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JANUARY 2021

AACPS Calls For Hybrid Reopening By March 1

The Return Date Is Dependent Upon Health Metrics



By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

As the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Board of Education weighed reopening options on January 14, board members acknowledged that no decision would make everyone happy. After debating for roughly five hours, they voted to implement a hybrid learning program for as many students as possible, health and safety metrics permitting, no later than March 1.

That decision followed the advice of AACPS Superintendent George Arlotto, who learned from Anne Arundel County Department of Health officials that teachers and staff can start being vaccinated by February 1, if not sooner. Citing a conversation with the county's health officer, Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman, Arlotto said the process includes giving two doses to each employee who wants to be vaccinated. The doses would be administered weeks apart.

A hybrid reopening plan is expected to utilize A days and B days, allowing half of the student population to be in school on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other half to return on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays would be used to clean buildings.

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Fighting For The Long Haul

UM BWMC Program Helps Patients Facing Long-Term COVID Symptoms

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

For some COVID-19 survivors, the nightmare does not end when they test negative. Fatigue, cardiac and respiratory complications, and mental health issues can persist.

University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) has launched a program to help patients suffering from long-term effects of COVID-19 after receiving treatment in the intensive care unit.

"A lot of our patients spend over a week on a ventilator in a medically induced coma, and when they wake up, they have lost muscle mass," said Dr. Sara Viola, a critical care and pulmonology expert who helps oversee the program. "They sometimes still require mechanical ventilation

through a tracheostomy tube. A lot of them suffer psychological effects from essentially going through what I think is accurately described as a near-death experience."

As a part of the COVID-19 Recovery Program, patients are evaluated for ongoing oxygen needs, lung function, new or ongoing chronic health conditions, mental health concerns and socioeconomic needs. The care team then develops a customized treatment plan to address each health factor. Appointments consist of a private, one-hour visit with specialists and regular follow-up appointments as needed.

Patients are assessed for lung function, and a pharmacist helps them understand their medications. Viola's team also

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Dr. Sara Viola is a critical care and pulmonology expert who helps oversee the program which deals with patients suffering from long-term effects of COVID-19.



Get Ready To Rock

A British invasion is set to take over Severna Park. The high school's talented performers are working hard to rehearse and prepare for Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXXII, which will be shared virtually with audiences. To learn more about this year's production, flip to page 27.



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Margueritte Mills
**Volunteer
Of The Month**

Volunteer Strives To Improve Mental Health Around The Park

By Haley Weisgerber

With the stress of current events and living through almost a year in a pandemic, people are struggling with mental health now more than ever. As a volunteer with Burgers and Bands for Suicide Prevention, Anastassia Vangraefschepe is working to make mental health a priority in the community.

Burgers and Bands is a nonprofit organization, established by Ann Brennan and her son, Ethan, to let people know that they are not alone. Each year, they throw a music festival to spread awareness and raise money for suicide prevention.

Vangraefschepe met Brennan when she started working at her company, Ann's Social Media and Marketing. After the first successful Burgers and Bands festival in 2017, Brennan asked Vangraefschepe to volunteer. The second festival in May 2018 tripled the donations from the previous year.

"When I got in, when I started talking with [Ann Brennan] and getting involved in planning the event, I realized how important it was to them," Vangraefschepe said. "To change the conversation about mental illness in our community, and our direct community, that was their goal, like just right here, like we can help these kids right here."

Brennan called Vangraefschepe the backbone of the organization. She has many roles within the organization and assists Brennan with everything from organizing the volunteers and sponsors to basic planning.

Vangraefschepe said she wants



Anastassia Vangraefschepe was named the Volunteer of the Month for her work with Burgers and Bands for Suicide Prevention.

to be a part of the solution when it comes to mental health and suicide prevention.

"Everybody knows somebody that struggles," said Vangraefschepe. "Whether it's themselves, whether it's a family member, whether it's somebody they went to college with, or a child in their child's classroom. There's a mental illness as a whole touch of everybody and the conversation is finally changing that mental health is a part of health."

Growing up, Vangraefschepe said no one talked about mental health. She hopes to encourage her three children to know that they are not alone.

"I wanted my kids to know that if they were struggling at any point

that they could come to me and tell me what was going on," said Vangraefschepe. "Hopefully, by seeing my work with Burgers and Bands, they know that when we need help, we can ask for it."

Brennan and Vangraefschepe have been approached with stories of Burgers and Bands making a positive impact in the lives of people who are struggling.

"We don't see a lot of bands at the event because people come to us, and they're so grateful that we're having an event, and you see people making a difference," said Vangraefschepe.

She said that what stood out about Burgers and Bands was the positivity. Many mental health events and rallies focus on sad stories, but Burgers and Bands is designed to give people the resources they need, while also creating a positive atmosphere.

"The music is curated; there's not allowed to be any sad music," said Vangraefschepe. "We're very careful in what we put out to make sure that people come and just have a really good time. But bringing that awareness as well."

Though she is undoubtedly an important asset to the team, Vangraefschepe said her fellow volunteers all have a hand in the organization's success.

