

SPECIAL EDITION

JUNE 2020

UM BALTIMORE WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER IS ON THE
FRONT LINE OF THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC **PAGE 7**



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National Guard
Mobilizes To Help
Those In Need
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Local Women Support
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The Severna Park Voice is proud to donate a portion of the proceeds from this magazine to the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center COVID-19 Response Fund. This fund focuses on getting equipment and supplies to frontline workers, helping patients feel connected to their families during their stay, and supporting both community outreach initiatives and care and comfort initiatives.

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Despite the uncertainty that each day brings, we continue to show up and do whatever it takes to keep our communities safe. The outpouring of love, support and generosity you have shown to health care workers is the fuel that keeps us moving forward. We are all in this together. **Thank you.**



umbwmc.org

Serving On The Front Line Of The Pandemic

UM BWMC Respiratory Therapists Help Patients Breathe Easier

By Zach Sparks

At University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC), respiratory therapists Gina DeGreenia and Tim George help patients with something people often take for granted: breathing.

“We treat patients with breathing problems from birth to the end of life,” said DeGreenia, who has been a respiratory therapist for 34 years. “Sometimes it’s during the same 12-hour shift.”

George said, “I think everyone knows how unnerving it is to have their breath taken away, and how terrifying it is when you cannot get it back. To see the sense of relief in one’s voice and demeanor, and knowing that I assisted them to take that next breath with ease, is the moment that I look forward



Respiratory therapists Gina DeGreenia (left) and Tim George have seen patients of all ages, races and socioeconomic backgrounds at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center.

“I work with a great team of ‘superheroes’ at the hospital... The community has been awesome by sending in meals and thank-you cards.”

— **GINA DeGREENIA**
RESPIRATORY THERAPIST
UM BWMC

to each and every day.”

That’s the main responsibility of the therapists, whose work has changed drastically since the onset of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

“The constant barrage and influx of patients has been unrelenting,” George said. “After going to see one patient and stabilizing them, you have to grab your gear and go stabilize another one.”

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A Message From UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center

Dear neighbors,

During these unprecedented times, the team at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center is rising to the challenge and carrying out our critical mission of providing the highest-quality care to our community. Our entire workforce is banding together through this pandemic with a calm resolve, courage and determination.

The circumstances may have dramatically changed, but our mission is stronger than ever. Your support is making this possible. While we have always enjoyed a strong relationship with our community, your outpouring of support has truly been extraordinary.

From well-wishes and messages; to donations of equipment, supplies, food and personal items; to monetary donations; to first responder parades; to offers of discounted and free services – we are profoundly grateful for the abundance of support from across the region.

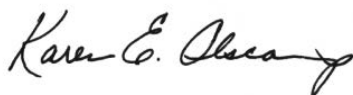
To date, we have received over 10,000 meal donations, 16,000 face masks, more than 5,000 face shields, 56,000 pairs of gloves, 3,500 candy bars, 1,100 Easter lilies, 2,500 snack bags, and so many other donations to provide our health care heroes with protective items and sustenance during these trying times. We have also received hundreds of appreciation cards for staff and over 1,000 handmade cards for our patients.

Your kind words and generous donations have buoyed our resolve, lifted our spirits and reminded us why being a health care provider is a true privilege. It has been heartwarming to know that while we have always had our community's back, you have our back as well. We are truly grateful for your support.

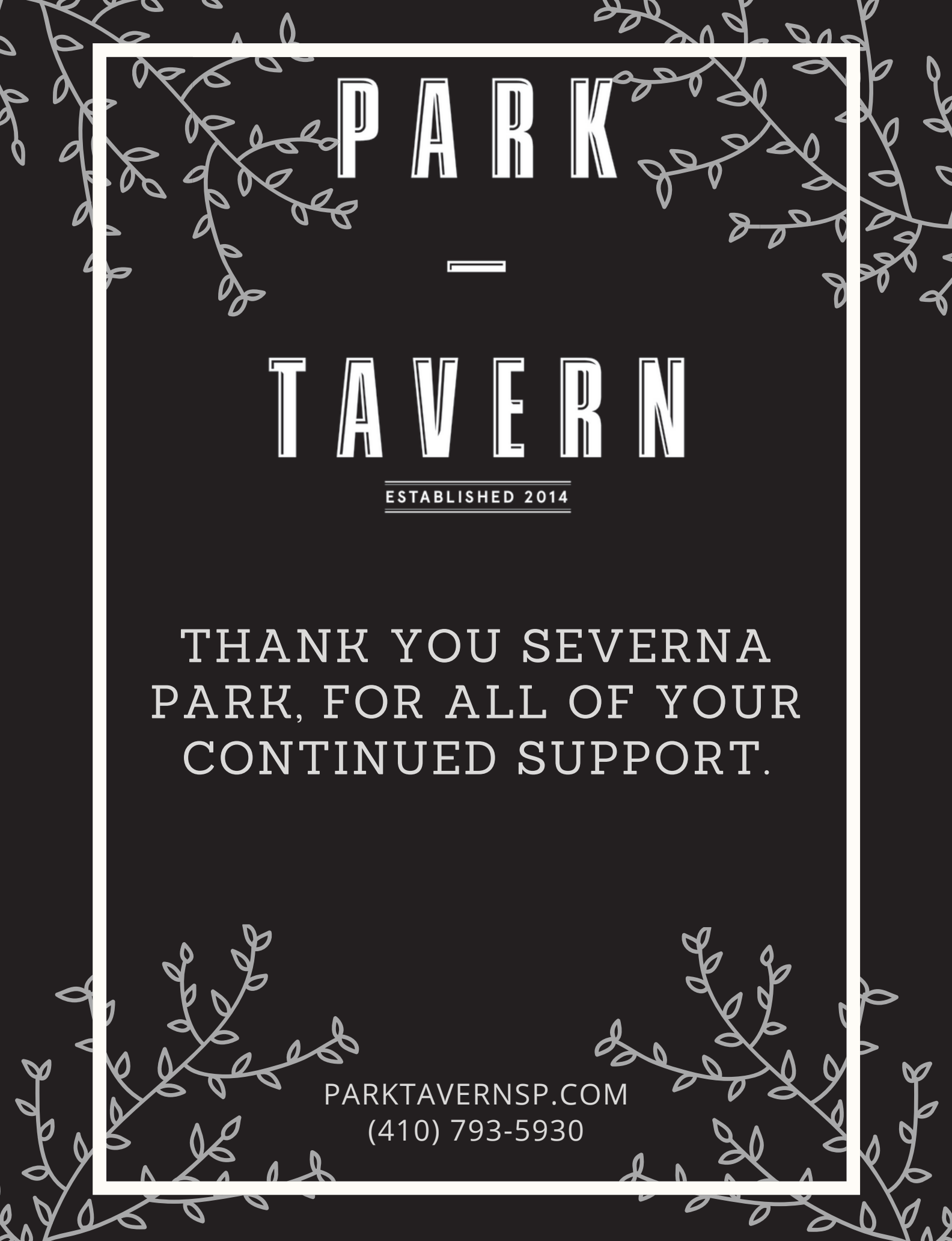
On behalf of the entire workforce and medical staff of UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center, thank you!

Be well and stay safe,

Karen E. Olscamp
President and CEO, UM Baltimore Washington Medical Center



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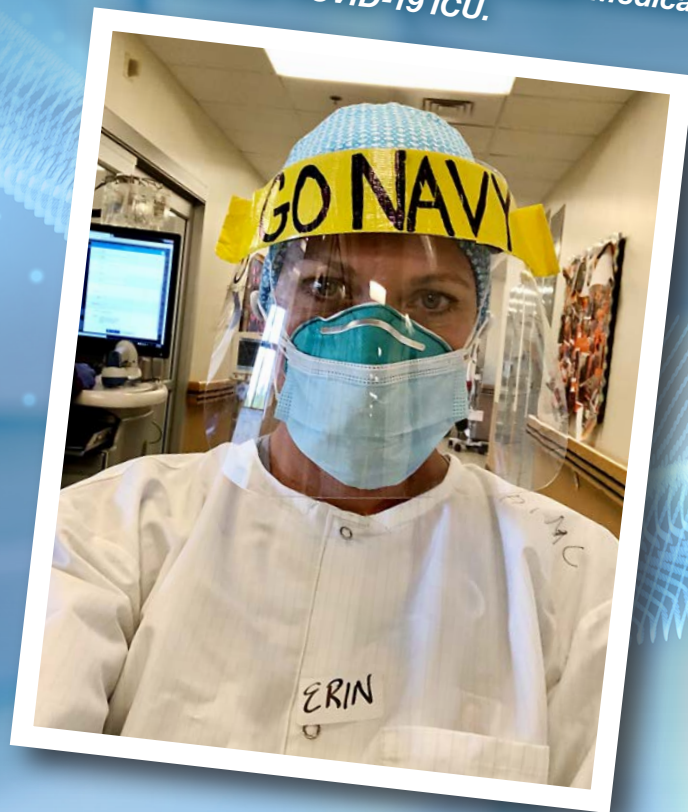
Severna Park, Broadneck Nurses R



Carol Stob considers her role in caring for ICU patients "an absolute privilege."

“The people I work with have taken the team concept to an Olympic level ... everyone is on this team.”

Erin Keefer works at Anne Arundel Medical Center in the COVID-19 ICU.



By Judy Tacyn

Round Bay resident Carol Stob, RN, thought she'd seen just about everything in her 45-year nursing career. For the last 30 years, Stob has been a nurse at the Edwards Pavilion, an outpatient surgical center of Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC). With surgical procedures reduced or canceled, Stob was redeployed to the COVID-19-dedicated intensive care unit of AAMC.

"At first I was very anxious, intimidated even, at the thought of working in

the COVID unit," said Stob, who vividly remembers being a younger nurse at George Washington University Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., working with dying people in the early days of the AIDS epidemic. As the U.S. COVID-19 death toll is now more than 100,000, Stob wholeheartedly considers her role in caring for ICU patients "an absolute privilege."

"The people I work with have taken the team concept to an Olympic level," said Stob. "Nurses, doctors, housekeeping,

respiratory therapists, technicians, everyone is on this team. Egos have been checked at the door and we are one team. We are here to care for patients and we care for each other. Never in my long career have I seen a more supportive and pulled together team."

Stob has held the hands of people near and through death, ensuring that they did not die alone. She has comforted family members and co-workers, noting that the entire ICU staff celebrates a recovery or mourns a death. In the

midst of long shifts, the support of the community has become a highlight of her team's day.

"There isn't a day when a meal - breakfast, lunch and dinner - has not been provided for us. Food just shows up!" said Stob. "The community support is unbelievable and awesome. For us, sitting down together for a meal, to finally relax, is the only normal thing about our shift. It has become the highlight of our day. The camaraderie is very uplifting."

Severna Park native Ellie Milleker, RN, BSN, was

Reflect On COVID-19 Experience



Severna Park native Ellie Milleker jumped at the chance to apply for a position in the Baltimore Convention Center-based COVID-19 response center for critically ill patients.

“I was really intrigued by the disaster response aspect. I wanted to dive right in, to make a difference during this pandemic and be able to say, ‘I helped.’”



Julie Banks Antinuucci and her family have made 250 masks for health care professionals.

“I started making masks because I knew that it would help protect people, and if I can do that with my sewing skills, I’m more than happy to do that.”

working at Mercy Medical Center and a nursing home when the pandemic response was taking shape. With just three years of nursing experience, the 25-year-old jumped at the chance to apply for a position in the Baltimore Convention Center-based COVID-19 response center for critically ill patients.

“I was really intrigued by the disaster response aspect,” said Milleker, who has disaster response training. “I wanted to dive right in, to make a difference during this pandemic and be able to say, ‘I helped.’”

The Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital (BCCFH) opened April 27 as a state-licensed, 250-bed hospital operated jointly by the University of Maryland Medical System and Johns Hopkins Hospital. Milleker said that staff members inside the facility have really become a family, a true team all working with a common goal - to save lives.

“People here are scared. They are sick. And, they are alone,” said Milleker. Fully decked out in PPE (personal protective equipment), which include gowns,

masks, shields and gloves, Milleker said it is difficult for patients and caregivers to read people’s facial expressions, so it’s important to break down barriers and to form relationships.

“We’ve brought in books, TVs, games, even put decorations like pictures on the walls to make the environment less stressful,” she said, noting that patients typically spend seven to 10 days inside the field hospital before going home or to another facility to continue to self-isolate. “We are here for them one-on-one for days at a time, and we form

bonds with the patients.”

At the field hospital, the staff comes from different places, most not knowing each other prior to coming to BCCFH.

“Even though the patients here are very ill, the environment is a very positive one,” said Milleker. “Everyone comes from very different backgrounds and there is thick diversity. It’s been really very rewarding to be part of this blended team.”

Like thousands of Maryland residents and businesses owners, Round Bay residents Carrie Gruver and

Continued on page 76

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Whitehurst Finds Normalcy With The Front Porch Project

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Lee Kraus

By Declan Keefe

In the era of quarantine and social distancing, the Whitehurst community found a creative and fun outlet to build neighborhood togetherness.

In March, Jennifer Lee Kraus, a Whitehurst resident and photography teacher at Old Mill High School, was browsing Facebook when she came across a national trend known as The Front Porch Project. This activity encourages families to set up an interesting scene on their front porch to alleviate the monotony of quarantine during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Combining her love of her neighborhood and her love of photography, Kraus decided to bring the project to the community.

On March 29, Kraus informed Whitehurst of the project via the community Facebook page. She gave families five days to develop an idea and set up a scene. To encourage participation, Kraus offered the winner a professional photoshoot, and she posted a poll online for people to vote for their favorite picture.

To her delight, more than 50 families participated. "I started taking pictures at 4:00pm and didn't get done until 7:30pm," Kraus remarked.

