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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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AUGUST 2020



## What Will Fall Virtual Learning Look Like?

*Public School System  
Plans Improved Model*



**By Zach Sparks**

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

**N**ow that Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) has had the summer to prepare for a virtual learning scenario, school officials are implementing a plan that includes more real-time learning and graded work, along

with daily attendance.

When kids were sent home during the spring semester due to the coronavirus, AACPS was left to scramble. In place of real-time instruction, students were often given access to recorded lessons.

"We certainly learned from our families, from our teachers and from our parents, that students need to see their teachers," said AACPS Superintendent Dr. George Arlotto during a virtual Board of Education meeting on July 22. "And teachers want to see their students. And so, while the recorded asynchronous lessons aided parents and others, and certainly those teachers with their own young families at home ... we know what was lacking, and that was the real-time instruction."

Teaching and learning will account for four days of the school week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday), with the fifth day (Wednesday) used for real-time

learning support for either individuals or small groups.

Elementary schedules will include circle time for social development, and real-time learning for three to four hours. Middle and high school schedules will include A/B days, with three to four hours of real-time learning per day, and the option of virtual tutoring in the evenings.

AACPS is examining ways to offer in-person instruction for special education students, ESOL (English as a second language) students, and for CAT North and CAT South, which provide career and technology education classes.

To make virtual learning possible, students will use Google Classroom, Google Meet and Google Voice this fall, as they did in the spring. Teachers have undergone additional professional development to better understand the programs.

**>> Continued on page 10**

## Altomare Leaves Big Void As Police Chief

**William Lowry Steps  
In As Interim Chief**



**By Zach Sparks**

[zach@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com)

**W**hen Tim Altomare took over as Anne Arundel County police chief in 2014 following the resignation of Kevin Davis, he inherited what County Executive Stuart Pittman called "a divided and damaged department."

To his new role, Altomare brought his experience as a commander who had reduced crime in the Southern District and street robberies in the Northern District.

**>> Continued on page 11**



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**Private schools are planning a mix of in-school and virtual classes. For that story, flip to page 24.**



Margueritte Mills  
Volunteer  
Of The Month

## Filmmaker Captures The History Of Magothy River

By Haley Weisgerber

The Magothy River has served the community for generations. Throughout the years, the river's water quality has worsened, and many people are working to restore the river to its former glory.

One of those people is Severna Park resident and filmmaker Charles Germain, who volunteers with the Magothy River Association (MRA) to educate the community about the rich history of the Magothy River.

Germain was born in France and moved to the United States after retiring in 2013 to attend Boston University. Currently, he makes films for Native American tribes. In 2017, he released a film called Northern Arapaho Suicide Prevention Project about the Arapaho Tribe in Wyoming, and he is working on a film with the Nottoway Tribe in Virginia.

Germain lives on Cattail Creek and frequently sails on the Magothy River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Because he lived on the water, Germain wanted to be more involved in the community surrounding the waterways. That is how he started volunteering with the MRA in 2014.

"I contacted Paul Spadaro, the president, and I did a film with them right away for the oyster program," Germain said. "At that time, they were growing oysters to clean the river."

He has produced everything from call-to-action videos to reenactments, but his favorite project with the MRA is the Living History Project, which is a series of documentaries about historical facts and sites surrounding the Magothy River.

"We came to the conclusion that people should know that the river was clean at one point, so we interviewed people who were here in the 1940s and 1950s," said Germain.

Germain has worked on Living History videos for many local historical sites such as Goshen Farm and the Stone House.



"In a film we did four years ago called Beach House on the Magothy River, there was a woman who had had an old house on the Magothy River in the early 1950s," said Germain. "She said they would live off of the river for three months. They would be crabbing, oystering, fishing and living very well out of the river."

The goal of the Living History Project is to show people the impact that overdevelopment and runoff have had on the Magothy River over time. Each educational video calls the community to action.

"You have to show the people that the land was rich," said Germain. "The water was clean. It's still a nice place to live, but we don't have the quality of water that the people used to have."

Germain hopes that his work with the MRA encourages Severna Park residents to make the conscious decision to take better care of the environment and limit behavior that has a negative impact on the river.

Germain's films are featured on the Magothy River Association Facebook page and on the Charles Germain YouTube channel.

The Magothy River Association is looking for old 8-millimeter home films of the river for future projects. To donate or learn more about the MRA, contact Paul Spadaro at [president@magothyriver.org](mailto:president@magothyriver.org).

## Police Department Wins International Award

By Haley Weisgerber

On July 13, then Anne Arundel County Police Chief Tim Altomare called the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to join him for a community policing announcement. They did not know that Altomare was announcing that they had won the International Crisis Intervention Team of the Year award.

The CIT in Anne Arundel County is part of the larger Crisis Intervention Team International (CIT International), a nonprofit organization that trains police officers and mental health officials to work together in crisis situations.

"It is an integration of law enforcement and mental health," said Lieutenant Steven Thomas of the Anne Arundel County Crisis Intervention Team. "The officers have a passion to help and the CIT training humanizes policing."

In Anne Arundel County, the team is made up of a lieutenant, a sergeant and four officers. An additional 141 patrol officers are trained in CIT and will respond to crisis calls.

"It is expected that officers who are trained in CIT will respond if they hear a call come out and they have the passion and training to respond," Thomas explained.

Becoming CIT certified is voluntary and requires 40 hours of mental health training for police, as well as a 30-hour Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training. Officers are then paired with mental health clinicians.

These officers respond to shootings, youth deaths, fatal accidents and any other crisis situation where mental health may play a factor. The CIT officers also work with troubled juveniles with mental health issues to keep them from getting in trouble again.

"We build a bridge and we build that bridge in non-adversarial times," Thomas said. "We are there to help people in their time of need, and the community definitely sees police in a different light."

For the CIT officers and clinicians, this award is reassurance that their hard work in the community has paid off. The team will continue to look for new ways to make Anne Arundel County a safe place for all residents.

"It's a great honor to be recognized by the worldwide experts for the work we do," Thomas said. "But it also means we need to continue to be progressive and be innovative in how we help people."

### Publishers

Dianna Lancione  
Lonnie Lancione

### V.P., Operations

Brian Lancione

### Account Executives

Larry Sells  
Shannon Vitielliss

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Zach Sparks

### Editorial Assistant

Haley Weisgerber

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### Contributors

Sarah Elder  
Jason LaBarge  
Mary Marta

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Please send your news to:

[spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com](mailto:spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com)

P.O. Box 608

Severna Park, MD 21146

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# Riding The Corona Roller Coaster

**Ellen Kinsella**  
Director of  
Development  
SPAN Inc.



For families who were already struggling to make ends meet before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the virus has been a disaster. With unemployment well into the double digits, many are struggling to make sense of unemployment insurance benefits, government stimulus benefits, and other private and public grants and programs.

As of this writing, there is still a prohibition of utility turn-offs and late fees in Maryland, but soon it is anticipated that evictions will begin being processed, and there will be many in Anne Arundel County.

The good news is SPAN is prepared to meet the needs of local families in need of food and financial assistance. We have loosened our requirements for financial assistance and increased our benefits in most cases (potential clients should call 410-647-0889 between 10:00am and 1:00pm Monday through Thursday to determine eligibility). We have revamped our operations to make everything non-contact and safe. Although SPAN's food areas are Severna Park, Millersville, Arnold and Broadneck, we are fully stocked with food, and will issue emergency food to anyone who cannot feed their family.

"Matthew," a single father of four, recently called SPAN, frantic with worry

over how to feed his kids and pay his bills. He had lost his employment at the onset of the coronavirus, and his wife had died. We were able to fill his car with food, pay a chunk of his overdue rent, and even pay for several of his kids' prescriptions. Matthew believes he will get his job back soon, but he is still worried about how he will pay for child care if schools don't reopen.

SPAN's donors have been nothing short of heroic, coming through with food and money donations. We can't thank you enough!

We all seem to have a degree of anxiety, but if you can manage it through laughter, prayer, volunteer work or another constructive outlet, then you have discovered a valuable coping tool that will help you stay resilient throughout the future of the pandemic. Please stay well, try to accept

the situations you cannot control, find the humor in situations, and for goodness sakes, wear your mask!

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is an independent nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills, and food since 1990. SPAN serves 14 zip codes in Anne Arundel County. SPAN is located behind Our Shepherd Lutheran Church at 400 Benfield Road in Severna Park. Hours are Monday through Thursday

from 10:00am-1:30pm. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email [spanhelps@yahoo.com](mailto:spanhelps@yahoo.com) or visit [www.spanhelps.org](http://www.spanhelps.org). Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off anytime using the storage bin behind SPAN's building. Please "like" SPAN on Facebook!

“Although SPAN's food areas are Severna Park, Millersville, Arnold and Broadneck, we are fully stocked with food, and will issue emergency food to anyone who cannot feed their family.”

## Want To Learn More About Gardening?

Each fall, the University of Maryland Extension offers a Master Gardener program for individuals who "love plants, people, and the environment and to help other residents in your community solve gardening problems and make environmentally-sound decisions."

Applications are due August 31. Get the application at [go.umd.edu](http://go.umd.edu). The total class fee is \$175 and includes the handbook.

The class begins on September 22 and finishes on November 9. Class times are scheduled from 9:00am to

noon on Tuesday mornings and 6:00pm to 9:00pm on Thursday evenings. No classes will be held the week of November 2.

This year's class will be a pilot program that will be taught to multiple counties online for easier accessibility. Live presentations will be held during the class times on Zoom and recorded for viewing at a later date. Course materials and interactive presentations will be available through Moodle, an online classroom.

For more program details, go to [www.umd.edu.extension](http://www.umd.edu.extension).

# SPCC: In A Time Of COVID



**By Sarah Elder**  
Executive Director

Severna Park Community Center

As the Severna Park Community Center (SPCC) stood waiting for its doors to open again, staff were busy inside getting ready. Ready for a return to normal. Ready to redefine normal in a time of a pandemic. And ready to ensure that all systems were operating properly, for that day when the doors would open again.

And as those doors remained closed, it became evident that the main pool, the very pulse of the center's busy hub of activity, was in trouble.

Serious cracks in the pool had begun to threaten the structural integrity of this vital resource. Water levels, dropping rapidly, indicated a leak. Something had to be done. Fast.

The center had to act quickly to ensure that future swimmers, young and old, could continue to call SPCC home. The fact that the pool was already closed meant that emergency repairs could begin before those doors would open again.

Not the best time to do a \$100,000 repair — with the center closed and available funds to maintain the property diminishing quickly. The cost to run a building is about the same, even if it's not currently in use. Systems must be checked and maintained.

So, we asked ourselves, how do you operate in a time of COVID? In a time of global pandemic, in a time of global crisis? How do you ensure that the infrastructure, vital to the community at large, remains in place to once again serve?

With deliberation. With care. With hope that the community will return, and the funds depleted to repair will be once again restored to care for the rest of the building. And, with an eye to the long-term impact that decisions made now will have down the road.

And finally, with an understanding that the pool, and the center as a whole, has a responsibility to the community it serves to remain a resource, even in a time of COVID.

The work had to be done. So, despite the cost, the repairs were made, and the pool was repaired, and given a full facelift, complete with new in-pool steps. After more than 50 years serving the community (the original pool was built in the late 1960s), this gem was ready to greet visitors once again.

And now, the work is done. The pool is once again waiting for the arrival of those who will swim for fun, for recreation, for revival, and for fellowship and community. Because at the heart of it all, SPCC stands for the community, even in a time of COVID.

## Stef Ripple "Do Your Best" 5K Set For Sept. 19

The fourth annual Stefanie Ashdown Memorial "Do Your Best" 5K is going virtual, with this year's event scheduled for September 19. Funds will go to Stef Ripple, a nonprofit that raises awareness of ovarian cancer and to support ovarian cancer patients and their families.

Participants will submit their 5k timing results (instructions online) by noon on September 19. Medals will be awarded to the 5K top three male and female finishers and in age groups 10 and under, 11-13, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59

and 60-plus.

Runners and walkers anywhere in the world can sign up to participate anytime between 8:00am and noon eastern standard time on September 19. Register online by going to [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com) and searching for "Stef Ripple." The fee is \$30 for the virtual 5K run or virtual 1-mile walk. A family/group discount of \$5 is available to groups of four or more. All registrants will receive a tech race shirt.

For more information, visit [www.stefripple.org](http://www.stefripple.org).



## Letter To The Editor

### Picking, Choosing Equality Must Be Stopped

My name is Madeleine Stern. I am a Jewish teenager. I take pride in my Jewish identity, but I am disappointed with the lack of equality the Jewish community has experienced when it comes to support when confronting hatred.

Equality. This is a word that has become prominent on various social media platforms. Most recently, support for the Black community and the Black Lives Matter movement has increased exponentially as people speak out against racism. I have personally witnessed a lot of this support on Instagram. Sharing personal stories, educational videos, unifying quotes and

explanatory memes are few of the many circulating posts, all of which have a similar message, which I fully agree with - prejudice against Black people is abominable and absolutely unacceptable. The idea of judging people based on their skin color and putting their lives in jeopardy is sickening. Black people should be seen as equal to white people. All people should be treated equally.

But if everyone should be treated equally, why isn't everyone who is posting about Black Lives Matter also posting about Philadelphia Eagles player DeSean Jackson's clearly anti-Semitic Instagram post broadcasting a fake Hitler quote?

The many people, supporting Black Lives Matter and educating others about racism is wonder-

ful and a much-needed change for our country. People of all races, religions and backgrounds have united around this noble cause. I hope the momentum behind this movement continues. Nonetheless, I am disappointed at the moment. The community rallying behind Black Lives Matter seemed to disappear when support was needed for the Jewish community.

