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ENTERTAINMENT & DINING GUIDE



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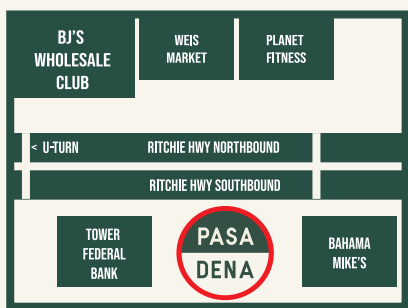
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14 TOBY'S DINNER THEATRE OF COLUMBIA
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Severna Park

PITAYA MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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ART IN THE PARK GARTEN

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12 RAMS HEAD TAVERN

Cover Photo — The Grilled Lincolns will be the headliner at Art in the Park September 29.

Photo courtesy of Bryan Kremkau Photography

PARK - TAVERN

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Taste The World Without

By Meredith Winter

Locals in the greater Severna Park area are fortunate to have scores of great dining options in their own backyard. From burgers to breakfast favorites to barbecue, the area just about has it all. But beyond standard American fare, Severna Park also affords residents the opportunity to sample some of the world's most popular ethnic cuisines without leaving their own zip code. Diners eager to expand their palate can taste different regions of the world at these local eateries.



MEXICAN Take your taste buds on a trip to the southern region of North America at Severna Park's many Mexican restaurants. Though most of them serve many traditional Mexican dishes including tacos, enchiladas, burritos and more, they each have their own unique flair. The robust menu at **Señor Chile** is inspired by Mexican street food, and features authentic street tacos, quesadillas, gorditas, mulitas, tortas, churros and birria several ways. The innovative offerings at **Vida Taco** show

a respect for the traditions of Mexican cuisine with a fresh take: some of the tacos feature Korean pork belly, Thai basil shrimp and buffalo cauliflower.

At the heart of **Pitaya's** identity is the exotic namesake dragon fruit, which makes an appearance in Pitaya's chopped salad. The restaurant offers an array of Mexican favorites such as enchiladas and fajitas, as well as a variety of vegetarian options and more traditional fare such as empanadas and tamales. At **Mi Pueblo**, patrons will discover copious seafood offerings; standard favorites including nachos, quesadillas and fajitas; and traditional Mexican dishes such as flautas, taquitos and chimichangas.



IRISH One of the U.S.' nearest neighbors across the pond is Ireland, and its traditional fare is on the menu at **Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub**. Locals don't have to wait for St. Patrick's Day to sample corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, or a variety of Irish soups; these and many other offerings are available year-round right in the heart of Severna Park.

GERMAN/FRENCH Travelers touring Europe might take a short flight from Ireland to nearby Germany, but Severna Park area residents need only drive about five minutes south of Brian Boru to arrive at **Garten**, a newer-to-the-area concept featuring French and German flavors. French-origin cheeses such as Boursin and brie dot the creative menu, which offers modern interpretations of old-world cuisines such as Garten's schnitzel sandwich or bratwurst burger.

Leaving Severna Park

ITALIAN No culinary survey of Europe would be complete without a visit to Italy, and Severna Park locals have numerous opportunities to sample the country's popular cuisine right at home. Whether for a family celebration or simply a nice meal out, **Cafe Mezzanotte** offers an elevated Italian menu featuring fresh, local ingredients. Charred octopus, venison carpaccio, enticing entrees from land and sea, and a variety of pastas and risottos headline their selections.

La Posta, a woodfire pizzeria and kitchen, also offers an array of authentic Italian cuisine spanning gnocchi to calamari, as well as pizzas featuring unique ingredients such as imported Scamone Italian ham, grilled Italian eggplant, mild Roma sausage and more.

The Severna Park area is also home to a variety of casual, budget-friendly pizzerias dishing up pies, pastas, subs, salads and more. Indulge in an Italian feast right at home with takeout from **Little Carmine's**, **Carini's**, **Ledo Pizza**, **Bella Italia**, **Spizzico** and others.