At the end of the poll, more than 200 votes were received. The most votes went to the Martin family (pictured, top left): Chad and Christina, and their three children, Stetson, Sullenger and Sutton. Their "COVID date night" themed photo depicts Chad and Christina sitting at a dinner table, dressed in their finest evening clothes. Everyday household items like Purell and Lay's potato chips cover the table. Amazon packages are scattered on the ground. The children are tied up to one side. Christina said the family just used items around their house, and only took 20 minutes to set up. She got the idea because date nights, a once regular activity, are now much harder because of the lockdown.

The best part, according to Christina, was the kids' reactions. "We didn't know what their expressions were until we saw the pictures," she noted.

Russ and Carol Gildersleeve (middle right) received the second most votes with their "American gothic" look. Carol chose the theme because it is an iconic American genre.

"This is a community that does all kinds of things together," she said. "This project was another way of bringing Whitehurst folks together." ■







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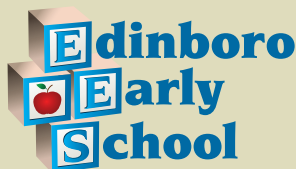
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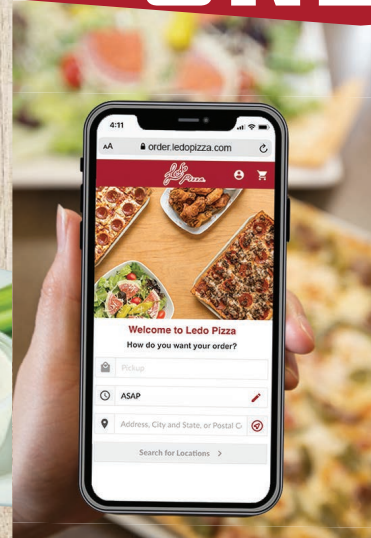


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ZBest's chairman and CEO, Korky Onal, who is also chairman of the UM BWMC board of directors, elbow-bumped UM BWMC's Jerry Marcus in a show of support.

Photos by Mandala Wojnar

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Kris-Leigh Beats COVID-19 With Togetherness

By John Singleton

Public health experts promised COVID-19 wouldn't discriminate. But the numbers are in, and more than 80% of deaths across the U.S. are seniors 65 years and older. At one local long-term care facility, they're fighting back.

"Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our staff and residents, we've not had one case of COVID-19 in our facility," Kris-Leigh Assisted Living Vice President Shirley Robinson said on May 19.

Establishing rigorous health protocols has been instrumental in the success of the 62-bed nursing home in fighting the novel coronavirus. Guests are no longer permitted into the Severna Park facility. Employees sign forms confirming no international travel and no contact with visitors from overseas. When staff arrive each day, a health screening is conducted and their temperature is taken. If flu-like symptoms are identified, they cannot work their shift.

"It's been challenging," Robinson said, "but it's brought our team closer together. Our common purpose is to keep our residents safe."

Protocols for residents have also been introduced. If symptoms appear among the 57 current residents, they are transported immediately to a local hospital for testing. This early intervention has produced an outcome of zero positive tests. After the requisite 14-day waiting period, residents are then returned to Kris-Leigh, a stark contrast to state mandates in New York and New Jersey that required COVID-positive patients to be admitted into nursing homes.



(L-R) Kris-Leigh residents David Lastfogel, Milt Grisham and Dolores Helsinki enjoyed the deck overlooking Cypress Creek on May 19.

According to health experts, one factor in lessening the risk of COVID-19 is reducing the amount of viral load in a given physical space. Accumulating mostly indoors, viral load primarily targets immune-compromised individuals with age-related comorbidities. Exposure to sunlight is a key component to reducing viral load. According to Northwestern University, Vitamin D deficiency is closely correlated to COVID-19 death rates.

"Lots of sunlight, healthy diet and movement are part of our regimen," confirmed Anne Ward, the activities director at Kris-Leigh. "We hold lots of activities on our back deck that overlooks Cypress Creek."

At Kris-Leigh, spiritual health is emphasized as well. Pre-COVID

church services were always held in the building. Now, daily devotionals are conducted by Ward. On Sundays, the staff and residents view services on television. But keeping spirits high doesn't end there.

"On the day the curve flattened, we threw a parade," Robinson said. "The procession began on Route 2. There was a police escort. Residents sat out front as families with cars, decorated, circled our driveway. Residents were waving. There were posters and banners. Families were cheering."

As testing becomes more prevalent across the nation, the official infection rate is bound to increase. But if long-term care institutions apply the same unity of purpose exemplified by the

staff at Kris-Leigh Assisted Living, lives will be saved and mortality rates will remain low. ■

How Severna Park Senior Facilities Are Handling The Pandemic

Of Maryland's 1,276 confirmed resident deaths and 14 staff deaths in senior living facilities as of May 27, 89 resident deaths and zero confirmed staff deaths came from Anne Arundel County, according to the Maryland Department of Health website. Only one Severna Park site is even listed as an "affected facility." Here's how local nursing, assisted living and group homes are adapting to keep residents and staff safe.

Continued on page 69



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Working On His Craft:

Missing Baseball, Local Student-Athlete Creates Garden Beds For Neighbors



When the 2020 baseball season was cancelled due to the current pandemic, Archbishop Spalding senior Nick Schepens turned his focus and energy to helping brighten the lives of others.

By Colin Murphy

Nick Schepens was excited for his senior season of baseball at Archbishop Spalding.

When the COVID-19 epidemic interrupted those plans indefinitely, Schepens, like everyone, had unexpected time on his hands.

He decided to put those hours, and hands, to good use by creating gifts for his neighbors.

Taking scrap wood from an ongoing home renovation and inspiration from a TV show, Schepens built garden beds to give to families in the neighborhood.

"We watch this show about homesteaders, and they always build these garden beds, so I was just like, 'I can do that,'" said Schepens. "We're doing this pool renovation outside, and they're chopping up the deck, and we've got all this wood lying around.

When I built the first one, the neighbors came over and looked at it and said, 'We want one of those!' So I just started building them and giving them out, and they were super excited about it."

His idea initially arose prior to the coronavirus-caused cancellations of school and sports, with Schepens thinking he could create his own mini-business throughout the spring and summer.

The profit motive disappeared quickly, though, along with his familiar routines of school and baseball practice.

"I thought I could make some money doing it, but after the virus, I just decided to give them away," Schepens said. "I gave them to my neighbors and my aunt. They loved them."

Schepens is one of the thousands of area student-athletes navigating the reality of missing out on sports and school during the ongoing closures caused by COVID-19. A 6-foot-2 left-handed pitcher, Schepens was excited to help the Cavaliers contend for a championship in the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference before he heads off to play baseball at SUNY-Maritime next fall.

But with spring turning to summer and people filling their new-normal with safe, social-distancing-friendly activities like gardening at home, the garden beds are a welcome addition to local homes at the right time of year, all in the midst of an unprecedented societal upheaval.

"It definitely feels good, and I feel a little bit of a sense of pride," said Schepens. "It's nice to deliver it, and it's also nice to just be outside working on it instead of being inside on my computer or doing whatever." ■



Taking scrap wood from an ongoing home renovation and inspiration from a TV show, Nick Schepens built garden beds to give to families in the neighborhood.



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Lauren's Law: Role Reversal

**Lauren
Burke
Meyer**



After great debate, I'm ready to let you in on a secret to my marriage. When you envision the typical husband and wife roles, oftentimes my husband, Scott, and I are flipped.

For starters, when I gift-wrap, it looks like a car ran over it. If you don't believe me, see the photo below and also note the excessive amount of tape used. When women are most exposed for their giftwrapping skills, like baby and wedding showers, Scott is the one to wrap gifts. He even selects a ribbon from his bow collection (yes, you read that right). If I'm honest, he wraps almost all gifts, while I stick to the trusted gift bag any

time possible.

Scott also still remembers how to sew from middle school Home Economics. All I have to show for that class is a surfboard pillow with jagged footprints, a true sign that scissors are a lefty's enemy. I'm grateful of his sewing skills that save me from throwing out a shirt when a button falls off. He must really know how to work the needle, because Scott's sisters still ask him to sew too.

Decorating may be commonly known as a woman's domain, but that's not the case for us. One of my favorite things is when family or friends see our home for the first time. Instinctively, people compliment me for how our home is decorated when it's all Scott. I can't help but laugh until I remember how picking out paint colors was so overwhelming that it made me cry. When Scott asked my input on light fixtures for our home, I stared at him blankly and replied,



"The black one?" Both options were black.

Now that we've explored Scott's softer side, it's time for me to have a few shining moments as a tough wife. Cue arm-flexing and "Grrrrrr." Since I was a kid, I've loved getting my hands dirty and particularly loved playing with the worms when I'd go fishing. I find baking therapeutic and love getting my hands covered in cookie dough, while I catch Scott wincing when he begrudgingly helps me roll the cookie dough balls.

Also, not only am I the bug killer for my household but also for my

office back in the pre-quarantine days. I've even coined the phrase, "Get that bug!" which makes my nearly 2-year-old daughter laugh hysterically.

Next, let's talk about snuggling. In the beginning of my relationship with Scott, I snuggled like I was playing a game of "Light as a Feather, Stiff as a Board." However, I've come a long way with snuggling, at least it's what I tell myself.

It shouldn't surprise you that Scott was more than OK with me writing this article because he comes out looking like a great husband, which he is. So, leave me to sit on my couch in my well-decorated home, while I eat the six-layer coconut cake my husband made me from scratch for Mother's Day.

Lauren Burke Meyer is a Severna Park native who was inspired to write Lauren's Law as a humorous play on the well-known Murphy's Law adage: "anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." ■



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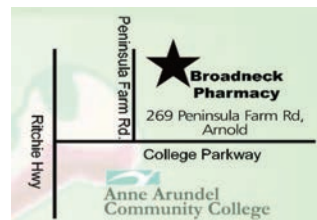
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Workforce Housing Bill Passes Despite Fierce Opposition From Severna Park

By Zach Sparks

The Anne Arundel County Council passed an amended version of Bill 12-20 by a 4-3 vote on May 26. Bill 12-20 will exempt workforce housing projects with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit designation from having to pass a test for adequate school facilities if the projects consist of 50 units or less.

Councilwoman Sarah Lacey sponsored the bill after learning of a Jessup project called Brock Bridge Landing, whose developer applied for low-income tax credits from the state when schools in the area were considered “open.” Elementary and middle schools are “closed” when they are expected to reach 95% capacity, and high schools are closed at 100% capacity. By the time credits were awarded, Brock Bridge Landing could not continue development because one of the schools had since closed.

Under current law, with Bill 12-20 in effect, the threshold for low-income housing will be 98% for elementary and middle schools and 105% for high schools.

Pete Baron, director of government relations for County Executive Stuart Pittman’s administration, said only one Anne Arundel project was awarded the low-income tax credits in 2019 and only two were approved in 2018. The program incentivizes developers to build workforce housing because those developments are not profitable for the developer otherwise.

Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien, a teacher, voted for the bill after noting that 18,845

families are on the waiting list for housing in Anne Arundel County and that many of those students are already attending schools here.

“As a teacher, I’ve seen students who’ve had to deal with homelessness, who’ve had to deal with not having a regular place to sleep at night,” Rodvien said, “... and the idea that we could provide even a very small number of families — families with children that are pretty much already in our public schools and not likely to be adding to the number of students — [with housing] is absolutely something I want to support.”

Alex Szachnowicz, the chief operating officer for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, said the change would not “open” Oak Hill Elementary, but it would open Severna Park Middle School (SPMS) and any of its feeder schools that are not currently open. The SPMS feeder includes Benfield, Folger McKinsey, Jones, Oak Hill, Severna Park and Shipley’s Choice elementary schools.

Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler echoed the concerns of her constituents, who are worried about overcrowding in schools.

“I don’t want any child to be homeless. That’s not my intent with these comments,” Fiedler said, “but I don’t think we should be prioritizing housing over education ... I understand this is not an ill-intended bill, but it will have poor, poor outcomes for the schools it will impact.”

For the amended bill, the county council received 88 votes from the public, entered into county record

as public testimony, although some of the entries had no comment. Of those 88, 51 were Severna Park residents against the bill. Another nine were Millersville residents against the bill.

In total, 388 people testified on the original bill, with 384 opposed, three in support (although the testimony for two of them appears to be in opposition), and one taking no position.

“With two children currently attending Severna Park Middle School, I have witnessed firsthand the strain on faculty and student resources due to the increase of student size within the classroom,” wrote Candice Webster. “Both are main contributing factors in the quality of education our children are receiving.”

Jonathan Maurer wrote, “As a child who grew up in an environment where all of my Maryland public schools were forced to install ‘relocate-able’ classrooms because of similar ‘workforce housing’ lobbying on the part of developers, I can assure you the children, and

their education, will suffer!”

A few supporters of the bill also submitted written testimony.

“Housing is a human right — the county council should start acknowledging that by developing the legislative infrastructure needed to move forward with impactful affordable workforce housing in Anne Arundel County,” said Vickie Gipson, a judge of the Orphans Court, who said a judge’s salary of \$39,000 barely covers the cost of housing in Anne Arundel County.

Although the legislation received much attention, Baron said it is a “very small bill” that address the technical reality of how tax credits are financed, and it will not reopen every school in the county.

“There is a minimal to no impact on the school system, but there will be an immeasurable impact on the students who will be able to go to schools and live in neighborhoods they might not otherwise be able to access in this county,” Baron said. ■

Speed Monitoring Bill Also Passes

At a virtual meeting on May 11, the county council passed Bill 11-20, which will allow the county to install speed monitoring devices if they are funded in a future budget.

Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler noted how her office has received several calls about speeding, especially near Jumpers Hole Road.

Asked about the difference that speed cameras would make, Major Ross Passman of the Anne Arundel County Police Department said, “I have heard from the jurisdictions there has been a significant decrease. There are signs posted on these roads warning people that the cameras are even there.” ■

COVID Pandemic Forces Pittman To Forgo Luxury With FY2021 Budget

By Zach Sparks

County Executive Steuart Pittman saw the Fiscal Year 2021 budget as an opportunity to make what he considered to be long-overdue investments in education and public safety, at the cost of raising income and property taxes. The \$1.7 billion FY2021 budget, conversely, comes at a time for fiscal restraint.