I have seen countless posts denouncing DeSean Jackson from my Jewish friends. My Instagram feed has been full of such posts, but the vast majority were from Jewish people. When it came time to support a different minority, many people remained silent.

*Read the rest of the letter at [www.severnarparkvoice.com](http://www.severnarparkvoice.com).*

## Bring Your Cat To The Vet Day

**Karen VanKirk**  
Associate  
Veterinarian  
VCA Calvert  
Veterinary Center



**W**ould you rather have a root canal than bring your cat to the vet? If the answer is yes, you are not alone. Statistics reveal that dog owners are much more likely than cat owners to visit a veterinarian for routine health care.

Many folks feel that it is just too difficult to get their cats to visit the vet. The reality is that cats need routine veterinary care, too. In fact, the independent nature of many of our beloved felines can mean that they are even more likely to hide signs of illness until later in the course of disease, when it can be more difficult and costly to treat.

Even the calmest cat can become stressed by a trip to the vet. The good news is that with a little planning, you can make the experience easier for you and your cat.

Cats, by nature, are usually inquisitive. A few days prior to your vet visit, leave the cat carrier out and open in a place where your cat feels safe and can thoroughly examine it. Place some yummy treats and a comfortable blanket in the carrier. You can even spray

the interior of the carrier with a cat calming spray that can be purchased either from your veterinarian or from a pet product store. Once kitty becomes comfortable with the carrier, try taking it for a practice car ride. No need to go far, just a few times around the block in a carrier sprayed with the calming spray, outfitted with a comfy blanket and maybe a catnip toy. Once you arrive home, offer kitty a few more treats, play with it for a few minutes, and the experience of riding in a carrier becomes much less menacing.

Some cats require more TLC when taking them to the veterinary office. In some cases, medications need to be prescribed prior to a visit to help with your cat's anxiety and stress, which in turn will relieve yours when it comes to transporting your furry feline.

Hopefully these suggestions will make visiting the veterinarian with kitty just a little easier, and together we can keep your favorite feline healthy for many years to come. So, give it a try. We'll be waiting for you.

*The veterinarians of VCA Calvert Veterinary Center have over 35 years of combined experience helping pets stay healthy and happy. Call 410-360-PAWS for an appointment or go to [www.vaccalvertvet.com](http://www.vaccalvertvet.com). VCA Calvert Veterinary Center is located at 4100 Mountain Road and has been proudly serving the Pasadena community for over 16 years.*

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# Update: Round Bay Sailing Association

By Mary Marta

The Round Bay Sailing Association (RBSA) fleet was in full race mode in July. At the start of racing season in late April, Governor Larry Hogan's orders did not permit recreational boating, so RBSA canceled the first series of six races. Then, at the end of May, the governor opened recreational boating and series 2 racing began. RBSA has since completed series 2; the results for the six races in the series are included in the chart.

Because of the pandemic, RBSA skippers have made some changes while still accomplishing some of the overall goals of the club – to keep crews healthy, to have fun, and to improve sailing. Don Snelgrove, skipper of Himmel and commodore of the club, explained that given how pervasive and pernicious the coronavirus is, RBSA took the cancellation of series 1 to figure out the best way to manage racing during the pandemic. RBSA recommends that skippers and crew make adjustments to onboard social interaction, and acknowledges that skippers are responsible for the safety of their crew. The idea is to be as competitive as possible while adhering to the guidelines. Given that the pandemic situation is constantly changing, Don and the RBSA board are monitoring the governor's

orders and state stance.

RBSA has three classes of boats: A fleet, B fleet and Chesapeake class. Each class has its own start time on Wednesday evenings. Fleet A (PHRF scores of 154 and lower) and Fleet B (PHRF scores of 155 and higher) are handicapped using the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet or PHRF system. The Chesapeake class is for more

casual or novice racers on Round Bay. Boats in the Chesapeake class are scored using a Round Bay Handicap System or RBHS refined by a Round Bay sailor, which allows racers to compare their current performance to their own previous race performance. The RBHS encourages casual and novice sailors to keep racing and to improve performance each week.

Come join us! Visit the RBSA website at [www.roundbay-sailing.com](http://www.roundbay-sailing.com). There you will find FAQs, like how to join and who can race, as well as membership forms and a section for crew wanted/crew available. The website also includes information on sailing instructions, race events, charts and typical race courses, as well as links to useful weather apps to help you plan for each race. Full web access, to include race replays, requires a membership and a small annual fee. Please email [info@roundbaysailing.com](mailto:info@roundbaysailing.com) with any questions.

| RBSA Standings - 2020 |     |      |      |      |     |      |        |       |       |       |
|-----------------------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Boats in the series   |     |      |      |      |     |      |        |       |       |       |
| Wednesday Series 2    |     |      |      |      |     |      |        |       |       |       |
| 25                    |     |      |      |      |     |      |        |       |       |       |
| Boat                  | 6/3 | 6/10 | 6/17 | 6/24 | 7/1 | 7/8  | series | Throw | Final | Place |
| Lightfoot             | 9   | 9    | 1    | 4    | 2   | 1    | 26     | 9     | 17    | 1     |
| Hye                   | 1   | 3    | 26   | 1    | 6   | 7    | 44     | 26    | 18    | 2     |
| Merlin                | 2   | 4    | 6    | 2    | 13  | 6    | 33     | 13    | 20    | 3     |
| Five Cubed            | 5   | 5    | 4    | 7    | 5   | 4.75 | 30.75  | 7     | 23.75 | 4     |
| Pegasus               | 8   | 16   | 2    | 3    | 3   | 10   | 42     | 16    | 26    | 5     |
| Himmel                | 3   | 8    | 10   | 17   | 1   | 5    | 44     | 17    | 27    | 6     |
| Seamma                | 26  | 6    | 3    | 12   | 7   | 2    | 56     | 26    | 30    | 7     |
| Winsome Ride          | 4   | 2    | 8    | 6    | 10  | 15   | 45     | 15    | 30    | 8     |
| Red Stripe II         | 6   | 7    | 5    | 10   | 4   | 8    | 40     | 8     | 32    | 9     |
| A L'Assaut            | 12  | 1    | 26   | 14   | 8   | 3    | 64     | 26    | 38    | 10    |
| Flagfest              | 15  | 10   | 7    | 9    | 9   | 14   | 64     | 15    | 49    | 11    |
| Fiona                 | 10  | 12   | 9    | 16   | 16  | 18   | 81     | 16    | 65    | 12    |
| Quintet               | 11  | 26   | 26   | 13   | 11  | 9    | 96     | 26    | 70    | 13    |
| Island Time           | 17  | 11   | 11   | 18   | 26  | 17   | 100    | 26    | 74    | 14    |
| Swift                 | 26  | 26   | 12   | 11   | 12  | 16   | 103    | 26    | 77    | 15    |
| Pat Burnett           | 14  | 26   | 26   | 6    | 26  | 13   | 111    | 26    | 85    | 16    |
| Tango Too             | 16  | 26   | 26   | 26   | 14  | 4    | 112    | 26    | 86    | 17    |
| Rum Puppy             | 26  | 16   | 26   | 8    | 19  | 26   | 121    | 26    | 95    | 18    |
| Privateer             | 19  | 26   | 26   | 15   | 26  | 11   | 123    | 26    | 97    | 19    |
| Honey Badger          | 13  | 26   | 26   | 26   | 15  | 26   | 132    | 26    | 106   | 20    |
| Equipoise             | 26  | 26   | 26   | 19   | 26  | 12   | 135    | 26    | 109   | 21    |
| Dan Walker            | 26  | 26   | 26   | 5    | 26  | 26   | 135    | 26    | 109   | 21    |
| Lightfoot II          | 7   | 26   | 26   | 26   | 26  | 26   | 137    | 26    | 111   | 23    |
| Fulcrum               | 26  | 13   | 26   | 26   | 26  | 26   | 143    | 26    | 117   | 24    |
| Jambo                 | 26  | 26   | 26   | 26   | 26  | 19   | 149    | 26    | 123   | 25    |
| Revenge               |     | RC   |      |      |     |      |        |       |       |       |

DNC - number of boats entered in the series plus 1  
DNF, DNS, RAF - number of boats in the starting area plus 1  
TLE - number of boats finishing within the time limit plus 2 but not higher than the number of boats in the race  
RC - Race Committee - average of other races in the series



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## Matt Wyble, Garry's Grill Provide Meals For Spring Arbor Staff



Matt Wyble's 97-year-old grandfather, Ray Grant, has lived at Spring Arbor for about four years.

Doctors and nurses have received many donated meals and supplies from the community during the coronavirus pandemic, and it has been much deserved. On July 29, Matt Wyble, a Realtor with The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium, assisted a group often overlooked, though: employees at senior homes.

Wyble partnered with Garry's Grill owner Eddie Conway to provide meals to 50 employees total on the lunch and dinner shifts at Spring Arbor Senior Living. Wyble's 97-year-old grandfather, Ray Grant, has lived at Spring Arbor for about four years.

"They are on 24-hour-a-day lockdown and the employees are giving above-and-beyond care," Wyble said. "We thought it would be a nice way to thank the people taking care of our seniors."

The donation was part of the greater Century 21 New Millennium FLAG (Front Line Appreciation Group) program, which is dedicated to feeding front-line health care workers during the coronavirus pandemic while also keeping local restaurants in business.

Wyble called his friend Conway, who gave Wyble a discount on the meals. Garry's Grill also delivered the food.

"With this pandemic it's been difficult, but it's easy to help knowing that we can," said Conway, who prefers not to get media attention for charitable giving.

"If you're doing something good for others, you shouldn't do it for attention — that's just the way I was raised,"

Conway added.

Nevertheless, the *Severna Park Voice* wanted to recognize the two business owners for their generosity.

Garry's Grill has also been donating a portion of its sales to the Maryland Food Bank. The Matt Wyble team, too, has sought ways to help.

"I want to pay it forward and something like this can make somebody's day," Wyble said. "Throughout this pandemic, I hope everyone comes away with a better appreciation for the day-to-day and not taking everything for granted."

## Virtual Learning This Fall

» Continued from page 1

The biggest hurdle has been making technology accessible to every student. Last year, some students were without internet in their homes.

"We have about 150 families that were not directly connected," Arlotto said. "We know who they are, and we continue to work with our business partners, Comcast and Verizon and Broadstripe, on a case-by-case basis to get those families connected."

Arlotto said AACPS had about 45,000 devices pre-COVID, and the school system now has about 63,000 devices, with 30,000 more on order. AACPS wants to provide one device for every family and, ultimately, one device for every student. More than 80,000 students attend Anne Arundel County public schools.

"The priority is to make sure that attendance is taken, is that every student has a device ... and every student is connected to the internet, so we're able to take away those barriers so that they can interact with their teacher, interact with their classmates, five days a week," Arlotto said.

AACPS is providing backpacks with school supplies for all students from pre-K through fifth grade. Directions for picking up backpacks will be given to parents by school principals in late August.

Arlotto also said teachers will issue diagnostic tests the first three weeks of school to identify and address opportunity gaps.

AACPS hopes all of these efforts will put parents at ease, but many are concerned about child care and giving their children a good education. In a fall survey question answered 45, 121 times by county parents through July 3, about 46% said they preferred in-person school daily, while 32.5% supported a combined model with both face-to-face and virtual learning. Less than 22% voted for an all-virtual model.

With 4,766 completed surveys, the Severna Park feeder system accounted for 10.56% of responses, more than any other school cluster.

Arlotto said a hybrid of in-school and virtual learning is still possible later in the fall.

During the Board of Education meeting, Anne Arundel County health officer Niles Kalyanaraman addressed the belief that the coronavirus is no deadlier than the flu.

"I get that comparison, and in mild cases, that comparison holds, but not for everybody," Kalyanaraman said. "We're seeing hospitalizations in younger people. They might not die, but they have pretty significant consequences from it."

To learn more about fall reopening plans, visit [www.aacps.org/fall2020](http://www.aacps.org/fall2020).

## Extra Points

**1.** Dana Schallheim (Board of Education, District 5) asked Arlotto about safe places for students to congregate, especially because many families are struggling to find child care. Arlotto said he likes the concept of bringing students together on a limited basis.

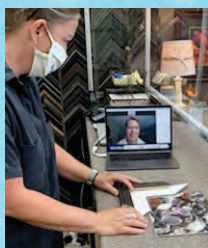
"You can't have teachers, because teachers are teaching during the school day," Arlotto said. "So is that a place that we could use [teaching assistants]? Is that a place that we could use long-term subs or substitute teachers to be with students in buildings so they could open up their laptops, access our Wi-Fi, get a lunch and do their virtual learning? ... But it also can't be day care. It's not child care. It's not eight hours of child care a day, because we as a school system don't provide child care."

**2.** Student board member Drake Smith asked about standardized testing. Arlotto said "We hope this fall to be able to offer those in some way, shape or form," but the number of students in a room will be limited.

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# From Navy Fighter Pilot To Founder Of Divine Mercy Academy

By John Singleton

**A**li Ghaffari's story is an all-American one. His Muslim father named him Ali, which means "champion." But the Severna Park resident would grow to be a different sort of titleholder. Outcast. Scholar. Warrior. Teacher. Servant. Ali Ghaffari was destined to be a champion for Christ.

"My mother was 16 when I was born," Ghaffari explained. "Unmarried and living in Burlington, Vermont."

