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JULY 2024

Jones Station Crossroads Sign Highlights Trail Networks, Honors Cyclist

By Meredith Winter

lected officials, county representatives, cyclists and community members gathered near the intersection of Jones Station Road and the Baltimore-Annapolis (B&A) Trail in Severna Park for the unveiling of a new sign installation on May 29. The Jones Station Crossroads sign was designed to inform passersby about various trail networks and to honor the life of an avid

» Continued on page 8



BikeAAA president Jon Korin addressed attendees at the May 29 unveiling ceremony.

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AACC's Dawn Lindsay Selected As Independence Day Parade Grand Marshal

By Meredith Winter

or nearly 12 years and counting, Dawn Lindsay has served as the sixth president of Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), and this Fourth of July, she will also assume the role of Severna Park's 49th Independence Day parade grand marshal.

Themed "Stars and

Themed "Stars and Stripes Forever," this year's parade will process along the familiar route that traces Benfield Road, Evergreen Road, Riggs Avenue and B&A Boulevard. Hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce since its inception, the parade will step off at 10:00am with Lindsay as its leader.

"Dr. Lindsay was the perfect choice to be the grand marshal as she has done a magnificent job of making AACC the best community college in the country," said Liz League, CEO of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. In 2021, AACC was recognized as the number-one

by Academic Influencers. Lindsay said she is flattered by the

community college in the United States



Photo by Meredith Winter

Lindsay, Anne Arundel Community College's sixth president, will serve as grand marshal of Severna Park's Independence Day parade on July 4.

unexpected honor of serving as leader of the beloved community parade, noting it is a testimony to the college she represents. "I do think it's the community's way of recognizing that this college really cares, and I value that acknowledgment, and I think it's a testimony when other people say how good you are as a college — not me — how good the college is as a whole, and the gratitude people have and the investment that people have — and of

all the businesses that could have been selected, we (were) chosen," she said. "So I'm honored and I'm looking forward to it."

Her husband Al, an attorney, is excited to join Lindsay in the parade, too. Married for just over four years, Lindsay shared that Al is "a great person and very supportive of my career." Together, they are entering a new chapter of life - that of being grandparents.

They have a 1-year-old granddaughter and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a second granddaughter this month and a grandson in October.

"We get to sit back and have fun with them and play with them and then give them back to their parents," Lindsay said with a laugh, noting that their travel schedule is shifting away from remote vacations and toward visiting their grandbabies — and they are more

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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.

Andy Price Ensures The Carnival Comes To Town

By Judy Tacyn

or those who know Andy Price, his 19 years as the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company (EHVFC) carnival chairman are just a sliver of what this uber-volunteer contributes to the station and to the community.

"Yeah, I kind of spend a lot of time here right now," Price said with a chuckle.

His love for the station can be seen in his custom-made Hawaiian-style shirt adorned with images of Engine 121 and Rescue Truck 12. Whether it's managing the weekly food trucks or bingo, or jumping in anywhere an extra pair of hands is needed, this board of directors member has been an EHVFC stalwart for more than 30 years.

If you don't know Price, you know his favorite event, the annual July carnival. The Severna Park tradition began in 1955, and Price remembers attending as a child. His love of the carnival has developed into nearly two decades serving as the guy who makes sure the show goes on.

"The carnival is a way for the community to come here and get involved with us," Price said. "And it gives us a way to get to know our community."

While other local carnivals have shut down or seen attendance drop, Price said that's not the case at EHVFC, a result of dedication and consistency.

"I think part of our success is consistency. We know what we are doing so the community knows what to expect when they get here," Price added. "We've used Jolly Shows, based



Photo by Judy Tacyn

The Volunteer of the Month, Andy Price, prepared for his favorite role as EHVFC carnival showman.

in Cape St. Claire, for as long as I've been chairman, so you know the rides are first class, clean and safe."

Price makes managing the rides, games, food vendors, first aid, information tent and volunteers look easy, but he's most proud of making sure the carnival lives up to its longstanding reputation of being a safe and entertaining place for families to come year after year.

Barbara Elgert has been attending the Earleigh Heights carnival since her family moved to Severna Park in 1988. Over the years, she and her family have gotten to know Price because "whatever is going on for the public at the station, Andy is always there. He's a really great guy."

When her children were young, Elgert would take her family to the carnival every night it was open. She continues that tradition today with her grandchildren. After attending the carnival for 34 straight years, she and her family continue to enjoy the atmosphere because the carnival is well-run, clean and safe for her family, which is a testament to Price's leadership.

"Andy and his team do an excellent job making the carnival a secure, family-friendly event," Elgert said. "I feel very comfortable there knowing that I don't have to worry about my grandchildren. In fact, whether it's the bull roast, bingo or event in the hall, the Earleigh Heights events always run smoothly and are focused on the community and families."

Price admitted that he's "not a big rides" person, but he does have one tradition. "I'll get on the Ferris wheel one time during the carnival," he said. "I like to look down and take pictures of all the people having fun."

The EHVFC annual carnival comes

The EHVFC annual carnival comes to town this year from July 11-20. It's open 6:00pm-10:00pm daily, except Sunday. Proceeds will go toward the construction of a new station to be built between the current hall and the post office.

Price promised that the new station will not interfere with the open field where the carnival and annual Christmas tree sale are set up. "Don't worry about that!" he added. "The carnival will go on forever, and I plan on being here for as long as I am able."

To volunteer with the carnival or any other event at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, contact Price at akaprice@verizon.net.

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National Night Out Fosters Community Rapport With Law Enforcement

Annual Event Set For August 6 At Kinder Farm Park

relationship between neighbors and law enforcement. This summer, National Night Out is slated for August 6, and the Anne Arundel County Eastern District festivities will take place at Kinder Farm Park from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

The free event, which will take place rain or shine, is open to all ages and will feature activities including contests, kids' games, community booths, light snacks, police and fire vehicles on display, and more. Attendees can interact with law enforcement officials, explore some of their vehicles, and observe a K-9 demonstration



in a safe environment designed to bring police and neighbors together.

Sara Gannon, chair of National Night Out for Anne Arundel County's Eastern District, explained that in past years the event has been the largest of its kind in the county, drawing nearly 3,000 community members. Attendees will have the opportunity to talk with and ask questions of representatives from the police department, sheriff's office and other agencies, and kids can look forward to interacting with police gear and sitting on motorcycles or ATVs that may be at the event, Gannon said.

Kinder Farm Park is located at 1001 Kinder Farm Park Road in Millersville. Stay tuned to www.nationalnightouteasterndistrict.org for event updates, or follow the "Anne Arundel County Eastern District: National Night Out" Facebook page.

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Challenger Baseball Wraps 19th Season With New Friends

By Judy Tacyn

n June 8 at Lake Waterford Park, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks' Challenger Baseball program closed its 19th season at Freedom Field. Players and families gathered for the annual picnic and awards ceremony.

Anne Arundel County Challenger Baseball was created to give adaptive athletes, of any age, the opportunity to learn baseball skills and teamwork, as well as build social skills in a sports environment.

Terri Hamrick-Oeschger brought Challenger Baseball to the county. She's also the program coordinator and coach. After nearly two decades, her enthusiasm and pure joy to be with the Challenger players and families only grows.

"It's these kids. These kids and families keep me motivated and (Challenger Baseball) keeps them connected to the broader community," Hamrick-Oeschger said. "I love this program and I am so happy to continue to be a part of it."

Hamrick-Oeschger also has a personal connection. Her son, Tyler, was an adaptive baseball player until his death at age 15 in 2011. Tyler's best friend, Guy Taylor, now 30, still plays Challenger Baseball and fondly remembers his best friend.

"I've played baseball for a long time. I played with Ms. Terri's son!" exclaimed Taylor, who graduated from Severna Park High School and is known for his participation in unified tennis, bocci and bowling with the Falcons, as well as Special Olympics.

Challenger Baseball has grown to six



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Kasey Turnock and Jake Smulow, former Green Hornets players who now volunteer with Challenger Baseball, participated in a picnic at Lake Waterford Park on June 8.

teams in Anne Arundel County, including 22 players in South County and 60 players at Freedom Field. As a team, Arundel High School baseball players attended Opening Day, along with several youth travel teams from Green Hornets for a scrimmage on June 1. That activity was arranged by former Severna Park High School baseball player and current Challenger Baseball volunteer Kasey Turnock, through Michael Phillips, Green Hornets baseball commissioner.

All the Challenger Baseball coaches, except for one, are parents. When other baseball or softball teams get involved, the reach of the adaptive program expands and community awareness builds.

Photo courtesy of Melissa Cingle

Green Hornets athletes played with Challenger Baseball, an adaptive sports program of Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation.

Kevin Lyons coaches a 15U Green Hornets travel baseball team. Lyons was thrilled by the opportunity to support the program even though initially he didn't know what to expect. He even saw two families he knew but didn't know their children were Challenger players.

"Our players and families had a great day scrimmaging the Challenger teams," Lyons said. "The experience gave us all a different perspective and reminded us that with a healthy, happy family, we've got it pretty good."

The coach added that his team looks forward to joining the Challengers again in the fall for a game or practice. "I believe it's very important for our kids to

put aside the demands of travel baseball or the frustrations of school for the love of the game," he said. "We might have different abilities, but we all have the same love of the game."

Dan Smulow coaches a 14U Green Hornets travel baseball team, and his son Jake volunteers with Challenger Baseball. Coach Smulow said he, his team, and parents had an amazing day playing with the adaptive players.

"As a coach and a father, I was thrilled to see everyone playing together, not worrying about the outcome, and just really having fun," Smulow said. "No matter our age or ability, we are all just kids playing baseball"

Samantha Bartgis of Severna Park was thrilled, but not surprised, that the Green Hornets came to play with the adaptive players, including her 8-year-old son, Mac.

"The Green Hornets organization does a really good job setting expectations of inclusion and sportsmanship," said Bartgis, who added that Mac plays soccer and basketball with the Green Hornets, with coaches making sure her son is included and learning.

Hamrick-Oeschger hopes the youth teams come back, and she said that any team, organization or individual is always welcome to play with the Challenger players. And, when they do, Hamrick-Oeschger will be there, too.

"My heart is here at Freedom Field and with these families," she added. "I'm happy to continue to be part of this great program and community. I am not retiring anytime soon."







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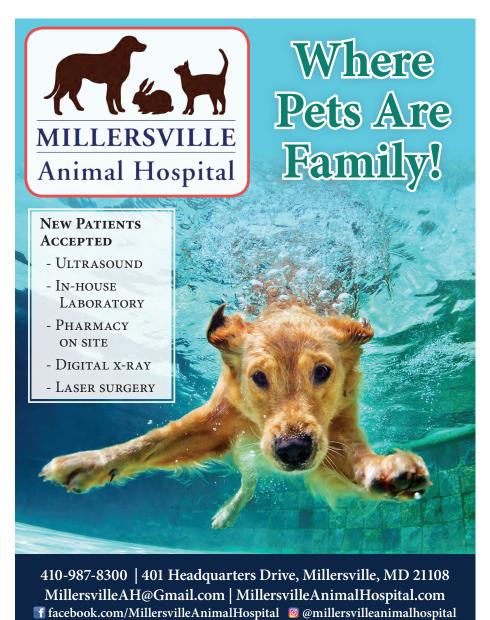


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Fashion For A Cause Raises Over \$240,000 For Children's Programs

Photo courtesy of Mike B. Photography

Doing great never looked as good as it did on June 7, as around 350 people enjoyed perfect weather outside and perfect looks inside at the 14th annual Fashion for a Cause fundraiser. Held at the Fluegel Alumni Center in Annapolis, the event smashed the fundraising record, bringing in more than \$240,000 for Chesapeake Kids, the Hospice of the Chesapeake program that supports children living with and affected by advanced illness and loss.

Kevin Campion (left), one of the 33 community models, showed off looks from Annapolis clothiers.

Read the full story at www.severnaparkvoice.com.



AACC's Dawn Lindsay

We've got a reputation for

really going the extra mile

for our students, and I'm

proud of the workforce."

— DAWN LINDSAY

very proud of that, and I'm

» Continued from page 1 than OK with that. "It's where we want to be and we're very happy," she said.

Lindsay — who began her career as a therapist — took the helm at AACC in 2012, after working in community colleges in California for 18 years, most recently as president of Glendale Community College. She earned a doctorate in organizational leadership from Pepperdine University, as well as a master's in educational counseling, a bachelor of arts in psychology and a bachelor of social work from McDaniel College.

Grateful for the opportunity to come to AACC, Lindsay is quick to note that the school had a legacy of excellence before she arrived. "There was nothing broken when I got here; nothing needed to be fixed. It was just running really, really well," she said.

She gives credit to everyone working at AACC for the school's success. Lindsay views her role as president as a bridge to the community — discovering what the needs are in the area and discerning how AACC can be a partner in fixing them, such as addressing the nursing shortage by working to double the school's nursing program

During her first 12 years as president, Lindsay has witnessed the school achieve numerous accolades and milestones. She's especially proud of the new Health and Life Sciences Building and the Clauson Center for Innovation and Skilled Trades, and what they represent.

"We've got a reputation for really going the extra mile for our students, and I'm very proud of that, and I'm proud of the workforce," she emphasized. Reflecting on her impact at AACC so far, Lindsay stated she believes diver-

sity will be one of her legacies, citing the efforts the school's leadership has made to ensure that AACC is welcoming to all people and equipped to meet each individual right where they are in life as they pursue their goals.

Off campus, Lindsay serves on numerous boards including the League for Innovation in the Community College, the American Association of Community Colleges, the Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center Community Advisory Council and others.

A Maryland native and self-pro-

claimed dog lover, Lindsay resides in Severna Park with her husband and two border collies. Grateful for their faithful companionship, she described the dogs as good de-stressors and enjoys playing with them. When she needs a break from her full

schedule, Lindsay pops into Club Pilates for a quick class a few times a week.

Lindsay enjoys spending time with her family, entertaining at her home, and preparing big meals. She occasionally pulls out old family recipes to make things "like beef stroganoff things that are fattening but just wonderful."

The community college president is humble about her impact and thankful for the opportunities she's been given. Though she has contributed much to her community over the years, she is deeply grateful for what her community has given to her — namely, support. "A lot of support even during difficult discussions," Lindsay said. "The days are very long but they are very enjoyable, and even on the tough days, it comes back to the people I interact with in the community.'

To learn more about the upcoming Independence Day parade, go to the chamber's website at www.gspacc.com.



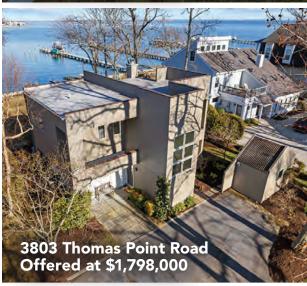
















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Jones Station Crossroads Sign Highlights Trail Networks, Honors Cyclist

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cyclist who was tragically killed while doing what he loved.

Arthur Carter Jr., a Hanover resident who frequently biked along the B&A Trail, was a husband to wife Candy, who spoke at the late May ceremony, as well as a father, grandfather, Air Force veteran, friend and adventurer. On March 8, 2020, he and six fellow cyclists — including Severna Park resident Jon Korin, president and a founder of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA) — set out on a group ride that crossed Jones Station Road on the B&A Trail and continued along various roads to Sandy Point State Park.

On their return trip, the seven experienced cyclists were riding single file on the correct side of the road along East College Parkway, according to a press release from the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office, when an impaired driver passed out, crossed the double yellow lines, and struck the first two cyclists head on. Carter was killed instantly, and Jeffrey Adler, the second cyclist, was airlifted to University of Maryland R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center with life-threatening injuries. The five other cyclists sustained minor injuries as well. The driver, an Annapolis man in his late 60s, was sentenced to 20 years of active incarceration and five years of supervised

The new Jones Station Crossroads sign was installed in April and dedicated in May. In one corner, a photo depicts



Elected officials, county representatives, cyclists and community members gathered on May 29 for the unveiling of a new sign at the intersection of Jones Station Road and the B&A Trail that memorializes a local cyclist who was killed in a crash and informs passersby about regional and national trail networks.

Carter with his bike on an overseas trip. A brief bio emphasizes that he was a devoted family man and reads, "When he wasn't tackling the majestic climbs of Europe on his bike, Arthur could be found logging many miles along the B&A Trail and on the roads of Anne Arundel County and Maryland."

The sign also bears descriptions of three large trail networks — the East Coast Greenway, which stretches 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida, the 1,500-mile 1/11 Memorial Trail, and

the coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail — informing cyclists, runners and walkers that the intersection at which they stand provides access to regional and national routes as well.

"The idea was to try to depict something that would show that that location is an important junction locally — so we have some of the local destinations: Annapolis to the south, Baltimore to the north, Sandy Point State Park to the east — as well as the long-distance networks that really help depict just

how far you can go from that spot if you follow these national routes," Korin said of the wayfinding signs that top the installation. From that location, Cape Henlopen, Delaware, is 100 miles away; Key West, Florida, is 1,764 miles away; and Point Reyes, California, is 4,650 miles. For those who wish to stay local, Annapolis and Sandy Point are just eight miles away.