CHINESE Moving on to the vast continent of Asia, flavors of the world's second-most populous country are plentiful in the Severna Park area. With dine-in and carryout options, Chinese food can be enjoyed in several local restaurants or from the comfort of one's sofa. **Szechuan Inn** offers both Chinese and Japanese favorites including sushi, beef and broccoli, General Tso's chicken and more. **Bei Jing Chinese Restaurant** serves up a comprehensive selection of chow mein, chop suey, lo mein, egg foo young, moo shu dishes and many others. At **Ming's Cafe**, diners can choose from plentiful lunch and dinner combinations and classic Chinese dishes such as orange chicken and sweet and sour pork. In Arnold, **China Garden** also offers an extensive menu of traditional fare and sushi.

JAPANESE Patrons of **Kyoto Japanese Steakhouse** in Severna Park will enjoy not only a meal but also a memorable experience as they watch their food be prepared before them in the interactive Japanese tradition of hibachi. Kyoto also offers a wide range of fresh sushi. Flavors of Japan are also on the menu at **Ginza Japanese Steak and Sushi Bar** and **Oishi Japanese Cuisine**.

THAI Rounding out Severna Park's repertoire of Asian flavors are two establishments dishing up Thai food. Offering carryout only, **Thai Paradise** serves pad Thai, drunken noodles, a variety of curries and fried rice dishes, and more. The menu is similar at **Lemongrass** in Arnold, which is one of its four nearby locations serving modern Thai cuisine.



Cafe Mezzanotte

OTHER GLOBAL FARE If your taste buds want to continue their culinary travels, you can sample classic Greek dishes including gyros, moussaka, spanakopita, souvlaki, dolmades and more at **Paul's Homewood Café** or **Kerastini Greek Kitchen** in Annapolis. Or, try the flavors of north India in a variety of land and seafood offerings, vegan and vegetarian options and more accented by curry and spices at Annapolis' **Basmati Indian Restaurant**.

All menus are subject to change and availability. Plan a dining experience at one of the above restaurants by visiting their websites to view hours, locations and more. ■



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A Coffee Lover's Guide To Local Cafés

By Meredith Winter

The U.S. is officially hooked on the bean. According to online data platform Statista, roughly three in four Americans — 73% — report consuming coffee every day. Among daily drinkers, almost 80% enjoy two or more cups at home on a weekday and more than half consume three or more.

In addition to being an effective energy boost to combat a midday slump, caffeinated beverages stimulate the economy as well. In 2023, the U.S. coffee market generated nearly \$85 billion in revenue according to Statista. Among surveyed Americans, about 27% reported buying

coffee from cafés a few times a week, with 8% getting their fix outside of home every day. And as of 2022, coffee enthusiasts had over 38,000 U.S. coffee shops to choose from.

A conservative calculation would indicate that I personally infuse over \$500 annually into the local coffee market. Since working as a barista for my first job beginning at 16 years old, I have developed both an addiction to and an affection for excellent coffee. If you, like me, want to discover all that the local coffee scene has to offer, below is a list of nearby cafés that highlights what sets each one apart, with recommendations on what to try from their menus.

SEVERNA PARK

Right in the heart of Severna Park, **The Big Bean** has been a community staple for over two decades. Known for its friendly staff and flavored drip coffees, The Big Bean offers a robust menu of creative espresso beverages and smoothies as well. If you're not sure where to start with the unique offerings, I recommend the Mexican Mocha — a rich latte sweetened with chocolate and spiced with cinnamon — paired with a breakfast cookie.

Opened in February 2024, the new kids on the block serve their own Eastern Shore roasted brews among an extensive menu of food and beverage options. **Rise Up Coffee** is perhaps most known for its Original Coffee Smoothie, a refreshing frozen treat that can be enjoyed year-round. It also offers fresh, made-to-order breakfast foods and has a drive-thru option as well. The house-made cold brew is bold yet smooth and always a good choice.

