



Severna Park Girls Field Hockey Eyes Playoffs

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Toby's Dinner Theatre Presents "The Addams Family"

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OCTOBER 2024

Asbury Church Assistance Network Marks 20 Years Of Service

By Margaret Bates

For over 20 years, the Asbury Church Assistance Network Inc. (ACAN) has worked tirelessly to help households experiencing food insecurity in Anne Arundel County. On September 14, ACAN honored its history and dedicated volunteers with a 20th anniversary celebration.

ACAN began in 2004 when members of Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church (ATNUMC) asked the pastor for help with food and other needs after church services. From its humble beginnings, serving about 15 congregation families a week, ACAN has grown with support from the Maryland Food Bank and now serves as one of the largest food pantries in the county.

In 2023 alone, the organization provided food weekly to over 9,000 individuals and supplies to 5,000 seniors via special delivery. The nonprofit also gave baby supplies to almost 1,000 families. Overall, they served close to 21,000 people last year and expect to top that in 2024.

ACAN has expanded considerably from its start as an outgrowth of ATNUMC and even more since its incorporation as a 501(c)3 by former director Janet Pack in 2012. Currently, ACAN has 15 regular volunteers, and a board.

On Mondays through Wednesdays from 10:00am



The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce joined Asbury Church Assistance Network volunteers to commemorate the nonprofit's 20-year milestone on September 14.

to 1:00pm, the volunteers coordinate a drive-up food pantry. Thursdays through Saturdays, ACAN delivers food to four senior centers. Additionally, volunteers host special monthly senior pantry and baby pantry events onsite, usually on Thursdays, as well as general holiday events for the community.

This year, they will host a Halloween bash for families, complete with gifts for kids, a repeat of a program from last year co-hosted with county police.

ACAN president Andre Smith and board member Peggy Wilson are looking forward to the Thanks-

» **Continued on page 6**

Art In The Park Entertains, Gives Back



Attendees at the fourth-annual Art in the Park music and arts festival enjoyed live music performed by The Grilled Lincolns featuring Andy Hall, artist demonstrations, great food and more on September 29 at Cafe Mezzanotte.



Karen Authement (left) of Art in the Park event sponsor KMA Law Office presented a check to Partners In Care (PIC) CEO Mandy Arnold. PIC was selected as this year's nonprofit to benefit from the event. See more photos on page 6.

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Election Guide: Meet The Candidates

Anne Arundel County has important races in the 2024 presidential general election, with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Board of Education and Anne Arundel County Circuit Court on the ballot. Statewide, the election will decide representatives for the U.S. Senate and Congress.

Get to know the Board of Education and Anne Arundel County Circuit Court candidates ahead of the election. Early voting runs from October 24-31, and Election Day is November 5. Read about the candidates on page 16.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

2024



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.

Volunteer Protects Trees From Invasive Vines

By Alyson Kay

Brian Gugerty has a long history of preserving trees, starting when he was 19 years old and working in the Young Adult Conservation Corps program started under President Jimmy Carter.

"I was embedded in a forest service crew in Boulder, Colorado, and we went up into the mountains every day and cut down mountain pine beetle-infested trees and piled them up into slash piles," Gugerty said.

In the wintertime, they would burn the slash piles to manage beetle outbreaks.

After his time in the Young Adult Conservation Corps, he started a career in nursing on the advice of his mother because of an emergency medical technician class in Colorado that he enjoyed. He now works for the federal government in medical informatics.

In 2021, Gugerty saw a flier at Quiet Waters Park for volunteer events, including invasive weed removal, an opportunity to reconnect with the work he enjoyed as a teenager.

"It's interesting and natural for me to fall back to this," Gugerty said.

He soon started to connect with other organizations. Save Our Trees was started in the spring of 2022 and is a program within the Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy. It joins other Anne Arundel County programs and organizations that Gugerty organizes events for, including Anne Arundel Weed Resistance and the Cape Conservation Corps.

In 2023, Gugerty asked the founders of Save Our Trees to come to Broadneck Park. The founders agreed that if he organized the event, they would help him.

"I knew Broadneck Park," Gugerty said. "It is a park that I frequent, and



Brian Gugerty and other volunteers saved a red oak tree from English ivy during a 2023 event co-sponsored by the Cape Conservation Corps and Anne Arundel Weed Resistance.

I knew that it was badly infected by invasive vines."

Over 30 people attended that first event, including five founders of Save Our Trees. Gugerty has since held nine events in 2023 and seven in 2024, with three more planned. Anywhere from five to 35 people attend these events.

Attendees learn how to safely remove vines and how to identify invasive vines, including English Ivy and oriental bittersweet.

"These vines don't seem to be hurting the tree," Gugerty said. "The tree looks healthy. The vine is taking moisture, taking a lot of moisture, leaving less for the tree. They're taking nutrients, leaving less for the tree. They're setting the tree up for disease."

When the vines get into the canopy, they can also block sunlight from the tree.

Gugerty works for organizations that host events most of the year.

"Our season is, essentially, from September through June the following year," Gugerty said. "We take July and

August off because it's just too hot and there's too much poison ivy and ticks to deal with in those hot months."

For Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks properties, Gugerty works closely with park rangers.

"They walk through with us and make sure we're hitting the priority areas that they want us to work on," Gugerty said. "They give us tips. Sometimes, they help us coordinate removal of the debris that we cut."

A few times, local homeowners' associations, including one for Colchester on the Severn, have invited Gugerty to hold events on their land to remove invasive vines.

Each event begins with a safety orientation. Tools including snippers and loppers are provided through Anne Arundel Weed Resistance, which also sends volunteer coordinators to most of the events Gugerty organizes.

"We go to the tree and cut the vines all around the tree, at ankle height, knee height or waist height, and we try to pull the vines one to three feet away from the base of the tree, so that the invasive vines are cut away from the tree, and the roots, to the extent possible, are pulled back from the tree," Gugerty said.

Volunteers should not pull down from their cuts above their heads.

"The vine might be wrapped around a dead branch, and if we pull down, it can hurt us," Gugerty said. "Or we can pull the bark off the tree and damage the tree."

Volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and knowledge levels, all looking to do something tangible for their local environment.

"You feel good about that experience," Gugerty said. "It helps with the anxiety and the worry about what's happening to our planet."



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The Severna Park Voice is always looking to add talented community writers and photographers. If you have the skill to write a news story and you love the local community, send us an email with your resume and writing samples. We are also on the lookout for talented shutterbugs with a digital SLR camera to attend events. Send an email with some sample images or a link to images online. To introduce yourself and to send samples, email spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.

CCA Fundraiser Offers Food, Drinks, Raffles And Auctions

The Annapolis chapter of Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Maryland is inviting the community to a celebration of conservation and all things Chesapeake Bay at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's headquarters at the Philip Merrill Environmental Center on October 10 from 6:00pm-9:30pm.

As a recreational fishing-based organization, CCA knows that the public's connection to the Chesapeake Bay through fishing and boating is what drives the passion to ensure that future generations will also enjoy what is so near and dear to the group's members.

This fundraising dinner directly supports CCA Maryland's focus on ensuring the health of Maryland's marine resources and anglers' access to them, and CCA's objective to conserve, promote and enhance marine resources for the benefit of the public. The event will also feature live and silent auctions. Learn more at e.givesmart.com/events/DQw.

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“Fall” In Love With The Season At Kinder Farm Park’s Festival

By Meredith Winter

A pumpkin patch, hayrides, a straw maze — all the iconic essentials of fall can be found in one place this month: the annual Kinder Farm Park (KFP) Fall Festival. Break out the flannel and gather the whole family for this beloved community tradition, set for Saturday, October 12, from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Delighting audiences for over a decade, the KFP Fall Festival has evolved over the years, ranging from drawing an attendance of nearly 14,000 in 2018 and 2019 to being significantly scaled back for COVID restrictions in 2021. To ensure the most enjoyable experience possible, this year’s event will be capped at 3,000 attendees and tickets must be purchased in advance online.

Event co-chair and Friends of Kinder Farm Park (FoKFP) vice president Karen Haghighi explained that this will help mitigate parking shortages, long lines, and other challenges that both event organizers and attendees encountered in years past.

A collaborative effort between FoKFP and the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, the KFP Fall Festival will serve as a great backdrop for families to take autumnal photos together in a large pumpkin patch that will be dotted with tractors and displays made by the farm’s woodshop. Small pumpkins will also be available for sale.

Tickets are \$15 for ages 3 and up (ages 2 and under can attend for free),



On Saturday, October 12, community members of all ages are invited to Kinder Farm Park’s annual Fall Festival to enjoy a pumpkin patch, hayrides, food, games, farm animals and more. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

and entry will include access to nearly all the festival has to offer: the straw maze, farmhouse tours, meeting the farm animals, games for children, fall crafts and several educational demonstrations.

Kids’ games include pumpkin bowling, duck pond, outhouse pitch, leapfrog, cornhole and disc golf toss. New to the festival, the “needle in the haystack” activity invites kids to play in a barn filled with hay where they can search for hidden prizes, Haghighi explained.

Kinder Farm’s fuzzy, furry and feathered friends will be out to mingle with attendees young and old, as well. Animal ambassadors will facilitate meet-and-greets with farm animals including goats, sheep, chickens, cows, quail, rabbits and turkeys. For this reason, event organizers have requested that guests who need to bring their dogs keep them on a short leash.

In addition to all-things-fall, festival-goers can look forward to demonstrations from the fire department and Kinder Farm’s woodshop, sawmill and

blacksmith shop. The park’s historic farmhouse will be open for tours as well. For a separate fee, attendees can enjoy a long hayride that will wind throughout the park.

Food trucks and vendors slated to dish up good eats at the event include 2 Guys & A Grill, Diner on the Go, Lisa’s Luncheonette and Kathy’s Mini Donuts. Craft vendors will be on hand as well, offering their creative wares for sale.

Haghighi, who has been involved with the event since 2010, shared that she and her fellow members of the FoKFP Fall Festival planning committee have been meeting since April to ensure a well-planned and enjoyable experience for all. They are grateful for the many community volunteers who have and will assist with the event.

As 2024 is the 25th anniversary of Kinder Farm Park, Haghighi shared that the Department of Recreation and Parks has worked with an artist to design a poster commemorating the quarter-century milestone. Signed and unsigned copies will be available for purchase at the festival.

Add-on items such as the poster, hayrides and food may be cash-only. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.kinderfarmpark.org. Gate fees will be suspended at the park during the event, but only ticketholders will be allowed to enter the park, which is located at 1001 Kinder Farm Park Road in Millersville.

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Art In The Park Entertains, Gives Back



Since its inception, Art in the Park has been organized by Kosmas "Tommie" Koukoulis (left), owner of Cafe Mezzanotte, and Jonathan Katz, Severna Park Voice V.P. of Business Development.



Side Street Framers & gift gallery was among many exhibiting local art galleries.

Art
IN THE PARK



Above: The Betas, a local electric folk band, served as the opening act before The Grilled Lincolns took the stage. **Below:** Over 100 attendees including (left) Calvin Cavey and Larry Sells enjoyed good food and fun entertainment.



Artists provided live demonstrations of painting and other art forms throughout the event.



Shoptoberfest Will Bring Fall Fun To Park Plaza

Fall is the season for festivals, and one annual favorite takes place right in the heart of Severna Park. Hosted each year in the Park Plaza shopping center, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's (GSPACC) Shoptoberfest is coming up on October 19 and will run from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

This shop local festival that offers fall and Halloween flair will not only showcase local businesses, but also offer activities for the whole family ranging from music and a photo booth to trick-or-treating, costume contests and more. Millersville-based Eco Adventures will be on hand to display exotic animals, and groups will put on martial arts, dance and other demonstrations.

Whether they are resembling movie characters, cuddly animals or something a bit spookier, kids can come in their best Halloween dress to gather candy and participate in a costume contest that will take place at 1:00pm. Don't forget to dress up your furry friends as well for the dog costume contest at 2:00pm.

Modeled after the chamber's long-standing May shop local event, Shoptoberfest has also become one of the GSPACC's signature annual events.

"It's a great opportunity for our small businesses to highlight what they do and interact with hundreds of community members," GSPACC CEO Liz League said in anticipation of Shoptoberfest.



This shop local festival will not only showcase area businesses, but also offer activities from music to trick-or-treating, costume contests and more.

Half of the proceeds from the event's gold sponsorships will support a charity. Past beneficiaries include Wellness House of Annapolis, SPAN, the Alzheimer's Association and others. "Our small businesses are always supporting those in need in our communities," League shared.

Shoptoberfest is free, open to the public, and does not require registration. Park Plaza is located at 550 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. For more information, go to www.gspacc.com.

Stride For SPAN Turkey Trot 5K Set For November 2

Runners can lace up for a good cause and join Severna Park-based SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) for its 12th annual Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot on November 2 at Kinder Farm Park. A timed 5K race will begin at 9:00am, followed by a one-mile fun walk at 9:25am.

The Turkey Trot is SPAN's largest annual fundraiser, aiding the faith-based ministry in its mission of providing food and financial assistance to qualified individuals and families in need.

The run is limited to 250 participants and early registration is encouraged. Learn more and sign up at www.spanhelps.org/events.

Asbury Church Assistance Network Marks 20 Years

» Continued from page 1

giving food drive. In 2023, they provided Thanksgiving meal kits to around 350 families. As Smith noted, "For Thanksgiving, we have a huge need. We (expect to) give away 350-400 turkeys."

When asked what help ACAN needs for Thanksgiving, Smith added, "We prefer if people can donate money if they can. We'll give a gift box with all the trimmings and a gift card, if we can, for the family to choose their own main dish as some families have dietary needs."

Despite being the largest food pantry in the county, inflation and tougher funding competition post-COVID have impacted ACAN.

"It's harder to find funding," Wilson said. "We were lucky to receive one grant this year, our only one, from Anne Arundel Women Giving Together (AAWGT). I remember when AAWGT's head called me to say we'd been chosen by a unanimous vote of all 350 of their members, the only time they'd ever agreed like that. I was so happy."

Smith concurred, saying, "A big goal for us is finding more corporate partners. We work with the (Severna Park) Elks Club now for the baby pantry, but we want to expand with other partnerships, so we can really grow. Maybe with schools or businesses that have members who want to do volunteer hours."

Wilson indicated ACAN hoped for a partner who could help gift the nonprofit a full-time, permanent building. She noted how ACAN had only tents as shelter for outside pick-ups, surrounding a temporary building rented on the church lot for storage.

Wilson said, "Sometimes it's hot, sometimes 90 or 100 degrees, but our volunteers are still out here with a smile."

The biggest theme of ACAN's work is that its volunteers embody a deep dedication to their mission. Smith said, "I want to point out the compassion of our volunteers. I wish we could have had a way for more of the community to see the 20th anniversary ceremony. We have the best volunteers who are doing this out of compassion."

Anyone interested in donating, forming a corporate partnership, or volunteering with ACAN can visit www.acansevernapark.org for more details.



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Annapolis Boat Shows

Annapolis Powerboat Show To Run October 3-6

Annapolis Boat Shows will open its 52nd powerboat show at Annapolis City Dock from October 3 to 6. This year's show will feature 370 boats for guests to preview alongside tents stocked with the latest in nautical gear and accessories, electronics, communication equipment, education, charter companies, clubs and more.

The Demo Dock will return this year. Twenty boats will be available to attendees for sea trials.

"Our show is an annual stop for powerboaters from all over the country, because whatever they're looking at, there's an opportunity to see it, touch it, and take it for a

spin," said Annapolis Boat Shows President Mary Ewenson.

More than 30 educational workshops will take place during the show's four-day run. The topics for this year's free seminars include trailering, what to look for when buying a used boat, kayak fishing, pet CPR and more. Along with the handful of fishing focused seminars, anglers will also want to check out the selection of fishing setups on display from OC KAYAK, the Coastal Conservation Association Maryland kids corner, Furuno's demo boat, and the wide variety of center consoles and sportfishing boats.

More information, along with ticket sales, can be found at www.annapolisboatshows.com.



Making its North American debut, the Windelo 54 is a blue water cruising catamaran. The Windelo 54 catamarans are environmentally friendly, seaworthy and designed for long-distance cruising.

Annapolis Sailboat Show Set For October 10-14

Annapolis Boat Shows will host the U.S. debuts of 12 state-of-the-art sailboats at its annual fall exhibition and sales show. These new models will join a roster of 140 sailboats exhibiting at Annapolis City Dock from October 10 to 14.

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome these new vessels to our show," said Annapolis Boat Show President Mary Ewenson. "Wind power is among the oldest of boating technologies, and yet every year, I am blown away by our exhibitors' ability to advance it in ways that are innovative and aesthetic."

Among the boats premiering at

this year's show are the French-built Birdyfish foiling sailboat, which can reach speeds of up to 25 knots, and the Dufour 44, a sleek racer-cruiser designed by Italian Olympian Umberto Felci.

Annapolis Boat Shows produces the premier show series for power and sailing vessels. The annual event features multihulls, monohulls, cruisers, racers and sailing dinghies from manufacturers around the globe, alongside show tents stocked with the latest in nautical gear and accessories, electronics, communication equipment, sails, rigging, education, charter companies, clubs and more.

Tickets for the 2024 Annapolis Sailboat Show are on sale now at www.annapolisboatshows.com.

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Sunflowers For Sallie Keeps Growing And Serving Maryland Families



The Millersville-based nonprofit Sunflowers for Sallie aims to put together 400 “baskets of hope” for families in need this holiday season.

The nonprofit Sunflowers for Sallie started as the brainchild of Millersville resident Rita Williams-El-Lingwood, who wanted to provide “baskets of hope” for families in need of meals during the holidays. Volunteers put together 125 baskets in 2021 and have done more each year, with a goal of 400 for 2024.

Sunflowers for Sallie is partnering with several groups in Anne Arundel County to host its annual Thanksgiving

event on November 23, and a second event will be held on December 14. Ruth Parker Eason School in Millersville is hosting the nonprofit’s December event for families who attend Marley Glen School, Central Special School and Ruth Parker Eason School.

Sunflowers for Sallie is collecting donations via PayPal, Venmo, Zelle and by check. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.sunflowersforsallie.org or email sunflowersforsallie@gmail.com.

Brightview Cookoff For A Cause Supports The Parkinson’s Foundation

Brightview Anne Arundel County communities faced off, chef-to-chef, at the second annual Cookoff for a Cause to benefit the Parkinson’s Foundation on September 12. Brightview Severna Park earned the Silver Spoon Award and Culinary Judges Selection.

Held at the Crofton Riverwalk location, the cookoff also included Brightview’s Annapolis and South River communities. As of late September, Brightview Senior Living has raised \$1,020 for the Parkinson’s Foundation thanks to the cookoff.

During the friendly competition, Brightview treated guests to a four-course taste of low-country cuisine like a creole shrimp and crab gazpacho shooter, peach cobbler, fried chicken and waffles poppers, and much more. Judges Denise Manifold (vice president of sales, Brightview Senior Living), Dawn Lewis (advancement director, mid-Atlantic chapter of the Parkinson’s Foundation) and Jeffrey Jacobs (owner, Carroll’s

Creek Restaurant in Eastport, Maryland) chose their favorites.

The People’s Choice award went to Brightview South River, and Best In Theme was awarded to Brightview Crofton Riverwalk.

Brightview Severna Park earned the Silver Spoon Award and Culinary Judges Selection.



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MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

Lieutenant Colonel Reggie Thomas III

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Four combat deployments, a role in the White House, numerous decorations.

For Lieutenant Colonel Reggie Thomas III, a career with the United States Marine Corps has produced a list of experiences beyond what he imagined.

Currently, he is the commanding officer for the headquarters and service battalion at First Marine Logistics Group (MLG) at Camp Pendleton in California. The headquarters and service battalion provides command and control, administration, communications, food service, and services to the MLG.

Nearly 25 years in the military prepared him for the assignment.