Anne Arundel County initially had a projected \$101 million increase over last year's budget, with about \$57 million of that total reserved for non-discretionary expenses, like debt service on capital projects, pensions, and legally enforceable labor contracts. By April 6, that \$101 million figure dropped to just \$38 million.

"The message was clear," Pittman said during his virtual budget address on May 1. "This would be a year to do more with less."

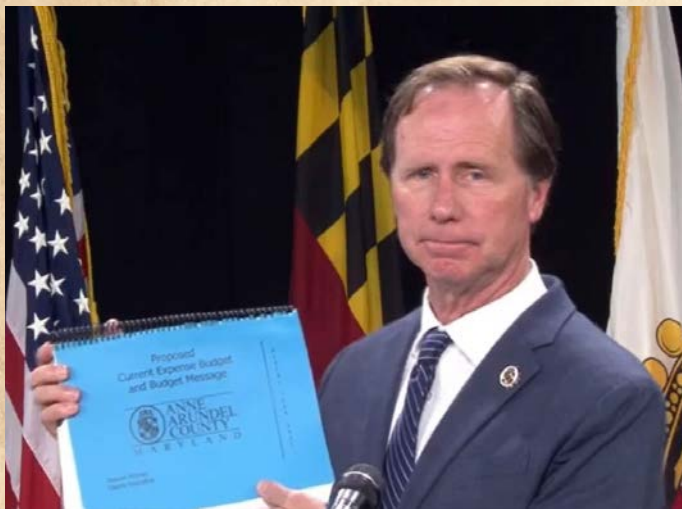
Plenty of people around the county are doing more with less. Due to a county hiring freeze, only public safety and essential positions will be filled for the remainder of this year. Instead of merit or cost-of-living raises, county employees will receive a one-time pay supplement of \$1,500.

Police, fire, detention, state's attorney, and sheriff departments are not getting the new positions they asked for in FY2021.

Teachers will get the step increase they were promised when hired, but the county is forgoing its plan to continue with back steps. Pittman's budget calls for the county to fund \$14.8 million of the school board's request (which was made before COVID-19's impact became realized) and for the state to fund the remaining \$20.7 million. Much of that will go to the new Crofton High School, set to open this fall, with 57 new positions.

"We will also bring on 84 new teachers to prevent enrollment growth from increasing our class sizes, 12 new behavioral health positions to continue addressing that urgent need, and the one that all of us recognize to be critically important — 76 new positions to work with our special needs kids," Pittman said. "I don't know about you, but that

Continued on page 80



During his budget address on May 1, County Executive Steuart Pittman praised health care professionals, (pictured below) but he also discussed financial limitations caused by the coronavirus.





Military Spotlight

Command Sergeant Major Christopher Crandall 175th Infantry Deliver Aid During COVID Crisis

By Zach Sparks

Command Sergeant Major Christopher Crandall has seen crisis before — in Iraq, during Hurricane Katrina, during the Baltimore riots in 2015 — but the novel coronavirus has presented a different challenge.

Meeting that challenge head on, Maryland Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment has stayed busy, delivering meals and guiding patients at Maryland coronavirus drive-thru testing centers.

It's a crisis that few people predicted, but Crandall said he joined the military for this purpose: to serve wherever needed, at home or abroad.

Crandall enlisted in the Marines in 1992, three years after graduating from Severna Park High School.

"I decided that was the thing for me," said Crandall, who had cousins and great-uncles in the military. "I just wanted to serve my country."

He joined the National Guard in California before moving back to Severna Park in 2002.

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, Crandall was at the Maryland Joint Operations Center, a branch of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency in Reisterstown, helping to manage operations of Maryland Guardsmen in New Orleans. Two years later he was in Iraq. By then, no stranger to crisis, he was called to Baltimore City to help stave off any civil disturbances during the riots that broke out after the death of



Freddie Gray.

Crandall's outlook kept him grounded during the chaos. "You kind of adapt and go with the flow," he said.

COVID-19 changed the narrative for Maryland's National Guard.

"A lot of the people were very standoffish the first time they saw us in Baltimore [during the COVID-19 pandemic]," Crandall said. "The last time they saw the guard was when we were armed with our equipment during the riots in 2015. They saw a different side of the guard this time — not armed, giving out food,

"I'm proud to serve an [infantry] that dates back to 1776 and the Revolutionary War."

— **COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR CHRISTOPHER CRANDALL**
MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S
1ST BATTALION, 175TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



letting them know everything will be OK."

The 175th Infantry has been a welcome presence at coronavirus testing sites at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, and at vehicle emissions testing sites in Glen Burnie, Bel Air and Waldorf.

Also, Crandall estimates that the guard has served over 1 million meals to families in need.

Despite the pandemic, soldiers have stayed calm and positive, Crandall said.

"We keep the soldiers motivated and give them the time off that they need," Crandall said.

As someone who has been serving for nearly 30 years, Crandall is not surprised to see how selfless soldiers have been throughout the pandemic.

"I'm most proud to be their command sergeant major and that every time there's a need, they answer the call," he said. "And I'm proud to serve an [infantry] that dates back to 1776 and the Revolutionary War. I'm proud to serve my country and state. You serve for the people who can't." ■

Community Defined

Brian R. Fellner
Fellner Legal
Services LLC



If you have read the Voice in the past, you know that my law firm counsels condominiums, homeowners associations, and cooperatives. These are sometimes collectively referred to as “community associations.” This article is not about how to wash your hands, or what amenities to open, or where masks are required. There is plenty of time for that as we move forward. I want to talk today about that word “community,” and what it means to each of us through the lens of the pandemic.

Cliché Alert: Dictionary Definition

Try not to roll your eyes too hard. The word community has two main definitions; the first is “a group of people living



in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.” In many ways, that is what community means when we use it – just an area we can draw a line around on a map. People who participate in the same activity or attend the same school. This can even easily define our community associations – people who live in the same neighborhood. Technically, they do not need to have anything else in com-

mon to be part of the same “community.” We can think of this as the “geographical definition.”

But consider for a moment the second definition of community: “a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals.” This is the community as we perceive it at our most optimistic, our most hopeful. Call it the “aspirational definition” of community.

COVID Community Challenge

Here is my pandemic proposal to you: spend the next few weeks looking for the difference between these two. Find a local business that is treating its customers not just as the people “living in the same place” but who “share common goals.” Identify a way that you can contribute to your community association – a committee, the board, or a volunteer activity – that demonstrates how you aspire to be part of the community, rather than simply reside in it. We are already being challenged; now is the time to rise to that challenge and emerge from the pandemic a stronger community with a greater sense of fellowship than ever before.

Have a great week everybody.

Brian R. Fellner is the founding attorney of Fellner Legal Services LLC. Learn more at www.flslawyer.com, or contact him at bfellner@flslawyer.com or 443-906-0117.

Area Businesses Support Hospitals



At the beginning of May, the Anne Arundel County Licensed Beverage Association joined an effort started by the Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association to donate meals to hospital staff. Festival Wine & Spirits kicked off the effort by purchasing 100 meals from Donnelly's Dockside and giving the meals to Anne Arundel Medical Center workers. Other restaurants and liquor stores from all over the county quickly got involved as they supported health care workers and then issued friendly challenges to other businesses to do the same. Longtime BWMC Foundation supporter and Fishpaws Marketplace owner Kim Lawson and her team (pictured) delivered wine and chocolates to the staff at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center.



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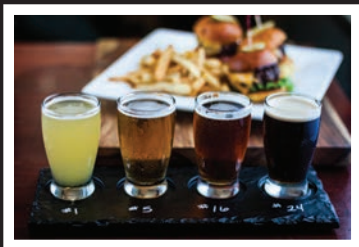
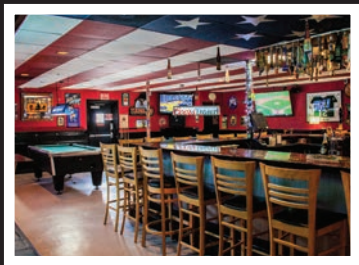
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Safe Living For Seniors During The COVID-19 Pandemic

By Winsome Brown

Lean On Dee Senior Care Advocates

None of us saw it coming, but it's here. This global pandemic associated with COVID-19 has forced so many of us to make changes in our lifestyles. This is especially true for our senior population. They are perhaps the most vulnerable sector of society, and at the same time, the least likely to understand the new protocols for protecting personal safety and the safety of others.

Here are some tips for increasing safety for your senior loved ones during this time.

Risks To Seniors During The Quarantine

The Centers for Disease Control has warned that people over the age of 60 are more susceptible to succumb to the virus if they become infected. This makes it essential to protect them from coming into contact with the virus whenever possible.

Handwashing

Handwashing has always been critical for our elderly, especially in group living situations. Problems such as UTIs, clostridioides difficile (C Diff), and other infections are common in seniors, even under ideal conditions. Handwashing can help to prevent the occurrence and spread of bacterial and viral infections that are made worse by limited access to health care during quarantine periods. Since COVID-19 can be transmitted easily from person to person, handwashing hygiene should be observed.

Clean Environment

Be sure that their environment stays clean and that visitors are kept to a minimum. Complete isolation has its risks as well since it is likely to affect a senior's mental health to some degree. Masks are in order when visitors come to the house. Following suggested or mandated protocols will be the safest option.

Keeping The House Safe

In the house, remove throw rugs and clutter to keep the area safer to walk through. You'll want to have a plan for fire safety and make your loved one aware of what to do in case of a fire.

Inspect the bathroom to make sure that safety features, such as grab bars and raised toilet seats are installed. Adjusting the thermostat on the sinks in the bathroom and kitchen will prevent accidental scalding. Installing colored indicators on the faucets — red for hot, blue for cold — will help your loved one to keep from mixing them up. Ask your senior care advisor to get some for you.

In the kitchen, inspect outlets and small appliance cords for damage and frayed wires. Make sure that appliances that are currently kept up high are moved down within reach, to avoid the need to reach and bend to retrieve them. Inspect the refrigerator occasionally to prevent mold and bacteria from developing. Make sure all food is within the "best before" date.

Call For Help If You Need It!

If you need help with keeping your parents safe, Lean On Dee - Senior Care Advocates Inc. offers a range of services and can help your family with senior wellness check-ins. Contact them today at 800-413-8733. ■

Look For Bright Spots, Choose Kindness

Ellen Kinsella
Director of Development
SPAN Inc.



These days it's easy to get anxious, scared, lonely and generally overwhelmed. There exists not only fear of catching the coronavirus, but fear of lost income, fear of becoming homeless, fear of being unable to afford life-saving medicine, and fear of not being able to feed one's family.

Sometimes it helps to search for the bright spots, and that might just help you get through the day. At SPAN, our bright spots are people. Good people, funny people, generous people. We are made of people, we exist for people and we love people.

SPAN was supposed to hold its 30th anniversary celebration this month. Instead, we are celebrating our ability to simply exist to help those in need, and we are very happy to be able to do this. Helping others can put our own problems into perspective, and kindness is always the right path to take. SPAN has remained open throughout the pandemic. With a one-person-at-a-time policy in the SPAN house, we decided to open an outdoor, free food pantry that is regularly stocked and accessible 24/7 to any hungry folks who need it. One woman using it had recently moved a homeless friend into her house. Then she lost her job. Another woman was gathering food to bring to one of her students who had lost their home. A man who was barely making ends meet picked up food from our outdoor pantry to share with his elderly neighbor.

The generosity of our local donors has touched us beyond comprehension. Emails and messages arrive often, asking what we need. One woman contacted us

while undergoing chemotherapy to ask what was on our wish list. HoneyBaked Ham donated 30 giant hams. Students have taken the initiative to conduct food drives in local neighborhoods. One woman made kids' goody bags to hand out. Another made bag lunches. Trinity Bible Church donated its Backpack Buddies snacks. Woods Church, Severna Park United Methodist Church, Sew Masks Maryland, and Our Shepherd Lutheran Church donated masks and prayer cloths. Leave Dinner to Lettie has prepared homemade meals for a dozen clients three times already. The college-age daughter of one of our volunteers has been helping daily with pantry work. Packages of diapers, boxes of groceries, Amazon deliveries, and even bags of produce appear like treasures at SPAN's doorstep. The list could go on forever!

Our financial donors have also been generous. As soon as the state of emergency began, we held a fundraiser. Immediately, a generous benefactor offered to match all funds up to \$2,500. Checks started coming in. Little Carmine's N.Y. Pizza Kitchen held a fundraiser for SPAN. The Severna Park Giant sold bags for SPAN during April. Garry's Grill held a fundraiser for SPAN. More checks came in. Lots of first-time donors gave generously.

Although we received generous financial donations, we anticipate an unprecedented financial need in the upcoming months, when utility bills and rent become due (there was a moratorium on evictions and utility turnoffs during the state of emergency). Please consider making a financial donation to SPAN online at www.spanhelps.org. No amount is too small, and it is tax-deductible.

Somehow, we will all get through this together. We at SPAN are happy to help be the conduits of acts of kindness that will help our planet heal, one family at a time. ■

COVID-19 And The Maryland Courts: *Part 3*

David Diggs
The Law Office of
David V. Diggs



This is my third update to friends and neighbors on how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting Maryland courts, with a particular emphasis on the District and Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel County. As this article goes to print in late May, we are well into our third month of social distancing, sheltering in place and wondering when it all might end. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, as Maryland tepidly reopens.

The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University is reporting more than 5.8 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with 363,210 deaths. The U.S. has the largest number of known cases with more than 1.7 million and 102,686 deaths. Check out the data for yourself at www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html. The data is updated daily at 8:00pm.

In Maryland, we have had 50,988 cases, 2,348 deaths (a 3.5-fold increase in the past month) and more than 3,000 recovered. See www.coronavirus.maryland.gov. With 3,643 cases and 158 deaths, Anne Arundel County trails only Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's counties and Baltimore City. Our children are home through the end of the school year on June 18, 2020. It's anyone's guess whether they'll be going onto school grounds in September.