The sign was designed by Kathleen Hayes, group rider number three on the day of the fatal crash. She is a professional landscape architect and graphic designer with experience in trail wayfinding. Arthur Carter's family designated BikeAAA for donations in his memory to create a tribute to him. The ensuing crossroads sign was the collaborative effort of BikeAAA, Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks and Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails.

Referencing the sign and looking ahead to the anticipated completion of the Broadneck Trail, Korin said, "We're always looking for how we can bring some good out of tragedy and maybe bring some good in a way that could even help prevent the next one, and certainly trail-building and the fact that a trail will soon traverse the section of road where the crash happened is also very fitting."

The 13-mile B&A Trail, which stretches from Glen Burnie nearly to Annapolis, attracts about 2 million users annually, according to BikeAAA. To learn more about its mission to promote safe cycling, as well as the Jones Station Crossroads sign, go to www.bikeaaa.org.





ILITARY SPOTLIG

Arnold's Amber Martin Soars At Air Force Academy

By Kevin Murnane

roadneck High School graduate Amber Martin knew she wanted to go to the Air Force Academy as soon as her visit to the Colorado Springs, Colorado campus was over. It also helped that her older sister, Ella, was her host.

Martin comes from a military family. Her dad was in the Marines and her mom was a member of the Merchant Marine Academy, which is not part of the military but is a federal service academy. Martin moved several times growing up, and swimming was a way to meet new friends.

'I started swimming when I was 5, and the pool was where everyone went, so that's where I met my new friends," Martin said.

Once Martin moved to Maryland in 2013, she swam at the Naval Academy Aquatic Club and Broadneck High School.

I had the privilege to coach Amber at the Naval Academy Aquatic Club," said senior group head coach Brian Nelson. "You could tell that Amber was built for a military academy with her respect, attitude and discipline. As a swimmer, she is very talented with much more room to grow."

Martin went to the Air Force Academy last summer for her "doolie year" and discovered how grueling a military academy's schedule can become.

'It was the hardest year of my life," Martin said. "In June, I went out for basic training, and it teaches you how to conduct yourself, lots of



Amber Martin (left) hugged her older sister, Ella, on Air Force Academy campus in Colorado.

military memorization and team building. The classmates I met in basic training are still my best friends."

Martin's day begins at 5:30am for physical training and the remainder of the day is packed with classes, meals, practice and homework until lights go out at 10:30pm. They also have meets every weekend during the season.

One silver lining that Martin has during these chaotic days is seeing Ella, who will be a senior this year.

"Every day I get to see my sister and can ask her questions about classes, the culture of the academy, and just see her face and hear her voice," Martin said of her cherished moments.

Although she misses her teachers at Broadneck, Martin appreciates the instructors at the academy, especially during the transitional year between high school and college.

The instructors really care about the students," Martin said. "The classes are small and that lends itself to getting extra help if you need it.

After classes, Martin heads to the academy's swim center for the daily three-hour practice.

"I love the challenge of trying to get better every day," Martin said. "I love to race, and competing in the Mountain West Conference was a challenge.

Martin's specialty is the butterfly stroke, and she had an incredible freshman year.

Martin's best time was a 54.20-second mark in the 100-yard butterfly, which ranks third all-time at the Air Force Academy. The record is 53.57.

"Amber has been an amazing addition to our team this year," said Air Force Academy women's swimming head coach Colleen Murphy. "She is an extremely hard worker, a great competitor, and loves to race."

Martin will come home to Arnold this summer and see her family and hopefully do some fishing with her brothers on the Magothy River.

Then it's back to Colorado for her sophomore year and continuing her academic and athletic career at the Air Force Academy.



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Catalpa Trees Have Roots Dating Back To Early Severna Park





Left: Each June, catalpa trees bloom with a fragrant white flower. Later during the summer, bean pods form. Above: Severna Park's first catalpa trees were planted around 1908.

aterpillar trees. Indian bean trees, cigar trees — catalpa trees have many nicknames, but to many Severna Park residents, they may be a nameless accessory that has adorned the local landscape for more than 100 years.

Severna Park developer Oscar Hatton enlisted the help of a 12-yearold boy, George White, to beautify the area around 1908. Long before White was the pastor of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in Crownsville, before he planted corn by Benfield Road and cut railroad ties for the old Baltimore Annapolis Railroad, he was Hatton's helper.

'He and Oscar Hatton went all through Severna Park, planting maple, oak, white pine and catalpa trees," said Severna Park historian F. Scott Jay.

Native to Illinois and Indiana, Arkansas and Tennessee, these trees with their heart-shaped leaves were

not abundant in Anne Arundel County. Today, more than 40 catalpa trees remain on Evergreen Road and Maple Avenue near Severn School. They form a canopy over the road, creating a tunnel effect.

Each June, they bloom with a fragrant white flower. Later during the summer, bean pods form.

In the 1950s, Jay and his teenage friends learned how the catalpas got one nickname, the cigar tree.

When they dried out, we used to smoke them. They were horrible," Jay said. "It just ripped through your throat. It was worse than any cigarette I ever had."

For more than a century, the plants have been a defining feature in the heart of Severna Park. Jay does not want them to be forgotten.

"Maybe we should be thinking about the next generation of catalpa trees,"

County Budget Passes Despite Debate On Taxes

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

fter the seven-member Anne Arundel County Council passed the \$2.3 billion Fiscal Year 2025 budget by a 4-3 vote along party lines on June 14, County Executive Steuart Pittman touted the positives of his budget.

Among other priorities, the budget allocates funds to train 70 new firefighter recruits and provides hiring bonuses for detention officers. It fully funds the Anne Arundel County Public Schools budget request that includes a salary step increase for employees and forms a middle school athletics

The budget also supports the Anne Arundel County Food Bank with \$1.5 million and funds the Department of Social Services' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) program, formerly known as food stamps, benefiting over 36,000 children from low-income households across the county. Funding in the budget will add staff members for the soon-to-open Jug Bay Emory Waters Nature Preserve in Lothian and will expand the new River Days Festival series to five locations, offering free public water access for families.

But much of the conversation on June 14 centered on one divisive element of the budget: taxes. The budget increases income taxes from 2.81% to 2.94% for individuals making more than \$50,000 annually and households making a dual income of more than \$75,000 per year.

That 2.81% is lower than every other Maryland county except for Cecil, Garret, Talbot and Worcester, where just 3.6% of Marylanders live," Pittman said during his budget proposal in May.

The property tax rate is also going up, from 98 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 98.3 cents per \$100.

District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler, a Republican who represents Severna Park and Arnold, voted against the budget. During budget town halls and other meetings, she consistently

heard from constituents who told her, 'We can't take another year of tax

Yet this budget is an 8% increase in spending, a 3% increase over last year's expenditures," she said before the final vote on the budget. "Government isn't doing what families across this county are doing: making really tough decisions.

District 6 Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien disagreed, calling the tax increases "very modest." The Annapolis Democrat said the investments will be worth the results as the county chips away at teacher and police officer shortages.

"For a couple making \$150,000 a year, the increase is \$8 a month," she said. "For an individual earning \$60,000, the increase is \$1.08 a month. The real estate (tax) costs even less. For a house worth \$500,000, it will cost an additional \$15 a year."

District 7 Councilwoman Shannon Leadbetter and District 3 Councilman Nathan Volke, both Republicans, joined Fiedler in voting against the budget.

'I recognize that maybe it looks in a vacuum like these increases are relatively small, but when you combine them with more taxes and more fees that are coming in at the state level from the governor and what the legislature has passed, those add up and those are having real impacts," Volke said.

Pittman expects the county to collect an additional \$13.6 million in recurring funding through the combination of increased permit fees (\$5.9 million in projected revenue), 911 service (\$1.7 million) and income taxes (\$6 million).

In a statement, Pittman said that he encouraged dialogue between the council and his administration, and he is proud of the result.

What has impressed me most about this year's budget is the process," Pittman said. "All seven members of the county council have different priorities, and sometimes they disagree with one another or with my administration, but we've established a process that respects all voices."



Severna Park High School (SPHS) all-class reunion is happening September 14 from 2:00pm-6:00pm at Mother's Peninsula Ĝrille. For \$30 per person, guests can enjoy light fare and sweets, along with access to a cash bar. The event will feature a 50-50 raffle.

Event organizer Robyn Turner said she is hoping to see many SPHS alums from all classes, especially those who graduated in the 1960s and 1970s, both local and from afar. Capacity is limited, so she suggests that everyone send their reservations with payment as soon as possible and spread the word to their alumni friends and family.

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The Budget At A Glance

- Provides funding to train 70 new firefighter recruits
- Adds \$150,000 for hiring bonuses for detention officers
- Increases police officers' starting salary from \$62,160 to \$70,000
- Funds a \$5 million pay package to retain existing officers
 Supports a program to provide a sheriff's deputy in every courtroom

Education

- Includes a salary step increase for Anne Arundel County Public Schools employees and 3% cost-of-living adjustment for teachers and school staff
- Restores eight full-time teaching positions for elementary schools with class sizes that exceed 30 students
- Creates a new middle school athletics program
- Implements a virtual tutoring and homework after-school program
- Increases county aid to Anne Arundel Community College by \$2.3 million

The Environment

- Funds the Jug Bay Emory Waters Nature Preserve
- Expands the River Days Festival to five locations

Community Support

- Funds the renovation and expansion of the Arnold Senior Activity Center
- Allocates \$1.5 million to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank
- Supports the Mental Health Agency's Crisis Response Team

Pines On The Severn Celebrates Completion Of Micro-Bioretention Basin Project

he Pines on the Severn Community Improvement Association (PCIA) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of its new micro-bioretention basin project in Arnold on June 18.

Major funding for this project was provided by a \$25,000 grant through a Chesapeake Bay Trust and Anne Arundel County watershed restoration award. Additional funding for the project was provided by Unity Gardens and PCIA.

The 5,000-square-foot best management practice (BMP) micro-bioretention basin was designed to slow down, filter and treat stormwater from impervious surfaces including a parking lot and adjacent basketball and tennis courts.

The project includes a swale along the edge of the parking lot and sports courts to channel runoff into the basin to be filtered. Plantings below the basin on the slope to Pine Bluff will slow down, filter and treat additional stormwater and feature hearty, deep-rooted, low-maintenance native species.

The benefits of the project are that erosion on the hillside has been reduced significantly and stormwater



Above: Before the project, the hillside was more vulnerable to erosion and silting. Right: The slope to Pine Bluff now features lowmaintenance native species.

from the area is now filtered. The project also reduces pollution content and the volume of stormwater runoff entering Chase Creek, improving the environment and enhancing the quality of life for the Pines community and vast ecosystem in adjacent waterways including the Chesapeake Bay.

Project partners included Chesapeake Bay Trust, Anne

Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, Unity Gardens, Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy, Welspryng LLC, Arnold Preservation Council and Winchester on the Severn.

Pines on the Severn is an incorporated residential community of 238 homes located on the east bank of the Severn River north of Annapolis in Arnold. The community is a designated clean water community by Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy.



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RELIGION

Broadneck Student Shares Missions Experience, Prepares To Serve On Third Trip

By Meredith Winter

or the third year in a row, Broadneck High School (BHS) rising senior Abby Conlon is preparing to spend part of her summer serving those in need on a church-led mission trip.

In 2022, she went with fellow students and leaders from Bay Area Community Church (BACC) to Bluefield, West Virginia, to minister to underprivileged children through hosting a vacation Bible school (VBS). Though she only knew one other student on the team, she made friends quickly and was grateful to be an encouragement to local workers and impact the kids they served.

The following year, Abby and seven other high schoolers accompanied by four adult leaders traveled internationally to Kenya to partner with and encourage local missionaries through construction projects, distribution of supplies, hosting VBS and assisting medical personnel. Now, she is preparing for a third mission trip — to Belize — at the end of July.

Prior to the Kenya trip, Abby had left the country only once — on a school-sponsored chorus trip to Spain and Portugal two weeks before departing for Africa. "Obviously I was nervous, but I experienced more excitement going into it," Abby said of traveling to a foreign country without her family. "I was taking the approach of, I don't really know what I'm going to be doing, and that's OK. Because some people stress a lot about missions — what's happening, where are we going, details and stuff — but I kind of just knew that God was going

to take care of it. ... I tend to think of myself as very adventurous, so (I thought) this will be fun, and it really was. I loved it!"

Her reliance on God to orchestrate the details of the trip not only helped Abby as she served but also inspired her teammates. BACC Global Missions Pastor Shawn Hart, one of the leaders on the Kenya trip, said, "God used Abby's positive attitude, high energy and willingness to say 'yes' to God to build strong unity on our team and encourage others to step out in faith."

At times, Abby had to take big steps of faith herself, such as when she faced the daunting task of public speaking. Though she considered herself shy growing up, Abby noted there's "no avoiding" talking in front of people on the mission field. "There was a (Bible) verse that I found maybe the week before I went (to Kenya). It was Luke 12:12 and it says, 'For the Holy Spirit will in that time teach you what to say.' So I really kept that with me, and it helped me a lot because I was like, 'Oh, it doesn't matter what I say because God is going to speak through me," Abby said of her experience speaking overseas.

Though she was nervous about the language barrier when asked to pray for villagers through a translator, Abby said it went really well. Another day in Kenya, as she was preparing to publicly share her personal story — including how she is adopted — she was encouraged by a timely text message from her birth mother who said she was praying for Abby's mission trip.

» Continued on page 15



Broadneck rising senior Abby Conlon has served on church mission trips to West Virginia and Kenya, and she is preparing for a third, to Belize, at the end of July.

St. John Pastor Celebrates 25 Years Of Holy Orders



Photo by Judy Tacyn

The Rev. Erik Arnold (right) concelebrated an anniversary Mass on June 5 at St. Leo the Great Roman Catholic Church in Baltimore's Little Italy with some of his ordination classmates, including the Rev. Leo Patalinghug (left) and Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop Adam Parker, a Severna Park native.

By Judy Tacyn

n June 5, 1999, a young Erik Arnold knelt before the archbishop of Baltimore and promised a life of celibacy, prayer and obedience. With the laying on of hands and prayer of consecration, the Rev. Arnold received the indelible mark of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Twenty-five years later, his priesthood journey has brought him to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and its accompanying school in Severna Park.

"I was excited and nervous, as you could imagine, but also deeply grateful to God for all that he had been doing to prepare me for that day," said Arnold, recalling his ordination day, "and for my heart to try to be the best priest and minister of Jesus that I could be. Lots of gratitude in my heart on that day."

Arnold graduated from Mount Saint Joseph High School in 1988, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 1992 with computer science and history degrees. He spent the next year working as a substitute teacher in the public school system while "trying to figure out what the lord was calling me to and

where he was leading me," Arnold said.

Judy Crowninshield may be the St. John parishioner who has known Arnold the longest. In 1992, the former teacher met Arnold as a substitute teacher at her school.

"I think he realized that teaching middle school students wasn't for him," Crowninshield said. "Now as a priest, I see the teacher in him frequently, especially with his use of relevant visual aids in his children's Masses and homilies."

Arnold was attending Mass in Catonsville when he met the charismatic Rev. Richard Lobert, a mentor who would change his life forever.

"He was the first priest I had ever met who seemed passionate and joyful about what he was doing. When he preached, the scriptures would come to life for me in a way they hadn't before," Arnold said. "His witness was really important and significant in me thinking that I wanted to do what he's doing and bring Jesus out into the world."

Having grown up Catholic, Arnold admitted that God was in his head but not yet in his heart. As his post-college

» Continued on page 15





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St. John Pastor Celebrates 25 Years

» Continued from page 13

conversion unfolded, he experienced God's call to priesthood.

"I wanted other people to come to know that the lord is real, that he has a plan for our life, that he loves and cares for us in the deepest and most personal way we can ever imagine," Arnold said.

In 1993, Arnold entered seminary, and in 1994 began his studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained a priest in Baltimore on June 5, 1999, after which he returned to Rome for an additional year of studies. He returned to the , Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2000 to begin his parish ministry.

Since July 2019, Arnold's family has included the 2,200 Catholic families that make up the St. John the Evangelist parish. Less than a year into his assignment, Arnold had to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and keep his new family connected to Jesus while they were unable to come to church. Within hours of the complete shutdown, St. John the Evangelist was livestreaming Masses via social media, offering online praise and worship services, sending video messages to parishioners and eventually celebrating outdoor Masses and reconciliation.

Under his leadership, the parish on Ritchie Highway earlier this year began Arnold's latest challenge renovation of the aging church. With original heating and cooling systems and asbestos tile ceiling abatement, among other things to be updated, St. John's church will temporarily close this fall for a multi-million-dollar, parishioner-funded renovation. Masses and other events normally scheduled for the church will move to the parish activities center on the north end of the St. John campus. The project is expected to be complete by fall of 2025.

Larry Kirby is a parish corporator, a longtime parishioner and friend of Arnold. Kirby's own son Stephen is in formation of the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Em-

Now, she and her teammates are pre-

paring to serve children and families

Belize the last week of July. They will

again host a VBS, distribute food, pray

with people and meet practical needs.