Family members pushed for an abortion, but the pregnant teenager of French-Canadian ancestry was determined to keep her baby. She married the father of her child. They moved to Florida. It lasted three years.

"I remember coming back to freezing Vermont after living in Florida sunshine," Ghaffari recalled, "and wondering what would happen next."

God draws straight with a crooked line. Ghaffari's newly single mom got mixed up with drugs, became an addict, attempted suicide and entered rehab.

In school, the dark-skinned boy with the Middle Eastern name excelled. When mom got clean, she met a local mechanic. Ghaffari was skeptical. Just another space-holder in a revolving relationship door. But something about this man was different. He stayed.

In private moments, Ghaffari's mom taught her son to pray.

"I will have failed you as a mother if I don't give you a dose of God before you leave



(L-R) Lieutenant Commander Ali Ghaffari, daughter Kaelyn Ghaffari, daughter Reyna Ghaffari, wife Mary Ghaffari and daughter Natalie Ghaffari posed in front of the Divine Mercy Academy, located at 400 Benfield Road in Severna Park.

this house," she said.

By the time he graduated high school, Ghaffari was an honors student. Awarded with a scholarship to the elite Phillips Academy Andover, ancestral proving ground of family dynasties like the Kennedys and Bushes, he now had a front-row seat to the American dream. Suddenly, the boy from small-town Vermont was attending class alongside princes from India and Turkey, the heir to the Goodyear fortune, and numerous athletes destined for professional sports.

With medical school on the radar, Ghaffari attended Colby College, a prestigious "little Ivy." He coached ice hockey. Dated. And began to notice all his instructors were atheists aggressively advocating their beliefs

at the front of a classroom.

"I embraced atheism to justify the life I wanted to live," he recalled. "My pride and arrogance were through the roof."

Returning home for the summer, he had a talk with his stepfather and a family friend who quietly advocated for the Catholic faith.

"As we sat under the stars, I rethought my entire life," he said. "The prestige of academia had been my God. It was torn down in a night."

Before graduation, Ghaffari met another pivotal figure: a Navy SEAL, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, a man of faith. There was a sense of a corner being turned.

It was decided. Medical school was jettisoned. Ghaffari would fly jets. In Navy flight

school, he learned to dogfight, drop bombs and land on aircraft carriers in high seas. He also studied the Catholic faith.

Deploying to the Persian Gulf, the newly minted Navy lieutenant looked down from his F-18 on an unfamiliar landscape.

"Flying over Iran, I thought of my biological father," Ghaffari said.

After his tour of duty, Ghaffari landed in Corpus Christi, Texas, and registered for a Catholic men's retreat. He invited his Iranian-born father, who was now living in Florida. As part of the weekend's program, the men practiced an ancient Catholic ritual. Re-enacting Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, Ghaffari washed the feet of his estranged father.

And he wasn't prepared for the reaction: "I met Jesus for the first time," said his father.

In 2015, Ali Ghaffari became an instructor for the U.S. Naval Academy leadership department, where he taught leadership training to midshipmen. He now teaches leadership to faculty and staff, and coaches at the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership. In 2018, he founded the Divine Mercy Academy in Severna Park - a place where teachers "partner with parents in their role as primary educators of their children."

"Divine Mercy Academy is a full-time classical school where we pursue the true, the good and the beautiful," Ghaffari said. "We offer a foundation of wisdom and virtue that brings families closer. And we are excited to resume in-person teaching in the fall."

## Altomare Leaves Big Void As Anne Arundel County Police Chief

» Continued from page 1

"This has been the result of circumstances over the last year or so where, as my responsibilities with the department grew, I saw the opportunity to do greater good," Altomare said after taking the job in 2014. "So when that chance is afforded to you, I think you have to answer fate in the affirmative."

Altomare retired on August 1, 2020, citing opposition to movements to defund the police. County Executive Stuart Pittman named William Lowry the interim police chief.

"There is no group of people in this country in its history that have done more for poor communities of color across this nation than the American policemen. Take it to the bank," Altomare said during a Back the Blue rally in Annapolis on July 23. "I have personally almost died five or six times saving another human life; every one was a person of color. To be called racist because I wear a uniform makes me sick to my stomach. I can't do it anymore and be silent."

Altomare said Pittman has always been

respectful and honest with him, and that the county executive did not want him to retire. But Altomare also said the "silence of the majority" is not helping Pittman differentiate between the good guys and the bad guys.

Publicly, Pittman was unwavering in his support for Altomare.

"He doubled our number of African American sworn officers, implemented Fair and Impartial Policing training for all officers, and made our Crisis Intervention Teams the best in the world," Pittman wrote in a statement. "He built strong relationships in every community, and with his own officers."

Altomare was revered as a cop's cop and as someone who established positive relationships with community members.

"The community are the police and the police are the community, and I think we have shown that we believe that in Anne Arundel County," Altomare said. "I'm proud of the cops. It's not something I had to force. They embraced that ideology and they embraced the bonds in the community, just like I expected."

When a Black Lives Matter protest was organized at Tick Neck Park in Pasadena on June 6, Altomare walked side by side with protestors to keep them safe.

"When I brought the idea to the police, they jumped right on board with me and let me do things the way I wanted to," said 20-year-old Shelyia Brown, who organized the protest. "They were amazing."

Still, police nationwide are under more scrutiny due to incidents of brutality. The Anne Arundel County Police Department is being sued by Odenton resident Daniel Jarrells, who said an officer knelt on his neck in February 2019 while Jarrells was handcuffed. Altomare said the officer will be held accountable if guilty and that the incident did not factor into his retirement.

Altomare's successor Lowry has 47 years of public safety experience, including his time as assistant chief to Davis in 2013. In 2015, he became joint chief of police for the Colmar Manor and Cottage City police departments in Prince George's County. Lowry returned to Anne Arundel County in

2019 as deputy chief under Altomare.

Pittman thinks Lowry is qualified to lead the police department as it continues to partner with the Black community in search of better policing methods.

"He worked closely with the Prince George's County Citizens Complaint Oversight Panel in the early '90s, and he grew up in a family that risked their lives for the cause of racial justice in the south," Pittman said. "He is widely respected by our officers, and he is deeply respected by me."

While Lowry serves as the interim chief, Pittman will examine long-term options from within the Anne Arundel County Police Department and nationwide. Altomare's retirement left a big void, but Lowry is prepared for the challenge.

"I look forward to seeing this police department continue to provide excellent police service and to have many opportunities to work with our community members," Lowry said. "I love our police department and I love the community that we serve and protect."



# MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

## Local Man Serves Three Branches Of The Military

By Haley Weisgerber

For many men and women considering a military career, deciding which branch best suits them is one of the hardest decisions they will make. For one Severna Park resident, the decision was simple; he would just serve three.

Ozzie Osborne knew he wanted to be a pilot at a young age.

"My stepfather was a Maryland state policeman," he said. "When I was 10 years old, he got me up for a helicopter ride in the Maryland State Police helicopter, and I loved flying."

While he was in the 10th grade at Severna Park High School, Osborne decided he was going to the Naval Academy to become a pilot. Though he had good grades, many people told him that he would have a difficult time getting accepted.

"It's really hard for an Anne Arundel County kid to get in," said Osborne. "I always like challenges. Give me something that most people can't do and I'll go try it."

Despite what everyone said, Osborne attended the Naval Academy, where he majored in applied sciences with a focus in

business management, and he minored in naval engineering. After he graduated in 1985, Osborne could not get a pilot slot with the Navy, but his last duty station was with VF-45 adversary squadron in Key West, Florida, in the backseat of his favorite aircraft, the F-16N. Looking back, Osborne said this was his favorite assignment.

"All we did was dog fight," said Osborne. "When you get to that level of flying, the adrenaline rush is amazing and addicting."

After five years with the Navy, Osborne was ready for his next adventure, Army flight school.

"Those guys did a lot of teaching with me because all of those guys were Navy instructor pilots," said Osborne. "By the time I went to the Army flight school, I graduated number one in my class."

Osborne finished flight school and joined the Army Guard in Maryland, where

he flew AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters.

"My Army uniform had all Navy ribbons," said Osborne. "They were sort of looking at me all strange. When it came down to the Army-Navy game, I was the only guy rooting for Navy."

After another five years with the Army, Osborne accepted an agent position with the Federal

Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Baltimore. He investigated violent crimes and bank robberies, and he was eventually sent to Washington D.C. to work on counter-terrorism. Due to FBI policies at the time, Osborne was not allowed to do reserve duty and work for the Bureau. Osborne did reserve duty with the West Virginia Air National Guard and began to pilot for Atlantic Coast Airline out of Dulles International Airport.

After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Osborne took a leave of absence from the airline. During this time,

Osborne was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. After demobilization, he took a year and a half set of orders in Crystal City, Virginia, which was eventually extended another four years.

With a desire to make a difference, Osborne did many amazing things in his military career. One of his proudest accomplishments is conduct-

ing a study on government response to disasters, such as terrorist attacks, earthquakes, hurricanes and pandemics. The study had been briefed to both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama.

"There was some really unique stuff that I got to do for the country, so it's been a heck of a good ride," said Osborne.

Osborne received an active duty retirement from the Air National Guard in 2014 after over 27 years of duty. In his long career, he flew over 30 different aircraft. He works as a pilot for JetBlue in his retirement, and many people have asked him to consider writing a book about his experiences.

"It's been a ton of different airplanes, but definitely a fun ride to say the least," said Osborne.

Osborne said that his story is unique, but he wouldn't have it any other way.

"You will find there are enough of us out there that have done two branches, but in all my running around, I've only heard of one other person who has done three," said Osborne. "When one door closed, I just wasn't ready to accept it, so I opened the door to a different branch."



*In July 2014, Ozzie Osborne was invited to throw the first pitch at an Orioles game to celebrate his retirement.*

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## The 2020-2021 School Year

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



We now know the score for the fall. School will start in an all-virtual environment. None of us wanted this. Our students should be learning in school buildings. This pandemic has put AACPS and school systems across the state and

country between a rock and a hard place. On one hand, we have a virus that has killed more than 150,000 Americans nationally and more than 3,300 in Maryland in five months. On the other hand, our children's education is at stake.

Inevitably, this decision will be celebrated by some and hated by others. None of the options on the table are ideal. We all want to go back to pre-COVID-19 days where congregating with others, including attending school with pre-COVID-19 class sizes, wasn't a huge health risk to students, teachers and staff, all of whom could also bring the virus home to their families.

In the days that followed the announcement that the 2020-2021 year will start entirely virtual, I have been both praised for the decision and also the target of hate mail. The ultimate decisionmakers are Maryland's state superintendent of schools, Dr. Karen Salmon, and Governor Larry Hogan. This was never the AACPS Board of Education's decision. Additionally, daily school operations are under the purview of the superintendent, Dr. George Arlotto. While I do agree with the decision to start in an all-virtual environment, I also would have supported a hybrid model had that option been recommended by Dr. Arlotto and supported by both the Anne Arundel County health officer, Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman, as well as the state.

To support an all-virtual and synchronous learning environment, AACPS is moving toward a 1:1 technology ratio for all students and is also connecting families without internet with community partners offering free or low-cost internet services. If you need a Chromebook for your AACPS student or students for the upcoming academic year

» Continued on page 16

## Therapy Dogs Can Provide Much-Needed Comfort

**Michael Malone**  
*Delegate  
District 33*



Whether it's the recent highs in the mid-90s or Sirius (the Dog Star) rising before the sun gets up, these are the dog days of summer. Our dog Midnight, for one, while away his days lounging first in the sun and then in air conditioning, stretched out, tongue lolling and half-asleep.

Not all dogs get to sleep all day; a special few sometimes work in the circuit courts. Lily, a 5-year old Labradoodle, is a highly trained service dog that first appeared in court in November 2019 as part of Anne Arundel County's pilot Court Dog and Child Witness Program. Lily, accompanied by her trainer, comforted a child survivor who testified against a now-convicted abuser. Testifying in court is intimidating for most people, and can be exceptionally so for children, seated only a few feet away from the perpetrator as they recount often unspeakable things in front of strangers, all alone in the witness box.

Many centers for child abuse survivors incorporate therapy dogs into the program to comfort children and interact without judgment. There's just something calming about petting a dog, something centering about rubbing its neck as it rests its head in your lap. But until recently, such dogs were not permitted in Maryland courtrooms.

This year, Senator Bryan Simonaire, a Republican from Pasadena, and I introduced legislation, Senate Bill 101/House Bill 311, to permit trained service dogs to accompany child witnesses throughout the state. These bills passed both the House of Delegates and the Senate unanimously, and Governor Larry Hogan signed it into law. Each county can develop its own voluntary program - here in Anne Arundel, such dogs participate in the Caring Canines program run by Dogwood Acres Pet Retreat in Davidsonville, where they must pass a Pet Partners nationwide certification program. Not only must the dogs be trained; so are the handlers, in court policies and protocols, privacy and confidentiality rules, and must pass a background check. The Caring Canines program now fields three or four calls monthly for a comfort dog in court, and Laura Ripken, the administrative judge for the Anne Arundel Circuit Court, has

reviewed around 20 applications for a comfort dog to attend a child witness. All have been granted, except for one where the witness did not meet the age criteria.