Since March 16, all state courts have been restricted to emergency operations, through at least June 5. They remain largely closed to the public and lawyers. Most matters have been postponed and will be rescheduled. Essential personnel, which include administrative judges, court administrators and administrative heads, have been required to report to work. Administrative judges are determining what cases may be heard with "remote electronic partici-

pation" or "can be rescheduled after the emergency period has ended" or "can be resolved without a hearing." Jury trials are suspended until at least July 20. How those 12 (for criminal cases) or six (for civil case) jurors will be properly distanced remains to be seen.

At the Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, we are seeing few clients in person. We're spending a lot of time on the phone and we're attempting to master some new technology, including Zoom conferences. We are still able to come to the office because we are fortunate to be among the essential businesses "that support the judicial system." Certain members of our staff are teleworking, as they are able.

I still haven't been in court since March 12, but I have had hearings, as courts transition to online forums. Fortunately for the day-to-day practice of the law, most of the state's courts allow for the electronic filing of court documents. The only courts that aren't on MDEC (the Maryland Electronic Courts) are those in

Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Anne Arundel was the first court to go fully online in the fall of 2014, so we're accustomed to electronic filings.

I have an uptick in calls from clients seeking estate planning advice. We are capable of arranging for socially responsible and distant execution of estate documents. There's no time like the present to create a will and gain control over how your children will be protected and your estate will be distributed upon your death.

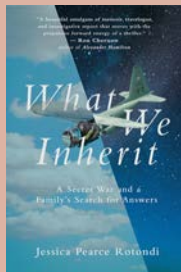
If you or a loved one have questions about the legal ramifications posed by the COVID-19 health crisis, you should consult with an attorney you can trust and who will assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is your neighbor and legal counsel. If you need further information regarding this subject, please contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville. Call 410-244-1171 or email david@diggsllaw.com. ■

Authors Alley

Two authors with ties to Severna Park released books this spring. Check out the next edition of the Severna Park Voice for full-length features on each author.

What We Inherit: A Secret War and a Family's Search for Answers

by Jessica Pearce Rotondi



In the wake of her mother's death, Jessica Pearce Rotondi uncovered boxes of letters, declassified CIA reports and newspaper clippings that brought to light a family ghost: her uncle Jack, who disappeared during the CIA-led "Secret War" in Laos in 1972. The letters led her across Southeast Asia in search of the truth that has eluded her family for decades.

When her book tour was cancelled due to COVID, the author created a digital tour with events as far away as Australia and Berlin — all broadcast from her brother-in-law's childhood bedroom in Shipley's Choice.

"The Last Wizard" by John Bachkosky



Severna Park High School athletes know John Bachkosky as the school's varsity swimming coach, but he decided to dip into the waters of fiction with his book "The Last Wizard," which debuted on Amazon on April 28.

Set in the world of Kyros, the story follows tyrannical ruler King Gjanion, who has convinced his subjects that he is the last wizard. While seeking to crush the rebellion that has risen against him, Gjanion encounters Mara — the true last wizard. Fearing the exposure of his lies, the king tries to silence Mara, who fights to protect those she loves. Her adoptive parents, Zhira and Gant, use alchemy to support her journey, to find the rebellion, and to help end the king's reign. ■

Survivor Raises Awareness For Cancer Foundation

By Alyson Kay

After two years of treatment, Lindsey Rivero is celebrating her new lease on life while in remission from a rare cancer.

The nightmare began when Rivero and her husband were trying to have a second child. For reasons unknown to them or Rivero's doctors, she was having infertility problems. It took three years, but she finally had a pregnancy that stuck.

"We both experienced this sigh of relief that we were past the area of the highest risk," said Rivero, a 2013 Broadneck High School graduate who grew up in Severna Park.

But the joy of having another child was interrupted by some alarming blood counts during her pregnancy. Normally, platelet counts are between 150,000 and 400,000. Rivero's were over 2 million, dangerously high for her and the baby.

Rivero started to have weekly blood tests to monitor her counts and try to find the cause. Hopes that it was something like an iron deficiency or an infection were dashed, and she needed to have a bone marrow biopsy. But it needed to wait until she had the baby.

Looking back, Rivero said there was another sign that something was wrong: debilitating night sweats. At first, she chalked it up to hormones and the extra weight of the baby, then postpartum hormones. But shortly after having her son, Griffin, Rivero had nothing left to attribute as the cause.

"When he was 3-and-a-half months old, I realized that this wasn't hormone-related," Rivero said. "There really was something wrong."

Ten months after her first abnormal blood test, Rivero finally



Lindsey Rivero received a citation from the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives at the Ulman Foundation's Blue Jeans {& Bow Ties} Ball held in February.

got a diagnosis: chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), a rare type of slowly progressing blood cancer found in cells that make red blood cells, platelets and most types of white blood cells.

Rivero started to take tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI), a class of chemotherapy that targets the gene that causes CML cells to reproduce out of control. She became so sick from treatment that she had to pause her vinyl craft work that she started after she stepped away from teaching special education after her daughter, Elliot, developed health problems as a baby. But they either did not work or needed to be discontinued due to severe side effects.

The only treatment she had left was a bone marrow transplant.

Rivero then asked her immediate family members if they wanted to be tested for matching human leukocyte antigen (HLA) markers, a type of protein that the immune system uses to identify foreign cells. Ten HLA markers are used, but relatives are only tested on six, since it's assumed that they will already match on four of them.

Donations that match with more HLA markers are more likely to succeed.

Rivero's sister and cousin both wanted to donate and were found to be a match. But since her cousin matched on one more marker than her sister, and her sister would have to stop breastfeeding her youngest child to donate, her cousin was the one to donate.

For Rivero, the hardest part of treatment was having to leave her children for months of treatment. There aren't any transplant centers in her area, so she had to travel five hours to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. And bone marrow transplant leaves the recipient with no immunity for months, so she couldn't risk going back to see her kids after transplant.

"I had to leave my kids to have the transplant done, but I also had to stay away from them for quite some time because of the risk of getting an infection from them was too high," Rivero said.

Seven months passed before Rivero could go back to her family again. Technology was a lifeline for her.

"I don't know how I would have made it through without FaceTime," Rivero said.

During the difficult months of separation, she stayed in Ulman House, housing provided by the Ulman Foundation to young adults receiving cancer treatment a long way from their homes. But the foundation gave her more than just housing.

"They've connected with so many incredible other young adults going through cancer treatment," Rivero said. "I've made some of my best friends through there. We've all just been there to support each other through out cancer journey."

The transplant put her into remission, and she went back to live in Virginia on Mother's Day, excited to finally be with her husband and children again.

"I was doing this so that I could have more time with them," Rivero said.

Since she started treatment, Rivero has worked to raise awareness for CML, cancer in young adults and the Ulman Foundation. In February, she spoke at an event to raise money for the foundation she credited with changing her life after transplant.

But the excitement of remission comes with some uncertainty and anxiety.

"When you're actively sick, you know what to expect," said Rivero. "Side effects from meds. Good days, bad days. Once you're in remission, it's kind of scary because it means that it could come back."

But she also looks forward to enjoying all the little experiences she took for granted before her cancer.

"Once all of this coronavirus stuff passes, I am really looking forward to going to see a movie," said Rivero. ■

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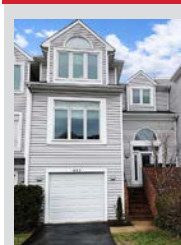
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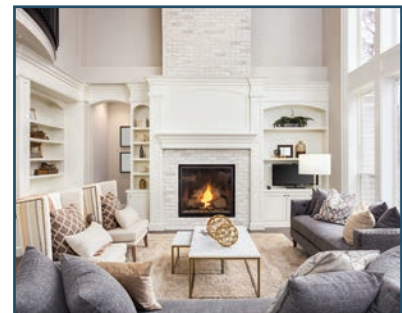
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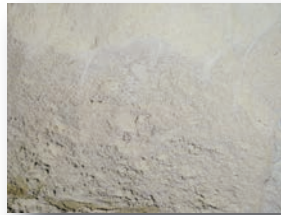
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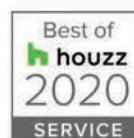


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SEVERNA PARK-MCKINSEY PARK



Situated in the heart of Severna Park and close to shopping, public library and much more. This large 2 bdr 2 ba. home fea. numerous recent upgrades, including new granite tops in the kit, new carpet throughout, and a fresh painted interior. Enjoy views of the wood and pond from the oversize balcony.

SEVERNA PARK-CHARTRIDGE



This rare 4 bedroom home with garage is a rare find! Boasting a large kitchen with upgraded countertops. Deck overlooks the fenced yard. Fantastic lower level with fam rm w/ raised brick FP. Relax in the sun rm. Community with pool, pond, tot lot and B-ball court.

ANNAPOLIS-HERITAGE HARBOUR



Located in the amenity packed comm of Heritage Harbour, this large home has undergone a transformation. Good size eat in kitchen with doors to a large enclosed sun room overlooking a bucolic wooded setting. Stunning hardwoods on almost the entire main level. Freshly painted too. Take time to visit the comm. amenities, including clubhouse, indoor and outdoor pools, tennis, golf and so much more.

CROWNSVILLE-HERALD HARBOR



Check out this remodeled 2 bdr 2 ba home located in a water priv. comm. From the new gourmet remodeled kit to the re-modeled bath this home is a must see. Other upgrades include new flooring, lighting and landscaping and more. Enjoy your crab feast on the large deck!

Student-Athlete Spotlights: Severna Park Tennis Seniors

By Colin Murphy

There are countless seniors and student-athletes not getting the well-deserved shine they would otherwise be enjoying over the past weeks and months.

Among them are the always-excellent Severna Park High School tennis players, who every year dominate at the county level and contend at the region and state level. The Falcons were primed for another successful spring when, like the rest of the world, their plans were put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Foremost on the talented 2019 roster is Miriam Moghtader, the Falcons' standout girls singles and doubles player, former state and county champion, team captain and soon-to-be summa cum laude graduate.

Moghtader, who was a girls doubles state champion last year with her sister, Abby Moghtader, and a mixed doubles county champion with Matthew Kilchenstein in 2018, holds an .849 win percentage across all matches in her career. Off the court, Moghtader has earned multiple academic distinctions, including Top Scholar Athlete;

membership in the National Honor Society, Spanish honor society, math honor society and science honor society; and a 4.46 GPA, good for summa cum laude honors at graduation. She was involved in Key Club and STAR (Students Taking Action Responsibly) and will attend the University of Virginia, where she intends to study biology and/or mathematics.

Falcons assistant coach Emily Bear praised Moghtader's approach to the game as exemplary of the values of the tennis program at Severna Park.

"Miriam has been a leader on and off the courts since she was a freshman," Bear said. "She led the team with wins and would then head over to cheer on anyone still playing. Miriam arranged hitting sessions outside of school and always brings laughter and cheerfulness to every practice. One of her best attributes is her humility. She would graciously win and get to know opponents."

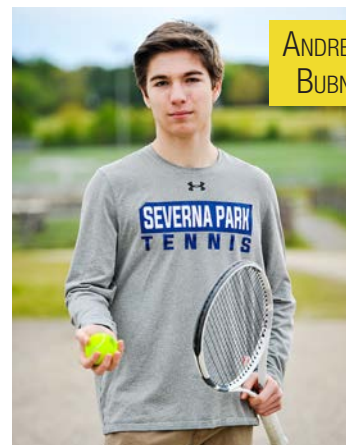
Moghtader said the impact of Severna Park tennis on her high school experience has been immense.

"Playing on the tennis team at Severn Park has

Continued on page 78

Photos by Colin Murphy

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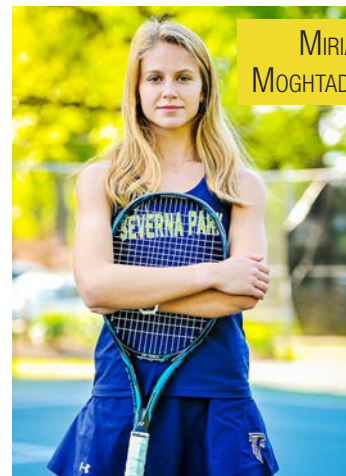


Photo Provided

(L-R) Luke Mudd, Miriam Moghtader, Andrew Bubnis, Liza Yannone, Jake Shirey and Olivia Altman were all stellar tennis players for Severna Park High School.



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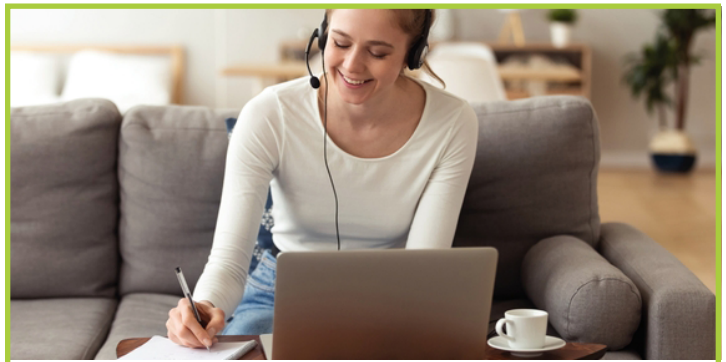


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Admirals, Saints Join Forces To Help During Coronavirus Crisis

By Colin Murphy

Isabelle Benoit and Hope Davis knew they had to help.

With the COVID-19 pandemic creating widespread and varied pressures throughout all levels of society, Benoit and Davis — high school sports rivals from Severn School and St. Mary's, respectively, as well as SPark field hockey teammates — wanted to get to work and help those in need.

They started right here in the community. Leveraging the power of the Severn-St. Mary's rivalry into spirited action, Benoit and Davis galvanized their respective school field hockey teammates and coaches to donate personal hygiene products, baby products, feminine hygiene products and assorted essentials to package together and distribute to needy women, mothers and families in the Annapolis area.