Rounding out Severna Park's local coffee shop offerings, **The Coffee Trailer** — located along the B&A Trail and open only Friday through Sunday — boasts an extensive menu of flavored lattes made with Italian espresso, as well as teas and smoothies. Its creative concoctions include a tiramisu latte, honey cardamom latte and a frozen hot chocolate. If you're out on the trail with your four-legged friends, pup cups are available as well.



Above Left: New to Severna Park, Rise Up Coffee roasts brews on the Eastern Shore, and is known for its signature treat — the Original Coffee Smoothie. **Above Right:** Located along the B&A Trail in Severna Park, The Coffee Trailer is a popular stop for locals and passersby to enjoy one of the many creative lattes and more. **Right:** Situated downtown on West Street, Curate Annapolis offers an enticing selection of Ceremony Coffee-based espresso beverages and made-in-house pastries, including large sweet or savory scones.

Continued on page 10



A Coffee Lover's Guide To Local Cafés

ANNAPOLIS

Coffee connoisseurs in search of locally roasted brews with a range of distinct tasting notes need look no further than Annapolis' own **Ceremony Coffee Roasters**. With two cafés in Annapolis and several others around Maryland, Ceremony offers single origins, blends, espressos and more roasted at its Russell Street location. The espresso beverages are balanced and the drip coffees are bright, trending toward the lighter end of the roasting spectrum.

Ceremony Coffee is so popular locally that at least three other Annapolis cafés use its beans for their espresso offerings. Curate, Bakers & Co. and In Grano all offer a palate-pleasing menu of Ceremony-based lattes, cappuccinos, flat whites, cortados and more, but the not-to-miss standouts at these shops are their made-in-house baked goods and food.

In addition to **Baker's & Co.**'s varied muffin, scone and croissant offerings are unique pastries including mini

galettes, lemon poppy teacake, and oat and jam bars. The staff also bakes fresh loaves of bread. The small, charming café is located in Eastport and is only open Friday through Sunday. Just about every one of its baked goods pairs well with a flat white or dirty chai.

Situated on West Street about halfway between Church and Westgate circles, **Curate Annapolis** is a modern, well-appointed café great for gathering with friends. Its baked-fresh daily pastry offerings include a rotation of almond brioche, coffee cake, sizable sweet or savory scones, muffins, cookies and more — all nicely enhanced by a drip coffee or seasonal latte.

In Grano Bistro & Bakery, located off of Riva Road in Annapolis, serves creative and aesthetically impressive croissants, muffins, scones and other pastries as well as fresh breads, sandwiches, burritos, toasts and more. In addition to typical espresso beverages, In Grano also offers nitro,

a variety of teas, and if you're craving something sweet, affogatos crafted with Annapolis-based Always Ice Cream.

Other popular mainstays in the local coffee shop scene are **Bean Rush Café** in West Annapolis — serving countless signature lattes, fresh sandwiches, teas, smoothies and more — and **Oscar's Coffee** in Eastport, a dog-friendly waterfront coffee trailer serving proper espresso beverages, seasonal specialty drinks and a few curated pastry options.

Finally, if you prefer to brew your morning Joe at home and are looking for locally roasted coffee to make in the comfort of your own kitchen, Severna Park's **BD Provisions** offers a variety of freshly roasted-in-house beans for purchase.

Ready to try one of the greater Severna Park area's many wonderful cafés? Find their hours, locations and menus (subject to change and availability) online. ■



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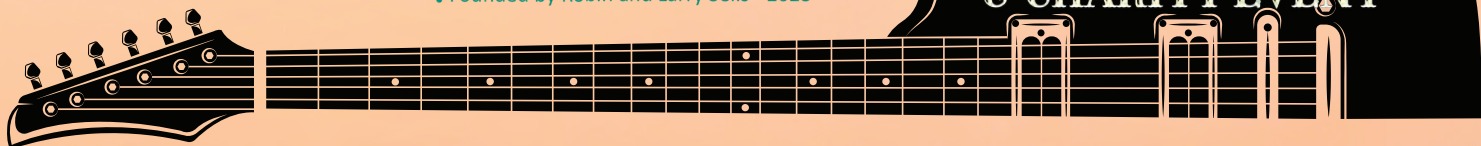
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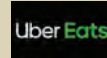
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Sites Around Town Specialize In A Range Of Activities

Whether it's a rainy day or you and your family are looking for a new hobby to explore, there is plenty to do around the greater Severna Park area.