Comfort dogs are available for civil cases, including divorce and protective order cases, as well as criminal matters, at all relevant stages of the proceedings. Requests for a comfort dog often come from the State's Attorney's Office, the child's best interest attorney in domestic cases, or from a CASA advocate. Each case is managed to maximize fairness to both parties. Dogs and handlers are trained to behave appropriately in a courtroom. If there is a jury, the dog is situated when the jury is not in the courtroom; ideally the dog is placed outside the jury's view, and if not, the jury is appropriately instructed. Court observers note that the presence of therapy dogs seem to promote justice. Having the dog there allows the child witness to relax a little, to decompress, and in doing so tell their story. Being more comfortable in the courtroom translates into confidence and a feeling of safety for the child witness, giving the witness the ability to open up and testify more coherently about what most likely was the worst day of their

» Continued on page 16

## The Problem With Binary Thinking

**Heather Bagnall**  
*Delegate  
District 33*



It's difficult to know where to focus these days, with so many challenges created by the pandemic, with so many aspects of our lives impacted — from our health to our ability to move around, pay our bills, care for our children, peacefully assemble, even vote. We are trying to find new ways to make our voices heard, and the frustration and fatigue is very real; the desire to give up, normal. Finding grace has become a daily challenge and, at times, a chore that feels impossible. And even as we are working to find new ways to operate and cope with the mounting stresses of this moment, we are also having a national reckoning about our

history, our equity and our national identity.

I was talking with a colleague from across the aisle recently who was lamenting the challenges of civil communication and compromise, whether it was better to express something controversial or keep silent to avoid criticism. This is something I hear a lot. That we have lost the ability to communicate, that we no longer honor civility, that we are too divisive, too political, too divided to ever hear or understand anyone outside of ourselves.

A couple of months ago, I was speaking with a class and I was asked what I should tell our students who had a plan for their lives, a plan that has been so immensely disrupted. The moderator confessed she did not have an answer to this question. I had two. First, look to the creatives. They went to work on solutions immediately on how to pivot and change the models to do things differently. Second, accept where we are.

Accept this reality so that you are only moving forward. We are all in a stage of mourning because our brains are hard-wired to see change as loss, but once we accept that things are different, we won't waste precious time and physical and emotional energy trying to get back to what was, but instead we can focus on what can be.

One of the biggest challenges we have to conquer, the stumbling block that so often stands in the way of innovation, is binary thinking. It's ingrained in our culture, in our work, our leisure, our politics and our problem-solving. Binary thinking is always putting things in terms of two options that are usually mutually exclusive; all the possibilities are either option A or option B, and not both. Heroes and villains, good and bad, right and wrong, Democrat and Republican.

Time and again throughout this crisis, I've seen us paralyzed to act because we

» Continued on page 16





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## The 2020-2021 School Year

### » Continued from page 14

or need internet service, please reach out to your child's principal to make arrangements. Of course, if you experience difficulties contacting your child's school, you can always reach me at [dschallheim@aacps.org](mailto:dschallheim@aacps.org) and I will ensure your email reaches staff members who can help.

Let's also clarify that the announcement illustrates the worst-case scenario. Dr. Arlotto stated during the July 22 Board of Education meeting that if the situation improves, we could move to a hybrid environment before the end of the semester. Additionally, we are hoping, and frankly I am expecting, that we'll invite small groups of our most vulnerable students for limited in-person instruction on a voluntary basis — including those with special needs, English language learners, and CAT North and CAT South students — to mitigate against further widening of gaps and to fulfill aspects of IEPs (individualized education programs) that are difficult to conduct virtually, such as occupational therapy and physical therapy.

So just how do we move from an all-virtual environment to our students returning to school buildings? That decision rests in all our hands. Remember that '80s Smokey the Bear ad that stated, "Only you can prevent forest fires?" I think this is a great analogy for the COVID-19 pandemic. If we, that's all

of us, follow Governor Hogan's orders to wear masks (over both your nose and mouth), and practice social distancing and frequent hand-washing, we will return to school buildings quicker than if we disregard the rules.

If we all do our part, our local and state trends for new positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths will decline and our students' education will begin to look as it did last February. It won't be a light switch. The next step after an all-virtual environment will be to implement a hybrid model, again with the safety of our students and teachers as the highest priority. Please continue to reach out with your ideas and concerns by emailing [dschallheim@aacps.org](mailto:dschallheim@aacps.org).

## Therapy Dogs Can Provide Comfort

### » Continued from page 14

lives. Anne Arundel County reports that the pilot program incurred little to no cost to the court system, and it is anticipated that the statewide expansion will similarly incur minimal expense to the state.

While I have yet to request a therapy dog in my cases as an attorney, I can anticipate their impact. In my many years of practice, I've represented children who experienced sexual abuse, and also represented parents whose children testified against their abuser. Painful

### » Continued from page 14

didn't know which choice was the right one, as though there was a right and wrong answer, and without considering the wider implications. I talk about big picture a lot, because as a theater artist, it was always my job to have the overarching vision. It's what made me valuable to companies in crisis because I could quickly identify and triage what wasn't working. I called it "big picture," but the more scientific term is full-spectrum thinking — the ability to seek patterns and clarity outside, across, beyond, or maybe even without any boxes or categories while resisting false certainty

and simplistic binary choices.

There is another greater value to full-spectrum thinking, because it gives us a little distance from the outcome. The challenge with binary thinking is that it requires winners and losers. No one wants to be on the losing team, and often we are left with emotional whiplash when our heroes become villains, our villains become heroes, and it prevents us from processing the complexity of people or the comprehensiveness of policy. The reality of every decision is that what benefits some hurts others, and if we don't have the full picture, the full spectrum, we can't work to mitigate the most damage and satisfy the greatest range of concerns.

I am not asking you to suddenly change how you think, but I am asking that you try it a little because no one is coming to save us; we have to save ourselves, and we have the solutions, we just don't know it yet. Much like the truth lies somewhere in between what he said and what he said, the best solutions, as well as the compassion, and ultimately constructive communication and change, lie in the in-between spaces. Because between black and white are not simply shades of gray but all the other colors of the spectrum.

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## Living In The Moment: With Spring Sports Lost And Fall Sports In Question, High School Student-Athletes Embrace Summer Opportunities

Story and Photos by Colin Murphy

Months after the coronavirus caused the cancellation of spring sports, and weeks before the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association postponed the fall and winter seasons, the kids were back playing the sports they love.

Virtually all of the normally robust local team-sports leagues and opportunities were shortened, modified, downsized or otherwise curtailed in response to the pandemic, but — for now at least — there is local, live-game action.

Severna Park's 16U summer baseball team, usually dubbed the Spartans, wasn't able to play under the Green Hornets umbrella this summer, so they moved to Severn Athletic Council and are playing as the Severn Panthers in the Anne Arundel Amateur Baseball Association Mickey Mantle League.

**Jimmy Miller**, a rising junior at Severna Park, has played travel baseball every summer since he was 13 and shuddered at the thought of going a full year or more without baseball.

"It was really important for me (to be able to play this summer)," said Miller. "When you grow up playing a game, and



then all of a sudden it's not there one day and there's nothing you can do about it, it's hard to deal with at first. You get used to it, but just the chance to get back on the field and play was really fun. It was a relief because we didn't know if we'd get back on the field. Last year on JV, we lost the county championship in a tough game, so it was kind of our revenge year. So, when you're coming back and

expecting to have a good year, and all of a sudden it just vanishes, that was really tough."

The Mickey Mantle league has just seven teams, which has concentrated the talent and made it even more competitive than normal. At a July 29 game at Northeast against the Pasadena Eagles, the 16U Severn Panthers essentially played baseball as usual, with some modifications.



Players have their temperatures checked before taking the field, and they remain as socially distant as possible in pre-game warmups. Teams use their own ball supplies and do not share baseballs. The umpires made adjustments, too: the home-plate umpire repositioned to call strikes from behind the pitcher's mound, and the would-be field umpire stands off

» Continued on page 23

### 2020 Fall, Winter High School Seasons Postponed

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) has postponed the fall and winter sports seasons until at least February 1, 2021, but will allow student-athletes to engage in practices in the first semester as it formulates a competition schedule for the second semester.

Superintendent George Arlotto has asked Coordinator of Athletics Clayton Culp to present him with a plan to hold sport-specific practices that meet local and state health and safety guidelines.

Stay updated by visiting [www.mpsaa.org](http://www.mpsaa.org).

## 11U Spartans Enjoy Strong Season

By Zach Sparks

The 11U SP Baseball Academy Spartans flashed their skills with the bat and the glove this season as they finished 23-15-1.

Following an 18-6 win over the Lake Shore Gray Sox on July 15, coach Chad Moran emphasized that the team was playing strong in every phase of the game.

"We just tell them to play within themselves, play the game within the game, and focus on them and good things will happen," he said.

Good things continued to happen for the Spartans later that week. The team won the HCYP Summer Clash tournament in Ellicott City over the weekend of July 18-19. An 8-0 victory over the Canes (Virginia Beach) and a 9-8 nail-biter over AYRA Athletics put the Spartans in the final against the state's top-ranked team, the Olney Pirates.

» Continued on page 20



Photos by Zach Sparks

The Spartans earned an 18-6 win over the Lake Shore Gray Sox on July 15.



# Rising Elite: How Trey Smack Became One Of America's Top Prospects

*Severna Park's Trey Smack has played only one season of organized football as a kicker and punter, but with tutelage from an all-time NFL great and a pair of breakout performances at camps this summer, he's now on the radar of every major college football program in the country.*

By Colin Murphy

The ball was teed up on the 40-yard line, and **Trey Smack** took a determined 10-yard run up to it before booting it down the field. It screamed off the turf of the rural Tennessee high school, arcing across the hot July morning sky and clanging loudly into the metal scoreboard perched above the field over 70 yards away.



**Trey Smack**

Everyone in the stadium sat up attentively. Watching her son from the stands, Smack's mother, Libby, heard whispers from other parents and their boys: *He's the only kid out here who can do that.*

Smack boomed two more kicks off the scoreboard as the collective gaze of hundreds of onlookers intensified. His longest kick of the morning missed the scoreboard, but it traveled an eye-popping 84 yards, a pro-level distance.

Libby then heard the real question on everyone's minds: *Who the (expletive) is Trey Smack?*

The answer, newly confirmed this summer, was right before their eyes: Smack is one of the nation's top kicking and punting prospects.

That's the consensus determination of top coaches, scouts and instructors who run Kohl's Kicking Camps, the authoritative avenue for evaluating high school kickers, punters and long snappers. Smack, a rising junior at Severna Park High School, competed at his first Kohl's event in June, a regional camp in Philadelphia. Based on a charting process involving kickoff distance, punting distance and hang time, and field goal accuracy ranging from 30 to 56 yards, Smack graded as one of the top kickers and punters in the mid-Atlantic region. He earned entry to Kohl's premier annual event in July in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the invitation-only Kohl's National Scholarship Camp.

The Kohl's NSC hosts the country's top 500 to 600 high school kickers and punters, many of whom have been training in their specialty for years and all of whom are hoping to land a spot on a college football roster.

A total unknown, Smack crashed the party. Out of the approximately 550 best

kickers and punters in America in all high school grade levels, the unofficial results in Tennessee placed Smack at No. 2 overall for kickoffs, tied for No. 4 overall for field goals and No. 20 for punts.

The standout performances over a six-week span have Smack, who played his first football season in the fall of 2019, at the front of the line for heavy college recruitment this fall, almost before he knew how much ability he had. Hitting the scoreboard was his opening act, sending a buzz through the camp and announcing his arrival on the national scene.

"Right as I kicked it, I honestly didn't hear

much, I was so focused," Smack said. "But after I kicked, some kids were like, asking who I was and looking around for me. I was just like, 'Uh, I'm right here.' It got a lot of attention."

Smack will get that attention from college programs this fall even though his foray into football came less than a year ago.

An exceptional all-around athlete, Smack grew up playing soccer since age 3 and lacrosse since age 8.

With his natural athleticism and strength, Smack improved quickly. He took over kicking duties for the varsity Falcons last fall and was able to drive the ball on kickoffs

and convert extra points and field goals with consistency. He excelled in the punting game, earning first-team All-County honors as a punter.

Still, Smack needed to refine his skills and harness his power. Before long, he benefitted from a uniquely local opportunity to do so when the father of a Crabs Lacrosse teammate introduced Smack to former Ravens kicker **Matt Stover**.

"It was awesome meeting Matt. He literally changed my whole entire form, just like that," Smack said, snapping his fingers.

**Read the full story at [www.severna-parkvoice.com](http://www.severna-parkvoice.com).**

## Falcon JV Girls Lacrosse Primed For Continued Success



*With 21 freshmen on the roster in 2020, the Severna Park High School JV girls lacrosse team was loaded with talent.*

By Colin Murphy

Among the many lost spring seasons was that of the Severna Park JV girls lacrosse team, which was loaded with talent and prepared for a strong season.

The Falcons instilled coach **Annie Houghton** with great confidence in their limited time together in early March.

"Tryouts were intense this year due to a large and very skilled freshman class," said Houghton. "The 2020 JV team rostered 26 players, 21 of which were freshmen. We were able to play two scrimmages against Bryn Mawr and Roland Park Country School, both in Baltimore. The team showed strong in each game, winning both. I'm happy that we were able to see them play together and that they connected so

quickly. As a coach, that is a wonderful thing to see so early in the season. From what I saw in those scrimmages, it was going to be another promising season."