Traveling The World And Combat

Thomas split time between Severna Park and Severn during his childhood. He graduated from Key School in Annapolis in 2000 and joined the Navy. After three years, he wanted to make an academic change and became a Marine.

He completed logistics officer school and was assigned to Camp Schwab in Okinawa, Japan, as the motor transport platoon commander in 2008. Thomas held several other titles and deployed to the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia in support of multiple theater security cooperation efforts.

In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Thomas began his first combat tour in Afghanistan in 2012. That was the first of four combat deployments: to Afghanistan in 2012 and 2014, and to Iraq and Syria in 2016.

"I had a very wise senior enlisted leader who told me, 'Whenever you get an opportunity to deploy, that's what you should do. Because that's why you joined the military,'" Thomas said. "The Marine Corps (emblem) is the eagle, globe and anchor — not the eagle, couch and anchor."

Between those deployments, in 2013, he served as the deputy officer-in-charge of Georgian Liaison Team 13 and foreign security force advisor to a Republic of Georgia Army infantry battalion. He deployed to the Republic of Georgia, Germany, and completed a second combat tour in Afghanistan.

"I've been in environments where the risk is high and the probability of success is low," Thomas said. "There could be rockets firing or gunfire in your direction.



During his time as military aide to the president from 2022-2024, Lieutenant Colonel Reggie Thomas III brought his wife, Ana, and son, Hensley, to the White House for special events.

"Training is what you rely on when you have fear," he said. "You have to make sure you're ready for what's on hand and what you're being called to do."

While in Afghanistan, Thomas partnered with the Republic of Georgia Army and made some of his closest friends.

"I not only saw the power of American patriotism but also universal justice and security cooperation," he said. "Working with a foreign nation, I saw the Republic of Georgia was willing to fight on a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission without being a NATO partner."

He reported to the Pentagon in 2015 was reassigned to MacDill Air Force Base in Florida in 2016 and deployed forward to Kuwait, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates as the executive officer and operations officer for Joint Special Operations Forces Support Detachment-Kuwait.

As a major, Thomas returned to the Pentagon after combat in 2016 and resumed his previous sponsorship and section head positions.

A Rare Honor

After a stint in Okinawa, Japan, Thomas started a joint assignment at the White House as the Marine Corps military aide to the president of the United States.

Each branch provides a military aide to the president. From 2022 to early 2024, Thomas served as the Marine Corps military aide to President Joe Biden.

"I was truly humbled and honored that I would ever be nominated," Thomas said. "We worked with the president daily. That's our boss."

One of Thomas' fondest memories from the White House was formed



during Christmas in 2022 when the president and first lady called forward deployed units, which are forces close to potential conflict zones or areas of interest.

"It's a significant production that requires detailed planning and execution, but that is so worth it," Thomas said, explaining the call process. "Forward deployed units are not just out for a picnic; they are out for a mission. We are trying to call the ship in the middle of wherever and they can be in the middle of operations. Our schedule is tight, and we are trying to reach ships in the Mediterranean, Poland, Iraq. They might not all answer the phone."

Working with other communications staff and the United States Department of Defense, Thomas and the White House team ran a rehearsal and hoped the satellite communications would go smoothly.

"Just learning that service members were getting a call from their commander in chief when forward deployed on holiday was super inspiring," Thomas said. "Seeing the care and thoughtfulness was so cool."

That is just one of many moments that Thomas treasures from his time in the White House, as he was only the second Black U.S. Marine Corps presidential military aide.

"That's significant for me, not because only I could have done it, but it shows progress and diversity," Thomas said. "There was a time when they didn't allow female aides. I feel privileged to have the opportunity."

Lieutenant Colonel

Every Marine is a marksman first. As commanding officer at the headquarters and service battalion at MLG at Camp Pendleton, Thomas spends

much of his time with Marines as they practice their rifle marksmanship skills and combat training.

He also handles communications and logistical operations, arranges vehicles for transportation, and coordinates with an expeditionary kitchen.

"If you have ever seen the show 'M*A*S*H,' with people eating under the big green tents, we have the ability to do that on a larger scale for 780 people," he said.

The battalion formed last January. When Thomas arrived, he was responsible for 300 Marines. By August, he had 1,027.

Over the years, he developed his style as a "servant leader."

"I'm not asking anyone to do anything that I have not done or that I am not willing to do myself," he said.

"In the Marine Corps, you take care of your subordinates first, always. Senior Marines serve the junior Marines and will eat after the junior Marines ... It builds a lot of trust and confidence because Marines realize how much you care for them."

Confidence in his training has allowed him to be a freefall parachutist. Marines get four weeks of training before jumping out of an aircraft. Like combat, parachuting requires that Thomas rely on his training when fear arises.

"It's extremely fun and rewarding, and it ties into my mission as a logistics officer with air delivery operations and airdropping supplies," he said.

Having earned several ribbons and medals, traveled the world and served in the White House, Thomas feels fortunate. But he is grateful for one thing above all: his family. Like many service members, he has missed a lot of birthdays, weddings and other life milestones. When he deployed, family members always sent letters, cards and care packages. His wife and his parents, Reggie and Valerie Thomas of Severna Park, have always provided support.

"I am most honored and grateful for my wife, Ana, and we have a son, Hensley," Thomas said. "The fact that she has to see me leave early in the morning, come home late, run the household in my absence and raise our child — or together when I am here — it's awesome to see the resilience of military families.

"Your family doesn't get the ribbons," he said. "Every time we had to move, my wife had to apply for new jobs, go on more interviews, move away from family and friends, and establish a new household. I would not be able to serve without her being such a big supporter."



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Alumni Gather For Severna Park High All-Class Reunion



Photos by Zach Sparks

Roughly 90 Severna Park High School alumni gathered for an all-class reunion at Mother's Peninsula Grille on September 14 to reflect and share memories. Prior to the main event, the former classmates attended a happy hour at Mother's on September 13. Doug Nichols shared information about the Severna Park Vietnam War memorial, and reunion organizer Robyn Turner displayed a banner for her company SPHS Memories, visible to drivers passing by the Arnold restaurant on Ritchie Highway.



Holiday Shopping, Dining & Entertainment Edition



Be sure to check out the Voice's annual Holiday Shopping, Dining & Entertainment Edition for great information on holiday events, shopping, dining & catering, local traditions, gift ideas, Santa appearances and more.

IN HOMES
NOVEMBER 22



SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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Earleigh Heights VFC Plans October 6 Open House



Have you ever wanted to meet your friendly neighborhood firefighters? The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is hosting an open house on October 6 from noon to 3:00pm. Adults and kids are encouraged to stop by and meet firefighters, observe a jaws-of-life demonstration, see the fire apparatus on display, participate in a junior firefighter challenge, and enjoy free food and refreshments. The station is located at 161 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park.



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Safety Plans: Protecting Children In Abuse Cases

David V. Diggs, Esq.



Having handled divorce cases for over 37 years, there is nothing more challenging (and stressful) than when children have been the victims of abuse. There is also nothing more rewarding than standing steadfast and protecting children from repeated abuse.

Under Maryland law, family law courts are required to carefully consider evidence of abuse and/or neglect. In such cases, the court must also determine whether or not such abuse and/or neglect is likely to occur, assuming custody or visitation rights are granted to the offending party. The law creates high hurdles in such cases:

Unless the court specifically finds that there is no likelihood of further child abuse or neglect by the party, the court shall deny custody or visitation rights to that party, except that the court may

approve a supervised visitation arrangement that assures the safety and the physiological, psychological and emotional well-being of the child.

Abuse is expansively defined under Maryland law and includes “the physical or mental injury of a child under circumstances that indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed by a parent, a household member or family member,” etc. Sexual abuse is also prohibited regardless of whether physical injuries are sustained. Abuse does not include a physical injury by accidental means. “Mental injury” includes “substantial impairment of a child’s mental or psychological ability to function caused by an intentional act or series of acts, regardless of whether there was an intent to harm the child.”

As noted above, child access is usually denied in cases of abuse unless there is “a supervised visitation arrangement that assures the safety ... and emotional well-being” of a child. In these cases, a safety plan may be ordered by the court and will include some or all of the following:

- ① A monitor may be appointed to serve the important role of supervising child visitation.
- ② The monitor and the custodial parent should have regular contact and open lines of communication.
- ③ Generally, if the monitor is unavailable, overnight visitation will be canceled.
- ④ Alcohol and other drugs should be avoided by the visiting parent and the monitor.
- ⑤ Additional conditions may be included as they are designed to protect the children.

Child abuse is a serious and sensitive matter to confront. If your children have been the victims of abuse, you should consult with an attorney who has handled these cases and is able to address the complex issues involved.

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

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It's Getting Dark: We Need To Shine The Light This November

Stephen Mitchell

Lead Pastor
Trinity Bible Church



across a sight that I must admit I've never seen this early before: Christmas décor put outside in September.

The memes and jokes every year as the holiday season approaches are about how early is too early to start playing Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You," but this neighbor beat the retail stores this year. Then, I thought to myself, "Whelp, 2024 might be the year to begin focusing on the light of hope surrounding Jesus Christ because things have been getting darker as of late."

It's not only fall that is upon us. So is election season, and not just a typical presidential election, but one filled with ugly rhetoric, assassination attempts, divisiveness and dread from both sides about whatever the outcome could be. With this election bringing out the worst in us, with anger and fear in the air, how should followers of Jesus respond? Jesus tells us how: "Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16).

American politics has always been a rough sport, but it's gotten particularly ugly in recent years. Don't believe me? Watch YouTube videos of C-SPAN presidential debates from 30 years ago and compare them to our recent ones. Biblically, God tends to give us the leaders we deserve. After all, in American politics, our leaders are elected to represent us, but they also reflect us. Our country is divided, our society is fractured and the love of many has grown cold. Right is called wrong and wrong is called right.

There has never been a better time in modern-day America for those who claim to follow Jesus to live like they do. There has never been a better opportunity to share the good news of the gospel in an environment that thrives on negative news. There's never been a better time to show our fellow neighbor the love of Christ than now, even if they have a sign in their yard for a politician you don't like or share a message you disagree with. Come this November, we have the chance to practice what the Bible tells us: "Be kind to all" (Ephesians 4:32), no matter how ugly the aftermath of this election becomes.

This November, we can show those around us what our hope in Jesus looks like, especially if the outcome of this election is not how we'd like it to

be or there is uncertainty in the air. One thing both the left and right have agreed on is that the sky will fall and our republic as we know it will end if the other side wins. Yet if one follows Jesus and believes the Bible, and approaches the upcoming election with a Christian worldview, we can have confidence in the face of uncertainty that no matter who is president, Jesus is king.

"If one follows Jesus and believes the Bible, and approaches the upcoming election with a Christian worldview, we can have confidence in the face of uncertainty that no matter who is president, Jesus is king."

Recently, I attended a D-Day commemoration event for the heroes who saved our democracy. At the event, I was interviewed by an Italian reporter who asked my thoughts on the upcoming presidential election. I shared my concerns about the state of politics in general and of this election, but I told him that ultimately, I'm optimistic because of my faith in God's providential hand over history. The only hope for America and the world is Jesus Christ, not Kamala Harris or Donald Trump.

Politics do matter and Christians should vote their conscience and participate in the political process, as there are issues where our faith and politics collide, but we must be careful not to fall into political idolatry. If you are more passionate about talking about politics than talking about Jesus, you've put your hope in a political figure rather than him and that is misguided, and you will be disappointed. If you're more concerned about winning elections than winning souls, you've lost sight of our mission and our identity. We belong to a heavenly king and country first and foremost. We are Christians first, Americans second and political third, and it should always be in that order.

As November approaches, let's meet this moment with grace and truth, with peace and love. No matter how ugly this election outcome could become or how frightening or disappointing it may be, let us resolve now to keep our eyes on Jesus and to be light in the darkness. Finally, be sure to pray. America is going to need it.

"For the true king is on his throne and ever shall be." — Anonymous

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

RELIGION

St. Martin's-In-The-Field Episcopal Church Calls A New Rector



Eager to put down roots in Severna Park, the Rev. Lauren Holder, her husband, Jay, and their two children, Charlie and Lucy Rae, moved to the area at the end of August. She is the seventh rector of St. Martin's-in-the-Field.

The Rev. Lauren Holder began her ministry as the seventh rector of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church and School on October 1. Holder comes to Severna Park after serving as the canon for community and education at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Georgia. Her experience includes service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta and Trinity Church Wall Street, where her ministry included work in Christian formation, outreach and community engagement.

Holder is deeply committed to building community — both within and beyond the church. In anticipation of her start date, she said, "I see in St. Martin's a growing community of faith who finds joy in following Jesus. I see a parish of 'doers' — showing up for one another and for people in need. I see a church eager to partner with God in writing this next chapter of life together in Christ."

She has twice represented the Diocese of Atlanta as a deputy to general convention, has served on the legislative committee of Congregational Vitality & Data-Driven Initiatives, is a past-president of the Diocesan standing committee, and has served on the boards of The Boyce L. Ansley School, Ahava Early Learning Center, Crossroads Community Ministries and

Buckhead Community Ministries.

Eager to put down roots in Severna Park, Holder, with her husband, Jay, and their two children, Charlie and Lucy Rae, moved to the area at the end of August — just in time for the children to start at St. Martin's Episcopal School. After getting settled in, Holder headed to Spain to walk the historic Camino de

Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage. She joins St. Martin's with a rejuvenated spirit, eager to begin her ministry.

Holder grew up in Lexington, Virginia. She attended Washington & Lee University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in politics with a concentration in environmental studies. She later earned a master's degree in liberal arts at St.

John's College in Annapolis, and then a Master of Divinity at the General Theological Seminary in New York.

St. Martin's Church and School looks forward to welcoming Holder for her first Sunday worship service on October 6. St. Martin's invites everyone in the Severna Park and surrounding communities to join the church for worship on Sundays at 8:00am and 10:00am. The church has robust children's, youth and music ministries. It supports the county's winter shelter program, SPAN and Afghan refugee families. To learn about St. Martin's Church and School, go to www.stmartinsinthefield.org.

"I see in St. Martin's a growing community of faith who finds joy in following Jesus. I see a parish of 'doers' — showing up for one another and for people in need. I see a church eager to partner with God in writing this next chapter of life together in Christ."

— REV. LAUREN HOLDER

Election Guide 2024: Meet The Candidates

Responses were edited for space. Full responses are available at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION — DISTRICT 5

LaToya Nkongolo



When asked about the greatest need in the public school system, you mentioned how student performance is not where it should be given the amount of investment from taxpayers.

What can the Board of Education and school system do to address this?

The recent Maryland Comprehensive Assessment results show that less than 55% of AACPS students are proficient in reading, and fewer than 30% are proficient in math. Additionally, science scores have declined statewide. Anne Arundel, once ranked among the top five school districts in the state, is currently mediocre at best. Unfortunately, our current board leadership has not made academics a priority, allowing schools to become overly focused on political and social issues.

In a recent meeting, our superintendent pointed out that we neither have the time nor resources to act as both educational institutions and social service agencies. With a \$2 billion budget, we are not seeing a return on our investment. There are only 180 days in a school year, and we cannot afford to waste either our students' time or our tax dollars.

Even with the large financial investment in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Maryland jurisdictions are struggling to implement the changes without eliminating other programs. Should Anne Arundel County residents be concerned about the blueprint not being implemented as planned or further funding being needed?

Yes, Anne Arundel County residents, particularly taxpayers, should be concerned. As the state cannot fully fund the blueprint, the responsibility has shifted to local taxpayers, which could result in increased taxes and reduced funds for other essential services. While Anne Arundel County is faring better than some, key initiatives like public-private partnerships for pre-K 4 have not come to fruition, leaving a potential burden on local capital and operational budgets. This is similar to the costly and lengthy process it took to transition kindergarten to full-day, which took over a decade and millions of dollars. Therefore, further funding needs or implementation challenges could strain local resources even more.

At a campaign fundraiser, you said the school system is leaving parents out of decisions, which is causing mental illness, not mental wellness. How do you see the board's role in addressing mental health and the morale of staff and students?

Parents know their children better than anyone else, and research shows that parental involvement

leads to better mental health outcomes. Collaboration between parents and teachers creates a more supportive and effective learning environment for students and staff. However, our school is not placing enough emphasis on teaching key aspects of mental wellness, such as resilience, self-efficacy and intrinsic motivation. These and other protective factors, which are absent from the current mental health curriculum, could play a critical role in reducing depression, anxiety and other mental health challenges our students are facing.

What do you think the Board of Education, and specifically District 5, could have done better over the last six years?

I believe our board could have handled the pandemic much more effectively, and I was disappointed that the current school board representative pushed for keeping kids out of schools even longer. Anne Arundel was one of the last school districts in the state to return to in-person learning, which had a significant negative impact on students both academically and mentally. The extended closures and delayed reopening were mishandled, ultimately doing more harm than good. Now, we must take aggressive measures to help our students get back on track with reading and math at grade level, addressing the learning loss caused by COVID.

As both a parent and a mental health therapist, I was on the front lines, helping students navigate the emotional challenges of prolonged isolation. When I reached out to our current representative to advocate for our students, my concerns fell on deaf ears. As a leader, I am proactive in decision-making, ensuring that issues are addressed before they turn into crises — unlike how the COVID situation was handled.

Additionally, in the year following the pandemic shutdown, as students were transitioning back to school while wearing masks and dealing with bus transportation challenges, AACPS introduced a change in school start times. This decision placed a heavy burden on two-parent working households, making it nearly impossible to manage both work and school schedules. My opponent championed this change without consulting district residents or considering the significant readjustment challenges students and parents were already facing due to COVID.

What is the greatest advice you have received about leadership or running for office?

The best advice I received from an elected official before launching my campaign was, "LaToya, be prepared to read and hear things about yourself, and you won't even recognize who they're talking about." This piece of advice was invaluable in mentally preparing me for the past year of campaigning, allowing me to stay focused on my true mission: creating a school system that delivers the highest-quality education,

ensuring all children are prepared to compete and succeed, whether in college or a career.

Is there anything else you would like voters to know?

Throughout my time here, I've been known as a bridge builder and gap filler. When I see a need in our county, I find the resources or solutions to address it. I have proudly served Anne Arundel County for 17 years in various leadership roles, and every initiative I've been involved with has been met with success. My passion for serving our community runs deep, and I am confident I will bring the same level of success to representing District 5 as I have in my previous roles.

Dana Schallheim



You said improving childhood literacy is the greatest area of need in the school system. What can the Board of Education and school system do to support that goal?

My board colleagues and I unanimously voted to approve a new reading curriculum based on the science of reading, including phonics, which is being implemented this school year. The board will monitor the data including iReady, student assessments, and teacher feedback and provide support should Dr. (Mark) Bedell come to us with further recommendations. We must continue early interventions and hire additional reading specialists as well as more classroom teachers to reduce class size and thereby increase individualized attention.

Even with the large financial investment in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Maryland jurisdictions are struggling to implement the changes without eliminating other programs. Should Anne Arundel County residents be concerned about the blueprint not being implemented as planned or further funding being needed?

AACPS made tough decisions and prioritized blueprint pillars in our budget to keep on pace with state law mandates. The only jurisdiction to create an educator career ladder, AACPS is leading the state regarding blueprint implementation. What we can't do is offer full-day pre-K without the requisite funding from the state and county. While the blueprint was good in theory, in practice there are certainly issues that District 5 felt when teachers were reallocated. I hope the Maryland General Assembly can come up with a solution so that every public-school student gets the world-class education they deserve.

How do you see the board's role in addressing mental health and the morale of staff and students?

For students:
• Adding dozens of new school counselors,

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Election Guide 2024

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- psychologists and social workers positions.
- Advocating for flex periods at all middle and high schools. Flex periods provide time for students to equitably participate in clubs, do homework, or meet with teachers for reteaching.
- Maintaining a robust virtual tutoring and homework help program that was previously at risk of being canceled when federal funds expired.