To get ready, the young missions team

members have been meeting with

leaders to work through a book that

sharing their personal stories, navi-

gating team dynamics and more. Abby

teaches them about culture shock,

and her teammates have also been

fundraising to cover the costs of the

trip. Abby noted an important aspect

of preparing for the mission field for

with God so her heart is ready for the

Throughout her time as a student

her is focusing on her relationship

ministry work ahead.

in need alongside local missionaries in

» Continued from page 13

mitsburg, Maryland.

"It's clear to me that Father Erik is a prayerful man who tries to do what God wants him to do," Kirby said. This makes it easier for people to follow him even if they don't always agree with his decisions.

As for Arnold's leadership impact, Kirby said there are more people coming to Mass, especially younger families attending and large numbers of people entering the Catholic Church through the parish's initiation program.

Arnold emphasized that there are many misconceptions about the priesthood, including the thought that priests are lonely, which Arnold said is categorically untrue.

"God gives us a huge family in the parish," Arnold said. "From very young and very old, we become part of a huge church family, so priests are far from being lonely. From our parish family, we have so many more friendships, more relationships, than we could have ever expected. To be given a parish family is a great gift from the lord. It's incredibly rewarding to be part of this family and ensures that we are never lonely.'

Arnold enjoys getting out in nature to be refreshed in the beauty of God's creation. He's an avid trail runner, hiker and climber, and can be found in Bacon Ridge Natural Area in Crownsville as often as his schedule allows. He even plans his vacations around scenic and rugged locales. He's an experienced chef and enjoys hosting his priest and seminarian brothers for frequent dinners at the rectory.

After 25 years of ministry, Arnold said he can see the danger in allowing the priesthood to become a job, and the only way to make sure that doesn't happen is to stay close to God.

Staying close to Jesus keeps everything focused on where it needs to be," Arnold said. "My life and my ministry is a call from God and unless I allow him to stay the center of it, it is not going to serve its purpose that he has called me to accomplish with him."

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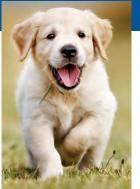
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at Broadneck, Abby has been highly involved in sports and extracurriculars as well. She participated in dance

company and cross country her freshman and sophomore years, and she did cheerleading for the first time as a junior. Abby has been in four musicals during her three years at BHS and has participated in unified dance alongside students with disabilities as well.

Student Shares Missions Experience

Abby also serves as a student leader for FCA, or Fellowship of Christian Athletes, at Broadneck, where she helps plan various elements of weekly meetings such as scripture selection and speakers, and regular events. At church, she volunteers her time in both children's and student ministry environments.

'Throughout missions and my serving, I've really realized how good God can be to me, and it's not even what he does but just who he is," Abby said, reflecting on what she has learned through these opportunities. "Another way I feel like God has changed me is through leadership, specifically through FCA but also through missions. I never pictured myself as a leader, but God's called me toward leadership roles, and that's just been a really cool thing — how God can change who you are if you let him."

Comprehensive Rezoning

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



n July 15, the Anne Arundel County Council will vote on Region 4 comprehensive zoning legislation. This will not be done again for another 10 years.

When I ran for office in 2018, I committed to oppose large-volume residential upzonings that had been seen in previous comprehensive rezoning bills. Our area faces traffic and infrastructure

challenges on a regular basis and has seen schools that are over capacity in the past. On the other hand, I do not support downzoning a property that has been zoned for residential development, unless the property owner has requested this downzoning. It is a slippery slope to downzone a property and there are supreme court cases that have determined it is illegal to take property from a landowner in this fashion.

I approached this once-in-a-decade legislation, understanding that, historically, the majority of council members supported any proposed change in an area of the county that was initiated by

the elected councilmember for said area. There is an enormous responsibility in that. All of this sounds easy, right? Say "no" here and "yes" there, and the council will follow your lead. It isn't that simple.

As I have written in previous columns regarding comprehensive rezoning, it is just that. A comprehensive process that has taken two years of review by multiple appointed groups, county agencies and has been in deliberations before the council since April 2024. In the rezoning bills that were introduced to the county council, some requested changes were denied, others were approved, and some were recommended for a different zoning designation altogether.

Residents who didn't participate in the two-year review process had the opportunity to submit late applications for a zoning change but were required to post public notice signs if a councilmember agreed to support their rezoning request. An application on paper doesn't tell the story of the property owners, and many of the stories have been compelling ones, emotional, and some with histories that date back to the creation of our charter government. In all of these zoning change scenarios, the county council has the final say.

As I have reviewed each zoning change pro-

posal and/or application, I have tried to balance both the landowners' desires with those of the communities that make up our great district. It means balancing the vision for development from 20 years ago, with the reality of development that has happened in the years since, while trying to protect that character that makes our area so special. This has been no easy task.

What I could not have anticipated when I was running in 2018, was that we would be in a housing crisis and traffic concerns would only continue to grow. OK — so maybe I knew the latter would happen; it takes decades to fund major transportation infrastructure projects. What I didn't anticipate was having a different perspective on land use and traffic, one that I have gained through my time on the council in the last six years.

So how did the housing crisis impact my review of comprehensive rezoning for our area? First, I did not approach my review believing that our district should provide the fix for the housing crisis through upzoning. The number of individual residential upzoning requests were a fraction of the proposed zoning changes compared to those that came from the county.

In most cases, the county was recommending zoning changes to multiple properties whose owners didn't request a change, in order to accom-

» Continued on page 18

Letter To The Editor: County Budget

am disappointed that no reductions were made to the (County Executive Steuart) Pittman budget. I testified at the county council public testimony session in Annapolis last month. In my opinion, failure to make any adjustments to Pittman's budget shows lack of independent thinking and indicates the budget was basically predetermined by the county-majority-controlling Democratic party before the public hearings. Unfortunately, politicians of both parties will generally sell out to their special interest supporters' excessive demands unless voters in general call them out on it. I believe that was the case here.

I am a retired federal macroeconomist who tries to look at politics in a pragmatic manner. I am a registered Democrat who strongly favors the Democratic party at the national level and strongly believes in consumer protections as well as significant aid to the disadvantaged to help them improve their situation. However, I have become an independent voter for state and local office. This is largely due to the never-ending increases in real tax rates and fees enacted by the state Democratic party over the last 20 years. In my opinion, the county executive and majority county council continued the trend of significant, excessive state and county spending, greatly increasing the real inflation-adjusted tax and fee burden of state and county residents.

Maryland is already a very high tax state. Kiplinger puts it sixth on the list of states with the highest tax burden for a middle class family. Anne Arundel County is viewed as a moderate county politically and is more tax friendly than other Maryland urban counties and needs to be vigilant to avoid unnecessarily further expanding real tax rates and fees. Given that 2025 will be a non-election year, large state tax hikes are likely due to the Blueprint for Education law and Maryland being dominated by one party, making compromise less likely.

Pittman portrays his budget as moderate, prudent and pragmatic. I do not believe that this is the case. Pittman's budget calls for an 8.2% increase in county spending. If one assumes an inflation rate of 2.7% in the county for 2025 (based on recent data on the Consumer Price Index For All Urban Consumers, or CPI-U), this means that real (price adjusted) spending is expected to see a 5.5% increase. County population growth in the last two years has been 0.2% per year, so the Pittman budget translates into a 5.3% increase in real per capita county spending under those inflation and population growth assumptions. I do not believe that this is a pragmatic or prudent increase in county spending.

The Anne Arundel County Council and county governments in general are under very difficult constraints due to the Maryland Blueprint for Education (MBPE), which imposed a 10-year, \$38 billion required spending price tag on Maryland with one-third as mandatory spending to be financed by the counties. I believe the goals were good, but mandated spending consistent with fundamentally good to very good schools and encouraging students to take advantage of it would have made a lot more sense than a huge unfunded mandate

lacking adequate oversight. I also believe it is wrong not to allow counties significant input and discretion in educational spending. I believe county governments and residents should make their unhappiness with these requirements well known to state officials and taxpayers and adjustments to the education law are needed promptly.

Given the educational mandated spending increases, I believe that the county government should be tight on the noneducational spending side to avoid huge tax hikes on county residents that, over time, will erode the county tax base as more retirees and higher earners leave the state and county. I admire politicians who approach problems pragmatically and not based on favoring special interests that support their party. Pittman's budget increased county non-educational payroll numbers significantly. Salaries for county employees need to be competitive with input from a number of applications and qualifications and time to fill vacancies. However, taxpayers bear the burden if salaries exceed the level needed to hire and maintain staff.

Areas of the Pittman budget that I especially disagree with are increases in personal tax rates and the huge increases in permit fees and indexing them to inflation. The increase in the county personal income tax seems small, increasing from 2.81% to 2.94% but represents a 4.62% increase in the tax rate. Since Fiscal Year 2019 when the rate was 2.50% this represents a 17.6% increase.

I do agree with the tax rates being made more progressive in recent years, but I do not believe anyone making under \$100,000 as a single person or \$150,000 as a joint filer should now see their tax rates raised at all. In addition, Maryland's tax code is not indexed to inflation much. Other than the standard deduction and the pension deduction, few Maryland deductions or credits are indexed to inflation and tax brackets are not. This causes an individual taxpayer whose income rises by inflation (many pensioners) to have his state taxes increase by more than inflation. This is especially unfair to retirees and low-income earners.

I encouraged the board to examine the United Van Lines Movers survey at www.unitedvanlines.com/newsroom/movers-study-2023.

The survey shows Maryland is losing significant residents to net emigration from the state. Moreover, it is not predominantly a moving-south phenomenon in the Maryland case. States adjacent to Maryland, such as Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia, are on net gaining residents through immigration from other states. Maryland's losses are especially pronounced among retirees and higher earners. High cost of living in Maryland is stated in the survey as an additional reason for residents leaving Maryland, and higher taxes and fees will directly and indirectly contribute to the net emigration problem for the state. I understand the county council cannot fix the problem of the lack of Maryland tax competitiveness relative to its neighboring and other states, but I believe it should be aware of it and not contribute to the problem.

Paul Sundell Severna Park



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Letter To The Editor:

Millersville Park And Traffic Accidents

The have all seen or heard about traffic and car accidents on Route 3 north and south at the Millersville Road crossover by the Wawa gas station and Royal Farms store.

I am a member of the Indian Landing Community Association and work with a group of members on the plans for Millersville Park to be constructed on Millersville Road. The one area I was asked to examine is traffic on Route 3 north and south and the crossover intersection of Millersville Road.

Our group has devoted considerable effort to concerns about the planning of this park. One of the major areas of concern is traffic and county officials ignoring our questions about this area, efforts to make it safe, traffic data and improvements. The one written response to questions asked at a public meeting in 2023 was "noted by the county." It took much citizen effort to find the statistics on traffic accidents and traffic accident fatalities at this intersection. Since the county officials were unresponsive, a public information request was made to the Maryland State Police department about the accidents and fatalities on Maryland Route 3 - north and south and Millersville Road for the five-year period from 2019-2023. Here are the number of crashes.

Fatalities - 3

Non-fatalities - 273

What are Anne Arundel County officials doing to correct this dangerous roadway before Millersville Park plans proceed?

Deborah Unitus Bereznak

Indian Landing Community Association

Comprehensive Rezoning

» Continued from page 16

modate the request of an individual application and ensure that the zoning map had contiguous properties of similar zoning. I do not fault the department for that and must acknowledge the willingness of staff at the Office of Planning and Zoning to work with me as I balanced the needs of the district through amendments to overturn their proposed upzonings.

Overturning their changes unfortunately left some applicants on islands in a sea of zoning that didn't match their surroundings, like a suburban zoning designation in a predominantly rural-zoned area. Their requested zoning change was no longer as easy. The "no's" to the county's proposed zoning changes were easy — the ones to applicants were not. These are the hard decisions I knew would be part of this process.

There are properties in our district that have development potential, and have had it for at least 10 years, but the county was proposing to take that potential away through "consistency" changes. These lots are split zoned, with two residential zoning designations across the parcel. Several property owners reached out in opposition to this change. Again, I do not support the government taking land from a property owner, so it only made sense to restore as many of these split zones as possible.

Commercial zoning was also a large portion of consideration for our area. After feedback from the greater Severna Park area, I was able to successfully restore commercial (C3) zoning to the Severna Park Marketplace and Park Plaza from the proposed mixed-use commercial on 45 parcels that would have allowed for a multi-level mix of dwelling units, commercial, business offices and industrial uses if redevelopment were to happen on any of the lots.

When we talk about commercial businesses, we must also consider that when commercial is limit-

ed to areas that are farther away from residential areas, it will likely require a vehicular trip, which impacts our traffic. I approved several properties to move from a residential designation to small business, and yes, some will change to commercial. I am excited for one commercial zoning designation in particular as there is an effort to restore the Listman property on Earleigh Heights Road to the local commercial gathering that it once was. Hearing the stories of this family-owned business' heyday several decades ago was a welcome trip down memory lane for those who testified in support. I truly enjoyed the stories.

While there have been great moments of success in this process, it has been a herculean effort. It is impossible to apply "consistency" in decisions where every proposal for change is unique. There were thousands of proposed changes to review and potentially amend in 95 days, the lifespan of council bills. While the occurrence is not historically seen, council members from other districts have been compelled to take on zoning changes that are rejected by the area representative. I believe it is due to the compelling public testimony and outreach from our engaged citizens that have led to this. While I personally have mixed feelings on the action, I think it speaks to how engaged the council is and the residents.

Comprehensive rezoning has been everything I was expecting and more. I committed to be transparent with you, share major proposed changes with you, and ask for your feedback. This was never my plan for what our district should look like in the next 10 years but our plan collectively. You responded, you showed up to testify, you joined me in this effort. Thank you.

It is an honor to serve you and your family. As always, you can reach out to me for any questions, concerns or feedback on legislation at *amanda*. *fiedler@aacounty.org*.



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SEVERNA PARK VOICE JULY 2024

Letter To The Editor: An Open Letter To Greater Severna Park And Neighboring Communities

here are many wonderful local businesses that provide special and unique shopping experiences in Severna Park. Please shop and support our local businesses as they support Severna Park, even when they know they are not going to gain notoriety nor an advertising bump.

For multiple years, including this year, The Cottage, Your Preppy Present and Victory Awards have made donations for auction and raffle items as well as prizes for Golfing For Gabi, a golf tournament held on Long Island, New York.

This is Gabi's story: On October 16, 2018, Gabriella Pellicani, at just 5 years of age, lost her 10-month battle to glioblastoma, an aggressive and incurable form of brain cancer. Gabi was treated at the Dana-Farber Cancer



Institute in Boston.

August 5 will mark the sixth annual Golfing For Gabi, which was started by Gabi's parents, Fabiana and Nick Pellicani, to raise funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Nick is a 2000 graduate of Severna Park High School.

Next time when looking for a special or unique gift or awards for a team or

activity, please resist looking online. Instead, please make a habit of shopping and supporting our local business leaders: Andy and Lucy Bird (Victory Awards), Sue Gauthier (The Cottage) and Jenny Moran (Your Preppy Present).

These are amazing local owners who are here for us in more ways than you know. You will be glad you did!

P.S. — Are you moved by this event? Want to donate in some way but the event in Long Island is impractical?

For six years, the community and families of Severna Park have made hole No. 5 an unofficial sponsor of Golfing For Gabi. Why hole No. 5? Gabi lost her battle at the age of 5, so dedicating hole No. 5 to her was a no-brainer. Hole No. 5 has raised over \$40,000

through the generosity and kindness of people just like you. Help support the outstanding work being done for pediatric cancer research.

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Please consider donating today and help hole No. 5 continue the amazing legacy of the Severna Park community so, one day, other families will not have to lose a child to this insidious disease.

Payment can be made via Venmo (golfing4gabi). Checks made out to Dana-Farber or cash can be given to coach Pellicani (mailed to 49 Hatton Drive, Severna Park, 21146) for delivery on August 5 at the sixth annual Golfing For Gabi. Credit card payments can also be made directly to Dana-Farber.

Every cent of all donations to hole No. 5 goes to The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

As the saying goes, "Many giving a little can add up to a great deal."

Paul and Lisa Pellicani Severna Park



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SPORTS

Nearly 70 Local Athletes Commit To Colleges

By David Bashore

A ll **Sally Trent** knew she wanted was to play college softball.
One point of contact, one camp, and one visit later, she was set on the finer details.

Almost as soon as she could, the Severna Park graduate committed to the College of Charleston to play Division I softball.

As Trent recalled, it became evident that Charleston was the place for her almost as soon as contact began in September 2022.

"As soon as they could talk to me, they reached out, we talked, and they wanted me to come out to a camp. I did really well at the camp, so we set up a visit and they offered me there," Trent said. "I got to see the campus and I just fell in love with it. Up until that point I wasn't sure where I was going to go, but when I took my visit, I knew."

Trent committed in November 2022 and then signed her national letter of



intent in November 2023, during the early signing period.