On May 9, Benoit, Davis and Severn student Polly Hill, all fully outfitted in protective masks and gloves, participated in a pop-up pantry at Tyler Heights Elementary through Downtown Hope church in Annapolis. Altogether the girls were able to serve over 350 needy families by distributing in excess of 5,000 diapers and baby wipes, 2,000 feminine hygiene products, and hundreds of personal hygiene kits containing toothpaste, soap, toilet paper, personal protective masks, and other toiletries and essentials.

Benoit said her relationship with Davis as friends, neighbors, club teammates and high school rivals was the genesis of their effort to help others.

"Although our rivalry is not a big deal to most people, it has been an ongoing part of our

high school lives, as well as those who came before us at both Severn and St. Mary's," said Benoit. "[Hope and I] got to talking while hitting balls around together, and the drive came up in conversation. Once we started thinking, we decided, what better way to get a solid amount of donations than using our rivalry to urge people to give back to the community? Our schools have always had strong feelings towards each other, so we knew that mentioning the rivalry was going to benefit our efforts."

They contacted their field hockey programs first, and everyone jumped in to help by bringing product donations and dropping them off to the Benoit household. Benoit noted Severn teammate Lexi Dougherty and St. Mary's assistant coach Lauren Mroczka as huge contributors, saying everyone was happy to donate to the cause.

Benoit said seeing the line of cars and people queuing up at Tyler Heights Elementary to receive items made a powerful impression on her, and she spoke with perspective and humility about the opportunity to help the needy at critical times.

"We interacted with many different people (while wearing masks and gloves, of course) and got to see how desperate and in need these people are," she said. "There is always something special and eye-opening about giving back in person rather than dropping something off at a location. After collecting hundreds of items and giving out every single one, Hope and I felt and knew that we did something that made a difference in someone's life, which is one of the best feelings." ■



(L-R, Below) St. Mary's student Hope Davis and Severn students Isabelle Benoit and Polly Hill took part in a pop-up pantry at Tyler Heights Elementary School in Annapolis on May 9 to distribute toiletries and other essentials to needy families. Benoit and Davis spearheaded the effort to involve their respective field hockey programs, uniting the two sides of the longstanding Severn-St. Mary's rivalry by inviting their Admirals and Saints teammates to make donations.



Local Women Support The Class Of 2020

2020
Class of

CONGRATS GRADUATES!

By Haley Weisgerber

For the class of 2020, senior year was not what they were expecting. With so many important rites of passage canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, two local women rallied to show the seniors that they were not alone.

Mother and daughter duo Georgette and Lauren Vetock wanted to make sure that the class of 2020 was supported during this difficult time. In April, the two were inspired to start the "Anne Arundel County Adopt a Senior Class of 2020" group on Facebook to celebrate local seniors.

"My mother came to me in early April with the idea to start a group supporting seniors who are not getting the opportunity to be celebrated for their accomplishments," said Lauren, who teaches at Marley Elementary School in Glen Burnie. "She asked me to create a group on Facebook because she felt social media would be the best way to reach everyone."

After a senior has been put up for "adoption," the members of the group choose to adopt them, and deliver them a gift basket, card, snacks, or anything to make them feel supported. The seniors have received everything from college gear to masks.

Though these deliveries cannot make up for the prom or traditional graduation ceremony, Lauren and Georgette hope that these little gifts bring the seniors joy.

"As a former senior, I re-



Above: Mother and daughter duo Georgette and Lauren Vetock wanted to make sure that the class of 2020 was supported during this difficult time. **Below:** Adopted seniors have received snacks, college gear, gift cards and more from their "adopted" families.



member the excitement surrounding those events," said Lauren. "A culmination of all my hard work being celebrated in front of my



friends, parents and loved ones. As residents of Anne Arundel County, we wanted to create additional opportunities for the seniors to be

celebrated for their amazing accomplishments."

The group now has over 6,000 members, and over 1,000 seniors have been adopted.

"We're grateful we are able to reach so many people in our community," said Georgette, who owns The Salon at Benfield in Severna Park. "We are also inspired by their kindness and the generosity of everyone."

Among those adopted is Paris Sistilli, the Broadneck High School senior class president.

"It feels really nice and it just emphasizes that even though [the coronavirus] has taken a lot of things from people, it has still instilled a sense of empathy and wanting to make people smile," said Sistilli.

Sistilli was adopted by a teacher at Tyler Heights Elementary, where she volunteers to teach chess, and a stranger.

"There's not much new going on at home," said Sistilli. "I think everyone relates to that. It was just nice to have something different to shake up the routine. It was also really heartwarming that someone out there is thinking about the class of 2020."

Sistilli said that spring was typically a time to celebrate the seniors. Although she missed out on traditional celebrations, she is glad that people like Lauren and Georgette are making seniors feel special.

"Our class didn't get a

Continued on page 79

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Blue Angels Hold Surprise Flyover In Annapolis

Photos courtesy of the
U.S. Naval Academy

The U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, flew over Bancroft Hall during the fifth swearing-in event for the United States Naval Academy class of 2020 on May 20.





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St. Martin's-In-The-Field Episcopal School



Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Mrs. Hayes' class at Severna Park Elementary answered the question:

If you could travel to the future for one day, what would you do and why?

I would search for the new electronic devices and see what they look like compared to this year's electronics. Also, I would see if they finally created flying cars. I'm interested with all of the different electronics; just thinking of the future electronic inventions makes me feel excited. I would visit 2100, the month of January 1. It's the New Year for celebrating new life and creating new inventions.

Autumn G.

I would see what society would be like in the century and see if our technology had changed. I would see if civilization had changed at all. I would see if climate change is different. Also, I would check to see if the bee population has started to increase a little.

Benjamin D.

I would want to see what



For the month of June, the Voice asked Mrs. Kuemper's class, "If you could travel to the future for one day, what would you do and why?"

I am doing when I am 30 years old. I want to see where I live. Am I married and do I have kids? My goal is become a dentist, so I would like to see if I accomplished that goal! If I have kids, I would tell them about the coronavirus in 2020 and that it was a scary time but everything turned out OK. It's important to be kind and care about other people. Be strong and you can get through anything!

Julia S.

I would want to find out all the latest technology: new cars, robots and the latest software. I would want to see what is now digitally managed, that in the present day we haven't had or developed yet. One of the big pieces of technology I would like to see in the future would involve turning all trash into electricity or energy, because landfills are a problem. Maybe even a way to make all cars run on something besides gasoline. And the last thing I would want to find out about is

what happened with climate change, and what we could do to help stop it.

Keira D.

I would bring an old Christmas ornament. In the present time, they are worth \$1,000 to \$18,000, but imagine how much it would cost in the future. When I get to the future, the first thing I would do is sell the Christmas ornament so I have a lot of money to buy food, water, and I can buy fun things to do. Then I would want to see what the basketball court, a basketball, a soccer field and a soccer ball would look like. I would also want to visit myself to see what I look like in the future and see what I have become. The last thing I would do is try the food to see if it tastes better in the future because I don't like a lot of foods in the present.

Lily M.

If I could go to the future, I would go 500 years forward. I would first find a descendant of my family so they

could show me around. I need to know exactly where I'm going. I would go to the equivalent to the Apple store to see what new inventions and gadgets 2520 has. I would want that so I fit in with all the other people. I would just explore my surroundings, and then not tell anyone about the future when I get back home. I would do that because I don't think anyone would believe me, and I would ruin my reputation.

Natatie E.

I would see if they stopped global warming because I am so sad that the polar bears are dying. I would also like to see if I was still alive and healthy (which I probably won't be). I would also like to see what humans and animals changed at all, if people use self-driving and flying cars, and if people stop littering. And if people made a potion that made animals live forever.

Sophia D.

Whitehurst Spreads Rocks Of Hope



The Whitehurst community spent May 23 spreading cheer by painting affirmational messages on rocks as part of the Rocks of Hope campaign.



Student Responds To Hospice's Call For PPE

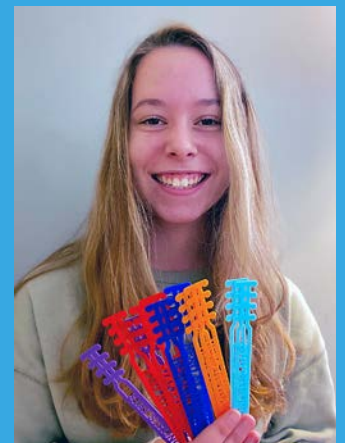
Like most people, Delia Fishburne didn't quite know what to do with herself in the first two weeks of the state's stay-at-home order. The Severna Park High School junior turned to reading and binge-watching Netflix. That got old very quickly for her, and she knew she needed to add some purpose to her days. That is how Hospice of the Chesapeake teams became the bene-

ficiary of her 3D printing project – ear savers for facemasks.

Inspired by a cousin who was sewing facemasks for her community in Virginia, Delia turned to social media for ideas on what she could do and learned about ear savers, plastic bands with hooks that allow people to remove the elastic bands of surgical masks from behind their ears. Delia found some digital designs online

and got to work. She said it takes about five hours to make 10 ear savers. She has made more than 460 so far for COVID care nurses, delivery room care teams and trace team members, including an order of 150 for Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Learn more about Hospice of the Chesapeake's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, at www.hospicechesapeake.org/covid-19. ■



Lasting Lessons Learned

“The closure of schools affirm that it is never the physical school that makes a school great, it is the relationships within that space that make it meaningful for students.”

Jamey Hein
Head of School
St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School



Leading one of our community's private schools in this sea of educational change has provided our small community of learners, teachers and families with countless lessons. Come summer, we will have an opportunity to think about the sudden shifts schools were forced to make in going remote. Perhaps this will be the kind of reset needed to think about the future of K-12 education. These lessons, spurred by the disruptive loss of face-to-face school due to the pandemic, will be salient enough to linger beyond this closure period.

Some educational thought leaders have suggested the sudden shuttering of schools to be merely an accelerant to the changes already brimming in our 21st century educational landscape. Technology, long viewed as a permanently evolving fixture in K-12 education, has necessarily affected learning while home – if only to facilitate a school to home connection for students. Even when re-entry does happen, technology's hold will likely linger and become a more prominent force, allowing learning to be done continuously at home. But still, the end goal should not rely solely on technology's grip, but rather scenarios that involve returning to place-based learning where human interaction, socialization and collaboration can once again drive student motivation.

What other long-range lessons or takeaways can be forecasted for our schools as they contemplate their reopening? As we tie

the remote bow onto the 2019-2020 school year with virtual graduations, carpool parades and yard signs, here are just a handful I find myself reflecting on in the case of my school, a small school serving children ages 3 through middle school.

The closure of schools affirm that it is never the physical school that makes a school great, it is the relationships within that space that make it meaningful for students.

While our goal should be place-based learning, meaningful education must continue to move beyond the industrial nature of K-12 school, which tends to silo disciplines, adhere to an agrarian calendar, and teach to tests. Let's see schools make way for authentic learning that empowers students to solve problems, collaborate, and draw meaning and relevance from the content.

COVID-19 has been an accelerant for the underlying value of social-emotional learning (SEL) within K-12 education. Going forward, our students' overall well-being deserves a front-seat ride in every school's plan for strengthening their student outcomes. Teachers tending to our students' needs and "checking in" should always outweigh undue pressure to cover curriculum.

The smaller a school, the more responsive it will be in addressing each student's unique needs and learning potential in the classroom. Class size is a key variable in promoting positive learning outcomes.

Change should come to be expected as part of the new normal in K-12 education. It is time to get strategic and to use shorter increments of time to continue evolving even

as schools look to reopen. While we get back to doing school, we may not go all the way back to the way it once was before March 2020. Let's keep the needs to students as our north star when navigating education into 2020-2021. If we have learned anything here, students and families need the constancy of school and the influence of teachers in their lives.

Despite the physical divide that has been created due to school closures, many students are learning positive habits of independence and self-advocacy, time management, resilience and agility. These lessons need to linger and be a part of the outcomes we

seek once we are back in a brick and mortar school.

At St. Martin's, as we wave goodbye (from a distance) to our students and as we close the door on this season of radical change for students and teachers, we will pivot yet again and begin to prepare for a safe and welcome re-entry, all the wiser for the lasting lessons we will have learned.

Serving students from 12 zip codes, St. Martin's Episcopal School is a preschool through grade 8 independent school in Severna Park. Learn more about St. Martin's responsive education at a virtual tour every Tuesday at 10:00am. Register at www.stmartinsmd.org. ■



Teachers from St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School practiced social distancing while visiting a preschooler at home.

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The Show Must Go On

Phil Kittiver Keeps Kids Engaged With Theater

By Haley Weisgerber

When local theaters were forced to cancel or postpone their rehearsals because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Severna Park resident and Theater in the Park (TITP) director Philip Kittiver wasn't ready to give up.

Kittiver began teaching online acting workshops to keep his students entertained and social during their time away from TITP.

"I missed the kids and I saw the world around us adapt to use available technology and do what could still be done, even if it was different," said Kittiver.

Before the shows were postponed, Kittiver was directing "15 Reasons Not To Be In A Play," two casts of Disney's "Winnie the Pooh KIDS," and a weekly storytelling class that was set to act out a children's picture book in March.

"All four of my casts had rehearsals canceled abruptly in March," said Kittiver. "I held my last rehearsals on March 7 and March 11, and I left them saying, 'See you in a week.'"

During April, TITP continued to hold rehearsals using the video communication app Zoom. With unknown performance dates, Kittiver found that these traditional rehearsals were not as productive

virtually. Group choreography, large-scale scenes and musical numbers were near impossible to practice. In April, the decision was made to postpone all shows and rehearsals until the fall, but Kittiver knew that in-person meetings were making a difference for his students mentally and emotionally.

"I began to notice that seeing and hearing each other live was still a very positive thing to do, whether or not we made progress on our production," said Kittiver.

Kittiver spoke to the other directors and the Online Sessions, a virtual acting and singing experience, was announced. The singing sessions are being led by TITP directors Kylie Sjolie and Trevor Greenfield, while Kittiver is teaching seven sessions of acting.

"I had just bought a new scene book for group scenes that I wanted to try out for a class," said Kittiver. "This online group seemed like the right time."