Anne Arundel County Public Library

Broadneck: 1275 Green Holly Road, Annapolis
410-222-1905

Severna Park: 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park
410-222-6290

www.aacpl.net

Libraries are not just places for reading and studying (although they are great for that, too). They offer storytime sessions for babies, toddlers and preschoolers, and they host a variety of special events. A sampling of upcoming events at the Broadneck location includes beginner line dancing (July 18 and August 1) and yoga nidra (July 23 and August 27). This summer, the Severna Park branch is holding a Mindful Making crafting event (June 25, July 16 and August 20) and Sizzlin' STEM for teens (August 14).

The Axe House Annapolis

570 Ritchie Highway, Suite H, Severna Park
410-541-9956

www.axehouseannapolis.com

This indoor facility has trained "axe masters" to oversee guests as they wield hatchets, ninja stars, knives, throwing cards, tactical and two-handed axes, and tomahawks. No experience is necessary. The Axe House staff enjoys hosting corporate events and private parties.

The Blended Essentials

562 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park
410-544-2050

www.theblendedessentials.com

Want to make handmade items while forming fun memories in the process? At The



Above: At Play Street Museum, kids can give their friends a checkup at the doctor's office, care for the animals at the pet shop, or prepare to save the day at the fire station. Below: Severna Park Lanes has an arcade, making it a destination for birthday parties and group events.



Blended Essentials, anyone can book studio space for up to six people. Over an hour and a half, participants can make candles, bath bombs or other creations. The venue also has classes and events, and hosts birthday parties.

Eco Adventures

216 Najoles Road, Suite 600, Millersville

www.ecoadventures.org

Known as a house of rescued and misplaced animals, Eco Adventures has a simulated rainforest full of animal exhibits and a glowing volcano, an "Underwater Pier" discovery room, an outside sluice and fossil dig, an outside field and classroom (Pixie Hollow), and other interactive exhibits designed to connect the public with nature.

EscapeTime

487 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
410-544-1188

www.escapetimemd.com

The clock is ticking. Groups of two to 10 people have 60 minutes to solve challenges and break free before time expires. Within each room, participants encounter mind-boggling puzzles, cryptic clues, and intricate codes that demand deciphering. That's the scenario presented at EscapeTime, which offers three themed rooms for guests to conquer.

Park Books

555 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park
410-449-3100

www.parkbooksmd.com

This independent bookstore is designed to be a place where all readers can grow. Park Books hosts author events, free story and craft times for children every Saturday at 11:00am, and book clubs.

Play Street Museum

560 Ritchie Highway, Suite F,
Severna Park
443-393-9663

www.severnapark.playstreetmuseum.com

The newest activity center in town, Play Street Museum offers activities for toddlers and children up to 8 years of age. The neighborhood children's museum transports young ones to The Town Square, where they can explore interactive exhibits based around life in the city. Kids can give their friends a checkup at the doctor's office, care for the animals at the pet shop, or prepare to save the day at the fire station. Families can reserve a play time or book the facility for birthday parties or field trips.

Rolly Pollies

476 Ritchie Highway, Unit D,
Severna Park
410-544-9002

www.rollypolliesmaryland.com

The open gym playtime at Rolly Pollies can be an alternative when the heat is overwhelming or going to the park is not an option. Kids can run, jump, tumble, climb and bounce for \$12 per hour, per child, but

reservations are required. Children ages 3 and up, and fully potty trained, may be dropped off for a maximum of two hours without parental supervision.

Severna Park Community Center

623 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard,
Severna Park
410-647-5843

www.spcommunitycenter.org

With a swimming center, gymnasium, dance studio and a fitness space, Severna Park Community Center serves as a hub for exercise, socializing, learning and fun.