Trent, who expects to play catcher

Photo courtesy of Fincham Photography
After playing catcher for Severna
Park High School, Sally Trent will
take her talents to the College of
Charleston to play Division I softball.

and corner infield in college, hopes to lean on her experience both as a skillful player in the club season and as a senior leader during the high school season, when half of Severna Park's lineup was comprised of freshmen.

"In travel, everyone's at the same level at this point, especially as you play higher competition. There's not that much that separates you from other people and teams," Trent said. "In high school, being a leader for the younger players, that translates back into being more vocal and more of a leader on whatever team you're on. And now we have a sophomore pitcher on the travel team, so I've learned how to help communicate and help them manage situations."

Having utilized basketball to hone her athletic and leadership capabilities through high school, Trent plans to use this summer to hit the weight room and conditioning hard, preparing herself to make the jump to a faster and more talented level of softball. As she does, she's also trying to maximize the time in Severna Park before she heads south for school.

"I'm going to miss the girls, because most of us have grown up in Severna Park, and getting to play with everyone since you're little," Trent said. "I've played basketball with **Ryn (Feemster)** since I was 6, and softball with **Christina (Ballagh)** since I was really little, so I'll miss that, and I appreciate all of the high school coaches and what they've done here."

Trent is one of 68 local athletes to commit to college athletics next academic year, as reported to the Severna Park Voice.

» Continued on page 24

College Report

hese athletes graduated from Severna Park and Broadneck high schools, or nearby private schools, and competed in college this spring.

BASEBALL

Nathan Clarke, Severna Park — Lebanon Valley College

A freshman pitcher for the Dutchmen, Clarke appeared in eight games, starting four, and posted a 1-1 record with a 7.36 ERA, striking out 21 in 22 innings pitched.

Ethan Grieb, Mount Saint Joseph — *Frostburg State*

After two seasons at Anne Arundel Community College, Grieb transferred to Frostburg State for his junior season. He appeared in six games for Frostburg, logging 5.2 innings with four strikeouts and not allowing an earned run.

Sean Murphy, Broadneck — *Catholic*

A freshman pitcher for the Cardinals, Murphy made four relief appearances, logging 2.1 innings and allowing five earned runs

Cody Sharman, Archbishop Spalding — *Seton Hall*

A freshman pitcher, Sharman did not appear for the Pirates in 2024. He has entered the transfer portal and has four years of eligibility remaining.

Nick Stergiou, Broadneck — *CCBC-Catonsville*

A sophomore first baseman for the Cardinals, Stergiou batted .424 in 52 games, hitting three home runs and driving in 48 runs.

MEN'S GOLF

Ryan Brophy, Severna Park — AACC

A sophomore for the Riverhawks, Brophy led Anne Arundel Community College to state and region team championships, and he also finished as the men's individual region champion. He finished eighth in the NJCAA Division II Southeast District Championships, where AACC finished fifth as a team. Brophy qualified for the national championship as an individual but did not make the cut.

Tim Brophy, Severna Park — AACC

A freshman for the Riverhawks, Brophy finished third at the Region 20 tournament and 21st at the NJCAA Division II Southwest District Championships.

Darren Hoffman, Broadneck — AACC

A freshman for the Riverhawks, Hoffman finished sixth at the Region 20 tournament and 29th at the NJ-CAA Division II Southwest District Championships.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Bubba Bowen, Broadneck — Randolph Macon

A senior attacker for the Yellow Jackets, Bowen appeared in 17 games, scoring 21 goals and adding four assists.

Kevin Bredeck, Severna Park — UMBC

A freshman midfielder, Bredeck did not see action in 2024 for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Retrievers.

$\textbf{Jake Chambers}, \operatorname{Broadneck} \textbf{--} \textbf{\textit{Coast Guard Academy}}$

A freshman midfielder for the Bears, Chambers played in six games, scoring four goals.

Brooks Chatlos, Broadneck -- Virginia Military Institute

A freshman midfielder for the Keydets, Chatlos appeared in two games this season.

Joshua Coffman, Severna Park — *Maryland*

A graduate student midfielder for the Terrapins, Coffman appeared in nine games.

Ryan Della, Broadneck — *Salisbury*

A freshman attacker for the Sea Gulls, Della appeared in 14 games, scoring seven goals and scooping up 12 ground balls.

Aiden Doyle, Broadneck — St. Mary's (Maryland)

A junior attacker for the Seahawks, Doyle appeared in 17 games, scoring 21 goals and adding 19 assists. His season-high was a four-goal effort against Messiah on March 23.

Matthew Dryer, Severna Park — Aurora (Illinois)

A freshman goaltender for the Spartans, Dryer appeared in seven games, making 38 saves.

Jackson Elms, Severna Park —Limestone (South Carolina)

A freshman midfielder for the Saints, Elms appeared in seven games.

Vinny Facciponti, Broadneck — York (Pennsylvania)

A graduate student faceoff specialist, Facciponti equaled or broke multiple records in 2024. He appeared in 18 games, winning 242 of 370 faceoffs, snagging 173 ground balls, scoring 14 goals, and adding 11 assists. He set a school single-game record for faceoffs won (33) and equaled the mark for ground balls (27) against Messiah on April 27, and he owns the school's all-time records for ground balls (666), faceoffs won (1,083) and faceoff win percentage (.644). Facciponti, who ended his collegiate career as the NCAA's active leader in faceoff wins across all three divisions, was named the MAC Commonwealth's Specialist of the Year for the second successive season and gained first-team all-conference honors for the fourth time.

Davis Fisher, Broadneck — York (Pennsylvania)

A sophomore midfielder for the Spartans, Fisher played in 18 games, scoring 25 goals and logging 28 assists. Fisher was an honorable-mention All-MAC Commonwealth honoree

Colin Gray, Broadneck — Washington (Maryland)

A freshman goaltender for the Shoremen, Gray appeared in 10 games, making 77 saves.

Keegan Houser, Broadneck — Navy

A senior midfielder for the Midshipmen, Houser appeared in 12 games, scoring five goals and assisting on two others.

Brett Hussey, Severna Park — St. Mary's (Maryland)

A freshman defender for the Seahawks, Hussey appeared in nine games, scoring once, adding three assists and seven ground balls.

Paul Isenberg, Severna Park — Hampden Sydney

A sophomore defender for the Tigers, Isenberg played in four games this season.

Brendan Kennedy, Broadneck — UMBC

A senior attacker for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Retrievers, Kennedy appeared in 11 games, scoring twice, pulling in 11 ground balls, and forcing seven turnovers.

Liam McNulty, Severna Park — St. Mary's (Maryland)

A sophomore attacker for the Seahawks, McNulty appeared in 11 games, scoring 17 goals and adding six assists. His season-best was a five-goal effort against Cairn on April 30.

Logan Meighan, Archbishop Spalding — *Towson*

A freshman defender for the Tigers, Meighan appeared in four games this season. $\,$

Russell Melendez, Archbishop Spalding — Johns Hopkins

A senior attacker for the Blue Jays, Melendez featured in 16 games and scored 19 goals, including a season-high four in a NCAA Division I tournament quarterfinal loss to Virginia. He added eight assists.

Tristan Newhouse, Severna Park

— Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham

A freshman midfielder for the Devils, Newhouse saw action in eight games, notching one ground ball and one assist.

Jackson Roberts, Archbishop Spalding — *Navy*

A sophomore defender for the Midshipmen, Roberts appeared in five games this season.

» Continued on page 23



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College Report

» Continued from page 20

Ryan Salazar, Broadneck — Randolph Macon

A freshman attacker for the Yellow Jackets, Salazar appeared in nine games, scoring three goals and adding

Colin Shadowens, Severna Park — *Navy*

A sophomore faceoff specialist for the Midshipmen, Shadowens appeared in eight games, winning 16 of 26 faceoffs.

Jackson Shaw, Broadneck — *Christopher Newport*

A freshman attacker for the Captains, Shaw appeared in seven games, scoring three times.

Dan Shea, Broadneck — York (Pennsylvania)

A senior midfielder for the Spartans, Shea appeared in 15 games, snagging seven ground balls. He scored his first collegiate goal on April 20 against Widener.

Ashby Shepherd, Severna Park — Towson

A freshman goaltender for the Tigers, Shepherd did not see action in 2024.

Will Sherwood, Archbishop Spalding — Loyola (Maryland)

A graduate student short-stick defender, Sherwood played in 12 games for the Greyhounds, logging seven ground balls and forcing four turnovers.

Bryce Stevenson, Severna Park — Salisbury

A sophomore defender for the Sea Gulls, Stevenson appeared in 22 games, scooping up 48 ground balls and forcing 36 turnovers.

Evan Stroble, Severna Park — Mercer

A freshman defender for the Bears, Stroble appeared in one game this season.

A junior defender for the Retrievers, Sullivan appeared in one early-season game.

Joaquin Villagomez, Severna Park — Towson

A sophomore attacker, Villagomez scored 33 goals and added 12 assists and 24 ground balls for the Tigers.

Cam Webb, Severna Park — Washington (Maryland) A freshman faceoff specialist for the Shoremen, Webb

Mikey Weisshaar, Archbishop Spalding — Towson

A sophomore midfielder for the Tigers, Weisshaar started all 17 games and led the team with 42 goals and added 19 assists as Towson reached the NCAA Division I tournament. Weisshaar received All-American honors from Inside Lacrosse (first-team), USILA (second-team) and USA Lacrosse (third-team), in addition to first-team all-Colonial Athletic Association honors.

MEN'S TENNIS

Luke Garner, Broadneck — *Navy*

saw action in two games this season.

A junior for the Midshipmen, Garner went 13-13 in singles matches and 17-9 in doubles matches.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Kameron Dove, Broadneck — Alvernia

A freshman high jumper for the Golden Wolves, Dove set a personal best of 1.88 meters (6 feet, 2 inches) at an in-season meet in April. He finished 12th at the Middle Atlantic Conference championships.

Collin Fitzgerald, Broadneck — St Mary's (Maryland)

A freshman for the Seahawks, Fitzgerald earned conference athlete of the week honors when he broke the school record in the 100 and 200 meters on April 13 at the Delaware State Invitational.

Carson Sloat, Severna Park — Navy

A junior for the Midshipmen, Sloat primarily ran the 800 this spring. He participated in the 4x800 relay team that finished third at the Patriot League Championships.

Aiden Vanderbilt, Broadneck

– Queens (North Carolina)

A freshman sprinter for the Royals, Vanderbilt set a personal best in the 200 meters at the Atlantic Sun Championship meet, finishing 16th in a time of 22.90. He also helped the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams finish fifth at the conference meet.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Andrew Byrne, Broadneck — Juniata

A freshman defensive specialist for the Eagles, Byrne appeared in six matches, averaging 1.53 digs and 0.59 assists per set.

Michael Schwob, Broadneck — Penn State

A freshman setter for the Nittany Lions, Schwob appeared in 14 matches (44 sets), averaging 10.3 assists, 1.36 digs, 0.75 blocks, 0.32 kills, and 0.23 aces per set.

Ryan Wahba, Severn School — Navy

A junior for the Midshipmen, Wahba was part of a crew that finished third in the America's Trophy event and eighth in the Intercollegiate Sailing Association Open Fleet finals. Navy was 11th in the ICSA team nationals.

Skyla Hailey, Severna Park —Washington (Maryland)

A freshman first baseman for the Shorewomen, Hailey appeared in two games this season.

Addison Hurst, Broadneck — AACC

A freshman outfielder for the Anne Arundel Community College Riverhawks, Hurst earned second-team All-Region 20 honors after batting .434 with four home runs and 27 RBI in 29 games.

Grace Mozloom, Broadneck — AACC

A freshman utility player for the Riverhawks, Mozloom batted .202 in 35 games, scoring 14 runs and driving in 10.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Ela Simpson, Broadneck — AACC

A freshman, Simpson won the NJCAA Division III Region 20 individual championship by 24 strokes. Simpson qualified for the NJCAA Division III national championships, where she finished seventh, becoming the Riverhawk women's golf program's first All-American.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Alexis Abe, Broadneck — UMBC

After missing the 2023 season, Abe played in 15 games as a junior attacker for the Retrievers. She scored 12 goals and added four assists.

Allie Ballard, Broadneck — McDaniel

A junior defender/midfielder for the Green Terror, Ballard played in 11 games, snagging 22 ground balls.

Sophia Bordone, Severna Park — *Embry-Riddle*

A freshman defender for the Eagles, Bordone appeared in 13 games this season.

Stella Bordone, Severna Park — *Lafayette* (*Pennsylvania*)

A freshman attacker for the Leopards, Bordone appeared in four games, scoring twice.

Camryn Chew, Severna Park — *Loyola (Maryland)*

A senior defender for the Greyhounds, Chew appeared in 11 games, logging 10 ground balls.

Charlotte Diez, Severna Park — Villanova

A freshman attacker for the Wildcats, Diez appeared in seven games this season.

Lexi Dupcak, Broadneck — Maryland

A freshman midfielder for the Terrapins, Dupcak appeared in eight games this season.

Sammy Dupcak, Broadneck — Penn State

A senior defender for the Nittany Lions, Dupcak started all 19 games this season, scooping 20 ground balls and forcing 17 turnovers. She scored her only goal of the season against Princeton on February 24.

Maddy Goger, Severna Park — Columbia

A freshman midfielder for the Lions, Goger appeared in 10 games this season, scooping nine ground balls.

Abby Goodman, Severna Park — McDaniel

A freshman defender for the Green Terror, Goodman appeared in 12 games, starting five.

Carlie Gownley, Broadneck — Christopher Newport

A freshman defender for the Captains, Gownley appeared in three games.

Lilly Kelley, Broadneck — James Madison

A freshman midfielder for the Dukes, Kelley did not see game action in 2024.

Ella Killian, Broadneck — UMBC

A sophomore defender for the Retrievers, Killian appeared in 15 games, logging 23 ground balls, 15 forced turnovers, and one assist.

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Karli Kirchenheiter, Severna Park — Louisville

A freshman midfielder for the Cardinals, Kirchenheiter did not see game action in 2024.

Sydney Kirchenheiter, Severn School — *Louisville*

A graduate student defender for the Cardinals, Kirchenheiter started 17 of her 19 games played, scooping 10 ground balls.

Sierra Lane, Severna Park — AACC

A freshman defender for the Riverhawks, Lane played in five games, controlling two ground balls and forcing a turnover.

Regan McDonnell, Severna Park — Salisbury

A freshman midfielder for the Sea Gulls, McDonnell appeared in nine games, scoring four goals as Salisbury reached the NCAA Division III title game.

Alexis Melendez, Archbishop Spalding — *AACC*

A freshman attacker for the Riverhawks, Melendez played in all nine games this season, scoring twice.

Sophia Miller, Severna Park — San Diego State

A freshman midfielder for the Aztecs, Miller didn't see game action in 2024.

Mary Moore, Broadneck — Villanova

A freshman midfielder for the Wildcats, Moore started 16 all games this season, scoring 23 goals and adding 12 assists. Her season-best came in a four-goal effort against Marquette on April 27.

Lilly Spilker, Severna Park — Penn State

A freshman defender for the Nittany Lions, Spilker didn't see action in 2024.

Rachel Spilker, Severna Park — Penn State

A graduate student defender for the Nittany Lions, Spilker started all 19 games, scooping 17 ground balls and forcing 22 turnovers.

Olivia Tramontana, Severna Park

– San Diego State

A freshman defender for the Aztecs, Tramontana appeared in nine games, scooping nine ground balls and forcing four turnovers.

Delany Turner, Broadneck — McDaniel

A freshman attacker for the Green Terror, Turner played in six games, scoring twice.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Elicia Aponte, Broadneck — Albright

A freshman for the Lions, Aponte went 13-6 in singles play and 11-7 in doubles matches.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Avery Arizzi, Broadneck

- St Mary's (Maryland)

A freshman sprinter for the Seahawks, Arizzi placed seventh in the 200 meters in the United East Conference championship meet. She also helped the 4x100 team to seventh place and the 4x400 team to second in the meet.

Safiya Stimely, Broadneck

– St. Mary's (Maryland)

A freshman thrower for the Seahawks, Stimely finished fifth in the United East Conference meet discus results with a throw of 29.65 meters (97 feet, 3 inches). She also finished 10th in the hammer and 14th in the

Sophia Zell, Severna Park — Maryland

A senior distance runner, Zell capped her career with a personal record in two events at her last home meet, running 2:13.96 in the 800 and 4:34.63 in the 1,500.

Jillian Zukley, Severna Park

— St. Mary's (Maryland)

A freshman thrower for the Seahawks, Zukley swept the throwing events at the United East Conference meet, setting a new personal best of 43.82 meters (143 feet, 9 inches) in the hammer throw. Her winning mark in the shot put was 11.83 meters (38 feet, 9.75 inches) and in the discus was 34.84 meters (114 feet, 4 inches).