"We have the best army of volunteers I've ever seen," Vangraefschepe said. "They're all so amazing and giving of their time and so willing to help, that things definitely changed. I don't feel like it's all on my shoulders, but I definitely have my hand in everything."

Pittman Announces Budget Town Halls

Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman will host seven online budget town halls over the next month to discuss the upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Due to the COVID pandemic, the town halls will be conducted by videoconference this year.

As with past years, each meeting will focus on an individual county council district and feature opening remarks from Pittman and the councilmember representing the district. The county executive will give a brief budget overview presentation and then attendees will be invited to make public comments.

The District 5 town hall is set for January 25 at 6:00pm.

Pittman also officially named Chris Trumbauer as county budget officer. Trumbauer has been acting budget officer since October 12. In addition to his role as budget officer, Trumbauer will continue to serve as a senior policy advisor to the county executive.

"Chris Trumbauer has been, and will remain, a pillar of our administration," Pittman expressed in a statement. "He

has counseled our team in every aspect of governing from the day I took office, including and especially during budget season. By installing Chris as budget officer, we ensure that fiscal discipline is at the forefront of every decision we make throughout the year, and that there is a robust line of communication between the budget team and the administration. This brilliant and generous public servant will continue to guide me and our team through the challenges we face in the coming years."

The county's interactive budget tool has been updated and is now live on the county website at www.aacounty.org/yourbudget. Users are able to see how the county's tax rates compare to other counties; examine revenue and expenses of the current year's budget; explore approximate costs of programs, equipment and staff positions; and adjust tax rates and add expenses to calculate the fiscal impact.

Pittman will introduce the budget on April 30, in accordance with the county charter. The county council then has until June 15 to deliberate and pass a balanced budget.



County Executive Stuart Pittman will conduct budget town halls by videoconference this year.



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- 12-1 • Matt Wyble Real Estate Team
- 1-2 • Garry's Grill
- 2:00 • Savvy Consignment
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Jurmus Celebrate 70th Anniversary

The family of Audrey and Russell Jurmu of Severna Park celebrated the couple's 70th wedding anniversary on January 6. From their youth as two Finnish American kids from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the Great Lakes State, Audrey and Russell have been childhood sweethearts all of their lives. The Finnish American heritage has been an important ingredient to their relationships. Both of their mothers' names are inscribed on the wall at the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island. They lived primarily in a Finnish community, reading and speaking the language. At their home today, they can be heard speaking Finnish.



first blue crab, and sailed out of the Inner Harbor. Their children were born at Johns Hopkins, and one of their granddaughters received her education at Johns Hopkins and lives at Patterson Park.

They moved on to Glen Burnie, where Russ worked at Westinghouse, and Audrey became a kindergarten teacher for hundreds of children at St. Paul's Lutheran School of Glen Burnie. They both graduated from Maryland universities — Russell from the University of Baltimore and Audrey from University of Maryland. The two have been active and vibrant at St Paul's Lutheran Church; they are thankful to have so many friends.

They married in a snowstorm on a 30-degree day, amidst their families, and took off into the world inside their 1938 Coupe to create their families and careers in their new adopted home, Baltimore, nicknamed "America in miniature." Patterson Park was the melting pot for many immigrants, and the Jurmu family found many Finnish Americans who lived there. They prospered and danced at the old armory in Baltimore, bought groceries at Lexington Market, ate their

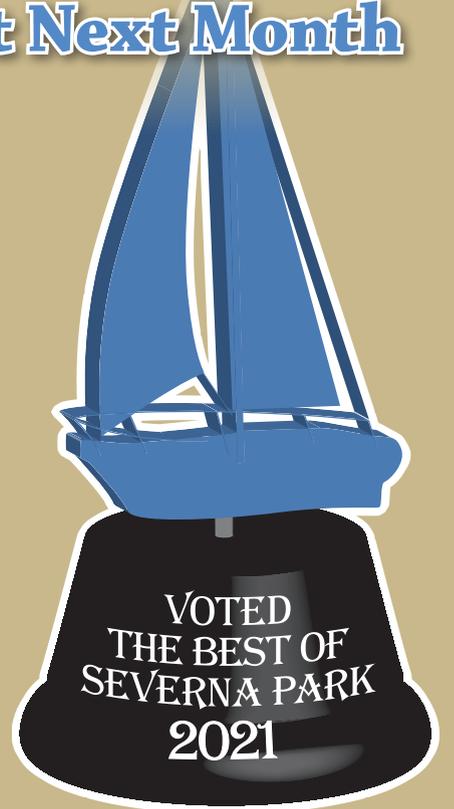
Living in Pasadena and in Severna Park, they raised two daughters, Diane and Kathy, staying close to their other Finnish family members. They have enjoyed boating, swimming and fishing in the Chesapeake Bay area. They became involved in the garden club and the senior groups in the area. Audrey and Russ are engaged in their neighborhood. They are proud grandparents to Christopher, Evi, Mikko, Matti and Stacy, and they are proud of new great-granddaughter Lydia.

Vote In Our Best Of Severna Park Contest Next Month

We need help, Severna Park and Arnold. We're looking for the best businesses in town — the best restaurants, the best pharmacy, the best real estate agent, the best activity center and more. Your votes will determine the winners in those categories and many others.