Severna Park Golf Center

1257 Ritchie Highway, Arnold
410-647-8618

www.severnaparkgolf.com

Regardless of skill level, golf enthusiasts can find enjoyment at this spot in Arnold. The driving range is open from 8:00am-10:00pm daily and miniature golf is available from 9:00am-6:00pm. The Par 3 course, open from 9:00am-dark, has all nine greens open. Its longest hole is 125 yards.

Severna Park Lanes

840 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park
410-647-0811

www.gobowlingsevernapark.com

Severna Park Lanes is designed to provide affordable family fun and entertainment, with 32 lanes consisting of 16 tenpin lanes and 16 duckpin lanes. This spot also has bumper bowling lanes just for kids and Galaxy Bowling, an experience with the lights turned down and music turned up. Severna Park Lanes has an arcade, making it a great destination for birthday parties and group events, but it's just as fun for anyone who wants to try casual open bowling times and competitive league play.

Thrive Gym — Arnold

1244 Ritchie Highway, Suite 12, Arnold
410-995-8130

www.thrivegym.org

The 6,000-square-foot Arnold location offers gymnastics, tumbling, Ninja Zone, art, open plays, open gyms and more. Thrive Gym enables kids to practice skills, expend their energy and play in a safe environment while making new friends. ■

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Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is mostly situated in West Virginia but also comprises pieces of Maryland and Virginia.

Adventures Await At Nearby National Parks



At Fort M'Henry National Monument and Historic Shrine, visitors are provided with an immersive look back at the infancy of our nation and some key battles that shaped it.

By Lauren Cowin

From beaches to battlefields, national parks provide access to nature and history in locations across America.

Marylanders have many of these treasure troves of opportunity right here in our home state. Here are a few that might be worth the trip this summer.

Assateague Island National Seashore

Those seeking a more nature-focused and less commercial beach destination might find refuge at Assateague Island National Seashore.

This 37-mile-long barrier island, found roughly 120 miles from Severna Park, offers an oceanfront experience in the rugged outdoors. Hiking, biking, bird watching, fishing, crabbing, swimming and camping are just a few ways to spend a day, or several, at Assateague. Simply basking in the sun is an option, too.

Camping reservations are required and are available up to six months in advance.

Assateague boasts a population of wild horses — one of just a few in the United States. While the sight of these majestic creatures is something a visitor understandably wants to capture on camera, it is advised by the National Park Service to do so from a distance. Humans should ensure at least 40 feet, or one bus length, of space from the horses.

Dining options are limited at Assateague. Guests are encouraged to bring plenty of food and water.

There are two entrances to Assateague Island National Seashore: the north entrance at the end of Route 66, eight miles south of Ocean City, Maryland, and the south entrance at the end of Route 175, two miles east of Chincoteague, Virginia.

Learn more at www.nps.gov/asis.



Wild horses roam the beach at Assateague Island National Seashore.

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

Brush up on your “Star-Spangled Banner” trivia with a visit to the battle site that inspired Francis Scott Key’s infamous poem-turned-ballad in the early 19th century.

At Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, visitors are provided with an immersive look back at the infancy of our nation and some key battles that shaped it.

Park rangers and trained volunteers lead activities such as the morning and evening flag change, weapons demonstrations, fife and drum performances, and historical talks. The schedule of activities for each day can be found online to plan your visit.

Fort McHenry is located just north of the Locust Point neighborhood of Baltimore at 2400 East Fort Avenue.

Plan your visit at www.nps.gov/fomc.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Take a drive 80 miles to Western Maryland and find more than 3,000 acres of natural splendor and national history at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

The park is mostly situated in West Virginia but also comprises pieces of Maryland and Virginia. One of the most notable views at Harpers Ferry is the confluence — where the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers meet against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

A pivotal landmark in the fight against slavery, Harpers Ferry allows visitors to delve into Civil War-era America through museums and exhibits.