Nearly 70 Local Athletes Commit To Colleges

» Continued from page 20

BASEBALL

Peyton Cassidy, Broadneck — *Chatham* **Calvin Cook**, Broadneck

— Middle Tennessee

Nathan Murphy, Severna Park

— George Washington

Jackson O'Brien, Severna Park — *Beloit* **Kody Phillips**, Severna Park

— Lebanon Valley

Carver Salazar, Archbishop Spalding

Angel Santiago-Cruz, Severna Park
— *Richmond*

Sean Williams, Severna Park

— Penn State

CHEER

Jon Garvey, Severna Park — *Clemson* **Riley Morris**, Severna Park

— Stevenson

Kian Williams, Severna Park — Florida

FIELD HOCKEY

Zoe Bjelac, Broadneck — *Quinnipiac* **Madelyn Quigley**, Broadneck

— Susquehanna

Paige Reilly, Broadneck — Albright

FOOTBALL

Eli Harris, Broadneck — Navy
Branden Stahl, Broadneck — Ursinus
James Stahl, Broadneck — Ursinus
DaQuann Woodall Jr., Broadneck
— Eastern

KAYAK FISHING

Jordan Lovejoy, Severna Park – *Carson Newman*

Men's Basketball

Brendan Abell, Severna Park

— Penn State-Altoona

Jordan Brown, BroadneckDarrow School (post-grad)

MEN'S LACROSSE

Tanner Boone, Broadneck

- Mary Washington

John Burkhardt, Severna Park

__ Rollarmina

Jameson Coffman, Archbishop Spalding — *UMBC*

Austin Combs, Broadneck — *Flagler*

Nolan Grizzle, Severna Park

— Coast Guard Academy

Graham Hartman, Broadneck

Morror

Tyler Hicks, Broadneck

— Virginia Military Institute

Alec Howard, Archbishop Spalding

— UMBC

Braden McCassie, Broadneck

— Jacksonville

Logan McGill, Broadneck — Hampton

Jack Meehan, Broadneck

— Virginia Wesleyan

Luke Miller, McDonogh

- Notre Dame

Albie Palsa, Broadneck — Lynchburg

Jed Pellicano, Broadneck

— Christopher Newport

Tyler Stewart, Broadneck — Limestone
Matt Tettemer, Broadneck
— St. Mary's (Maryland)

Men's Soccer

Declan Karney, Archbishop Spalding — *Christopher Newport*

Men's Swimming

Nathan Decker, Broadneck — Utah

MEN'S WATER POLO

Jack Clark, Broadneck — Navy Tristan Tosoni, Broadneck — Loyola (Maryland)

SOFTBALL

Sally Trent, Severna Park — *Charleston* **Samantha Waters**, Broadneck — *Hood*

Women's Basketball

Samantha Miller, Broadneck — *St. Mary's (Maryland)*

Makenzie Wharton, Broadneck

— Kevstone

Women's Lacrosse

Elia Alewine, Indian Creek

— Jacksonville

Kate Evans, Severna Park

— Gettysburg

Ryn Feemster, Severna Park — *VCU*

Alyssa Gore-Chung, Severna Park

— Navy

 $\textbf{Sarah Kreis}, \textbf{Severna Park} - \textbf{\textit{Charlotte}}$

Olivia Orso, Broadneck — Ohio State

Allison Schiavone, Severna Park

— Wilmington

Sarah Stefancik, Severna Park
— *Mercer* **Lily Trout**, Broadneck — *High Point*

Women's Soccer

Kyleigh Bland, Broadneck

— St. Mary's (Maryland)

Caitlyn Boucher, Severna Park

— Campbell

Kasey Thompson, Severna Park

— South Carolina-Beaufort

Brooke Velez, Broadneck

— St. Mary's (Maryland)

Gabrielle Wisbeck, Archbishop

Spalding — Syracuse

Women's Swimming

Ella Deitch, Broadneck — *Sewanee* **Chloe Lan**, Broadneck — *Hamilton*

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Carson Boteler, Broadneck

— Coastal Carolina

Women's Volleyball

Mya Durham, Broadneck

— Susquehanna

Perry Stevenson, Severna Park

— Canisius

Women's Water Polo

Olivia Mitchell, Broadneck
— Virginia Military Institute

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Severna Park Girls Soccer, Lacrosse, Basketball

By David Bashore

s time trained off the clock in Ryn Feemster's final game in Severna Park colors, the reality finally started to sink in. The Falcons would win another state title, this one in girls lacrosse, but there was nothing left on the list of high school things to look forward to aside from graduation.

'When we hit states for soccer, I realized that was the end," Feemster said. "It was sad, but I went on to the next thing. We jumped right into basketball, and we almost made it to the end. Basketball jumped into lacrosse, and then it hit me harder because I didn't have anything after that.

When playoffs began for lacrosse, I realized this was the final thing. This was the real deal and I really wanted to make it to the end."

Feemster and her fellow seniors could celebrate a decorated last season: state champions in soccer, state quarterfinalists in basketball, state champions in lacrosse.

And though she might not have stolen the headlines in every sport, Feemster was right at the heart of all of it. She was



part of a lockdown center-back pairing for the undefeated girls soccer team; the ball was in her hands in the clutch moments for girls basketball; and she was the calm presence in the lacrosse team's back line.

"It was such a standard to uphold, but soccer got me in the groove when we won states, and I knew we had a chance for basketball, and lacrosse as well," she said. "It's a big role, but I think me and a couple of other girls found our groove pretty quickly.

"I think a lot of it is the versatility of playing multiple sports. You mold yourself around the players around you. The tram doesn't just revolve around one per-

Photo courtesy of Colin Murphy Ryn Feemster and her fellow seniors celebrated a decorated last season as state champions in soccer, state quarterfinalists in basketball

and state champions in lacrosse.

son; it's many people doing many things. We had many different leading scorers I wanted to mold myself around them, to help them to have the ability to score as much as they do. It's just a lot of knowing what assets your teammates have and molding them to those assets to make them the best they can be."

True to form, her proudest moment as an athlete came in realizing a team accomplishment, reading a post on \boldsymbol{X} from the Severna Park Voice sports account during halftime of the 3A girls soccer championship game: "Mt. Hebron needs three goals to win. Severna Park has conceded three goals all season."

'That was so crazy," Feemster said. Off the field, though, she's just as passionate about others. While Feemster will play lacrosse at Virginia Commonwealth University, her drive is in biomedical engineering. That drive came part as growing up in an engineering family, part as catching the vision in a senior project.

That project saw a team of students design an insulin cooler for backpacking diabetics. It took surveys, multiple design evaluations, and nail-biting test runs. But the project was successful, both in practice and in grade, and she learned what she wanted to do next.

"I have my whole life pretty much planned out — I'm very type A," Feemster said. "My goal is making pacemakers more affordable for people who need them. I just want to find a way to make them more affordable, because it's so expensive. ... I thought I was going to be a doctor freshman year, but ever since my brother went to prosthetics, I figured out the stuff that he does, and the stuff they do is cool. (That project) helps set us up for following that guideline, because you're going to be applying it in the real world. One project the entire year, senior year, and a class where you're dedicating every single minute of that class to the project."

While engineering and a Division I sport is a lot to juggle, Feemster hopes to have time to get back on the soccer field at some point — she isn't ready to give it up for good just yet. The workload at Severna Park helps, as does the support she's fostered along the way.

As she pursues goals of making the world a better place, she can reach back into the past to carry her forward.

"I'm ready to move on," she said, "but I'm going to miss all my friends."

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SEVERNA PARK VOICE JULY 2024 27

Broadneck Hosts Seven-On-Seven Football Tourney

Photos by Zach Sparks Broadneck and Patuxent squared off in the first round of a seven-on-seven football tournament on June 4. Players from 16 teams competed at Broadneck High School, with Patuxent finishing as the champion.

Green Hornets 2032 Boys Are Summer Aloha Cup Champions



he Severna Park Green Hornets 2032 boys lacrosse team won the inaugural Summer Aloha Cup in Elkridge at Troy Park on June 2. Coached by **Brad Reppert**, **Derek Howells**, **Kim Bloomfield** and **Eric Wedemeyer**, the team swept all five games en route to the 2032 AA/A division trophy.

On June 1, the Repsnakes began the tournament with a 3-1 win against Bethesda 2032 Blue and a 4-2 win against ProStart 2032 Blue, before coasting to a 9-1 win against FCA MD 2032 to set up tournament play the following day. Early on June 2, No. 1 seed Severna Park blanked No. 4 seed ProStart 2032 Blue 7-0 before dispatching No. 2 seed FCA MD 2032 6-1 in prior day rematches to claim

the top 2032 division title.

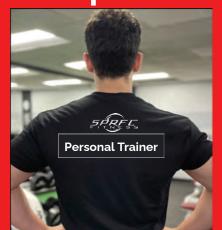
Throughout the tournament, the Repsnakes' suffocating defense led the way as Aiden Cooke, Henry Smith, George Fewster, Carter Wasserman and **Hunter Slater** combined with the net minding of Sammy Coleman, allowed one goal per game. Offensively, Severna Park was paced by **Caden** Howells, Bryce Arnold, Liam Cooke, Braxton Reppert and Nathan Feldman. Ryan Berger, River Baker, Joey Potocek, Aiden Cooke, Connor Wild and Mark Wedemeyer also contributed to the scoring. The strong play of Lawton Bloomfield, Graeme McDowell and **Grady Shadowens** helped secure the championship.





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BHS & SPHS Valedictorians And Salutatorians

High-Flying Falcons Eric Lin And Lorenz Rozal Land At Top Of Class



By Judy Tacyn

uring the June 7 commencement ceremony for Severna Park High School's class of 2024, friends Eric Lin and Lorenz Rozal were respectively named valedictorian and salutatorian. COVID slowed their freshman year, but the two scholars made up for the unique school year by excelling in the three that followed.

"I didn't realize that I had a chance of becoming valedictorian until the first semester of Friends Lorenz Rozal (left) and Eric Lin were named Severna Park High School's class of 2024 salutatorian and valedictorian, respectively, during graduation on June 7.

senior year," Lin said.
"Up until then, I was
certain that while I
would be in the top
five, I wouldn't reach
one."

At the end of his junior year, right in the middle of Advanced Placement exam season, Lin also took on the challenge of campaigning for

student member of the Board of Education for Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

"It was an extremely stressful time because I was taking five AP exams, which I needed to study for," added Lin, who ultimately earned the prestigious student board member position, which he considers his greatest high school achievement. "I am extremely grateful for all of my teachers, especially Michele Staisloff, my AP Calculus teacher, for their

» Continued on page 36

Well-Rounded Broadneck Scholars Aurora Nelson And Lena Stern Earn Top Class Ranks



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Broadneck's 2024 valedictorian, Aurora Nelson (right), and salutatorian, Lena Stern, have been friends since elementary school.

By Judy Tacyn

arning the valedictorian and salutatorian ranks for Broadneck High School's class of 2024 were two students with talents and interests wide-ranging from STEM to art, athletics to engineering, foreign language to community service, and neuroscience to music. Aurora Nelson and Lena Stern, friends since elementary school, could not think of a better ending to their public-school experience than walking onstage together and ranking one and two during their

graduation ceremony on June 6.

"We've known our class rank since sophomore year, but I don't think we had a specific goal of valedictorian and salutatorian at that time," said Nelson, Broadneck's valedictorian. "I just tried to challenge myself by taking hard classes. When I learned Lena would be salutatorian, I knew it would be fun to be onstage together."

After an impressive high school career, these scholars may have the hardest challenge yet in front of them. They now have to narrow >>> Continued on page 36

Magothy River Middle's Noon, Jones' Whisman Are Latest Principals To Find New Homes

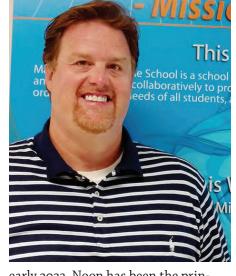
By Mauricio Palmar

Student Intern

hroughout his tenure at the helm of Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Superintendent Mark Bedell has consistently stressed the importance of strong academic achievement. Pursuant to these goals, along with considering enrollment figures, the superintendent has decided to shift some of the county's principals.

John Noon Leaves Magothy River Middle School

Next year, John Noon will no longer be the principal of Magothy River Middle School, instead taking over at Marley Middle School in Glen Burnie. He is set to be replaced by Lindsay Abruzzo, who had held the same position at Severna Park High School since



early 2023. Noon has been the principal at Magothy since the summer of 2020, when he took over for Nuria Williams after she was promoted to a

John Noon became the principal at Magothy River Middle School during the summer of 2020. He will take over the same role at Marley Middle School in Glen Burnie.

role within the county's central office. Prior to that, Noon spent six years as the principal at Broadneck Elementary, a job that gave him the opportunity to form unique connections within the Arnold community.

Since becoming the principal at Broadneck Elementary, Noon has had the opportunity to oversee his children's schools, starting at Broadneck with his oldest son, Gabriel, and ending at Magothy with his younger son, Anthony. These experiences have greatly impacted his development as an administrator, and he hopes that he will be able to carry his more personal approach to

decision making with him to Marley, even though his children won't be with him.

"I would say the blessing, and I guess curse, of having them with you in the school — your own children — is that every decision you make has a personal impact," Noon said. "And I think that's something where, when I'm hiring and when I'm working with teachers, because it's been 10 years of that, it's now just ingrained in me where every decision I make it's like, 'Hey man, that's my child that is impacted by these decisions."

When asked to reflect on his tenure at Magothy, Noon was particularly proud of the school's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted the difficulties that he experienced coming into the school during virtual instruction. He understood how easy it could be for academic and artistic performance to crater in such an environment, so Magothy's ability to bounce back in both departments has been a source of pride for him.

"Dealing with families' emotions,

» Continued on page 39

Woods Child Development Center Marks 70 Years

By Hannah Bates

Student Intern

p a long driveway in the heart of Severna Park sits a wooden church surrounded by boxed gardens and blooming flowers. During the week, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church doubles as an accredited preschool for children ages 2-4 in the Severna Park area. The name of the school is Woods Child Development Center (WCDC), and this year, WCDC reached a remarkable milestone: its 70th anniversary.

On a warm spring day, May 23, Woods celebrated by hosting a large cookout party complete with hot dogs, watermelon and even a snow-cone truck. Schoolchildren came and went all day with their families, eating, playing games and taking silly photos in a provided photo booth. As the day went on, families and friends danced to the beats provided by a local DJ. At the center of the celebration was family fun time, an appropriate thing to celebrate as the legacy of WCDC spans generations in the Severna Park community.

Started by Severna Park families in the 1950s, WCDC continues to thrive in the 2020s thanks to the same community support. After 70 strong years, something remarkable has occurred: many of the parents and grandparents of children who go to WCDC today went there as children. Plus, some of the teachers at the school were taught at WCDC when they were only 3 or 4 years old, and others have stayed at the school long enough to teach generations of a family. Even the director of operations at Woods Church, John McLaughlin, attended as a child. As the current director of WCDC, Roxann Bartone, put it, "Woods is one big family."

One parent of a child currently at WCDC, Chris-



topher Riley, expressed the same thing. To him, not only is it because of the past that WCDC behaves as a family but also because of the relationships in the present. Riley said that his favorite part of WCDC is the staff members because they intentionally desire to spend time with and get to know both the parents and their children.

"Every day [when] we drop off and pick up our kids, we interact with the teachers and administrators like they are family members," he said, jokingly adding, "I probably share more about our family's weekend plans with the Woods staff than I do my own family!"

Riley also believes that two more factors elevate WCDC from an ordinary school to a spectacular environment: the curriculum and parent involvement.

WCDC offers parents a unique form of education, one focused on play-based learning, as Bartone explained.

This style of education encourages children to explore and question the world through observation and play. In one unit of this curriculum, the building unit, for example, children observed the habits of local wildlife and then created their own birdhouses to hang within the property. Bartone loves this style of learning because it encourages children to behave as children have for generations, learning through experiencing the world. Her view is, "For children to *learn*? I think they have to *do*."

For parent involvement, every week, Riley, like all other parents, is invited to come and read a book to his child and their class as well as participate in annual events such as the Woods Art Show. At this party, Riley described, "all the families come together to see incredible art exhibits created by each student and class and enjoy baked goods

made by each teacher." It is chances like these where parents and students are able to experience WCDC together that really shape the family community.

In the next 70 years, WCDC plans to stay the same as far as family legacy goes. Fostering family and community relationships will remain a foundation of the school. Recently, for example, WCDC has expounded on this goal by inviting the residents of a local senior home to join the children for story time, music, and complementary juice boxes and cookies. WCDC will continue to add little excursions and events like this to ensure that every child, parent and grandparent who visits or goes to WCDC feels welcomed and part of the Woods family.

To learn more about WCDC, go to www.woodscdc.org.











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Educator Of The Month

Laura **Palermo**

Benfield Elementary School



Kindergarten teacher Laura Palermo sat with former student and rising first-grader Cameran Stoker.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

or Benfield Elementary kindergarten teacher Laura Palermo, home is where the heart is. The former Benfield Bulldog even lives in her childhood home with her husband and three daughters. Palermo always knew that if the chance to work at Benfield was presented, she'd take it.

"Benfield is an amazing, tight-knit community school," Palermo said. "I am surrounded by dedicated educators and supportive families."

For the school's students, parents and colleagues, the love is mutual.