For staff:

- Improving teacher and staff compensation that is more in line with surrounding counties (more must be done in this area, especially for veteran teachers, food service workers, and paraprofessionals).
- Creating additional teacher planning time with implementation of the Triple E program in all elementary schools.
- Ensuring that teachers and staff have a seat at the table regarding initiatives, such as the new strategic plan, and feel heard when voicing concerns.

Which of the Board of Education's accomplishments are you most proud of over your six-year term?

- Hiring a nationally recognized superintendent, Dr. Bedell.
- Improving student outcomes under Dr. Bedell's leadership including test scores that have outpaced the state for the last two years, increasing the

number of students taking AP exams and scoring a three or greater for the last three years, and graduation rates that are 90% or higher in 11 schools while closing graduation gaps in our homeless, English language learners, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

- Aligning school start times with science.
- Revising policies for our students receiving special education services or facing food allergies, bullying, bias and more.
- Funding new or replacement schools so that our students can learn in world-class facilities.
- Creating the only award of its kind in the country which recognizes students who are enlisting to serve our country after graduation and successfully advocating for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs to become magnets with bus transportation.
- Approving new middle and high school elective courses in a variety of areas from music and the arts to African American history specific to Anne Arundel County.

What is the greatest advice you have received about leadership or running for office?

Ignore the noise and focus on student outcomes.

What else you would like voters to know?

I hope District 5 voters will re-elect me because we are a better school district now than when I joined the board six years ago and are on the road from good to great; however, the work isn't done.

I have focused on improving student outcomes including recruiting and retaining high-quality

teachers, implementing research-based curriculum, and support for mental health and social-emotional development under the leadership of Dr. Bedell.

This hard work is paying off! The number of students taking AP exams and earning a 3 or better has increased for the third consecutive year, 11 of our 14 high schools have a graduation rate of 90% or better and achievement gaps are closing, and we have outpaced the state in 13 of 14 MCAP scores for two consecutive years. Additional data including discipline, referral, kindergarten readiness, and attendance will be released in the upcoming weeks that will reinforce that we are on the right path and should not change course in District 5.

CIRCUIT COURT — DISTRICT 5

Claudia Barber



You have extensive civil and criminal law experience. How has that prepared you for the circuit court?

I am the only candidate on the ballot with more than 35 years of civil and criminal legal experience, which includes adjudicating cases for more than 10 years as a judge. I also have extensive experience litigating cases in state and federal courts, representing plaintiffs and defendants. This includes handling criminal defense work, family law matters, child-in-need-of-assis-

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tance cases, custody, child support, uncontested and contested divorces, civil rights, corporate disputes, declaratory judgment actions, bankruptcy, worker's compensation, name changes, corporate defense, contract matters and many other civil matters.

I have practiced before and remain a member of the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals — D.C. Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and U.S. District Court of Maryland, where I represented clients under the Criminal Justice Act as a panel attorney.

The circuit court handles everything from civil and criminal cases to family cases, appeals and more. What else would you like people to know about the responsibility of the circuit court?

Trusting the judicial system matters. Citizens should not feel as though no one listened to their cases. Judges should be active listeners and be keenly aware of sentencing disparity and how it impacts communities.

What are the biggest challenges facing the circuit court?

The Supreme Court of Maryland began certain initiatives and committees involving equal justice. In 2020, the Equal Justice Committee was formed. There are now three subcommittees, including community outreach, court operations and sentencing

committee. This work is necessary to ensure equity in our courts is realized. This should continue.

Community outreach should take on more initiatives, like hosting forums. The court operations committee should meet stakeholders, especially the disabilities community leaders, to ensure needs are met when addressing access to the courthouse for the blind, wheelchair bound, or for those who walk with canes or other mobility devices. And the sentencing committee should be more laser-focused on correcting sentencing disparity in the past, which resulted in long incarceration sentences.

Also, a few years ago, there was a backlog in Anne Arundel County of hundreds of unserved warrants. The circuit courts should develop a strategic plan to update judges on how this situation is being resolved. There were also concerns about whether or not residents in South County could participate in drug diversion programs due to transportation problems. I currently serve on the Anne Arundel County Transportation Commission. I am aware that Call N' Ride is a new initiative, which addresses this concern. This service is exclusive to South County.

Is there anything else you would like voters to know?

I authored over 5,000 decisions as an administrative law judge from 2005-2016. I am a former District 4 director of the National Association of Women Judges (2011-2013).

I am an accomplished author, award winning newsletter editor (recipient of national NAACP Thalheimer Award), recipient of the 2024 Lawyers of Distinction Award, and 2022 Sojourner Truth

Award and 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award. I also received the 2021 IPMA Chapter Award of Excellence when serving as president of the IPMA Patuxent River Basin chapter.

Tom Casey



You have more than 25 years of legal experience. How has your background prepared you for the circuit court?

My background has prepared me more than any other candidate on the ballot. I have been a prosecutor in Anne

Arundel County, prosecuting criminal cases. I have experience practicing in the following areas of law: family, business, administrative, antitrust, wills and trusts, franchise, commercial and residential leases, and real property. I have been part of a team that has led nationwide legal initiatives creating programs to help convict criminals in organized retail crime and the conversion of stolen goods in the scrap recycling industry. Finally, I had a career as a mortgage banker for nine years before going to law school as well as serving seven years on the board of a nonprofit called Hope House in Crownsville, Maryland, that specialized in the treatment of substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and gambling addiction.

Not only will I bring a transparent, honest approach to the bench, where every case that comes before me will be heard fairly, on its merits, and without

» Continued on page 22


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Letter To The Editor: Chick-fil-A In Arnold

Dear County Executive Steuart Pittman,

You are recognized as a leader and listener, so I want to share deep concerns about the safety of a proposed drive-thru-only Chick-fil-A at 1500 Ritchie Highway in Arnold. The Arnold Preservation Council and residents from the communities including Pines on the Severn, Winchester on the Severn, Arnold Manor, Ashcroft, Indian Hills/Glen Eden and Mago Vista share similar concerns and have expressed them at community forums.

Simply stated: a Chick-fil-A restaurant at the proposed location would cause dangerous and irreversible safety and environmental impacts. This Chick-fil-A would contribute unacceptable additional traffic that would further jeopardize public safety in an area that has documented three traffic-related fatalities since 2019. One puzzling aspect of this proposal is the inclusion of over 42 parking spaces for a drive-thru-only operation.

The project, if approved, would sit just north of Route 50 and immediately south of the Arnold Road/Ritchie Highway intersection. It would occupy a tiny parcel adjacent to an existing CVS and behind a Sunoco gas station. Access would be via Arnold Road and southbound Ritchie Highway, where traffic routinely exceeds the posted 50 mph speed limit. Arnold Road is already overtaxed as it services the busy Arnold Station shopping center and serves as the primary access point for communities of nearly 400 households.

Any reasonable traffic study would demonstrate that Arnold Road can't safely sustain the increased car and

other traffic that Chick-fil-A's attract. It's concerning that the restaurant would be located less than 100 yards from the B&A bike trail, and there are no accommodations for foot or bike traffic from the trail. Another safety issue will be the increased traffic flow in the CVS parking lot used to access the restaurant.

Even the nearby community of Indian Hills/Glen Eden, located a half mile to the south, would suffer from diners traveling southbound to make a U-turn on Ritchie Highway to return to northbound travel after visiting the restaurant. Traffic studies also don't mention plans to expand Route 2 north from Route 50 to the Arnold Road intersection.

These studies also fail to mention existing stacking issues at the Arnold Road intersection and common sense informs it will worsen with this project. One need only look at the Chick-fil-A locations in Severna Park and Annapolis to see the congestion that is generated and where the high volume of customer traffic routinely and illegally overflows, and dangerously stacks onto public highways. And these locations sit on much larger parcels that are better suited for commercial traffic.

I recognize that this Chick-fil-A proposal, in the works since 2019, must go through the rigorous planning and zoning process. But you should know that many residents see this as an unnecessary, ill-advised development and that common sense says that it would be a monumental mistake to build a Chick-fil-A at this location.

Jim Scott
Arnold resident

Letter To The Editor: Spirit Week At Severna Park High School



like to suggest something new, a Hogwarts week, where the four grades compete for house points and the grade that wins has a pizza party the following Saturday with the theme of their house. Freshmen equals Hufflepuff, sophomore equals Slytherin, junior equals Ravenclaw, and senior equals Gryffindor.

Of course, the principal will dress as the old man and the teachers can dress as their favorite teacher from Hogwarts. The house points can be given based on a student's integrity or just how nice they are, like maybe cleaning the cafeteria or picking up trash in the halls. Maybe even just give a compliment to a teacher. I think this idea is great and with tweaking can be a fun week for all students and teachers.

Thank you,
Jake Allen
Severna Park High
School student

I'm a Scout of Troop 993, working on my communication merit badge, which requires me to write an email to my local newspaper and share my opinion on any subject. I would like to present an idea for Severna Park High School.

Currently, we are doing our spirit week to show school spirit. I would

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Election Guide 2024

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bias, but I will also bring a multifaceted background in law so that you will have someone on the bench who is able to service any variety of case that comes before me. Why is that important? Only 28% of the total cases heard by the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court in 2022 were of the criminal variety; 72% were civil, family law or "other." Most of you have never had the occasion to come before the circuit court. If you do, know that you will have an experienced practitioner on the bench to hear your case if I am elected.

What are the biggest challenges facing the circuit court?

Here are a couple of things that come to mind:

1. Continuing to expand on options to the court to help those who are convicted of non-violent criminal offenses and suffer from mental health and substance abuse disorders. Recidivism for non-violent offenses can often be substantially reduced through the use and intervention of special programs to help those in need, such as drug, mental health, and veterans' courts.
2. Access to and help in civil matters for those less fortunate or with limited means who would normally come before the circuit court. In criminal matters, the accused have the Office of the Public Defender as an option. In the civil context, legal aid is the only real viable option at the moment. Creating a more robust option and access in this space would greatly help those with limited means.
3. The lack of public confidence in the justice

system. The bench needs more judges with multifaceted experience who are willing to give back to the community. Too many times, career prosecutors with no experience outside of that space are appointed to the bench and have to learn on the fly or avoid such matters, if possible, without having the proper experience.

4. The lack of transparency in the judges' decisions on the bench. There is a dearth of accountability in the bench for the public to easily see. The judge of the circuit court election is for a 15-year term. Yet the general public cannot easily see, find or review a report card on each judge on the circuit court or see how many cases of a particular judge are overturned each year.

Is there anything else you would like voters to know?

I am one of five siblings born to parents who immigrated from Ireland. I am a lifelong Marylander, and I have lived in Anne Arundel County for over 25 years. I love Anne Arundel County. I have raised my family here, and I have a lot of extended family from both my and my wife's side that live and raise families in Anne Arundel County, as well as countless friends. I have volunteered as a youth coach for over eight years at Truxton Park, for the Boys & Girls Clubs, and for St. Mary's.

It pains me to hear about all of the crime seeping into our neighborhoods, people feeling unsafe to leave their homes at night, carjackings and thefts occurring in our elderly, over-55 communities, and ATM thefts (either at the machine or people followed from the ATM to other locations and then robbed). I want to make a difference.

Christine Celeste



You were appointed to the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court in 2022. What are you most proud of since that time?

I am most proud of the fact that I regularly receive compliments from court staff, sheriff's deputies, and lawyers

who appear before me regarding my handling of difficult cases. I have established a reputation for being well versed in the law, a patient and attentive listener, and for fairly and impartially applying the law to the facts of each case. I believe that my success is largely because I spent my career as an attorney trying circuit court cases.

The circuit court has a wide-ranging impact, handling civil and criminal cases, family cases, appeals and more. What else would you like people to know about the responsibilities of the circuit court?

Expanding upon the areas that you mentioned, the circuit court hears all jury trials, including felony criminal trials and high-value civil cases. Circuit court judges must be intimately familiar with the rules of evidence and procedure for these wide-ranging cases because they are called upon to make swift and accurate decisions when ruling on objections to questions and to the admissibility of evidence. Judges determine what evidence can be properly considered by the jury.

» Continued on page 23



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What are the biggest challenges facing the circuit court?

The greatest challenge facing the court is the number of self-represented litigants who appear before the court. Many self-represented litigants have difficulty effectively presenting their cases. I address this challenge by explaining the trial process to self-represented litigants, identifying the burden of proof that applies in their case, and by explaining the methods for introducing evidence and challenging the opposing party's evidence.

Is there anything else you would like voters to know?

As a current circuit court judge, I have presided over hundreds if not thousands of civil, criminal and family law cases. My success as a judge is a result of my 20-year career as an attorney, trying cases before circuit courts across the state and in federal tribunals.

I spent my career in public service. I was a prosecutor for 15 years, three of which I spent on a detail to the United States Attorneys' Offices, where I tried complex criminal cases. I tried civil cases for two years as an assistant bar counsel, where I held attorneys accountable for violating ethics rules. Immediately prior to my appointment, I worked in the Office of the Chief Counsel to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, where I represented the agency in employment litigation and a varied portfolio of other cases.

The skills I developed analyzing and trying cases as an attorney prepared me well for my role on the bench. Because of my excellent reputation as an attorney, I was appointed by the governor after having gone through an extensive vetting process where members of the legal community recommended my appointment. I have been privileged to serve the citizens of Anne Arundel County for the past 23 months and ask community members to vote for me and my running mate, judge Ginina Jackson-Stevenson, so that we can continue serving the community. I cannot overstate the importance of keeping experienced, qualified judges on the court.

Ginina Jackson-Stevenson



You were appointed to the circuit court in 2023. What are you most proud of since that time?

I am proud to serve the citizens of Anne Arundel County in a different capacity. Every day that I take the bench, I am able to accomplish my goal of helping to reduce the number of cases that are docketed by being fair, impartial and applying the law of the state of Maryland. Additionally, at the conclusion of every matter that I preside over, I always try to leave the litigants with a feeling of hopefulness.

The circuit court handles everything from civil and criminal cases to family cases, appeals and

more. What else would you like people to know about the responsibilities of the circuit court?

In addition to the cases listed above, the circuit court also handles adoptions, guardianship cases, special immigration juvenile status and a specialty court, which is drug court. The court also assists those who have language barriers and other disabilities that would prevent them from fully participating in their presiding. Our law library also has attorneys to assist self-represented litigants with their cases.

What are the biggest challenges facing the circuit court?

There is an increasing number of self-represented litigants that are not knowledgeable of the law that governs their case. The law library and self-help center does an excellent job at assisting the litigants, however, there is always a need for more attorneys.

Is there anything else you would like voters to know?

I am committed to serving the people who come into my courtroom with respect, dignity and civility. A vote for me means that the decisions individuals receive in their cases are rendered according to the facts of the case and the law.

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Severna Park Volleyball Flying High



Photo by Dennis McGinley

Barrett Bolter set the ball during Broadneck's home match with South River on September 19. Bolter and Sydney Lawrence have tag-teamed the setter position to facilitate the Bruins' attack.

By David Bashore

Severna Park's volleyball team rolled through September, giving encouraging signs of progress as they finished the month with a 5-1 mark.

The Falcons' only blemish on the season heading into an October 1 showdown with Broadneck came courtesy of a four-set loss to Arundel on September 17. Beyond that, Severna Park swept Glen Burnie and Annapolis to start the season and sandwiched the Arundel loss with impressive wins over McDonogh (four sets) and Crofton (five). They concluded the month with a four-set win over South River.

Through six matches, the Falcons have been paced offensively by junior outside hitter **Lizzie Ranaghan**, who has 51 total kills and also leads the team with 2.3 kills per set played. Behind her is senior middle blocker **Courtlynn Edwards**, who has 36 kills and leads the team in both blocks (12) and attack efficiency (.198). Setters **Genevieve Willis** and **Jennifer Hong** have combined for 123 assists, while defensive specialist **Kathryn Rojek** leads the team with 68 digs.

The Falcons are currently tied for top spot in the 3A East Region I standings, sharing that position with Stephen Decatur.

» Continued on page 30

Unbeaten BHS Field Hockey Sees Room For Improvement

By David Bashore

After eight games, Broadneck's field hockey team has won seven and tied one, scoring 37 goals and conceding just five. Ho-hum, one might think. But so far, Broadneck's unbeaten season has been anything but straightforward.

"If people just look at our schedule and our record, they'd think we're rolling through the season, and we're really not," said Broadneck coach **Shannon Hanratty**. "The girls have really had to grind and work hard to get through some difficult games. There are some moments in each game, but we're still trying to put it all together."

That grind has featured thrilling games, like a 3-3 draw against Archbishop Spalding on September 7, a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Crofton on September 10, and a 1-0 win over Severna Park on September 24. Very little has come easy for the Bruins, though: they peppered Crofton's goal but didn't find the breakthrough until late in the fourth quarter; it took a late penalty corner for the Bruins to beat Severna Park; Spalding is a test year-in, year-out.

"The patience and poise of this group has been great to see," Hanratty said. "They know that if it's not quite working, we just need to keep shooting, keep working, not get frustrated, and eventually it's going to come."

There were also big victories: 5-0 over Yorktown (Virginia) on September 7, 4-0 over Chesapeake on September 17, 9-0 over Southern on September 19, 7-1 over Long Reach on September 20, and 6-0 over Arundel on September 26.

The Bruins are still running » Continued on page 30

"The patience and poise of this group has been great to see. They know that if it's not quite working, we just need to keep shooting, keep working, not get frustrated, and eventually it's going to come."

— SHANNON HANRATTY, BROADNECK FIELD HOCKEY HEAD COACH



Photos by Alex Bardakh

Above: Broadneck shut out rival Severna Park and escaped with a 1-0 victory on September 24. Not Pictured: Raleigh Kerst redirected Katelyn Kearns' shot in the fourth quarter for the game's only goal. Mia Moody had five saves for the Bruins.

Stingy Severna Park Field Hockey Making Waves



By David Bashore

The almost soccer-style "defend and counterattack" approach may be unorthodox in field hockey, but for Severna Park, it's been devastatingly effective over the years.

With that mindset in tow, the Falcons appear poised for yet another run in 2024.

Through their first five games of the season, the Falcons are 3-2, those two losses coming to 4A title contenders Broadneck and Crofton, each by a

single goal.

In total, Severna Park has conceded three goals. They've scored just seven; other than a 4-0 win over Southern, they've played four one-goal games.

The Falcons started the season with a 1-0 win over St. Mary's on September 10, in which **Emerson Clark** scored on a rebound for the game's only goal, making the 28 saves from **Cameron Lowman** stand up in victory. Then came the win over Southern, keyed by a **Kelsey Rowe** hat trick, followed by a narrow



Photos by Alex Bardakh

Through their first five games of the season, the Falcons are 3-2. Above: During Severna Park's recent 1-0 loss to the rival Bruins, Rayleigh Connell kept the ball from a Broadneck defender.

2-1 loss to Crofton in which a potential Severna Park goal rang off the pipe.

Ava Zimmerman scored the only goal in overtime of the team's 1-0 win over South River, before succumbing 1-0 to Broadneck in the fourth quarter on a redirected shot.

The Falcons currently top the 3A East Region I standings on win percentage on South River.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

CAYMAN HOLMES

Broadneck High School
Field Hockey, Indoor Track
and Field, Lacrosse

By David Bashore

When opponents scout Broadneck girls athletics, Cayman Holmes doesn't feature prominently on the list of players to fret over.

The Broadneck senior doesn't mind. She kind of prefers it, actually. It allows her to quietly go about her business and then pop up in big moments.

Whether scoring big goals in lacrosse season or doing a bunch of the "dirty work" in field hockey, Holmes thrives on making her biggest mark behind the scenes.

"I'm really quiet out there. I just try to help the team however I can, whatever that means," Holmes said. "I learn a lot from watching our film and seeing what we're doing, and I just try to put myself in spots where I can be helpful."