The team comprised players **Madison Holden** (D), **Abigail Goodman** (D), **Stella Bordone** (A), **Flynn Prengaman** (M), **Regan McDonnell** (M), **Julia DiMarsico** (D/M), **Lola Blumenberg** (D), **Emma Boyle** (D), **Emalynn Kline** (D/M), **Ada Mutch** (G), **Sophia Bordone** (D), **Molly Goeller** (M/A), **Mia Putzi** (A), **Annalise Frey** (D), **Abby Kavanagh** (A), **Abigail Snowden** (M/A), **Zoe Day** (M), **Bridget Riddle** (D), **Lily Spilker** (D/M), **Maggie Mullervy** (D/M), **Megan DeFeo** (D), **Samantha Koppe** (M), **Isabella Joyce** (A), **Katie Griffith** (A), **Olivia Tramontana** (M/D) and **Emily Prensky** (A).

Houghton noted the contributions of returning sophomore leaders Day, DiMarsico, Prengaman, Putzi and Riddle, all of whom played an integral role in the Falcons' 11-0-1 campaign in 2019. Putzi and Riddle were selected to serve as team captains this spring and "would have been instrumental in leading the team on both the offensive and defensive ends of the field," said Houghton.

Despite a lost 2020 season, Houghton knows the Falcons will continue to make progress toward their goals.

"I know our girls will continue to work hard in the offseason, and we'll return stronger than ever in 2021," Houghton said. "We'll just have to wait another year to have a run at the first JV county championship title."





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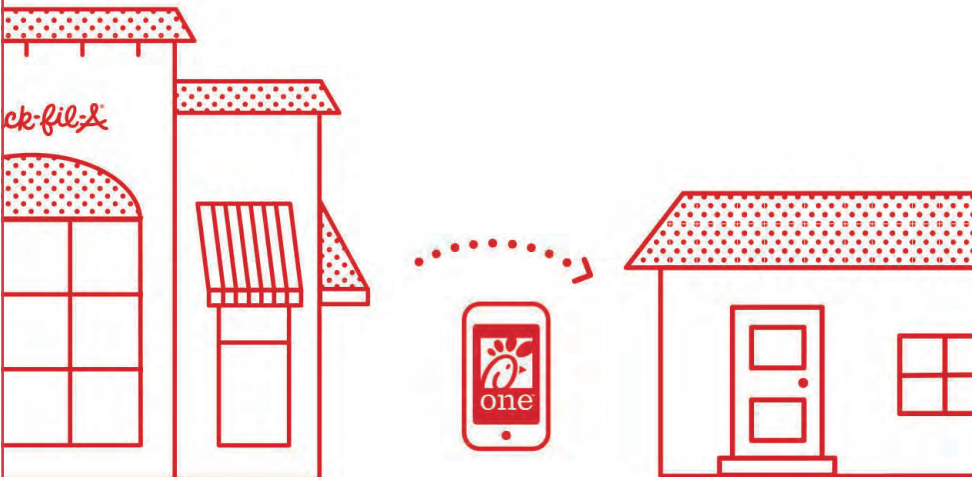
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## 11U Spartans Enjoy Strong Season

» Continued from page 17

In seven innings, the SP Baseball Academy Spartans pulled out the 12-11 win.

The team excelled in tournament play this summer. They won the 11-team STATS Veterans Tribute tournament in Elkton, Maryland, against teams from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The Spartans were runners-up in the eight-team STATS Spring Shootout tournament, also in Elkton, losing the championship to Pennsylvania-based 3 Up 3 Down. The Severna Park 11U team also went 4-0 in pool play during the Fruitland End of June Sizzler tournament, making it to the semifinals.

The Spartans are **Caleb Murfield, Jonah Lucas, Conrad Maillard, Alex Merlino, Logan Moran, Cooper Mengel, Andy Blanck, Logan Clarke, Jonah Downey, Brett Hudson, Silas Lane, Easton O'Brien and Fletcher Warner**. They are coached by **Chad Moran, Jeff Mengel, Eric Clarke and Cory Hudson**.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Kat Esposito

Severna Park Field Hockey

By Diane Lewis

Since Kat Esposito is one of only four seniors on the Severna Park High School varsity field hockey team, she knew that her role on this year's team would need to carry more weight, even before COVID-19 arrived.

She willingly took on an even more significant leadership role because the virus was disturbing regular activities. Her efforts encouraging individual players to stay in touch via social media during isolation were crucial.

Esposito's continued commitment to keep conversation ongoing between players not only boosted the team's morale, but it also enabled the athletes to stay focused and keep strategizing, despite an uncertainty of when or whether they would be able to play at all.

"I have a lot of praise for her focus and love of field hockey," said Shannon Garden, head coach for Severna Park High School's varsity field hockey team.

"Kat originally joined the field hockey team in her sophomore year as a junior varsity player," Garden said. "After a day of playing, however, it was obvious that she should be immediately elevated to the varsity



Kat Esposito was an All-County selection last year as a junior and scored the winning goal in the 4A state championship game against Dulaney on November 9, 2019.

level. Since then she has steadily continued to improve her skills."

Esposito was an All-County selection last year as a junior and scored the winning goal in the 4A state championship game against Dulaney on November 9, 2019. Despite her success, she is a modest and humble

athlete, according to Garden.

"Kat doesn't speak a lot and she's not a show-off; she is a silent and determined player, but you can see the competitiveness in her eyes," Garden said. "She leads by example and actions. The younger players in particular really admire her."

Although Garden is currently staying in Delaware during the coronavirus shutdown, she was impressed with how Esposito helped orchestrate seven-on-seven games this year.

"I was able to watch a few of these matches from afar and I was so impressed with how she led her team both on the field and on the sidelines," Garden said.

Esposito said she "wanted to make sure all of the players stayed safe and lined them up along the sidelines so they could maintain a social distancing space of 6 feet between them."

Promoting safety and mental health is also an important goal for Esposito. She participated in last year's school community service that focused on suicide awareness prevention. This year, she would like to spread awareness about mental illness, especially during the COVID-19 outbreak when many people are feeling isolated and depressed.

"I just think it is important to break the stigma surrounding it," Esposito said.

In partnership with The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21, the Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month series recognizes the many student-athletes in our area who make an impact not necessarily by way of statistics or stardom, but by their unique contributions. Contact Zach Sparks at zach@severnaparkvoice.com to nominate a young person in our community making a positive impact through sports.

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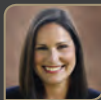
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## Living In The Moment: Student-Athletes Embrace Summer Opportunities

» Continued from page 17

in foul territory away from players on the field.

**Dave Ferris**, who coaches the team every summer along with **Jim Christy** and **Joe Zimmerman**, said he's glad the JV players who will be moving up to varsity in the next year or two are getting their reps this summer. That's not the case for many upperclassmen and current varsity players, many of whom would have played on the always competitive Severna Park Post 175 team this summer; the American Legion league season was canceled.

"It's great for the kids. Kids were scrambling to find somewhere to play," said Ferris. "There's a lot of Severna Park kids who are not playing at all."

Severna Park's field hockey players are playing the seven-on-seven county league they would normally play in during the summers. Rising senior **Kat Espinoza**, who scored the winning goal in the Falcons' state-championship victory last fall, said the players have realistic expectations that a typical fall season probably won't happen, so they're embracing the here-and-now.

"It's been really great to see the team and get to bond with them throughout conditioning and summer league," said Espinoza. "It will be disappointing when



the season's cancelled, but I'm happy I get to see them now. It will probably be the safest option for the season to be canceled, and I think that's more important than us playing field hockey, as disappointing as that is. But, I'm very happy that we're here now, playing now. I'm just trying to focus on the moment and not look into the future too much."

While Espinoza is verbally committed to play field hockey at Washington College, not thinking about the future is more difficult for those currently in the recruiting process, like teammate and rising junior **Zoe Day**.

"It's really difficult and stressful," said Day prior to a seven-on-seven game against Broadneck on July 29. "I'm trying to call coaches and do meetings with

them since I can't meet with them in person. We'll find a way to get in contact if we really want to. But, it's difficult because I can't go see campuses either or meet the team, so it's really different."

Still, Day, who also missed out on lacrosse with the JV Falcons in the spring, is enjoying the chance to play right now. "It's so important, this summer," Day said. "Last year our team had such great connections, and we bonded so well. It was nice to at least have some of that this year with the team we have this summer, not only meeting the freshmen but getting to know them better and learn their styles and how they play, and everyone learning each other better."

Those sentiments were echoed by rising Severna Park junior **Sofia Espinoza**,

who is playing club soccer this summer with Olney Premier Soccer Association. Her Olney team has played a handful of games since the beginning of July, and Espinoza, who aspires to play college soccer, said the team has filmed and live-streamed games and practices to bolster her recruiting portfolio.

While she's enjoying playing now, she said the high school season is a special type of experience that can't be replicated in the summer.

"What I think for all the fall athletes is, this is kind of like our identity, it's playing soccer or field hockey or football," Espinoza said. "You kind of grow up and you see everyone evolve and change throughout the year. The seniors this year, I've been friends with them for years. For them, I would be devastated if they lose their senior year, and I wouldn't get to play with them again."

Still, in the new reality of the world, any chance to play is cherished.

"We never know when the COVID cases are going to increase and our season will be gone," said Espinoza. "And, if one of us gets it, then our whole team and our families are at risk. So, it's very up in the air, but I'm just grateful every day I get to play my sport. That's all I want to do, is play it."



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## New Broadneck Principals Find Consistency Amid Change

By Dave Topp

After an unprecedented ending to the 2019 school year, the administration and faculty within the Broadneck feeder school system are ready to embrace the change of the upcoming semester.

"I think all of our teachers learned a lot from the e-learning experience," said Broadneck High School Principal Rachel Kennelly. "Now that we've had some time to really think about it and dive into what it looks like and what this should look like for this coming year, I think we're much better prepared."

On July 20, Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent George Arlotto decided that all county public schools will begin the first semester virtually.

"I think the most important piece is that we embrace the situation that we are in and we make the best out of every-



**Rachel Kennelly**  
Broadneck  
High School



**John Noon**  
Magothy  
River Middle  
School

thing that is offered to us," Kennelly said. "Our central office teams and teachers have been preparing hard all summer in the event

that this is where we were going to be, and now that we know that is where we are going to be, we are really going to make our best effort to make sure that our students are given the most authentic learning experience possible in these times."

Kennelly, who takes over for former principal **Jim Todd**, served as assistant principal at Broadneck for the previous  
» Continued on page 28

## Castleberry Twins Give Back Despite Not Being Able To Volunteer



Photo courtesy of Erin Castleberry

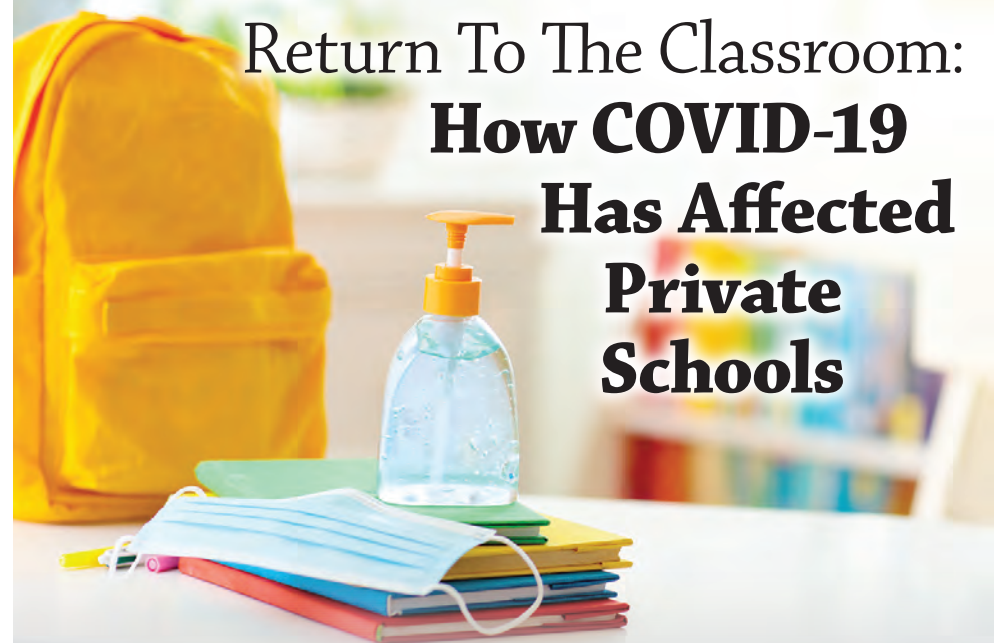
**Tommy (left) and Jack Castleberry were pictured with one of two SUVs that were filled with donations for Sarah's House on July 9, the first of many donation drive drop-offs.**

By Emily Allgair

Learning to juggle online honors classes, preparation for junior year, and varsity baseball amidst the ongoing pandemic is enough to keep anyone's schedule full, but the Castleberry twins, Tommy and Jack, have made sure to give back to their community during this trying time.

Being engaged volunteers with the Baltimore-based charity Sarah's House since 2017, Jack and Tommy have led school-sponsored volunteer projects, made meals for Sarah's House clients, organized game nights and even made ginger-  
» Continued on page 26

## Return To The Classroom: How COVID-19 Has Affected Private Schools



By Haley Weisgerber

Although students at Anne Arundel County public schools will continue to learn virtually because of COVID-19, many private schools will bring kids to the classroom this fall.

Private schools are in the unique position of having smaller class sizes, carpools and the ability to meet all social distancing guidelines set by the Maryland State Department of Education for non-public schools and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.)

Many parents are transferring their students to private schools to get their education in person.

"Since public schools announced their decision to go virtual, we have seen a real increase in our enrollment," said Jamey Hein, head of school at **St-Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School**. "We have been bringing in those families in these last few weeks. We were going to have an enrollment of about 160; we are looking at an enrollment of around 190 to 200 come September. Some of our public school families are looking to us to have their child educated face to face."

