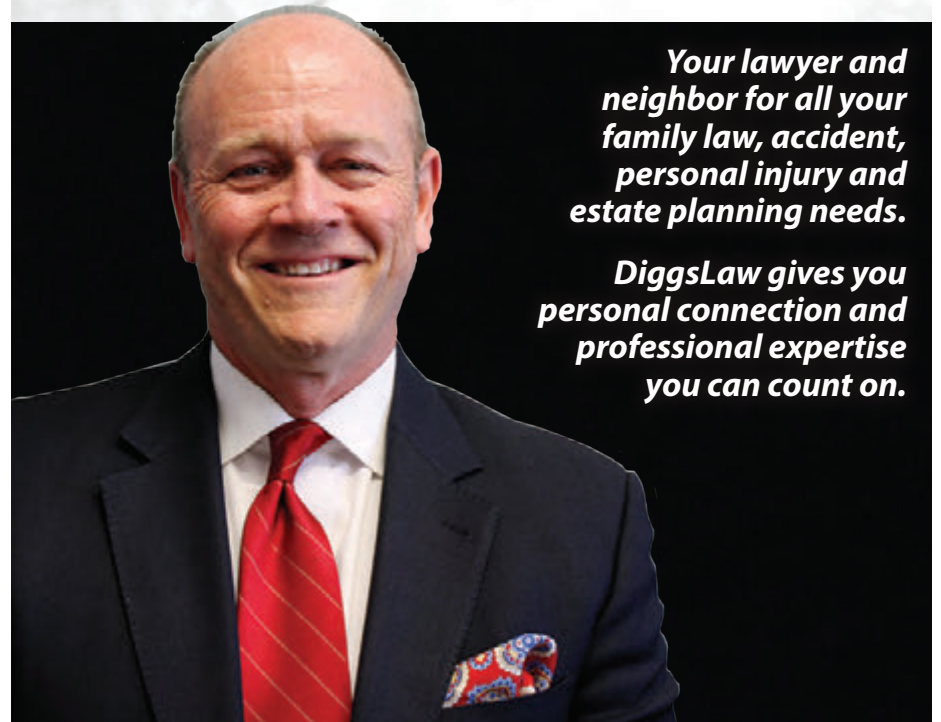
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