According to Benfield Elementary Principal Sue Myers, "Mrs. Palermo is an exceptional teacher who builds relationships with her students and parents, fostering a positive relationship from the beginning of the year."

Her students may be only 5 or 6 years old, but Palermo has high expectations for the kids, who always keep her on her toes.

"I want them to know that they are valued, supported and belong in my class, but I will challenge them to work hard and meet their potential," Palermo said.

Her favorite aspect about teaching kindergarten is the amount of growth students make in one short school year. It's a huge leap both academically and socially, she noted.

'Kindergarten students are like sponges with a thirst for knowledge, excited to share their experiences, and most importantly, eager to please with kind hearts," she said.

Palermo, who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in early childhood education from Towson University, also believes teaching roles extend well beyond the curriculum.

"Building relationships and providing opportunities for the students and families is important to me," she said.

In addition to her teaching duties, Palermo coordinates the kindergarten act for Benfield's annual variety show and the end-of-year kindergarten musical performance. The musical performance brings families together as students showcase fun, sentimental songs about their time in kindergarten.

"She creates opportunities for children to have keepsakes, so that parents and students are able to look back and reflect on the successes and fun of the school year," Myers explained.

Specifically, the keepsakes are a kindergarten scrapbook for each student in class with a photo and work sample from each month. These are compiled with the help of volunteers, whom Palermo is fondly known for welcoming into her classroom.

"Building relationships with the students and trust with the families is paramount for a successful year," she

Additionally, she helps with the third-through fifth-grade Girls on the Run program at Benfield. Palermo is one of the volunteer coaches who inspire girls to build confidence through physical activities.

Further, Palermo runs a mentor program, where a few older Benfield students come in for a 15-minute daily session to work with her students. They review or extend skills, read books or play games together.

While the school itself has changed physically since Palermo was a student there, many traditions along with the commitment to excellence have remained. Interestingly, Palermo had Patti Bartlett in fifth grade and now works alongside her at Benfield.

"Mrs. Bartlett's unwavering dedication to her students hasn't changed one bit," Palermo said. "She's often the first one there in the morning and the last to leave.

Many former Benfield students are moving back to the area and Palermo is amazed at how many sets of parents and children Bartlett has taught. With Palermo's contributions to Benfield, one can hope for a similar trajectory for the beloved kindergarten teacher.

Living in the neighborhood in which Palermo teaches is also a wonderful experience. Outside the classroom, she helps with social events at St. Andrew's Swim and Tennis Club.

"I love seeing former, current and future students and their families at community events," she said. "I hope that people know that I am invested in their students, school community and the greater community.



The Educator of the Month is proudly sponsored by Cafe Mezzanotte.

SEVERNA PARK VOICE JULY 2024 33

School's Out For Summer





Public school students across Severna Park and Arnold said goodbye to their friends and teachers on June 11, the last official day of the 2023-2024 school year. **Left:** Twins Abbie and Robert Heath finished their junior year and will be seniors at Severna Park High School this fall. **Right:** Katherine Jarrell finished her first-grade year at Folger McKinsey Elementary School.

Former Severna Park Student Earns Chemistry Award



A Severna Park High School graduate, Jenna King was honored with a College Chemistry Award this spring.

ince 1961, The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) has annually honored students in chemistry with its College Chemistry Awards. This year, Jenna King — a 2020 graduate of Severna Park High School and now Gettysburg College — was one of 24 students in a tri-state area to be recognized.

The award includes both a monetary prize and a framed certificate of accomplishment. The awards are given to one student at each college to recognize the student's demonstrated excellence in performance and high achievements in the field of chemistry. The department faculty of the student's college selects each recipient.

The honor is the latest in a list for King during her college career. She achieved the dean's list during five of her seven semesters, was president of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority from 2023-2024, was a member of the health sciences student advisory board from 2022-2024, was a member of the women's lacrosse team from 2020-2022, was a second-team All Centennial Conference selection, and she was selected to the all-academic team.

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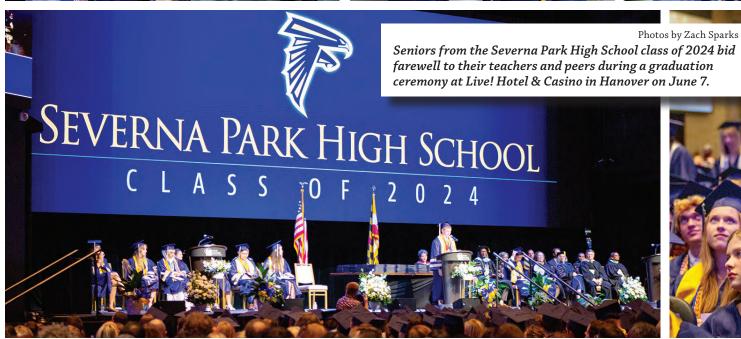
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Hat's Off To Severna Park High School's Graduating Seniors











Broadneck Seniors Celebrate Graduation





E ach month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Ms. Everette's class at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School answered the question:

What is the most interesting thing you've learned in school this year?

The most interesting thing I learned this year is that there are a lot more things in the inside of the chicken than the outside of the chicken

Clara L.

The most interesting thing I learned is how a chicken hatches, and watching the chickens hatch out of the egg. It was really interesting to learn all the parts and the egg's parts.

Colette D.

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School



The most interesting thing I learned is in science. I learned about the chicken anatomy and how the inside of a chicken works and moves.

Elle K.

The most interesting thing I learned this year was when we went on a field trip to Horn Point Oyster Hatchery, because I like learning how oysters are born and how they grow!

Laken A.

The most interesting thing I have done was using iMovie. iMovie is a site where you can film a movie or a trailer.

Logan S.

The most interesting thing that

I've learned this year was how to make book trailers for new novels that we read, and my favorite book that we read was "As Brave As You" by Jason Reynolds.

Lucia P.

The most interesting thing I learned this year was how to play the drums because there are so many different types of notes.

Owen A.

The most interesting thing I have learned this year was how to plot data on a graph and understand the graph.

Paige K.

How to play the drums.

Parker T.

The most interesting thing I have learned is lacrosse because of our coach, Ms. Nasr. I learned how to throw, catch and cradle. Without her, I couldn't do any of that.

Penny F.

My favorite thing I learned this year was learning how to play saxophone.

Theo K.

The most interesting thing I've learned this year is how to play basketball, because I like playing sports with friends. I like playing other sports, so basketball helped with hand-eye coordination and arm strength. It also helped with making friends with older kids.

Watson K.

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Well-Rounded Broadneck Scholars

» Continued from page 29

their talents and passions and think about careers. Nelson will attend the University of Maryland, College Park to study engineering. Stern will attend Washington University in St. Louis to study neuroscience or psychology.

"I am interested in a lot of things!" Stern said. "Washington University is a good place to study multiple disciplines."

Nelson was a scholar—athlete who earned Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor awards. She's earned several art awards, won contests, and had her art displayed throughout Maryland. She was a member of the national art, math and French honor societies, in which she held offices. Nelson participated in numerous clubs, including Model United Nations, and earned the Girls Scout Gold Award.

In addition to academic achievement, Nelson excelled in soccer as a four-year member of the Broadneck High School varsity girls team and earned all-county honors. She also plays piano.

Stern represented Broadneck High School at the Maryland Hugh O'Brien Youth leadership conference and was a member of the national and Tri-M music honor societies. As a musician, she was named the Maryland all-state band's second chair flutist; was elected to Anne Arundel County all-county band, Annapolis Symphony Academy, Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra; and she completed masterclasses with Jean Ferrandis and Aaron Goldman.

Among her many tutoring and club activities, Stern was in the Model Unit-

ed Nations, for which she represented Ukraine in the Disarmament International Security Committee at Washington Area Model United Nations Conference in 2023 and represented Rwanda in the climate change committee at Old Dominion Model United Nations Conference in 2024. She is the founder of Melody Makers, a volunteer organization that provides free music lessons taught by high schoolers to beginner musicians, and she established a relationship with Naptown Sings in Annapolis to use its studio on Sundays.

JUST-IN-TIME

Both students said of all their high school experiences, it's their friendships with so many people that they will miss the most. They also agreed on some of the teachers who made the greatest impact on them.

"There are so many great teachers, but I will miss (Christina) Houstian, (social studies department chair)," Stern said. "I learned so much from her and I appreciated how she made close connections with students."

Nelson said, "(John) Allyn was a great AP biology teacher who brought a lot of energy to the class. And [Chris] Shelby had a lot of patience to teach AP math courses."

Stern said she loved the community that high school creates but is excited for what she expects to be "great things to come in college."

"There are so many different careers I can see myself doing," she added. "I'm excited to take a lot of diverse classes and see what I like."

Aurora Nelson is the daughter of Charles and Annalisa Nelson. Lena Stern is the daughter of Stephen and Jacquelyn Stern.

High-Flying Falcons Top Of Class

» Continued from page 29

(support) and understanding during that time."

Lin also served as the Student Government Association (SGA) president and class treasurer. He credits Christina Bowman, the Impulse and SGA advisor, for her mentorship.

At the end of Rozal's junior year, he had to make a difficult decision: take fewer classes to pursue internships and other activities or take a full schedule of eight AP classes. He decided on six AP classes and an incredible internship opportunity.

During his senior year, Rozal interned as a laboratory research assistant at the University of Maryland School of Medicine under professor of diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine, Miroslaw Janowski, and postdoctoral fellow and neurosurgeon, Abdallah Salemdawod. Rozal had the opportunity to conduct research on the tuberous sclerosis genetic disorder in hopes of advancing treatments using genome sequencing and CRISPR (clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats). Rozal utilized the AlphaFold2 artificial intelligence system to model mutated proteins and collect and analyze data on their characteristics and differences. Additionally, he conducted DNA extractions, polymerase chain reactions, and gel electrophoresis experiments to amplify and analyze DNA segments. He plans to publish his research soon and continue conducting research in college.

Rozal was a member of the varsity

tennis team and served as the vice president of the Science National Honor Society, and as an officer of the math and Spanish national honor societies. Rozal is thankful for Travis Guthrie, AP World History teacher, whom he said "brought out the best in me every day."

Lin will study economics and finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Rozal will study aerospace engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology.

"Severna Park High School is renowned for its competitiveness, whether in academics or athletics. There are many students who do not get the recognition they deserve," Rozal said. "My class includes Ivy League students, full-ride scholars, future military officers, Division I athletes, and a number of other brilliant individuals, many of whom have pushed me to become the best version of myself."

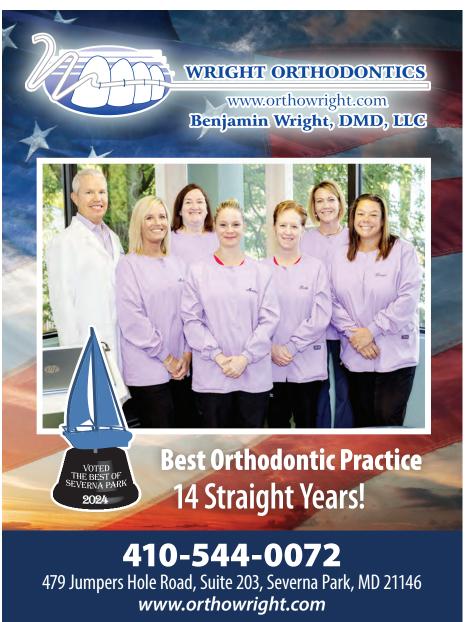
The top scholars had advice for current and future Falcons.

"Take calculated risks. Shoot your shots," Rozal said. "The downside will never be as serious as you might think, but the upside can mean everything. Do what makes you happy and stay true to yourself."

Lin said, "Four years goes by very fast, so make sure you use every minute of your time wisely. Make your goal to learn something new and better yourself every day."

Eric Lin is the son of Tom and Tracy Lin. Rozal Lorenz is the son of Oliver and Lucy Rozal. SEVERNA PARK VOICE JULY 2024 37







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SEVERNA PARK VOICE JULY 2024 39

Noon, Whisman Are Latest Principals To Find New Homes

\gg Continued from page 29

and the kids having to resocialize back into school, that was a really huge challenge initially," Noon said. "And then, I thought we did an amazing job as a school of really kind of getting back into being in school again over the past year and a half, two years where — back to normal, right?"

To this point in his career, Noon hasn't worked within the Glen Burnie school cluster, meaning that Marley presents a new challenge for him, in more ways than one. The school population is much larger than Magothy, and he doesn't have pre-existing deep ties to the community. But both factors have made him even more excited to connect with the community, in ways that go beyond academics.

"I do have some connections at Glen Burnie High School, so I've actually already spoken to the coaches to see if there are some partnerships we could have, with the high school and the athletic programs and doing some work with our middle schoolers," Noon said. "I think some of those things where, it's not necessarily going to start off being academic right away. Maybe more of the arts and athletic programs that we can help get ingrained in the community."



Jim Whisman Says Goodbye To Jones Elementary

Noon wasn't the only principal to be given a fresh start. Jim Whisman, who earned the position at Jones in 2019 as a first-year principal, has landed in the same role at Eastport Elementary heading into 2024.

"I started at Jones in 2019 as a firstyear principal, so over the five years I've been here at Jones, I've built a lot of great relationships with the students, staff and community," Whisman said. "So finding out that I was moving to a different school was bittersweet for sure."

Originally a teacher for seven years, Whisman began to transition to administrative roles in 2012, seven years prior to his promotion to Jones. He's been shuffled around quite a bit throughout his career, to the point where he's never stayed at a single school for more than five years. This lack of consistency would be difficult

Jim Whisman has enjoyed many fun moments during his five years at Jones Elementary. He will miss the relationships he has built with the staff, students and community.

for most to handle, but for Whisman, it's simply par for the course.

"I believe that change is good for a person, and it allows you to kind of reflect on your past experiences and start new, start a new adventure," Whisman said. "So I'm excited for a new start to build relationships down there, and seeing what the future holds in my new position."

As principals, both Whisman and Noon understand the importance of integrating into the community. Whisman was particularly proud of

the relationships he built at Jones, and he hopes to use some of those same relationship-building tactics to ingratiate himself with the Eastport community.

"The biggest thing I think most communities and staff want is a leader that's visible, a leader that is transparent, a leader that is trustworthy," he said. "So, my plan going forward is to get in there, hit the ground running, and meet as many people as possible during the summer months in preparation for this new school year."



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HEALTH & FITNESS

41

A Survivor's Guidebook To Depression

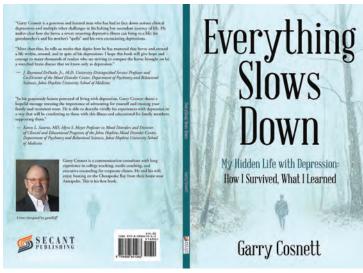
By Margaret Bates

hese days, Severna Park resident Garry Cosnett approaches life with a positive mindset.

"I'm on cloud 10," he

He has good reason to be. In February, Cosnett published a book with Secant Publishing. Titled "Everything Slows Down," the book chronicles Cosnett's lifetime battle with clinical depression. He has lectured about the 118-page book and its contents at hospitals and medical conferences, and it holds a 4.7 star rating on Amazon. Now, the book will be used to train psychiatrists at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Yet Cosnett hasn't always been able to approach life with such an affirming outlook. A survivor of clinical depression, as he details in his book, he remembers his mother's "spells" of depression and his own



Garry Cosnett's book "Everything Slows Down" chronicles his lifetime battle with clinical depression.

struggles with the disorder — in vivid, personal detail.

"I first wrote a one-page, 2,400-word story for my company's internal website, called 'How I Bring My Full Self to Work,'" he explained. "One hundred and seven people responded to the story. Fifty people responded by email. My wife, who is amazing and so supportive, said, 'You have a story to tell.'"

The origins of the work known

as "Everything Slows Down," his first book, were born.

"I wrote a one-page outline, then two pages, then three," he said. "Soon I had a book."

A book that wasn't always simple to write.

"It wasn't always easy taking myself back to those dark places as I wrote," he said. "But after I wrote it, I was fine."

Cosnett's primary aim was to send a copy to a popular news anchor who had been hospitalized with depression. However, in addition to depression sufferers, doctors and psychologists also expressed an interest in using the book as a part of their practice.

Now, Johns Hopkins — a place where Cosnett has lectured about his experiences with depression — has committed to using Cosnett's book as a prime teaching tool.

"They have bought 30 copies for each of their psychology

residents," he said. "And yes, I'm on cloud 10."

Cosnett is indeed thrilled by the positive affirmation that has been afforded his book.

"The experience of depression seemed meaningless as I was going through it," he said. "Now I know it had meaning. I'm on the other side, and life is wonderful."

He wants people dealing with depression to know that their lives and experiences also hold equitable meaning.

"Don't fight depression; accept it," he urged. "You have a medical disease. You need medical care."

As Cosnett approaches his retirement, he has a second future career in mind.

"This book," he said, "will be my next career."

To learn more about "Everything Slows Down" by Garry Cosnett, find his book on Amazon.