For adventure-seekers, there are more than 20 miles of hiking trails of varying distances and difficulty. Having trouble deciding between exploring the site’s history and getting those steps in? No problem. The trails weave through a number of significant sites, such as Storer College, Jefferson Rock, Camp Hill and the “psychological midpoint” of the Appalachian Trail.

Harpers Ferry is a trash-free park. All waste that comes in must leave with its original owner.

Discover more at www.nps.gov/hafe. ■

Free Admission Dates to National Parks

June 19 - Juneteenth

August 4 - Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act

September 28 - National Public Lands Day

November 11 - Veterans Day

Fourth-Graders Free Admission

Through the “Every Kid Outdoors” program, current fourth-graders and their families are granted free access to National Parks.

Access Pass

Citizens and permanent residents with a permanent disability are eligible for an Access Pass, granting them free admission to more than 2,000 sites. The Access Pass also provides a discount on some expanded amenity fees, such as camping and boat launching.

Summer And Fall Events Provide An Array Of Entertainment

Concerts, parades, carnivals — Severna Park, Arnold and the surrounding neighborhoods have plenty of entertainment to make the summer and fall seasons worth celebrating.

JUNE

Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival

For roughly six decades, friends and neighbors on the Broadneck peninsula have ushered in the summer season with a parade, music and crafts during the Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival. The daylong event returns June 1 from 10:00am-6:00pm.

Bands in the Sand

Kick off the summer in style with 1,600 other guests who will dance and toast to the health of the Chesapeake Bay during Bands in the Sand. This year's fundraiser is set for June 8, from 5:30pm-10:00pm at the Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis. Last year's Bands in the Sand raised over \$500,000 for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Earleigh Heights Carnival

Tentatively set for June 11-20, this annual carnival combines rides and games from Jolly Shows with tasty concessions for an event that all families can enjoy. As a bonus, the carnival also serves as a fundraiser that allows the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company to continue keeping the community safe, as it has done for more than 100 years.

Meet The Kids

These are not your typical "kids." Come to Kinder Farm Park on June 30 from 11:00am-3:00pm to meet newborn farm animals. Gate fees will be waived, allowing visitors to participate in crafts and activities; visit the sawmill, woodshop and blacksmith shop; tour the farmhouse; and take a 20-minute hayride around the park trails.

JULY

Fourth of July Parade

Dozens of volunteers help the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce put on this spectacle each year from about 10:00am-noon, with a kids decorated bike contest beforehand at the chamber office. Nonprofits, civic and youth groups, businesses and other organizations bedeck their floats with creative displays as they try to impress a panel of judges and vie for the honor

of Best Overall, Best Theme and Most Patriotic. The route spans from Benfield Road to Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, and this year's parade falls on a Thursday. So get your lawn chairs, blankets and festive outfits ready.

Renegade Monster Truck Tour

The monster trucks are coming to the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds in Crownsville from July 12-14. The event features a pre-show party, allowing ticket holders to see the 12,000-pound trucks up close.

AUGUST

Artscape

Since 1982, Baltimore has welcomed residents from across the state for a large, free outdoor festival known as Artscape. For its 40th edition, Artscape is showcasing artists, concerts, fashion, family friendly activities, films, improv and comedy, and more. Celebrate the arts during this year's festivities from August 2-4.

National Night Out

To emphasize the importance of public safety workers and community members working together, National Night Out includes kids' games, giveaways, food, police and fire vehicles on display and more. The Eastern District Police Station will hold the next National Night Out on August 6 at Kinder Farm Park.

Maryland Renaissance Festival

A tradition for the entire family, the Maryland Renaissance Festival begins its 48th season on August 24 and runs through October 20 for nine weekends of thrills, feasting, entertainment and merriment in Crownsville.

Maryland State Fair

In 2022, the Maryland State Fair changed from consecutive days to a three-weekend format. With a history that goes back more than 140 years, the fair combines agricultural activities, music, horse racing, lumberjack shows, shopping and a variety of other activities for an all-ages event in Lutherville-Timonium. The 2024 dates are August 22-25, August 29-September 2, and September 5-8.

