

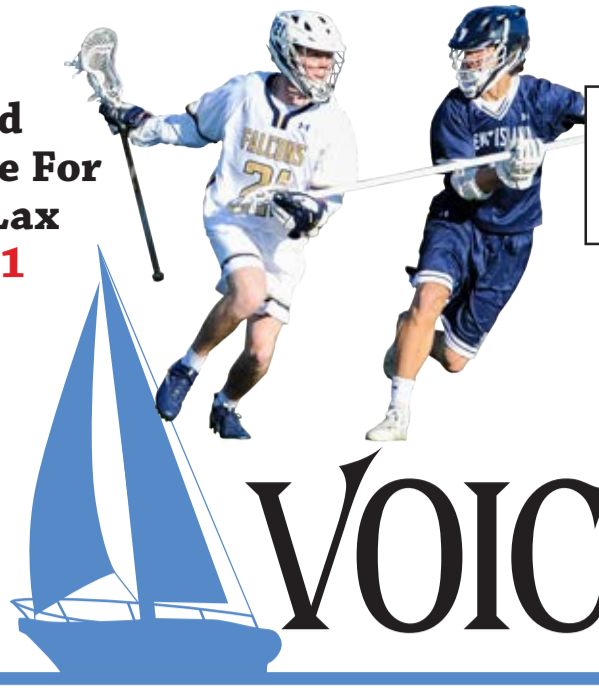


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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

SEVERNA PARK, MD

APRIL 3, 2019

A1

## The Winners For The 2019 “Best Of Severna Park” Are...



It took our staff several days to tally all the votes and come up with the list of winners for this year’s Best of Severna Park survey. To be eligible, each business must have a commercial address within Severna Park, Arnold or Millersville, and a nominee had to receive at least five votes to qualify. We had only a few categories that didn’t receive enough votes, and we are listing both the winner and the runner-up in each qualifying category. So without further ado... the envelope, please!  
» Continued on A12

## SPCC Gala Recognizes The Marstons For Lifetime Of Giving



By Zach Sparks  
zach@pasadenavoice.com

Growing up during the Great Depression, future husband and wife Lee and Sylvia Marston each learned two things: the value of a dollar and the importance of giving back. “A full man’s wage was \$1 a day and he worked from 7:00am to 5:30pm with a half-hour off for lunch,” said Lee, a preacher’s son who grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. “You gave 10 percent of your income to church and 5

percent you saved.” Sylvia, a native of North Carolina, doesn’t remember much about the Great Depression, but she does recall the sacrifices people made. “We were rationed on butter, rationed on gas,” Sylvia said. “We didn’t suffer.” Those childhoods offered glimpses into the struggles of their fellow humans, planting a seed of philanthropy for Lee and Sylvia Marston, who will be honored at this year’s annual Severna Park Community Center fundraising gala  
» Continued on A8

## Students, Parents Push For Culture Shift To End Severna Park’s Suicide Problem



Photo by Judy Tacyn

To show students they are valued, a grassroots group of parents organized an event they dubbed “One Severna Park” in early March, when hundreds of parents lined Benfield Road and Robinson Road with signs bearing messages of affirmation.

By Dylan Roche

Suicide High. It’s a disturbing nickname, but it’s how some students and parents have heard Severna Park High School described by their friends or acquaintances who live elsewhere in Anne Arundel County. It shouldn’t be surprising. Severna Park has seen nearly 20 suicides in

as many years, and according to a study by the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, there were 76 suicide attempts by youth ages 10-24 in Severna Park between the years of 2012 and 2016, a sidebar over the 60 attempts between 2008 and 2012.  
» Continued on A11

“How many people have to kill themselves for us to care?”

— PARKER CROSS  
SPHS JUNIOR

In response to Severna Park’s ongoing suicide problem, our team at the *Severna Park Voice* wants to stimulate a productive and supportive conversation. We know that this issue brings much sadness, anger, fear and frustration for many families. Our hope is that our coverage can help people overcome this pain and come together as a community in working toward finding a solution. If you feedback, input or further insight into this issue, please email [dylan@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:dylan@severnaparkvoice.com).

## Leaders Honored At Annual ASPIRE Awards



This year’s annual ASPIRE Leadership Dinner honored 12 community members for their dedication to improving Severna Park.

By Maya Pottiger

Severna Park leaders gathered at Chartwell Golf & Country Club for the annual ASPIRE Leadership Dinner on March 27. This year, seven community members were honored with Leadership Awards,

and three groups were honored with Heritage Awards. “The recipients of these awards often demonstrate leadership and a dedication to community service,” said Sandy Spadaro, president of the Association for Severna Park Improvement, Renewal and Enhancement (ASPIRE). “But what sets

these awards apart is that their efforts have noticeably improved Severna Park.”

### LEADERSHIP AWARDS

**ANN BRENNAN  
BURGERS & BANDS FOR  
SUICIDE PREVENTION**  
Ann Brennan is an Anne Arundel County

entrepreneur with a passion for ending suicide. Five years ago while in a fight to save her child’s life from depression, Brennan started raising funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Her family wanted to bring the fight into their community,  
» Continued on A6

## Chamber Of Commerce To Host Annual Shop Local Fun Fiesta

By Maya Pottiger

Get ready to party with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, as well as roughly 30 local businesses. The seventh annual Shop Local Fun Fiesta will be held at Park Plaza on Saturday, May 4, from 11:00am

to 3:00pm. “The idea is to get them in front of the community and raise their visibility,” said chamber CEO Liz League. “It’s just a fun four hours of bringing the community together to celebrate small businesses.” Some of the businesses in attendance include Park Tavern, Mathnasium,

Servpro, Bulldog Bikes & Floats, Severna Park Community Center, Mosquito Squad, Franklin’s Toys, Park Mom Fitness, Chick-fil-A, Lisa’s Cakepops, Honey Baked Ham and many more. “Every exhibitor is going to have something at their table, just ways to engage the people coming through,” League said. In addition to the exhibitors, there will be a variety of entertainment and demonstrations. Annapolis radio station WNAV will broadcast live from the Fun Fiesta.

The festivities also include a DJ, musical performances, bowling, fast-pitch, pedal cars, face painting and a



photo booth. Attendees can also look forward to K-9, karate and tai chi demonstrations. As part of the “fiesta” theme to honor Cinco de Mayo, Mexican restaurants will offer free samples of their food, and Mi Pueblo II

will have margarita samples. The four Gold sponsors of the event — SERVPRO, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, Repke Fitness and Kogen Dojo — each get to present a charity of their choosing with an oversized check.

“It’s a visible way to remind the community that our businesses are very philanthropic, and they support organizations in our community,” League said. Both Servpro and Jing Ying chose to do—  
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Margueritte Mills  
Volunteer  
Of The Month

## Jennie Merrill Is A "Hidden Force" In The Severna Park Community



Jennie Merrill received her Volunteer of the Month award from Voice staff reporter Maya Pottiger.

By Maya Pottiger

For the last 11 years, Jennie Merrill has been a staple of Severna Park Elementary School's variety show.

This year, the PTA volunteers running the show are entirely new.

"Jennie is my rock through this process of producing a large show with 150 kids for the first time," said Shannon Pearson, executive producer of the show this year. "Just knowing that she was on board again this year and excited to work with new producers meant the world to me."

Merrill — along with her "merry band of past students" — essentially serves as the entire tech crew for the variety show. She arranges the acts to help the flow of the show and has notes for each one: which stage lights need to be on, how many microphones, when and how far the curtain opens.

"You have to know the inside job of it," Merrill said. "It's all about organiz-

ing it and making sure it flows nicely."

Merrill has been with the variety show for 11 of its 13 years.

"Producing the show is a very daunting and time-consuming process, and knowing that she has everything under control backstage takes a load of stress off of my shoulders," Pearson said.

Merrill keeps coming back to the variety show because it provides students an outlet to be themselves.

"There's this opportunity where they can show there's another part of them that nobody knows about," Merrill said. "I want people to see it and be a part of it and enjoy it as much as I do."

However, Merrill is involved in much more than the variety show. At SPES, Merrill helps organize a variety of events, including Read Across America, the annual science fair, Math Night and STEM Night. Merrill is also responsible for coordinating with Severna Park High School student interns.

"I don't want to let things die," Merrill said. "I want [students] to get the whole experience."

Outside of school, Merrill is active with the Annapolis Striders and her son's travel baseball team. Over the years, Merrill and her mom have volunteered with a variety of the Striders' races. With her son's baseball team, Merrill serves as the scorekeeper.

"I don't volunteer or do things because I need [the recognition]," Merrill said. "I do it because I really want to help. If I see something that needs to be done, usually I jump in."

Merrill attributes this to her mom, who modeled this to Merrill as a child. Now, Merrill's mom calls her a "hidden force." Recently, the two teamed up for a volunteer effort: fixing the burst pipes under her grandfather's house.

"My mom and I were down there the whole month of February," Merrill said. "We started a GoFundMe, raised some money for him so he could replace his pipes and his hot water heater."

Merrill said volunteering is showing your heart to somebody else and giving them a part of you, letting you be a light in their life.

"Everybody needs to give something back in the world," Merrill said. "You don't hear about the good things as much, but if you can be a part of the good things, it's a better situation for everybody."

## Editor's Voice

Dylan Roche  
Editor



I would be lying if I said that this past month has been an easy one for Severna Park. Even though we're a newspaper that prides itself on covering the good news, it can often be hard to do that when we have a tragedy or loss that affects so much of the community.

Instead of turning a blind eye to "bad" news, our goal is to focus on unifying the community and help facilitate a conversation that can create change. We serve our readers by recognizing the good news and in these times, providing a forum to discuss issues as they arise in our community. Whether the issue is tragic or controversial, our mission is the same. We want to bring the community together and provide everyone with the information and insight we all need to preserve and make a positive change.

I'm not saying that the Severna Park Voice holds all the answers. Far from it, I'm afraid. But I know that we can serve as a center of conversation so that our community can move past this. Maybe — just maybe — if we are brave, compassionate, resilient and strong enough to keep this conversation going, we can find

a solution.

For those of you who are struggling, I urge you to reach out to someone. You can reach Anne Arundel County Crisis Response System's warmline by calling 410-768-5522, and there are other resources listed on page A11. If there's one thing I've learned from all the conversations I've had this month, it's that people really do care and help is available.

As we keep our sights set forward on solving this problem, I don't want us to lose sight of all the good that our community has. As always, our team at the Voice has spent the last month covering stories around town about volunteers, students, athletes, artists, business owners and many others who are working hard to make the world a better place. We have details on Easter events and other fun activities for the kids. And we have photos of some great moments that happened over the past month.

Remember, if you have news tips, suggestions or feedback on anything included in this edition, don't hesitate to reach out to me at [dylan@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:dylan@severnaparkvoice.com). I like to remember, especially at times when we're all hurting, that we as a community are united and in this together.

Until next time, Severna Park. Let's all take care of one another.

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# Severna Park Bids Farewell To Kenny Elgert



Severna Park lost a beloved icon in March with the passing of Kenny Elgert, commonly known around town as the No. 1 fan of the Severna Park High School Falcons. An alumnus of SPHS, an employee of Giant Food, and a Special Olympics bowler and softball player, Elgert was often seen around Severna Park High, where he was an ardent supporter of the sports teams and drama department, and at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, where he loved to be part of the annual carnival and Santa runs. Elgert will be inducted into the Severna Park High School Athletics Hall of Fame at halftime of the boys varsity lacrosse game against Annapolis on Friday, April 5. The game and ceremony are open to the public.



# Easter Bunny Is Hopping On The Trail

By Sharon Mager

As Easter draws near, kids and the young-at-heart will be on the lookout for the Easter Bunny. Families will find him popping up at Easter egg hunts, in malls and at parks, churches and community events.

Though his calendar is full, this is just a sampling of the many events the Easter Bunny plans to attend. How he can be in so many places at once is beyond us, but we're guessing it has something to do with magic.

He'll stop at **Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company** (161 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park) on **April 7** for lunch. Bring your camera and join the fun. For more details, visit [www.ehvfc.org](http://www.ehvfc.org).

The Easter Bunny will mingle with guests at **Kinder Farm Park** (1001 Kinder Farm Park Road in Millersville) during the annual Friends of Kinder Park-sponsored Easter egg hunt from 10:00am to noon on **April 8** at the Black Oak Pavilion. The cost is \$5 per participant. To register, visit [www.kinderfarmpark.org](http://www.kinderfarmpark.org).

**Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company** invites the community to enjoy lunch with the Easter Bunny at the fire hall, located at 4408 Mountain Road in Pasadena, from 11:00am to 2:00pm on **April 13**. The free event includes crafts, games, fire engine tours and fire safety demonstrations. For more information, visit [www.lsvfc.org](http://www.lsvfc.org).

On **April 14**, the "was-cally" rabbit is going to need extra energy. He'll be

at **Glory Days Grill** (7939 Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie) for a brunch with the Easter Bunny from 8:00am to 11:00am. Each child will receive a gift.

Later in the day, from noon to 3:00pm on **April 14**, there will be bunny sightings at **Homestead Gardens** (522 Richie Highway in Severna Park) in the greenhouse among the flowers. If you missed photos at brunch, this is a great opportunity. While you're at Homestead, you can also check out all the new spring merchandise. For more information about the Easter Bunny at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park and in Davidsonville, go to [www.homesteadgardens.com](http://www.homesteadgardens.com).

The **Severna Park Community Center** (SPCC), located at 623 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, is putting a different spin on an Easter egg hunt and visit with the Easter Bunny — it's adding a swim. The Easter Bunny will stop by the SPCC's Easter Splash from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on **April 19**. Kids can enjoy a swim in the therapy pool and then hunt for eggs. Tickets are \$8. For more information and to register, visit [www.spcommunitycenter.org](http://www.spcommunitycenter.org).

**Compass Pointe Golf Course** (9010 Fort Smallwood Road in Pasadena) will host its annual breakfast with the bunny starting at 9:30am on **April 14**. The cost is \$14 for adults, \$8 for kids ages 4 to 12, and free for those 3 and under. Enjoy traditional breakfast foods followed by an Easter egg hunt and a visit from the bunny himself. Visit [www.compasspointegolf.com](http://www.compasspointegolf.com) for details.



self. Visit [www.compasspointegolf.com](http://www.compasspointegolf.com) for details.

Don't forget, you can also drop in to see Peter Rabbit from 10:00am to 6:00pm through **April 19** at **Marley Station Mall** (7900 Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie). Kids of all ages can visit with the bunny and purchase photos.

Please note that details may change at each location and based on the weather. Those planning to attend should visit the website to confirm details.

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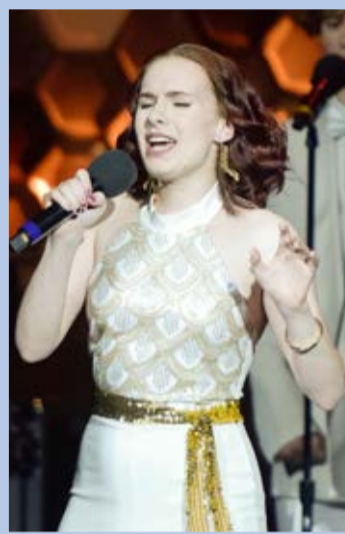


# 30th Rock 'N' Roll Revival Brings Out The Biggest Stars



Photos by Stephanie Mennell Photography

For Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXX in early March, Severna Park High School opted to choose artists inducted into the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame. Among the musical giants were Bon Jovi, Elton John, Cream, Blondie, The Supremes, Queen and many more. To see more photos from the hit show, visit our photo gallery at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).



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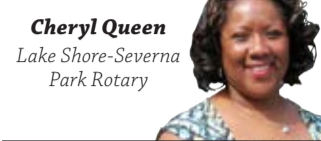
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## Rotary Introduces Special Fishing Derby



**Cheryl Queen**  
Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary

Remember when kids made simple fishing rods out of tree limbs and walked to the nearest creek, sat down on the bank and tried to catch fish? Those days were fun and exciting, especially when you caught a fish with your makeshift rod. Pasadena has many nice streams, making fishing popular sport for all types of kids.

On June 8 from 7:30am to 11:30am at Downs Park, the Pasadena Sportfishing Group is collaborating with the Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary Club to hold a fishing derby for children with special needs. Both organizations want to take advantage of the beautiful setting at the Downs Park pier and bring a fishing event to those kids, ages 4 through 16. Parents and friends will enjoy the summer weather and do something their special needs child may not have done before: fish!

Volunteers will assist kids with getting worms on their hooks and share tips on how to cast and pull in the fish. The Pasadena Sportfishing Group will stock the waters around the pier with fish in advance. The goal of the event is for the special needs children to enjoy the experience and maybe catch a fish!

Read the full story at [www.severneparkvoice.com](http://www.severneparkvoice.com).

## Severna Park And Arnold Leaders Honored At Annual ASPIRE Awards

» **Continued from A1** which has a high suicide rate. In 2017, Brennan created Burgers and Bands for Suicide Prevention and has since raised more than \$60,000 for the AFSP and mental health programs in local schools. Brennan was nominated by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce.

### **RANDY BRUNS** MAGOTHY RIVER ASSOCIATION

Randy Bruns volunteered to oversee the stormwater committee for the Magothy River Association to monitor construction sites for stormwater protective compliance. A detailed approach was adopted using the county website to research new grading permits, and an Excel spreadsheet was created to keep track of findings. Under Bruns' leadership, the stormwater committee has grown substantially since those early days, including the addition and invaluable support of John Peacock, former chief of inspections.

### **LINDA CURRY** GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL

Linda Curry heads the GSPC Airport Noise Committee. As a member of the BWI Roundtable, she has been working to get the Federal Aviation Administration, airport and airlines to understand the destructive effect of the FAA's NextGen program, which has produced an increase in noise and residue in Severna Park. During construction of the new high school, Curry also successfully led the effort

to require AACPS to place an 8-foot fence between her community and the high school property, and to replace trees removed during the construction process.

### **ALDEN GROSS** SEVERNA PARK KIWANIS

Alden Gross has been in the Kiwanis family for more than 20 years. He is currently the treasurer for the Severna Park club, and has served as treasurer in other Kiwanis clubs, Circle K and the Key Club since 1996. Gross' favorite part of Kiwanis is the work of the service projects, because he gets to interact with local residents. He helps to organize park and stream clean-ups, apple sales and project Linus blanket making.

### **DIANA PECHOUS** PARTNERS IN CARE

Since joining PIC in 2017, Pechous has offered her time and talents to support Member Care Services. She contributes a keen ability to listen, empathize and to problem-solve, identifying critical resources that support the quality of life and independence of older adults in the PIC community, bringing patience, organization and a desire to be helpful. Since 2009, Pechous has served as a Stephen Minister at Harundale Presbyterian Church. She plays a key role in planning continuing education, delivers one-on-one Christian care and serves on the outreach committee.

### **BOB ROYER** BERRYWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Since 1979, Bob Royer has remained an active volunteer and advocate for the greater Severna Park and Berrywood communities. He has served on countless neighborhood boards and committees, and recently helped to write a successful grant that earned Berrywood almost \$1 million in state and county money to restore Cattail Creek. Royer remains a volunteer for Cattail Caucus, Woods Church, the Severna Park Community Center and the Magothy River Association. He has testified before the Board of Appeals, helping to protect the larger community from overdevelopment.

### **CELINE WACHTER** SEVERNA PARK ELKS LODGE 2482

Celine Wachter has been a member of the Severna Park Elks Lodge 2482 for seven years. She served the Elks Lodge as Tiler and Esquire, and is currently the Lecturing Knight. In addition, she chairs the Americanism Committee and is chairperson for the 50 Christmas and Easter food baskets that are distributed to needy families. In 2014-2015, she was named Officer of the Year in the lodge. Recently, she was elected Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge 2482 for 2019-2020.

### HERITAGE AWARDS

### ACAN - ASBURY CHURCH ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Led by Executive Director Janet Pack, ACAN helps reduce food insecurity and increase the access to healthy, fresh and nutri-

tious foods for both adults and children. The pantry is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but volunteers work every day.

ACAN provides an average of 1,000 meals per month to people in need in and around Severna Park. In addition, ACAN delivers food to nearly 100 homeless people at BWI Airport. ACAN provides food to a variety of places in the county, such as Rita's House, Lighthouse, the Stanton Center, Hope House, Chrysalis House and Senior Housing in Glen Burnie. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, meals are provided to an average of 300.

Families can request assistance once a year for help with court-ordered evictions and utility turn-off notices. These funds are sent directly to the landlord, Baltimore Gas & Electric, or the county. More donations are needed because the requests are greater than the funds available.

### LIEUTENANT WILBUR L. WELLS, MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Lieutenant Wilbur L. Wells spent 34 years as a state trooper. For 18 years, he was assigned to the Annapolis Barrack, an area of over 90 miles including Severna Park. Wells took great pride in Severna Park and seemed to be always on the job trying to keep the community safe. After dark on his way home, he checked behind buildings, always watching businesses, and even escorted the owners to after-hours "night bank deposits."

Wells was a Blue and Gold officer for the United States Naval Academy and made history for having 10 students from one school, Severna Park High School, get appointments in one year. Wilbur and his wife, Betty Winkelmeyer Wells, set up the Parent and Sponsor Program for the U.S. Naval Academy, a program that has been successful and is still running today. He also assisted in planning efficient methods for emptying the stadium after football games.

He passed away on March 3, 2018.

### THE CISCO CENTER

Founded in 2008 by Cisco (Francis) Nochera and his wife, Carla, the Cisco Center started as a two-week summer camp that turned into a full-year business. Its mission is to provide positive learning experiences for young children with special needs and their families. They assist toddlers, preschoolers and older children who have autism, developmental disabilities, speech/language disorders and learning disabilities.

Cisco Nochera has been a special education preschool teacher for 41 years and was also director of Camp Greentop, a residential camp for children and adults with special needs, for 22 years. He has received many awards for his teaching and his work with autism and other special needs. Carla Nochera has been a speech and language pathologist for 36 years. She retired from AACPS in 2011 and is now at the Cisco Center full time.

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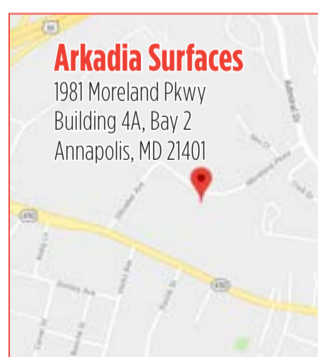


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# Golden Achievers: Under Armour's Jamie Bragg

By Zach Sparks

zach@pasadenavoice.com

This is part of a series of local celebrity success stories about people who were either raised in Severna Park or Arnold, or people who moved to the area and continued to achieve lofty goals. Other stories featured "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat Sajak and CBS News correspondent Tony Dokoupil.



Jamie Bragg doesn't like to boast. If he did, he'd have plenty to brag about as a former University of Maryland football player who later joined another team, Under Armour, and helped bring it to global relevance under the leadership of CEO Kevin Plank.

Bragg attributes that success, and most of his accomplishments, to hard work and positive attitude, two traits instilled in him by his mom and grandmother.

"I was lucky to have a great mother and grandmother," Bragg said. "I had to rake leaves and cut grass. And I couldn't play until my chores were done."

He grew up in the Manhattan Beach community, spending much of his free time fishing and crabbing on the Magothy River. As he aged, sports captured his attention.

"I forged my mom's signature to play football," Bragg said with a laugh. "She thought it was too dangerous. When she found out, I was lucky she let me do it."

While Bragg was lucky his mom allowed him to play football, his opponents were not as fortunate.

"When I put him in at defensive end, he was an impact player right away," said Andy Borland, who coached football at Severna Park High School from 1973 to 1997. "He was tough to handle."

Bragg also enjoyed baseball and basketball, but at 235 pounds, the All-County defensive end knew football was his best chance to play college athletics. The University of Maryland recruited him to play outside linebacker. Then the 17-year-old Severna Park High School graduate had a growth spurt. At 6-foot-1-inches, 270-pounds, Bragg played nose guard at the University of Maryland for two years until the school changed coaches and the new staff moved him to center.