The official Best of Severna Park ballot will be printed in our February edition, and we will begin accepting votes immediately. Voting will continue through March, with the winners being announced in the April edition. Rules will be printed with the February ballot, but you can get started now by brainstorming your favorite businesses.

Do you know of a category we missed in past years? Send us a suggestion by emailing spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.



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Fighting For The Long Haul

» **Continued from page 1**

works closely with UM BWMC primary care providers to coordinate subspecialty care for patients.

"Some patients need wound care, ongoing physical therapy or occupational therapy, and then we also have a community health advocate who is able to make referrals for patients who have any severe mental health needs, who may need to see a psychiatrist or other mental health specialist," Viola said. "In addition to that, we have a nurse practitioner and medical assistant and nurses who facilitate all of the other aspects of their visit."

Since October, the program has helped more than 30 people.

"Most often, I am following closely patients who have a lot of lung function issues on their initial visit that they seem to be not back to their baseline exercise capacity, meaning they could previously walk two flights of stairs and now can barely get up one flight of stairs," Viola said. "That's the first [group] I'm following closely and getting them engaged in other subspecialty services and wanting to follow up to make sure all of that gets coordinated. Patients who are back on their feet, back to their work, and back to their normal family lives and community lives, those are the patients I feel more comfortable graduating out to the primary care world, where they will continue to have routine medical care but may not need to follow up with the program."

Viola wants people to know that they don't have to feel isolated. They don't

have to feel hopeless.

"Some patients spent weeks in a hospital without even a single visitor and only spent time with the nurses or doctors or respiratory therapists who came into their room, and then some have expressed to me that a lot of their family members don't want to be around them, even after they have been cleared from a contagious standpoint," Viola said. "So it's a very devastating and isolating situation, and one of the things that I can provide for them is an understanding that they are not alone, that there are other people who have been through what they have been through, and that we know with engaging in physical therapy and mental health services that things do get better."

Viola relayed one example of a man who spent more than two months in the hospital, losing muscle mass in the process.

"When I saw him a couple months after his discharge, he was back on his feet and can even ride a bike now and is having a great time with his family," Viola said, "so I want people to know if they really persevere and follow up with their medical care after their hospital stay that they can get back on their feet and things can get better. They may not be 100 percent back to where they were or they might be forever changed in terms of their mental health, but there is help out there for sure."

For more information about the COVID-19 Recovery Program, call 410-787-4291.

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Chesapeake's Health Gets D+ Amid Mixed Progress, Assessment Finds

By Timothy B. Wheeler
Bay Journal News Service

The overall health of the Chesapeake Bay has stagnated the last two years, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation reported in January, with upticks in water quality offset by a worrisome decline in striped bass, the popular finfish also known regionally as rockfish.

In its State of the Bay report for 2020, the environmental group rated the Chesapeake's health a D+. That's the same grade the group gave it in 2018, even though its overall score on a variety of indicators has actually slipped by a point, to 32 out of a possible 100.

Foundation President Will Baker called the continuing low grade "a sober reminder that the road ahead remains steep and the clock is ticking."

He criticized the Trump administration, saying it had rolled back dozens of air and water regulations and undermined federal protections for wetlands and forests, which he warned would increase pollution to the bay in coming years unless they are reversed. He called on the incoming Biden administration and watershed states to accelerate their efforts to meet the bay's 2025 cleanup goals.

The Annapolis-based group takes stock of the bay every two years, assessing 13 indicators in three categories: pollution, habitat and fisheries.

The report said water quality had mostly improved, with nitrogen and phosphorus pollution down some, while water clarity and levels of fish-sustaining oxygen in the water made slight gains. Toxic pollution showed no change, though tests in the past year have found so-called "forever chemicals" in freshwater fish and oysters in Maryland.

Habitat conditions declined overall, the group said, with dips in scores for the extent of underwater grasses and streamside forest buffers, two types of vegetation that help improve water quality and provide shelter for fish and wildlife.



Photo courtesy of Dave Harp/Bay Journal

Snowy egrets congregated in a sprawling marsh along the Chesapeake Bay, where habitat conditions have declined.

The foundation marked down the fisheries grade by the most it has in a decade, driven largely by a 2019 assessment of striped bass, which found unsustainable levels of the coastwide population of the Chesapeake's most important recreational and commercial finfish.

The report's scores for oysters and crabs improved, but Chris Moore, the foundation's senior regional ecosystem scientist, called the rockfish decline "deeply concerning." Estimates of adult female striped bass dropped about 40% from 2013 to 2017, he noted.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates fishing of migratory species in waters along the East Coast and in the Chesapeake Bay, ordered all states to cut their striped bass catch by 18% in 2020. Although both Maryland and Virginia responded by closing and shortening certain fishing seasons, Moore faulted Maryland's approach as "piecemeal," saying it did not do so at the times of year that would have been most effective at conserving rockfish in state waters.

The foundation's president said he hopes President-elect Joe Biden will declare the Chesapeake Bay restoration a national priority, as previous presidents have, and push for more federal funding to reduce pollution from farmland.