Broadneck coach Shannon Hanratty called Holmes a key player in the midfield, saying that she "does consistent work when nobody is looking. (Holmes is) reliable, consistent, fit — not looking for the spotlight but playing a key role in our midfield."

Holmes is a three-sport athlete at Broadneck, competing in field hockey, indoor track and field, and lacrosse. She recently committed to play college lacrosse at Flagler College, a NCAA Division II school in St. Augustine, Florida.



"From the moment I got to visit the campus and the team, I watched them and the coaching staff, and I just knew it was the type of place I wanted to be at and keep playing lacrosse," Holmes said.

Before she leaves Broadneck, though, Holmes intends to use her platform as an athlete to give back to future athletes through two different avenues, both of which are close to her heart.

One of those is Morgan's Message, a national nonprofit whose goal is "to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health within the stu-

Cayman Holmes is a key player in the Bruins' midfield, and she gives back to future athletes through two different avenues that are close to her heart.

"I'm really quiet out there. I just try to help the team however I can, whatever that means. I learn a lot from watching our film and seeing what we're doing, and I just try to put myself in spots where I can be helpful."

— CAYMAN HOLMES

dent-athlete community and equalize the treatment of physical and mental health in athletics." Broadneck offers a Morgan's Message club for students, in which Holmes participates, and the school also dedicates select athletic events to awareness for both the organization and the issue.

The other is the Broadneck High School-sponsored youth sports camps that take place every summer, something that she uses to give back to "5-year-old Cayman."

"I really love helping at those camps, because I remember going to those camps when I was little," Holmes said. "It's exciting to see what the next generation of Broadneck athletes is going to look like, and to show them the way."

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Falcon Girls Soccer Keeps Things Rolling Along

By David Bashore

New faces, same status: Severna Park girls soccer is on the short list of teams to beat.

The Falcons ended September with a perfect 6-0 record, having conceded just twice; they haven't yielded more than one goal in a single game in more than two years, since conceding three in a win over Crofton on September 13, 2022.

Despite replacing significant portions of the attack and defense, and having only five seniors on the roster, Severna Park has rolled right along. Though many of the faces are different, the results are still the same, as is the recipe.

"Last year is last year," said Severna Park coach **Rick Stimpson**. "We've never talked about it, and we've never talked about doing anything other than winning the next game. It's kind of cliché, but that's our approach. That's what worked for us (last year), and the girls have really taken to that. They work hard, they play well together, and they're playing very well again."

The Falcons bookended their month with 8-0 wins over Meade on September 10 and Glen Burnie on September 26. In between, they beat Arundel 2-1, South River 4-1, and then Chesapeake and Broadneck by identical 2-0 score lines.

Perhaps the most promising aspect of the season so far is Stimpson's assessment that the Falcons are only now hitting their stride. He called the victory over Broadneck their best performance of the season, one in which they created plenty of scoring opportunities, even though it took two second-half goals to secure the win.

It was a vintage Severna Park performance, if for some self-professed profligacy in front of goal. But the patience, the willingness to possess the ball, and denying the opponent any sustained pressure were all hallmarks of the invincible team of a year ago.

With a forward line of junior **Maria Bragg** and



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Left: Severna Park's Maria Bragg (22) jostled for the ball during the Falcons' 2-0 win over the Bruins on September 24. **Right:** Izzy Bursleson (14) stepped in front of a Bruin player to gain possession.

seniors **Erin Hussey** and **Ellie Ballard** in front of an experienced midfield led by seniors **Bella VanGieson** and **Abbey Cover**, along with junior twins **Ava** and **Emerson Scott**, the Falcons have the makings of a team that can consistently put opponents under pressure. That would be a departure from a squad that was content to poke and prod, patiently looking for the right way to pick the lock of opposing defenses.

That suits a wingback like Emerson Scott just fine, allowing her to roam freely while her defensive teammates shift to compensate. This unspo-

ken, understood nature of team shape allows her to satisfy her attacking sense while keeping their rearguard solid.

"It's great, because we just have that trust with each other that we know where we're supposed to be all the time," she said. "As a junior now, we have definitely tried to take what we've learned from those who went before us and build on it going into the future."

It's a future that looks bright based on the present, but also the upward trajectory possible with such a young squad finding its feet.

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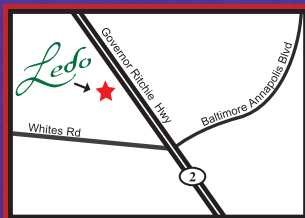
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Broadneck Girls Soccer's Youth Movement Progressing Well

By David Bashore

Having graduated many of their key players and seeing others transfer out, Broadneck's girls soccer team is exceptionally young this season and learning on the fly.

The Bruins finished September with a 5-3 record, indicative of a team searching for consistency — and starting to find it as the calendar rolls over to October.

"I'm happy with the way they're playing and with the way they're competing," said Broadneck coach **John Camm**.

"We're starting four freshmen and three sophomores, a lot of young players, and they're getting better. Another month of playing, I feel like we'll be ready to compete (at regionals)."

Just three seniors — **Elizabeth Favazza**, **Grace Gartrell** and **Grace Mills** — are part of the normal rotation.

After falling 1-0 in the season opener to Crofton, the Bruins started trending in the right direction. They got four wins in four days in the middle of the month — 2-0 over Urbana and 3-0 over Middletown at a one-day event in Glen

Burnie on September 14, followed by an 8-0 win over Chesapeake Science Point and a 5-2 win over Severn Run. But a flat 2-0 loss at Southern, followed by a 2-0 defeat by Severna Park, brought perspective.

"We were flat (at Southern), and we corrected that for Severna Park," Camm said. "I thought the girls played very well (against Severna Park); that's a very good team, and they're defending champions for a reason."

They closed the month with a seesaw 4-3 win over Arundel on September 26.

Camm has been impressed by the team's overall growth, with particularly strong performances by Gartrell, Mills, the defensive backline, freshman forward **Raegan Milnes** and freshman goalkeeper **Cameron Terhune**.

"We're just trying to learn every step of the way, getting a little more competitive and a little more composed," Camm said. "Learning how to read the game, read what's going on, thinking ahead — but I'm definitely happy with the progress of the group."



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Above: Broadneck's Grace Hedges maneuvered upfield during an 8-0 victory against Chesapeake Science Point on September 16. **Below:** The Bruins' Carmen Hubbard (11) battled for the ball against a Tigers player.



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Spalding Field Hockey Coach Reaches Milestone



Archbishop Spalding field hockey coach Leslee Brady celebrated her 350th career win when the Cavs beat St. John's College High School, 4-0, on September 23.

BHS Field Hockey

» Continued from page 24

their attack through the Division-I bound trio of **Katelyn Kearns, Raleigh Kerst** and **Faith Everett**. But they're also doing it without two key defensive cogs and are fine-tuning exactly how the entire system needs to work.

So far, that has involved Kearns dropping deeper into midfield than in years past and picking up some added defensive work. While it's new to her in field hockey, she played a defensive role on the Bruins' state championship lacrosse team in the spring.

"I get to see a lot more of the field, which helps me see what's going on and how best to help my teammates," said Kearns, whose seven goals trails only Kerst (nine) for the team lead. "I still get to go forward and help offensively, and we have trust in each other that we're going to do what's needed."

A solid defensive effort led by seniors **Grace Figueroa** and **Clare Imber** has helped the Bruins keep goalies **Mia Moody** and **Trish Maloney** clean; the duo has combined to post five shutouts in eight game this season, conceding just five goals in total.

Through eight games, Kerst and Kearns also have four assists apiece to lead the team. Everett has six goals and three assists; **Abbie Morris** has five goals, while Figueroa has three goals and three assists.

Though the county schedule may ease slightly, two tough out-of-conference games loom in early October ahead of the county playoffs: trips to Bryn Mawr on October 4 and Garrison Forest on October 9.

Hanratty is content with the schedule and the development, knowing that the right mix of growth opportunities and difficult games will put the Bruins in the best position to contend for hardware at the end of the season.

"We're about halfway through the season, and I think we're about 50% of where we want to be," Hanratty said. "If you think about it that way then we're right on schedule, because you want to be playing your best at the end of the season."

SP Volleyball

» Continued from page 24

Bruin Spikers Gearing Up for Run

Heading into the October 1 rivalry game with Severna Park, Broadneck finds itself sitting at 5-2 after September play concluded.

All five of the Bruins' victories have come in straight sets: over St. Paul's School for Girls, Severn Run, Old Mill, South River, and most recently, Glen Burnie. They recorded successive setbacks on the road in the two days before the Glen Burnie match, falling in five sets to Arundel and four to Musselman (West Virginia).

The Bruins have spread the ball around as anticipated, incorporating multiple hitters into the attack. So far, outside hitter **Anna Graves** and middle hitter **Kennedy Smith** have seen the most fruit, consistently leading the team's kill totals.

The setter tandem of **Sydney Lawrence** and **Barrett Bolter** has diversified the attack as well, sharing the setting load and allowing for more attack to take place. The pair consistently has combined for double figures in both assists and digs, with Lawrence logging team highs in both against Arundel (22 assists, 23 digs). Both have recorded set-dig double-doubles during the season.

The Bruins are currently third in the 4A East Region II.



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Falcons Boys Soccer Corrects Blip, Cruises Through September

Photos by Dennis McGinley

Left: Zachary Campbell chased down a ball during the Severna Park-Broadneck boys soccer game on September 24. The Falcons topped the Bruins 4-1. **Right:** Severna Park goalkeeper Charlie Samples took over the starting position due to injury and has left his own stamp, including this cross collected in traffic against the Bruins.

By David Bashore

For the Severna Park boys soccer team, September was a case of new faces, familiar places.

Seven games in, the Falcons find themselves 5-1-1 and again in good position to make a run in the 3A postseason.

They opened the season with a pair of games in Hagerstown, beating South Hagerstown 5-2 and playing North Hagerstown to a goalless draw.

Severna Park then scored successive 2-0 wins over Meade and South River, the latter of whom Severna Park beat for the county championship last year only to see the tables turned in regionals as South River won on the way to claiming the 3A state title.

After their only loss, a 2-1 setback to Chesapeake in which the Falcons scored first, they jumped on Broadneck for two goals in each half in a 4-1 victory on September 24.

"We went 1-0 up against Chesapeake, and we just took it too easy," said Severna Park midfielder **Aiden Min**, who scored twice against the Bruins. "Now we know better, and we're not going to let another per-



formance slide like that. We really need to bring it the rest of the way."

The Falcons have done it despite having to replace most of their offense from last year, in addition to an unexpected replacement in goal, as senior standout **Matt Schisler** will miss the entire season with a knee injury.

Severna Park closed September with a narrow 1-0 win

over Glen Burnie. As the focus shifts to the second half of the season, the team's development is right on track for them to get where they want to go.

"It's all building blocks. We're trying to play our best soccer at the end of the year, so each game provides a new lesson," said Severna Park coach **Ryan Parisi**. "We're (seven) games in, so that's where we're at right now (is halfway)."

Broadneck Boys Soccer Finding Growth As Season Progresses



Photo by Dennis McGinley

Wilson Banwell (16) controlled the ball during Broadneck's 6-0 shutout win against Severn Run on September 18.

By David Bashore

Having graduated 12 seniors and having only five on the 2024 squad, the Broadneck boys soccer season was always going to be a work in progress.

The 5-4 record indeed indicates the ups and downs that come with a younger team gaining experience, but the trend is up for the boys in maroon and black.

"I love this group of guys. They have great attitudes and they're working hard to become more consistent as the season progresses," said longtime Bruins head coach **Sean Tetterer**. "The consistency

is starting to get there, even if the results don't always show it."

The growth has had to come from all over the field: Broadneck returned 2023 co-leading scorer **Wilson Banwell**, with plenty of opportunities for rotation players or junior varsity promotions to make their mark.

There have been moments all over the pitch. Junior forward **Braeden Kelly** leads the team with eight goals, seven of which came in the first six games of the season. When he started to cool off, senior midfielder **Jed Meehan** and junior fullback **Lewis Tippin** stepped in. Each

has four goals, second-best on the team.

"I wasn't really trying to put myself in the middle of everything; I was just making my run, and my teammates would find me in a good position," Kelly said. "It's way more important that we get goals from a lot of different places, because that takes the pressure off of us and makes it harder for our opponents."

In total, 12 players have goal involvements on the season for Broadneck, whose 28 goals have come from nine players, plus one opponent's own goal. Eighteen of the goals have been assisted, also by nine players.

The midfield, anchored by senior leader Meehan and junior playmaker **T.J. Remson**, has connected defense to attack and sought to impose itself on and off the field. The defense, led by senior center-back pairing **Beau Leigh** and **Eli DeWalle**, has helped shepherd the team's goalkeeping duo, junior **Joe Brenner** and sophomore **Dalton Bashore**, through the growing pains of trying to replace a four-year starter in **Matt Tetterer**. The pair has combined for 31 saves and four clean sheets this season.

The leadership on the team coalesced around a handful of sophomores, juniors and seniors, with those players setting the example for the rest.

"It's the guys who are passionate about the game and care about the group, and when guys are down, they're the ones that try to lift the group," Meehan said. "Those are our leaders, and it doesn't matter whether they're seniors or not. It's a full group."

That full group has been bonding through a number of ways to integrate the number of new players into a unit as quickly as possible.

"I've just been trying to get to know each of the guys as an individual and help acclimate everyone to the group together," DeWalle said. "That's really important to make the group unified. We try to help

lead the guys on and off the pitch, what to do, how to handle things, and we're starting to get comfortable with everyone now. ... I think we can do some great things before it's over."

Broadneck started the season with a pair of losses to Mount Hebron (4-2) and River Hill (3-1) on September 7, followed by a 2-0 win over Crofton on September 10. They lost to St. Mary's 2-1 in a game they felt they could have had on September 12, but then reeled off three straight wins over Chesapeake Science Point (8-0), Severn Run (6-0) and Southern (2-1) the following week.

The last of those wins may have marked a turning point: having gone behind from the penalty spot in the second half, the Bruins stole themselves and found a way to win on the road. Halfway through the second half, Bashore made a diving save to deny a Southern forward who had broken through the defense. Less than two minutes later, senior winger **Will Epley** equalized on a scramble in the Southern penalty area. With five minutes remaining, Epley found Banwell with a long clearance, and the sophomore headed it on to Kelly, who beat the keeper to the ball and smashed in the winner.

Though they lost 4-1 against Severna Park on September 24, in a game they felt was far closer than the score suggested, that was followed by an emphatic 5-0 shutout of Arundel two nights later.

The three-game sequence, each providing its own challenges, has given the Bruins great cause for optimism as the season continues.

"I think Severna Park was actually a great step forward for us, despite the result not going the way we wanted," said Tetterer. "That was the closest to a consistent, complete-game effort that we've had all season, and then against Arundel, we pretty much matched that. If we can keep that level up, we're going to see a lot of improvement by the end of the season."

Bruins Football Players Pick Up Where They Left Off

By David Bashore

If not for the sea of new faces, especially on defense, one might mistake the 2024 Broadneck football team for the 2023 squad that reached the 4A state championship game.

With the team picking up almost right where they left off in December, though, this might be a new and improved Bruins squad.

As they close September, the Bruins are 4-0 and sitting pretty in the 4A East region race, having won all four of their contests in very different ways — but with familiar hallmarks of recent teams.

There was the 28-13 season-opening win over St. Mary's, in which the Bruins shut their guests out in the second half but had trouble scoring until a blown-up punt sequence and a **Tyrin Chinn-Thompson** pick-six on successive defensive plays provided the much-needed separation.

Chinn-Thompson attributed the interception to film study, through which he was able to diagnose the play, beat the receiver to where the ball was going to be, and cruise into the end zone.

"It was like a book. Film study was the difference," said Chinn-Thompson, a defensive captain. "We've really been paying attention in the film room, because every little thing matters with a new defense (unit)."

Then there was the track-meet against Arundel, where there was no breathing space until the final play of a 35-31 win, made possible by senior quarterback **C.J. Watkins'** arm (three passing touchdowns) and legs (the winning score with a minute to play), as well as a connection that gave senior running back **Ian Mauldin** a rushing and receiving score.



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Left: C.J. Watkins threw for three touchdowns and ran for the game-winning score with a minute left to help Broadneck beat Arundel on September 13. **Right:** Ian Mauldin had two touchdowns, one rushing and one receiving, against the Wildcats.

That was one part of an effort that has seen Mauldin score multiple times in every game so far, as the team uses him in diverse roles to keep opponents guessing.

"The game is a completely different experience," Mauldin said. "Sophomore year, I was a lot more physical, and last year was more speed. I've been trying to mix it both this season, and it's worked so far."

That was followed by a straightforward 49-21 win over Meade, and the Bruins wrapped up September with a 42-27 win over Glen Burnie that saw them concede the go-ahead score seconds into the fourth quarter, only to rip off three straight touchdowns to finally seize control.

The contributions have come from all over the place. On offense, it's not just Watkins and Mauldin, but the Bruins have mainstay receiver **Joey Smargissi** finding the end zone on a regular basis, as well as contributions from **Mari Hayes, Aaron Foote** and **Carson Pierce**, among others.

Defensively, led by Chinn-Thompson, there's also been improvement in the front seven and in the secondary, led by senior safeties **Michael Swick** and **Blake Levicki**.

"Our defense is fast. The nose guard is fast. All of us are fast," Chinn-Thompson said. "It's based on speed, so when we go against bigger guys, we know that we can outrun them even if they're a

little stronger."

So far, so good: Broadneck is the only team in the 4A East region to start the season 4-0, which gives the Bruins the inside track on the top seed for the regional playoffs, which start in November. Surviving in a variety of ways, against quality opponents, is something that will prove critical when a stream of teams built for November and December football come calling.

"We've played A Conference (season-openers) the last four years, for a reason," said Broadneck coach **Rob Harris**, before moving on to address the rest of his schedule. "Arundel's real good. ... We have to play teams like that to be ready for later in the season."

Former Bruins Football Head Coach Returns As Assistant

Jeff Herrick Was Head Coach For 22 Years

By Kevin Murnane

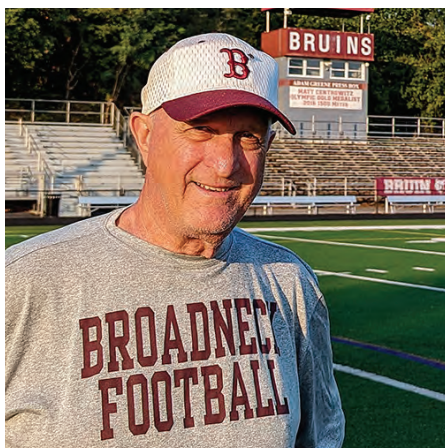
Broadneck went to the Class 4A high school football championship game last year and head football coach **Rob Harris** has visions of returning to the playoffs again this year. He has a nice blend of returning starters and young players coming up from the junior varsity squad to achieve that goal.

Over the summer, though, Harris had to fill an important coaching vacancy as he had an opening for a "seasoned" running backs coach.

Harris immediately thought of someone who exemplifies what qualities he wanted in a running backs coach: grit, knowledge and being prepared, as well as being a former college running back with "some knowledge" of Broadneck's football program.

Harris summoned his mentor and former Bruins head coach **Jeff Herrick** from the Eastern Shore. Herrick was still coaching at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin when he heard from Harris.

"We are so excited to have Jeff Herrick back on staff," Harris said. "Jeff has the second most football victories in Anne Arundel County history. He is



Jeff Herrick

Broadneck football."

Herrick was head football coach of the Bruins from 1989 to 2010. During that tenure, the Bruins went to the regional playoffs seven times, to the semifinals three times, and went to the finals in 2003, losing to Damascus, 13-7.

Herrick also coached the junior varsity football team for four years and was the head coach of the baseball team for six years.

In addition to coaching two sports, Herrick taught for 38 years in Broadneck's physical education department.