Bragg earned praise for his versatility and was a team captain his senior year. After a two-year stint playing arena football and after a long-term substitute gig teaching algebra at Meade High School, Bragg moved to the next phase of his life as a sales rep for GE Lighting.

One day, he stopped to see a former teammate, Kevin

Plank, and jokingly told him to call if any positions became available within Plank's new start-up business. That enterprise, Under Armour, made moisture-wicking T-shirts designed to keep athletes cool, dry and light in sweltering conditions. A few weeks later, the call came from Plank.

"His pitch to me was, 'I can pay you \$30,000 a year, take away your company car and your benefits, but I can give you the opportunity to turn something small into something big,'" Bragg said.

Bragg was hired to do sales in 1999, but from his first day on the job, he worked in the warehouse doing everything from cutting fabric to picking orders.

"We were learning things from the ground up, and we learned to never make the same mistake twice," Bragg said. "You had to have a tremendous amount of work ethic. There were days where we could pay ourselves or use the money to run an ad in *ESPN The Magazine*. You have to put your personal needs aside sometimes."

Under Armour ascended the chain of sports apparel, trailing only Nike and Adidas consistently in sportswear brand sales in the United States. By 2010, the company surpassed \$1 billion in annual revenue.

"You have to believe in the product," Bragg said. "People say you can't be bigger than Nike or Adidas, but you have to worry about what you can control."

Under Armour gained prominence with endorsements from superstar athletes: New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady,



Photo by Colin Murphy

As vice president of team sports for Under Armour, Jamie Bragg works with groups like the Severna Park High School football team to outfit young athletes.

Golden State Warriors point guard Steph Curry, professional golfer Jordan Spieth and others.

As the brand grew, Bragg got "burnt out" in supply chain — traveling, sourcing and planning. Plank offered Bragg a new role that fit his passion: vice president of team sports.

"When you see Under Armour on Severna Park High School uniforms, that's my group," Bragg said.

The role has also brought him closer to his community. In 2016, Bragg and his wife, Helena, a three-time national champion lacrosse player and one-time national champion assistant coach at the University of Maryland, were honorees

at the annual Severna Park Community Center gala. The Braggs often would often take their children — daughter Theresa, now 14, and twins, Folger McKinsey students Koby and Maria — to the community center, and Helena served on the gala committee multiple times.

"I was very honored to be able to support the center," Bragg said. "We wanted to inject some youth into SPCC to let people know what a gem our community has, and it's not just Severna Park. It serves people from Annapolis, Glen Burnie and all over the county."

Since 2016, Bragg has served on the board of directors alongside Borland, who

has been on the board since 1998. "He came from humble beginnings and he knows how to give back," Borland said of Bragg.

While he doesn't boast about his success, Bragg does have advice for anyone who will listen. Attitude and effort can take you far in life. Believe in what you're doing.

Those are the philosophies he adheres to nearly 20 years after joining Under Armour.

"I understood the basis of the product and the need for it, and it got me around sport," Bragg said. "Being able to see your product on 'Monday Night Football' or see someone wearing it at the gym, I've been part of a great American story."



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## Maryland Wrongful Death And Survival Claims

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When a loved one dies as the result of the carelessness or intentional act of another – this may include medical negligence, the reckless operation of a motor vehicle or a premeditated battery – Maryland law recognizes two types of claims. A survival action may be brought on behalf of the deceased for his or her economic losses, such as medical bills and lost wages, and non-economic losses, including conscious pain and suffering. A wrongful death action is brought by certain family members, seeking compensation for their economic and non-economic damages attributable to the death.

In a survival action, a personal representative must act in the place of the decedent and may recover damages that the deceased could have recovered had he or she not died. This includes funeral expenses not to exceed \$5,000 in most cases, property damage, lost wages and medical expenses from the time of injury to the time of death, pain and suffering, and if applicable, punitive damages. If the death is instantaneous, the cause of action is only for medical bills and funeral expenses. When death follows shortly after a negligent act, whether or not the deceased has experienced conscious pain and suffering is of-

ten disputed.

Maryland's wrongful death statute creates a cause of action primarily so that a surviving spouse, parents and/or children may recover from the death of a loved one. These harms include financial losses, such as the loss to a child of a mother's future earnings. They also include "solatium" damages for emotional pain and suffering, mental anguish and loss of companionship resulting from the family member's death.

Any discussion of wrongful death and survival actions in Maryland must include mention of the state's cap on non-economic damages. These are separate limits on the amounts recoverable, depending upon when the negligent act occurred. For causes of action arising on or after October 1, 2018, the cap is \$860,000. If there is more than one beneficiary in the wrongful death case, the cap is multiplied by a factor of 1.5, creating a cap of \$1.29 million. These caps increase to \$875,000 and \$1.3 million as of October 1, 2019. No amount may be awarded above these figures. If a greater amount is awarded by a jury, the trial judge will reduce the award to the capped levels. For reasons too byzantine for this short article, lower caps apply if the wrongful death is caused as a result of a medical malpractice. There are no caps on economic damages, those that reimburse for medical expenses and lost earnings.

Maryland's wrongful death and survival statutes are complicated. If you have lost a loved one as the result of tortious conduct, you will have many questions. You should consult an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions.

David Diggs is experienced in representing family members who have experienced the death of a loved one. If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1171 or emailing david@diggsllaw.com.

## SPCC Gala Recognizes The Marstons

» Continued from A1 on April 13 at Chartwell Golf & Country Club.

The evening will feature live music from The Shatners, dinner, drinks, a silent and live auction, and a tribute to the Linstead couple, which has made a big impact on Severna Park and the surrounding area.

That influence can be traced back about 50 years, shortly after Lee and Sylvia met on a blind date in 1960 while watching the Virginia football team play Navy. The two married in 1961, lived briefly in Baltimore County and then bought the family property where Lee had spent part of his childhood with his grandparents fishing and crabbing on the Severn River.

Lee had worked out west as a salesman for Armstrong



Flooring before rejoining J.J. Haines in 1960. But upon Lee's return to Anne Arundel County, the Severn was not the same river he remembered. It was muddy. Underwater grasses were sparse and the river appeared to be void of blue crabs.

Lee became the first treasurer of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in the 1960s and eventually recruited newspaper publisher Philip Merrill to join the board. Nearly 70 years later, as an emeritus board member, Lee is most proud of "the fact that we're starting to save the bay. A lot of people thought we couldn't do it."

Meanwhile, Lee and Sylvia raised four children, never losing sight of their values and passion for volunteering.

A physical education teacher, Sylvia coached Green Hornets squads in soccer, basketball, lacrosse and field hockey. She also organized food for Habitat for Humanity.

For the last 10 years, Sylvia has worked with Serving People Across Neighborhoods (SPAN) as an interviewer.

"People come in and we determine if they would be eligible for money they need for turnoff notices or eviction," Sylvia said. "I felt like I needed another volunteer job. Habitat became computerized

and they didn't need volunteers as much."

Lee is a former commissioner of Troop 855 at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church, which was built on land donated by his grandmother in 1954. He was appointed to the board of trustees of Anne Arundel Health System Inc. in the '90s, and he was part of a fundraising committee to replace the old Anne Arundel Medical Center.

"The hospital was bursting," Lee said. "You see [the old building] now and wonder, 'How was that ever a hospital?'"

Lee also teamed with Skip Carr and Nancy Pascal to get a pool built at the Severna Park YMCA, which is now the Severna Park Community Center.

The Marstons have seven grandkids, and they expect many of their family members to be in attendance during the gala. While both of them look forward to an evening with family and friends, they have mixed feelings about the honor. Giving back was always just something they were taught to do.

"It's humbling, Sylvia said. "I don't like being in the spotlight."

Lee said, "We always figured other people deserved it more than we did."

## Muckelbauer Receives Paul Harris Award



At a recent meeting held at Bella Napoli Italian Restaurant, the Rotary Club of Lake Shore-Severna Park surprised Mark Muckelbauer with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition, which acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Other prestigious recipients of the award include U.S. President Jimmy Carter, U.S. astronaut James Lovell, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and Mother Teresa.

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- 2 PM and 6:15 PM Traditional

#### Friday, April 12

- 2 PM Traditional
- 7 PM Meditative Stations with Music

#### Monday, April 15

- 1:15 PM & 2 PM 8th Grade Living Stations

#### Good Friday, April 19

- 12 PM Children's Stations
- 3 PM Traditional

#### Palm Sunday, April 14

- Regular Mass Schedule
- 3:45 PM Confessions

#### Monday, April 15

- 9 AM Confessions

#### Tuesday, April 16 & Wednesday, April 17

- 9 AM and 6:30 PM Confessions

#### Holy Thursday, April 18

- 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
- 9 AM Confessions
- 7 PM Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

- 8:30 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (PAC)
- 10:45 PM Night Prayer (PAC)

#### Good Friday, April 19

- 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
- 9 AM Confessions
- 12:45 - 2:30 PM Confessions
- 7 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### Holy Saturday, April 20

- 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
- 9 AM Blessing of Food/Easter Baskets
- 10:30 AM Community Easter Egg Hunt
- 8 PM Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday, April 21

#### Church

- 7 AM Mass (Organ & Cantor)
- 8:30 AM Mass (Contemporary Music)
- 10:30 AM Mass (Children's Choirs/Incense)
- 12:30 PM Mass (Exalt Group/Incense)

#### Parish Activities Center

- 8:45 AM Mass (Piano & Cantor)
- 10:45 AM Mass (Piano & Cantor)

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#### Saturday:

5:15 PM REJOICE Music Ensemble

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#### Sunday:

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5:15 PM EXALT Praise Group

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# Volunteers Undertake Cattail Creek Restoration

The Berrywood community was alarmed with the deteriorating condition of Cattail Creek, which was ranked year after year with the worst water quality of any creek in the Magothy River watershed, according to Bob Royer, a Berrywood resident and volunteer water quality monitor for the Magothy River Association.

The Berrywood Community Association (BCA) saw future development upstream as a further threat to the water quality, causing destruction of habitat for fish and wildlife such as yellow perch and the great blue heron, which make Berrywood their home.

Molly LaChapelle, a long-time Berrywood resident, became a Master Watershed Steward and wanted to take on the restoration of Cattail Creek as her project. She

recognized that this would be a large and complex project, and its success would require significant community engagement. LaChapelle was fully aware of previous attempts to initiate a restoration project in the community, attempts that did not gain the necessary support to launch the program, and she was confident that with her recent Watershed Stewards Academy training, she would overcome those challenges.

"It's a very versatile, broad training," LaChapelle explained. "A large aspect of the Master Watershed Stewards program is leadership training and energizing your community to support any effort. I saw that class as a way to educate myself, make connections and use it as a base to get a project started."

Empowered by her new role as a steward, LaChapelle in



The restoration team included Berrywood volunteers, WSA leadership, Maryland DNR, Underwood & Associates, and County Executive Stuart Pittman.

2015 started looking for grant opportunities that could fund her restoration project. At an Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy event, LaChapelle met a representative from the Mary-

land Department of Natural Resources who said that the Berrywood project would be a good fit for the department's funds. Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works and Maryland DNR provided the funds in 2016, and Underwood & Associates was awarded the design and construction of the stream restoration.

Construction of the restoration site began in October 2018 with a three-part approach.

First was the installation of a regenerative stormwater conveyance system, which includes raising the creek bed to increase floodplain connectivity and uses weirs to slow down and widen the stream flow and reduce erosion.

Second was removal of the bulkhead along the marina, replacing it with a living shoreline surrounded by several large bio-retention areas.

Third was the construction

of several rain gardens to capture and treat runoff from a nearby access road, parking lot and basketball court.

"It's really expanded and enhanced the area so that families and kids will be able to come down and have a very inviting place to enjoy the creek," LaChapelle said. "We're lucky that it runs through our community. It's a great spot to enjoy nature."

Underwood & Associates was able to finish most of the major construction by the end of December 2018. The team wanted to get the project done before February 2019, when yellow perch spawn in the creek and construction is prohibited. Plantings will be installed this spring.

"I've been impressed with Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy's ability to bring folks together and with the speed of the project's completion," said Zoe Clarkwest, a restoration coordinator who helped manage the

project for AAWSA.

Royer added, "This project has already made a big difference in the community, and it's all about connections. The restoration successfully reconnected the stream back to the floodplain, and in doing so, reconnected the people in the community back to their stream. They are excited when they see clear running water even after a heavy storm."

"The restoration will be a teaching opportunity for members of the community to become better stewards of the environment by increasing their awareness of the critical importance of planting native and pollinator-friendly plants in their own gardens, saving their tall canopy trees and forested areas, minimizing their use of fertilizer and pesticides and managing their stormwater through use of bio-retention areas and rain gardens."

Clarkwest believes the lasting impacts of this project for Berrywood will be more than improved water quality. "I've seen how the project has motivated and galvanized this community around the issue of water quality and the broader issue of development," she explained. "They have increased awareness and knowledge, but more than that, they are capable of making an impact."

The Berrywood community is planning an Earth Day planting on April 22. Hundreds of native shrubs and trees will be planted in the woodlands and along the living shoreline as the final phase of the restoration work.

## Chamber To Host Shop Local Fun Fiesta

» Continued from A1

nate to SPAN. "Our donation is staying local in our community," said Rikki Schneider of SERVPRO. "Recognition to organizations who invest in our community is very important to the culture of SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park."

Over the years, Jing Ying has raised more than \$55,000 for SPAN and collected thousands of pounds of food for its pantry.

"Jing Ying's vision is to transform lives and build community, and SPAN fits that vision as a local charity that makes such a difference in our community and the individuals it serves," said

Nancy Greer, co-owner of Jing Ying.

Repke Fitness is donating to Opportunity Builders Inc.

"They do a phenomenal job with helping adults who have developmental disabilities find purpose through vocational training and employment," said Louben Repke, owner of Repke Fitness who formerly served on the board at OBI. "The organization is making a big difference in the community, and they deserve recognition."

Kogen Dojo is donating to Burgers & Bands for Suicide Prevention.

"It is a local charity that is trying to make a global impact by bringing

awareness to the growing problem of depression and suicide with the message to individuals who suffer that 'you are not alone,'" said Robert Van Valkenburgh, co-owner of Kogen Dojo. "Burgers and Bands represents light and hope for those who have or continue to struggle with darkness and despair."

The fiesta is part of an overall shop local movement, League said.

"Our goal as a chamber is to keep small business in the forefront of the community's mind," League said. "We wouldn't have the community we have now without our small businesses."

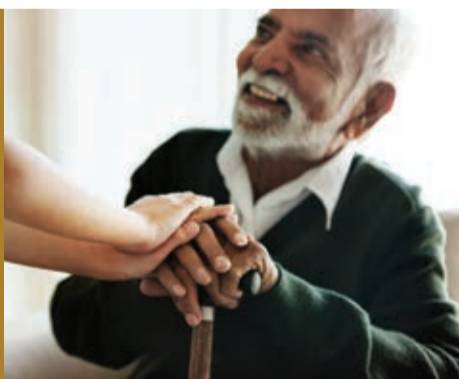
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- *Serious inquires only. Please send resume to Larry Sells, chief operating officer of The Voice Media Inc., at larry@severnaparkvoice.com.*

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# Students And Parents Push For Culture Shift To End Suicide Problem

» Continued from A1

Now students and parents are coming together to say enough is enough — it's time for Severna Park to face this problem.

"It's a situation that nobody knows how to approach," said SPHS junior Parker Cross. "But ignoring it is not a solution."

*"Kids are like adults in some ways. Some don't want to stand up and say, 'I'm upset.'"*

— JENNIFER CORBIN, DIRECTOR OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM



The numbers paint Severna Park as a community that anyone would be proud of: a high school with a 95 percent graduation rate, with 11 state sports championships in the past five years alone, with Advanced Placement enrollment in the top 95 percentile, all in a zip code where the median family income is approximately \$130,000.

But with those numbers comes the pressure on young people to excel, to outshine, to be perfect — and it is taking an emotional toll.

"These kids put a smile on their face every day and say they're good, but not many of us are really sitting down and asking them how they're doing," said Maria Putzi, a parent of two SPHS students. "We as a community need to love on those kids for who they are."

## An Expectation Of Perfection

Nobody knows that need better than the students themselves. Cross explained the culture for young people in Severna Park is so overwhelming that feeling suicidal is the rule, not the exception. "I don't know someone who hasn't had to talk someone out of killing themselves," she said. "How many people have to kill themselves for us to care?"

Cross joined her friend Katrina Schultz in organizing the recent presentation "Let's Talk: Suicide Prevention and Awareness" at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, where Cross shared insight into the pressures that Severna Park teenagers face: pressures related to their academics, to their extracurricular activities, to their home life, to their appearance and to maintaining an overall image of being the best. "Being a teenager in this area, those are the expectations," she told the crowd in her speech. "Now whether they stem from the parents, the school or other peers, those

are still part of the pressures teens face every day."

Cross and Schultz agreed that they don't know anyone at any grade level who is not taking at least one AP class. Some are taking more than four because they feel it is expected of them. Along with that, they know their peers and their parents alike are expecting them to make the sports team that season, get a part in Rock 'N' Roll Revival, maintain a part-time job, and/or still be social, all while keeping their GPA above a 4.0. Schultz and Cross are among the students who recognize the anxiety that these expectations can cause. "We don't have to be No. 1 at everything," Schultz said.

So, does this pressure come from the parents, the school system, or the students

themselves? Regardless of where it starts, all parties agree they need to work to absolve it.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools does not require students to take any honors or AP courses, and it requires students to maintain only a C average (2.0 GPA) to participate in extracurricular activities. As Bob Mosier, public information officer for AACPS, emphasized, AP courses are not the right choice for every student. "No judgment should come from a course load

— period," he said. "That's a mindset that begins in the home. We need parents to be partners in that."

This sentiment is shared by Jennifer Corbin, director of Anne Arundel County's Crisis Response System. The responsibility, she said, is on the schools and the parents together. "I truly believe it's both," she said. "I don't know that you can pinpoint one or the other. The stress is coming from all aspects. We can't fix it until we all step back and say, 'We all have to work together.'"



## Where Can Kids Go For Help?

Severna Park teenagers face further stress because they don't know where to turn when the pressure starts to get overwhelming.

Even when resources are available, teens might not know how to access them. Following a recent tragedy in the community, Principal Patrick Bathras sent an email to SPHS parents letting them know what resources would be available for students who were grieving or in crisis, but unless parents read the email and relayed that information to their children, those students would have no way of knowing.

Corbin and her team from Crisis Response were at Severna Park High School to assist teachers, counselors and any students of legal age. "What a lot of kids are saying is 'I want to talk about it, but I'm not sure I want to roll out of class and go talk about it,'" Corbin said. "Kids are like adults in some

ways. Some don't want to stand up and say, 'I'm upset.'"

Students who are in need can reach the Crisis Response team via the warm-line (410-768-5522), which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

But sometimes the problem isn't a lack of resources. Sometimes, students just want to grieve openly and know that the school is acknowledging their pain. "School isn't a safe outlet," Cross explained. "You can talk about it, but the school isn't a fan of it."

AACPS relies on guidance from the National Association of School Psychologists, the American School Counselor Association, and the Anne Arundel County Mobile Crisis team, which, in some cases, discourage public displays, memorials or other acknowledgements.

Still, students want openness in the classroom. "It almost makes our feelings not valid, that we can't talk about it," Schultz said.

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# Students And Parents Push For Culture Shift To End Suicide Problem

## The Time For Silence Is Over

Nobody wants to see another life lost to suicide — but how does a community go about treating an epidemic like the one Severna Park has? “Everyone in the community needs to think about this problem,” Putzi said. “We have to start somewhere.”

Mosier agreed that solving the suicide problem must be a team effort between parents and educators. “What can we — we as in the community, and the school system is a big part of that community — do to prevent this?” he asked, noting that schools have students for only six hours a day. The rest is up to parents, religious leaders, coaches, scout leaders and other community mentors. “That’s why the ‘we’ is important,” he said.

Parents should also be aware of indirect messages that they give their children. As parent Rebecca Binstock pointed out, some praise can easily come across as bragging, which just furthers the problem. “There’s too much competition among the parents — I think social media plays a big part of that because we love to post about our kids,” she said.

The same sentiment was expressed by Cross’

mother, Colette Cross. “Parents need to not only lay off the pressure but also lay off the bragging,” she said. “It’s obnoxious. ... Parents shouldn’t be against each other. We’re all on the same team.”

To send a message to students that they are valued unconditionally, a grassroots group of parents organized an event they dubbed “One Severna Park” in early March, when hundreds of parents lined Benfield Road and Robinson Road with signs bearing messages of affirmation.

Mothers like Putzi, Binstock and Cross hope that this indicates Severna Park is looking to change its culture, but they all agree that the show of support needs to continue beyond one day. “[Teens] need safe places and safe people to talk to — consistent, reliable, caring adults who can be available to them,” Putzi said. “Between the churches and the community centers, we as a community owe it to these teens to give them safe places to talk.”

Corbin recommends that teenagers determine their safety net by thinking of three people

— one should be an adult, though not necessarily a parent — whom they would go to with good news. Those same three people are the ones teenagers can go to with bad news or in times of trouble.

More importantly, opening up to their peers will help them realize they are not alone. “I think teens need some time to get together to just unload and talk about what’s going on in a safe space,” Corbin said. “I think one of the key things is letting kids hear from other kids.”

Will community awareness be enough to change the culture in Severna Park? Only time will tell, but parents, students and educators agree that the time of silence needs to end. It’s now time to work toward a solution. It’s going to take everyone working together, not just the ones who are vocal in the wake of tragedy. “I don’t know what percentage we are — I’d like to think we’re 90 percent, but I don’t know,” Colette Cross said. “But the ones who want to [change the culture] can start doing it and see if it’s contagious.”



### What They Said

“Parents need to not only lay off the pressure but also lay off the bragging. It’s obnoxious. ... Parents shouldn’t be against each other. We’re all on the same team.”

— COLETTE CROSS  
SPHS PARENT

“What can we — we as in the community, and the school system is a big part of that community — do to prevent this?”

— BOB MOSIER  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, AACPS

## Resources For Students In Crisis

### Anne Arundel County Crisis Response System: 410-768-5522

This hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Nonemergency calls are handled by staff and will provide the caller with information, support and referrals. The Crisis Response System staff will intervene with callers who are experiencing a mental health and/or substance-use disorder emergency.

### Those in disaster distress who need immediate crisis counseling can call:

- 1-800-985-5990 or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746
- 1-800-985-5990 or text “Hablanos” to 66746 (Spanish)
- TTY for Deaf/Hearing Impaired: 1-800-846-8517

### The National Suicide Prevention Hotlines:

- 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)
- 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

### Anne Arundel County Public Schools Student Safety Hotline: 1-877-676-9854

This hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



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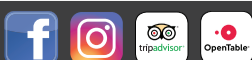
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# And The Winners For The 2019 Best Of Severna Park Are...