Baker and other foundation staff also said more effort is needed from all of the Chesapeake Bay states, particularly Pennsylvania, which is lagging badly in meeting its pollution reduction commitments.

"We need to have significant state and federal investment in Pennsylvania and in Pennsylvania agriculture, where the majority of [bay] pollution is coming from," said Beth McGee, the group's director of science and agriculture policy. "Basically, it all comes down to providing Pennsylvania farmers with cost-share funding to put in place the practices which keep the farmland [soil] in Pennsylvania," Baker said, "as opposed to flowing into the Susquehanna River and down into the mainstem of the bay."

He said Pennsylvania legislators have been "reluctant" to provide the same

level of financial help to its farmers that Maryland and Virginia have. But he also faulted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which he said should have been urging Congress and other federal agencies more aggressively to provide more help to Pennsylvania farmers.

The Bay Foundation and several other groups, as well as three states and the District of Columbia, sued the EPA last year for not taking stronger action against Pennsylvania and New York for submitting inadequate cleanup plans. Baker said the foundation would continue to press the litigation unless the Biden administration wants to negotiate a settlement.

"We must finish this job," Baker said.

Tim Wheeler is the Bay Journal's associate editor and senior writer, based in Maryland. You can reach him at 410-409-3469 or twheeler@bayjournal.com. This article was originally published January 6, 2021 by the Bay Journal and was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.

AACPS Calls For Hybrid Reopening By March 1

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Students would be required to wear masks and practice social distancing inside schools.

"We would get our priority small group students back first," Arlotto said. "They would be ... our specialty groups, our [Center for Applied Technology] centers and then our pre-K to five educators and those staffs and then identifying, possibly, grades six and 12, and then adding some of the middle and high school groups over time because the bottom line is ... the Department of Health is just not going to have enough vaccines to give everybody all at once."

Arlotto is hopeful that the fall sports season can be salvaged in early spring and a spring season can also happen "if all goes according to plan with availability of the vaccinations." Other extra-curricular activities would also resume. AACPS has to rely on the Anne Arundel County Department of Health and other entities to provide the vaccine.

Arlotto's recommendation came after a public hearing. Teachers and parents

made their cases for both returning and staying closed.

"I miss my students. I miss my kids. I miss the families. I miss my teammates," said third-grade teacher Jerry Groves. "We all need to be back in the buildings, but folks, we have numbers currently that are out of control ... it would be simply irresponsible to open schools when the curve is pointing straight up instead of being flattened."

Meade High School teacher Jarrod Combs cited concerns about ventilation in old buildings. Annapolis High School teacher Charis Cephas said she doesn't want to see AACPS reopen only to close again.

Many parents voiced support for reopening.

"I have friends and family members everywhere in the country and the vast majority of them are in school," said Arlene Reuss, a mother of four young kids. "So we need to stop thinking of all the roadblocks. It is possible for kids and staff to be in school safely and that's where our focus needs to be."

The mother of a high school senior, Lori Smith said her daughter is becoming more introverted and needs the choice to return to the classroom.

"High school is more than academics; it is learning to become an adult, which comes with interacting with other teens, watching social cues, working together and so on," Smith said. "The introverts are retreating back into themselves."

Board member Joanna Bache Tobin addressed the criticism that private schools opened sooner than public schools.

"I chair the board of trustees at a private school, and I'm here to tell you there is no comparison between what a private school can do and what a public school system can do," she said. "Those are apples and oranges."

The Board of Education's vice president and District 5 representative, Dana Schallheim, is eager to get kids back in schools, but she called it a "myth" that teachers are not working hard.

AACPS has roughly 12,000 employees,

so the next step is to determine how many of them want to be vaccinated.

"It is not a mandate, it is a personal choice, but we need the raw data to give to the Department of Health," Arlotto said.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, Arlotto said AACPS will consult the Anne Arundel County Department of Health to decide if a class needs to be quarantined, or worst case, the entire school needs to quarantine.

The Board of Education asked Arlotto to provide an update on reopening implementation and health metrics by February 17.

"We'll adapt and adjust as our teachers have," Arlotto said. "They've done a phenomenal job. I do not believe that we are failing our children in the virtual environment and I do not believe we will fail our children in a hybrid environment. I believe we will continue to love and care for our students and educate them to the best of our ability. I think they'll continue to learn and that they'll continue to thrive."

COMING IN FEBRUARY

The *Severna Park Voice* will publish its inaugural Community Resource and Business Directory and this beautiful, high-gloss magazine will feature everything you need to know about the Greater Severna Park area. It will be direct mailed to more than 24,000 homes and businesses in Severna Park, Arnold and Millersville.