"It's great to be back at Broadneck, and

I also get to coach with my son, Thomas, who is the defensive back coach," Herrick said. "What is so gratifying on coming back is that I've coached many of the fathers who have sons on this team, and I've hired or coached with all of the current coaching staff."

Herrick is coming off of a 2A state championship at Stephen Decatur, where he coached the offensive line.

The coach began his collegiate football career at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) where he was a halfback on a top-20 ranked junior college team that featured another legendary Anne Arundel County high school football coach in the same backfield in **Chuck Markiewicz**.

"Chuck and I have been best friends since we were 8 years old," Herrick said. "Our teams had many hard-fought battles over the years, but after the games, it was all hugs."

After AACC, Herrick played at Towson State University (now Towson University) and played in the Division III national championship game in 1976. The Tigers lost a heartbreaking game to Saint John's of Minnesota on a last-second field goal, 31-28. Herrick was also an All-American punter at AACC and averaged 45.6 yards per punt.

Herrick credits numerous coaches for his long-standing success at Broadneck

including former Arundel coach Buddy Hepfer, former Meade coach Jerry Mears, and Markiewicz.

Harris is thrilled to tap into Herrick's encyclopedic knowledge of football and the county's high school football programs.

"I'm so glad to have him back to bounce ideas off of and get his perspective," Harris said. "Jeff is a film junkie and watches so much and can remember and recall so much information."

Harris was an assistant coach with Herrick for many years and both coaches said Broadneck's athletic success comes from Broadneck having most of their coaches teach at the school.

"Having coaches who are also teachers in the building is great for the players as they have communication with the coaches during the day about practice, as well as discuss issues outside of sports," Herrick said. "That develops a trusting bond during their four years at Broadneck."

As Herrick enters his 46th year of coaching high school football, he appreciates how special it is to teach and coach on the Broadneck peninsula.

As Harris reflected on what Herrick has meant to the community and high school, he stated, "Broadneck, Broadneck football, Jeff Herrick, our toughness and discipline is what this community is about."

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Severna Park's Sean Johnson Skyrockets Spalding To National Football Ranking

By Kevin Murnane



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Severna Park's Sean Johnson, a junior defensive back for Archbishop Spalding, is being recruited by many Big Ten and ACC universities. Johnson learned to love the game of football from coaches in Severna Park's Green Hornets organization.

"Coach Schmitt invited some of my Green Hornet teammates and I to a game against Mount Saint Joseph, and the atmosphere was great with the huge crowd, the band, and Spalding played with such intensity," he added.

As a freshman, Johnson made the var-

sity team as a 5-foot-9-inch, 140-pound defensive back. During the next three years, Johnson grew to a 6-foot-2-inch, 195-pound athlete.

That size and sideline-to-sideline speed caught the attention of many college recruiters. Currently, nine Division I football programs — including Oregon, South Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and many other colleges from the Big Ten and ACC — are in contact with Johnson to play for them.

University of Maryland representatives have kept steady communication with Johnson in hopes that he joins his seven Spalding teammates who are playing for or committed to the Terps.

Johnson recently visited Maryland to get a sense of a game-day atmosphere with four of his Spalding teammates.

"Coach (Tyronne) Forby took us up to College Park and they fed you and then coach (Mike) Locksley talked to all of us and knew how we played the night before, and congratulated us on the win," Johnson said. "We also got to stand at the 50-yard line and watch warm-ups, and the best part of the day was talking to our former teammates who are playing for the Terps. That was really cool."

As Johnson goes through the recruiting process, he realizes how lucky he is to have the chance to continue playing at a major football program.

"It's great to talk to the coaches from all these colleges and I'm so blessed to have these opportunities," Johnson said.

As he begins to gain exposure to these colleges, Johnson has a checklist of what he is looking for in a university.

"When I go to these campuses and speak to the coaches, I will look for how the coaches treat the players. Is there a

brotherhood among the players and (is there good) academics?" said Johnson, who wants to major in sports medicine at whatever school he attends.

Now in the middle of this season, Johnson is focusing on helping Spalding be one of the top teams in the country.

One of the trademarks of Spalding's recent football prowess has been a hard-hitting, athletic, ferocious gang-tackling defensive unit led by Forby, the team's defensive coordinator.

"Coach Forby is one of a kind," Johnson said. "He makes you better every day and knows what your capabilities are. He's really a good coach."

So far this year, Johnson has made his mark in these victories by having seven tackles against DeMatha, an interception and pass break-up against New York's Archbishop Stepinac, and a touch-down-saving tackle against McDonogh.

"Sean has a high-level skill set," Forby said. "He knows every position in the defensive backfield. He's tall and physical and just a really smart football player."

Spalding's goal this year is to capture their third consecutive Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) A Conference championship.

Johnson and his teammates want to play their best football in November and add another title for the Cavaliers' football program. Johnson will then wait until spring to take recruiting trips and decide what college fits his criteria the most.

"Sean will be a great addition to any college's defensive backfield," Schmitt said. "I can see Sean as a boundary cornerback at the next level as he is great at stopping the run and his height will help cover tall receivers."

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Falcon Football Feels Close To Breakthrough

By David Bashore

Never mind the Severna Park football team's record. Such is the team's improvement from year over year; it could just as easily be 3-1 as 1-3.

It's the fine margins in the key moments that have eluded the Falcons thus far, but they sense that breakthrough is close.

Despite sitting two games under .500 and with Broadneck looming next, the Falcons are optimistic that things will come together before all is said and done. Part of that belief comes from the manner in which the defeats have come, rather than a series of one-sided defeats that have appeared in previous seasons: two of the three losses have come by one score, and the third was to a high-powered Annapolis team that scores points in bunches.

"I'd rather have a game that we lost just at the end where everyone plays their hearts out and it's just such a close game, rather than getting blown out every week," said Severna Park senior receiver **Joey Tramontana**. "I really like our guys this year. These boys know what they're going up against. They're prepared and it shows; they lay hard hits, they read offenses and defenses well, and it's just great to see how our team has changed from last year to this year.

"Newer classes, I think it really set a new tone. Now that it's settled in (for a second year with the current coaching staff), we know what to get done, and we know what's expected from us."

Tramontana and company helped Severna Park beat Glenelg 14-9 in the season opener, before dropping a heartbreaking 33-25 defeat to South River in a game where the last team to make a big play, in a game full of them, was destined to win.

The Falcons fell 49-33 at Annapolis on September 20, and then 28-21 to Chesapeake to close the month out.

Severna Park has remained committed to the run, but the bulk of the offense has come



Photo by David Bashore

Severna Park quarterback **Vince Nguyen** threw for 277 yards and two touchdowns in the Falcons' 33-25 loss to South River.

through a trio of receivers: Tramontana, senior receiver **Charlie Hartman**, who is in his first year playing on the football team, and junior slot receiver **Cole Cavanaugh**, who headed into the Chesapeake game atop the receiving charts for the entire county.

All of that makes life much easier for quarterback **Vince Nguyen**, who has demonstrated athleticism and growing pocket presence in his second year with the keys to the offense.

"It really helps spread out the defense on plays; when Cole makes a big catch, Chuck makes a big catch, or me, it opens up the offense to allow our running backs to make big plays," Tramontana said. "And it helps Vince trusting everyone in the offense to spread the ball around. It's kind of hectic because things are happening all over the place, but we try to stay in a good mind space so that we can keep making plays instead of overhyping and making mistakes."

With a defense that makes plays when needed and an offense capable of erupting once everything comes together, the Falcons sense there's a chance to string together a couple of wins and chase .500 by the time the playoffs roll around. That would give them a better opportunity to advance at least a game in the region playoffs, which would be another improvement over last year.

"We have a good county; every week we are going to see a team that's capable of winning a game in the playoffs, so we have to be ready for that every single week," said Severna Park head coach **Nick Marks**. "We have come a long way in our preparation and how we're playing. I see a different toughness in this team that we haven't seen before."

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Students and staff at St. John the Evangelist School learned about a big honor on September 23: St. John was named a National Blue Ribbon school for the second time and for the first time since 2008. The United States Department of Education's award program honors high-performing schools and those that are making great strides in closing achievement gaps. **Above Left:** St. John the Evangelist faculty and staff were joined by the Rev. Erik Arnold; St. John Principal Glenna Blessing; and Donna Hargens, superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, during the announcement. Altogether, 356 schools, including 10 from Maryland, earned the 2024 award. Of the 10 schools from Maryland, five were Catholic schools from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. St. Mary's in Annapolis was the only other public or private school from Anne Arundel County to be recognized. Photos by Judy Tacyn

Former SPHS Student With A Passion For Pickleball Invents Special Net



Taylor Jarvis and his father began funding their invention on a crowdfunding platform called Kickstarter in July with an initial goal of raising \$10,000. In August, they traveled to a factory in China to meet with the team manufacturing the net.

By Holly Brook

When 18-year-old Taylor Jarvis envisioned an innovative solution to a pickle of a problem, he began the methodical process of bringing it to life, much as he learned to do in his engineering courses at Severna Park High School (SPHS).

Jarvis explained that once he realized a portable pickleball net requires at least eight minutes to set up and lacks a premium feel, he set out to design a net that

was simple, innovative and quick, and the Shockwave Speed Net was born.

Jarvis, who attended SPHS before moving out of state, invented the Shockwave Speed Net in collaboration with his father. They began funding their invention on a crowdfunding platform called Kickstarter in July with an initial goal of raising \$10,000; they have already raised more than \$72,000 and have a patent pending.

The younger Jarvis described the game
» **Continued on page 40**

AACPS Superintendent Speaks To Greater Severna Park Council

Student test scores, teacher vacancies, middle school sports – those topics and others were covered by Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Superintendent Mark Bedell when he met with the Greater Severna Park Council via Zoom in September.

Bedell stressed a data-driven approach to prepare AACPS' 85,000 students for college and future careers. Here are some of the highlights from that discussion.

Test Scores

About 400 more students took AP exams during the last school year. The percentage of students scoring a three or higher has increased. In 2023-2024, the average score of students taking exams was 3.03, better than the previous year's average score of 2.92 and the 2.68 average from 2020-2021.

"We want more kids to have opportunities," Bedell said. "Yes, I care about a three or better, but I care more about kids having access, and what we saw by giving more access is that we've had a number of kids in this district who absolutely have the aptitude to do this work, but they weren't being given the opportunities because it was a gate-keeper model of who got invited in to take APs versus who didn't."

Since 2021, AP performance has gone up, with 61% of students in the school district scoring a three or better



AACPS
Superintendent
Mark Bedell

during the most recent cycle.

"I think sometimes people have concerns — are you lowering the top in order to bring the bottom up," Bedell said in regard to balancing the needs of low- and high-performing students. "The answer is no," he said. "The top is moving in our school district too."

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) scores have painted a different picture about student performance. English proficiency went from 52% to 53.9% in 2023-2024, and math scores also improved slightly but remained low, going from 25.8% to 27.6% over the last year. Science scores also dipped. Bedell said these trends are being experienced statewide.

"As a superintendent, I'm going to put the good, the bad and the ugly out because even with that decrease, we actually improved against the state when we look at the gap difference, which is probably a concern that we all should be having around these state assessments," Bedell said.

He questioned state assessments, citing experience from another

» **Continued on page 38**



FOLGER MCKINSEY ELEMENTARY



Each month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Mr. Meyer's class at Folger McKinsey Elementary School answered the question:

If your Halloween costume could come to life for one day, what would you choose to be?

I would choose to be a Navy Seal because when I grow up, I want to be one and that would show me what it's like.

Aidyn D.

I would choose to be Mbappé because I could play soccer for Real Madrid, and I would be rich.

Andrew D.

I would choose to be a super-secret chef that is super-fast at making gourmet food.

Blake M.

I would choose to be Ray Lewis because I have a Ray Lewis jersey.

Brooks R.

I would choose to be cotton candy. I would be cute, sweet and fluffy.

Brynn H.

I would choose to be "the rake" because it would go trick-or-treating for me.

Caleb M.

I would choose to be an inflatable dinosaur because I would be famous and get a world record for

having the oldest dinosaur.

Carter W.

I would choose to be a robot (with a cat to control it).

Clayton W.

I would choose to be a chicken nugget so people would chase me and I would probably be eaten.

Declan S.

I would choose to be Freddy Krueger.

Dylan J.

I would choose to be a horse so I can have a pet horse for a day because I love horses. I also might want it to be a Pegasus so I could fly home.

Ella S.

I would choose to be a baseball bat. It would be funny seeing a baseball bat running around.

Fareeda P.

I would choose to be a robot because it could get me stuff.

Jude E.

I would choose to be Hermione

Granger from "Harry Potter" because she gets to do magic or my dog because she sleeps all day!

Kensi D.

I would choose to be a vampire, but I would go to the grocery store for meat.

Lillian J.

I would choose to be my pony because she eats, sleeps, gets groomed and gets ridden.

Maddie M.

I would choose to be candy corn because I love candy and it would be a good decoration.

Mara K.

I would choose to be an Aussie (Australian shepherd — it's a type of dog).

Nadia C.

I would choose Ronaldo because I could get an autograph.

Nick G.

I would choose to be Cristiano Ronaldo because I want to meet him.

Porter M.

I would choose to be a witch because I could eat it.

Remi B.

I would choose to be a witch so that I could ride my broom all over and do magic.

Stella J.

I would choose to be a big friendly blow-up water dragon!

Trinity K.

I would choose to be Taylor Swift because I could keep her and she could sing for me. I could also be friends with her.

Vivienne M.



The Question of the Month is proudly sponsored by Just-in-Time Renovations
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Attention Student Artists: Our Cover Contest Is Underway

Want to have your art featured on the cover of a Severna Park Voice magazine? The cover of our 2025 Community Resource and Business Directory will feature artwork from a talented middle or high school student.

The Community Resource and Business Directory includes information about greater Severna Park and directory listings for local businesses. Inside the magazine, readers will also find stories about the history of our community and all the resources that make Severna Park special. When considering a concept for the cover, we ask that all student artists keep in mind what this area means to them.

The Rules

- Submit art on an 8.5-by-11-inch sheet
- The main composition must fit in 8.25-inch-wide by 6.25-inch-tall frame to accommodate the magazine's title
- The composition should be vertical
- Artwork cannot make use of any copyrighted material
- Art must be submitted in original format
- The cover art will become property of the Severna Park Voice

All submissions must be received by the Voice by December 9, 2024. Submissions must be the artist's original artwork. Do not fold the artwork. Include your name, grade and phone number. Send mail to this address: Severna Park Voice P.O. Box 608, Severna Park, MD 21146. Or drop off your work at the Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce (1 Holly Avenue in Severna Park).

Contact our office with any questions by calling 410-647-9400 or emailing spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.

AACPS Superintendent Speaks To GSPC

» Continued from page 37

district where his students performed above the national average on SATs but could not pass state assessments. Bedell also acknowledged there was a lot left to be desired with the curriculum, and although a new curriculum has been implemented, a learning curve was expected. The science and reading curriculum are being modified this year.

"I'm hoping that with these new curriculums, with a new instructional framework which we didn't have in this school district, that I think all of those things are going to help accelerate how our kids are performing."

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

As of September 4, AACPS' teacher vacancy rate was 67, down from 157 teacher vacancies a year ago and 300 vacancies in 2022. The 67 vacancies are lower than they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bedell said.

"We've had some of the lowest years, over the last two years, of people looking to leave the school district," Bedell said.

Additional food service workers are needed.

Administration Changes and New Assistant Principal Positions

Countywide, AACPS experienced many administration changes, with Severna Park High School and other schools getting new principals.

Bedell said he wanted to put the school district in the most optimal position. At least three administrators who were not happy with the decision to be moved are now grateful for the change, he said. The moves allow people to diversify their resumes, but he does not expect to make that many changes over one summer again.

"I think there was this mentality that you're

(the) next person up, so it's your turn, and it doesn't necessarily mean that you are the best person to actually move a particular school," Bedell said. "Sometimes, people have to get a new experience and perhaps come back in order to be able to see and understand how things need to change in a particular school. So we not only looked at data; we looked at schools that were in need. We had a number of principals who requested to be moved. We had a number of principals that, we said, 'If we keep the principal here, are we doing more harm to this principal by keeping them here than moving them into a better experience?'"

Middle School Sports

Sports programs for middle schools will launch this spring, with boys and girls soccer expected to be the first two additions.

Bedell compared the Anne Arundel County facilities to those for Kansas City Public Schools, where he previously served as superintendent, and he believes students here should feel fortunate.

"I'm very proud of what we have and the investment that you all make in our schools as a community," Bedell said. "It allows for us to make this an attractive place for people to want to work and, of course, for people to want their kids to attend."

A Sense Of Belonging

Bedell emphasized that AACPS wants students to grow socially, emotionally and academically.

"I don't care where you come from, who you are, how you show up," he said. "We have kids who come from conservative families, liberal families, moderate. We have kids who show up from all walks of this country and this world in our school district, and we have a responsibility to make sure that these kids feel that they belong."

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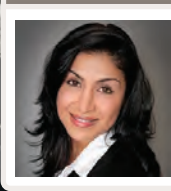
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SPHS Selects M&T Bank's Amy Clark As Business Partner Of The Year



Severna Park High School Signature site coordinator Annie Houghton (right) presented a plaque to Amy Clark, a volunteer and vice president-senior branch manager at M&T Bank, in September.

Broadneck High To Host College Fair

For 40 years, Broadneck High School has hosted a college fair for local students of all grade levels and their families. This year's event is set for October 17 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. More than

100 four-year colleges, community colleges and military institutions nationwide will be represented.

Broadneck High School is located at 1265 Green Holly Drive in Annapolis.

Each school year, Severna Park High School's Signature program (Business, Innovation and Leadership) recognizes one business partner from its Integrated Community Stakeholders Team (ICST) for that person's exceptional contributions to the school and its students. Amy Clark, vice president-senior branch manager at M&T Bank in Severna Park, is the recipient of the 2023-2024 award.

Clark joined the ICST in the fall of 2022 and has been impactful from the start. Over the past two years, she has volunteered her time at monthly meetings, served as a mock interviewer, assisted with the development of financial literacy advisory lessons for the entire student body, and has also shared her career experiences with students through "Pastries with Professionals." The purpose of this series is to inspire students to consider a career they wish to pursue and help them realize that they can accomplish whatever dream they have.

"When participating in the mock interviews for the junior class, I enjoy listening to the array of interests each student has and the amount of involvement they add to the community, participating in activities, sports and volunteering," Clark said. "M&T provides 40

volunteer hours a year to employees because they understand how important it is to be an active part of the community in which we live and work."

Her contributions do not stop there. She also took the time to come in and present "Banking Basics" lessons to the students enrolled in the school's Financial Algebra: Daily Living and Financial Algebra: Life and Business Planning classes.

"We value our business partners and volunteers greatly at Severna Park High School," said Annie Houghton, Signature site facilitator. "Mrs. Clark has been a tremendous addition to our team and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her. She is positive and inspiring, and I love that she provides practical advice to our students and keeps us up to date with current industry trends."

The partnership has been equally rewarding for students and Clark.

"I enjoy working closely with the members of the community and the schools, fostering relationships," Clark said. "These students are our future leaders and rely on us as partners to cultivate, empower and support them. And I learn from them as well. They help me strengthen my skills so I can be a better leader and mentor for the future."

Student With A Passion For Pickleball Invents Special Net

» Continued from page 37

of pickleball as exciting, fun and quick to learn. During COVID, he and his family played the game frequently. When local courts began requiring players to bring their own temporary nets, he saw an opportunity.

"This is when we decided it was time to develop a better solution, and that's when we began experimenting with the theory behind Shockwave's extendable frame," he said.

Jarvis and his father created scale mock-ups of the net using pins, cardboard and popsicle sticks. Their first prototype was built from recycled parts and tools in their garage.

Many revisions were required to assure just the right geometry while maintaining a strong and rigid design, Jarvis stated.