SEPTEMBER

Anne Arundel County Fair

Where else can you witness a tractor pull and a rodeo, see a livestock auction, browse a flea and craft market, and listen to music ranging from country to

rock and pop? This year's Anne Arundel County Fair returns to Crownsville from September 11-15.

Annapolis Songwriters Festival

Modeled after the Key West Songwriters Festival, the Annapolis Songwriters Festival introduces music lovers to the faces, voices and stories behind beloved songs. Annapolis has a variety of watering holes and intimate theater settings, making the bay-side setting perfect for this event, which returns September 12-15.

Annapolis Seafood Festival

A busy September week continues with the Maryland Seafood Festival from September 14-15 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Adults and kids can sample entries in the crab soup cook-off, taste oysters and listen to live music. Bounce houses and other activities will keep kids busy and engaged.

Art in the Park

For the last three years, the Severna Park Voice and Cafe Mezzanotte have partnered to bring premier jazz musicians to the area for a day of music and delectable cuisine. This year's headliner is The Grilled Lincolns, a six-piece band that melds elements of hip-hop, rock, jazz and reggae. Enjoy an afternoon of fun while raising funds for Partners In Care, a nonprofit that enables older adults to live independently. Art in the Park is scheduled for September 29.

OCTOBER

Lifeline 100

Cyclists look forward to Lifeline 100 each year because they get to traverse scenic 65- and 100-mile routes. Lifeline 100 also includes 15- and 30-mile flat, paved trail rides and a free bike rodeo and family fun ride for children. The event is designed to spread cycling awareness, educating the public about safety and benefits. Lifeline 100 has also raised \$300,000 for area nonprofits. The 2024 event will be held October 6.

Shoptoberfest

Twice a year, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce organizes a community event that demonstrates the importance of the business community while offering games and giveaways. The fall variety is known as Shoptoberfest and is packed with trick-or-treating, a costume contest, music, giveaways and more. The chamber is planning to hold Shoptoberfest on October 26. ■



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Bowie Baysox Specialize In Family Entertainment

For Baysox, Baseball Is About Community

By Zach Sparks

Roughly 20 miles from Severna Park, the Bowie Baysox have been a key cog in an organization that has helped the Baltimore Orioles produce the top farm system in Major League Baseball.

Now in their 31st year as an Orioles minor league affiliate, the Baysox are a Double-A team stacked with talent. But when families come to a Baysox game, they are treated to more than baseball. Adam Pohl, director of marketing for the Bowie Baysox, said the Baysox experience is about the sport and everything outside of the game.

"You're going to park right next to the ballpark and you're going to park for free," Pohl said. "And then you're going to come in and pay for a ticket that, in a major league stadium if you got this ticket you'd be in those nosebleeds, and you're going to be sitting right behind home plate. And you're going to notice a much higher level of entertainment that is away from the baseball.

"So, it really is everything, from the free parking to how close you get to sit to the field, to whether you want to get autographs and talk to players, (and enjoy) fireworks after the game on many of our nights. The experience in general is really, really geared toward just being a great, affordable family night out."

Double-A is two steps from the major leagues, so fans get to see many future Orioles at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie. Since 2021, Baysox and future Orioles have included budding stars Adley Rutschman, Gunnar Henderson and Jackson Holliday, along with veterans including Cedric Mullins, Anthony Santander and Austin Hays.

"It's exciting because some of the players, when they were here, we kind of knew that they were on their way to being really great Oriole players, and some of them, we didn't," Pohl said. "And it's so exciting to root for everyone's journey. John Means was a pitcher here in Bowie for a long time who nobody, to be honest, thought would pitch a game in the major leagues, and look what he is. He's an All-Star-level pitcher. He's thrown a no-hitter and he's an amazing guy."



Photo courtesy of Joe Noyes

The Bowie Baysox fill their schedule with family friendly activities so that fans of all ages can attend games and come away with memorable experiences.

Families can see the next great Orioles firsthand, but there are also plenty of other activities during home games. One example of that is Sunday Family Fun Day.