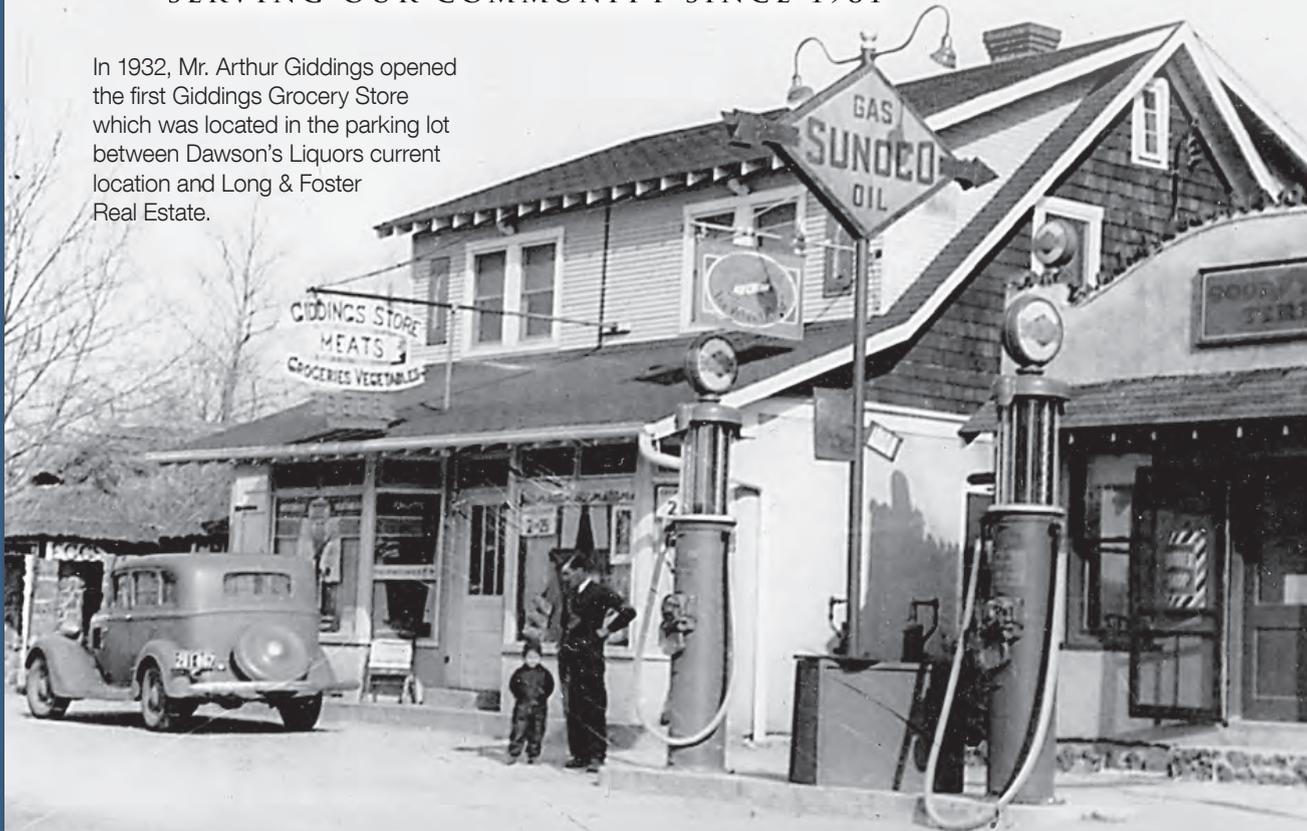
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A Reading Tour: Dawson's Corner



In the 1940s, Haise's Service Station occupied the corner of Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard and McKinsey Road.

By Donna Jay and
Krista Latchaw

Members of the Severna Park Museum are sharing their memories of historical landmarks around Severna Park in a limited six-part series.

If asked to name the unofficial center of Severna Park, many people would name the intersection of Baltimore & Annapolis Boulevard and McKinsey Road. Many merchants have built businesses on that corner throughout the years, but none as long-lasting as Clif Dawson's store.

The corner was first home to Haise's Service Station in the 1940s and early 1950s. The little building had a small room on the right-hand side where a barber, fondly called Mr. Biz, had his shop. In 1948, after Mr. Biz retired, Bob Zang took over the barbershop. In the early 1950s, Zang moved across the street to the building that Accinelli Jewelers occupies now.

"Bob Zang was also an institution in Severna Park," remembers life-long Severna Park resident Scott Jay. "He bought comic books for all the kids to read, even if you didn't get your hair cut that day (haircuts were 75 cents then). On rainy days, you could find a bunch of kids reading comics in the barbershop."

In the early 1950s, Clif Dawson bought the parcel of land on the corner where Dawson's Liquors stands today. He built a more modern brick building, and at one end, he added a new Severna Park Post Office.

"You could get anything at Dawson's Store," Jay said. "It was the hub of Severna Park with an old-time soda fountain, where you could get a

15-cent sundae or a 5-cent Coke. He sold candy, liquor and medicine. You could cash checks or pay your utility bills and even get a dog license."

In 1957, the five-year-old building caught on fire, resulting in more than \$200,000 worth of damage. The next day, Dawson bought the Severna Park Hardware Store across the street. In a few days, he was back in business until his store was rebuilt. In a letter written to Severna Park neighbors, Dawson wrote, "The same gang will be there to greet you ... and we'll be smiling."