## Food/Dining

- 1. Best Restaurant Overall:** 1. Park Tavern  
2. Café Mezzanotte
- 2. Best Wait Staff:** 1. Park Tavern  
2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 3. Best Breakfast:** 1. The Breakfast Shoppe  
2. Garry's Grill
- 4. Best Lunch:** 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern
- 5. Best Dinner:** 1. Park Tavern 2. Café Mezzanotte
- 6. Best Kids' Menu:** 1. Park Tavern  
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 7. Best Bakery:** 1. Kirsten's Cakery  
2. Cakes & Confections Bakery Cafe
- 8. Best Barbecue:** 1. Adam's Taphouse and Grille  
2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 9. Best Burger:** 1. Five Guys Burgers & Fries  
2. Park Tavern
- 10. Best Coffee:** 1. The Big Bean 2. Starbucks
- 11. Best Crab Cake:** 1. The Point Crab House  
2. Hellas Restaurant and Lounge
- 12. Best Pizza:** 1. Squisito Pizza & Pasta  
2. Ledo Pizza & Pasta
- 13. Best Salad:** 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern
- 14. Best Sandwich/Sub:** 1. Jen's Steaks  
2. Firehouse Subs
- 15. Best Seafood:** 1. The Point Crab House  
2. Joe's Seafood
- 16. Best Wings:** 1. Severna Park Taphouse  
2. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
- 17. Best Dessert:** 1. Cakes & Confections Bakery Cafe 2. La Posta Pizzeria
- 18. Best Ice Cream:** 1. Bruster's Real Ice Cream  
2. FroYo House
- 19. Best Fast Food:** 1. Chick-fil-A 2. Chipotle
- 20. Best Asian:** 1. Lemongrass 2. Ming's Cafe
- 21. Best Mexican:** 1. Mi Pueblo II 2. Vida Taco Bar
- 22. Best Italian:** 1. Café Mezzanotte  
2. La Posta Pizzeria
- 23. Best Gluten-Free Selection:** 1. April's Table  
2. Vida Taco Bar
- 24. Best Vegetarian Selection:** 1. April's Table  
2. Vida Taco Bar
- 25. Best Caterer:** 1. April's Table  
2. Be My Guest Catering
- 26. Best Delivery Service:** 1. Chick-fil-A  
2. Carini's Pizza
- 27. Best Bar:** 1. Severna Park Taphouse  
2. Park Tavern
- 28. Best Special Occasion:** 1. Café Mezzanotte  
2. Café Bretton

## Beauty & Fitness

- 1. Best Fitness Club:** 1. Park Fitness 2. RockWell Fitness
- 2. Best Hair Salon/Barber Shop:** 1. Image Creators Salon and Spa 2. Emidio Vincenzo Escape
- 3. Best Hair Stylist/Barber:** 1. Emidio Vincenzo at Emidio Vincenzo Escape  
2. Blake Cornelius at Emidio Vincenzo Escape
- 4. Best Martial Arts Program:** 1. Kwon's Taekwondo  
2. Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi
- 5. Best Place For A Massage:** 1. Sass Well  
2. Image Creators Salon and Spa
- 6. Best Massage Therapist:** 1. Kate Langston - Sass Well  
2. LP - Image Creators Salon and Spa
- 7. Best Nail Salon:** 1. Emidio Vincenzo Escape  
2. Image Creators Salon and Spa
- 8. Best Spa:** 1. Image Creators Salon and Spa  
2. Emidio Vincenzo Escape
- 9. Best Weight-Loss Program:** 1. Park Fitness  
2. Vital Fitness Holistic Center

## Health

- 1. Best Medical Practice:** 1. Maryland Primary Care Physicians 2. Severna Park Medical Associates
- 2. Best Physician:** 1. Dr. Victor M. Plavner  
2. Dr. Andre Gvozden
- 3. Best Women's Care:** 1. Bay Radiology
- 4. Best Audiology Practice:** 1. Chesapeake Hearing

- Centers 2. Hearing Solutions Audiology Center
- 5. Best Chiropractic Practice:** 1. Back & Neck Care Center 2. Fare Chiropractic
- 6. Best Dental Practice:** 1. Dr. Paul Kinsey  
2. McCarl Dental Group
- 7. Best Optometry Practice:** 1. Peepers of Severna Park
- 8. Best Ophthalmology Practice:** 1. Rutzen Eye Specialists & Laser Center  
2. Ophthalmology Associates of Greater Annapolis
- 9. Best Gastroenterology Practice:** 1. Anne Arundel Gastroenterology Associates
- 10. Best Orthodontic Practice:** 1. Wright Orthodontics 2. Spivak Orthodontics
- 11. Best Pediatric Practice:** 1. Annapolis Pediatrics  
2. Gvozden Pediatrics
- 12. Best Pharmacy:** 1. Park Pharmacy  
2. Arnold Pharmacy
- 13. Best Physical Therapy Practice:** 1. Patterson Physical Therapy 2. Pivot Physical Therapy
- 14. Best Mental Health Care:** 1. Brady Mental Health & Wellness 2. Bradford Counseling Services
- 15. Best Veterinary Practice:** 1. Bayside Animal Medical Center 2. Severna Park Veterinary Hospital
- 16. Best Senior Home:** 1. Brightview Senior Living  
2. Sunrise Senior Living

## Professional Services

- 1. Best Accountant:** 1. Gardiner & Appel Group  
2. Emerald Financial Partners
- 2. Best Insurance Agent:** 1. Lee Talbot - State Farm 2. Jack Hutchison - Nationwide
- 3. Best Investment Adviser:** 1. Don Huber - Cornerstone Advisory 2. Brian Conrad - Edward Jones
- 4. Best Lawyer:** 1. Michael Wilsman  
2. Paula Darrach
- 5. Best Mortgage Company:** 1. Primary Residential Mortgage Inc. 2. Arundel Federal Savings Bank
- 6. Best Realtor/Agent:** 1. Scott Schuetter - Century 21  
2. David Orso - Compass Real Estate

## Best Home Services

- 1. Best Fencing Contractor:** 1. Fence & Deck Connection
- 2. Best Flooring/Carpet Contractor:** 1. Family Floors  
2. Dorrance Hardwood Floors
- 3. Best Cleaning Service:** 1. Park Power Wash
- 4. Best Home Improvement Contractor:** 1. Landmark Roofing 2. Oakey Corporation
- 5. Best HVAC Contractor:** 1. Cornett Heating & Cooling  
2. Barstow & Sons Heating & Cooling
- 6. Best Interior Designer:** 1. Valerie Wheeler Interiors  
2. Karen Renee Interior Design
- 7. Best Landscape/Lawn Contractor:** 1. Boucher Lawn & Landscape
- 8. Best Painting Contractor:** 1. Bay Country Painters
- 9. Best Pool Service:** 1. Goudy Pools
- 10. Best Plumbing Contractor:** 1. B&C Plumbing

## Community Services

- 1. Best Auto Repair:** 1. Severna Park Automotive  
2. Magothy Auto Services
- 2. Best Bank:** 1. M&T Bank 2. Bank of America
- 3. Best Car Wash:** 1. The Great American Car Wash  
2. Mister Car Wash
- 4. Best Dry Cleaner:** 1. Admiral Cleaners 2. Dash Dry Cleaning
- 5. Best Marine Repair:** 1. South Shore Marine
- 6. Best Pet Grooming:** 1. Mutt & Joe 2. Lisa's Pet Grooming

## Retail/Shopping

- 1. Best Overall Customer Service:** 1. Park Fitness  
2. The Cottage
- 2. Best Art/Photography/Frame Shop:** 1. Side Street Framers & Gift Gallery 2. Benfield Art Gallery

- 3. Best Bicycle Shop:** 1. Pedal Pushers 2. Bike Doctor
- 4. Best Computer Service:** 1. MacMedics 2. PC Repair
- 5. Best Consignment Shop:** 1. Savvy Consignment  
2. Honeysuckle Quality Consignment
- 6. Best Home Décor:** 1. Park Home 2. The Cottage
- 7. Best Florist:** 1. Severna Flowers & Gifts  
2. Benfield Florist
- 8. Best Garden Center:** 1. Homestead Gardens  
2. Anne Arundel Lawn & Garden Center
- 9. Best Gift Shop:** 1. The Cottage 2. Homestead Gardens
- 10. Best Grocery Store:** 1. Giant 2. Harris Teeter
- 11. Best Hardware Store:** 1. Clement Hardware  
2. Ace Hardware
- 12. Best Jeweler:** 1. Marc Todd Jewelers  
2. Zachary's Jewelers
- 13. Best Liquor Store:** 1. Dawson's Liquors  
2. Goska's Liquors
- 14. Best Toy Store:** 1. Franklin's Toys 2. Five Below
- 15. Best Pet Supply Store:** 1. Petco

## Entertainment

- 1. Best Place For Family Entertainment:** 1. Severna Park Lanes 2. Eco Adventures
- 2. Best Live Music:** 1. Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub 2. Romilo's Restaurant & Bar
- 3. Best Happy Hour:** 1. Severna Park Taphouse  
2. Park Tavern
- 4. Best Place To Watch The Game:** 1. Mother's Peninsula Grille 2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 5. Best Place To Take Out-Of-Towners:** 1. The Point Crab House 2. Severna Park Taphouse
- 6. Best Entertainment Venue Within 25 Miles:** 1. Rams Head On Stage

## Best Children's Activities

- 1. Best Activity/Entertainment Center:** 1. Severna Park Gymnastics 2. Eco Adventures
- 2. Best After-School Program:** 1. Eco Adventures  
2. The Educational Resource Group
- 3. Best Children's Dance Company:** 1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. Spark Dance Studio
- 4. Best Day Care:** 1. Vineyard Child Care  
2. The Goddard School of Arnold
- 5. Best Music Instruction Program:** 1. Theatre in the Park 2. Music & Arts
- 6. Best Playground:** 1. Kinder Farm Park
- 7. Best Party Rental Venue:** 1. Eco Adventures  
2. Severna Park Gymnastics
- 8. Best Summer Camp:** 1. EcoAdventures  
2. Severna Park Gymnastics
- 9. Best Sports Facility:** 1. Benfield Sports Complex  
2. Kinder Farm Park
- 10. Best Youth Sports League:** 1. Green Hornets  
2. Broadneck Bays

## Community

- 1. Most Desirable Community:** 1. Shipley's Choice 2. Fair Oaks
- 2. Best Community Beach:** 1. Olde Severna Park  
2. Round Bay
- 3. Best Pool:** 1. Shipley's Choice 2. Severn River Swim Club
- 4. Best Club:** 1. Green Hornets 2. Severna Park Elks
- 5. Best Nonprofit Organization:** 1. SPAN  
2. Burgers & Bands for Suicide Prevention
- 6. Best Place To Work:** 1. Emidio Vincenzo Escape  
2. The Cottage
- 7. Best Church:** 1. St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church 2. Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church
- 8. Best Religious Leader:** 1. Father Jim Proffitt  
2. The Rev. Lee Ferrell
- 9. Best School:** 1. Severna Park High School 2. Severn School
- 10. Best Marina:** 1. Severn River Swim Club  
2. Ferry Point Marina
- 11. Best Business To Open in 2018:** 1. Vital Fitness Holistic Center 2. PedalPower Kids
- 12. Most Influential Community Members:** 1. Joe Bocek 2. Danny O'Malley 3. Tom Wheeler

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NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE MONTH

# Kensington



Photo by Judy Tacyn  
**Right: (L-R) Jo Ann Stanfill, Marilyn Doyle, Cristine Milauskas and Ginger Reeves stay active by enjoying Kensington's many neighborhood events.**



Neighborhood of the Month takes an in-depth look at the unique communities that make up Severna Park as a whole. Each has its own history, its own special amenities and its own people who are happy to call that place home. Want to share with our readers all about your neighborhood and what sets it apart from others? Email [spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com) and let us know!

## Small-Town Feel Doesn't Stop Kensington From Enjoying Big-Time Festivities

By Judy Tacyn

Kensington is a small and tucked-away community off Benfield Road, and most people don't even realize it's there or that it extends all the way behind Brightview Senior Living.

"When I say to people that we're located behind Safeway, I always get the answer, 'So, you're in Chartridge?'" said Ginger Reeves.

No, Kensington is not Chartridge, but it is a combination of waterfront homes, bungalows and older homes that are reasonably priced, especially for families just starting out. More than 100 homes line the Kensington Avenue loop, where homes border Cattail Creek.

With just a single access point, the Kensington neighborhood has a playground and large field, which is a favorite meeting spot for parents and children on beautiful days. Kensington has water privileges off Tower Bank. A dock is maintained by the homeowners association, which has kayak and standup paddleboard racks, and a ramp behind St. Martin's-in-the-Field that many neighbors use to launch their boats.

While the community holds several events, neighbors unani-

mously agree that the most popular get-together is the Halloween party and parade. There are also summer picnics, Christmas parties with Santa, Easter egg hunts and visits from the Easter Bunny.

**CRISTINE MILAUSKAS  
 RESIDENT FOR SIX YEARS**

Cristine Milauskas' family moved to Severna Park from Baltimore City, following several of their Baltimore-based friends who started families and moved to Severna Park.

"My husband and I looked for five months for a house in either Arnold or Severna Park. Having water access was high on our priority list," Milauskas said. "We placed an offer on our current home the day it came on the market."

The Milauskas family's favorite community event is Halloween, when longer-term families set up dinner for the younger families. Most of the community comes for dinner and the Halloween parade.

Milauskas' children attend Oak Hill Elementary and they love the school and the fact that many of the teachers also live in Severna Park.

"We love that Severna Park has a small-town feel," Milauskas

continued. "Even before we lived here, we would come to Severna Park for Kinder Farm Park. Now that we live here, we have a garden plot at Kinder."

As for her neighbors, Milauskas could not be happier. "We are in a unique position that some of our neighbors have truly become an extension of our family," she said. "We share holidays and important milestones with our neighbors, as we would our families."

Milauskas has served as secretary for one year and HOA president for two years.

**GINGER REEVES  
 RESIDENT FOR 10 YEARS**

Ginger Reeves arrived in Severna Park via Bowie in 1999. Which community event does her family love? "Halloween for sure! I've run this event for 14 years," Reeves explained. "I buy everything for a cookout at my cul-de-sac, and the kids parade once around the neighborhood in costume [and] then arrive back for food before they go trick-or-treating. Whole extended families participate. I put out a donation can, and the proceeds go back to the community for our other events." Reeves has held several board

positions, including president and member-at-large. "I like to stay involved in what's going on and I continue to attend monthly meetings even though I'm not currently serving on the board," she added.

**JO ANN STANFILL  
 RESIDENT FOR 54 YEARS**

Jo Ann Stanfill moved to Severna Park in August 1965. "My husband's coworker lived in Severna Forest and knew we were looking to buy our first house," Stanfill said. "On a Saturday morning, his wife watched our three kids while the husband showed us around. They were building new houses in Kensington, so we looked and signed the deal. This is the only house we have ever owned."

Stanfill appreciated the intimacy of the community; there were only 11 families when she first moved in. Though some have since moved, she said all still friends.

"I have really good neighbors. My next-door neighbor moved in one month after us," Stanfill said. "One of my best friends lives a block down the street and moved in a little before us. I can count on close neighbors if help is needed." Stanfill recalls a fierce snow-

storm in January 1966 when the neighbors became family. A child became ill and neighborhood men shoveled the street so the ambulance could get in.

**MARILYN DOYLE  
 RESIDENT FOR 41 YEARS**

Marilyn Doyle and her husband were looking for a community with an easy commute to Fort Meade and Sparrows Point in Baltimore. They chose Kensington for its small size and no cut-through traffic. They settled on their home on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and moved in on December 10, 1978.

Doyle has come to appreciate the generosity of her neighbors.

"During serious illnesses and deaths, many neighbors have been caring and supportive," Doyle said. "Also, a few years ago, a family suffered a fire, which required repairs. Some of us donated to their needs and loaned them sleeping bags and blow-up mattresses."

Doyle has served on the homeowners' board on several occasions as secretary, vice president and member-at-large. She has also assisted with several Halloween parties and collected dues when needed.

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## COMING THIS JULY

In July 2019, The Voice Media Inc. will publish its LOCAL LIFE — On The Water magazine. This special edition will be inserted in the July issues of the Severna Park Voice and Pasadena Voice and will focus on ALL things water-related. It will be direct-mailed to 49,550 homes and businesses in Severna Park, Arnold, Millersville, Pasadena and Gibson Island.

**LIFEJACKETS** Page 3  
 Lifejackets have come a long way since the days of the bulky orange vest.

**OUTDOOR DINING** Page 6  
 Check out these mouthy places to enjoy drinks and dinner with a view of the water.

**SUMMER CONCERTS** Page 9  
 Catch a live music performance against the backdrop of the bay or river.

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## SPRING ARBOR

SENIOR LIVING

By HHHunt

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# POLITICS & OPINION

A14

## When Should The School Year End?

**Ed Reilly**  
State Senator  
District 33



Do you remember when summer vacation ended after Labor Day weekend? Throughout the years, this date, which had been set as an unwritten tradition, has changed. Only a few years ago, children were starting school as early as the third week of August and getting out for summer as late as the third week of June.

In September 2016, Governor Larry Hogan, acting on recommendations from a 2014 legislative task force and listening to the citizens of Maryland, issued an executive order to "let summer be summer." This mandated that all Maryland public school districts start after Labor Day. In addition, the order dictated that the school year must conclude by June 15. Governor Hogan's executive order went into effect beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

The debate centering on this calendar change has not subsided in the past two years. Some parents say they like having a full summer to vacation with their children. Tourism dollars are spent during these last two weeks of summer, which equates to taxable income for the state of Maryland. On the flip side, some people feel that the number of educational days has been compromised by starting school after Labor Day. It is argued that teachers are not getting enough in-service days, and vacation days during the school year have been shortened. If this calendar requirement were removed, schools could be in session well into the summer to make up for snow days.

A Gonzales poll released in March 2019 reported that of the 817 people polled, 55.9 percent wanted schools closed through Labor Day, 40.1 percent favored local school

boards to decide, and 3.9 percent had no answer.

This legislative session, Senate Bill 128 (County Boards of Education — School Year — Start and End Dates) was introduced to allow the individual school districts in Maryland to make their own decision whether or not to start their school year after Labor Day. This bill passed in the Senate along party lines by the vote of 31-15. Senate President Mike Miller reflected after the vote that "Maryland has a large minority population now ... They're not beating the doors down to run to Ocean City after Labor Day." This bill moved onto the House of Delegates, where it was also passed along party lines, and it is now headed to the governor for his signature. There is no veto option for the governor because the votes are there to override the veto.

Governor Hogan had introduced legislation this session to put this question on the 2020 ballot as a referendum item. He wanted the citizens of Maryland to have the ultimate decision on whether or not to start the school year after Labor Day. His legislation was not heard in the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools has released a proposed 2019-2020 school calendar. The school year starts the day after Labor Day. This calendar is subject to modification by the Board of Education at any time.

Whether you are in favor of starting the school year before or after Labor Day, the General Assembly has the final say. The governor's executive order has been overridden. Individual school districts will now be able to decide when to start the school year. If you have any thoughts on this topic or other pieces of legislation that might move through the legislature this session, contact me at [edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us](mailto:edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us).

## A Recap Of Our Budget Town Hall

**Amanda Fiedler**  
Councilwoman  
District 5



On March 26, District 5 did not disappoint for the budget town hall that I had the pleasure of co-hosting with County Executive Steuart Pittmann. Just over 250 residents came out to hear our remarks, review a short presentation and then present their priorities to us. Those priorities, in no particular order, were:

- Funding for a tennis facility in Millersville
- Make-up salary steps for teachers who are most behind in pay
- A dog park at Kinder Farm
- Financial support for the Water Stewards Academy (SWA)
- Funding for additional firefighters and police officers
- Overall pay increases for teachers
- Additional school counselors for elementary and

high schools

- Funding for our libraries, including Discoveries at the Westfield Annapolis Mall

Based on the county executive's presentation that evening, the county is estimating an additional revenue increase of \$40 million to \$50 million for Fiscal Year 2020. This is down from previous estimates of just over \$57 million. The Board of Education has a budget request that is \$90 million more than the Fiscal Year 2019. This is but one of our funding areas, but it is our largest with the Board of Education being just over 50 percent of the county budget. There will be other critical department budget requests. In addition to the critical first responders listed above, detention officers and county personnel will also have financial needs to operate their departments. You can quickly see why a handful of residents and individuals representing special interest groups were supportive of tax increases. Most people know that

Anne Arundel County has one of the lowest tax rates in the state. It's one of the reasons we are such a desirable area to live in. We have a property tax cap limiting the tax the county can collect on your property that passed by referendum in 1994. I ran on my support of the property tax cap because it was overwhelmingly supported by the voters of the county, or it wouldn't exist.

The Department of Legislative Services has suggested raising the income tax from 2.5 percent to 3.2 percent, which could cost households as much as \$700 per year. To some, this may be a drop in the bucket, but not to all. It is easy to label us as one of the "wealthiest counties" in the state. That label doesn't show the details of the large income gap between wealth and poverty in our county. When you knock on more than 4,000 doors like I did, you meet your constituents where they are. You hear their stories. You hear how retirees who raised their families here

are struggling to stay in our county on a fixed income. You hear about the families who are living paycheck to paycheck due to circumstances beyond their control and are one more tax away from being forced out of their home after living in this county for generations. I cannot forget their stories and that I represent them too.

What concerns me is that no one has really discussed that there are historical indicators that a recession may be in our near future (one to two years). The most telling sign is the consistent low rate of unemployment. We should be making responsible fiscal decisions that are sustainable.

I am fiscally conservative, and I make no apologies for it. I feel an awesome sense of responsibility to act thoughtfully with your tax dollars. I will prioritize based on your input and the input of those who make our county run day to day, and with caution for potential economic changes in our future.

## Crossover Week Is An Essential First Hurdle

**Heather Bagnall**  
Delegate  
District 33



In theater, we have a time known as tech week when we feel like gods because we create whole worlds in six days, and on the seventh day, we do two shows. I have discovered that this world also exists in the General Assembly and it's called "crossover week," when the hopes and dreams of so many legislators and advocates can be made or broken with the single decision of the calendar.

I will admit that this first session, I kept my schedule wide open, not knowing how the daily ebb and flow would look. During crossover week, I saw the wisdom of that decision. Much like theater, where we spend a good deal of time in what we call the "hurry up

and wait" time, the General Assembly holds hearings at lightning pace, making me grateful for the committee and subcommittee process, which vets the bills so that we are voting on the best product by the time a bill reaches the floor. However, in committee, hearings stretch out into the late hours, and as the days grow longer, the questions grow scarcer as the deadline looms large on the horizon.

Crossover is the deadline by which all bills must have crossed from their originating chamber to the other side to guarantee the bills get a hearing in both chambers. Unlike Congress, which is in session throughout the year, we are in session for only 90 days and we consider close to 3,000 bills per session, so this is an essential first hurdle to surpass if the bill has a hope of becoming law.

In my committee, health

and government operations, we found the date advantageous. Some bills that had languished for years found compromise between the advocates as they looked at the possibility that their efforts would stall in committee and go back in a drawer for another year. We always have the interim in which to act, but after enough intersessions, the desire to get it done can make a good bill great in a matter of a few meetings.

There are surprises, floor debates and last-minute emergency bills that supersede the regular calendar, which is more a guideline than a full-stop rule. And, of course, the calendar itself is a bit of a trippy time warp when our phones say it is March 25 and our floor calendars say it's March 17, giving us a second opportunity for the "wearing of the green."

As a theater maker, I am fas-

inated with the process and the rhythm of the work, but as an elected official, seated by the voters of District 33, I am so honored every day to be a part of the drama and of the history we are writing. It is an exhilarating pace at which we work and a grueling schedule, but knowing every day that we are making policy decisions that will have a meaningful, positive impact on the lives of Marylanders is some of the most rewarding work I have ever done.

In the coming weeks, I'll write more about our legislative victories and retreats, as we are never completely defeated, because as we say in the legislature, "there's always next year." My door is always open and I'm always happy to answer a question from a constituent. Now back to committee. We have another few hundred bills to consider before Sine Die!

## Put An End To Gerrymandering

**Michael Malone**  
Delegate  
District 33



On March 26, the Supreme Court heard arguments in cases from Maryland and North Carolina, where citizens are asking the court to find that drawing congressional districts along partisan lines is unconstitutional. While these cases are from two individual states, gerrymandering is a national problem, as the hordes of protesters demonstrating on the Supreme Court steps can attest, myself included.

Standing amid signs of "#FairMaps," "Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around" and "Let Every Vote Count," I proudly held up my own, a giant map of Maryland's 3rd Congressional District with a circle and line drawn through it. I met ordinary people, some from as far away as Texas, Ohio and Alabama, and some who had gotten up before 5:00am to stand in line not for concert tickets or a Chick-fil-A grand opening but to hear a Supreme Court argument and literally jumped for joy and exchanged high-fives upon learning that they got in.