With 33 students signed up, Kittiver runs group scenes with the students in 20-minute sessions. He sends students a scene ahead of time and they spend their session working on voice, articulation and operative words.

"Some of my actors have decided to forego the online



Philip Kittiver usually takes a hands-on approach to theater. Now he's teaching online acting workshops to keep his students entertained and social during their time away from Theater in the Park.

experience because it clearly isn't the same," said Kittiver. "I totally understand it. It's only been a few actors and I'm sure I'll see them in the fall. For those that continue, I think it's more about staying social with the backdrop of doing a fun acting scene."

Kittiver hopes that, in addition to fine-tuning their acting skills, his students will take away a sense of oneness with the world.

"Living in the time of an event or disaster is a memorable passage that will connect you to others experiencing the same thing," said Kittiver. "It's ironic that this is an event of disconnection, but actors love irony."

Kittiver said he is looking forward to the challenge of picking up where he left off, though he will miss the comfort of Zoom's "mute" feature. ■

Severna Park Teen Starts Campaign For Boater Safety



Parker Diez partnered with the National Safe Boating Council as part of the "Wear It" campaign.

Many people around Severna Park are undoubtedly eager to get back out on the water. Once they do, Severna Park rising senior Parker Diez wants to make sure they can enjoy themselves without risking their safety.

Diez has been collecting lightly used life jackets at his neighborhood beach in Ben Oaks and in other communities since early May to honor National Safe Boaters Week (May 16-22). He plans to donate the life jackets to the Department of Natural Resources and any other organization that encourages

safe boating.

"Having grown up near the water and boated for most of my life, I have observed an increased incidence of tragic boating accidents," he said.

Diez had planned a "Wear It" May kickoff event in partnership with the National Safe Boating Council, but it was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. So far, he has collected about 50 life jackets. For anyone who wants to contribute, a blue collection bin will remain at 432 Severnside Drive through June. ■

Severn School's Class Of 2020 Enjoys A Special Graduation

Severn School's 106th graduating class recently joined in the longstanding tradition to receive their diploma and walk across the stage on Alumni House lawn. In honor of their official commencement on May 29, Severn hosted a socially distant graduation ceremony for the 102 seniors on May 20.

Arriving at Teel Campus, graduates and their immediate families were greeted with a '90 banner along Evergreen Road displaying each graduate's name. The scoreboard flashed "2020," and from the parking area, flowing maroon and white ribbons flanked the walkway to the lawn. To maintain social distancing and small group gathering protocols, families arrived at scheduled times throughout the five-hour time span.

As graduates donned their caps and gowns, proud parents and siblings shared smiles and laughter. Before crossing the stage, graduates and families stopped at the first of three photo stations, graciously provided by Maryland Stork Lady.

Graduates approached the stage and were greeted with an audience of 170 smiling "faces" of the Severn School faculty and staff.

Headmaster Doug Lagarde called each student's name and with diploma in hand, they walked across the stage. Wearing Severn School face masks, Lagarde and Upper School Head Steve Soden gave air high-fives and air fist bumps. The school filmed the graduates as they took their time crossing the stage, turning to smile for their parents and proudly displaying their diploma.



Teachers at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School teachers practiced social distancing while visiting a preschooler at home.

Students were then surprised with an amusing second photo station - cardboard cutouts of Lagarde and Soden.

"What a memorable and much appreciated day!" shared Jennie Kantowski, faculty member and parent of graduate Joe Kantowski. "Given all that we had working against us, you rose to the occasion and provided our family with a wonderful way to see Joseph formally graduate. The set-up, decorations, photos, execution ... were amazing!"

After graduates and families looked back one last time at the faculty audience and Lagarde and Soden waving on the stage, they took their official diploma photo and a family group photo. The videography and photos were then used in a virtual webinar graduation ceremony on May 29. Students and families tuned in for the traditional commencement speeches, graduation awards and further celebration of the class of 2020.

The final piece of this unique ceremony was Lagarde's gift to each graduate. A woodworker, Lagarde used the wood from a box elder that had fallen on Severn's campus this fall to craft 102 unique pens, enclosed in an engraved keepsake box.

"Thank you, Severn faculty, for your creativity and extra efforts to make this event special for our 2020 graduates," parent Robin Kidder expressed. "All of the special touches were greatly appreciated." ■





THANK YOU!

We Are All In This Together

We want to offer our condolences to all families and friends who have lost someone to COVID-19 and other sickness.

Thank You to the first responders especially the Nurses, EMTs, Doctors, Mental Health professionals and all of their support staff for being there to assist those stricken with COVID-19 while still taking care of all of the other medical issues that come up from day to day.

Thank You to all Nursing Home and Assisted Living facilities and their staff for their never-ending care given to the highest risk and most needy in our population, day to day.

Thank You to the Firemen and Police and their support staff for making sure that we are safe and secure.

Thank You to all the people who work in our food and supply pipelines including the truck drivers, loaders, unloaders, mechanics, and all of their support staff for keeping the trucks on the road and ensuring that we continue to receive necessary items for survival.

Thank You to our military for continually ensuring our way of life, assisting the populous when needed and for quickly reacting to COVID-19 when needed.

Thank You to all the restaurant owners and all their staff for ensuring that we have a source for safe-prepared food.

Thank You to all the grocery stores and their staff that have been there day in and day out to ensure a steady supply of food and other items needed to live.

Thank You to all the veterinary Doctors, Nurses and their supporting staff for taking care of all of our animals.

Thank You to all the gas station owners, repair shops, mechanics and staff for being open.

Thank You to all the airlines, pilots and all of their staff for maintaining the planes, delivering the products, and being there to ensure that those who need to fly do so safely.

Thank You to all religious leaders for being there to support us in many ways.

Thank You to all the essential persons that are needed just for us to exist from one day to the next, such as utility employees, for gas, clean water and electric and all the thousands of support staff that back them up. Thank You to the Postal workers, all the overnight delivery services and all their staff for being there for us.

Thank You to all the teachers and parents that are assisting our kids in learning in this difficult time.

Thank You to all persons who are trying each and every day to exist, without harming others or themselves.

Thank You to all the small businesses, their employees and contractors for trying to bring back our normal day to day way of life and being the backbone of our country.

Thank You for the fact that we live in the greatest country in the world and have the freedoms and the opportunity to live the life we choose to live.

I am sure that I have left someone off of my list above, so my Thank You goes to everyone, everywhere for looking out for one another, and understanding how we all affect each other with our actions.

I guess they are right. "We Are In This Together".

Thank You - Bev Langley



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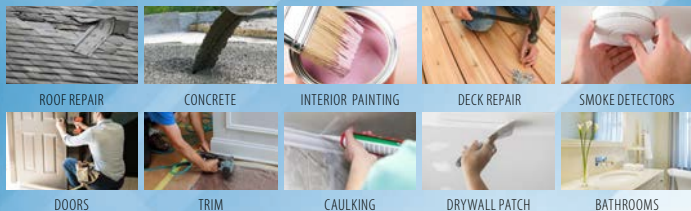
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Magothy River Middle Teachers Surprise Students

The sixth-grade Mariners team at Magothy River Middle School wanted to do something special for students in the absence of their monthly Student of the Month assembly that recognized four kids for exhibiting the qualities of a Magothy Marlin: respect, motivation and safety.

With e-learning taking the place of classrooms, teachers Lauren Ebersberger (science), Andrea Hamilton (Language Arts), Kasha Mastrodome-nico (social studies) and Leslie Watson (math) decided to surprise their Student of the Month honorees by appearing on the front step of their homes with a yard sign for all to see.

Hamilton designed the yard signs, the teachers notified parents the

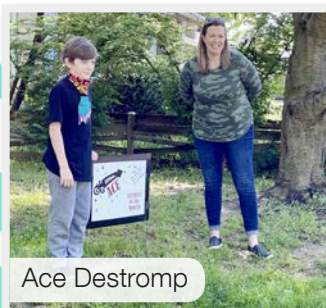
night before arrival. With that consent, the teachers mapped out routes.

"The student reactions were priceless!" Ebersberger said. "The student was either in shock, confused or smiling ear to ear."

Teachers presented the honorees with a Student of the Month sign, candy and gave a speech. Each stop became more and more rewarding for the teachers.

"I wish we could stop at each student's home and show how much we miss them and how much they mean to us," Ebersberger said. "They are all doing a phenomenal job with this transition and we are so proud of them!"

March Students of the Month



Ace Destromp



Emma Hopkinson



Diana Owens



Lewis Tippin

April Students of the Month



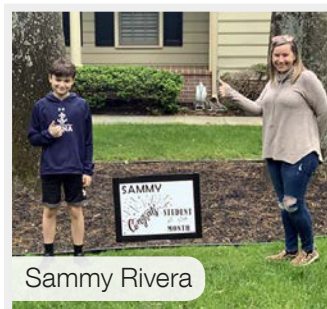
Spencer Curtin



Aaron Foote



Brianna Pumphrey



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THE KENNY ELGERT SCHOLARSHIP

2020 Winner - Jessica Albert

THE WAYNE MOOK HONORARY EDUCATION OR SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

2020 Winners - Camryn Chew and Lila Slattery

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My VISION - by Dr. Sandra Leni

My medical school and internal medicine residency training was at State University of New York at BUFFALO from 1993-1998, and 1998-2001 respectively. I also participated in the Women's Health track during my residency which gave me more experience in Women's medicine. I received my Master's Degree in Natural Sciences and conducted breast cancer research at Roswell Park Cancer Institute from 1991-1993. Since moving to Maryland in 2010, I have practiced in a number of medical establishments, including Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Ginger Cove Subacute Rehabilitation, and Potomac Physicians.

I recently recertified with The American Board of Internal Medicine from 2018 to 2028. Setting up my own medical practice will finally allow me to practice medicine in an atmosphere that will feel welcoming, caring, and unhurried to my patients. My goals are to provide high quality care to my patients in the fields of medical and physical wellness, preventive medicine, nutrition, mental and emotional health, gynecological care, and management of chronic medical conditions. The practice will offer comprehensive physicals, sports physicals, college physicals, annual gynecological exams, preoperative examinations, chronic care visits, follow up visits, and sick visits.

The ancillary services which will be provided once office visits become available, will include electrocardiograms, spirometry readings, peak flow assessment, urinalysis, glucometer readings, ear irrigation, nebulizing treatments, and various screening tests.

I am looking forward to beginning this new chapter of my medical career.

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National Guard Rises To The Occasion



Photo courtesy of Sergeant First Class Michael Davis Jr./U.S. Army

Maryland Army National Guard chaplains organized a COVID-19 response team to help City of Refuge Baltimore, a nonprofit organization, distribute food to members of the Baltimore community on March 26.

Photo courtesy of Sergeant Elizabeth Scott/U.S. Army National Guard

U.S. Army Private Rexford Frimpong, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, attached the trailer to the light medium tactical vehicle at the production center in Baltimore on May 7.

The soldiers transported seven pallets of alcohol-based sanitizer to a redistribution warehouse in Hanover, Maryland, as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photo courtesy of Sergeant Elise Moore/U.S. Army National Guard

Specialist Nicholas Powell, a member of the Maryland Army National Guard's C Company, 1-175 Infantry Regiment, based in Glen Burnie, distributed food provided by the Maryland Department of Recreation and Parks, at the Reisterstown Senior Center.



Photo courtesy of Senior Airman Sarah McClaughan/U.S. Air National Guard

Brigade General Janeen Birkhead, Maryland's dual status commander, handed eggs to a community member on April 17 in Stevensville, Maryland.



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How Severna Park Senior Facilities Are Handling The Pandemic

Continued from page 23

Heartlands Assisted Living

Anne Steward-Pugh, director of sales at Heartlands Assisted Living in Severna Park, said the senior community has remained a safe haven thanks to the hardworking, committed and dedicated staff.

"Now more than ever, it is important to find ways for our residents to stay connected while also ensuring their health and safety is protected," Steward-Pugh said. "Among the many initiatives we have in place to help lift morale, we have been assisting our residents and their families with Zoom videoconferencing to stay in touch. The support we continue to receive from our wider community is overwhelming and we cannot thank them enough."

Sunrise of Severna Park

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sunrise of Severna Park had in place an infection control and prevention program based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That program was expanded in February. The current policy includes limiting visitors, implementing screening protocols for residents and team members, restricting resident move-ins, checking residents daily for COVID-19 symptoms, reinforcing cleaning protocols, asking residents to self-quarantine, utilizing personal protective equipment, and more.

Representatives from Brightview Senior Living, Spring Arbor Senior Living and Genesis HealthCare did not comment before this article went to print. ■

Did You Know?

The **Severna Park Community Center's** main pool was originally built in the late 1960's for the YMCA. After falling on hard times, the pool became the *cornerstone* for the newly expanded **Severna Park Community Center**, which opened in **1995**. The



renovation of the facility was extensive, but the community pool was preserved for the future. Today, this same 25-yard pool welcomes over 40,000 visitors a year, hosts swim teams, families, lessons, young and old. In the last two months as the center has waited for the coronavirus to pass, many areas inside the building have undergone upgrades & repairs in anticipation of the community's return. Through this work, we have discovered that our favorite community resource needs significant repairs – and work is



starting on a **\$100,000 renovation** to put in a whole new surface, steps, and new tiling for this community gem. This is a difficult time for the center financially, but as a vital resource for all of Anne Arundel County, the pool must be repaired and ready to open for the community once again. The staff at the center look forward to welcoming you back again soon, and thank you for your support during this time.