"We open the gates 90 minutes early, and usually from 11:30am-noon, you can play catch in the outfield grass," Pohl said. "We've got a few Baysox players every Sunday signing autographs. Obviously, there are a few Sundays where the whole team is (signing autographs). And then we have all fans run the bases after Sunday games. That's an example, I think, of how we're trying to move forward in a realm of giving people an experience that is more than just a game."

The Baysox are active in the community and will appear in the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's next Fourth of July parade. They are also finishing this year's Read & Hit A Home Run Reading Program, overseen by Pohl's marketing colleague Dani Fox. Through the program, each elementary and middle school student who reads four books can receive two free Bowie

Upcoming Promotions

(Full list available at www.milb.com/bowie/tickets/promotions)

June 4: Military Appreciation Night

June 7: Anime Night, Scouts Night, Family Camp Out, Post-Game Fireworks

June 8: Star Wars Night, Fireworks

June 9: Kids Autograph Day, Sunday Family Fun Day

June 18: Military Appreciation Night, Educator Appreciation Week

June 23: Adley Rutschman and Grayson Rodriguez Dual Bobblehead Giveaway, Sunday Family Fun Day

July 2: Military Appreciation Night

July 3: Independence Day Celebration, Post-Game Fireworks

July 19: Mother/Son Night Out

July 20: Island Luau Night

July 21: Heroes Day (Police, Fire and EMS Personnel), Sunday Family Fun Day

July 30: Military Appreciation Night

August 4: Gunnar Henderson Bobblehead Giveaway, Sunday Family Fun Day

August 10: Prince George's Stadium 30th Anniversary

August 11: Pirates and Princess Day, Sunday Family Fun Day

September 8: Birdland Celebration, Autographed Photo Giveaway, Meet The Team, Sunday Family Fun Day

Baysox tickets. The 2024 numbers are not tallied, but in 2023, the Baysox had 58,000 kids participate in the reading program and the majority were in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

Whether it's the reading program or Sunday Family Fun Day, the Baysox hope their initiatives are making the community a better place. With baseball and activities that transcend the sport, they want families to make fond memories.

"It's really special to be involved in the community at that level," Pohl said. "We're trying to grow our outreach in the churches and do more for nonprofits in our area. That's something that we have taken a major step forward with in the last two years, especially on the nonprofit side, but we still have some work to do. I think there is no doubt that we are heavily, heavily involved in the community." ■

Discover Annapolis' Vibrant Art Scene With The Mural Walking Tour App

Annapolis, renowned for its historic charm and picturesque streets, now offers residents and visitors a new way to explore its cultural richness: the Annapolis Mural Walking Tour app. Designed for families and educators seeking outdoor adventures, this app combines the joy of discovery with tantalizing culinary surprises, creating an unforgettable experience for all.

The Annapolis Mural Walking Tour App celebrates the city's diverse artistry. With its user-friendly interface, the app guides participants on an easy walk of discovery, unveiling the stories behind each mural that adorns the city's walls. From historical anecdotes to artist biographies and creative inspirations, users gain a deeper understanding of the cultural significance woven into these vibrant works of art.

What sets this app apart is its seamless integration with local businesses. As users explore the murals, they'll also uncover nearby restaurants and cafes, creating a harmonious synergy between the arts and local commerce. Imagine admiring a breathtaking mural depicting Annapolis' maritime history and then strolling into a nearby café to savor a delicious meal inspired by the city's culinary heritage. This unique feature not only enriches the user experience but also supports the growth and vitality of our beloved community.

The Annapolis Mural Walking Tour app is more than just a tool for exploration; it's a catalyst for connection and appreciation. Families can embark on weekend adventures, educators can incorporate outdoor learning experiences into their curriculum, and locals can rediscover the hidden gems of their own city. By fostering a deeper connection between art, commerce and community, this app invites everyone to embrace the beauty that surrounds us. ■



The Annapolis Mural Walking Tour App celebrates the city's diverse artistry. With its user-friendly interface, the app guides participants on an easy walk of discovery.



The app is sponsored by Angie D Entertainment.

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