As one MSNBC commentator noted, talking about gerrymandering isn't "sexy." As Governor Hogan declared at the rally, "It's

not a fight between right and left but a fight between right and wrong." Former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a longtime anti-gerrymandering activist, with a nod to his movie career chimed in with a "Let's terminate gerrymandering!" (California, during Governor Schwarzenegger's term, adopted an independent redistricting commission in 2008, a step Governor Hogan has introduced into the Maryland Assembly during the past four years, but which has been routinely killed in committee). Support for redistricting reform is widespread and bipartisan, with protesters from Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, and the Brennan Center. Perhaps most tellingly, Roy Cooper, the Democratic governor of North Carolina, and our Governor Hogan co-authored an op-ed in the March 24 *Washington Post* under the headline, "Politicians can't be trusted to draw electoral maps."

A decision in the Supreme Court case is expected in June, likely with the justices split 5-4. Justices Gorsuch, Alito and Thomas seem inclined to leave congressional mapping entirely up to the states, noting that some states, and some state courts, have already imposed limits on congressional gerrymandering. Justices Kagan, Ginsburg and Sotomayor lean toward some constitutional oversight, along with the

flipping of Maryland's Sixth District "effectively [ensured] that Republicans will never win this seat again. How is that not excessive?" Many pundits believe that the key vote is Chief Justice Roberts. The fact remains, however, that the Supreme Court has refused to intervene in political gerrymandering cases the past five times the issue appeared before them, and hope now rests on the fact that both the Maryland and North Carolina legislatures openly and blatantly admitted to gerrymandering for political ends.

Therefore, the Maryland General Assembly should also act now by passing the just introduced House Bill 1430, which would adopt Governor Hogan's plan to redraw the congressional district lines for the sixth and eighth congressional districts to comply with the United States Maryland District Court ruling on November 7, 2018 requiring the 6th Congressional District boundaries to be redrawn so that there is "geographic contiguity, compactness, regard for natural boundaries and boundaries of political subdivisions, and regard for geographic and other communities of interest — and without considering how citizens are registered to vote or have voted in the past or what political party they belong."

If a high school student can get it, we can only hope the Supreme Court or the Maryland General Assembly will.

## Changes In Anne Arundel County

**Jim Fredericks**  
County Sheriff



Happy spring to everyone! Along with the change of season, there are new ideas and positive changes happening at the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office. We are starting to implement plans and forge partnerships that will improve delivery of service, better protect our communities, and strengthen court-house security.

The first 100 days in office were busy, and we faced challenges to begin the process of modernizing and moving the office forward. After being sworn in December 2018, I quickly worked with my team to review the budget, identify deficiencies and assess agency needs. We faced significant problems with lagging technology, a significant lack of strategic planning and a budget projected to be significantly overspent by the end of the fiscal year. We are fortunate to have such dedicated employees in the sheriff's office and county government, who moved quickly to help implement much needed change.

I have to thank the county Office of Information Technology for its fast action to replace aging computers and monitors, which have already improved efficiency and enhanced courthouse security.

To address the looming budget shortfall, I implemented spending controls that have already reduced the projected shortage. No modern government agency or business can move forward without a strategic plan, which did not exist in the sheriff's office. That strategy is now being written and will help guide agency planning for years to come.

Perhaps one of the most significant changes at the sheriff's office during the first few months has been the addition of new Chief Deputy Francis Tewey. The chief deputy position, which holds the rank of colonel, is the second-highest position in the office and is appointed by the sheriff. Colonel Tewey is a 30-year veteran law enforcement officer who retired at the rank of captain from the Anne Arundel County Police Department on February 28, 2019. He was appointed to his position in the sheriff's office on March 1. Colonel Tewey has a wealth of knowledge, particularly in law enforcement technology, and will be an incredible asset to the sheriff's office. He is a graduate of Salisbury University, with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Colonel Tewey is a dedicated husband and father, and commits a significant amount of his time to the service of others. He is the director of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Maryland and has been working with Special Olympics programs

for 10 years. Although he just started with the office in March, Tewey worked on my transition team since December 2018. He has been a driving force in forming the new direction for the sheriff's office.

During my campaign, I promised to address the increased number of outstanding warrants in our county. We have gathered data, looked at innovative approaches and are quickly formulating the plan to begin to reduce the backlog. As part of the plan, the county cable show known as "Anne Arundel's Most Wanted" is changing to "On The Lookout." The new show will not highlight just a few wanted subjects. Instead, there will be dozens of names and faces, along with information to help sheriff's deputies locate wanted persons throughout the county and in our neighborhoods. The show will also include a new warrant tip line to allow viewers to immediately call and leave an anonymous message with information about someone highlighted on the program. The tip line is 410-LOOK-OUT (410-566-5688) and will be active when the show airs in April.

Stay tuned to the show and stay informed about the important role the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office plays in keeping our communities safe. And remember, I'll see you "on the lookout!"



Chamber Update

Liz League  
CEO  
GSPACC



We are excited to announce our newest members of the chamber: **Document Roadmap LLC, Eco Interior Maintenance, Magothy Payments, GYMGUYZ Severna Park, Asbury Church Assistance Network, and 5Linx.**

On February 13, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of **Lisa's Cakepops in Severna Park.** Lisa's Cakepops is the brainchild of Lisa Schneiderman, a former stockbroker turned baker. She produces magical, creative and delicious pops for any occasion, and the pops are heavenly. You can order specialty custom pops or purchase directly from her store. Visit her at 836 Ritchie Highway, Suite 16, in Severna Park.

On February 14, we held a ribbon cutting for **ASMM and Digital Marketing's** new headquarters in Millersville. Ann Brennan and her team are superb marketers with vast experience in getting organiza-

tions noticed on social media. Ann is also the founder of **Burgers and Bands for Suicide Prevention.** Her mission is to open the dialogue with young people by working in the schools, and to bring awareness to the community. Please attend their upcoming fundraising event at Severna Park Taphouse on Sunday, May 19, from 11:00am-8:00pm. Bands will play all day. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite.

On March 13, we held a Successful Women in Business luncheon with the Pasadena Business Association and the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce at **La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie.** More than 50 women attended and networked.

On March 26, **Ann Brennan of ASMM** presented "Digital Marketing Strategies" to more than 25 attendees. The lunch was held at the wonderful **Romilo's in Severna Park.** Visit our chamber Facebook page for a video of Ann's informative presentation.

We have four Gold sponsors for our Shop Local Fun Fiesta, to be held on May 4 from  
» Continued on A16

For 40 Years, Gardiner & Appel Group Has Invested In Small Businesses



(L-R) Karl Appel, Patrick Cassilly, Debbie Feather and Scott Gardiner, along with Tom Cleaver (not pictured), are the principals at Gardiner & Appel Group, which has served the community for 40 years.

Many people dream of making the big time: representing clients in high-profile court cases, offering their services to professional athletes, booking tours for world-renowned bands. Scott Gardiner, founding partner of Gardiner & Appel Group, has always maintained the opposite mindset. He enjoys helping the little guy — a task he set out to accomplish after opening his accounting firm from his basement in April 1979.

"I've always had a great respect for the entrepreneurial spirit," Gardiner said. "In those days, retail was pretty

healthy. It takes a lot of courage to start a small business. Plumbers, electricians, contractors, restaurant owners — I've always had a great deal of admiration for them."

Gardiner found a niche by offering help to small businesses while other accoun-

ants were chasing bigger clients. He moved to an office on Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard and was joined in 1998 by Karl Appel. The two met while Scott was coaching their daughters in soccer for the Green Hornets.

"I wanted someone with

the same mindset to support small businesses," Gardiner said. "Karl worked hard, and four years ago, he became the managing partner."

Appel aided Gardiner in the mission to help clients with not only tax prepara-

» Continued on A17

The Buzz Around Town: Mosquito Squad Turns 10

By Maya Pottiger

For the last 10 years, Mosquito Squad has been protecting Severna Park from pesky pests.

Through a variety of services, Mosquito Squad helps safeguard homes against mosquitoes, ticks and fleas.

Now the business is gearing up for its busiest season, which is April through October.

"The ticks come out as soon as it gets warm, so that's why we start in April," said Kendra Burnett, owner of Mosquito Squad. "But we get really busy around Memorial Day, and that's when people are opening their pools and it's getting warm enough to be outside every day."

To combat ticks, pest control experts from Mosquito Squad visit property to install tick tubes, which are placed in April and August. They are focused on the hatching periods to help prevent Lyme disease.



Kendra Burnett, owner of Mosquito Squad, provides pest control to yards all over the Pasadena and Severna Park areas.

For mosquitoes, the company has a variety of products and plans to help control the pests in any backyard.

The most popular plan, Burnett said, is the seasonal barrier spray: Mosquito Squad comes out to treat your property every three weeks. The staff also offers "event sprays," which are one-time services if you're looking to treat your property before

hosting a wedding, graduation party or outdoor event.

"Our biggest struggle is, in the news, everyone's always like, 'pesticide, pesticide, pesticide,' so it gives people a negative [connotation]," Burnett said. "They don't really understand there's thousands of pesticides out there, and not every one is the same."

Mosquito Squad offers  
» Continued on A16

Five Years In, Coterie Still Tailors Its Approach To The Customer



Coterie, a Boutique employees celebrated the shop's fifth anniversary on March 8 with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by customers and members of the business community.

By Zach Sparks

Retail therapy — that's how Coterie, a Boutique owner and fashion curator Bess Clark refers to the process of shopping at her store. Since opening her business five years ago, Clark has steered women away from the impulse buy and instead swayed their attention to clothing that fits their lifestyle and shape.

"As women, we have to do hair, makeup, get

the kids ready or feed the dog," Clark said. "Getting dressed, you want to look good, but it should take only five minutes."

For five years, she has brought contemporary women's clothing to Anne Arundel County, a market that was noticeably lacking when compared with Los Angeles, where she spent eight years working for a corporate law firm.

"The cool part is that older women are realizing what

contemporary clothing is," Clark said. "Our 50-and-over client base is expanding. Our clothes fit all ages, but it's young and fresh. And it's not missy."

After celebrating Coterie's fifth anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 8, Clark reflected on her journey. She opened her first shop on Mountain Road in March 2014 and moved to the Magothy Gateway shopping center in June 2017,  
» Continued on A16

Five Things You Must Do Before Meeting With A Retirement Planner

Jason LaBarge  
Premier  
Planning Group



When doing something you've never done before, it's easy to procrastinate, especially if you don't know what to expect. Unfortunately, meeting with a financial professional and planning for retirement is often put off for this very reason. I've had many people meet with me for the first time just months before retiring, which can contribute to feelings of anxiousness, because they feel as if they are rushing through the planning process.

"When building your list of your retirement goals and dreams, make sure that they are what you want and what you value."

As a retirement specialist, I want you to walk into your retirement party with a swagger, fully confident in your future! To do this, the best time to start looking for a retirement planner is five to 10 years before you plan to retire. I've outlined the five things you can expect to be asked at your first meeting

with a retirement planner, and I've explained why each item is important when creating an effective and realistic plan.

- Retirement Timeline
- Goals and Dreams
- Family Budget
- Statements and Documents
- Questions
- Retirement Timeline

You do not need to have a specific retirement date in mind, but having a general idea of when you'd like to stop working is important. You'll set goals and benchmarks for preparing for retirement, and if you begin planning 10 years out, your action items will be different from what they would be if you are five  
» Continued on A18

McNealey Becomes Sole Proprietor Of Severna Park Automotive

By Darrell Mak

Severna Park native Mike McNealey, who was one of three partners who owned and operated Severna Park Automotive for the past 20 years, became sole proprietor of the shop this past October after his two former partners, Lonny Wiezorek and Andrew Wollentin, both retired from the business.

"Our lease was coming due and had to be renegotiated, so we thought it was a good breaking point to buy them out," said McNealey. "It was good timing. Everything was coordinated together."

McNealey developed an interest in automotive mechanics at a young age. He was raised in Severna Park and attended Severna Park elementary, middle and high schools. But during high school, he had an opportunity to take classes at the Center for Applied Technology at South River High School. High school students can attend CAT as a part of their regular daily schedule and earn



Severna Park native McNealey developed an interest in automotive mechanics at a young age.

credits required for graduation. McNealey graduated specializing in automotive technology and spoke highly of the program.

"The vocational program worked very well for me," attested McNealey. "There's a shortage of mechanics today, and I encourage kids to consider vocational training."

Immediately after graduating high school in 1979, McNealey started work-

ing at a Shell gas station that occupied the current location of Severna Park Automotive, putting his newly attained vocational skills to work, where he started working with fellow employees Wiezorek and Wollentin. When the owner of the Shell station decided to retire in 1998, the trio bought the business, removed the gas tanks and pumps to focus solely on auto repair and  
» Continued on A17



## The Buzz Around Town: Mosquito Squad Turns 10 Years Old



Mosquito Squad is gearing up for its busiest season, which is April through October.

» **Continued from A15**  
 an all-natural spray that it uses to treat properties. The company stays educated on practices that are safest for the environment, as well as keeping track of pollinators to know what to avoid.  
 "We pride ourselves on our customer service. We know we have the best customer service out there," Burnett said. "Our reviews are very good, and we're very attentive to our customers. They always know when we're coming."  
 A question frequently posed to Mosquito Squad is "Why should I do this if my neighbors aren't? How does

it work?" The truth is that mosquitoes and ticks can't travel far, so if they are on your property, it's most likely because they hatched there.  
 Mosquitoes need still water to survive, so an easy way to help control the population on your own is by making sure to "pick up" the water after rainfall, Burnett said. If you have tarps covering grills, holsters under flowerpots or toys that collect water, make sure to dump them every three to five days.  
 As a franchise, Mosquito Squad donates to the Malaria No More organization, which is working to end Malaria worldwide.

Locally, Mosquito Squad donates to area schools and fire departments. The company donated a certificate for a full season service to the Severna Park Community Center gala's silent auction.  
 Burnett grew up in Pasadena, and now she is raising her family in the community. "This is where we live," Burnett said. "The word of mouth, that travels. Communities are very tight-knit, and the best marketing we have is word of mouth."  
 For more information, call Mosquito Squad at 410-317-8385, or visit [www.mosquitosquad.com](http://www.mosquitosquad.com).

## Coterie Tailors Its Approach

» **Continued from A15**  
 welcoming more foot traffic.  
 While business has grown, so have the challenges, such as the expanding presence of online retailers.  
 "I'm able to do what an algorithm doesn't," Clark said. "What fits their body? What will look good on them? I can find something they wouldn't pick, something outside their comfort zone that looks great on them."  
 Coterie, a Boutique is now offering what Clark calls Prime Styling, a mix of services like wardrobe assessment, portrait sessions and a body changes consultation.  
 "I'm bringing fashion to people's front door," she said. "I'm not just going to show up with a box and say, 'Maybe you like it, maybe you don't.'"  
 Clark travels to marketplaces across the nation to handpick clothing and accessories that fit her clients'

tastes. Her goal is to keep her store stocked with high-quality items that are affordable and stylish without being overly trendy.  
 "People pay more for name recognition and label recognition," Clark said. "Other places will private-label clothing and charge what they want. I don't do that. If you're label conscious, this isn't the place for you. We carry some name brands, like Levi, but value is important to women. I'm going to cater to that."  
 Looking toward the future of her business, Clark said it will keep evolving but with the same core mission of offering contemporary clothing and a shopping experience that is personalized, comfortable and fair for the customer.  
 "We'll never back down from having honesty and integrity and being the antithesis of retail," Clark said. "I'm not here to rip

people off."  
 Her greatest success over the last five years is thriving in the age of online sales and "keeping up with the ever-changing retail landscape to make sure we don't become another victim of the retail apocalypse."  
 "To keep brick and mortar alive and well is important for communities," Clark said. "Successful businesses build stronger communities."  
 "I'm proud to see more clothing boutiques opening in the area," she added. "That means that we've all decided we are worth having these types of businesses in our area. Five years ago, that seemed crazy to so many people. That evolution of thought is probably what I'm most proud of."  
 Coterie, a Boutique is located in the Magothy Gateway shopping center at 147c Ritchie Highway in Severna Park.

## Chamber Update

» **Continued from A15**  
 11:00am to 3:00pm in Park Plaza. They are **SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park, Kogen Dojo in Severna Park, the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi in Arnold, and Repke Fitness in Millersville**. Each sponsor will present a check for \$500 to their charity of choice. Bronze sponsors include **Mathnasium in Severna Park and Honey Baked Ham in Severna Park**.  
 We look forward to seeing you at our **Shop Local Fun Fiesta**, where we will have local businesses exhibiting from a wide range of professions, face painting, a photo booth, games, demonstrations, performances, food, giveaways, K-9 demos, fast pitch, pedal cars, a cake walk and more. We encourage members of the community to bring

donations (cash, gift cards or food) for SPAN, a service organization that helps needy families in our neighborhoods. Your donation gets you a free photo in the photo booth.  
 Our **Fourth of July Parade** has been a cherished tradition for decades, and this year will not disappoint. Our theme is **"Let Freedom (B)ring -**

**Celebrating America's and Our Community's Generosity."**  
 We would love to have you as a member of our chamber, as we know the value that small businesses and local organizations bring to the health of our community. Call us at 410-647-3900 or [info@gspacc.com](mailto:info@gspacc.com) or visit [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com).

## Love The Voice? Why Not Contribute?

The *Voice* is always looking to add to our group of talented community writers and photographers. If you have the skill to write a news story, love the local community and want to be a part of it in a way you've never been before — send us an email with your resume. Be sure to also

include at least two writing samples.  
 We're also on the lookout for talented shutterbugs with a digital SLR to attend local events on assignment. Send an email with some sample images or a link to images online. Email us today at [spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com).

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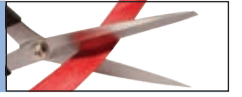
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Ribbon Cuttings



### Lisa's Cakepops Makes Severna Park A Little Sweeter



Members of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, along with public dignitaries and other community supporters, gathered for the grand opening of Lisa's Cakepops, located at 836 Ritchie Highway, Suite 16, in Severna Park.

### Ann's Social Media & Marketing Logs In To The Community



Ann Brennan, owner of Ann's Social Media & Marketing, greeted a crowd of GSPACC members, elected officials and other well-wishers for the official opening of her business' new office at 413 Headquarters Drive, Suite 4, in Millersville.

### McNealey Becomes Sole Proprietor

» Continued from A15 maintenance, and renamed the establishment Severna Park Automotive. When McNealey bought out his partners, not much changed, and all of the company's employee stayed. "I was very fortunate to maintain the same crew, some of whom have been here for 30 to 35 years," he said. McNealey values strong community ties and is expanding his neighborhood outreach efforts. "We're giving back to the community and helping the

people who support Severna Park," he said. Severna Park Automotive has developed a loyal customer following over the years. It has been named No. 1 auto repair facility for nine consecutive years from Severna Park Voice's Best Of contest. "We've served multiple generations of families," lauded McNealey. "The neat part is that we're in such a relationship business. I started out my career working on the grandparent's car; now I'm working on the grandkid's car."

### Gardiner & Appel Group Has Invested In Small Businesses

» Continued from A15 tion and planning but also the everyday ins and outs of running a business. "They need advice on pricing, marketing, book-keeping and tax planning," Gardiner said. Over the years, the staff has grown to 15 employees, and Gardiner and Appel treat their employees well to ensure their services for the long-term. They value their employees, who in turn deliver great service to their clients. The firm has secured many new clients while still keeping Gardiner's first client, a pet food supply company.

Technology has continued to shape the accounting industry. "When I started, we were doing tax returns by hand," Gardiner said. "Now, almost all of our tax returns are filed electronically." Since that time, the partners never waned in their fervent belief that small businesses are valuable to the community. Gardiner & Appel Group continues to be involved in many aspects of the community. Gardiner has served as the past president of Severna Park, Annapolis and Northern Anne Arundel County chambers of commerce. He has volunteered to judge

floats during the Severna Park Fourth of July Parade and been a guest chef during chamber cookouts. Appel is on the board of directors for the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission and as the treasurer of the Chartwell Golf & Country Club. "We live and work in the area," Appel said, "and it's important for us to be part of the community. We are lo-

cated in the heart of Severna Park, and one of the highlights of the year is entertaining friends and clients during the annual Fourth of July Severna Park parade." Forty years have come and gone, but the partners at Gardiner & Appel have stayed committed to their roots, helping local businesses prosper. "There's no end in sight," Gardiner said. "With Karl at the helm, he is going to steer it in the right direction and it will continue to grow."

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## Five Things You Must Do Before Meeting With A Retirement Planner

» **Continued from A15**  
years or one year out from retirement.

A longer planning period helps ensure that nothing is missed and things are done in a timely manner. I like my clients to start living their retirement budget six months before they stop working. We then meet six and three months out from their retirement date for an income planning session and to double-check that everything is in place.

Some things, such as Social Security, pension plans and Medicare, require time to get started. For example, the Social Security Administration suggests that you file three months before your retirement date. Knowing your retirement timelines and planning ahead gives you a much better chance of seeing your goals and dreams come true.

### GOALS AND DREAMS

When building your list of your retirement goals and

dreams, make sure that they are what *you* want and what *you* value. This should not be a list of things you “think” you should want to do, because “everyone else is doing it.” This is your own personal list of what is most important to you.

You should include the travel and fun you’ve always wanted to do, but you should consider things like what assistance, if any, you would like to provide to your children and grandchildren, if leaving a legacy is important to you. Thinking about your goals and dreams before your first meeting will give your financial professional a good understanding from which to create a realistic budget for your future.

### FAMILY BUDGET

Most people have no idea what their budget needs to be in retirement and the standard “80 percent of your current salary” may or may not be accurate, because it doesn’t take your personal

circumstances into consideration. When clients present their family budget to me, it’s not my job to judge whether their line items stay or go; it’s my job to help you plan for those expenses in every stage of retirement.

Due to space restrictions, I can’t go into detail on my three stages of retirement, but here is a quick overview:

•**Go-Go Years:** Just retired, healthy, and ready to do everything you’ve been putting off, such as traveling and new hobbies. Expenses are usually a bit higher during this stage of retirement.

•**Slow-Go Years:** Start slowing down, travel less, and spending typically slows down.

•**No-Go Years:** Health and long-term care become your biggest risks and affording medical care becomes your biggest concern.

To make sure your money will last through retirement, a planner should look at your family budget and help you de-

termine how much you need. It can be difficult to estimate inflation and project costs 20 to 30 years out, but starting with your current family budget gives them a head start.

### STATEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

If you are meeting with a retirement planner, it makes sense to take your various statements and documents with you. It may surprise you, however, what your financial professional will learn from them.

Bring the last few years of tax returns, 401(k) statements, savings account and brokerage account statements, any life insurance or long-term care insurance policies, etc.

When we ask for your retirement account statements, it’s not so much to see the dollar amounts (although that’s important); it’s to see how your money is allocated. Is it a 401(k), 403(b), Roth IRA or traditional IRA? How aggressively or conservatively have

you allocated your money? All of these questions will help give your retirement planner a baseline for your finances and an idea for your risk tolerance. This allows them to create a personalized plan that will cover your desired retirement budget while also anticipating some questions and concerns you may have.

### QUESTIONS

In the weeks or days leading up to your first meeting with a retirement planner, you should start writing a list of questions you have. It’s so easy to forget once you’re sitting in their office, but having your questions written down will ensure you don’t forget anything. No question is stupid, so make sure you ask your questions! This is your time to not only talk about your retirement but also get to know the financial professional and decide if his or her approach and philosophy to retirement planning falls in line with your own.

Interestingly enough, most

people put off meeting with a retirement planner out of fear that they will learn they haven’t “saved enough” to retire, but worrying won’t change anything. If you start your planning process early, you’ll know what you’re really working with and can take concrete steps to get where you want to be. The first step to gaining confidence in your future is to start the planning process, and that starts with your first meeting with a retirement planner.