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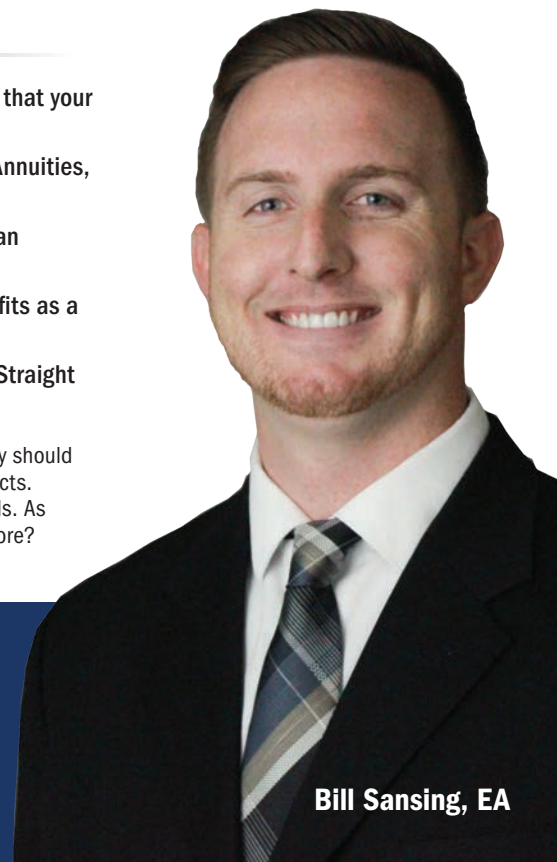
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Bill Sansing, EA

AAMC Briefs

Ways To Help

In addition to following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance for social distancing and staying home as much as possible, here are three things you can do right now to help:

Donate protective equipment. Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) is accepting donations of personal protective equipment (PPE). If you or your company have a supply of masks or any of the other essential medical supplies listed below, please donate them to help protect health care workers.

- N95 masks, all sizes
- Isolation gowns and surgical caps
- Avagard or a product with greater than 60% alcohol content
- Face shields with masks
- Yellow procedure masks
- Protective eyewear
- Oxivir wipes

These items should be delivered curbside to AAMC's Belcher Pavilion Circle, located at 2000 Medical Parkway in Annapolis. Hours for donation drop off are Wednesday and Friday from 10:00am to noon. A member of the AAMC team will gratefully accept your donation.

Make a CDC-compliant mask. AAMC can use CDC-compliant masks for those in health care spaces who are not taking care of patients yet but need extra protection, as well as for patients. This will allow the professional protective gear to be used exclusively for health care professionals who are at higher risk of exposure.

"At a time of a national shortage of masks, we appreciate the community's willingness and eagerness to do this," said Barbara Jacobs, chief nursing officer at AAMC. "This will allow us to

accumulate masks that can be used if supply issues continue, particularly for our patients."

Masks should be delivered curbside to AAMC's Belcher Pavilion Circle, located at 2000 Medical Parkway in Annapolis. Hours for donation drop-off are Wednesday and Friday from 10:00am to noon.

Give blood. Healthy individuals can schedule an appointment to help meet the blood supply need in this community. Call 443-481-4215 to schedule a time to donate.

The Blood Donor Center is located inside AAMC's Wayson Pavilion, Suite 450. Donation times are Monday through Wednesday from 8:15am to 3:45pm and Thursday and Friday from 7:15am to 2:45pm.

AAMC appreciates the many people who have asked about donating food, toiletries, gift cards and other items. At this time, the hospital is not accepting these items from the general public. For now, AAMC is accepting food donations only from distributors or commercial licensed kitchens.

The Gratitude Project

For more than 118 years, the community has been invaluable to helping Anne Arundel Medical Center provide the best in health care to all who need it. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospital's #HealthcareHeroes appreciate your support more than ever.

AAMC invites you to leave a note of thanks, or share a story, video or picture for the hospital's incredible caregivers and staff. Share a Grateful Heart online at www.aahs.org/grateful using the hashtag #IHeartAAMC and follow the spirit of gratitude as the hospital shares your responses on the AAMC social media pages. ■

Good Neighbors Group Hosts Blood Drive



Photos by
Mandala Wojnar

Social distancing precautions were taken but they didn't hamper the Good Neighbors Group blood drive. The group brought the Anne Arundel Medical Blood Donor Center to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church on May 27. Blood is especially needed now that Anne Arundel Medical Center is resuming elective surgeries.

Middle Left: Greg Frank, Laura Duthoy and Taylor Shipley chatted while waiting for their patients to recuperate after giving blood.

Bottom Left: Nick Angelino rested and enjoyed a snack after donating blood.

Amidst A Pandemic, Arnold Pair Launches New Wine Brand

By Dave Topp

“Why not?” is the question that kept arising. With the world seemingly on pause and small businesses struggling to survive due to the COVID-19 pandemic, few might consider this a good time for a new business to launch or find success.

Yet, with a strong entrepreneurial spirit and the support of friends and neighbors, Arnold residents Marina Anglim and Tracy Seybert launched their new brand: NautiLife Wine.

“This idea came out partly because of a love of wine and a good time, but mostly out of a consumer insight that there is a piece missing within this industry and we can perhaps fill it,” Anglim said.

Tired of their bags being weighed down by heavy glass bottles, those glass bottles occasionally breaking by the poolside or even glass being prohibited from certain public spaces, Anglim and Seybert wondered why can't there be full-size plastic wine bottles available? After all, there are already plastic cups, plates and utensils, so why not wine bottles too?

“We wanted something that would be planet-friendly,” Anglim said. “Plastic gets a very bad wrap these days, especially around waters and oceans, and we completely understand that. We embrace those causes. We wanted to create for the highest probability of recycling.”

In late February, the pair successfully launched a limited distribution of its completely recyclable PET plastic bottles of rosé wine in Florida. After its fruitful debut, NautiLife has migrated north to Maryland and officially became available for distribution and purchase on April 7.

“This wine is in Annapolis during COVID-19, when nobody is



Tired of their bags being weighed down by heavy glass bottles, and those glass bottles occasionally breaking by the poolside, Marina Anglim (left) and Tracy Seybert made a plastic alternative called NautiLife. An empty glass wine bottle weighs between 500 and 700 grams, while a plastic bottle from NautiLife weighs just 57 grams.



taking on new brands, because of relationships of our neighbors and the community who believe in us,” Anglim said. “We are amazed, just amazed.”

For Anglim and Seybert, the entry into entrepreneurship provided its own set of challenges.

“It’s always terrifying. You always hit a wall. You always hit a barrier,” Anglim said. “Somebody is always going to say ‘no,’ but you have to say, ‘How can I get to yes?’”

Selections such as color, acidity, effervescence, flavor and so much more required the help of Melissa Smith, a winemaker in Madera, California.

“You need someone who can understand your vision,” Anglim said. “It was really nice to work with a female winemaker. We really loved the idea of a partnership with someone who could show their talents with a female-owned company as well.”

Keeping production domestic

“

This idea came out partly because of a love of wine and a good time, but mostly out of a consumer insight that there is a piece missing within this industry and we can perhaps fill it.”

— MARINA ANGLIM

greatly assisted in keeping the price of the wine down without sacrificing the quality. A bottle of NautiLife rosé typically sells for between \$11.99 and \$12.99.

“We were really lucky to work with a winemaker who was able to help us understand the complexities of wine,” added Seybert.

The two also partnered with Artisan & Vines Distribution, which has helped place NautiLife in Port Tack Ltd. Wine & Spirits in Arnold and Dawson’s Liquors in Severna Park.

“They are very tied into the community,” said Eric Platt, the president of Artisan & Vines. “That was a big thing for us.”

An empty glass wine bottle weighs between 500 and 700 grams, while a plastic bottle from NautiLife weighs just 57 grams.

“The product ... had an interesting niche that fit in really well with all the water and the boating community,” Platt said. “We saw an opportunity.”

The PET bottles are more durable than their glass counterparts and weigh about 85% less, which leads to a safer and easier transport.

“This is a perfect, fun gift to bring if you’re heading out to someone’s pool or on their boat, or to the beach,” added Seybert. ■

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



On behalf of our board of directors, our Operations Manager Petra Roche, our wonderful committee chairs and many others, I bring you well wishes. My hope is that you have been able to access resources for your businesses, your organizations and your families to support you through this immensely difficult time.

The value that our small businesses bring to the community has never been more evident than now. Things that we and our families enjoyed were suddenly gone – dance and martial arts studios, restaurants, haircuts, dental services, and the like. Because small business gives us so much – jobs, local tax revenue, donations, and desired goods and services, federal and state governments designed the bulk of the disaster relief packages to benefit them.

Our chamber has been working hard to help everyone, members and non-members, navigate through the alphabet soup of disaster recovery offerings. We have held and participated in dozens of webinars with the Small Business Administration and elected officials to understand the federal packages, and with the Maryland Department of Commerce for the statewide loans and grants.

Many do not know that the chamber is a small business too, not subsidized by the government or a state or national chamber entity. Our revenue comes from dues, events and sponsorships. While that has been drastically reduced, we remain dedicated to supporting our businesses, growing

local businesses by cultivating relationships between members, residents and elected officials, encouraging community involvement, and fostering economic growth. We continue this work, one day at a time.

Technology has been wonderful and a lifesaver over the months, but our community is built on interpersonal relationships that cannot be replaced by the internet. It may take a while, but we look forward to restoring the vibrance that we had just a short time ago!

As Maryland continues to operate under the state of emergency declaration, we had to cancel our wonderful, community-based Shop Local Fun Fiesta held in May. We are now planning our Shoptoberfest event, which will be held at Park Plaza in October.

And because of the emergency declaration, we profoundly regret to announce that we cannot hold our beloved Independence Day parade this year. Our hope is to postpone the parade to Labor Day in September so we can celebrate both our country's birthday and people returning to work!

Our health and wellness committee has been incredibly busy with its Mask Miracles project, making over 4,000 masks for hospitals, nursing homes and any organization in need. They have closed the project and are now making TLC kits for nurses.

As our businesses re-open, they are using the utmost in safety measures to protect you, their employees and themselves. We know that you are supporting our businesses in every way that you can by shopping local, eating local, giving local and supporting local. Thank you.

Please join our chamber! Go to www.gspacc.com or contact us at 410-647-3900/info@gspacc.com for more information. ■

How Can The Market Be Positive When Over 30 Million Are Unemployed?

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and Managing
Partner
Premier Planning
Group



I've been holding a lot of phone meetings recently, and one question I've been asked in a variety of ways is, "How can the market be positive when over 30 million people are unemployed?" Let's pretend we're on the phone right now. Here's how I'd answer that question:

Great question! I was just listening to Jim Cramer on CNBC and he responded to a similar question by saying the market "isn't human." While there may be elements of truth in that statement, that the market isn't human, it's actually far more complicated than that. COVID created a significant market pullback, the likes of which we haven't really seen before. In fact, this market pullback was equivalent to the pullback we experienced in 2008 and 9/11 combined! Over the past month, we've been experiencing the rebound, and the market is prioritizing. It should make sense that while the United States is slowly reopening, the market should respond positively.

The question really begins when the nation is completely open again. What happens then? Does the market collectively say, "What's next?" While we can look to the states that are further along in the opening process as a guide to show us what things will look like, we still aren't sure what it will look like as a nation when we're open. In states like Florida and Texas, it appears people are going to restaurants and they're going to events with

more than 10 people, but what about other states? Will people go to restaurants? Will they go to ball games? Will there even be ball games to go to?

These are all factors that will help determine what happens when we open. You have to believe that there will be some negative ramifications from so many people unemployed and the government borrowing upward of \$3 trillion. It's logical to assume that these realities will create problems for us in the future, but today, the market is simply responding to the continued opening of our society. Think of it this way: when you are on life support, you're not concerned about your elbow hurting. You want to breathe again and have your heart beating again. Once those necessities are met, you can then focus on lower priority things, like your elbow hurting. Right now, our nation is coming off life support and the market is responding well. As the nation continues to reopen, the market will deal with these broader problems as they come in the future. All of this goes without even mentioning the 800-pound gorilla in the room, which is the 2020 presidential election.

Jason LaBarge, Financial Advisor and Managing Partner at Premier Planning Group 115 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401 443-837-2520 www.jasonlabarge.com

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New Program Is A Win-Win For Small Businesses, Customers

By Haley Weisgerber

With restrictions on restaurants and retail stores because of COVID-19, many local businesses have come up with creative ways to remain open. Annapolis-based clothing company Signature Teamwear created the People Helping People Project (PHPP) with these small businesses in mind.

Signature Teamwear supplies over 30 restaurants and corporate businesses in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties with T-shirts and other clothing. Partners Art Gauthier, Scott Gauthier and Ezequiel Cembalo saw the impact of COVID-19 on their clients and knew they had to do something. In April, PHPP was created as a subset of Signature Teamwear.

While many existing programs were donation-based, PHPP sells packages containing gift cards, T-shirts and face masks.

"For \$25 you get a T-shirt, you get a gift card, you get face masks, and that value is about \$40," said Art Gauthier. "So, the customer gets a great value, the business owner gets a little bit of immediate cash flow, and we as a small business get business on the manufacturing end. It's really a win-win-win situation."

PHPP is sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation and AT&T. These sponsorships allow Signature Teamwear to produce face masks for the customer at a low cost. In the first shipment, 600 face masks were delivered and over 1,200 T-shirts were made.

"The coolest thing I've found from the feedback I've got is that the restaurants feel comfortable because they aren't just holding their hand out



The People Helping People Project was created to assist small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Above: For \$25, customers receive a gift card, a T-shirt and face masks.

and asking for help," said Art. "Even though their good, loyal customers would bend over backwards for them, here the restaurants and shops feel like they are giving something back to their customers."

Many local businesses have taken advantage of the PHPP program, including Cafe Mezzanotte and The Cottage in Severna Park.

"Any promotions that we can be a part of that engage the public and offer ways for them

to support local businesses is more important now than ever," said Cafe Mezzanotte owner Kosmas "Tommie" Koukoulis.

Cafe Mezzanotte raised over \$1,000 to pay its employees. This money will allow the restaurant to continue to operate the organic market, seafood market and butcher shop during the pandemic.

"It's a partnership that helps my restaurant and staff, as well as the uniform company that we partner with, Signature Team-

wear," Koukoulis said. "Small businesses working together is a beautiful thing."

Susan Gauthier, owner of The Cottage, said she was drawn to the program because it benefited her customers.