St. Martin's students will return to the classroom on September 8. Hein said the staff has been hard at work designing a plan that meets all state and local guidelines. Students will be issued masks and will spend as much time outside as possible. Students' temperatures will be taken before they enter the building, no more than 14 students will be allowed in a classroom and Hein is ready to switch to virtual learning should the state be put on another stay-at-home order.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore issued three models for schools to open: in-person with new safety requirements, hybrid learning and remote learning.

Under these guidelines, **St. John the Evangelist School** and **Monsignor Slade Catholic School** will reopen to students on August 31. Monsignor Slade is also offering parents the choice to opt for synchronous virtual instruction. Temperature checks, masks, and hand sanitizing stations will be implemented. Each school will have signage detailing the mask policies, directional signs and proper social distancing intervals.

**Archbishop Spalding High School** has chosen to adapt the Archdiocese's hybrid model. Students will be split into Groups A and B. Group A will attend in-person instruction on Monday and Tuesday, and Group B will attend in-person instruction on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be dedicated to enrichment. Students can meet with clubs virtually, meet with teachers, and attend prayer service while the school is being cleaned and sanitized.

**The Divine Mercy Academy** is opening under CDC guidelines. Students will wear masks, the school will be disinfected each day and social distancing will be strictly enforced. When attending mass, students will be asked to wipe down their pews before and after services. **Annapolis Area Christian School** will also welcome students in the fall.

**Indian Creek School** is planning to open on August 26 after deliberating with its health and safety task force. Families  
» Continued on page 26



# Give Me Lilies And Broadneck High School's Finest

By Aidann Bacolodan  
Broadneck High Student

As a last hurrah for their senior year, Broadneck High School's finest film-makers, musicians and actors have come together to create one final short film.

Now a Broadneck High School alumnus, Paul Cosby was one of the videographers along with seniors Garrett and Gavin Middleton. Last March, Paul recruited the Middletons to aid in shooting his last high school motion picture. Paul experimented with the concept of a breakup-horror.

"To Kill A Lily" features a character named Gavin, a dazed college student struggling with a close friend's death as his budding romantic relationship appears to tremble. Lily's passing takes a toll on his sanity and mental health. Gavin's growing guilt deteriorates his ability to deal with the effects of her untimely departure.

With the use of a Sony A7 III and automated dialogue replacement, the student-made picture exceeded expectations and has been nominated as a semifinalist at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards.

Paul claims the production had been "mostly for fun" and "very experimental" in using new auditory techniques and bringing in several students to act as camera operators. Thanks to a determined crew of talent-



*"To Kill A Lily" features Gavin, a dazed college student struggling with a close friend's death as his budding romantic relationship appears to tremble.*

ed students, the film was completed despite stormy days and quarantined weeks.

Musician Ezra Geissler and vocalist Layla Frank collaborated to bring Paul's original composition to life. In the film, the music echoes as Gavin's story develops. Both seniors plan to continue pursuing the arts industry in college. Layla will major in the recording arts at Full Sail University in Florida, while Ezra is moving onto production and performance at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

The main cast consists of three students: Paul Cosby as Gavin, Layla Frank as Lily, and Katherine Dreiss as Kate. Katherine will

attend Towson University in the fall.

These soon-to-be undergrads hid beneath seemingly mature college students in this 14-minute flick. The production took six camera operators including the Middleton twins, who have committed to Towson University.

Shooting wrapped up in May, and Paul concluded the editing process in June. He entered the world of cinematography to tell a story. All his films are meant to reminisce about high school, though he says "To Kill A Lily" has supernatural elements that he's unfortunately never experienced firsthand.

"Recently my films have been kind of

a landmark and each one represents, in a sense, a stage of my life, whether it's significant or not," Paul shared. "I can definitely tell a lot about who I was from watching them over again."

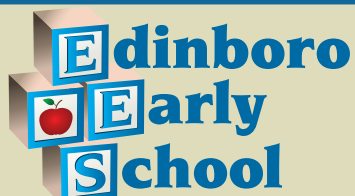
The developing filmmaker plans to major in film and digital content at Hussian College in Los Angeles.

He hopes his films have inspired other young aspiring filmmakers to experiment with video as he did in seventh grade. Paul feels not many aspiring vloggers or editors are aware that cinematography is a path students are able to take, even beyond 12th grade.

The seniors of Broadneck High School have endured piles of homework, bruises on the turf and a virus. Yet they have witnessed four years of countless football wins, uncontrollable laughter at Bruin Blocks and a graduating class unlike any other.

There's no doubt the public will see more of the Broadneck Bruins class of '20. To them, this is only the beginning to a life full of accomplished films, big league games, original compositions and whatever they come up with next.

Watch "To Kill A Lily" with the link [www.filmfreeway.com/tokillalily](http://www.filmfreeway.com/tokillalily). To gain access, ask for the password from Paul Cosby at [paulcosbyfilms@gmail.com](mailto:paulcosbyfilms@gmail.com).



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## Castleberry Twins Give Back

» Continued from page 24

bread houses with the children during the holidays.

Operating as a partnership between Catholic Charities, the United States Army and the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services, Sarah's House has served families facing homelessness since 1987. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March, Sarah's House has not only faced difficulties complying with the increasing population of those seeking shelter, but also the need to adhere to social distancing tactics, including staggered meal times, the closure of communal lounges and the restriction of all direct volunteer outreach.

"With the pandemic, we knew that their problems didn't just go away, and if anything, the problems got worse," said Jack. "We couldn't go visit them, but we wanted to let them know that we're still here for them and that we still had the ability to help them out."

After contacting Sarah's House and discovering the exact needs, the boys set up an Amazon wish list and started reaching out to friends, posting on social media sites and trying their

best to bring attention to the increasing need at Sarah's House. Through raising awareness among their Instagram followers and Facebook friends, Jack and Tommy were able to deliver \$1,300 worth of goods to Sarah's House on July 9, but the need has yet to be sufficed.

"As long as they still need things delivered and don't have a consistent supply, we don't see any reason to stop organizing collections to give to them," said Tommy.

With help from their parents, Erin and Will, and younger sister Kate, the Castleberrys have collected 2,400 plastic utensils, 600 disinfectant wipes, 624 boxes of cereal, 264 fruit cups, and 264 rolls of toilet paper, approximately \$2,800 worth of donated goods from 38 families, both from within the immediate community and from across the country, as of late July.

While the boys' drive of paper goods, plasticware, and nonperishable food items is in constant need by the 125 families seeking refuge, Sarah's House is also in need of supplies to kickstart their latest project: "Build-A-Room." In addition to what can be found on the boys' wish list, Sarah's

House is asking for twin-size comforters, twin-size linens, pillows, towels and washcloths, artificial table plants, and inspirational books and poems to make their clients' housing feel less institutionalized and more therapeutic.

"We've certainly had a lot of challenges," said Bruce Clopein, the volunteer resource manager of Sarah's House, in regards to the impact of COVID-19 on Sarah's House, "but we're just so encouraged and inspired by how the community, and especially the Castleberry brothers, have stepped up."

Jack and Tommy hope their efforts will inspire others to get involved.

"We hope that this drive will make people want to go out and volunteer like we have been over these past few years," said Jack, "just because of how fun it is and the nice feeling you get after you've helped out these people."

To help the Castleberrys' drive, find the Amazon wish list at [www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SoC9QH-1K7Q3O?ref=wl\\_share](http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SoC9QH-1K7Q3O?ref=wl_share). To make monetary donations directly to Sarah's House through Catholic Charities, visit [www.catholiccharities-md.org](http://www.catholiccharities-md.org).

## Return To The Classroom

» Continued from page 24

will have the option to learn remotely if they are not comfortable.

"In order for this plan to be successful, we each need to do our part," said Head of School Booth Kyle in a statement. "At Indian Creek School, we take care of one another. We always have and we always will. This care and concern is a hallmark of Indian Creek School, and is what we do best."

On August 3, Severn School announced that its administration is moving forward with a hybrid reopening model while continuing to monitor the pandemic. Families will be required to sign an acknowledgement of the school's plan and a waiver of liability for the school.

Many parents around the nation have also turned to a new method of education, called "micro-schooling." A micro-school is an at-home approach to the traditional classroom. A teacher might meet a small group of children in a spare room at someone's house, for example.

According to the Micro-School Coalition, micro-schools establish a more comfortable learning environment and individualized experiences.



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# Spalding Student Starts Mask-Making Project



**Left to Right:** Lauren Lombardo modeled one of her masks at her Severna Park home. Police officer Shane McComas wore one of Lauren's masks at the Arlington Police Department and Jennifer Regala showed off one of Lauren's floral-patterned masks at Chartwell Golf and Country Club.

**By Alyson Kay**

Archbishop Spalding High School student Lauren Lombardo has turned her sewing hobby into a way to make a little bit of money while providing masks to her community.

She began sewing in middle school.

"I got a sewing machine in seventh grade because I took a class in middle school called Project Runway," Lauren said.

She was inspired to use her skills to make masks after watching her mother try to buy masks online and after she observed that

the masks could be made using a sewing machine.

"I started trying to make them then and just sold them to people in my neighborhood, and then it kind of just went on from there," Lauren noted.

Lauren works out of her home. She mostly works by herself, but her mother helps by cutting the fabric. They get the thread online and fabric from local craft stores, such as Hobby Lobby.

Lauren's masks even attracted attention outside of Severna Park after a family friend

tagged her in a photo on Instagram.

"The farthest away I've sold my masks is to a woman in North Carolina who saw one of my family friend's posts," Lauren said.

As of early August, Lauren had sold between 50 and 100 masks. She intends to donate 50 more to Spalding staff for service hours.

"It's nice to be able to make it for people in my community," Lauren said.

Sewing will also help with her education.

"It's kind of been nice to make money and save up because next year will be my senior year and then I'll need money for college, so it's nice to be able to start making some money to save up for later," Lauren said.

She also enjoys the variety of designs she can make.

"We have a lot of floral prints and a bunch of bright colors," Lauren said. "I like how you can design your mask and pick out what you want, because since we're going to need to wear masks so often, it's kind of nice to show your own style with a mask."

Design pictures are available at Lauren's Instagram page, @laurenldesign. Masks are reversible and machine washable. Child-sized masks are available for \$8 and adult-sized masks are available for \$10.

## New Broadneck Principals

» Continued from page 24

four years. Todd was promoted to director of school performance with the central office for Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Broadneck High School is not the only school welcoming a new principal this fall. At Magothy River Middle School, John Noon steps in as principal after six years at Broadneck Elementary in the same role. He fills a position formerly held by Nuria Williams, who was promoted to the AACPS central office.

"Going to Magothy, having been at Broadneck, I'll know the students," Noon said. "In some instances, I will have known them since they were 5 years old. When they were kindergarteners at Broadneck, and now, I will see them through eighth grade. It was sort of a perfect situation for me."

With so much uncertainty as it pertains to how schools will operate amid the COVID-19 crisis, both Kennelly and Noon expressed their confidence in providing a consistent presence for the students.

"Especially during these times, I think we're going to be able to provide a level of consistency," said Kennelly. "With the times that we're living in right now, it will be an ease for our community to have somebody that they are already familiar with."

At Broadneck Elementary, Noon said his staff focused on helping students develop their social skills to interact in positive and appropriate ways. He hopes to bring that same focus to Magothy River Middle School.

"Especially in a world where technology is changing and it's changing the way people interact," Noon said, "[we're] making sure the kids are evolving. The adults are evolving in their supervision of that technology, while the kids are probably a step ahead of us with some of the technology and how they interact."

Noon hopes teachers will be cleared to lead virtual school lessons from their classroom, providing that extra bit of realness for students as they prepare to learn in a new environment.

"I'm just very excited. I know that there are a lot of questions surrounding the coming school year and I know that those questions are going to start to be answered in the coming weeks," Kennelly added. "I hope that the community as a whole is ready to embrace this because we certainly are and we're looking forward to a great school year, even though it will be a very different one than we are all used to."

## Life Scout Collects Tents For Homeless Population

Troop 339 Life Scout Stewart MacNaughton recently came across a staggering statistic: a combined 2,000 homeless people live in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City.

This, coupled with his own observations, inspired him to focus his Eagle project on a Brooklyn Community United Methodist Church program that identifies homeless people in need.

"I have friends from Annapolis who lived in substandard housing," said Stewart, whose troop is based at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church. "This isn't the same, but I still want to make a difference for shelter for those in need."

Stewart worked with Brooklyn Community United Methodist Church's senior pastor, Sonia King, to identify the need for tents. He is now collecting and cleaning used tents for people living in homeless camps in Anne Arundel County and south Baltimore City. Stewart is also seeking funds to buy tarps to serve as ground cloths, replacement rain flies, paracords to replace tent poles, and zippers or grommets for otherwise useable tents.

As of August 1, he had collected 30 tents. To donate a tent, email [troop339.tentdrive@gmail.com](mailto:troop339.tentdrive@gmail.com). Stewart is will pick up tents, even damaged tents, which can



**Stewart MacNaughton is working with Brooklyn Community United Methodist Church to identify homeless camps in need of tents.**

be salvaged for screen, fabric and poles.

Monetary donations can be made by visiting [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) and searching for "Tent Drive for the Homeless, near Baltimore MD."

"I am eager to continue my project and to help those in need," Stewart wrote on his GoFundMe page. "I feel bad for our community neighbors needing emergency shelter. I want to help."