"You could get anything at Dawson's Store. It was the hub of Severna Park with an old-time soda fountain, where you could get a 15-cent sundae or a 5-cent Coke. He sold candy, liquor and medicine. You could cash checks or pay your utility bills and even get a dog license."

— SCOTT JAY
LIFELONG SEVERNA PARK RESIDENT

added a country store where Adam's Taphouse is now. Dawson had penny candy and everything carried by country stores during the old days. He even had carved wooden Indians and a horse and buggy adding to the atmosphere. The general store stayed in business until Dawson died in 1984. After his death, the main part of the store was converted to Dawson's Liquors.

"I think his wisdom still holds up in business and life today," Jay said. "Clif Dawson was a successful businessman and a genuinely good person. He would help anyone that needed it. We still talk about his work ethic and generosity."

Severna Park Museum Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-stock corporation sponsored by the Winkelmeyer family. Monetary donations are welcome at 528 Melrose Lane, Severna Park, MD 21146.



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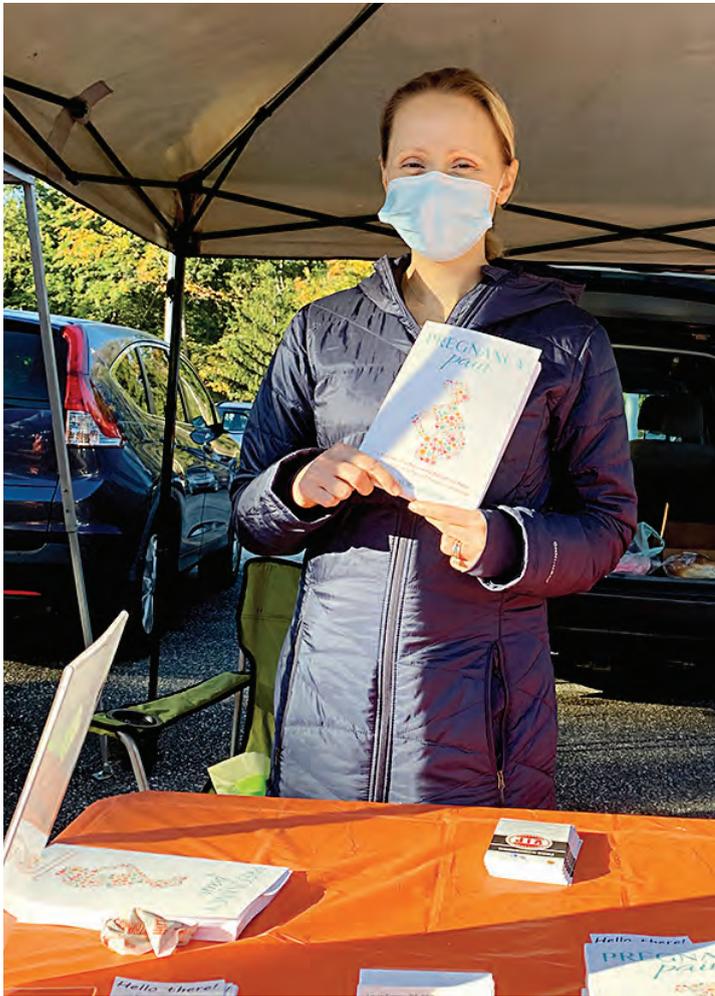
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Severna Park Doctor Hits Amazon Bestseller List



Severna Park native and resident Dr. Laura Sanner was one of Amazon's newest bestsellers this fall. Sanner published her first book, "Pregnancy Pain: Fix Your Pain and Become the Boss of Your Body, Tips and Tricks from a Physical Therapist and Mother" in October. It quickly achieved "hot new release" status, logging 50 five-star reviews during its first month.

Sanner wrote this easy to understand, how-to maternity and new-mom guide to answer questions about topics like:

- Exercises: strength, stretching, running, foam rolling, self-massage, and pool or water exercise
- How to get more sleep (and sleep better)
- Posture and shoes
- Natural healing: including kinesiology taping and dry needling
- Common issues like back pain, diastasis recti, and acid reflux
- Must-have gear for motherhood including which household items double as tools to fix your aches

Sanner, a mom and physical therapist, has been answering these questions for years. She and her husband, T.J., co-founded Atlas Physical Therapy in Glen Burnie in 2016. Here, Sanner and her team help moms, dads, kids and grandparents stay active doing the things they love, every day.

Sanner started her book in January. This spring, she was home more than usual and

poured herself into the book, writing the best, most up-to-date resource for young, active women. Writing came easy; Sanner has been chipping in her 2 cents to her mom's weekly family letters since she went away to the University of Pittsburgh for college.

More recently, Sanner keeps the ink flowing in the monthly newsletters Atlas mails to their past patients, which are filled with personal stories and useful self-help tips.

The hardest part of writing a book for her was finding a book cover that was simple, beautiful, modern and timeless, all at the same time.

While she was editing, Sanner sent her draft to several friends who were expecting their first, second and third babies. The questions they asked helped push the book to the next level. In the end, the 177-page book has over 40 pictures and diagrams to highlight the exercises, posture tips, and day-to-day ideas she covers.