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# SEVERNA PARK SPORTS

SEVERNA PARK, MD

APRIL 3, 2019

B1

## Severna Park Girls Off To Hot Start



Photo by Colin Murphy

Severna Park's Hunter Chadwick attacks the St. Mary's defense on March 25. Chadwick led all scorers with four goals in the Falcons' 9-8 win over the Saints.

By Colin Murphy  
[colin@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:colin@severnaparkvoice.com)

If one were to build a lacrosse team from scratch, the wish list might read something like this: an experienced defense, midfield speed, multiple offensive threats, depth, strong goalie play.

Watching the Severna Park girls lacrosse team? Check, check, check, check, check.

It remains to be seen how fully the Falcons can breathe life into their on-paper assets, but Severna Park took a positive first step in realizing its 2019 potential with a 9-8 victory over Interscholastic Athletics Association of Maryland A Conference opponent St. Mary's in Annapolis on March 25.

Hunter Chadwick led all scorers with four goals, while Alex Miller and Maddy Brady scored two goals each and Julia Putzi added a score. Delaney Ott anchored a mostly stout

defensive performance for the Falcons with 10 saves.

Bryce Pfundstein led St. Mary's with three goals. Gracie Driggs scored two goals, and Maggie Aumiller, Grayson McKenzie and Rosie Davis added scores. Jo Torres made 8 saves.

Severna Park thwarted a late Saints rally to win this year's edition of a mini-rivalry that has yielded productive gameplay for both programs over the years.

"St. Mary's is always a huge game for us," said Severna Park coach Kaitlyn Hines, whose Falcons lost last year's matchup, 11-10. "Any of our private school teams that we play, it's usually some good competition."

Severna Park moved to 3-0 with an 8-4 win over Severn on March 30. Miller and Hailey Betch had two goals each, while Theresa Bragg, Gen Mullervy, Rachel Spilker and Brady all

>> Continued on B5

## No Letup: Severna Park Softball Looking Strong Early In Title Defense



Photos by Colin Murphy

Left: Olivia Driver had three hits against South River in a 10-2 win on March 29. Center: Kylie Dingess pitched six innings and got the win over the Seahawks. Right: Campbell Kline slid safely into home for Severna Park's 10th run.

By Colin Murphy  
[colin@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:colin@severnaparkvoice.com)

The Severna Park softball team is picking up right where it left off. Ten months after crowning the program in a dominant run to a state championship, the Falcons have started hot

in 2019. Wins over Howard, Broadneck, Arundel and South River have the Falcons at 4-0 entering April.

"They've been very calm," said head coach Meredith McAlister, asked what has stood out from the Falcons' early-spring efforts thus far. "We haven't gotten out to

great starts in some of these games, we've let a couple runs on the board, but then we've made adjustments, they've made adjustments up at the plate to kind of rebound and put some more on the board and get some breathing room. They don't really get pressured. They stay kind of

level and blue-headed, and they support each other no matter what."

Severna Park's 10-2 win over South River at home on March 29 was a perfect example. The Seahawks got out to a 2-0 lead on two hits in the first inning, but

>> Continued on B4

## Falcon Boys Lax 'Focused, Disciplined'

By Colin Murphy  
[colin@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:colin@severnaparkvoice.com)

Before, during and after the Severna Park boys lacrosse team's home game against Kent Island on March 27, the Falcons were preaching focus, adherence to the game plan and executing with precision.

Junior attackman Mikie Harmeyer put it like this: "When we stick to the course and have good ball movement and play as a team and play really disciplined, that's when the good looks start coming and we really start scoring."

Senior Matt Alton said

the defense maintains a similar mindset: "If we talk and focus, it keeps everyone playing together."

The mentality translated to the scoreboard. Severna Park produced disciplined execution on offense and clean communication on defense to run over the visiting Buccaneers with a 13-3 victory.

Harmeyer led all scorers with 5 goals, Jimmy Maher had 2 goals and 3 assists, Kurt Klaus had 2 goals, Shane Carr made 9 saves, and the Falcons moved to 2-0 to start the 2019 year.

Still very early in the 2019

>> Continued on B3



Photo by Colin Murphy

Severna Park's Matt Alton and Cameron Bear closed in on Kent Island's Stephen Ruffennach during the Falcons' 13-3 win over the Buccaneers on March 27.

## Broadneck Boys Reflect Proudly On Run To State Final

By Colin Murphy  
[colin@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:colin@severnaparkvoice.com)

The Broadneck boys basketball team came up one win shy of the ultimate prize on March 16, falling to an exceptionally powerful Eleanor Roosevelt High School team in the 4A state championship game at the Xfinity Center on the University of Maryland campus, 77-48.

The Raiders (24-3) made a statement as one of the best high school basketball teams in Maryland in the past five to 10 years by capping their season with an overwhelming victory. Roosevelt received 25 points and 14 rebounds from

William & Mary commit Cameron Brown, 13 points from Jaamir Butler, 10 assists from Kyle Rose, 10 points from Coppin State commit Isaiah Gross and 12 points by Jahari Simon in deploying their fast, athletic, deep unit to run away with a convincing win.

Broadneck saw a team-high 22 points from senior Jamar Young and got contributions from throughout the lineup, showing no fear in



Photos by Colin Murphy

(L-R) Broadneck seniors Jamar Young, Che Colbert and Mike Cantrell helped power the Bruins to the regular-season county championship, the 4A East region championship, a state semifinal victory and an appearance in the state final.

competing and hanging with the Raiders through the first 10 minutes of play before ultimately succumbing to Roosevelt's oversized talent.

"Simply put, I couldn't be any more proud of a group of guys," said Broadneck coach John Williams. "I

was thrilled about the season we put together. It's slightly disappointing that we came out and played in the fashion we did, but we give a lot of credit to Roosevelt. They're quite a team."

The final score shows that a Broadneck victory

was always going to be a tall order, though there is a world in which the Bruins' best game, coupled with a Roosevelt off-night, would produce a momentous upset for the Bruins.

Broadneck (22-6) started the game like a team looking to fulfill that

dream. Roosevelt scored off the opening tip, but Broadneck senior Che Colbert came down the floor and hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to give Broadneck a 3-2 lead.

From there, the Bruins played free, building an improbable lead. Logan

Vican flew in for an offensive rebound and stick-back, and Young hit an elbow jumper. Broadneck led 7-2.

Then, the Bruins let it fly. Young hit a 3-pointer from the left corner. Senior Nick Gatton banged another 3. Mike Cantrell launched a 3 from the wing — swish. David Stewart came off the bench and hit a 3. A discombobulated Roosevelt side called timeout as Broadneck's students and fans shook the stands with vibrant cheering and a sense that the Bruins might just pull off a wild win. Broadneck led 21-18 after one quarter.

Even when Brown produced the night's highlight — an oh my breakaway slam dunk plus a foul that sent the Roosevelt fans into a frenzy of delight — Broadneck responded.

Andrew Rose hit yet another 3-pointer, and the game was tied at 26-26 early in the second quarter.

"I think we were confident with how we handled their pressure, it was just whether we could sustain it," said Williams.

>> Continued on B7



# Severna Park Baseball Building Experience, Consistency



Photos by Colin Murphy

Ben Litkowski (3) slid safely into home on a double by Corey Bodnar (23) for Severna Park's lone run in a 3-1 loss to South River on March 29. Wes Adams (9) and Logan Harris pitched for Severna Park. Catcher Andrew Bashor (14) eyed a South River pitch in the fifth inning. The Falcons will look to rebound with early-April games against Annapolis, Southern and Northeast.

**By Colin Murphy**  
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The key for the Severna Park baseball team in 2019 is going to be establishing consistency.

With plenty of talent on the roster, the Falcons are off to a 3-2 start with wins over St. Mary's and Centennial, but they went just 1-2 in three county games during the final week of March, sandwiching losses to Broadneck and South River around a win over Arundel.

Severna Park's latest effort on March 29 came in a loss against a visiting South River team that got out to an early lead and kept the Falcon lineup in check for a 3-1 win.

The Seahawks scored two runs in the third inning and another in the fourth to go up 3-0. **Corey Bodnar** hit

an RBI double in the fifth inning to pull the Falcons to within 3-1, but Severna Park couldn't mount any further rallies against the exceptional pitching of South River's **Kavi Caster**, who pitched 6.2 innings on 106 pitches, allowing only three hits and striking out 12 to earn the win.

"We need to get better in all facets of the game," said Severna Park head coach **Eric Milton**. "In the loss against Broadneck, we didn't hit. Then against Arundel, we hit but we didn't play defense. Today we didn't hit again. We pitched OK, but the pitching wasn't where we wanted it to be. We just need to clean everything up and work at all three areas."

In the loss to Broadneck, **Matt Isaac** drove in two runs for the Bruins, and **Nick Gatton** pitched a complete-game shutout

victory with eight strikeouts and only three hits as Broadneck won, 3-0, on March 26.

But Severna Park rebounded forcefully. The Falcons exploded for 13 runs on 12 hits in a 13-3 win over Arundel on March 27. Junior **Brendan Simonds** belted a three-run homer to deep right field in the second inning, spotting Severna Park to a 7-0 lead. **Jacob Way** was 3-for-3 with a walk and scored three runs, while **Camden Handwerger** had two doubles and scored twice and **Parker Jones** had a two-RBI double. **Mark Sasse** had two hits and an RBI and scored, **Jordan Hallet** had an RBI single, and **Josh Horgan** had a single and scored three times.

**Evan Lewis** was the winning pitcher for Severna Park against Arundel,

striking out eight and getting his second win of the season (St. Mary's); Lewis came on strong in the second half of last season and has early claim as the team's ace. Lewis, Simonds, Handwerger, Jones, Way, **Wes Adams**, **Logan Harris**, **Logan Hamer** and **Michael Isakov** make up Severna Park's pitching battery; Adams and Harris pitched decently against South River, while Simonds struck out eight batters against Broadneck.

Against South River, Bodnar and Hallet made sensational diving catches in the outfield, but the bats weren't there to complement the workable pitching and defense. Simonds said the team needs to replicate its offensive energy from the win over Arundel, something it failed to do against South River.

"Offensively, we've got to come out of the gate, get up in the dugout, get up in the field," he said. "At Arundel we were up, we were vocal, we were going into it just confident in everything we did. [Against South River] we came out and we were sluggish, and that's what you get when you come out like that."

Handwerger is among a large segment of the team stepping into starting and/or prominent roles following the graduation of many of last year's players. While the team is relatively inexperienced in this regard, Handwerger said the players are hungry and ready to contribute.

"Definitely getting to watch last year and see how everything works gives us a better idea of how we need to approach the games and how we need to be focused

and locked in every game," said Handwerger.

The Falcons have runway for growth over the next two months and the ability to make it happen, and Milton said it's all going to show in how much they want it.

"I think we could get a lot better," he said. "A lot of it is going to be mentality and work ethic, little things like that. If they work at it and they want to get better, they can get a lot better. But, it's teaching them how to do that."

Simonds believes the team will be right back at the top of the conversation by late May.

"In my mind, we can make another run," he said. "As long as we push each other, we can do anything we want, because this county's for the taking right now."

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# Falcon Boys Lacrosse 'Focused, Disciplined' In Starting Season 2-0

» **Continued from B1** campaign, it was easy for coach **Dave Earl** to like what his Falcons delivered in the winning effort.

"I thought in the first half we played really well offensively, and defensively we were playing like us," he said. "I thought we got away from that in the second half a little bit, which can be easy to do when you have a lead. We've got to work on staying the course and playing Severna Park lacrosse for 48 minutes."

Even a minute or two of lapsed play didn't offer much respite for the visiting Bucs, who were greeted with a 5-0 Falcon scoring barrage to open the game. Harmeyer dodged two defenders to feed **Connor Panepianco** for the game's opening score. He followed with a dizzying flurry of moves for the Falcons' second goal: a hesitation, shot fake, dive toward goal and corner snipe to make it 2-0. **Klaus** scored unassisted, and Maher scored off a pass from **Kyle Griffith**. **Joseph Killpatrick** closed the first quarter by scooping up a rebound and punching it into net for a 5-0 lead.

In the second quarter, Harmeyer scored from an almost impossible angle before Klaus netted a long-distance crank. Harmeyer scored twice more in the quarter — one high, one low — on dodges from the left side, and Severna Park led 9-1 at half.

Harmeyer scored 10 goals in the Falcons' 18-0 win over Northeast, tying the program's single-game record previously set by **Trevor Patschorke**, and has 15 goals in two games.

He said he's never reached that total in a two-game stretch in his life, even playing with Green Hornets.

"It's been a lot of fun, but my teammates get me in the right position to shoot the ball and score, so I owe it all to them," Harmeyer said. "Practicing every single day, we come out focused with the mentality to win. I put that on my teammates for them allowing me to be successful."

On the defensive end,



*Mikie Harmeyer (7) scored five goals against Kent Island and has 15 goals in two games. Joseph Killpatrick (2) saw his shot find the back of the net in the first quarter. Mark Bredeck (38), Shane Carr (in goal) and the Severna Park defense shut out Kent Island for long stretches of play throughout the Falcons' 13-3 win.*

Photos by Colin Murphy

the core group of Alton, juniors **Mark Bredeck**, **Trent Bellotte** and **Niles Tinsley** kept Kent Island largely frustrated. Buccaneer possessions became fruitless wheel-spinning that ended in stick checks, double teams and ground balls. When Kent Island was able to get a look, senior goalkeeper Carr was in position, stonewalling the Bucs with a collection of excellent saves.

Alton praised Carr's leadership and the ability of the defense to work together.

"I think a lot of the time it's the focus we put into practice," said Alton. "Having both me and Shane back

there to lead the defense just helps everybody a lot. Shane has always been really good at, if something bad happens, getting the defense back up on their feet and

getting us ready. That has rubbed off on me and the other defenders too, which is really good to have."

Kent Island scored twice in the third quarter,

but sophomore **Colin Shadowens** did well winning face-offs, and the Falcon offense went back to work. Killpatrick scored a second goal, and

Maher scored and assisted on goals by Harmeyer and **Cameron Bear**.

"With Coach Earl and the coaching, every day at practice we try to be as a team and not individuals, and that's even what he said to us at halftime," said Maher. "We just need to play as a team. We stick to that, and that's why I think we are so successful, because we just to what we're supposed to do and keep it flowing."

**Casey Fox** came on for Carr in the fourth quarter and cleanly saved all three of the shots that came his way, and the Falcons shut out the Bucs in the frame to close the 13-3 win.

Earl was unconcerned by personnel turnover from graduation in the midfield and defensive units for a program that has experienced tremendous success and continuity while winning state championships in the last three seasons.

"We've got a system, and it's next man up," said Earl. He noted the team doesn't look ahead. "We don't talk about season goals," he said. "It's just about getting better every day."

Maher, Alton and Harmeyer showed no interest in celebrating the victory or worrying about whom else might contend for the county or region this spring.

"We're just playing every game one game at a time and not looking ahead and treating every team like they're going to be the hardest team we play," said Maher.

"Practicing every single day," said Harmeyer, "we come out focused with the mentality to win."

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## No Letup: Severna Park Softball Looking Strong Early In Title Defense



Photos by Colin Murphy

**Left:** Viktoria Dorn covered first base for the Falcons against South River. **Center:** Emma Hall (with helmet) was greeted by teammates after her third-inning home run gave Severna Park a 3-2 lead. **Right:** Madison Gerard connected with a pitch in the fifth inning. The Falcons improved to 4-0 on the season with their 10-2 victory over the Seahawks.

» **Continued from B1**  
Falcon starting pitcher **Kylie Dingess** settled in, surrendering just two hits over the next five innings before **Kerri Kazmarek** came on for the final inning. Dingess has a more prominent role as the team's primary starting pitcher in the wake of **Marissa Heuer's** graduation last spring. "It's a little pressure, but I think a little pressure is good," said Dingess. "I stay calm and trust my field and my teammates behind me. I know they've got my back, so I'm not focusing on strikeouts necessarily, but

just getting the easy ball hit in play, fly balls." Offensively, the Falcons did what they do well: put constant pressure on opposing pitching staffs. They wasted no time, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first to tie the game 2-2. **Emma Hall** provided the day's exclamation point, crushing a line-drive solo home run to left field in the third inning that gave Severna Park a 3-2 lead, and the Falcons rolled from there. Hall was 3-for-3 with four RBIs, while **Olivia Driver** had three hits as well. **Campbell Kline** had two

hits and scored three runs, while **Emily Gabbard** had two hits, an RBI and a run scored; **Emily Wilson** had an RBI hit; and Dingess had a hit. **Peyton Sullivan** scored three runs. Hall was mobbed by teammates at home plate after her home run, her own smiles and celebration somewhat muted because she didn't initially realize her drive had cleared the fence. "I thought they caught it," said Hall with a laugh. "I was surprised. I just remember wanting to drive the ball." The win was another strong offensive showing for

the Falcons, who defeated Howard 8-6, Broadneck 14-3 and Arundel 6-2. The aforementioned as well as **Madison Gerrard, Rachel Holly, Viktoria Dorn, Mackenzie Rice, Abbie Iaquinta** and **Michaela Schindler** have all contributed to Severna Park's welcomed level of depth for McAlister. "I've been moving a couple girls around here and there, and they're all performing in some way that really benefits the team," McAlister said. "That's how you say it's a team win. They're all working

their butts off, and they're all contributing. Either speed or power or defense or pitching, catching, they all bring something to the table, and it's nice to see that out of more than just nine or 10 girls. It's nice to see that out of 14 girls. So I think it's going to be a fun year." McAlister added the team has carried over its measured mentality and focus from last season. Asked if winning the state championship relieved pressure to allow the Falcons to just play relaxed, she replied it was actually the other way around. "Last year they were the same way," she said. "There was one game where they [were too excited], and that was up at Bachman against Chesapeake, and they ended up losing. And we talked

after the game about keeping a blue head and staying level, and they really kinda took that to heart and settled back down to who they were, and we never had that issue ever again. They came back in with that same mentality this year, so that's really nice to see." Dingess said as always, "there's some pretty good competition in the county this year," but she is confident in the Falcons' prospects. Hall likes where the team is: starting strong with a mind to keep working hard and improving. "I think if we keep improving the way we are now, we have a pretty good shot to do what we did last year, but we just have to keep working at it," Hall said.

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## Severna Park Girls Off To Hot Start



Photos by Colin Murphy

Severna Park's Kate Bray (above) caused five turnovers against St. Mary's, while Hailey Blachley (below) defended the Saints' Katelyn Panebianco in the second half.



» Continued from B1 scored in the victory over the Admirals, who got scores from **Eva Gormley, Katie Galloway, Bella Lynch and Samantha Vangieson.**

Against the Saints, the Falcons got out to an early lead on the strength of Miller's draw control and first-half scores by Miller, Brady and Chadwick.

Severna Park stretched the lead to 9-5 in the second half and held the St. Mary's offense scoreless for over 10 minutes.

Defensively, the back-line unit of seniors **Hailey Blachly** and **Kate Bray**, junior **Sophie Grazoli** and sophomore **Kaila Stasuli** and had the Saints' offense well-contained, and St. Mary's struggled to open up driving and passing lanes toward the goal. Bray led the team with five caused

turnovers.

"All of our slides were there," said Bray. "We are really fast, so we were able to get those doubles and stop their drives."

When relied upon, Ott stepped up, seeing the ball cleanly and coming up with save after save to end St. Mary's possessions and turn the ball back over to her offense.

"I was saying at the very beginning, it was a battle of the goalies," said Hines. "Both these goalies are crazy talented, and Delaney really stepped it up for us, just making phenomenal saves," said Hines.

Ott said her team played well to put her in a good position to make saves: "I think our defense is really fast, so that's one of our strengths, and we played pretty well this

game just sitting down, keeping them out and keeping them scoreless for a while," she said.

The Falcons' effort was further bolstered by its deep and experienced midfield unit. Spilker, **Cam Chew**, freshman Bragg and the Falcon midfielders hounded the Saints on the defensive end, were fast to every ground ball and transitioned quickly to offense.

"Midfield, we definitely have a lot of speed," said Hines. "I also think our depth is a strength. I have 12 players on the field and then a whole bench that could really go on and step up at any moment and play just as strong. That's a good thing and bad thing for me because I've got to figure out how to get all this talent on the field."

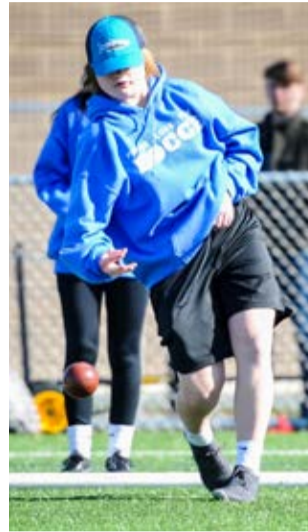
The defense had held St. Mary's to just five goals with under eight minutes to play, but the Saints chipped away to pull within a goal with under two minutes. The Falcons, though, controlled the final draw and killed off two minutes of clock to secure the win, with Chadwick circling the field and eluding the Saints' checks.

There is a lot of lacrosse to play in the next two and a half months. Broadneck and reigning 4A state champion South River will have their say in the 4A East.

Bray and Ott were reluctant to trumpet lofty goals for the season, instead saying the Falcons are focused on the here and now.

"It is one game at a time," said Bray. "We are just going to work on our defense and our offense and getting stronger."

## Falcon Bocce Shines In Home Opener



Photos by Colin Murphy

The Severna Park, Chesapeake and Southern bocce teams had a gorgeous, warm and breezy day for their match at Severna Park on March 27. The Falcons' permanent bocce facility behind the baseball fields will be completed this spring.

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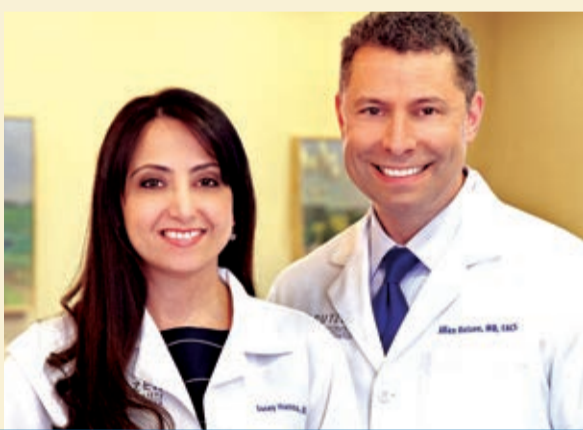
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# SP Track Teams Start Season With Wins At Glen Burnie



Photos by Colin Murphy

**Above left:** Severna Park's Sarah Adams beat out Broadneck's Adeline Smith and Annapolis' Torey Hurst to win the 100-meter hurdles at Glen Burnie on March 28. **Above right:** The Falcons' Rebecca Praley took second in shot put. **Top right:** Jojo Kelliher was fourth in long jump in addition to second in high jump and first in 110-meter hurdles. **Middle right:** Kailyn Jackson handed the baton off to Sophie Krejci in a relay race. **Bottom right:** Gavin Ivey placed second in the 1600-meter run.

By Colin Murphy  
colin@severnaparkvoice.com

The Severna Park track and field teams began the season with success at Glen Burnie's inter-county meet on March 28 as both the boys and girls placed first in the six-school field that included the host Gophers, Broadneck, Old Mill, Annapolis and Chesapeake.

The boys totaled 210 points to top runner-up Old Mill (180), and the Falcon girls stacked up 179 points to come out in front of Broadneck (135).