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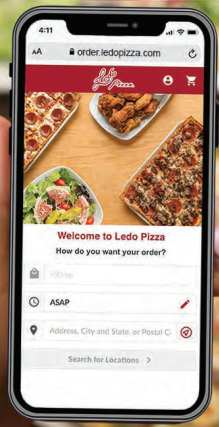
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## Park Native Helps Open New Art Gallery

By Shelley Mahoney

A stylish new gallery is open in the Annapolis arts district. Gallery 57 West, featuring “a fusion of the arts,” opened August 1. Twenty-five artists from the Annapolis Arts Alliance (AAA) will have their works displayed in the sleek, modern facility.

After five years of “pop-up shops” around Annapolis, the AAA is excited for a permanent, year-round location.

“The artists in the Annapolis Arts Alliance have always wanted a permanent home, so when the opportunity of taking over the Whitehall Gallery on West Street arose, we wanted to jump on it,” said Audrey Lee, an AAA board member and one of the original gallery artists.

Lee, a Severna Park native who specializes in watercolor and oil paintings, coordinated the gallery buildout.

The building is a “mix of modern and historic styling” that includes contemporary fixtures, sleek flooring, and ethereal greys and maritime blues.

The goal is to provide a collective voice for all the arts, according to a press release by the Annapolis Arts Alliance.

Just as the building features a mix of

styles, so will the art collection.

“We will have something for everyone,” Lee said enthusiastically. “Oil/acrylic and watercolor paintings, along with photography, ceramics, jewelry, fused glass, textiles, collage and weaving.”

Gallery 57 West will be open from 11:00am-7:00pm, Wednesday through Monday. For more information on Gallery 57 West, visit [www.gallery57west.com](http://www.gallery57west.com).



Audrey Lee will showcase her watercolor and oil paintings at Gallery 57 West.

## Dining Out

### Satisfying Severna Park Treats

By Mary Cobbler

You know you’ve reached the pinnacle of success in life when you get paid to eat cheesecake.

I could officially say I was “living the dream” one August weekend as I taste-tested sweets from Severna Park’s premier bakeries to discover who offers the gooiest, most tantalizing and most decadent desserts in town (the sacrifices I make for you, dear reader).

Cakes and Confections Bakery Cafe, Lisa’s Cakepops and Kirsten’s Cakery

all offer some of the best desserts you can find in Severna Park (and probably well beyond). I ordered a plethora of glistening sugary confections to take home and called on a few dining companions for help reviewing these treats.

Cake pops, macaroons, cupcakes, cheesecake, cookies, brownies, tarts, truffles and crumb cakes were all on the mouthwatering menu. I cheerfully damned my diet and dug in.

» Continued on page 34



Photos by Mary Cobbler

**Above:** Kirsten’s Cakery is known for its cupcakes, truffles and macaroons. **Below:** At Cakes and Confections Bakery Café, the most popular cake is the vanilla raspberry (far right). With rich buttercream icing covering a vanilla cake with raspberry swirled within, it’s a winner.





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# Student Celebrates Severn River With Artwork

By Haley Weisgerber

During quarantine, Severna Park High School rising senior Sydney Mudd put her unique woodworking skills to use while honoring the Severn River, the waterway that has been home to her family for years.

Mudd started woodworking two years ago when her father taught her how to use the family's household power tools. Her first project was an outline of Lake George in New York state, where her family spends their summers. After giving one piece as a gift, Mudd was encouraged by friends and family to sell the projects, and they sold out in one day.

This summer, Mudd was not able to take her projects to Lake George, so she switched her focus to the Severn River.

"I think it's really pretty the way the designs work out," said Mudd. "Lakes and rivers always have their unique shapes. The Severn River just fits perfectly on the



piece of wood and I can map out all of the pathways."

Mudd started with a large map of the Chesapeake Bay and a cutout of the



*Sydney Mudd has taken up woodworking as a hobby and also as a means to save for college. Buyers have the choice of honey, English chestnut, and antique walnut stain when purchasing. Sydney's father taught her to use the woodworking tools, but she designed these pieces on her own.*

Severn River. She then traced the outline of the river on a 24-by-20-inch piece of wood and used a router to cut out the river. She used a low-grain palm sander to sand the wood and a coarse piece of sandpaper to tidy up the smaller details from the cut.

"I do it step by step," explained Mudd. "So, I'll trace all eight, route all eight, and then I'll sand and paint all eight. It's kind of hard to tell how long it takes to make them over time. If I were to estimate, I would probably say about eight hours."

Mudd said that a lot of detail work goes into the art and she even provides each buyer with command strips and bum-

pers to keep the art parallel to the wall after mounting.

"I know that buying something from a 17-year-old is a little risky and I've only been doing this for three years, but I try to make it look professional," said Mudd.

Mudd began to sell her projects on Facebook in July and sold six out of eight in the first week. She will continue to sell her projects this year to save money for college.

"I don't know if I'll make a career out of this professionally, but I'd like to continue doing it to make money for college," said Mudd. "It's also difficult to find jobs this summer because of the coronavirus, so this is just a way for me to have my own small business."

Mudd said her father is excited to see her using the skills that he taught her.

"He's really proud," said Mudd. "I think it's really great for him to see his art skills passed on to me so that I can honor Lake George, that means so much to us, and the Severn River, which is important to our family and the community."

Though she has no definitive plans, Mudd would eventually like to start making custom designs and custom stains. She is also hoping to create Magothy River projects.

## Netflix's "The Old Guard" Is A Fresh Take On The Superhero Genre



Photos courtesy of Netflix/Aimee Spinks

In "The Old Guard," Charlize Theron plays Andy, an immortal woman who is thousands of years old and has fought in wars throughout history.

By Audrey Ruppert

"The Old Guard" has proven that a film can be a box office smash without even reaching the box office. Released directly to Netflix, the film was viewed 72 million times in its first four weeks — and for good reason. "The Old Guard" is everything a good action movie should be: it has slick and engaging fight scenes, characters you can get behind and root for, and a story that's believable (a rarity in action films these days).

Charlize Theron plays "Andy" (her full name is Andromache), an immortal woman who is thousands of years old and has fought in wars throughout history. Whenever she dies, she heals and comes back to life. Over the centuries, she has met and assembled a group of others like her. When a pharmaceutical executive learns of their existence, he is determined to capture them and perform tests until he can discover what makes them immortal, so that he can create drugs that will prolong life. Meanwhile, Andy and her crew of three other immortals discovers a new immortal in Afghanistan — an American Marine who recently was "killed." What follows makes for a great action film: twists and turns, camaraderie and betrayal, and fight scenes that include guns, knives, swords, fists and even a halberd.

I was surprised to learn this is considered a "superhero" movie, as it sets itself apart from the genre. There's no over-the-top gadgets, secret organizations, silly acronyms, or cartoonish caricatures of good and evil.

The concept of immortality and constant rebirth is nothing new — the last iteration of this plot was Tom Cruise's "Edge of Tomorrow" — but "The Old Guard" doesn't feel recycled or contrived. We are given interesting characters.

Read the full review at [www.severnaparkvoice.com](http://www.severnaparkvoice.com).

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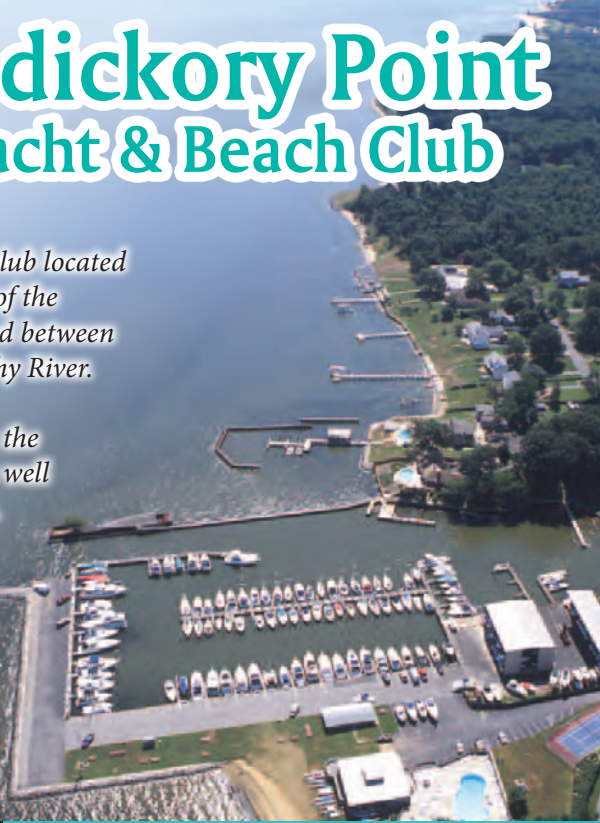
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## Satisfying Severna Park Treats

» Continued from page 30

### Cakes and Confections Bakery Café

341 Ritchie Highway

It's fun to browse the front counter at Cakes and Confections with its appealing, colorful dessert offerings prominently displayed. Owner Michael Brown, when asked about customers' favorite cakes, quickly pointed to the vanilla raspberry. After tasting a sample, I can see why. With just a small bite, I immediately tasted the buttery vanilla flavor of the buttercream icing mixed with the raspberry filling – delightful! The best part about this cake is it's not overly sweet, even with the generous amount of icing; rather, the cake offers a balance of thick cream and sweet fruity flavor. The rich texture makes it a decadent dessert worth returning for.

Brown also provided a slice of key lime pie, cookies and a coconut macaroon. I'm picky on my chocolate chip cookies. I've silently judged more than my fair share of cookies that taste like they were rolled out from a store-bought frozen cookie dough ("homemade or bust" is my motto). This was a good cookie — soft baked, with old-fashioned homemade flavor and large, melty chocolate chips. As much as I liked the good old chocolate chip cookie, I had to admit I liked the coconut macaroon even better. It was everything a macaroon should be — chewy and toasted to a nice brown color on the outside, soft and filled with shredded coconut on the inside, and dipped in a sweet milk chocolate. In all honesty, I prefer dark chocolate to balance out some of the sweetness from this cookie, but many people like the milk chocolate and will find a satisfying after-dinner sweet in this cookie.

Finally, the key lime pie was a creamy, tangy dessert topped with whipped cream. This is very sweet, so grab some strong coffee to pair with it.

### Kirsten's Cakery

541 Baltimore  
Annapolis Boulevard

Pastry Chef Hannah Abell at Kirsten's Cakery's presented me with a gift-worthy bounty of goodies, including several truffles, macaroons, cupcakes and a chunk of pumpkin crumb cake.

The shop closed for six weeks during the COVID shutdown, but owner Kirsten Klein said business has been booming since reopening — and for good reason. The shop is pretty and inviting, with mouth-watering smells wafting through the air and tantalizing goodies presented beautifully.

My absolute favorite of the bunch was the chocolate fudge cupcake topped with loads of deep chocolate icing, the definition

of flavorful and satisfying. I also bought a key lime cupcake, which was rich but sweet for my taste.

Truffles are always fun, another one of those desserts that is so rich and indulgent that you really only need a couple of bites to feel satisfied and not overwhelmed. The chocolate, orange cream, and pumpkin were all very moist (it was a tie between the moistness of these truffles and the cake-pops described earlier). A layer of colored icing made for a lovely presentation and a lot of flavor in a tiny package.

The macaroons were so pretty, we felt bad eating them. A blue-colored macaroon with vanilla filling, rolled in sprinkles, along with a white and brown "s'mores" macaroon, caught the eye of my other grandson (who does not have gluten allergies). If you have a serious sweet tooth, these two macaroons should be your go-to sweets (think marshmallow and frosting level sugary, which can hit the spot if you're looking for a sugar rush). The raspberry macaroon was my favorite of the three; it boasted a layer of tart raspberry jam atop a layer of frosting that delivered a one-two flavor punch.

The pumpkin crumb cake was the epitome of comfort food, like a pumpkin spice latte in cake form. It had superbly spiced pumpkin cake on the bottom and soft coffee cake crumble on top, dusted in powdered sugar.

### Lisa's Cakepops

836 Ritchie Highway

Have you ever craved a birthday cake but there were no birthday parties on the horizon?

Cake pops (cake molded into bite-sized balls and covered in icing) offer a great way to indulge in a little bit of cake (or try a few flavors) without purchasing an entire cake. Lisa's Cakepops is a go-to place for cake pops in our area. Lisa Edelman Schneidermann and her husband, Glen, own the shop. Together they make and decorate cake pops that she sells locally and nationally. Lisa provided us a variety of pops including salted caramel, red velvet, strawberries and cream, "funfetti," marble and double chocolate chip pops, each wrapped in cellophane with pretty bows.

All of the pops were moist and dense. Each of the cakes coated my mouth with a layer of creamy frosting, and the cake was so soft I barely had to chew.

COVID restrictions have forced Lisa to come up with some creative ideas that have been well received. She offers "do it yourself" kits with the pops, icing and all the decorations. She plans to offer a Halloween box in the fall, and folks are already getting excited about it.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Severna Park Racquetball And Fitness Club  
Focuses On Health And Wellness

By Haley Weisgerber

Since Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club (SPRFC) was founded in 1981, the staff has been dedicated to helping members achieve their wellness goals.

Originally established solely as a racquetball club, SPRFC has expanded to include fitness equipment, a pool, group fitness classes and much more. The club's amenities include saunas, steam rooms and whirlpools. The club offers child care services available for members while mom and dad get fit.

"We are really big on being an asset to the community and helping people live their best lives," said General Manager Mike Hallinan, whose family took over the club in 2015.