Shining A Light On The Right Sunscreen For You And Your Family



Protecting your skin from the sun with the right sunscreen is crucial. But picking the right sunscreen can be daunting. Knowing the basics before shopping can streamline your decision-making process and hopefully prevent cancer.

Why sunscreen matters

One in five people will develop skin cancer in their lifetime — it is the most common cancer in the United States and the most preventable. Your best defense is protecting your skin from the sun's damaging ultraviolet rays. That's why the American Cancer Society recommends a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when outdoors.

Broad-spectrum sunscreens

The sun emits two types of rays: ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB), both capable of damaging the skin. UVB rays are responsible for sunburns and most skin cancers, directly damaging DNA in skin cells, prompting rapid growth and tumor formation.

In contrast, UVA rays accelerate skin cell aging, leading to long-term issues like wrinkles and rough skin. They can also indirectly harm skin cell DNA, contributing to certain skin cancers. A sunscreen labeled "broad-spectrum" is proven to shield the skin from both UVA and UVB rays.

Why use an SPF 30 or higher sunscreen?

SPF stands for sun protection factor — the sunscreen's protection level against UVB rays. The higher the SPF number, the more protection you get. Here's how SPF works: When using an SPF 30 sunscreen on your skin, for every 30 minutes you spend in the sun, you only get equal to one minute of UVB rays.

Here's how much UVB rays each SPF filters:

• SPF 15 filters out about 93%

- SPF 30 filters out about 97%
- SPF 50 filters about 98%
- SPF 100 filters about 99%

SPF below 15 shields against sunburn but not against sun damage or cancer. No sunscreen can filter or block all ultraviolet rays or protect you completely.

Chemical and mineral sunscreens: pros and cons

Sunscreens use either chemical or mineral ingredients, or a combination, to filter or block ultraviolet rays.

Chemical sunscreens use various chemical ingredients including avobenzone, homosalate and oxybenzone to absorb ultraviolet rays before they can damage your skin.

Pros: They are invisible once absorbed into your skin and feel comfortable. **Cons:** They can irritate sensitive skin but need

time to absorb before working. **Mineral-based sunscreens** contain titanium dioxide and zinc oxide, creating a barrier on your skin's

surface that reflects ultraviolet rays. **Pros:** These work right away. They are safe for sensitive skin and are considered safe for coral reefs

Cons: They can feel thick or greasy and may leave a white residue on your skin, especially on darker skin.

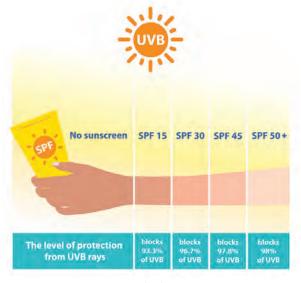
What about water-resistant and tinted sunscreens?

Sunscreens can't claim to be waterproof, they can only claim to be "water resistant" for 40 or 80 minutes. If you sweat a lot or spend time in the water, you may want to use water-resistant sunscreen.

Similarly, tinted sunscreens offer additional protection against visible light, benefiting individuals with hyperpigmentation disorders.

How to apply sunscreen

Sunscreen only works if you use it correctly. Maxi-



mize its effectiveness with these tips:

- Apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes before sun exposure.
- Use enough to cover exposed skin (if you can see light through your clothing, ultraviolet rays can reach that skin, too). Most adults must use one ounce of sunscreen, a shot glass, or a palm full.
- Don't forget your ears, both sides of your feet, and the back of your neck.
- \bullet Re-apply at least every two hours.
- Apply again after swimming, sweating or towel drying.

One last tip - there's no difference between baby and adult sunscreen. Both are safe to use. However, sunscreen is not recommended for babies under 6 months old.

If you have questions about your skin health, contact Luminis Health Plastic Surgery for a consultation by visiting the website or by calling 443-481-3400. The experts can work with you to improve sun damage and protect your skin for years to come.

Telisha Johnson is a plastic surgery nurse practitioner at Luminis Health.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reaching For The Stars: Dylan Roche Pens Second Young Adult Fantasy Novel

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

uring his senior year at the University of Maryland, Dylan Roche had a vivid dream: two servants, enslaved to a witch, were plotting their escape. Fifteen years later, that dream has manifested into Roche's second young adult fantasy novel, "The Tide and the Stars," published this June.

A Severna Park High School graduate, Roche shared the plot of his 420-page story during a book signing and conversation moderated by Park Books & LitColab events manager Sarah Rifield on June 11.

"'The Tide and the Stars' is about a farm boy named Marin who has grown up in search of a wicked witch, Ilth, and has no idea where he came from, or who his parents are, or how he came to be an orphan servant," Roche said, "and then one day finds out there is another servant working for Ilth named Aster, and the two of them strike up a friendship and decide to escape the farm and seek their fortunes. And as they head off into the great wide world, they realize that one, the world is a lot more dangerous



Photo by Zach Sparks

Dylan Roche signed copies of "The Tide & the Stars" at Park Books on June 11.

than they ever anticipated, and also that their destinies and their place in the world is a little bit bigger than they ever expected as well, that they have a bigger role to play in the future of the kingdom."

The kingdom of Blunia is full of danger, from tyrannical kings and vengeful demigods to goblin armies and legendary monsters. But it also includes

Princess Elspeth, who becomes Marin's love interest

"I do not want the fair princess to just be this object that the man has to rescue, and as I started giving her a little more autonomy in the story, she really came to life and became a character I never thought I would love as much as I did," Roche said.

Like his first book, Roche's newest

release brings fantasy elements to life. His debut novel, "The Purple Bird," came out in 2019. That tale centered on teenager James Shannassy and a figment bird named Archit. Together, they set off for the world of Nalgordia to break a centuries-old curse.

For Roche, an avid reader who became enamored with the works of Shakespeare and Charles Dickens in elementary school, it was a natural progression to become a storyteller.

"I always liked reading, and I think from a young age, I wanted to be a part of the great conversation," Roche said. "I loved all the stories that I was consuming, so I wanted to put my own out into the world."

He started "The Tide and the Stars" in 2019 and drafted it over five months. After two years of editing the manuscript, he submitted it to publishers.

"This was like creating stuff in layers where my first draft was very superficial, just trying to get the story out there, and then it was almost like I had a page of a coloring book, and as I went back and started revising, I had to add details and make it richer, make it more lively," Roche said. "That was the part of the process where (the characters) came to life and I really got to know who they were on a much deeper level."

Two Shakespeare quotes from "Julius Caesar" inspired Roche as he deliberat-

» Continued on page 46

First-Time Author Publishes Three-Act Bobby Fischer Play

By Judy Tacyn

hen 12-year-old Joe Coppola was hospitalized for a ruptured appendix in the mid-1950s his uncle gave him his first chess set to help pass the time while he recovered. That experience developed into a passion that has lasted a lifetime.

His fascination with chess included following and studying the life of American chess prodigy Bobby Fischer. Coppola has crafted a three-act play called "64?!" Several years in the making, the script was published in November 2023.

The Severna Park resident planned to go into publishing following his graduation from college, never expecting to be an author, although he loved to write. Coppola's publishing career was sidelined when he enlisted in the military during the Vietnam War. He returned to the New York City area and taught middle school English. A friend piqued his interest in law enforcement, and he joined the Secret Service in Washington, D.C. He retired from the government after 24 years and began a second 13-year career in corporate security at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 2006, Coppola retired for good, and

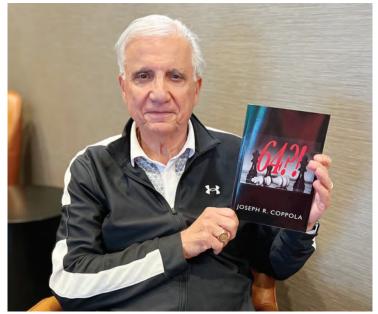


Photo by Judy Tacyr

First-time author and Severna Park resident Joe Coppola displayed his Christmas gift to his family, "64?!" He wrote the play about American chess champion Bobby Fischer.

with his schedule now more open, he said he returned "full throttle" into chess.

"I joined the Annapolis Chess Club, began studying the game again, and entered local tournaments," he said. "I also started to think about writing something, but I didn't know in what form or what about."

A friend encouraged him to write about something he loved.

Naturally, Coppola thought of chess, and his favorite player, Bobby Fischer. Coppola had followed Fischer's life intently through his public rise to fame as a chess prodigy, to his world championship in 1972, an event that played out during the tumultuous Cold War. Coppola decided to write "64?!" — a play about Bobby Fischer.

"There are hundreds of

books, two movies and even a song about Bobby Fischer, but not a play," Coppola said. "I love theater, so I had my format and my topic."

For the next two years, Coppola immersed himself in researching Fischer and took several writing classes such as playwriting and writing monologues. The first draft was completed. By chance, Coppola realized he had a connection to Mel Johnson Jr., an accomplished actor and director from Coppola's hometown of Queens, New York. Johnson agreed to read the script, and a partnership was formed.

After a few years of rewrites, Coppola had the script copyrighted in 2010. In 2011, Johnson felt the script was ready for a table read. After another year of critique and script tweaks, the script was ready for a stage reading in 2012, and it garnered a standing ovation from the actors and an audience. Coppola entered the script in a festival, but his work didn't land in the top three, which was required for it to be created into a play. It was a long process, but Coppola was proud to have completed the play.

Fast forward to 2023 and Coppola had the idea to publish his play and give the final product to his family for Christmas that year. Without anyone knowing, the book was published in November 2023. He inscribed each book with a special message to each family member and presented his gift to all on Christmas Eve.

"After that night, I thought, mission accomplished. Now on to something else," recalled Coppola, but Amazon had a different idea. "The book started to sell and was getting five-star reviews!"

Coppola is now shopping his play to local theaters and performance groups with the hopes of one day seeing his work onstage.

The unique title "64?!" has several meanings. Sixty-four was Fischer's age when he died in 2008, and there are 64 squares on a chessboard. The ?! marks are a chess annotation indicating a dubious move. The three-act play is an homage to the dubious life of Fischer. It takes place in 2008 with flashbacks to events from 1950 through 1972, the year of his historic chess defeat of defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union. The match took place in Reykjavík, Iceland.

"64?!" is available on Amazon.

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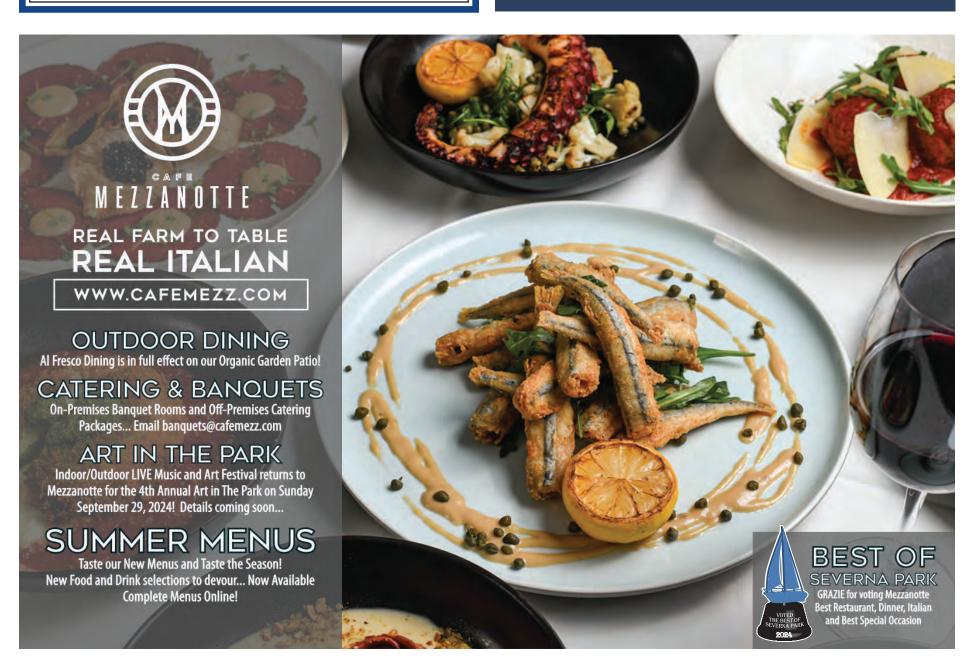


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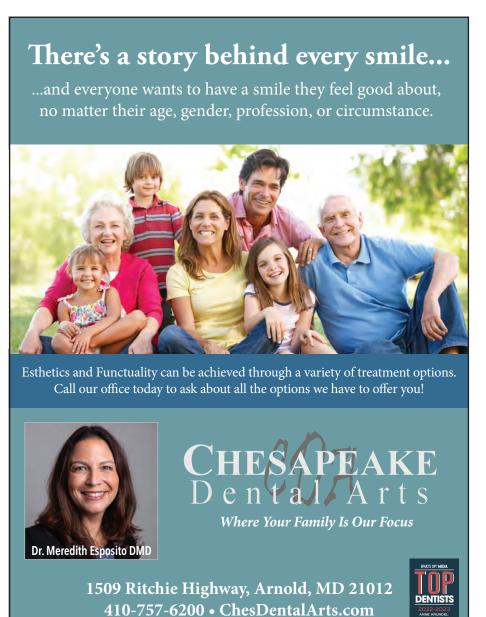


"Life In The Park" Photo Contest Winners Announced

S ix local photographers were recognized in Kinder Farm Park's spring 2024 newsletter as winners of the 2023 "Life In The Park" photo contest. A total of 141 photos were entered in the competition, which is open to amateur and hobbyist photographers. The 2024 contest is now open for submissions in the categories of fauna, flora, landscapes and people. Photos must be taken within the boundaries of Kinder Farm Park, and participants may submit up to four photos. A complete list of rules and submission instructions can be found under the "photos" tab at www.kinderfarmpark.org.







"Life In The Park" **Contest Winners**



Kurt DeLorenzo's image of a bee on a yellow flower, "Bee Embraces Floral Sweetness," won – first place in the contest.



"Bee Approaching Pink Blooming Flower," taken by Jessica Phipps, was awarded flora — second place.





Bradly Hunt's "Silos" (top) received recognition as landscape — first place, and his image titled "Buttoned Up on a Cold Winter Night" won landscape — second place.



"Iron Will," taken by Kathryn Pegues, was awarded first place in the people category.



Jessica Phipps received recognition for her photo "Forging Hot Metal Masterpiece" as second place in the people category.

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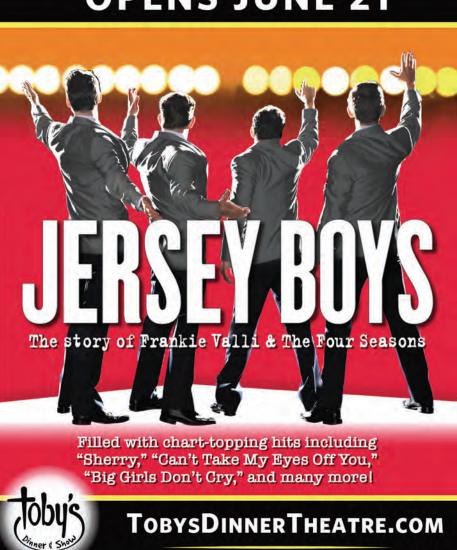












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ELEBRATING 45 YEARS

Annapolis Jazz & Roots Presents "Sounds Of The Seventies" Fundraiser

nnapolis Jazz & Roots plans to entertain music lovers with "Sounds of the Seventies" on August 3 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Eastport United Methodist Church in Annapolis. The fundraising event will highlight music from a decade when political discord gave way to positive advances and reforms in social justice.

Listeners will recognize Herbie Hancock's "Chameleon" and "Watermelon Man" (the 1973 version foreshadowed the genre known today as world music). The question raised in Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" is still being asked and the tune covered across the U.S. along with "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers. Simon & Garfunkel's enduring "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and Aretha Franklin's hit "Respect" will be heard. Written by soul singer Otis Redding in the '60s, the latter tune became an anthem of the women's movement in the '70s. Ravita Jazz will invite audience members to tap their toes, get up to dance and sing along as the spirit moves them.

Ravita Jazz is led by bassist, composer and educator Phil Ravita. Featuring prominent Mid-Atlantic musicians, the group will appear with special guest Joe Brotherton on trumpet. The band includes vocalist Deirdre Jennings, drummer Nick Costa and pianist Greg Small. They released the album "Oriana" in 2023, receiving airplay and favorable reviews across North America. The band appears widely, and Ravita is honored to be a Maryland State Arts Council touring artist.

Some milestones of the '70s were the first Earth Day celebration on April 22, 1970, the first gay pride parade in New York City in the same year, ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the end of the Vietnam War. While societal problems continue to challenge the U.S., seeds were sown for continued advancement.

In that era, cultural contributions offered solace and inspiration to the fractured country. Films such as "Saturday Night Fever," "Rocky" and "Star

Wars" were wildly popular, providing shared experience and points of reference to people from many walks of life. The enduring TV comedy series "Saturday Night Live" was launched in 1975, giving viewers loads of laughs and stress relief as it does today.

Television also played a pivotal role in addressing the Black experience. The miniseries "Roots" aired on American television in 1977. Based on Alex Haley's 1976 novel "Roots: The Saga of an American Family," the epic novel and subsequent series had a significant cultural impact.