He and his father overcame obstacles along the way with creativity and flexibility. Instead of paying thousands of dollars to create factory molds, Jarvis created his own molds at home using a resin printer and a basic injection molding machine he made himself from a drill press.

The first mold took six hours to create and could make only one injected part every 10 minutes.

"Now that we have our finalized design, we no longer use homemade injection molded parts as we are opening up molds in the factory using the Kickstarter money," Jarvis said.

Jarvis and his father traveled to a China factory in August to meet with the team that will manufacture the net.

"In China, we made all the finalizations to the net including switching to a galvanized steel, putting in a cord for the top tape, and modifying the base to hold the net more stable," Jarvis said. "We also talked about packaging options and a powder coating procedure."

He credits a portion of his success to his family, his teachers, and his engineer-

ing and entrepreneurship classes at SPHS.

"My family has also been very supportive of my entrepreneurial spirit," Jarvis said. "Both my parents are very involved in the development and production of the Shockwave Speed Net."

"Without my dad's experience working with factories and developing outdoor products, or my mom's expertise in managing various business-related aspects of development, Shockwave would not be as successful as it's proving to be," Jarvis said. "Working together with my father has felt very natural as we understand each other's perspectives and complement each other's talents. My dad and I have grown a lot closer through brainstorming late into the night in our garage."

He also noted, "Without the resources at SPHS or my teachers, I would not be able to be doing what I am today."

Jarvis thanked SPHS teacher Heather Barnstead for "helping me to find my love for starting a business of my own, as well as teaching me the fundamentals of doing so." He also expressed his gratitude toward Kristen Ritz and Melanie Doucette, teachers who cheered him on and assisted him throughout the project.

Engineering classes taught Jarvis how to better model his own 3D parts, saving time and money on his project while in his entrepreneurship course, "I learned more about communication with factories and those around me, and above all else, how to keep organized while working on something of this scale."

The Shockwave Speed Net will retail at \$299, but it is available now at the pre-order price of \$225 through IndieGoGo. To find out more information about the Shockwave, go to www.indiegogo.com and search for "Shockwave."

Jarvis had a message of encouragement for young entrepreneurs: "Find something you love doing, find an opportunity or product idea in that area, and go for it!"

An advertisement for Haas & Sons Electric. The top left features the text "Lighting & Fixture Design and Installation" in a stylized font. The top right has the "HAAS & SONS ELECTRIC" logo. The central image is a cartoon illustration of a man in a blue uniform and cap holding a glowing lightbulb, standing in a modern living room with a sofa, armchair, and coffee table.

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Educator Of The Month

Julia Pensyl Anne Arundel County Literacy Council



By Zach Sparks

Severna Park resident Julia Pensyl has spent a lifetime supplying people with the tools to read.

During her 34 years as an educator, Pensyl helped students who had a variety of needs. She taught special education, served as a school-based resource teacher and held other roles, with 31 years of her career coming with Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

"The goal of special education is to level the playing field so students have the chance to feel success in a general education classroom," Pensyl said. "A lot of times in schools, students were acting out, but when you found out what their deficits were, you had a better understanding of why. So, I worked with school teams to provide support and accommodations to build opportunities for success."

After retiring from Anne Arundel County Public Schools in 2019, Pensyl missed providing those opportunities for success. Cue the Anne Arundel County Literacy Council (AACLC).

AACLC volunteer tutors teach basic reading, writing and vocabulary skills to adults and out-of-school youth.

Starting in 2020, Pensyl tutored one student with AACLC for two years. After the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked with another student twice a week for a year. Since November 2023, Pensyl has helped a student who has been making steady progress.

Jane Seiss, AACLC's executive director, said Pensyl is a great tutor because she adapts to each person.

"Julia is very kind and patient," Seiss said. "She has been an enthusiastic volunteer who personalizes her teaching based on each student's learning style and needs."

Being in special education, Pensyl had the benefit of training in the Wilson Reading System (third grade to adults) and Wilson Foundations (kin-

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

The Anne Arundel County Literacy Council is hosting a new tutor training session on October 19 from 8:30am to 3:00pm at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. To learn more, contact Jane Seiss at director@aaclc.org or visit www.icanread.org.

dergarten through second grade). She picked up "quite a few" tricks from her years of teaching and interventions. Here are a few examples:

"When you read a passage, you need to make a movie in your mind."

"I teach students that every syllable has to have at least one vowel sound. Vowels give words voice."

"I try to show them words are just chunks of sound. And once you break the chunks down, you can sound out any word. I try to take the mystery out of the English language because there are so many rules and variations."

Wilson encourages learners to work on glued sounds, which Pensyl described as word chunks or sounds that can be difficult to separate.

"I drill them on glued sounds, or welded sounds: ang-fang, ing-ring, ung-lung, ank-bank," Pensyl said.

"I teach them to flex when reading a word," Pensyl added. "If it doesn't make sense with a short vowel sound, try it with a long vowel sound."

For students who cannot hear vowel sounds, she uses another method: the Lindamood-Bell vowel circle.

"You feel how the lips and jaw and tongue are moving when you sound out the vowel," she explained.

Those ideas come from three decades of experience in schools. Throughout that time, she never stopped problem-solving. As a first-grade teacher, she had a student with a hearing impairment.

"I wore an FM (frequency modulation) unit so everything we said went into her ears ... The kids sat in a circle and each child had a chance to say something to her in a microphone," Pensyl said. "So that made her feel like part of the class and like she could participate in class."

Now, she finds the same joy as a tutor with AACLC. She encourages others to apply.

"It is the greatest feeling to see someone make sense of a passage and gain confidence and feel proud of themselves," Pensyl said. "I feel like everyone deserves to feel that joy, and I give them credit for being brave enough to reach out and ask for help."

Read the full story at www.severnaparkvoice.com

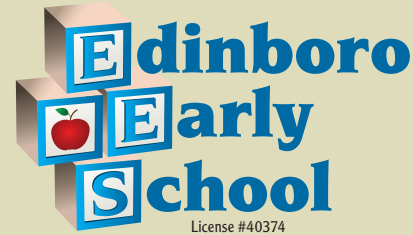
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Children's Theatre of Annapolis Poses A Question About Eternity With "Tuck Everlasting: The Musical"

Photo by Wendy Hickok Photography
"Tuck Everlasting: The Musical" includes Justin Porath as Miles Tuck, Ford Warner as Angus Tuck, Madelyn Luebbers as Mae Tuck and Cole German as Jesse Tuck.



Children's Theatre of Annapolis (CTA) will present "Tuck Everlasting: The Musical" from October 18 through November 3.

What would you do if you had all eternity? Eleven-year-old Winnie Foster yearns for a life of adventure beyond her white picket fence, but not until she becomes unexpectedly entwined with the Tuck family does she get more than she could have imagined. When Winnie learns of the magic behind the Tucks' unending youth, she must fight to protect their secret from those who would do anything for a chance at eternal life. As her adventure unfolds, Winnie faces an extraordinary choice: return to her life or continue with the Tucks on their infinite journey.

The family-friendly production is not only designed to be an entertaining experience but is also an opportunity to support and celebrate the performing arts within the Anne Arundel County community.

"CTA is a second home for me. I have

been involved with this incredible organization for over 10 years!" said "Tuck Everlasting" director Ally Tierney. "I am thrilled to be directing this gorgeous show and grateful to work

with such a talented cast and dedicated team."

Showtimes are 7:00pm on Fridays, 11:00am and 4:00pm on Saturdays (no show October 19 at 11:00am), and

2:00pm on Sundays.

Children's Theatre of Annapolis is located at 1661 Bay Head Road in Annapolis. For more information, visit www.childrenstheatreofannapolis.org.

"I am thrilled to be directing this gorgeous show and grateful to work with such a talented cast and dedicated team." — ALLY TIERNEY, DIRECTOR, "TUCK EVERLASTING"

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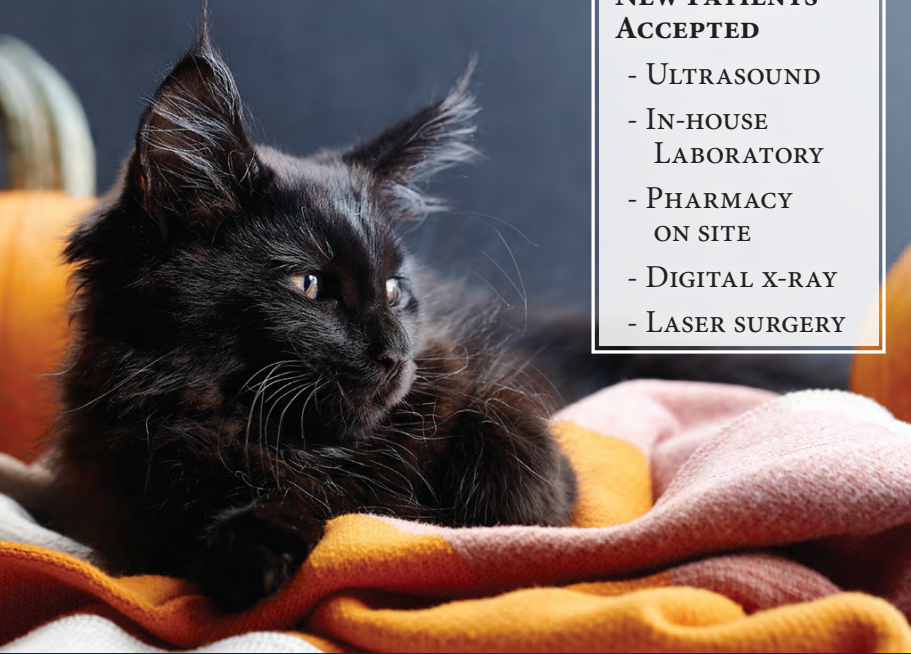


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St. Martin's- In-The-Field Episcopal School Appoints Interim Head Of School

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School has appointed Kathleen Mahar as interim head of school. Mahar brings nearly three decades of independent school teaching and administrative experience to the role, having served most recently as principal and then president of Archbishop Spalding High School (2003-2022). Mahar has been a friend and advisor to St. Martin's for almost five years as a board member (2019-2022 and 2023-2024), so she has unique insight into the school.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Kathy lead our school through this transition to a new permanent head of school," said trustee Tonya Hill. "The depth and breadth of her experience, along with her understanding of our local market, will benefit our students, families, faculty and staff in many ways. Episcopal education promotes community life, spiritual development, service



**Kathleen
Mahar**

and respect for all people, and Kathy has embodied those values throughout her career."

Mahar shared, "I am excited to work with the St. Martin's-in-the-Field community. During my years at Archbishop Spalding High School, I enjoyed getting to know so many St. Martin's students and their families. I saw firsthand how well the St. Martin's faculty and staff prepared these young people both academically and spiritually. I feel blessed to partner with the St. Martin's faculty, staff, students and their families, and the board of trustees to further the school's mission."

An outreach of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church, St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School is an Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools (AIMS)-accredited school in Severna Park that serves approximately 235 students from preschool through eighth grade. The school seeks to inspire in students a love of inquiry, a sustaining faith, and a generous spirit open to ideas, peoples of the world, and a call to service. The students discover who they are as learners, leaders and friends. St. Martin's aspires to create a welcoming community that encourages each student to grow in confidence, compassion and character.

"Our teachers and staff are looking forward to the wisdom and experience that Kathy will bring as interim head of school," said Heather Bosanko, associate head of school. "Her admiration and love for our school are apparent, and we welcome her strategic direction as we build on the strengths of our program."

To learn more about St. Martin's Episcopal School, visit www.stmartinsmd.org.



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How Much Caffeine Is Too Much In One Day?

Waseem Hussain

Luminis Health



Whether it's coffee to start the day, a cold soda to revive the afternoon, or a beloved pumpkin spice latte to embrace the season, caffeine is a popular pick-me-up for many people. However, while these caffeinated drinks can provide a much-needed boost, excessive consumption can have negative effects on your health. In rare instances, it can even be fatal. That's why it's important to know the facts.

What is caffeine?

Caffeine is a naturally occurring stimulant that affects your central nervous system, helping you feel more awake and alert. It's found in coffee beans, tea leaves, kola nuts, yerba mate, guarana berry and cacao beans.

What is a safe limit for caffeine?

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), most healthy adults can consume 400 milligrams (mg) of caffeine a day without any dangerous effects. If you are pregnant, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists suggests keeping your caffeine intake below 200 milligrams a day.

Caffeine levels in beverages vary, making it easy to overconsume. Here are typical ranges:

- An 8-ounce cup of coffee: 80 to 100 mg
- An 8-ounce cup of green or black tea: 30 to 50 mg
- A 12-ounce can of caffeinated soda: 30 to 46 mg
- An 8-ounce energy drink: 40 to 300 mg.

Include all sources of caffeine in your total intake, such as chocolate, baked goods and some medications. Even decaffeinated drinks may have 2 to 15 milligrams of caffeine. Check package labels for caffeine content.



COFFEE

80-100 mg
caffeine (8oz)



BLACK/GREEN TEA

30-50 mg
caffeine (8oz)



SODA

30-46 mg
caffeine (12oz)



ENERGY DRINK

40-300 mg
caffeine (8oz)

What are some side effects of too much caffeine?

- Too much caffeine can cause:
- Agitation or irritability
- Fast heart rate
- Feeling anxious or restless
- Increased urination, leading to dehydration
- Insomnia
- Muscle twitches
- Nausea or upset stomach

Can you overdose on caffeine?

Consuming around 1,200 milligrams of caffeine at once can cause toxic effects, according to the FDA. While rare, it is possible to overdose on caffeine, which can lead to death. Severe side effects include:

- Cardiac arrest
- Disorientation
- Hallucinations
- Irregular heartbeat
- Muscle breakdown
- Seizures

Overdose risk increases with dietary liquid or powdered caffeine supplements, which often contain high concentrations.

Why should you space out your caffeine intake?

Caffeine takes 45 to 60 minutes to kick in, and its effects last three to five hours. Consuming too much caffeine at once or too close together can lead to dangerous side effects. Limit intake to 400 milligrams a day and space out consumption to reduce risk. Avoid caffeine at least six hours before bedtime to prevent sleep disruption.

Who should avoid caffeine?

Some medical conditions increase the risk of caffeine side effects. Consult your doctor if you have cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, severe anxiety, peptic ulcer disease or GERD, liver or kidney disease or seizures.

What's the bottom line?

People experience caffeine differently. If you have side effects, see the specialist team at Luminis Health to understand your sensitivity to caffeine.

Waseem Hussain, MD, is a primary care physician at Luminis Health with expertise in family medicine, including neurologic, pulmonary and cardiac diseases, as well as diabetes and gynecologic care.

Menopause Awareness Month

Katie Herman

Owner, Odenton Acupuncture



October is upon us, which means it's time to break out the fall sweaters, grab some pumpkin spice, and prepare for the changing seasons. Did you know that October also marks World Menopause Month?

This is the perfect time to spotlight the myriad facts and myths about this transitional time in a woman's life. Nearly half the population will experience the physical, mental and emotional shift that this phase of life brings, yet misconceptions and stigmas surrounding menopause persist.

Instead of dreading this new phase of life, we can (and should) empower women to embrace this season of change through education about available options and resources.

Let's discuss some of the most common myths about perimenopause and menopause.

MYTH 1: Menopause doesn't happen until you're "old."

The average age of menopause in the U.S. is 51 years old. A woman is considered to be fully in menopause once she experiences 12 months without a menstrual cycle. Perimenopause, however, often begins around age 45 and lasts an average of seven years. This is the beginning of the decline of estrogen production in the body and when symptoms usually begin to appear.

MYTH 2: Menopause is a time to dread.

This should not be the case! It is true that without proper support, some women struggle; however, those who have an increased awareness of what is physiologically happening tend to struggle less. This is the first step in achieving successful support.

MYTH 3: Hot flashes are the main symptom of menopause.

While it is true that hot flashes have the reputation of being the hallmark of menopause, many other symptoms can also appear. During perimenopause, women can experience worsening PMS, longer or shorter cycles, insomnia, increased anxiety and mood swings. These symptoms are linked to declining estrogen, and those who are not attuned to this fact may become more anxious and confused as to what is happening to their bodies.

At the onset of menopause, hot flashes and night sweats often intensify. What may be surprising are the other symptoms that may also present as well. Brain fog and memory issues might not be expected symptoms, but they are commonly reported. Chronic urinary tract infections, urinary incontinence, lack of libido, joint pain, feelings of loss of self, irritability, heart palpitations, weight gain, extreme fatigue, and tinnitus may also occur.

The more education women have on how perimenopause and menopause can present, the faster they can treat the root issue, reducing the severity of those unexpected symptoms.

MYTH 4: There are few options for the treatment of these symptoms, and women should just push through.

Wrong. When we contextualize the fact that a woman might be in this transition for eight years, it's ridiculous to assume they should just suffer through it. Many women are supporting the launch of adult children, experiencing the height of their careers, and/or caring for aging parents during this phase of life. Balancing these demands with a changing physical and mental landscape can be overwhelming.

Hormone replacement therapy has gained popularity as a method for mitigating symptoms, but some women may be unsure about beginning this treatment or have health histories that prohibit their candidacy. A lesser known but effective treatment option is acupuncture and Chinese herbs. There is extensive research that supports the efficacy of acupuncture as a natural approach to balancing hormones. Acupuncturists often recommend diet and lifestyle changes that can accelerate progress.

MYTH 5: The physical, mental and emotional changes that occur during menopause are here to stay.

Not true! After a woman has gone 12 months without a cycle, her symptoms usually begin to diminish. At this time, many women report *increased* energy, and their hormones begin to level out. Research shows that many women are happier than ever in the years between 50 and 70, reporting freedom, energy, clarity, self-esteem and optimism as defining characteristics of this period.

Join us in celebrating World Menopause Month this October. Education about this changing season of life is the greatest empowerment!

The Menopause Clinic at Odenton Acupuncture focuses specifically on supporting women through this life transition using evidence-based, non-hormonal treatments. The clinic is located at 1202 Annapolis Road in Odenton. For more information, call 410-417-7711.

Toby's Adaptation Of "The Addams Family" Offers A New Take On A Spooky Story



Photo courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography

Experience theater in-the-round. "The Addams Family" is bringing the mysterious and kooky family to Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, now through November 10.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnarparkvoice.com

"Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly."

This kernel of wisdom from Morticia Addams explains her family's perspective, but when it comes to the Addams family, one perspective is universal: they're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky.

The macabre family has returned with "The Addams Family," a musical comedy that runs through November 10 at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia.

Created by Charles Addams, America's favorite oddball brood has appeared in several adaptations, from the black-and-white television show in 1964 to the 1973 animated series, 1991 theatrical film, 1992 cartoon, 2022 live-action Netflix spin-off, "Wednesday," and many more works in between.

But the musical comedy in-the-round at Toby's shows a different side of the family, one that is more human. Known for her pale skin, braided pigtails and love of death, the teenage Wednesday Addams falls in love with a boy who is "normal." This yearning transforms the once-grim girl into a slightly bubblier girlfriend who is struggling with these new emotions while begging her father, Gomez, to keep the secret from his wife, Morticia.

This version of Gomez, even more charming and boisterous

than the one in the 1991 film, expresses consternation of keeping such a secret from his beloved wife, a scenario that plays out as the family invites the "normal" boyfriend and his parents to dinner.

The Toby's show is filled with wit and timely zingers. Wednesday's love interest, Lucas, is from Ohio — a swing state — as Gomez notes, aghast. Toby's veteran Jordan Stocksdale showcases Gomez's Spanish accent and great comedic timing. When Wednesday dons a yellow dress, Gomez quips, "Paloma, what happened? You look like a crime scene!"

Following his role as Nos-tradamus in "Something Rotten," Stocksdale was named the 2024 Helen Hayes Winner for Outstanding Supporting Performer. He is not the only talented member of the cast. Whether playing the frustrated wife or the concerned mother, MaryKate Brouillet portrays Morticia with the perfect deadpan, never breaking character with a laugh. Still, she delivers plenty of humor. At the mention of "one thing everyone needs and so few have," she says, "health care?"