"I was offered many programs like this where customers could donate to us, but this one was special to me because we were also able to give back to our customers," said Susan. "We gave a \$15 gift card for each T-shirt purchased, that our customers will bring in to use at our grand reopening."

Susan said she is overwhelmed by her customers' response to PHPP and looks forward to thanking them in person when The Cottage reopens.

As for PHPP, it will continue to work with businesses affected by COVID-19 until the pandemic is over, but its members are looking forward to expanding their programs in the future.

"It was created during COVID-19, but we've already had multiple discussions about the next thing," said Art. "We created this because we wanted to go on and help. Right now, this is the thing on everyone's list, but I see this expanding into many different things." ■



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Serving On The Front Line Of The Pandemic

Continued from page 7

It is physically and mentally exhausting day after day.”

That garb and gear includes N95 masks and PAPRs, battery-operated respirators that provide positive airflow through a filter.

“The PAPR has a hood attached to tubing that fits over our head,” DeGreenia said. “A PAPR hood provides more protection than a N95 mask, so when we are doing aerosolize procedures, it is safer to wear the PAPR.”

Once the therapists are dressed appropriately, they can tend to the needs of coronavirus patients.

“Patients require intense ventilator settings,” DeGreenia said. “These patients are requiring special techniques, such as proning. When a patient is proned, they are flat down on their stomachs for 18 hours of the day while on the ventilator. This treatment helps with the patient’s oxygenation. The respiratory therapist role is to maintain the airway and

ventilation.”

Procedures have taken a physical and emotional toll on patients. Hospitals have had to ban visitors to keep the virus from spreading, meaning that the extremely sick patients have had to say goodbye to their loved ones via video.

“It is heartbreaking to hold a phone to a patient while the family is FaceTiming their goodbyes,” DeGreenia said. “While we make sure no one dies alone, it is the worst feeling when the family can’t hold their hand one last time.”

While the work has been exhausting, both DeGreenia and George praised their colleagues and the community for giving them some much-needed support.

“I work with a great team of ‘superheroes’ at the hospital,” DeGreenia said. “The community has been awesome by sending in meals and thank-you cards. My faith, family and friends have helped me stay positive during this time.”

George has enjoyed extra time at home with his wife, who spent the last few months teaching her St. John the Evangelist first-grade class from home. Walks on the community golf course with his dog, and video conference calls with family members and friends, have helped him decompress.

He praised UM BWMC’s nurses and physicians, as well as community members who have delivered meals donated from local restaurants. Some coworkers have also gone to great lengths to maintain safety and boost morale.

“One coworker made a bunch of survival scrub caps for everyone to wear to keep their hair from getting any bacteria in it, which has been really nice to see,” George said. “One coworker brought in little stuffed teddy bears for all the patients. That was cool because in this social distance era that we’re in, these patients are sick and they can’t have

family or visitors come see them, so the gift of a little teddy bear makes their day.”

Those acts of kindness have made a big impact, he said.

“In a way, it is pretty ironic that in this era of social distancing, I feel as if our hospital has become closer and more unified,” he said.

Both George and DeGreenia said they have seen many patients in their 20s and 30s, with no underlying health conditions, infected just as badly as some of the elderly population. Their advice is simple: wear a mask, practice social distancing, and avoid large crowds.

“Now is not the time to let our foot off the gas,” George said. “The less we follow the guidelines set out, the more we have to abide by them. As health care workers, we appreciate the donated meals, the flyovers, and all of the well wishes. What we want most of all is a return to normalcy and to get to see the people that we care about.” ■

Severna Park Nurses Reflect On COVID-19 Experience

Continued from page 11

Margaret Podlich, and Julie Banks Antinucci, who lives near Glen Oban, wanted to do everything within their powers to support health care professionals, some of whom happen to be neighbors. “Sew,” they got busy making hundreds of fabric masks.

“I started making masks because I knew that it would help protect people and if I can do that with my sewing skills, I’m more than happy to do that,” said Antinucci. “I also enjoyed working with my daughter Molly to make the masks and knowing my three other

kids were learning about being generous during a time when so many people are in need.”

Her family alone has made more than 250 masks; Antinucci said she continues to make 20 to 40 masks each week. As the co-president of the Annapolis Quilt Guild, Antinucci said members have collectively made more than 10,000 masks for various organizations, including Anne Arundel Medical Center, pediatric offices, active and retired police officers, nurses, retirees, nursing homes, etc.

Also supportive, added

Stob, are her neighbors. “I’d like to thank my Round Bay neighbors, like the Round Bay book club, who send flowers and expressions of encouragement and gratitude.”

Milleker is appreciative of her fellow Marylanders and Severna Park neighbors for all they have done to support nurses and other health care professionals during this time. She said she’s seen the rainbow-colored signs of support along roads and in windows, but there is something else she sees that is far less attractive - people not adhering to federal,

state and local government guidelines to lessen the likelihood of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

“I feel sad about the disregard of protective guidelines and the real ignorance of some people about the severity of this virus,” she added. “With restrictions starting to loosen and more businesses and activities starting to open up, we fully expect to see a surge in cases over the next several weeks.”

If that should happen, Milleker, Stob and thousands of others like them will be ready, should they be needed. ■

This is what *Commitment* looks like.

We are very grateful and incredibly proud of our team of professionals—Nurses, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nursing Assistants, Social Workers, Chaplains, and Grief Counselors—for their unfaltering commitment to our patients and their families during this pandemic. While many in our community are facing this stark reality for the first time, our team supports families through advanced illness and often their end of life experience day in and day out. They are all skilled, prepared, and compassionate professionals who have committed their careers to easing the burden of those living with and dying from advanced illness as well as the loss of loved ones.



*O*ur community needs them now more than ever, and we are fortunate to call them colleagues, friends and family! Just a few are pictured above.

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Student-Athlete Spotlights: Severna Park Tennis Seniors

Continued from page 45

meant so much to me," Moghtader said. "The biggest challenge that came with tennis for me personally was playing under pressure. Starting my first season as a freshman on the SPHS team was nerve-racking because I had never had such a big group of people watching me compete before. I struggled at first, but after playing many matches and my coaches' guidance, competing in front of others felt natural. This has made me a much more confident person both on and off the tennis court."

She said her place in the team fostered an inclusive style of leadership.

"My goal as an upperclassman on the team these past two years has been trying to include everyone and make all players feel welcome and involved. It can be scary joining a team for the first time, especially one that already has close bonds. That is why

the juniors and seniors including myself aimed to get to know everyone so that we all feel like we have a place on the team."

Moghtader's senior teammates — Liza Yannone, Olivia Altman, Luke Mudd, Andrew Bubnis and Jake Shirey — have produced similarly prolific high school careers and are poised for continued success as they enter their next chapters after graduation.

Mudd, a team captain, went 9-1 last season and has been a Top Scholar Athlete every year with a 4.1 high school GPA. Mudd will attend Syracuse University to study industrial design.

Yannone went 9-0 in girls doubles in the regular season last year and was runner-up with teammate Sydney Mudd in girls doubles at the county championships. She has a .750 win percentage for her career and a 4.2 GPA, is a Minds In Motion Scholar Athlete and Sports-

manship Award winner and will attend Elon University.

Bubnis went 9-1 across boys doubles and boys singles in 2019, including 7-0 in boys doubles in the regular season, and he holds a .740 career win percentage. Bubnis received the Outstanding Technology and Engineering Student Award from the school's engineering department and will graduate summa cum laude with a 4.66 GPA. Bubnis will attend the University of Cincinnati to study aerospace engineering.

Shirey played singles, boys doubles and mixed doubles in 2019 and went 7-2, and he was a Top Scholar Athlete all four years of his high school career. He will graduate with a 4.50 GPA and attend the University of Florida to study computer science.

Altman, a team captain, holds an impressive .843 win percentage in three varsity seasons, including regular seasons of 11-1 and 10-0 in county play in 2018

and 2019, respectively. She was a Top Scholar Athlete who also played mixed doubles, and she was also an All-County defender for the Falcons' 4A state-finalist girls soccer team. She graduates with a GPA of 4.5 and will attend the University of Tennessee on a pre-law track.

Despite missing out on their final season together, Moghtader said the relationships with her fellow seniors and teammates over the years are the lasting impressions the Falcons will cherish into the future.

"The most special aspect would have to be the group of friends from the team," she said. "My teammates these past four years have made me love the sport even more and helped me to find where I belong at the school. I am very lucky to have been introduced to all these amazing (and hilarious) people and be able to create strong friendships with them." ■

World War COVID

*We fester and sequester here
We wait through war's long plight
With future dreams in twisted reams
Of toilet rolls held tight*

*I'd love to see your smile again
But I'd settle for a frown
Is normalcy around the bend?
Will earth stay upside down?*

*Is freedom just a lost "F" word?
Or can we get it back?
Or just a word on documents
Or a poem on a plaque?*

*Seventy-five years ago, the church bells rang
We huddled happy, cheering loud
Victorious songs and "Auld Lang Syne"
Each soul was thrilled and we were proud*

*But now it's social distancing
No songs we sing
No hud-dl-ing
No church bell makes a single ring*

*Yet blue birds and the robins sing
We'll sit right here in our backyard
It's great to hear their caroling
And see them fly so high, so far*

*We cannot see the enemy
Like us, he wears a mask
But V-V Day's a surety
And foe be put to task*

*I watched and heard the queen today
Saw her on desktop screen
"Never give up and never despair"
Those words made me serene*

*We will prevail and we will soar
"Stiff upper lips" have we
And we will win the COVID War
Like the V-E victory*

By Wendell Jones

May 8, 2020

The 75th anniversary of V-E Day, WWII

Local Women Support The Class Of 2020

Continued from page 49



CLASS of 2020

prom or a traditional graduation,” said Sistilli. “It’s important for us to feel recognized for our accomplishments. We all worked really hard for four years. Even though we didn’t get the traditional recognition, it’s cool to know we’ll be remembered in other ways.”

Lauren and Georgette hope the adopted seniors know that the community is proud of their accomplishments and wishes them the best in their future.

“I feel giving back to the community has great benefits,” said Georgette. “By showing love and support to our seniors, we hope one day they, in turn, they will give back to their community.”

Tyler Liberto received a 5.0 GPA every marking period this year and earned a spot on Principal’s Prestigious Honor Roll. He was also president of the National Honor Society. Outside the



classroom, he enjoys playing piano and ukulele. Liberto has been accepted to the University of Maryland (UMD) Honors College and received the Banneker/Key Presidential Scholarship to attend. He was “adopted” by his aunt, who made him a Spider-Man cap and gave him candy, UMD terrapin socks, the book “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” and a sweatshirt showing a Spider-Man costume opening up to reveal the UMD symbol.

Maddie McGee is headed to the University of Maryland A. James Clark School of Engineering. She is a Banneker/Key scholar, and has been a pre-engineering student in the Project Lead the Way curriculum.

She is co-president of the school chapter of



TSA for two years, and she interned at the Applied Physics Laboratory. McGee earned All-State dance honors as a junior and was a four-year cast member in “Rock ‘N’ Roll Revival.” She was “adopted” by the family of her childhood friend, fellow graduating senior Amanda Kappus of South River High School.



Siblings Eldrick and Sydney Nwuli were among the Severna Park seniors “adopted.” Sydney is graduating early with a 4.79 GPA after being involved in National Honor Society, varsity soccer, varsity basketball and more. She will go to Goucher College. Eldrick played football and likely will attend Anne Arundel Community College.

Pandemic Forces Pittman To Forgo Luxury With Budget

Continued from page 31

warms my heart."

It's not all doom and gloom. Pittman said the capital budget was largely intact thanks to the Reserve Fund for Permanent Public Improvements (PPI), created last year.

"That decision made it possible to keep the school construction plan on track, start work on the Herald Harbor and Cape St. Claire fire stations, start on a much-needed police forensics lab, and set aside capacity to match state funding for improvements on the Route 2 and 3 corridors, thereby moving them up the state's priority list," he said.

One beneficiary of this year's budget is Animal Care and Control, a unit of the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

"We will replace rusty and substandard kennels there, and fund one desperately needed new position: volunteer coordinator," Pittman said. "Thank you to all

who showed up at our seven budget town halls, to speak for the animals in our shelter."

Health and human services is one area that will see ample funding. The county's new Office of Health Equity and Racial Justice will be funded, and its first task will be to implement the Coronavirus Health Equity Initiative that was launched on April 13. The county will also fund crisis response teams and the Wellmobile while continuing its search for outside funds.

Pittman said he was moved by the testimony of health department employees who spoke on behalf of school health staff during a budget town hall meeting. As a result, he is budgeting \$265,000 in the first installment in a three-year plan to bring their pay to the level of neighboring jurisdictions.

"It is our school health staff that have been re-deployed to do contact tracing on every positive COVID-19 case in our county,"

Pittman said. "They help plan the patient's isolation, identify those who have had direct contact with the patient, call every one of those people, and help each of them plan their 14-day isolation. While the state and other jurisdictions around the country are just starting to roll out plans to build contact tracing teams, here in Anne Arundel County, we made a decision at the outset that thorough contact tracing must be performed on every positive case. This is the only way to isolate COVID-19 and make real progress toward meeting the standards that we will set for ourselves to get our county back to business."

While many aspects of life have halted during the pandemic, land use issues have not disappeared. The Office of Planning and Zoning still has vacancies to fill, and Pittman wants to fund positions to manage the Land Use Navigator, a digital platform that allows residents to provide feedback, and

planners the tools they need to work efficiently.

In his budget address, Pittman praised health care professionals, hospitals, public safety officials, politicians and many others for their response during the COVID-19 pandemic. His budget aims to keep people safe and to aid those who are facing unemployment, homelessness, hunger and crippling debt.

"This budget is a path, a difficult path through an uncertain time," Pittman said. "It's not a Democratic path or a Republican path. I believe it's a responsible path that will prepare our county to Build Back Better, to bring us back to the goals we shared before COVID-19, to set us up to fulfill the pledge we made just months ago."

The seven-member county council has 45 days to discuss, amend and approve the budget. A final vote is planned for Friday, June 12. ■

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