The August 3 concert will raise funds for the third annual Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival. To be held at multiple sites in Eastport on weekends November 1-10, 2024, the festival will present international and local performers in free and ticketed events. Presenting partners include Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library, Eastport United Methodist Church, Jazz Beyond Borders, Peerless Rens, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Pip Moyer Recreation Center. The 2023 festival drew attendees from seven states (Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Florida, New York, North Carolina and California) and Washington, D.C.

Eastport United Methodist Church is the venue for the August 3 event. It is located at 926 Bay Ridge Avenue in Annapolis. There is ample free parking in the rear lot of the church and the site is wheelchair accessible. The concert is suitable for adults and teens. Admission is \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets are available from www.instantseats.com. Select the venue Annapolis Jazz & Roots.

Those unable to attend can still support the festival by purchasing a ticket online or mailing a donation. Make checks payable to Annapolis Community Foundation. Be sure to write "Annapolis Jazz & Roots" in the memo and send checks to P.O. Box 4922, Annapolis, MD 21403. To learn about the history of the festival, visit www.annapolisjazzandrootsfestival.com and join the "Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival" Facebook group.

Dylan Roche Pens Second Novel

» Continued from page 42

ed on a big theme in his story.

"Is our life predestined by what's written in the stars or is our life this current that we need to set sail on when it's in our favor?" he said. "I think I really needed to explore that a bit myself."

He pondered that question as he embarked on a full-time freelance career following his time as editor of the Severna Park Voice. Not only is he a published author and journalist but Roche also is an actor, director, playwright, teacher, marathon runner and caretaker for a corgi named Tyrion.

Throughout his journey, Roche learned several lessons that he hopes to share with readers through the voices of his characters.

"I would want for them to learn the same lessons that the four kids in this book learn: it's that your path in life is something that you need to find for yourself, but also that you do have the power and the capability to make a difference and to create something good in the world," Roche said. "Because I think that the four of them — Marin, Aster, Elspeth and Carys — really come into their own as leaders and there's a theme ... What is leadership? What is justice? What is creating a better world than the world that you inherited?"

"The Tide & the Stars" is on sale at Park Books & LitColab, Barnes & Noble and other retailers.





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BUSINESS

Beyond Money: How To Achieve Your Ideal Retirement Lifestyle





hen it comes to retirement, many people worry about money. "How much money will I need? How will I even save that much? What if I run out of money?" These are questions I hear all the time.

Money can easily dominate the conversation. While creating a holistic financial plan is central to guiding people toward retirement, I also spend time helping them think beyond money to understand the psychological implications. Retirement isn't just about whether you have enough money; it's about choosing the kind of life you want to live and then using money to achieve your desired lifestyle.

Understanding the **Emotional and Mental Side of Retirement**

We live in a society where titles carry tremendous weight and our occupations are intertwined with our identities. When we're kids, everyone asks us what we want to be when we grow up and we usually answer

with a job title. As adults, we are constantly asked what we do or how we make a living. Work consumes us. That's why many retirees struggle to find meaning or a sense of purpose after they stop working, with some experiencing boredom, loneliness and isolation. There's even a term to describe some people's restlessness and uncertainty: sudden retirement syndrome (SRS). While SRS is not an actual medical or psychological condition, it is a genuine phenomenon that many people experience when they leave the busy routine of their professional lives.

Whether it's SRS, retirement blues or a general sense of aimlessness, entering retirement can be a challenging transitional period. I don't say this to make you nervous, but rather so you're aware of the emotional shock that often occurs when your working life ends and so you can feel empowered to start shaping the vision for your ideal lifestyle in retirement.

Find Your Identity Outside of Your Professional Life

One key to a fulfilling retirement is exploring who you are outside of your career. Separate yourself from your job title and get in tune with your hobbies and interests. Pay attention to what activities you naturally gravitate » Continued on page 49

Chamber Update



lease 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

Park Avenue Aesthetics - At Park Avenue, the team strives to create a boutique environment where patients feel welcomed and safe. The Severna Park native and owner Christine Bateman and her team are dedicated to your satisfaction. Whether you are looking for skincare treatments or medical weight loss, Park Avenue Aesthetics has the tools to help you achieve all your aesthetic goals. You have inner beauty covered — they can help with the rest! (www.parkavenueaesthetics.com)

Level Up Builders - Level Up Builders is a full-service remodeling and building company with over 15 years of professional building and remodeling experience. The company owners have a wide variety of industry skill sets, ranging from full gut rehabs on historic homes all the way to ground-up, new construction, and everything in between. They combine their years of experience and expertise with a high level of professionalism, integrity and honesty to ensure that your building project is completed with the highest

quality possible. (www.levelupbuildersmd.com)

Stroll Davidsonville – The team at Stroll knows that genuine connection with neighbors next door and business owners down the street make for a more meaningful experience. And they believe getting to know people in your community should be as easy and enjoyable as an afternoon stroll. Stroll is "turning neighborhoods into communities" by sharing residents' stories and photos in the magazine. And through business spotlight stories, advertising and in-person events, neighbors meet the people behind local businesses as well. Formerly known as N2 Publishing, Stroll is the flagship product of media powerhouse The N2 Company. (www.strollmag.com)

Gross Bin Busters - Never touch a dirty, smelly trash can again! It takes only a single bag of trash containing common household items to infect your trash bins with harmful bacteria and germs such as salmonella, E. coli, Listeria and more. Gross Bin Busters provides residential and commercial trash bin and dumpster cleaning services using its unique 360-degree cleaning heads to remove dirt and debris by blasting water at over 200 degrees Fahrenheit while pairing it with a disinfectant to kill all festering bacteria. And the dirty water goes into a truck that will take it away for safe disposal. You can sign up for monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or one-time service. And Gross Bin Busters loves

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Dr. Natalia Biles Joins Dockside Dermatology

By Lauren Cowin

hen Drs. Lesley Sutherland and Stephanie Clements decided to open their own dermatology practice in 2022, they intended to set the standard of patient-driven care in the Annapolis area.

With 12 exam rooms in their Millersville office, there was always physical room for growth, but they were committed to finding leaders in the field who were equally enthusiastic about Dockside Dermatology's mission.

Enter Dr. Natalia Biles, who joined the women-owned-and-operated practice on May 1.

"Back in the day, people would do house calls, and I think we're the closest thing to that," Biles said. "We're not coming to your house, but we're becoming a part of your life, and we're trying to meet you wherever you need us to meet you. When you need us, we're here.

The absence of an offsite call center, coupled with the ability to collaborate with the other providers in real-time, are just two examples of why Biles finds Dockside Dermatology to be an incredible experience both for her and her patients.

"It's like a family around here, both



at the practice and with our patients, which I really love," she said.

Biles' upbeat, positive attitude and commitment to the patient experience, along with her rigorous academic training, made her a perfect match for the brand Sutherland and Clements set out to build.

'Not only is she a really great physician in terms of medicine; she provides a very good overall experience, which

is what our whole premise has been about," said Sutherland, adding, "ev-

Biles attended medical school at Columbia University and completed her residency at Johns Hopkins University. She practices general dermatology and relishes the ability to offer a wide array of dermatologic procedures and treatments to patients of all ages often all in one day.

Photo by Lauren Cowin

Dr. Natalia Biles joined Dockside Dermatology May 1.

Though she kept an open mind to all possibilities during her time as a medical student, a research position at the National Institutes of Health focused on MRSA, a type of staph infection, tipped the scales in favor of dermatology.

"I had no idea how complex the skin

is, and I was obsessed," Biles said.

Biles admits that, even as a dermatologist, choosing from the plethora of skincare products on the market can be overwhelming. She suggests sticking to a simple, three-step regimen in the morning: a cleanser, a vitamin C serum and a moisturizer with a sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher, plus a retinol cream at night.

'Give it three to six months of using those every day. You will see a huge change in your skin, and not only are you getting all the nice cosmetic parts of it, but you're protecting yourself from skin cancer," Biles said.

A Bethesda, Maryland, native, Biles is the daughter of Venezuelan

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Eagle Title Promotes Amy Voight To Settlement Officer

agle Title has welcomed Amy Voight to its expanding team as a settlement officer in the Severna Park branch.

Amy Voight has been employed by Eagle Title for over three years and was recently promoted to settlement officer. With 12 years of combined experience in sales, title and real estate industries, Voight brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new position.

"Her proven dedication, expertise and commitment to exceptional service make her an invaluable asset to our team," said Brad Walsh, president of Eagle Title. "We're excited to see her continue to excel in this new role."

A graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Voight is a lifelong resident of Anne Arundel County and is a strong supporter of the SPCA of Anne Arundel County. Residing in Arnold with her significant other and their beloved Ameri-



Amy Voight

can Staffordshire called Murray (aptly named after their favorite baseball player, Eddie Murray), Voight is deeply rooted in the local community. Her passion for both her profession and her pastimes

shines through, whether she's cheering on the Orioles at Camden Yards or exploring the great outdoors with Murray by her side.

"I am thrilled to step into the role of settlement officer at Eagle Title," Voight said. "Over the past three years, I have seen firsthand the company's commitment to excellence and community. I look forward to continuing to serve our clients with the same dedication and passion that has defined my career."

Your Ideal Retirement Lifestyle

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toward in your free time. Ask yourself, "What would I do for a living if all of my living expenses were paid for and money wasn't even a thought?"

A friend of mine is a former architect and designer who retired five years ago. He has always dedicated time for his personal interests, which include visual art, music, public speaking and leading worship. Shortly after he retired, he took up painting and created his own studio. His dedication to his craft has led him to successfully host several artist receptions.

One of his paintings was juried and selected to be in the Maryland Federation of Art's Circle Gallery in Annapolis for the month of May, and in June, he will set up a private gallery showing at Kurtz's Beach, in Pasadena, for my clients. He is the perfect example of finding fulfillment and purpose during your golden years.

Retire With More Than Just Money

People look at money as the ticket to retirement but often overlook the psychological aspect of stepping into this new phase of life. The money is important but it's also just as crucial for you to focus on the life you want to live when your working years are over. The last thing you want to think when you retire is, "Now what?" A huge part of my job is to help my clients discover their identity outside of work so they can find comfort before making the leap into retirement.

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Dr. Natalia Biles

» Continued from page 48

immigrants. She is one of the only Spanish-speaking dermatologists in the area, a role she doesn't take lightly. As such, she accepts all insurances, including Medicaid.

Adding providers to the practice has allowed Dockside Dermatology to grow while also maintaining its core mission of accessible care.

"We don't want anyone waiting three months for a dermatology appointment," said Sutherland, who added that currently, patients can get appointments within a week, if not the next day.

Dockside Dermatology offers comprehensive dermatologic care, from cancer prevention and removal to cosmetic enhancements. It is located in Millersville at 8601 Veterans Highway, Suite 201. For more information, call 410-934-5400, or visit www. docksidederm.com.

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Brian M Conrad, CFP®, CEPA®

Financial Advisor

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Financial Focus

Tips For Widows And Widowers



osing a spouse is one of the most painful experiences anyone can have. Unfortunately, widows and widowers have to deal with more than just the emotional trauma — they also must consider

a range of financial issues. If you've recently been widowed, what financial moves should you consider?

For starters, don't rush into any major decisions. If you're still in the grieving process, you are unlikely to be in the best shape to make significant choices affecting your finances and your life.

Once you feel ready to look at your situation objectively and make appropriate choices, consider the following steps:

Review your finances. Look at your entire financial picture — your assets, investments, debts and income. If you and your spouse had communicated well about your finances, and you shared decisions, you hopefully won't encounter any big surprises. But if your spouse was the partner who mostly handled financial matters, you may need to get up to speed quickly on what you have and what you owe. And if your spouse had provided a large amount of your household income, you also need to determine what changes you may need to make to your lifestyle.

Address insurance issues. If you will receive a death benefit from your spouse's insurance policy, what will you do with the money? It may prove helpful in funding your own retirement or meeting other financial goals. But you'll also want to be clear about what other beneficiaries, such as your children, might receive. And while you're looking at insurance, you also might want to look at your own policies — do you need to change beneficiaries?

Review your Social Security options. If you are at least 60 and you

were married at least nine months, you may be entitled to Social Security survivor benefits (if you remarry before age 60, you typically cannot receive survivor benefits, but you can reinstate them if this subsequent marriage ends). The amount of your survivor's benefits depends on your age and the age of your deceased spouse. You can't claim your deceased spouse's benefits along with your own retirement benefits, so if you qualify for survivor and retirement benefits, you'll receive the larger amount. Depending on your situation, you might come out ahead by delaying your retirement benefits, giving them the chance to grow, while you accept survivor benefits. For more details on receiving Social Security benefits, visit the Social Security Administration's website at www.ssa.gov.

Review your estate plans. The death of a spouse can affect your family's estate plans. So, it's a good idea to review these plans to see what changes, if any, need to be made. When conducting this review, you'll benefit from working with an estate-planning professional.

Finally, keep in mind that you don't have to go it alone during this difficult time. If you're already working with a financial professional, they can help. If you aren't currently working with one, now might be the time to start. By looking at your finances and your family situation holistically, a financial professional can provide guidance that can help ease the stress you are naturally feeling.

Few events are as sad as losing a spouse. But when you feel ready, start taking the steps necessary to continue forward on your life's journey.

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 or visit www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Chamber Update

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to partner in fundraisers to help our nonprofits. (www.grossbinbusters.com)

The Sugar Shoppe – The tagline says it all: "Let Your Sugar Shine." The Sugar Shoppe staff believes that life is sweeter when we embrace the moments that bring us joy and celebrate them in style. Whether you are indulging in your favorite candies, decorating for a special occasion, or gathering with loved ones to make memories, The Sugar Shoppe is here to help you shine bright. It offers the freshest candy; colorful party supplies; and creative gifts for kids, teens and adults. Come for some delicious bin candy and stay for the fun! (www.sugar-shoppe.com)

The Blueford Group – As strategic advisors and change agents, the team behind The Blueford Group utilizes a coaching/training approach that focuses on self-awareness, mindset development, emotional intelligence, change management, building teams and empowering people. And they focus on communications as a key driver of successful leadership and growth. Today, more than ever, we need leaders who understand how to be resilient and create a balance between accountability and caring. They partner with experts in the field to bring you the best they can offer.

(www.thebluefordgp.com)

CTL Financial LLC – CTL's mission is to make relationships more than a percentage return at the end of the year. The professionals give advice on tax issues, retirement planning, investment management, family and business protection through insurance and estate planning. For example, proper advice in taking individual retirement account (IRA) distributions or the correct titling of life insurance can save your business or family thousands of dollars in taxes and penalties. That advice added to a percentage return in any one year is the true value of their services. (www.ctlfinancial.net)

Design Kitchen and Bath II - Elevating spaces with exquisite craftsmanship, this company's kitchen and bath remodeling company transforms visions into reality, creating functional and stunning environments that inspire every day. The business brings over 20 years of remodeling experience and innovation to each project and will provide you with free estimates and three-dimensional designs. Severna Park will be Design Kitchen and Bath's third location, with the other two stores located in Ellicott City and Clarksville. (www.designkitchenandbath.com)

We held four ribbon-cutting celebrations in June. The first was the grand opening of Park Avenue Aesthetics in Arnold. Owner Christine Bateman has been practicing in the area for years and decided to open her own business. Based on the attendance at the ribbon-cutting, it will be a big success.

Next, we held a ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of CTL Financial **LLC**. Owner Chris Locher purchased and renovated the Moscker building on Ritchie Highway and brings decades of experience to helping people plan for financially stable futures.

We celebrated the unveiling of the new American flag retirement box at the Severna Park Elks Lodge. This will be great for our community to have a place to respectfully and properly dispose of their worn or tattered flags.

Finally, **April's Table** held a grand opening and 10-year anniversary celebration in its new space in Severna Park. The space is much larger and features a showroom, event venue and catering kitchen.

Our Successful Women in Business event was held at Maryland Plastic Surgery and PURE MedSpa in Millersville. The staff graciously provided lunch and told us about all the services they provide to keep people youthful and healthy. They offer their space to the public for meetings and gatherings. National Night Out will be held on

August 6 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Kinder Farm Park. The event is free and open to the public. There will be games, demonstrations, food and more. This wonderful event brings the community together with our first responders, police and firefighters in a fun and festive atmosphere.

Ribbon Cutting





Chamber Welcomes Park Avenue Aesthetics To The Community

Arnold has a new medispa: Park Avenue Aesthetics. Severna Park native and owner Christine Bateman invited the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce and members of the community for the ribbon-cutting and open house on June 1. She explained how her staff helps people achieve their skin care and weight-loss goals. Park Avenue Aesthetics is located at 1300 Ritchie Highway, Suite A.

MARKETPLACE







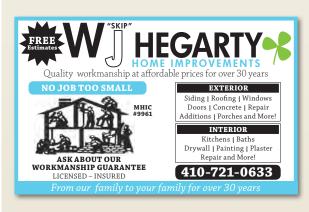
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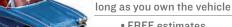
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