Standout performers were many. For the boys, **Jojo Kelliher** was first in the 110-meter hurdles, second in high jump and fourth in long jump. **Nick Benedict** won the 3200 in 9:46.99. **Max Nelsen** won discus

with a throw of 97 feet and shot put with a throw of 36 feet, 5 inches. **James Dennison** was third, **Philip Bansemer** was fourth, **James Louie** was seventh and **Reid Figlioli** was eighth in the 3200. **Hyun Lee** and **Jeremiah Jennings** were third and fourth, respectively, in the 110 hurdles. Jennings was third in the 300 hurdles, **David Dyck** was fourth and **Erick Howard** was sixth. **Gavin Ivey** placed second in the 1600, **Colm O'Connor** was sixth and **Ronan Byrne** was eighth. **Brandon Kiefer** was third in the 400, and **Hunter Robert** was eighth. **Andrew Weinstein** was sixth in the 200, second in long jump and fourth in high jump. **Collin Mullaney** was second in the

800, **Matt Chaisson** was fourth, and **Colin Leeds** was seventh. **Brandon Keifer** was sixth in high jump and fourth in triple jump. **Casey Grindle** was sixth in long jump. **Caleb Sartalamacchia** was third in triple jump, and **Graham Snyder** was sixth. **Jack VanVeelan** was fifth in shot put and seventh in discus. **Matthew Tagle** was seventh in pole vault. **Brauch Murray** was second to Nelsen in shot put.

For the Severna Park girls, **Sarah Adams** was first in the 100 hurdles in 17.09 seconds, first in the 300 hurdles in 48.66 seconds, and first in pole vault, clearing 9 feet, 9 inches. **Claire Kintzley** won long jump with a jump of 14 feet and placed second in triple jump. **Anna**

**Marcoon** placed third in the 100 hurdles. **Janice Chukwu** was second in the girls 100-meter dash. **Shania Johnson** was fourth in the 100. **Cara Vandemeulebroecke** was fifth in the 1600, an event won by Broadneck's **Mollie Fenn**. **Melanie Reynolds** was eighth in the 1600. **Olivia Wright** was second in the 400, and Kintzley was fifth. Wright was also second in the 800, won by Broadneck's **Grace Denius**. **Amalia Hagerty** was fourth in the 3200, which was won by Broadneck's **Madison Palmer**. Annabelle Mayo was sixth in the 3200. **Lilly Knapp** was eighth in the 300 hurdles. Hannah Hill placed fifth in the 200-meter dash. Vandemeulebroecke was fourth in the 800, and

**Neela Baker** was fifth. Kintzley was third in high jump. **Rebecca Praley**, **Kaylee Reyes** and **Halle Nichols** placed 3-4-5 in discus. Praley was second in shot put, and Reyes and Nichols were 7-8.

For Broadneck, Fenn, Denius and Palmer were event winners in the girls 1600, 800 and 3200, respectively. **Noah Heim** won the boys 400. **T-Naejah Watts** won the boys 200.

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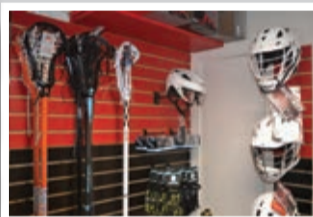
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# Broadneck Boys Reflect Proudly On Run To State Final

» **Continued from B1**

But Broadneck's game plan of slowing Roosevelt's pace was already being tested. The Raiders went on a run of three field goals to take a 33-27 lead, forcing a Bruin timeout. The onslaught had begun, and the Raiders came on like a rising tide. Butler hit a pair of 3's for Roosevelt, and the Bruins' Cantrell and Vican were forced out of much of the second quarter with two personal fouls each. Stewart, Rose, **Brendan Davis** and **Josh Ehrlich** filled the void as best they could, but by halftime, the Raiders led 45-29.

The Bruins did not recover. Roosevelt stretched its lead in the second half, throwing menacing double teams at Broadneck, getting out into the open court and earning a rightful anointing as state champs by night's end.

"They made a couple runs there in the second quarter, and we sputtered offensively. That was really the difference in the game," said Williams. "We really had trouble getting any traction after that. I think that pace of play really takes a lot out of you as a player. The physicality, the pace of play that they had was a bit of a problem."

A somber reckoning throughout the fourth quarter gave way to bittersweet celebration as the Broadneck students, teachers, families and fans cheered their Bruins through to the final horn.

And why not? The sight of an entire side of the Xfinity Center blacked out in Bruin fan gear made hearts swell with community pride. The Bruins' first-ever state-final berth punctuated a season in which Broadneck

got better and better throughout, beat Severna Park twice, made it to the county championship, won the region, defeated Richard Montgomery High School in the semifinals, shattered expectations and captivated an entire school and community.

"It's been a fun ride," said Williams. "I've never experienced anything quite like this. Had you told me we were going to be in the state championship game last year at the end of the season and that these guys were going to lead us, I would have had to pause for a moment. Not that I didn't believe in them, but those are really lofty goals. And here we are. The last month of the season has been quite a ride. For me as a coach it's been the best month of my career. And to just see these guys grow from four years ago as students, people and players, it's awesome. I mean, it's awesome."

"We really helped to unite a community. The amount of faces I've seen in the past three weeks, I've had 150 messages from various people, alumni. This run was as much for the past as it was for the present, and we talked about this to the kids, to the players, that we created a new generation of Broadneck basketball players. There's little kids running around looking up to Che, looking up to Mike, looking up to Jamar and Nick. This is a group that has a lot of perseverance and determination, and I hope they can look at this and use this as a platform into the future and understand that there are going to be failures, and it's critical that they bounce back from whatever failure



Photos by Colin Murphy

Senior Nick Gatton and junior Logan Vican (42) were rebounding, defense and scoring forces as big men for Broadneck throughout the season. "I'm very proud of these guys," said Gatton. "I wouldn't want to do it with anybody else but these guys."

it is. It's a lesson in life."

Some teams are inconsolable after a state-final loss, even bitter. But the Bruin players were poised, and they appreciated the magnitude of their achievements.

"I'm grateful," said Gatton, a senior who finished with 8 points and 9 rebounds in the game. "I'm grateful for standing up here, sitting up here with these guys. Never would I have thought

that I would make it to a state championship game in basketball. It's very overwhelming, it's surreal, and I wouldn't want to do it with anybody else but these guys. I thank coach for believing in us and believing in what these guys do and ultimately letting us get here. So, very good season that we had, and I'm very proud of these guys."

Young said the team, as it excelled throughout the season and ultimately

captured the region championship for the first time since 1995, did what no one predicted: made supporters out of its opponents.

"I had a very fun ride with this group of people," said Young. "I think we were the most underrated team in the county. A lot of people hated on us and thought we were going to be the worst team in the county. They would throw shots at us on social media. We wouldn't

say anything back to them, just come out on the court and play our game. As we got to the playoffs, as they got knocked out, they started to join us and motivate us and want us to win and make it out of the county and win a state championship."

Cantrell said the entire season, capped by winning the region and making it to the final, was full of special memories for the Bruins.

"I couldn't ask for a better season with these guys," Cantrell said. "Everybody just tuned in and everybody supported each other. I've never had a more supportive group ever. Even coach and all the players let me do my thing out there and always supported me. Man, to come to Maryland, it means the world to me, honestly. Just the season we had, I'll never forget it. It's just been the best, honestly."

The 2018-2019 Bruins are **Brendan Davis, Che Colbert, Josh Ehrlich, Brendan Kennedy, Jamar Young, Cyrus Jackson, Kyle Waggoner, Nick Gatton, Roberto Mazza, Chris Goshorn, David Stewart, Logan Vican, Mike Cantrell** and **Andrew Rose**. They are coached by **John Williams, John Spinnenweber, Zach Vrhovac, Gerald Stansbury, Tom Cole** and **Bobby Bates**. The team managers are **Erin O'Connor, Cooper Daras, Matt Brown, Jonathan Meyers, Kyle Reker, Diana Ready** and **Madison Hebert**.

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# SCHOOL & YOUTH

## Earth Day Festival To Focus On Ecology And Personal Wellness



By Jane Seiss

About 50 organizations and vendors will be on hand for the 17th annual Severna Park Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 27, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Severna Park High School. Kids from all of Severna Park's public schools will also emphasize recycling, upcycling, mindfulness and wellness with this year's event, which has the theme

Highlights of this year's festival include an expanded eco-marketplace that will feature fair trade items from local vendors and craftspeople.



"The aim is to educate and engage the community with activities, resources and information for participants of all ages."

"Reduce, Reuse, Refresh, Restore: R you in?"

The festival is sponsored by Good Neighbors Group (GNG), a local nonprofit that encourages and facilitates service and

giving in the community. Julie Shay runs GNG, and she co-chairs the Earth Day Festival with Severna Park resident and mom Chris Myers. This is the fourth year that seniors

from the Severna Park High School Leadership Program are managing the event. Festival student project managers are Michael Isakov, Thomas Voisinet and Alex Kuriawa.

"We expect somewhere between 500 and 1,000 people," Shay said of attendance at the festival. "We will try to have most of it outside." The aim is to educate and engage the community with activities, resources and information for participants of all ages. "We want people to come to the festival and learn things that they can apply to their own

» Continued on B12

## MRA Awards Two Scholarships To AACC Student

By Elizabeth Harwood

Years of soul-searching paid off for 26-year-old Alexander Thompson, an Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) student who was recently awarded not one but two scholarships from the Magothy River Association (MRA). After earning a bachelor's degree in environmental biology, Thompson discovered an important piece of the puzzle that unexpectedly landed him back in the Chesapeake Bay area pursuing an associate's degree in engineering.

In May 2016, Thompson graduated from Beloit College in Wisconsin with a bachelor's degree in environmental biology. Eager to contribute to the conservation efforts of the Chesapeake Bay, Thompson immediately began volunteering with West and Rhode Riverkeeper, Koolhof Earth, and Coastal Resources Inc. His broad experiences nurtured his appreciation for the world's natural resources and gave him to a deeper understanding of current events.

"I am definitely very concerned about climate change and a lot of the



Alexander Thompson

things that are going on in the world," explained Thompson, "and I don't want to see the ecosystem that I have studied disappear."

As Thompson thrived, one discipline in particular unexpectedly turned his head and his focus to a specialized role. Stormwater management confronts a modern challenge by combining his background in environmental biology with the seemingly unrelated studies of engineering.

"I knew about certain things that people were doing to manage stormwater," Thompson elaborated, "but I didn't really know about it as its own field until I was working with Coastal Resources." Stormwater management applies engineering principles to navigate accumulating runoff water effectively, thereby reducing the threat of flooding. Furthermore, because stormwater is also col-

» Continued on B10

## Park Teen Set To Graduate High School, College In Same Year

By Judy Tacyn

Shayna Bloom was at her job last August when she learned from her mother, Kristin Bloom, the good news that the 16-year-old had just fulfilled all the requirements to graduate high school. The unconventional announcement was perfectly normal for the formerly homeschooled Severna Park teen who entered Anne Arundel Community College at age 14 and is set to receive her two-year degree this May. "When I was 14 years old, I wanted to take



Photo by Judy Tacyn

Shayna Bloom

classes at AACC. I didn't think I would test into credit classes, so I was really surprised to learn that I scored high enough to officially enroll," Shayna said.

For two years, Shayna was dually enrolled in high school and college, and she still found time to work at Einstein Bros. Bagels in Severna Park and

perform in local theater groups. Shayna's first class at AACC was an English class. She remembers the professor posed a question to the class on the first day. "She said, 'What are you most nervous about?' in reference to starting college," Shayna recalled. "When it was my turn, I said, 'I'm 14 years old. That should be self-explanatory!'"

Thanks to her mom, Shayna learned to love learning from a young age. Kristin, a former Mont-

» Continued on B10

## SPMS Treats Audiences To A Peachy Production



Photos by Stephanie Mennell Photography

Severna Park Middle School's 63-member cast of "James and the Giant Peach Jr." went on a sweet and wild journey from March 29-31. James and his invertebrate friends started in London but ultimately crossed oceans and soared in the sky during the show, which presented a unique twist on the Roald Dahl children's story.



## Magothy River Middle School Raises Funds For Student Lunches

By Maya Pottiger

During the government shutdown, eighth-grader Blake Martin noticed that some of his classmates were having trouble paying for their lunches.

In Anne Arundel County Public Schools, once a lunch account hits an \$18 debt, the school provides a cheese sandwich for lunch.

"The thing about them is they're insufficient for giv-

ing kids the nutrients they need to continue through their day," Blake said. "It's something in their bodies, but it's not what they really need to be focusing in school."

Blake wanted to do something to help his classmates, so he talked to Magothy River Middle School Principal Dr. Nuria Williams.

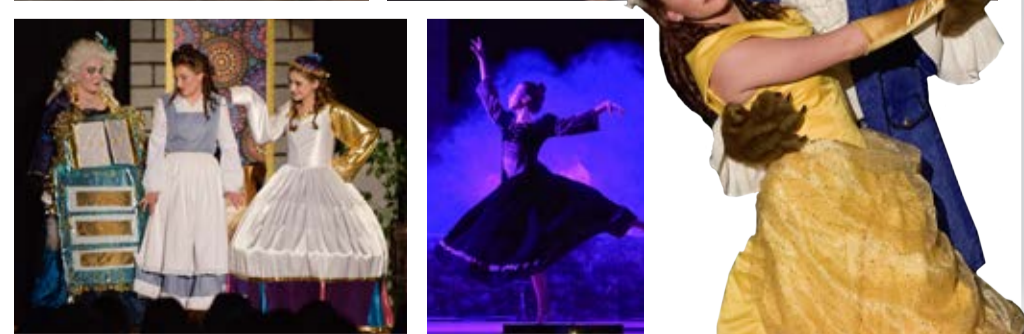
"These children, because of the shutdown, they didn't have the ability to pay for the food they needed to get

the full amount of nutrients," Blake said. "The general idea was raising enough money to pay for the lunches for them because they couldn't do it themselves because it wasn't possible."

Every year, the National Junior Honor Society puts on a talent show to benefit different causes. This year, Williams suggested Blake partner with the talent show. All of the funds raised from the talent show went

» Continued on B10

## St. John Presents "Beauty And The Beast"



Photos by Stephanie Mennell Photography

Young actors and actresses from St. John the Evangelist School tackled a tale as old as time with their retelling of "Beauty and the Beast Jr." over the weekend of March 22-24. With its themes that emphasized inner beauty and compassion for others, the heartwarming show was a success with audiences.





# Severna Park High School Students Awarded Scholarships

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Each year, the Anne Arundel County Council of PTAs (AACPTA) presents the Kenneth Lawson Scholarship to a senior who plans to pursue a career related to education. This year's recipient was Allison Omer from Severna Park High School.



Allison Omer

Throughout her high school career, Omer has focused on early childhood education. For her first three years of high school, Omer took child development courses and worked in the lab school at Severna Park High. Omer credits these positive experiences and her child development educator for deciding to pursue early education as a career. Omer said of her influential teacher, "She got us excited about teaching, and she did a great job leading us through the [child development] courses. She has prepared me well."

Currently, Omer is completing a year-long intern-

ship at Benfield Elementary School in Severna Park, which has served to further solidify her career choice. "I love being in the classroom and love seeing children excited about learning," she said. Omer believes her experience in the classroom and passion for education contributed to her winning the Kenneth Lawson Scholarship.

Omer's future plans include majoring in early childhood education at Salisbury University, where she was accepted to the honors program. Upon college graduation, Omer's goal is to teach in a classroom for a public school system in Maryland. While teaching, she also plans to pursue a master's degree in education. "I value my education and want to go above and beyond," she shared.

# Broadneck Elementary Students Aid Winter Relief

Fourth- and first-grade students at Broadneck Elementary recently packed lunches for Winter Relief at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.

"We wanted to involve the children, and they're so enthusiastic," said Jean Clarke, who volunteers with St. Margaret's Winter Relief and helped coordinate the project. "We were looking for things to collaborate on with the school, and this was a perfect fit."

In all, the four classes packed 70 lunches. Students drew designs on the lunch bags and also included handwritten cards for the recipients.

This year, part of Broadneck's initiative was to do more community service and outreach. Reading teacher Kelly Kiriakidis worked with Clarke to organize the project.



All items that were packed in the lunches were donated by Broadneck families. Teachers created a SignUpGenius that included all of the needed items, and parents signed up for what they wanted to donate.



In an effort to do more community outreach, Broadneck Elementary organized a day when students could pack lunches for Winter Relief at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.

# Shipley's Choice ES To Hold Annual Tech Trot

It's time to lace up your running shoes. Shipley's Choice Elementary School is gearing up for its 10th annual Tech Trot.

Every year, the Tech Trot helps the PTA raise money to buy new classroom technology. This year, the funds will go toward Chromebooks and

Smart Boards. The Tech Trot will be held Sunday, May 5. There are two options: a 1-mile run, which is geared toward kids in fifth-grade and younger, and a 5K, which is open to anyone. Both runs kick off at Shipley's Choice. The mile run goes through the school grounds, and the 5K goes through the neighborhood. Both races



run the 5K, it costs \$27. There is a family discount of \$90, which allows participants to register up to seven people. To register, visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) and search for "Shipley's."

After the run, attendees are invited to hang out at the school for food and entertainment. There will be a DJ, as well as live music from students in the Priddy Music Academy.

finish at the school. Registration is open through race day. To run the mile, it costs \$22. To

# SPHS Wish Week Volleyball Games

By Madi Mason Student Intern

During Severna Park's Wish Week 2019, a day of student and teacher volleyball games on April 9 will allow the school to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The junior vs. senior boys volleyball game and the student vs. teacher volleyball game have been organized by the leadership classes at SPHS to help grant the wishes of children who are critically ill.

"It's about getting our school involved in a world outside of Severna Park and teaching students the importance of giving back," said Yasmeen Mahmud, one of the leadership students who's organizing the event and

coaching the junior team.

By involving both upperclassmen and teachers in the games, the leadership classes hope to get many people involved and excited about Wish Week.

"I think kids get excited when there's competition between students and teachers," Timothy Dunbar said. As both the head varsity volleyball coach and a social studies teacher at SPHS, Dunbar has been involved in both athletics and academics for years. He's looking forward to the community coming together as well as getting out on a court again and playing for a great cause.

Although many students and teachers are excited about playing, coaching and watching the games, the focus

is charity.

"I'm really looking forward to the volleyball game, but if we reach our goal of raising \$24,000, I'd be even more excited because it would give us the chance to give a wish to a deserving kid and make a difference in the community," Mahmud said when asked what she's looking forward to the most.

Dunbar said, "What matters is that we're doing something for kids to help them make their wish come true."

With many exciting events and fundraisers during Wish Week, buying volleyball tickets is the perfect opportunity to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation and get involved with Severna Park High School.

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# Hate Has No Place In Our Schools

**Dana Schallheim**  
AACPS Board  
of Education  
District 5



Racism and anti-Semitism have no place in our schools. While we hope our children will never be subjected to acts of hate or biased behavior, both do occur far too often. This year, more nooses, swastikas and racial slurs have been found on school property, and multiple anti-Semitic incidents have occurred at schools across the county.

Biased behavior isn't limited to racism and anti-Semitism. Biased offenses can also be motivated by negative opinions or attitudes toward an individual or group of people based upon disability, physical attributes, gender identity, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin. The results of biased behavior can affect a child's emotional and physical wellbeing as well as be detrimental to his or her educational experience. The negative effects can be devastating and last a lifetime.

As a parent as well as a Board of Education member, I want all our children to feel safe at school. No child should be the subject of hate.

Year-long projects — such as the Positivity

Project, school assemblies that focus on kindness, and class circles in advisory classes — help ensure all students feel safe and welcome in our schools. Additionally, I am optimistic that the recently approved Global Citizenship course, with the appropriate teacher selection and training, will play a huge part in broadening students' world view and encourage understanding.

While these programs, alongside anti-bias training for teachers and staff, are important steps toward eradicating bias and hate from our schools, we still have a long way to go. When these heinous acts occur, students and staff should call it what it is. We shouldn't shy away from using terms like "racism," "anti-Semitism," or "biased behavior."

Anne Arundel County Public Schools must also ensure that all schools have equal access to resources, programming and assemblies to address all types of biased behavior, as well as bullying, head on. Facilitating community conversations in partnership with community groups — similar to the recent Conversation about Acceptance held at Chesapeake Bay Middle School — is just one example of how we can, alongside the community, take responsibility for this chronic problem

and work collaboratively to find solutions. I hope that similar community conversations will occur in every school cluster.

When incidents occur, parents and students should have tools at the ready. These tools include involving a trusted school staff member, such as a school counselor; meeting with school staff; and utilizing the harassment and intimidation (bullying) reporting form. This form can be found at [www.aacps.org/antibullying](http://www.aacps.org/antibullying).

This page includes tons of helpful information as well as the form, which can be filled out online. Use this form! If you don't report an incident, AACPS staff can't investigate.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the stresses that our young people endure. Know that you are never alone and that you are loved. If you or someone you know is suffering, talk to a school counselor, school psychologist or favorite teacher, or reach out using the numbers below.

**•MD Youth Crisis Hotline**

[www.aamentalhealth.org/pr\\_warmline.cfm](http://www.aamentalhealth.org/pr_warmline.cfm)  
1-800-422-0009  
24 hours a day, seven days per week

**•National Suicide Prevention Hotlines**

1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) or 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

# MRMS Raises Funds For Student Lunches

» **Continued from B8**  
to balance students' lunch accounts and help them afford lunch.

"Last year, we had a student who passed away tragically, so the money went to help his family pay for funeral costs," said Christine McCallister, a science teacher at Magothy River who runs NJHS. "This year, the money [went toward] the lunch accounts."

The talent show, which was held on March 27, featured a variety of acts, including

skateboarding, bands, an Irish dancer, a jazz dancer, a teacher act and a prominent rapper in the school.

"Not only did I think it would be something that would be benefiting people who needed benefits, it would shed light on how important politics are on everyday life," Blake said. "I think we need to be more curious about what's going on in the world around us."

The talent show charged \$5 per person at the door, and it raised more

than \$900 to benefit the lunch accounts.

"I walked away from [the] talent show truly impressed. Impressed this show was hosted and ran by students. Impressed at the talent and courage displayed by students, faculty and staff. Impressed by the support of our community," Williams said. "Lastly, impressed by the love and commitment to ensure student lunch accounts are current, and therefore providing them with a full meal."

# MRA Awards Two Scholarships

» **Continued from B8**  
lecting pollutants from its surface as it runs off, the navigated water can then be met with other planned management practices — rain gardens, tree planting, conservation landscaping — that help naturally "treat" polluted runoff water before finding its way into local streams.

Thompson's passion for stormwater management and stream restoration was solidified in fall 2018 through his participation with the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA). Concurrently, he began coursework at AACPS, where he met Dr. Susan Lamont, biology depart-

ment professor. Lamont notified Thompson of the MRA scholarships.

"I think what made him especially strong as a student was he knew exactly how what he was learning would fit into what he wanted to do next," Lamont shared.

The criteria for MRA scholarships include academic and volunteer work in environmental science, a 2.0 GPA, and an essay explaining the applicant's passion and why they're a good candidate. Dr. Sally Hornor, vice president of MRA, supported the decision to award Thompson with the Jim Gutman and the E. Gordon Riley MRA scholarships.

"[Alexander] had an ex-

cellent history of volunteer work," Hornor shared. "He has a degree in environmental science, and he wrote a great essay. He checked all the boxes really well."

Thompson's goal is to qualify for a master's degree program in engineering, something his bachelor's degree in environmental biology alone does not do. Hence, his interest in establishing his knowledge of engineering via an associate's degree at AACPS and later apply for a master's degree program. With a deep appreciation for scientific knowledge, Thompson hopes to help preserve the sustainability and habitability of the planet for the global population.

# Severna Park Teen Set To Graduate

» **Continued from B8**  
gomery County special education teacher, made sure Shayna's education included many field trips and hands-on experiences. Instead of reading about Renaissance art, Kristin took Shayna to museums to experience Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo and others. Instead of reading William Shakespeare, Kristin took Shayna to theater productions.

"My mom is a fantastic teacher for me and my sister," Shayna said. "Learning was and always will be an adventure."

Before she graduates from AACPS this May, Shayna will play Lady Capulet in

the college's production of "Romeo and Juliet" from April 12-14, and April 19-20. Also, she is a member of the college's Coalition for Christian Outreach.