Serving the community is an important part of the club's business model. SPRFC recently



General Manager Mike Hallinan (right) and SPRFC trainer and owner of Narlycode, Mark Gruszecki, raised \$1,000 for the Maryland Food Bank to help those in need during the pandemic.

partnered with a local software development company, Narlycode, and raised \$1,000 for the Maryland Food Bank.

"We try to get our name out there and do good things in the community," said Hallinan.

In addition to racquetball and wallyball leagues, SPRFC has a successful competitive swim team, the "Stingrays," coached by Jim Hutcheson. The fitness center includes free weights, circuit training and personal

training. The club's instructors offer a wide variety of classes including Les Mills SPRINT and BODYPUMP, SPIN, and a myriad of group fitness classes, "Senior Solutions" and aquatics classes. As a result of the pandemic, SPRFC now offers outdoor, virtual and Facebook Live classes. Hallinan said that the outdoor and virtual classes have become popular and the club will continue to offer these alternatives after the pandemic.

"Some of our clients, no matter their age, aren't really comfortable venturing out yet and we want to make sure we keep our virtual classes going for those clients," said Hallinan.

To keep staff and members safe, Hallinan said the club has expanded its sanitation and cleaning departments. SPRFC has reopened according to  
» Continued on page 39

Top 3 Financial  
Questions I've  
Been Asked  
During COVID

Jason LaBarge  
Financial Advisor  
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I've had many financial conversations with both clients and prospects over the past several months, and it's been interesting to note that many of these conversations end up in the same place, talking about the same things. I'd like to address the top three financial questions I've been asked during this pandemic and answer them in light of how they could affect your retirement.

## What impact will the stimulus have on my retirement?

There are two parts to this question. There are both short-term and the long-term effects. In the short-term, the stimulus has been extremely helpful. Look at how the market has responded since March! The S&P has almost rebounded to pre-COVID prices; this is due in large part to the stimulus. Let's hope that anytime you put that many trillions into anything, it helps solve the problem. It's not a coincidence that the major league sports leagues, to name one example, were scheduled to begin at the time the original stimulus was going to end. Congress was hoping that the real economy could pick up where the stimulated economy ended at the beginning of August. Even Ben Cardin admitted that lawmakers extended the CARES Act deadline until August 8 to give them more time to negotiate the HEALS Act.

We've been waiting with bated breath to see what the new program will look like, and at the time of this writing, the HEALS Act has yet to be announced. My guess will be that Congress will announce it at the last possible moment.

## Is this market rebound real?

This also addresses the second question,  
» Continued on page 38

## Jing Ying Institute Paves A Path To Better Health

By Zach Sparks

Jing Ying — a Chinese expression meaning "best of the best." For 20 years, the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi has helped both adults and children of all ages reach their full potential.

The studio opened in 2000, with Billy and Nancy Greer becoming involved in 2001. After learning that the martial arts studio was in danger of closing, they had to step in. Jing Ying had become a mainstay in their lives, especially for their son, Glen, and daughter, Lane. So, the family took a leap of faith, keeping Jing Ying's doors open by becoming small-business owners.

Since then, they have become a visible part of the community. Local residents may have seen them performing in the Cape St. Claire Strawberry Festival parade, the Severna Park Independence Day parade, and at area schools and businesses.

"Being part of the broader community and the local community have always been really important to us," Nancy said. "It has always been my goal in both my career and personal life. From working with the developmentally disabled, working as an educational consultant, volunteering, to my current role as owner of the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu  
» Continued on page 38



Nancy and Billy Greer strive to promote Jing Ying's vision to transform lives and build community by providing an environment where every student — regardless of age, health or fitness level — can achieve their full potential.



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# Chamber Update

**Liz League**  
CEO  
GSPACC



**Annapolis College Consulting, Maid Healthy Inc., CBS Imaging Solutions and Minuteman Press of Crofton.**

We are thrilled to see new businesses opening! Especially during COVID, the spirit is alive and well to start and run a small business or non-profit.

We hear all the time that “small businesses are the backbone of the economy,” but what does that mean? What is so great about small business when you can order anything you want with a click of a button. Amazon, Chewy, and chain stores all offer the convenience of home shopping and delivery at a lower cost to you.

But is there really a savings in the long run if small businesses are hurt by on-line shopping?

Small businesses that overcome start-up hurdles become major contributors to the local economy and that is why they are so vital to a healthy economy. They give us jobs, desired goods and services, convenience, and they keep dollars circulating locally. They give donations to fundraisers, they work with other businesses to enhance product lines, and they are typically neighbors and friends who have a vested interest in our community, schools and issues.

Because of COVID, our businesses have worked quickly to implement ecommerce. Almost anything you can buy on Amazon you can find at our small businesses. Before you click that button on your computer, do a search on local businesses to see if they offer the products.

Speaking of a new business, we held a ribbon cutting celebration for **JPAR Real Estate/Maryland Living in Arnold**. It was a well-attended event and the new location in Arnold Station is beautiful. Owners Joe Natoli and Greg Fisk are enthusiastic and excited about the real estate market in Maryland.

Under the new COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold our “Open for Business” Labor Day parade in September. However, if conditions allow, we are already planning a wonderful Independence Day celebration for 2021.

We are happy to announce that on September 14, we are holding our annual

Please welcome our newest members to the chamber: **TruSeal Asphalt Maintenance LLC, Severna Park Kitchen and Bath, Involve Your Body Holistic Health Coaching, Scoville Creative, FX Physical Therapy,**

Driving Force for Business golf tournament at the beautiful **Chartwell Golf and Country Club**. Chartwell has recently been recognized as a “Distinguished Club,” one of only 94 in the country. This rating reflects the excellence of the facilities and services.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors, which include **Chick-fil-A Severna Park, Emerald Financial Partners, Lean-on-Dee Senior Care Advocates, The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium, Wilkins Automotive, Griswold Home Care, Reliant Management Consultant, Consolidated Insurance + Risk Management, the David Orso Real Estate Group, Barranco Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Bernward Construction, Alexander Animal Hospital, The MWE Partnership, the Bank of Glen Burnie, Landmark Roofing and Cedar Square Homes.**

**We still have foursomes and singles available, so come on out and play.** The tournament features specialty hole-in-ones, Beat the Pro contest, breakfast, libations, a banquet, great prizes and much more. Some proceeds will benefit the Severna Park Community Center to help cover the cost of the new pool.

Please join our chamber! Go to [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com) or contact us at 410-647-3900 or [info@gspacc.com](mailto:info@gspacc.com) for more information.

## Top 3 Financial Questions

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which is, “Is this market rebound real?” Although this money came from the government, it’s just as much an economic force as anything else, so it is safe to say that the first part of this has been real and it has been a traditional V-shaped recovery. The second part of the answer to the first question is in the long-term impacts of the stimulus. Believe it or not, the country will get through this! Science and technology will prevail!

The lasting impacts of this government intervention could last beyond the actual virus, however. Anytime a government borrows that much money, it has to pay for it through increased taxes, increased inflation, and/or increased interest rates. What impact this borrowing will have in its entirety is yet to be determined. My fear for baby boomers is that we’ll see a dramatic increase in taxes. The tax increase would be specifically targeted at qualified money. Qualified money includes things like IRA, TSP, 401(k) and other employer-based retirement plans. According to the Investment Company Institute (ICI), at the end of 2014, U.S. retirement assets totaled \$24.7 trillion, most of which is in qualified money and every penny of which has yet to be taxed. Establishing that as a target seems logical to me.

**What is a W-shaped recovery?**

Most investors fear that the market

will correct again and experience another month like March 2020. It’s hard to say what the near future holds and none of us can predict if another downturn is coming. If you’re a Democrat, you’re hoping that if it does occur, it happens right at the election. If you are a Republican, you’re hoping it comes right after the election and Trump has won. If you are an American, you hope that it doesn’t happen at all, and we can get through this without any major problems in the future, but none of us knows what the future holds.

What we do know is that we can plan for inevitable market downturns in the future and how to best take advantage of them. The S&P is back up since March, which created an opportunity, and where there’s chaos, there’s opportunity.

For more information about the author, Jason LaBarge, visit his website at [www.jasonlabarge.com](http://www.jasonlabarge.com).

*Jason LaBarge, Financial Advisor and Managing Partner at Premier Planning Group 115 West Street, Suite 400 Annapolis, MD 21401 443-837-2531 [www.jasonlabarge.com](http://www.jasonlabarge.com)*

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## Jing Ying Paves A Path To Better Health

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& Tai Chi, it is the common thread that runs throughout my life and work.”

Community events have also yielded opportunities for Jing Ying to demonstrate kung fu’s self-defense and health benefits, such as improving flexibility, strength, endurance and coordination.

“People assume that kung fu is for fighting, and the emphasis is not really fighting; it’s self-defense,” Billy said. “At its heart, it’s about learning how to use your body properly.”

Billy and Nancy credited tai chi — a type of kung fu — with helping one of their students lose 70 pounds. Tai chi also builds bone density, reduces stress and alleviates symptoms of arthritis.

“There’s a myriad of health benefits,” Billy said. “I have always said if the health benefits of tai chi were available in a pill form, it would be the miracle drug of the century.”

Those benefits are available to everyone. It’s a myth that kung fu and tai chi are only for children.

“Seventy percent of our enrollment is adults, and the median age is in the 30s and 40s,” Billy said, “but we have students, especially in the tai chi program, in their 80s.”

Nancy and Billy also encourage students to be an active part of the community. Through Nancy’s efforts, Jing Ying has raised over \$100,000 in cash to support charities, almost two tons of food and clothing, and has donated services to local schools and charities.

When her mother died from severe complications from Alzheimer’s three years ago, Nancy made that the new focus of her charitable efforts. On the day after her mother’s memorial service, she led Jing Ying’s first team in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s as they became the top fundraising team for Anne Arundel County. Since then, the Jing Ying team has remained in the top teams, and Nancy was also the top individual fundraiser in the last walk.

Through an annual silent auction, Jing Ying has been a been an advocate of SPAN. The Greers also provide an annual self-defense workshop during the Lunar New Year to raise funds for organizations such as The Bernie House, an Annapolis home for families affected by domestic violence.

While community has continued to be on the minds of Billy and Nancy since the coronavirus pandemic started, so has the health of their students. Jing Ying is operating with students’ safety as the highest priority. Jing

Ying started outdoor classes in June, moving inside only when the heat or humidity are too high or the weather is otherwise bad. Students maintain 10 feet of physical distance and can work underneath a 32-foot shade sail in front of the building.

“We’re not doing any contact training, so a lot of the sparring and application drills that we practice, we’re not doing that with a partner,” Billy said. “But we can do other drills focusing on forms and routines.”

Participants can register online, or if they feel uncomfortable around other people because of the pandemic, they can tune in to livestreamed classes.

“Kung fu schools traditionally are organized like a family and so the idea is that when you join that school, you are becoming part of a larger family and that community,” Billy said. “I think that is part of what attracts people to Jing Ying. It is a very supportive environment where more experienced students are always interested in helping the new ones.”

Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi is located at 1195 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, #6 in Arnold. For more information, visit [www.jingying.org](http://www.jingying.org), call 410-431-5200, or email [info@JingYing.org](mailto:info@JingYing.org).



## SPRFC Focuses

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Maryland guidelines. The club maintains a healthy supply of hand sanitizer and disinfectant, and the team has adopted other safety measures including distancing fitness machines and establishing a "Sanitation Squad." The squad uses an environmentally friendly biocleaner to wipe down machines, and the club is adding a touchless disinfection and sanitizing system, which will spray the building each night.

Hallinan likes to think of SPRFC as a full-service health club. With the addition of the Medical Fitness Center, there is now a primary care office run by nurse practitioner Deborah Badro within the club. Badro offers both sports and annual physicals, flu vaccines, disease management, preventive care and screening, weight management and much more. Nutrition consultant Kate Vance is also available onsite to coach members on healthy eating and wellness.

"I love to see people transform when they come in and live a healthier lifestyle," said Hallinan. "That makes me feel good."

The Severna Park Racquetball and Fitness Club is located at 8514 Veterans Highway in Millersville. For more information, call 410-987-0980, email [info@sprfc.com](mailto:info@sprfc.com) or visit [www.sprfc.com](http://www.sprfc.com). Discounted memberships are available for first responders and veterans.

## UM BWMC Named Top Minogue Award Winner



The Maryland Patient Safety Center recently announced that University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center is the Minogue Award winner for the 2020 Minogue Awards for Patient Safety Innovation. The award-winning program was entitled "Implementation of a Critical Care Outreach Program."

Each year, the Maryland Patient Safety Center seeks patient safety solutions from health care organizations. Ten awards are given with the Minogue Award for Patient Safety Innovation being recognized as the top award.

UM BWMC submitted a project that ad-

ressed the current paradigm of critical illness. The critical care team typically cares for patients shortly before transfer to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), when a rapid response team is activated on admitted patients and during the ICU stay. Each year, more patients survive ICU admissions, resulting in new conditions, increased morbidity and new health care needs. The critical care team at UM BWMC sought to improve patient outcomes by strategically utilizing the expertise of the interdisciplinary critical care team to improve prevention and early recognition of organ failure, intervening early for critical illness, and improving timely care delivery

and post-ICU care.

Utilizing Lean Six Sigma methodology and a staffing model that included a partnership with a dedicated critical care nurse and a critical care physician, UM BWMC was able to decrease cardiac arrests by 86.2% per 1,000 patient days. In addition, the hospital was able to decrease the number of cases requiring central line placements, successfully abolishing central line infections and reducing MRSA bloodstream infections. Pulmonary related, potentially preventable complications were decreased by 50% and respiratory patient safety indicator rates dropped by 74%.



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