Like Stocksdale and Brouillet, Lydia Gifford has performed in several roles at Toby's. As Wednesday, she blends stubbornness with a compassion unique to the musical adaptation. Wednesday's younger brother, Pugsley, is afraid his sister will stop

torturing him because of her love interest. Elijah Doxtater and Colton Roberts are splitting time in the Toby's show, which presents the younger sibling as a funny and endearing character.

As Uncle Fester, Shawn Kettering helps the family live up to its reputation as kooky. He becomes infatuated with the moon, even professing his love during songs in the first and second acts. Adding another dash of humor is David James as Grandma, the unpredictable and off-color elder who has a feisty retort ready for any situation. As the family butler, Lurch, Adam Grabau rounds out the Addams family. He captures the non-verbal essence of the character, contributing to every conversation with a grunt or a moan.

A foil to the Addams family and their optimism is Lucas' skeptical father, Mal (Jeffrey Shankle). With a penchant for rhyming, Lucas' mother, Alice, has a rosier outlook for her son's relationship, and actress Anna Phillips-Brown offers a riveting vocal performance at the end of the first act. The hopeful Lucas is portrayed by Jackson Miller.

Dressed like ghosts, the Addams ancestors from various eras serve as the chorus for the show and add to the eerie scenery. Ancestors include Asia-Ligé Arnold, Jessica Barraclough, Brandon Bedore, » Continued on page 51

Top International A Cappella Group Creates Music in Severna Park

By Judy Tacyn

Residents in the Oak Hill neighborhood or anyone driving on Truck House Road on a Wednesday evening: slow down past the Severna Park Elks Lodge and listen to the bold harmonies of the Harbor City Music Company, a Sweet Adelines International chorus, rehearsing inside. Better yet, stop and visit with the more than 100 chorus members and experience the energetic theatrical performances inside.

Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers, established in 1945, with more than 23,000 vocalists worldwide. The Harbor City Music Company (HCMC) formed in 2002, a chorus created after the merger of Elkridge Chorus and Towson Valley Chorus, both of which formed around 1969. The new company ultimately settled in Severna Park as a midpoint for its Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Eastern Shore, and every-corner-of-Maryland-based members. Additionally, the Elks Lodge offers the chorus a place to store its cumbersome risers.

Micheal Gellert has been the director of this chorus for 32 years. He began singing at age 13, has been part of several successful barbershop quartets since 1968, and also spent nearly 30 years as a member of the Baltimore Opera Company. He joined the Sweet Adelines organization in 1993 as the director of the Elkridge Chorus, of which his wife was a member, after the director

left. The plan was to "keep the group together."

As director, Gellert develops show and competition programs, runs each rehearsal, serves as the creative visionary, and helps each vocalist grow in their proficiency.

To be invited to the Sweet Adelines international competition, a chorus must win its regional crown. In 2023 in Louisville, Kentucky, the Harbor City Music Company earned third place out of 600 international choruses. Now, the group has just a year and a half to prepare for the next international competition.

To start at the regional level, Gellert comes up with a program plan, which includes dynamic music but can also carry a story and include choreography, costumes and set imagery. Once in the international competition, the chorus must sing "competition songs" (of members' choosing) that fulfill the criteria established by the international directors. The semifinal round is two more competition songs. Choruses that make it to the top 10 finals must perform a show package, which is a 12- to 15-minute show and includes one competition song.

"We've got to put on a Broadway show while only practicing one day a week," Gellert said about the 18-month preparation time, which seems long but is a short time to prepare. "The chorus is motivated because they learn a lot of music and it isn't easy. We keep rehears-

» Continued on page 51



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Michael Gellert directs Harbor City Music Company rehearsals at the Severna Park Elks Lodge every Wednesday evening, and the public is invited to experience the a cappella magic.



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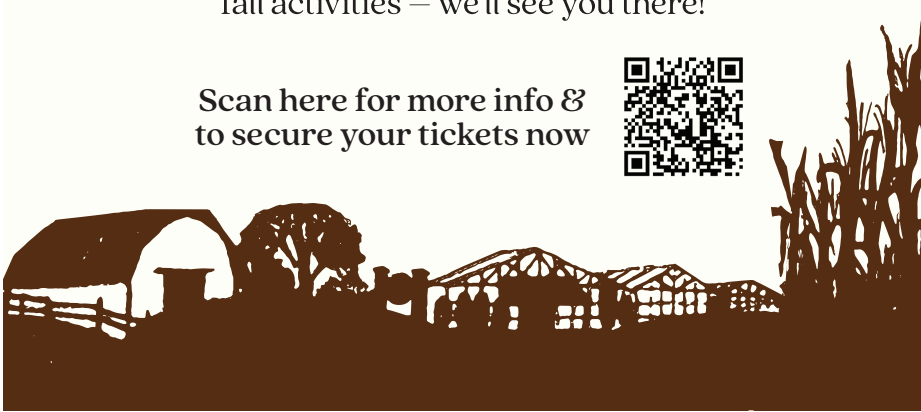
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Annapolis Symphony Orchestra's Season 63 Artistic Program Opens This Month, Runs Through April



Photo courtesy of Richard Brown

Annapolis Symphony Orchestra artistic director and conductor José-Luis Novo embarks on his 20th season with the orchestra as it presents its Season 63 Masterworks series beginning this month.

The Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (ASO), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, announced the launch of its 63rd season of producing an exciting series of Masterworks and Pops performances and a robust schedule of community concerts. Artistic director and conductor José-Luis Novo embarks on his 20th season with the orchestra by designing a distinct mix of classical and contemporary music, propelling the ASO to an unsurpassed level of artistic excellence.

"We are thrilled to unveil our Season 63 lineup, which promises to celebrate inclusivity, diversity and the enduring power of music to unite us," Novo said. "As we embark on this journey, we invite our community to join us in honoring the Year of Civil Rights in Maryland while embracing the spirit of belonging that lies at the heart of our shared humanity."

The Season 63 Masterworks series will captivate audiences with performances over five weekends from October through April. The program boasts a mix of classical and contemporary compositions, showcasing the timeless works of Beethoven, Mozart, Ravel, Bruckner, Shostakovich and others,

alongside contemporary composers like Tania León, Adolphus Hailstork and Leonard Bernstein.

Notable guest artists will amaze and delight audiences, including pianist Brian Ganz, violinist Netanel Draiblate, hornist Alex Kovling, violinist Noah Bendix-Balgley and the string quartet Dalí Quartet.

Season 63 will also include the world premiere of a new composition by Dr. Roydon Tse, co-commissioned by the ASO and the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music. This premiere represents maestro Novo's and the ASO's commitment to nurturing new talent.

The season will also feature Holiday Pops concerts at Maryland Hall and Severna Park High School and engaging school and family concerts at Maryland Hall.

Subscriptions offering discounts and individual tickets are available at www.annapolis-symphony.org. Students can get \$10 tickets by calling 410-263-0907. Discounts are also available for active duty and military service members, law enforcement and frontline workers. Tickets for Strathmore performances must be purchased on the Strathmore website.

SEASON 63 LINEUP

Masterworks I: Pasajes with Brian Ganz, pianist

- October 4 and 5, 7:30pm, Maryland Hall
- October 6, 3:00pm, Strathmore

Masterworks II: Connections with Alex Kovling, Horn

- November 1 and 2, 7:30pm, Maryland Hall

Holiday Pops Concert

- December 13, 7:30pm, Maryland Hall
- December 14, 3:00pm, Severna Park High School

Masterworks III: Pictures at an Exhibition

Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto No. 3 with Netanel Draiblate

- January 31 and February 1, 2025, 7:30pm, Maryland Hall
- February 2, 2025, 3:00pm, Strathmore

Masterworks IV: Serenade

Bernstein Serenade with Noah Bendix-Balgley, violin

- February 28 and March 1, 2025, 7:30pm, Maryland Hall
- March 2, 2025, 3:00pm, Strathmore

Masterworks V: Fiesta

Ravel Daphnis et Chloé World Première Co-commission by Roydon Tse with Dalí Quartet

- April 4 and 5, 2025, 7:30pm, Maryland Hall

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Fall And Halloween Events Abound This Month

The lazy, hazy days of summer have faded away, replaced with crisp air, transforming foliage and all things pumpkin spice. Autumn is a favorite season for many people, and it brings countless opportunities to celebrate with fall festivals, harvest happenings and Halloween.

This October, there are plenty of events around town for kids, adults and even four-legged friends to enjoy. From trick-or-treating to getting lost in mazes, costume contests to sampling fall fare and more, there's something for the whole family every weekend this month.

Homestead Gardens Fall Festival

Saturdays and Sundays through October 27, 10:00am-4:00pm

743 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville

Each weekend at Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, families can enjoy meeting barnyard animals, taking hayrides, picking out pumpkins, sampling seasonal food, escaping a hay maze, face painting, pony rides and more. Learn more and buy tickets at www.homesteadgardens.com.

Maryland Corn Maze

Select dates through November 3, hours vary
389 Gambrills Road, Gambrills

An annual tradition, the eight-acre corn maze boasts a Taylor Swift theme this year. Admission includes farmyard activities for kids, a petting zoo, photo opportunities, hayrides and more. Tickets and information can be found at www.mdcornmaze.com.

Children's Theatre of Annapolis Fall Festival

Friday, October 4, 5:30pm-9:30pm

1661 Bay Head Road, Annapolis

CTA's annual fall festival will celebrate the season with a family-friendly haunted house, face painting, arts and crafts, food trucks, local vendors, live music and more. Tickets are required and can be purchased at www.childrenstheatreofannapolis.org.

Anne Arundel County Sheriff 5K Fall Festival

Sunday, October 6

Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds

The Chesapeake K9 Fund and the Anne Arundel County sheriff will host their annual 5K and Fall Festival, a pet- and family-friendly event that will include a foot race, vendors, face painting, K9 demonstrations, food trucks, live music and more. To learn more and register for the 5K, go to www.chesapeakek9fund.org.

Stem-O-Ween at the Severna Park Library

Wednesday, October 16, 6:00pm-7:00pm

45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park

Kids ages 6-10 are invited to watch demonstrations of STEM alchemy that can be done at home. Messy clothes or costumes that can get dirty are encouraged. Children can concoct a potion under the watchful eyes of the Mad Alchemists. Registration is not required, and more information can be found at www.aacpl.net/events.

Fall Festival on Maryland Avenue

Sunday, October 20, 10:00am-5:00pm

Maryland Avenue, Annapolis

The Maryland Avenue and State Circle Association will host its annual fall festival in the heart of historic Annapolis, offering shopping, food trucks, music, entertainment, vendors and a Halloween pup parade. Learn more at www.mascma.com.

Hammond-Harwood House Pumpkin Walk

Friday, October 25, 4:00pm-6:00pm

19 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis

Situated at a historic museum in the heart of downtown Annapolis, this annual pumpkin walk will be a celebration of the season with games, crafts, snacks, storytelling, face painting and a costume parade around the mansion. Tickets are available at www.hammondharwoodhouse.org/events.

Naval Academy Halloween Concert

Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26, times vary

USNA Chapel, 121 Blake Road, Annapolis

The United States Naval Academy's annual Halloween concert blends music, lights, drama and dance to create an unforgettable production. The performance will showcase a variety of music genres and special effects in a concert celebrating the triumph of good over evil and All Saints' Day. Go to www.usna.edu/music for tickets and parking information.

Howl-O-Ween Paw-ty

Saturday, October 26, 10:00am-1:00pm

411 Maxwell Frye Road, Millersville

Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control will host this rain-or-shine event, offering families the chance to meet adoptable pets, participate in a safe trick-or-treat trail, view educational demonstrations and get raffle tickets to benefit animals.

Spook-Tacular Story-Time

Saturday, October 26, 11:00am-noon

Broadneck and Severna Park libraries

Kids can come in their Halloween best to enjoy not-so-scary stories, activities and a costume parade at the Severna Park Library (ages birth to 5) or the Broadneck Library (ages birth to 10). Learn more at www.aacpl.net/events.

Trunk Or Treat at St. John the Evangelist

Saturday, October 26, 10:00am-noon

689 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park

Families can enjoy a faith-based trick-or-treating experience and admire decorated car trunks at St. John the Evangelist. Kids can come dressed as their favorite saint or wear other family-friendly costumes, and not only load up on sweet treats but also partake in games, face painting, crafts, music and more. Learn more at www.stjohnsp.org/events.

Homestead Gardens Critter Crawl

Sunday, October 27, 2:00pm

743 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville

Furry, feathered and scaly friends alike are invited to participate in Homestead Gardens' Critter Crawl, a pet costume contest benefitting the Anne Arundel County SPCA. Winners will receive prizes and bragging rights as the most adorable or creative pets of the day. Registration is required in advance at www.homesteadgardens.com.

SPCC Halloween Spooktacular

Monday, October 28, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Severna Park Community Center

Free and open to all, this Halloween happening right in the heart of Severna Park will include trunk-or-treating, a Halloween movie, games, crafts, a spooky photo booth and more. Registration is not required, and more information can be found at www.spcommunitycenter.org/events.

Trick Or Treat At The Mall

Thursday, October 31, 4:00pm-7:00pm

Annapolis Mall

Kids can don their Halloween costumes and trick-or-treat in a safe, indoor environment at the mall. Before collecting candy, children can decorate treat bags at Discoveries: the Library at the Mall. Find out more at www.aacpl.net/events.

BTM To Perform "Napoli"

Ballet Theatre of Maryland (BTM) will present "Napoli" from October 25-27 at Maryland Hall. This sunny story ballet follows a plucky fisherman and his beloved Teresina as they brave a wicked sea demon to find their happy ending. With themes of faithfulness and love everlasting, "Napoli" is a family-friendly treat. It will open BTM's 2024-2025 mainstage season.

"While much of our programming includes productions with immediate name recognition — think 'Swan Lake' or 'The Nutcracker' — it's important to us to also

present classic works that are less frequently performed," said Nicole Kelsch, BTM's artistic director. "Such is the case with 'Napoli.' Although this ballet is a signature work by famed Danish choreographer August Bournonville, it is rarely produced in the United States. That's something we would like to change, and we are certain our audience members will enjoy the comedy, drama and beautiful dancing of this celebrated work."

Choreographed by Bournonville in 1842, "Napoli" is a gem of the romantic ballet tradition. When Bournonville

visited Naples, Italy, he was so taken by the coastal city's warmth and color that he was inspired to put it in a ballet. Combining Bournonville's love of the city with folkloric inspirations, "Napoli" includes scenes of rowdy fishermen, lithe water nymphs and a spirited tarantella.

Audiences will follow along as Teresina insists to her mother that she will marry the fisherman Gennaro over any wealthier suitor. Her mother gives her blessing, but then the young lovers are caught in a terrible storm. Gennaro survives the shipwreck, only to discover that a wicked sea demon has transformed Teresina into a naiad. He breaks the spell and the two return home,

which leads to a celebration in Naples.

Enjoy Ballet Theatre of Maryland's performances of "Napoli" on October 25 at 7:30pm, October 26 at 1:00pm and October 27 at 2:00pm. In-person tickets are on sale now with discounts for seniors, military, students and children. For virtual audiences, tickets are \$36 per household. To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.balletmaryland.org.

BTM cautions that www.balletmaryland.org and www.eventbrite.com are the only official websites for purchasing tickets to performances. Ballet Theatre of Maryland is not responsible for tickets purchased through unauthorized third parties.

AACCA Announces 2024-2025 Season

The Anne Arundel Community Concert Association (AACCA) has five performances planned for its 2024-2025 season.

First, the band Shenandoah Run will perform at Severna Park High School on October 6 at 3:00pm. Shenandoah Run showcases the spirited sounds of Americana, along with the occasional country or bluegrass tune, and delivers a rousing mix of music and styles. The members' vocal and instrumental savvy, coupled with a strong desire to keep folk music alive and fresh,

are key to the group's success.

The following concerts are also planned for the upcoming season:

- **November 16:** Forever Simon & Garfunkel, *venue to be announced*
- **January 6:** Charm City Junction at *Severna Park High School*
- **March 14:** Natural Woman, *venue to be announced*
- **April 5:** The Hall Sisters at *Severna Park High School*

All performances are at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted. For information about subscriptions or AACCA, visit www.aaccaconcerts.com.

Toby's "The Addams Family"

» Continued from page 46

Benjamin Champion, Rachel Cahoon, Carter Crosby, Joey Ellinghaus, Amanda Kaplan-Landstrom, Alexis Krey-Bedore and Ariel Messeca.

With plenty of family-friendly humor, inspired costumes and set design, wacky yet fun choreography, and strong vocal performances, "The Addams Family" is entertaining for all

audiences, whether they perceive it as normal or chaos.

"The Addams Family" runs through November 10. For ticket prices and showtimes, visit www.tobysdinnertheatre.com/box-office/tickets. Show tickets include a buffet inspired by "The Addams Family." Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 410-730-8311 or by using Ticketmaster.

A Cappella Group in Severna Park

» Continued from page 46

als spirited and energetic because we have a lot to accomplish, and everyone feels the excitement."

To keep pushing their performances to higher levels, the group must also keep their fundraising creative. Their costumes are created by costume designers, who are also chorus members. Their sets are designed and built by chorus members. All the elements of a performance outside of the actual singing require money and fundraising.

"Any way we can sing and make money, we will try it," Gellert added. "This is an amateur, creative and artistic organization with all of the same challenges of every other local theater."

Gellert said the chorus' goal is to win the international competition, but that's not the endgame. While striving to up the complexity of the show, the Harbor City Music Company is its own closest competitor.

"More than just winning, which I see as being a natural outgrowth of excellence that continues on, winning gives us more credentials, and it's an awful lot of fun to win," he explained. "These women can do anything. They have no limits. I am impressed and humbled every time I stand with them. Every day I am thankful for this group of strong women."

Stephanie Everett has been part of the Harbor City chorus for 11 years, and she recently stepped into a new role as team leader. She said the chorus members are ages 30 to 82, the elder member being a part of the chorus for 45 years.

"As team leader, one of my big things is to maintain the culture of love," Everett said. "We are a very positive and supportive group. This chorus is more than a singing group. We are a family. An extended family."

Lynne Javier has been part of the chorus for 14 years and cannot imagine a more supportive group of women. "We come from many different walks

of life, but when we get together, we have one goal of making music that is beautiful and moves people," she said.

The members' shared passion for singing a cappella makes them an even closer group. "When it's just voices, you have each other, and you really must be tuned into each other," Javier said. "Our level of artistry requires us to be locked into each other singing with our voices and bodies to create auditory and visual magic."

The performances are the payoffs of long rehearsals and the efforts of many tireless artists.

"It's an awful lot of work, but we have high aspirations," Gellert added. "Not just to eventually win international; we want to be known as the chorus that sets the bar, blazes the new trail, and build on our great reputation around the world."

The group performed at Severna Park High School in September and has many other shows and Christmas concerts planned.

Everett added that the group is preparing its "Harmony for the Holidays" program, to be held at the Severna Park Elks Lodge.

"We'd like to invite women 16 years and older to come sing with us for the holiday season," she said. "It's free, with no obligation. It's a great way to spread the joy of the season and get to experience some world-class a cappella singing."

The welcoming women's chorus rehearsals are always open to the public, whether guests want to sing along or simply enjoy world-class a cappella. Members rehearse year-round on Wednesdays at 7:00pm at the Elks Lodge; their doors are always open, and the public is free to drop in.

For more information on the Harbor City Music Company, performances, and joining or supporting the chorus, visit www.harborcitymusiccompany.org.

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Annapolis To Host Global Rhythm And Groove In November

Maryland's historic capital on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay will be the scenic home of the Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival held on weekends from November 1-10. The festival will treat residents and tourists to a lineup of musicians representing many countries and cultures. Some events require admission; many are free and family friendly. They are held at five sites in Eastport, a hip neighborhood in the maritime heart of Annapolis.