"I'm a helper by nature," Sanner said. "I had a tough second pregnancy. I have something that will help other moms so theirs isn't as tough. It's been a fun ride to make some noise and spread this big news!"

In October, Sanner promoted her book at the Severna Park Farmers Market. Her girls helped give her table some pizzazz, and energetically greeted every child and their parents who stopped by, she said.

Want to check out "Pregnancy Pain," or have questions for Dr. Laura? Visit www.pregnancy-painbook.com. Her book is available on Amazon and wherever books are sold.

An Unprecedented Year Shakes Up The Maryland General Assembly

By Andrew Reed

As the 2021 Maryland legislative session began on January 13, lawmakers began to face new and familiar challenges as the coronavirus continues to surge through Maryland and the United States.

With daily COVID cases now nearly six times higher than they were when the legislature ended prematurely in March of last year, State House officials took extra precautions to ensure the safety of lawmakers and the integrity of the legislative session.

The House has been separated into two separate groups, while masks, social distancing, plexiglass, and air purifiers make up both the House and Senate floors.

"I feel like our leadership has done everything in their power to make us as safe as possible," said District 33 Delegate Heather Bagnall, a Democrat. "And I think there's always going to be some level of risk as there is in any sort of health crisis."

Senator Ed Reilly and Delegate Michael Malone, both Republicans, share this cautious optimism, but fear the biggest effects will be felt by constituents. Public hearings and testimonies have been severely limited by the pandemic as the legislature switches to live-streamed virtual committees to help prevent the spread of the virus.

"The testimony will be shorter and more concise," Reilly said in reference to the new system in the Senate that allows for just four people to testify for and against a bill. "It's going to exclude a great number of people who want to verbally testify."

In the House, testimony has been limited to 50 witnesses per case. Malone believes that virtual calls may make the hearings more accessible to those attending, but that the limits on witnesses make it difficult to guarantee a balanced presentation.

"I think a lot of us have been very strategic on the work that we're going to be doing and how we're going to be doing it," Bagnall said, "because we recognize the need for a very streamlined process."

Despite the uncertainty of the times and the expectation of adaptations as the session moves forward, representatives expect the session to last the normal 90 days, and they prefiled the majority of their bills in order to facilitate that deadline.

Lawmakers in the Democratic-led General Assembly are eager to provide further protections to tenants suffering due to the ongoing pandemic, but District 33 Republicans want to make sure small landlords with multiple mortgages are not being left out of the discussion.

"You're going to have to find a balancing act and, of course, everything has to be paid for," Malone said, "so we will be facing the challenges of prioritizing where government dollars go."

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, an educational reform initiative passed by the legislature in 2020 but vetoed by Governor Larry Hogan, will be brought back onto the floor this session. The Blueprint - which expects to increase education spending in the state by nearly \$4 billion by 2030 - seeks to expand prekindergarten

programs, career education for high school students, increase pay and opportunities for teachers, while also increasing funding for schools in low-income communities.

Bagnall said she was frustrated with the veto last session "because the governor wasn't part of the discussion, who signaled very early it was not a priority."

Bagnall acknowledges the economic implications of the growing pandemic gave Hogan a legitimate cause to veto the bill, but she said that alternative avenues for revenue were already being explored during the bill's processing if the state were to experience a recession.

Malone and Reilly, who voted against the bill in 2020 due to its high price tag, plan to support the veto this coming session and are ready to vote against the bill again if it reappears on their respective floors with an unaltered price tag.

"It all has to do with the money," Reilly said. "We just may not have enough money to fund that program."

Democrats are yet to signal whether they plan to fight the veto or amend the bill, which is compiled of policy reforms with no indication of funding. Republicans worry this may lead to an increase in taxes in a time when people are already struggling to make ends meet.

"I think that it goes back to 'if not now, when?'" said Delegate Bagnall in favor of the bill. "How many generations do we lose in the gap between doing something and not doing something?"

Each representative will sponsor

a handful of their own bills as well. Malone seeks to expand therapy dogs for testifying witnesses to include veterans while also reintroducing an anti-gerrymandering bill that would redraw voting districts "so they're compact, continuous and give natural political and geographic boundaries."

Reilly prefiled a bill with hopes it will increase protections for both tenants and landlords by requiring a further notice of tenant evictions. This bill seeks to prevent a tenant's possessions from being mistakenly removed while also preventing landlords from hiring unneeded moving companies. He also hopes to pass a bill requiring pharmacies to notify patrons of their closure in a timely manner, so that clients can choose their next pharmacy without being automatically reassigned.

Bagnall has brought forth bills for the creation of committees to investigate problems in Maryland's oral health and student mental health. Another bill also seeks to lower the age of informed consent when a child may be struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

All three senators have put forward bills in the interest of protecting the riparian rights of community organizations, in reference to a lawsuit involving a Cape St. Clair community losing its rights to shoreline in the face of erosion and rising sea levels.

Delegate Sid Saab, who could not be reached in time for this article, had yet to file any sponsored bills before this article was published.