"Shakespeare's words need movement; they need to be acted out," she added.

Shayna plans to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, in the fall and study English with an emphasis on creative writing for the stage and screen. She plans to pursue a post-graduate degree in London, a city she fell in love with when she was just 6 years old and read about the magical United Kingdom city, and then again last year

after completing a summer program at the University of Oxford in England.

Her dream job would be writing for "Doctor Who," a British science fiction television program produced by the BBC since 1963, or perhaps writing and acting in her own show.

"I love how science fiction and fantasy toy with ethical questions," Shayna said. "I am a total Sci-Fi nerd."

For more information on Theatre at AACPS's spring production of "Romeo and Juliet," including show times and ticket information, visit [www.aacps.edu](http://www.aacps.edu) and view the performing arts calendar.

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# Q.

## Question of the month

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

### If you could control the weather, what would you make it do?

I would make it warm because I like shorts.  
**Jake Austin**

I would make it sunny so I could play outside at home without having to worry about putting on a coat or a rain jacket.  
**Ailee Briggs**

If I could control the weather, I would make it snow because I like to have snowball fights.  
**David Carino**

I would make it snow because I do not like school and like the snow. Also, I love the cold, so I would make it snow.  
**Michael Domina**

I would make it 79 degrees and sunny because I like to go swimming and play sports.  
**Rylynn Emely**

I would give sunny days to everyone.  
**Tommy Engstrom**

I would always make it nice and cool out. I would love to relax and



Ms. Bytella's fifth-grade class answered the question "If you could control the weather, what would you make it do?"

# Jones Elementary School

read a book.  
**Jeremiah Hadden**

I would make the weather 80 degrees and sunny so I could lie out on the beach or play in the ocean.  
**Ava Haley**

If I could control the weather, I would make it sunny and warm because I love to play sports in the warm, and love to wear shorts and T-shirts.  
**Olivia Heskett**

I would make it rain money and dogs so I could have my favorite animal and have millions of dollars.  
**Cole Hogan**

If I could control the weather, I would make it 77 degrees and

sunny because I love playing outside.  
**Josie Gardner**

I would change the weather to sunny if I could because when it is sunny, you can do much more stuff, like go to the beach. Also, you will feel better and happy. I feel it's hard to stay sad when it is sunny outside.  
**Cody Gleason**

I would make it get warmer because it is very cold and I do not like cold weather because it is

just too cold.  
**Matthew Guloy**

If I could control the season, I would always have summer because I love the heat and swimming.  
**Sebastian Jacobs**

If I could control the weather, then I would make it snow so that I could go sledding. I would also like it because then I could stay inside more than on a summer day.  
**James Knott**

If I could have control of the weather, I would

make every day sunny and 75 degrees.  
**Tony Macleay**

If I could change the weather, I would make it good so I can go outside.  
**Joel Makowski**

I would make it sunny because I love going to the beach and swimming in the river, and I think a lot of other people would like that, too.  
**Henry Marriner**

I would make it snow because I dislike school.  
**Brody O'Brien**

I would make it 75 degrees and sunny in July.  
**Aiden Osterloh**

If I could control the weather, I would make it rain dogs so everyone can have a cute puppy.  
**Preston Roy**

I would make it sunny because I don't like to have indoor recess because I am very energetic.  
**Valeria Saenz**

If I could control the weather, I would make it always sunny because I love warm weather.  
**Addison Scott**

If I could control the weather, I would make it sunny because I love going to the beach and playing sports!  
**Madison Scott**

I would make it 60 degrees because it's not hot or it's not cold, so we can play soccer.  
**Zachary Simpkins**

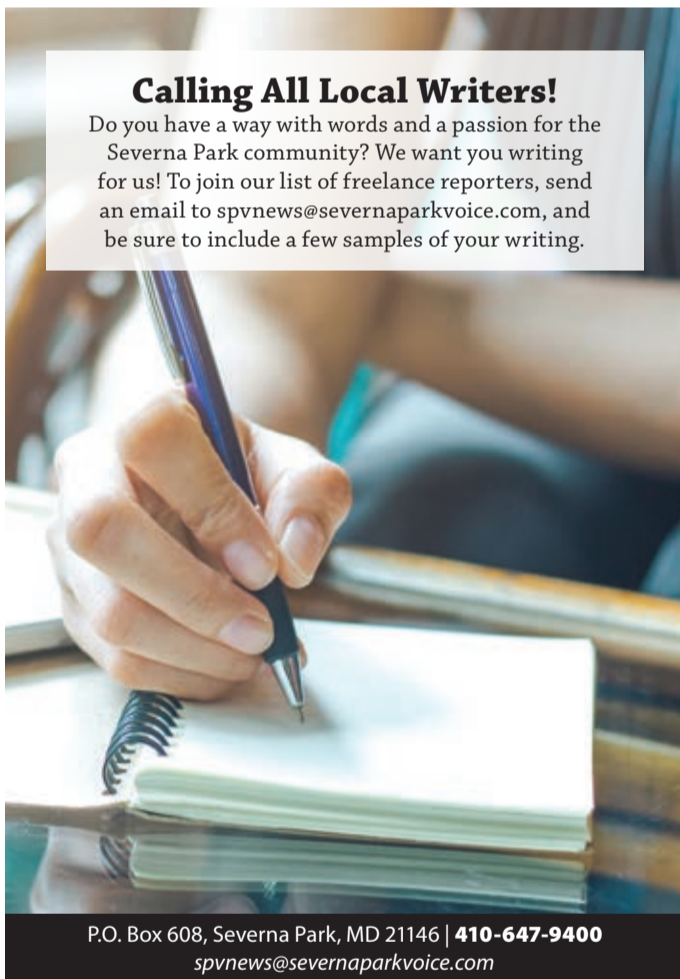
I would make it 80 degrees because it would be warm and we could play on the field and outdoor recess.  
**Joelle Viveiros**

If I could control the weather, I would definitely make it be very warm and sunny because it would be horrible to stay inside all day when you could have a great summer day.  
**Valerie Waugh**

If I could control the weather, I would make it all spring because you can always get in the pool.  
**Miyonna Wilkins**

### Calling All Local Writers!

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## Congratulations to our Smile of the Month!



Leah St. Lawrence is our April Smile of the Month. She is a sophomore at Severna Park High School and enjoys playing ice hockey and hanging out with friends in her free time.

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**Week 1 June 17 - June 21**  
**Incredibles**

They're back...a family of superheroes, while living a quiet life, are out to save the world. It's time to suit up with Helen, Bob, Violet, Dash and Jack-Jack.

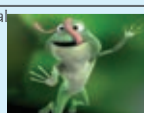


**Week 2 June 24 - June 28**  
**Cheer**

Future Cheerleaders will be introduced to cheers, jumps, tumbling, stunts, dances, and chants. Big Cheer Show at the end of the week for family and friends.

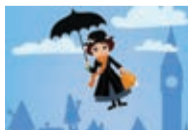
**Week 3 July 1 - July 5**  
**Animal Adventure (Closed on Thursday, July 4th)**

Experience the tropical sounds of a rain forest and visit with extraordinary animals along with our upside down fun gymnastics!!! Field trips planned to Eco Adventures.



**Week 4 July 8 - July 12**  
**Mary Poppins**

The magic always returns and a new story begins when a magical new nanny arrives from the clouds. Everything is possible with a series of fantastical adventures.



The Gym will be closed for all Classes, Team, and Camps July 14th-21st for Summer Break!

**Week 5 July 22 - July 26**  
**Under the Sea**

Little mermaid loves life under the sea. They say it's better where it's wetter. Ariel is fascinated with life on land and her BF Flounder goes on all her adventures.



**Week 6 July 29 - August 2**  
**Avengers**

Contest of Champions!!! Earth's mightiest heroes must come together and learn to battle as a team while collecting all six stones for the super powers.



**Week 7 August 5 - August 9**  
**Lion King**

Let's Roar... Everything the light touches is our kingdom. Simba returns to rise as the new King. Life's greatest adventure is finding your place in the circle of life.



**Week 8 August 12 - August 16**  
**Wreck it Ralph**

Arcade-gamer is tired of being the bad guy so he decides to take matters into his own hands and accidentally unleashes the enemy that affects the arcade.



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# SPES Presents Annual Shining Star Variety Show

Severna Park Elementary School's annual PTA Variety Show will be held April 5 this year.

Now in its 13th year, the variety show has raised more than \$7,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation since 2015. This year, all proceeds from the show will benefit the Fortney Breast Center at Anne Arundel Medical Center.

"We decided, especially with being such a community-based school, that it would be nice to change it to something more local," said Shannon Pearson, one of the show's executive directors this year.

The show features 46 acts and 150 students having their shining star moments. Audiences can expect to see magic, hula-hooping, singing, dancing and even taekwondo this year. Each act lasts 90 seconds to two minutes, so the show runs roughly



The variety show features 46 acts and 150 students having their shining star moments.

two-and-a-half hours.

This year, the production staff is entirely new. Pearson and Joe Comer are the executive producers, and Melissa Connelly is the assistant producer. Fifth-grade teacher Jennie Merrill is staying in her role as stage manager.

"We are trying to keep within the same vein of

giving each kid the opportunity to have their shining star moment and showcasing their talents," Pearson said.

A variety of concessions will be available in the lobby: popcorn, cookies, cupcakes, candy and bottled water. All proceeds from the concessions will be donated to the Fortney

Breast Center, as well.

The SPES PTA Variety Show will be held Friday, April 5, at Severna Park Elementary. The show starts at 7:00pm. While tickets aren't required, there is a suggested \$5 donation per person. All proceeds from the show benefit the Fortney Breast Center.

# Earth Day Festival To Focus On Ecology And Wellness

» Continued from B8 lives," Shay explained.

Highlights of this year's festival include an expanded eco-marketplace that will feature fair trade items from local vendors and craftspeople. There will be upcycled and repurposed sewn items from Honknocker, natural bee products from Maryland's Bee Haven second chance social enterprise, as well as Maryland Queen Bee. GNG and Hope Depot will sell fair trade items from around the world.

A bike-powered blender will mix smoothies, and there will be other farm-to-table treats like salads and fruit bowls. The Big Bean will sell coffee at the event.

The Anne Arundel County recycling program will run an electronics collections booth, and Best Buy has signed on to take TVs and monitors for a \$25 fee. Chesapeake Computer Refurbishing Group will collect flat-screen monitors and computers.

In addition, Leveling the Playing Field will accept donated sports equipment including trophies and teamwear to provide to underprivileged youth, and Music4More will collect used

musical instruments. Gently used and new school supplies will be collected for the Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap — specifically pens, pencils, highlighters, Post-it notes, index cards, dry erase markers, lined notebook paper, copy paper, construction paper, tissues and hand sanitizer. Orphan Grain Train will gather new or gently used crayons, pencils and composition books, and local animal sanctuary and rescue organization MAS Rescue will take heartworm and flea-and-tick preventive medicines that have not expired.

"It's our hope that people will take advantage of this convenience and recycle these items instead of adding them to the waste stream," Shay said.

Wellness activities will include yoga with Park Kids Yoga and YogaWorks, as well as meditation resources and nutrition counseling. Mental health and suicide prevention experts will be at the event.

The Earth Day Festival will provide environmental educational booths and demonstrations. For more information, visit [www.earthdayfestivalSP.org](http://www.earthdayfestivalSP.org).

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# Local Students Excel At County Science And Engineering Expo

During the 52nd annual Anne Arundel County Regional Science and Engineering Expo on March 14, approximately 100 county middle and high school students earned first-place awards. Below are the winners from Severna Park and Arnold.

## BROADNECK HIGH

- **Zoe Barbour**  
"Momentum Conundrum"  
Second Place  
Grade 9, Physics  
— United States Air Force STEM Award
- **Noah Barton**  
"Does Weight Affect Hovercraft Travel Distance?"  
Honorable Mention  
Grade 9, Engineering Mechanics
- **Katheryne Lochart**  
"Wing It!"  
First Place  
Grade 11, Physics  
— Biophysical Society Award  
— United States Metric Award for Best Use of the International System of Units  
— United States Air Force STEM Award  
— Society of Women Engineers Outstanding Engineer Award  
— ITA Excellence in Science and Engineering Award
- **Nicole Schroeder**  
"The Effect of Fertilizer Type: Nitrate and Runoff"  
Third Place, Grade 9  
Environmental Science



Magothy River Middle School had 15 students place or receive honorable mentions at the Anne Arundel County Regional Science and Engineering Expo.

- **Bianca Wilson**  
"What's the Pitch?"  
Third Place  
Grade 9, Physics
- ## MAGOTHY RIVER MIDDLE
- **Mia Chapman**  
"Thinking Inside the Box"  
Second Place  
Grade 8, Energy: Physical  
— Naval Science Award Junior Division
  - **Lindsay Curley**  
"Does Temperature Affect the Freezing Point of H<sub>2</sub>O?"  
Honorable Mention  
Grade 8, Environmental

- Science
- **Heather Doyen and Liam Doyen**  
"Protecting People Through the Power of Paper"  
Honorable Mention  
Grade 8, Physics
  - **Zachary Gardiner**  
"Sound Off"  
First Place  
Grade 8, Energy: Physical  
— Broadcom MASTERS Outstanding Middle School Project Award
  - **Natalie Hosie**  
"Would You Think This Project Was Cool?"  
Second Place

- Grade 7, Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Broadcom MASTERS Outstanding Middle School Project Award
  - **Rory Jacobs**  
"Are Band-Aids Really Stuck on You?"  
First Place  
Grade 8, Health Sciences
  - **Camden Lodico**  
"How EMF Affects Us"  
Third Place  
Grade 8, Energy: Physical
  - **Zachary Robinson**  
"Keeping It Private: Blocking RFID Readers"  
Second Place  
Grade 8, Systems Software
  - **Ella Sherman** —

- "The Science Behind Popovers"  
Honorable Mention  
Grade 7, Chemistry
- **Benjamin Sterner**  
"What Wash Preserves Strawberries the Longest?"  
Second Place  
Grade 7, Biochemistry
  - **Brooke Velez**  
"Solar Science"  
Honorable Mention  
Grade 7, Energy: Physical
  - **Olivia West**  
"What Sail Shape Allows the Boat to Travel Fastest?"  
Third Place  
Grade 7, Engineering Mechanics  
— ITA Honorable Mention
  - **James O'Leary**  
Third Place  
Computer Science Competition
  - **Timothy Wintrode**  
Honorable Mention  
Computer Science Competition

- Science
- **Sebastien Brennan**  
"Fibonacci"  
"Retracement in Financial Risk Management"  
First Place  
Grade 12, Mathematics  
— Educational Systems FCU Outstanding Mathematics Award  
— Defense Spectrum Organization Excellence in Mathematics  
— Achievement in Mathematics Award
  - **Ethan Prigge**  
"Pulverizing Parasites: Building New Vaccines"  
First Place  
Grade 11  
— Biomedical Engineering & Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society Award

## SEVERNA PARK MIDDLE

- **Nadine Maggio**  
"How Does the Type of Plant Affect Erosion?"  
Honorable Mention  
Grade 6, Environmental Science
- **Sabrina Richter Beam**  
"Deflection: Theory Versus Reality"  
First Place  
Grade 6, Engineering Mechanics  
— Broadcom MASTERS Outstanding Middle School Project Award
- **Dylan Rocky**  
"How Does Irradiated Water Affect Plant Growth?"  
Second Place  
Grade 8, Plant Sciences

## SEVERN RIVER MIDDLE

- **Lillian Moss**  
"How Does Color Affect Perception of Taste?"  
First Place  
Grade 6, Biochemistry

## SEVERNA PARK HIGH

- **Anna McCallister**  
"Worming Through Plastic Waste"  
First Place  
Grade 9, Environmental

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## Benfield Elementary School's Kids Heart Challenge Raised Record Amount



Benfield Elementary students raised a personal record-breaking \$17,825 for the American Heart Association through the Kids Heart Challenge. The top 10 students who fundraised the most money got to spin a wheel, which landed on the teacher they got to slime at an all-school assembly on Friday, March 22. This year, fourth-grader Colby Evans was the top fundraiser in the school with \$848. As a reward, Colby got to slime Benfield Principal Deborah Short. This fundraiser is special for Colby, whose dad was diagnosed with heart disease in 2015. "This event helps bring awareness that heart disease can happen to anybody at any time," said Heidi Evans, Colby's mom, who attended the assembly. "This helps make the community more aware of the symptoms." Since 2001, Benfield Elementary has raised roughly \$149,259 for the American Heart Association, according to youth marketing director Denise Harbaugh, who attended the assembly.



## Hair Color: Thinking Out Of The Box

Lisa Cardillo  
Tough Love Salon



As a professional hair stylist and colorist, I get a lot of questions about store-bought "box" hair color, and I fix a lot of problems caused by home hair colorists. It's important to understand how these products work, what can go wrong, and why I always recommend using an experienced professional.

Most box colors are permanent hair colors that are designed to replace color pigments in the hair shaft so the results can last until new hair grows out. To do this, they contain ammonia (or an alternative) to swell the hair cuticles open (think of them like scales). Then a peroxide developer is added, opening the cuticles further, lightening the existing pigment, and helping carry the new color pigments into the hair shaft.

While this sounds simple enough, the process must be carefully controlled to prevent damage. If the hair swells too much, the



hair shaft is compromised, which results in damage or breakage. This is one of the problems with box colors. They are made strong enough to be effective on a wide range of hair, but as a result, they tend to cause damage. You can minimize damage by choosing a high-quality product and following the instructions and timing carefully.

Another common problem with box color is "build-up" and "banding" that can occur due to heavy pigments combined with improper application.

After your roots show, and you apply color again, the previously colored hair gets darker and the new hair is lighter. After a few applications, a "build-up" will form and you will see visible "bands" of color. Professionals avoid this by sectioning your hair and applying color only to new growth and then blending.

With these tips, you can minimize damage and get decent results, but only if you want boring color and there are not any other factors to consider. Colorists consider many other

factors: natural hair color, porosity, gray coverage, deposits from hard water or chlorine, heat and sun exposure, etc. They know what's best for your specific hair. They use high-quality products (like Davines) to mix custom colors at strengths that are perfect for you. Like an artist, they also use special application techniques to add subtle or bold dimension.

Think of it like this; you can buy the best paint in the world, but that doesn't make you an artist. Professional colorists use quality products and have the creative talent, knowledge, skills and experience to achieve beautiful results that are tailored to your specific hair condition, which changes over time. They also place color precisely, use toners for special effects, add vivid accents and much more.

So if you want professional results, find an experienced colorist who uses quality products from responsible companies. Work with them to get custom color that you love and are able to maintain. Then, use the hair care products they recommend to help maintain that look for longer.

## Are You Aware Of The 12 Warning Symptoms Of Varicose Veins?

Jon A. Hupp, MD,  
FVSV, FACS  
Maryland Vein  
Professionals



Varicose veins can happen to just about anyone at any age. That's why you should review this list of the top 12 warning symptoms of varicose veins.

### DO YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

- Leg pain or aching legs?
- Cramping?
- Burning or itching of the skin?
- Leg or ankle swelling?
- A "heavy" feeling in the legs?
- Skin discoloration or texture changes?
- Restless legs?

- Open wounds or sores?
- Has anyone in your family been diagnosed with vein disease?
- Have you recently been pregnant?
- Do your legs feel achy after prolonged periods of sitting or standing?
- Have you tried other methods of treatment with little or no symptom relief or do symptoms reoccur?

### YOU MAY HAVE VEIN DISEASE

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, you may be suffering from superficial venous reflux disease. In fact, according to Stanford Hospital in California, approximately half the U.S. population suffers from vein disease.

Today, you can choose from a variety of minimally invasive procedures that are quick and virtually painless, provide fast recovery times, and are normally covered by your insurance or Medicare.

### TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR VEIN DISEASE

- **VNUS Closure (also known as Venefit)** — Delivers heat to dissolve the vein wall quickly and effectively. Most patients return to normal activity immediately following the procedure.
- **Verithena Endovenous Microfoam Injection** — Provides a new, safe and effective treatment alternative to microphlebectomy.
- **VenaSeal Closure System** — Uses a medical-

grade glue to close damaged veins. Patients walk out with only a small bandage.

- **Sclerotherapy** — Injects a medication into targeted spider veins to make them disappear before your eyes.

### WHAT TO EXPECT IN A VEIN TREATMENT CENTER

You should choose a treatment center dedicated exclusively to vein care, with experienced physicians who are board-certified surgeons and a practice concierge who checks your insurance coverage before your first appointment.

For more information, call 410-946-6256 or visit [www.mdveinprofessionals.com](http://www.mdveinprofessionals.com).

## Tech Talk With Dr. Cranska

Jeffrey Cranska  
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In upcoming months, I will answer questions on high-technology dentistry. Please direct inquiries to my website at [www.cranska.com](http://www.cranska.com) or email me at [familylaserdentistry@outlook.com](mailto:familylaserdentistry@outlook.com).

### ORAL HEALTH CARE DURING PREGNANCY

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has issued statements advising patients to see a dentist during pregnancy. The ACOG confirmed that teeth cleanings, local anesthesia and X-rays (with protective apron shielding of the abdomen and thyroid) are safe for pregnant women. The American Dental Association agrees that oral health care during pregnancy is safe and needed.

A woman's health care needs change throughout her life. Different concerns exist during puberty, menstruation, pregnancy, menopause and post-menopause.

### Q: Why is dental care important if I'm planning to have a baby or if I'm pregnant?

**A:** If a mother has active decay in her mouth, it increases the chances of her baby having tooth decay. Her mouth bacteria can be passed to her children. Pregnancy can cause gum problems and tooth erosion. Up to three out of four pregnant women have gingivitis due to hormonal changes.

### Q: What are periodontitis and periodontal disease?

**A:** Periodontal disease is an infection of the tissues that surround teeth. It is caused by the accumulation of bacteria (long-term plaque). It's progressive, causing the structures that support teeth to break down (gums, jaw bone and attachment to the roots). As gums are damaged, pockets develop around the

teeth. Untreated, more gum is destroyed and infection spreads down the roots to infect bone. Even healthy teeth become loose, fall out or need to be extracted. Periodontitis is the primary cause of adults losing their teeth.

Gingivitis is the milder and reversible form of periodontal disease, with no bone loss, yet.

Untreated gingivitis can progress to chronic periodontitis. Oral infections need to be treated during pregnancy.

### Q: What is tooth enamel erosion?

**A:** Acid erosion begins with enamel demineralization, dissolving of the outer enamel surface of the tooth. Enamel is the hardest surface in the human body.

Frequent vomiting can cause enamel demineralization from direct exposure to stomach acid. Rinse your mouth after vomiting, but don't brush for about half an hour. Allow the enamel to remineralize and be less soft.

Early demineralization can be reversed with dental office and home application of prescription fluoride and calcium phosphate gels and varnishes.

### Q: How do I take care of my teeth and gums when I find out I'm pregnant?

**A:** You need to do three things:

- Make an appointment with your dentist if it's been six months or when you are due for an examination and professional cleaning. Tooth decay and periodontal disease can be treated.
- Step up your home brushing and flossing regimen. Use preventative products (fluoride rinses, gels, etc.) to prevent the onset of tooth decay.
- Drink at least 8 ounces of fluoridated tap water a day. This gives the babies forming teeth cavity preventing fluoride.

Oral health care is a part of your overall wellbeing and should be maintained before, during and after pregnancy and throughout a woman's lifetime.

## Jing Ying Hosts World Tai Chi Day On April 27

Over the past two decades, a special celebration of tai chi and qigong has quietly grown across the planet. Each year, on the last Saturday of April, in hundreds of cities in more than 80 nations, World Tai Chi & Qigong Day events have been held in every time zone around the world. Starting at 10:00am in the first time zone and moving in a wave around the earth as 10:00am reaches each new time zone, groups will gather to practice tai chi.

The Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, a participant in this global event for nearly two decades, will celebrate World Tai Chi & Qigong Day this year on Saturday, April 27. The event will be held at the Severna Park Community Center, under the trees beside the Holy Grounds building, from 10:00am to 11:30am. If it rains, the event will be held inside the building.

The event will feature demonstrations of tai chi followed by free mini-workshops suitable for all levels of fitness. People are welcome to show up at any time, from 10:00am to 11:30am.

An information table will have with handouts about the health benefits of tai chi, as well as coupons for free classes and other giveaways.

Tai chi is believed to boost the immune system, slow the aging process, lower high blood pressure, relieve stress, and improve balance and coordination. Harvard Medical School has stated that tai chi is one of the five "best exercises you can ever do." Jing Ying Institute hopes to spread information about the incredible health benefits to as many people as possible through ongoing outreach. For more details and links to research on the benefits of tai chi, visit [www.jingying.org/taichi.htm](http://www.jingying.org/taichi.htm).

To provide more in-depth information about tai chi, a free workshop will be held in May at Jing Ying Institute. Visit [www.jingying.org](http://www.jingying.org) for more information.

World Tai Chi & QiGong Day is held in the same month as World Healing Day and Earth Day. Tai Chi groups gather in public places around the world at 10:00am (local time) to exhibit tai chi to the community.

Some purposes for holding this event:

1. To educate the world to the profound implications tai chi can offer our personal, social and world health.
2. To improve international relations by joining tai chi practitioners around the world in celebration.



## Made In Maryland Festival Offers Fun Day On The Chesapeake



Photo by Andrew Candella

The festival treats attendees to games, food, live music, jousting, and arts and crafts, all while basking in the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay.

By Sharon Mager

Maryland is known for its affinity for Edgar Allan Poe and for sprinkling Old Bay on every type of food, but the state is also home to unique artisans, entertainers and wineries. Much of that creativity will be on display during the third annual Made In Maryland Festival at Kurtz's Beach (2070 Kurtz Avenue) from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday, May 5.

The family event draws more than 2,500 people each year to enjoy a day of relaxation, games, food, live music, jousting, and arts and crafts, all while basking in the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay.

Kurtz's Beach event planner Ashley Mason, a member of the Kurtz family, emphasized that families with children will have plenty to do. Kids will have fun in the moon bounce, at the petting zoo or the face painting booth as well as listening to stories by the Chesapeake Mermaid.

More than 120 vendors will feature items ranging from woodworking, painting, metal works, handmade soaps, jewelry, honey, photography, and hand-blown glass. There will even be a live glass-blowing demonstration.

Visitors can try their

hand at a Splash City golf range with targets in the water. To make it even more special, the balls are biodegradable with fish food in the middle.

Food trucks will provide brick oven pizza, seafood (including raw bar foods), Mexican fare, pasta and lots of sweets, like snowballs, cookies, caramels and chocolates.

Entertainment includes music by Southern Charm, which is a country and classic rock cover band, and The Brian Farley Band, which performs rock, pop, reggae and country.

Also on hand will be the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association, The Baltimore Hon Hive, Charm City Roller Girls, The Chesapeake Mermaid, and the Dun-Pikin Farm Petting Zoo.

Kurtz's Beach is an 86-year-old Pasadena institution that was known to many as a beach destination where families created fun memories. With the Made In Maryland Festival in the spring and Wine on the Water in the fall, Kurtz's Beach is inviting former guests and new generations to enjoy a community landmark.

"It's all about the community," Mason said. "We want to continue that heritage and be able to give back to the community."

Tickets are \$15 for adults  
» Continued on B16

## AACC To Host Spring Film Festival Of Student And Alumni Work

By Judy Tacyn

It's lights, camera, action for Anne Arundel Community College students and alumni as budding filmmakers vie for top awards in AACC's spring film festival. Hosted by the college's video club, the film festival will feature student work on April 26.

The main goal of the film festival is to highlight and showcase work from current and former students, main-

ly in the program, but any AACC student can submit a film to be reviewed by an outside juror. Dina Fiasconaro, associate professor at Stevenson University, will serve as juror of films.

"I think it's important that students have this opportunity to apply to something, and potentially if selected, screen their work," said Chanan Delivuk, professorial lecturer in video at Anne Arundel Community College and faculty adviser

for the college's video club. "There are awards associated with this festival, so it's a professional practice that will give students real-world experience for applying to festivals in the future, particularly once they leave AACC, and it is a resume builder."

Delivuk said the event will feel like other film festivals. "Each category will be screened one at a time with short animations provided by the animation

club on campus in between," she said. "Our juror will be in attendance and will announce awards for each category, and there will be time afterward to mingle and ask questions."

To enter the festival, students will submit their work in comedy, horror, avant-garde, documentary, action, drama or shorts (anything under four minutes). There will also be an overall Best Of award for the submission  
» Continued on B17

AACC film students are preparing their best works for the upcoming festival on April 26.



## Fun And Heartwarming "A New Brain" Opens April 12 At Colonial Players

By Laura McElwain Colquhoun

Personal connections, mortality awareness, hopefulness and the healing power of art — these paradoxical themes and more are part of the upcoming musical "A New Brain," which will be performed by the Colonial Players of Annapolis from April 12 through May 5.

The musical follows the journey of Gordon, a musician who, during a time of professional struggles, suffers a brain condition called arteriovenous malformation that requires brain surgery. His life becomes radically different after receiving his

new brain, as he learns to reprioritize what is important in life. His professional life also flourishes, and he finds his musical compositions easier to write. A song he found impossible to finish before becomes effortless with a new brain. The autobiographical story was written by playwright William Finn, who chronicled his own experience before and after brain surgery.

Much of the musical's storyline develops around how Gordon's family and friends react differently to and cope with their loved one's tenuous situation. The music reflects the gamut of emotions all the characters experience, and, by extension, the audience will ride the emotional rollercoaster with them. The music ranges from jazzy to a ballad. "The audience will see themselves in the characters and enjoy the music because it is amazing," said Alicia Sweeney, director of "A New Brain."

Ron Giddings plays the role of Gordon. Giddings is



Photo courtesy of Colburn Images

The musical "A New Brain" follows the journey of a musician named Gordon who must reprioritize his life following surgery.

a Severna Park native and currently heads the theater department at Severna School. He referred to his character as "immersive" because he expertly shares a range of emotions from

frustration to sarcasm. He said the musical "plays homage to those in trauma." Giddings' tenor voice is also powerful.

The role of Gordon's physi-  
» Continued on B17

## Creative And Original, Peele's "Us" Is An Instant Classic

By Audrey Ruppert

"Us" is likely to become a horror classic, up there in the Hall of Fame with "The Shining" and "Psycho." Deeply unsettling from beginning to end, Jordan Peele's sophomore film does not disappoint. The director set the bar high with "Get Out" and branches into new territory with "Us," showing the true breadth of his talent and his uncanny ability to be horrifying and hilarious at the same time.

"Us" is difficult to describe without revealing spoilers, but the basic premise revolves around a black family that goes on vacation to its summer beach home, only to be attacked by another family of doppelgängers. While "Get Out" is grounded in normalcy for the majority of the film and becomes more unsettling as time goes by, leading to an explosive twist, "Us" brings on the horror almost immediately. The opening sequence features a haunting anthem reminiscent of "Sikiliza Kwa Wahenga," the title theme from "Get



Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

With "Us," director Joran Peele has created a genre of layered, symbolic, cerebral and racial horror.

Out." Both were composed by Michael Abels, whose score makes half the horror of both films.

Adding to the terror is the fact that nobody — the main characters, most of the world, or the audience — knows what is happening. Horror films are often based on a simple premise of a monster, killer or supernatural entities preying on their victims, simply because they are evil by nature. "Us" throws us into confusion, and I spent most of the film racking

my brains as to what the villains wanted, whether the villains were even real, and what was happening in general. There are also multiple unpredictable twists, particularly the final, earth-shattering twist that changes the viewer's perception of the entire story.

Peele seems to have created a whole genre of layered, symbolic, cerebral and racial horror. If you're sick of sequels, reboots and superhero movies, Peele's films do not disap-  
» Continued on B17

## Severna Park Library To Celebrate Shakespeare's 455th Birthday

By Judy Tacyn

Centuries after his death, William Shakespeare is still considered the world's best English-language writer and dramatist. To celebrate the works of the writer, often referred to as the "Bard of Avon," the Severna Park Library will host Shakespeare in the (Severna) Park on Saturday, April 13, at 2:00pm. There will be crafts, activities, games and a special performance by the Children's Theatre of Annapolis.



A special 30-minute adaptation of "Macbeth" will be performed by the Children's Theatre of Annapolis' Teen Acting Group (TAG) during Shakespeare in the (Severna) Park.

"We are very excited about this program; it is our second year putting on this event," said Samantha Zline of Severna Park Library. "Angela Pesi, library associate, and I are both big Shakespeare fans and we wanted to find a way to share our

**Make your Family Coat of Arms** — Decorate a shield to represent your family's history.

**Scavenger Hunt** — Find hidden images from classic Shakespeare film adaptations hidden through the library. Follow the  
» Continued on B17

love of the Bard with the community."

The family friendly event includes:

**Decorate a mask for the costume party** — Decorate a party mask so you can sneak into the Capulet ball with Romeo and Mercutio!



# Dining Out

## Picantillo Offers Excellent Tex-Mex In Pasadena

By Mary Cobbler

Entering Picantillo Restaurant at 4590 Mountain Road in Pasadena, I was immediately pleased with the pleasant Tex-Mex décor — brightly colored, with vibrant oranges and yellows, with equally colorful artwork. High-back booths offered comfort and privacy. Country music played softly in the background.

On a Monday evening, the bar area was already active with locals chatting and enjoying the evening with apparent comradery.

We were seated immediately and Kevin, our friendly waiter, appeared quickly to take our drink and appetizer orders. Asked about customer favorites, he suggested the nacho supreme and the “drunken mussels,” so we ordered both.

Kevin brought us a small bowl of homemade salsa and chips. The salsa was fresh, with just a touch of heat. We finished it quickly.

The wait staff soon served our appetizers with generous portions and great presentation, but we had mixed reviews on the taste.

Tender and flavorful, saluted with garlic, tomatoes and onions, cilantro

and tequila butter sauce, the mussels were a hit, and the crisp bread on top was perfect for sopping the delicious savory broth. Though officially spring, it was cold and wet outside, and this was excellent comfort food. Hands down, we liked this appetizer.

The nachos were covered with beef, refried beans, melted cheese, jalapenos, sour cream, fresh guacamole, and pico de gallo — but just not enough of those wonderful toppings to be satisfying. It needed a lot more cheese, pico de gallo and meat to transform it into the preferred appetizer that you love to feel guilty about eating.

The entrees more than compensated for the lacking nacho toppings. My dining companions chose a burrito and chicken fajitas. Once again relying on Kevin as my guide, I decided on the Picantillo salmon.

The burrito was huge! It



**Above:** Grilled salmon topped with a homemade crab cake was served with a creamy dill cream sauce along with rice and mixed vegetables. **Right:** Tender and flavorful, saluted with garlic, tomatoes and onions, cilantro and tequila butter sauce, the drunken mussels were a hit.



Photos by Mary Cobbler

was smothered with queso fundido, and was filled with tender steak, chicken, rice, beans, pico de gallo and shredded cheese, served on a bed of lettuce. The combined flavors, especially the queso, gave the burrito a burst of flavor. Delectable and supremely satisfying, this was a hit.

My other dining friend decided to eat before he met us, but said he'd try just a little. Monday was quesadilla night — shrimp, chicken or steak for \$6. He chose the Tex-Mex quesadilla with chicken, grilled peppers and onions, served with lettuce, sour cream, guacamole and

pico de gallo. He cleaned his plate. The dish was warm and flavorful, the chicken and vegetables were tender, and the sauces added a kick.

The Picantillo salmon, like the other entrees, was outstanding. Grilled salmon topped with a homemade crab cake was served with a creamy dill cream sauce along with rice and mixed vegetables. The savory sauce perfectly complemented the tender, flavorful crab and salmon. The rice was tender though lacking much flavor, and the vegetables were bland, but mixing the sauce helped.

Though the restaurant

has several dessert choices, Kevin said the two made in-house are the bread pudding and fried ice cream. We voted on the ice cream since it's such a classic Tex-Mex dish. I was pleased to know we could pick chocolate or caramel sauce. Indecisive as I at times can be, we got a little of both. I'm not a huge fan of this dessert, but Picantillo's version was above average, with the vanilla ice cream, wrapped in a semi-hard shell topped with caramel and chocolate. The crunchiness of some cornflakes and a touch of cinnamon added a nice finishing touch.

The cost for two appetizers, soft drinks, three entrees and one dessert was about \$70, a good price for the amount of food we received.

The menu is extensive, and it has something for everyone, including gluten-free and vegetarian options. Choose from all the classic Mexican favorites, along with seafood and burgers.

Picantillo also has nightly specials and an all-you-can-eat brunch on Sundays.

I look forward to returning soon to check out the many other options and enjoy the comfortable ambiance.

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### Made In Maryland Festival

» Continued from B15 and free for kids 12 and under. Proceeds support the Chesapeake Bay Trust Foundation, a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the watersheds of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Coastal Bays and the Youghiogheny River; and Hancock's

Resolution, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, protect and promote the unique historical aspects of the Pasadena farm for historical and educational purposes.

Tickets for the rain-or-shine festival are available at [www.madeinmarylandfest.com](http://www.madeinmarylandfest.com) or at the gate.

### GOING OUT TONIGHT?

Not sure where to eat? Let the *Voice* help!

In June, the *Severna Park Voice* will publish a special Dining Guide, featuring information on all your favorite restaurants in Anne Arundel County. There will also be plenty of discounts, deals and coupons included. If you'd like to have your business featured in this exclusive publication, call 410-647-9400.



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## Shakespeare's Birthday

» **Continued from B15**  
clues to find them all and earn a prize.

**Shakespeare Fortune Teller** — Cut, color and fold a "cootie catcher" that is covered in Shakespeare references.

**Draw the Shakespeare Quote** — Kids can draw a Shakespeare quote from a jar and then illustrate what they think it means or how it makes them feel.

A special 30-minute adaptation of "Macbeth" will be performed by the Children's Theatre of Annapolis' Teen Acting Group (TAG) around 2:30pm. TAG is made up of 14 actors, ages 12 to 18, from

Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

TAG performed last year for the first time at Shakespeare in the (Severna) Park. Beth Wilson, Children's Theatre of Annapolis board president and TAG volunteer, is honored that the group will return this year.

"Teens enjoy performing the Shakespeare pieces once they have learned the meanings behind the lines," Wilson said. "Acting helps to bring context and understanding to the words. The 'Macbeth' piece is new as they have only been working on it for a few weeks."

## AACC Film Festival

» **Continued from B15**  
the juror felt was the best all-around in the entire festival, and one alumni award.

"I think it's important for current students to see what alumni are up to, particularly those who have either entered the workforce or are currently enrolled in film school," Delivuk said.

Rye McCubbin, a sophomore at AACC and vice president of the video club, is excited to see the upcoming films.

"I have always been fascinated by movies and I love the art behind how they are created," McCubbin said. "I have recently begun making videos myself and I have met many amazing people while taking classes at AACC."

Delivuk emphasized how the many forms of media production — videography, cinematography, video editing, sound design, animation, directing, producing, scriptwriting — give students a creative outlet that connects their ideas with technology.

"Filmmaking will always be popular because it's part of our culture," Delivuk said. "We all remember favorite movies from our childhood. People go to the movies, have televisions in their homes, and own cellphones or other devices where steaming videos and movies are instantaneous. We are visually driven by moving images."

Filmmaking has gained popularity because more and more people are exposed to it, she continued.

"For anyone who really

loves the art of filmmaking in all aspects, it's really about bridging that love for the art with your own creative voice and vision to seriously make a living," Delivuk said. "And, there are so many points of entry into the field, which is what makes the program at AACC so practical for anyone who is interested in learning technical and conceptual skills."

McCubbin said he's looking forward to seeing the students' best work.

"I love seeing local students' different styles of video, and seeing everybody's creative mindset come out on screen is always a very unique moment to me," McCubbin said. "I have seen many students' works throughout my class sessions, but I have never seen their most prized work presented at a festival."

Video club president Keno'e Mullings, a sophomore at AACC, is excited to see other people's works and envision what's going on inside their heads.

"The students of the film club are amazing and have so many artistic variations that everything seems fresh," Mullings said. "So far, the films that I've seen from each of them make me hopeful for the future of filmmaking. We might have the next Jordan Peele in this group."

The festival will be held on Friday, April 26, at 2:00pm in the Humanities Building, room 112, on the Arnold campus. There is no charge for the event and it is open to the public.

## "A New Brain" At Colonial

» **Continued from B15**  
cian is played by an equally talented actor, Aref Dajani. Coincidentally, Dajani can relate to both Gordon and the playwright Finn, as last June he underwent the same type of brain surgery, a craniotomy. Like the lead character, Dajani said he immediately felt transformed, along with a need to reassess what was important in life. "A New Brain" is Dajani's first production since his surgery. "It's cathartic," he said. "It's part of my recovery."

The song Gordon could not finish until after his surgery is called "I Feel So Much Spring," which Dajani said he can now relate to.

Audience members will be riveted by the musical's overall intensity and the feeling of not knowing what will happen next. They will connect inti-

mately with the 10-actor cast, as the theater is small, round and unamplified. Few props are used so the actors can focus on acting, and the audience can focus on the actors. There is a not a bad seat in the house. The 90-minute production runs continuously without intermission. The first half is about Gordon's life before surgery, and the second half is about his life after surgery.

Sweeney summed up the essence of the musical with a quote by Dr. Wayne Dyer: "Don't die with your music still in you."

Audiences will enjoy this fun, frequently comical and always heartwarming musical. The show runs from April 12 to May 5 at the East Street Theatre at 108 East Street in Annapolis. Tickets can be purchased at [www.thecolonialplayers.org](http://www.thecolonialplayers.org).

## Creative And Original, Peele's "Us" Is An Instant Classic

» **Continued from B15**  
point when it comes to originality. Just as in "Get Out," "Us" is crawling with metaphors and symbolism — hit the bathroom before the film, because you don't want to miss the slightest detail. Everything, from T-shirts to rabbits to scissors to posters, has a hidden meaning. You'll spend the film on the edge of your seat, while simultaneously analyzing and questioning every scene.

Lupita N'Yonggo gives an Oscar-worthy perfor-

mance, and Elizabeth Moss is also captivating as her white foil, the matriarch of a white family living in a slightly nicer summer-house nearby.

My only criticism of the film is that it is perhaps too layered with symbolism — I had to Google the film and Peele's press statements afterward to completely understand its true meaning. We are presented with three main metaphors: first, that we as Americans have skeletons in the closet of our na-

## Hatton Regester Concert Lineup Announced

Picture this: You're lounging on a blanket, surrounded by the crisp spring air alongside your neighbors while enjoying live music. That's right, it's officially concert season at Hatton Regester Green. From reggae to Motown to easy listening, the spring lineup features a variety of artists.

The spring season begins on Sunday, May 5, with The Pan Tones. This local steel drum band plays original arrangements of calypso, reggae and pop tunes. On May 12, The Supreme Temptations will perform high-energy Motown and oldies tunes. Amy Andrews returns to the stage on May 19, featuring her onstage wit and stunning vocals. The Guava Jelly Duo, an

acoustic pair, closes out the month on May 26 with a mix of reggae, pop, rock and country music.

"I always look forward to the spring season because it's so nice at Hatton Regester, and it's a great Sunday afternoon to have a picnic, food and free music," said board member David Green, who helps organize the concert series. "I'd love to have more people there. It's great to stop if you're along the trail."

All concerts are on Sundays and begin at 4:00pm, lasting roughly two hours. Guests are encouraged to bring something to sit on and snacks to eat. Hatton Regester Green is located at the intersection of B&A Boulevard, Evergreen Road and Holly Avenue.

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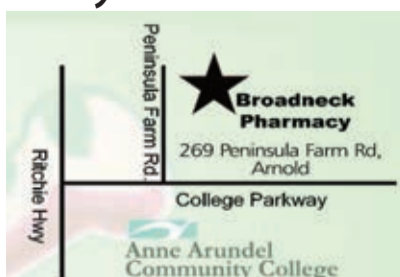
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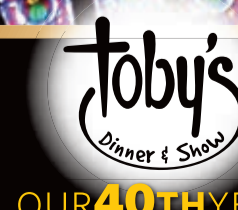
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# Stevens Puppets Brings Marionettes To Severna Park

By Maya Pottiger

Dubbed “Theatre in the Little,” Stevens Puppets travels around the country, bringing its marionette puppet shows to audiences in a variety of venues.

In April, Stevens Puppets is bringing two shows to the Broadneck Library and the Severna Park Library.

“We love coming to that area, especially the libraries because people are so nice and so welcoming,” said Dan Raynor, a Stevens Puppets co-owner who used to live on the Eastern Shore. “They have a warm place in my heart.”

The first show will be “Aladdin” at the Broadneck Library, followed by “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” at the Severna Park Library. “Goldilocks,” which debuted in March, is the first show Stevens Puppets added to its repertoire in 20 years.

Though Stevens Puppets focuses on classic fairytales, the audience should not expect the traditional “Goldilocks” story.

“A lot of different things have changed in our society, and we want to make sure our shows are reflecting that,” Raynor said.

The story is set in Alaska, and the family is made up of three bears: a polar bear, a black bear and a brown bear. This, Raynor said, is to represent a mixed family. But that isn’t the only change: in this story, Goldilocks is not the hero; rather, she is the “disrupter” or “trespasser,” Raynor said.

“We wanted to show that that’s not OK,” Raynor said. “We also wanted to change the ending so it shows there’s reparation and there’s apology.”

Audiences can expect differences in “Aladdin,” as well.

“A lot of people don’t realize that the original story of ‘Aladdin’ is Chinese folktale, and it actually took place in China,” Raynor said. “When we did our version, we wanted to make it very, very close to the original. Ours has a very Eastern look to it. The entire story revolves around that.”

With “Aladdin,” audiences can expect “authenticity, special effects, incredible puppetry and a huge elephant,” Raynor said.

Stevens Puppets was originally founded in 1933 by Martin Stevens, who also founded Puppeteers of America. Raynor and his wife, Zan, took over the company in 1993. Since then, they have expanded Stevens Puppets’ reach from three states to 45.

“My tagline that I like to say is we are bringing classic fairytales into the 21st century,” Raynor said.

The Raynors have a team of puppeteers who travel around the country performing different shows all year. In the summer, their slow season, they gather to restore the puppets and scenery. Zan hand-carves all of the puppets.

“The thing we get most is, ‘Thank you for doing this. This is a lost art that nobody else does, and you guys are doing it. Thank



“Aladdin”



“Goldilocks”



you for dedicating your life to this,” Raynor said.

Both the Broadneck Library and Severna Park Library shows are on April 25. “Aladdin” will be at Broadneck Library at 2:00pm, and “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” will be at Severna Park Library at 7:00pm. Both shows are free to attend and last roughly 45 minutes.

For more information on Stevens Puppets, visit [www.stevenspuppets.com](http://www.stevenspuppets.com).

## THE LEGACY OF STEVENS PUPPETS

Stevens Puppets was originally founded in 1933 by Martin Stevens, who also founded Puppeteers of America. After traveling around with his actress mother as a child, Stevens learned the good parts and bad parts of theater.

“The good part was bringing theater to the people, and the love and the passion for that,” Raynor said. “The downside was the people. You had to pay the actors, and you had to pay for the set and you had to pay for everything.”

This inspired Stevens to do theater in puppetry. He started out by doing adult dramas in the ‘30s and ‘40s, and some of those marionettes are in museums around the world. It wasn’t until 1960 when Stevens added “Sleeping Beauty” to his repertoire, which is when he transitioned over to doing children’s literature.

The Raynors answered a newspaper ad in 1993, which is how they became involved with Stevens Puppets. Today, they are still carrying on the legacy, and restoring the original puppets and scenery that Stevens created.

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