NOVEMBER 1-3

The Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival opens on **November 1** with international band Veronneau. Hear global jazz with a French twist at the Peerless Rens Club in Eastport. The group has built a devoted following since their 2011 debut album, "Joie De Vivre/Joy of Living." They have released three top-10 studio albums, two acclaimed live albums and additional singles, and they appear widely in North America and Europe. Shows are at 6:00pm and 8:00pm. Admission is \$25 until November 1 (when it becomes \$30).

Concerts and lectures blending history, culture and music have been a hit since the festival's inception. On **November 2**, the Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library will host a program led by percussionist and distinguished



Photos courtesy of Annapolis Jazz & Roots
Jazz pianist and composer Alfred Yun will perform on November 3 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

educator Fran Vielma. Titled "Afro-Diasporic Music Traditions in Jazz," the concert and lecture will explore the contributions of African cultures to the jazz music enjoyed today.

Alfred Yun is a Korean-American jazz pianist and composer whose music reflects influences ranging from jazz, hip hop and K-Pop to traditional Korean music. His trio will make their

Annapolis debut on **November 3** at 4:00pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Yun's music has been heard widely in South Korea and at many concerts and festivals in the mid-Atlantic. Titled "The Magic of Monk," his concert features music by legendary jazz pianist Thelonious Monk and Yun originals.

NOVEMBER 8-10

Weekend two will blast off on **November 8** with The JoGo Project, a WAMMIE Award-winning jazz and go-go band originating in Washington, D.C. They will perform at Peerless Rens Club in Eastport. Founded in 2014 by saxophonist Elijah Jamal Balbed, the band emerged from his performances with the legendary Chuck Brown, the godfather of go-go. Balbed created the band to merge the two quintessential D.C. musical styles he loves, creating an irresistible, innovative sound.

On **November 9** from 4:00pm-6:00pm, Annapolis Jazz & Roots will bring Rumba Club to Pip Moyer Recreation Center. The East Coast ensemble has performed, recorded and toured extensively with Latin greats such as Tito Puente and Monguito Santamaria.

The finale event takes place at 3:00pm on **November 10**. In honor of Veteran's Day, the varietal American jazz concert will pay tribute to the

men and women of the armed services. Maryland vocalist Sue Matthews will be featured with Theresa Sise & Sweet Tea. The relaxed, family friendly salute to veterans will take place at Eastport United Methodist Church. Matthews and Sise will perform individually and together with the Sweet Tea trio: pianist Darius Scott, bassist Mike Graham, Jr. and drummer Nick Costa.

FUNDING

Annapolis Jazz & Roots is an affiliate under the umbrella of the Annapolis Community Foundation. The festival is grateful for support from the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Arts Council, Anne Arundel County Public Library and Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation, Art in Public Places Commission, Wimsey Cove Framing & Fine Art Printing and in-kind contributors KSP Communications and Jazz Beyond Borders. "Good Neighbor" supporters for 2024 include Boatyard Bar & Grill, Capital Sup, Chick & Ruth's, Davis' Pub, Eastport Kitchen, K&B True Value, Nam's Pho and Old Fox Books.

Reservations are required for all events. Visit www.annapolisjazzandrootsfestival.com for information about artists, music and venues.

"The Substance" Is Poised To Become A Horror/Sci-Fi Classic

By Audrey Ruppert

Have you ever been on a yo-yo diet? Where you lose weight rapidly, then fall off the wagon and gain it all back, and sometimes more? If you have, you're not alone - statistically, the vast majority of diets fail.

I was no different — I spent years wrestling with my diet and health in general. Recently, however, I have stuck to a consistently healthy diet and exercise regime for the first time in my life and have sustained this for over three months. What changed? Really, it was my outlook and mental state rather than anything physical. I stopped trying to lose weight from a place of self-hatred, a place of despising my body.

"The Substance" was a timely watch in light of my recent journey. Some people have theorized that the purpose of horror is to undergo trauma-like responses and confront our greatest fears, experience our natural instincts of fight or flight, but in a safe environment where you can leave the situation if you need to. Never has that been truer than in watching "The Substance." I felt as if I was flung face-first into a wall and forced to confront my relationship with myself, my relationship with womanhood, and my relationship with aging all at once in the most gruesome manner possible.

I will only summarize the film at a high level, as the element of surprise is quite important for the viewer. Demi Moore plays Elizabeth, an aging actress and morning show exercise host who, upon turning 50, starts to experience serious ageism and misogyny in an industry well known for both practices. Hating herself and wishing for the past, she stumbles upon an illicit drug that will allow her to experience being young again in the form of an attractive rising starlet named Sue.

Sue and Elizabeth exist as two halves of a whole person, though only one can be conscious at a time. Slowly, the two sides begin to tear each other apart. It is the ultimate exploration of what can happen to a person, especially a woman, who exists in a place of self-hatred in regard to her own body. Perhaps if Elizabeth could have healed, as I have recently, and



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Film & Video
Demi Moore plays Elizabeth, an aging actress and morning show exercise host who, upon turning 50, starts to experience ageism and misogyny.

come to value herself in all her forms, this splitting of self would not have been so disastrous.

There's so much going on in "The Substance." It's about aging, it's about the male gaze, it's about being replaced by younger, bouncier cool girls. It's about the fickleness of adoration and fame. It's about stealing from your older self when you overly indulge as a younger person. It's about tradeoffs and irreversible consequences for decisions that are often made on a whim. It's about taking your past or future self for granted. When you're younger, you often lack stability and maturity, but you have your youth and take it as a given - and when you're older, you might take stability or maturity as a given, but no longer have beauty (and all the societal advantages beauty grants) on your side.

In terms of storytelling, "The Substance" is simple, almost allegorical and fantastical in nature. The universe has roots in reality but has departed from it and turned inward — it's a direct exploration of Elizabeth and Sue's inner turmoil, and we see the world through her distorted lens. Bold placards, enormous billboards, faceless crowds of older white men who control the television station.

The sound design, the colors, the body horror are

— and I truly must emphasize this — disgusting. So much of this film is about disgust toward the self, and that's played out to extremes. Do not eat before watching this film, and if you have a weak stomach, perhaps skip it altogether — though I'd encourage you to try and stick it out, because the messaging and the experience of this film can be equal parts horrifying and enlightening.

You really feel for Elizabeth, because I suspect that most women (and some men) experience this at some point in life. One day, you don't get the same looks that you used to, the kind attention and smiles that once came so easily. You are hit with the realization that growing old with grace isn't as easy as people make it out to be. There's temptation to cling to your youth as a slowly diminishing commodity, to inject too many fillers, because people just start to treat you badly, or even worse, act like you no longer exist.

It's not subtle at all, it's audacious and unapologetically in your face. I've never seen something done with such boldness. There were clearly deliberate (and again, unobvious) choices — naming the sleazy and sexist TV producer "Harvey." Casting the lead as Demi Moore, a woman who famously had her husband snatched away from her by a younger woman and has had her own journey with aging as an actress.

More subtle nods are included as well — allusions to "A Picture of Dorian Gray." Making Elizabeth an exercise guru, which feels like a nod to Jane Fonda — Jane filmed an entire Netflix series about navigating life as a woman who was once successful in the beauty industry but is now elderly and overlooked.

"The Substance" is a triumphant sophomore film from Coralie Fargeat — it won best screenplay at Cannes, and I suspect it will become a modern classic. My only criticism might be that the last 15 minutes were gratuitous and unnecessary (we got the point by then), but that is just my view.

Love it or hate it, you will never forget "The Substance." It has caused me to reflect on my relationship with my past, present and future self — and I know for a fact it is an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

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Chamber Update

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Midas of Annapolis

www.midas.com

Midas offers complete auto care for

» Continued on page 56

Alternative Investments: Collectibles

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



My wife recently inherited something special: a 1964 ½ Mustang convertible. First-year Mustangs are referred to as “½” because they were produced in the early part of 1964 and before the 1965 models were in production. Originally sold for just under \$3,000, some of those models currently sell for \$30,000 or higher. Not bad. But in 1964, a \$3,000 investment in an indexed market fund with growth reinvested would have resulted in far higher gains. That said, Mustangs are a lot more fun to own!

Many people view collectibles as part of their retirement strategy. If you have a particularly rare collectible and everything goes to plan, that could work for you. The owner of the one-of-one 1933 Saint-Gaudens double-eagle gold coin could get more than \$18 million when they sell it. However, such collectibles are, by definition, hard to come by, and in

many cases represent a considerable level of risk.

Collectability

Collectibles are collectible because people want them, which presents the first risk factor: What happens when interest in owning something dies down? Many people remember seeing collections of Hummel porcelain figurines when they visited their grandparents' house. Once worth hundreds of dollars apiece, as the generation that loved them passes away, these collectables and their value has been declining sharply. Similar fates have befallen other formerly valuable items such as baseball cards and Beanie Babies. Even classic cars are showing signs of a valuation slide as those who did not grow up with them show less interest in acquiring them.

Breakability

Another risk factor is condition. If I crash that Mustang, it will immediately be worth considerably less, with little chance of recovering its former value. Even scratching the paint or performing improper maintenance can cause a permanent, irreversible drop in value.

Stocks are not vulnerable to such degradation. You can't break them or cause one share of stock to be less valuable than other, identical shares. You don't have to protect them from damage to maintain their value.

Illiquidity

A considerable advantage of many more traditional investment products is their liquidity. If you need » Continued on page 58

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Physician Assistant Rachel Midwinter Joins Dockside Dermatology



By Lauren Cowin

Dockside Dermatology opened its doors in December of 2022 with a mission to offer timely access to patient-driven dermatological care.

The addition of physician assistant Rachel Midwinter this spring has allowed Dockside to further that goal.

“Rachel is a gem,” said Dr. Lesley Sutherland, co-owner of Dockside Dermatology, who knew from the get-go that she intended to seek and recruit the best possible providers in the field to expand their business. “I truly go to her when I need help sometimes. She's been a great addition.”

Midwinter is a Riva, Maryland, native who previously



Rachel Midwinter, PA-C

worked in dermatology in northern Virginia. Her return to central Maryland has afforded her the ability to live closer to family and friends and work in a community-focused environment.

“They were highly sought-after doctors here,” Midwinter said of Sutherland and co-owner Dr. Stephanie

Clements. “It's definitely been the best decision I've made in a long time.”

From Botox to biopsies, Midwinter provides a wide range of dermatological services. She explained that part of what drew her to this medical specialty was versatility, as well as the opportunity to educate her patients on what skincare regimen, treatment and products might work best for their individual needs.

“I definitely enjoy helping people feel confident,” Midwinter said.

When it comes to skincare, Midwinter advises that a lengthy routine often isn't necessary. If there's one product to never skip, it's sunscreen.

“You get so much sun exposure even just in the car, and that really adds up,” she said.

Dockside Dermatology prides itself on a culture of collaboration and ability to pro-

vide comprehensive services.

“I don't have to tell my patient to go somewhere else — I can pop them in our UV (ultraviolet) light box for a rash, or we can do laser treatment,” Midwinter explained.

With Clements, a Mohs surgeon, in-house, patients of Dockside Dermatology are often able to have skin cancer-removing surgery in the same office where they get their check-ups, a rarity in the medical world.

The ability for all providers at the practice to check in on their patients on surgery day is just another perk of having everything under one roof, Midwinter added.

“We understand patients are busy. I try to think of little ways to make someone's life easier, so I'll try to do as much as I can in one visit,” she said.

In less than two years since opening, Dockside Dermatology has doubled the number

of providers, subsequently increasing services and support staff to accommodate patients.

“We're on the trajectory for my vision,” Sutherland said of the practice's rapid growth, stressing that maintaining Dockside's high standard of patient care, including the possibility for same-day or next-day appointments, remains a top priority.

In recent weeks, Dockside has added a new Sciton laser to its repertoire. This technology expands Dockside's laser offerings to include broadband light (BBL) treatments, which improve the skin's color, and Halo, which targets texture.

“A lot of patients came in asking for it by name,” Sutherland said of Halo.

Dockside Dermatology is located in Millersville at 8601 Veterans Highway, Suite 201. For more information, call 410-934-5400, or visit www.dock-sidederm.com.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 55

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Park Hardware Supports Providence Center With Native Plant Sale



Park Hardware's fall plant sale drew more than 100 customers to the store, which sold over 700 pots of 40 species of native perennials like milkweed, bee balm, phlox and black-eyed Susans over the weekend of September 14-15. Native plants can be hard to find, so Severna Park residents were out in droves, as well as visitors from around Maryland.

Native gardening experts were on hand to answer questions and give advice, and signage on each plant identified the ecological benefits of the species. All the native plants were grown by Providence of Maryland, whose Arnold greenhouse complex employs adults with developmental disabilities.

Financial Focus: Vote For Solid Investment Strategies

Brian Conrad
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones



With the presidential election just a few weeks away, the public is naturally interested in not just the outcome but also what the results will mean for issues of national importance.

As a citizen, you likely share these concerns, but how about as an investor? After the votes are counted — or even before — should you make some moves in anticipation of possible changes in policy?

Let's look at the big picture first, through the lens of history. The financial markets have performed well — and at times, not so well — under Democratic and Republican presidents alike. And the same is true when both parties have controlled Congress.

While it might be an overstatement to say that decisions made in Washington have no effect on the markets, it's not always so easy to draw a direct line between what happens there and how the markets perform. For one thing, political candidates often make promises that are not fulfilled, or, if they are, have different results than intended.

Also, other institutions can have a significant impact on the markets. For example, the Federal Reserve, which controls short-term interest rates, can certainly affect many market sectors. And there will always be external events, such as foreign conflicts and even natural disasters, that can have short-term impacts on the investment world.

So, rather than making changes to your portfolio in anticipation of what might happen if certain candidates get elected, or even in response to actual policy changes, look to other factors to drive your investment decisions.

These factors should include the following:

Your goals – You probably have short- and long-term goals you'd like to achieve. For your short-term goals, such as a wedding, a down payment on a house or a long vacation, you may want to invest in instruments that provide stability of principal. For your long-term goals, most important of which may be a comfortable retirement, you'll need to own a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments.

Your risk tolerance – When you build and maintain your investment portfolio, you'll need to accommodate your individual risk tolerance. All investments carry some type of risk, but you need to be comfortable with the

overall risk level of your investments. **Your time horizon** – Where you are in life is an important consideration when investing. When you are young and just starting out in your career, you may be able to focus more on growth, as you have time to overcome the inevitable short-term market downturns. But as you near retirement, you may want to consolidate any gains you may have achieved, and lower your risk level, by moving your portfolio toward a somewhat more conservative approach. Even in retirement, though, you will need some growth potential to stay ahead of inflation.

Your needs for liquidity – As you invest, you'll need to maintain an adequate amount of cash and cash equivalents in your holdings. Without this liquidity, you might be forced to sell long-term investments in case you have unexpected expenses.

In any case, when it comes to investing, you may want to pay less attention to what names are on the ballot and instead "vote" for the longer-term strategies that reflect your needs and goals.

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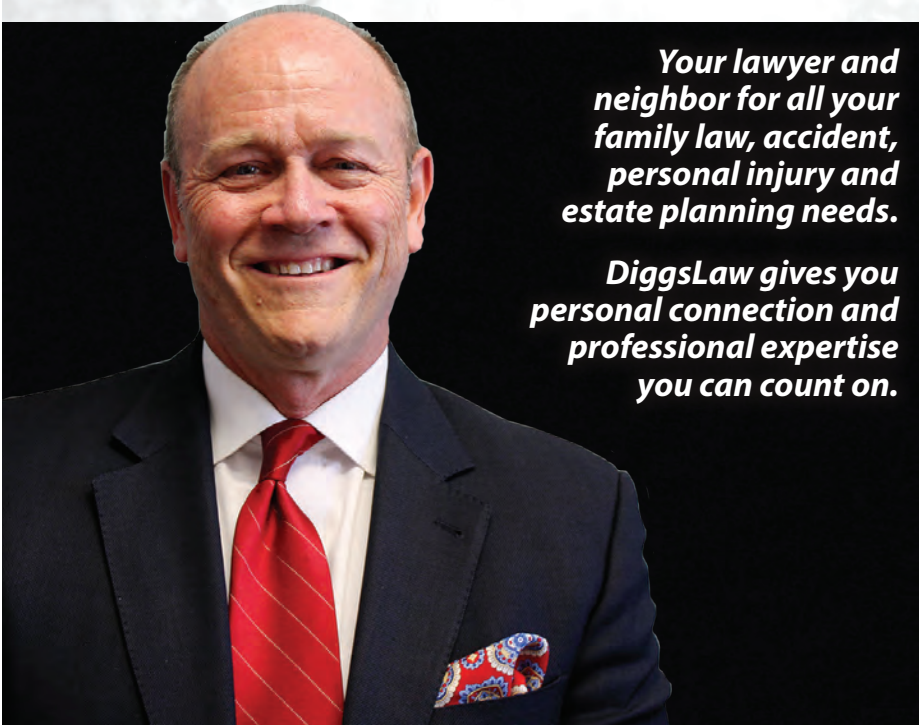


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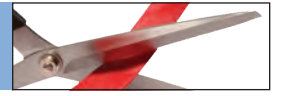
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RIBBON CUTTINGS



Health & Vitality Clinic Settles In Anne Arundel County

Photo courtesy of Braden Beck/Mila Film Studios

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce welcomed Health & Vitality Clinic to Crofton during an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 7. During the event, attendees met the business owner, Sissi Hernandez, a board-certified nurse practitioner with over a decade of experience in health care, and team member Sandy Greer. Their clinic specializes in Botox, weight loss and IV vitamin infusions.



Tranquility Woods Opens New Outpatient Treatment Center In Arnold

Located in Pasadena, Tranquility Woods addiction treatment center celebrated the grand opening of a new outpatient treatment center in Arnold with a ribbon cutting hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce in September. Tranquility Woods offers not only treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, but also care for mental health conditions. The new facility is located at 1460 Ritchie Highway, Suite 207.

Local Coast Brings Aquatic Apparel To The Heart Of Severna Park

A new apparel store, Local Coast, celebrated its grand opening with a Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber-sponsored ribbon cutting in mid-September. Local Coast offers men's, women's and children's clothing and accessories that echo "the call of the sea, the thrill of the hunt, and the adrenaline of catching the perfect wave." The veteran-owned business is located at 550B Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park.



Alternative Investments: Collectibles

» Continued from page 55

a cash infusion, you can sell your stock holdings virtually instantly. The same is not necessarily true of collectibles.

That rare gold coin may be worth nearly \$19 million, but if no one wants to buy it when you need to sell it, that value is largely meaningless. It's quite common for collectibles to sit on eBay or in consignment shops for months or even years, waiting for buyers who both want and can afford them.

Inheritability

Traditional investments can be passed down to your heirs with minimal fuss. If they inherit your IRA, there are clear procedures to follow regarding its dispensation. Converting that IRA into money is as easy as calling a financial professional.

If your heirs inherit your expansive action figure collection, things are much less simple. They may know nothing about your collection. They probably won't know the best resources to determine its value or the best options to liquidate it for what it's actually worth. In short, your valuable collection is likely to be a considerable headache for your heirs who have to figure out what to do with it.

All this is not to say that you shouldn't collect valuable things. I collect rare books myself because I enjoy them. But it's unwise to assume your collections

will be enough to fund your retirement. As with any retirement plan, a properly balanced portfolio that's tailored to your unique circumstances and risk tolerance is a more prudent approach to investing than assuming any one asset or asset class is all you need to secure a comfortable lifestyle in your golden years.

Risk Disclosure: Investing involves risk including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against loss in periods of declining values. Past performance does not guarantee future results. This material is for information purposes only and is not intended as an offer or solicitation with respect to the purchase or sale of any security. Our firm does not offer collectible investments or commodities.

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