Friends In Need: BKind Gives Charity Helps Underprivileged Individuals



Photos by Virginia Garner

Left: Thirteen-year-old Bethany Atkinson and her father, Bill Atkinson, distributed food items on December 12 in Glen Burnie. **Right:** Volunteer Michelle Duley (right) supervised as tow friends browsed outdoor garments from a table.

By Virginia Garner

In 1993, while inspecting a bridge in Anne Arundel County, Severna Park native Steve “Buddy” Finch encountered a man living under the bridge while having nothing to eat. Each day, Finch would bring the man lunch, which led to him visiting other encampments under bridges and in wooded areas throughout Anne Arundel County and giving the people there what they needed, whether it be toiletries, food or clothing.

Eventually, those efforts grew into a nonprofit, Bkind Gives, which has grown exponentially since its creation in March 2018.

“The people at Bkind Gives are just great,” said Randallstown resident Kirt Greenburg, who has worked closely with BKind for over seven months. “They’re very courteous, they’re generous and everybody’s fantastic. It’s a pleasure to be around them.”

The 64-year-old Finch works as a state highway inspector 50 to 60 hours a week. However, 30 to 40 hours a week, he devotes his time to helping those in need, whom he tenderly refers to as his “friends.”

“We make one-of-a-kind connections with our friends. All our volunteers know these individuals’ names by heart. They aren’t strangers,” Finch said. “It just falls that way; we don’t set it up. All our volunteers make friends out there. All of my friends in need are my family members.”

Finch reported that in Anne Arundel County, there are approximately 600 homeless people. That sad statistic was one reason he joined a nonprofit organization working in Baltimore City, where he was connected through a mutual member with Fred and Monica Rost, the co-founders of BKind Gives. The three began working with an organization based in Glen Burnie. Although the work they were doing with this organization was fulfilling, they had a different vision and wanted to branch out into Anne Arundel County. In March 2020, the organization was declared a 501(C)(3) organization.

For nearly two years, the nonprofit has held weekly meetings in Glen Burnie, in the parking lot of Bruster’s Ice Cream on Aquahart Road, rain or shine. In the beginning of the project, an average of 40 to 75 people showed up weekly, but currently, the organization serves

approximately 175 to 200 friends every Saturday. On December 12, 2020 a row of approximately 20 foldable tables were set up with various items, and friends lined up to pick which items they would like to take. The line of 162 people stretched hundreds of feet down the parking lot, with social distancing taking place, masks worn, and a volunteer traveling down the line, providing a pump of hand sanitizer to each friend. The individuals without housing were placed at the front of the line, and others in need followed suit.

“Before I encountered BKind, I couldn’t get food and I was having trouble paying my bills and getting my medication,” said Calvin, a friend of the organization. “BKind is different because most organizations are just like, ‘Here’s a bag,’ but here you get your choice of what food you want. If you don’t want it, you leave it and you take what you want and what you’ll eat.”

The first few tables include 3-foot-high piles of gently used or new coats, hats and gloves of all sizes. Next, the food tables begin with grocery-store-like choices of breads, desserts, canned food items, fresh fruits and vegetables, including potatoes, lettuce and pineapples, all donated by local grocery stores like Giant and other food banks. At the end of the tables is a volunteer-made hot meal that the friends are allowed to take home with them.

Throughout the line on that December day, 40 volunteers offered their friendship, talked to friends about their lives, and offered prayer and hugs to one another.

Other organizations including C3 Gives, Hands and Feet Ministry, and Walking with Jesus Outreach are present either weekly or monthly and offer donations of clothing and other items. Finch and the Rosts met the volunteers of Hands and Feet Ministry from Faith Baptist Church in Glen Burnie at an encampment three years ago when both groups were handing out food. They decided to start working together and have become one team. C3 Cares, an organization based out of Chesapeake Christian Center in Pasadena, comes to the parking lot once a month and hands out bags of essentials that cater to the season. For example, in the spring, the bags include rain jackets. In the summer, bags include water bottles and, in the winter, hand warmers and blankets.

“There’s a need in the community and it warms my heart to know that it’s being met,” said Jodie Conley of C3 Cares. “Maybe not 100 percent of all their needs are being met, but at least every Saturday, they know there’s people out here who care about them.”

Volunteers of all organizations take it upon themselves to do work with friends individually, through conducting follow-ups and buying specific items that are still needed. Millersville resident Shanna Hines has worked with BKind Gives for two years and refers to herself as the “hands and feet” of the organization, as wherever she’s needed, she goes.

“I have several people that I have followed up with and continue to talk to,” Hines said. “About two years ago, there was one specific woman in Annapolis that had just got into housing. She told me about where she came from; she was widowed and then ended up homeless. After she got into housing, she wanted a recliner. Some people are able to get housing, but they can’t afford to get furnishings or anything. I searched everywhere online and was able to get one for her. You would’ve thought I gave her the Taj Mahal when I gave her that recliner. It’s the littlest things that make the biggest difference to people.”

Not only do the volunteers of BKind Gives meet the immediate needs of marginalized people, but they also create job and housing connections, getting their friends the tools to thrive. Some people don’t have forms of identification, clothes for job interviews or mailing addresses, so those needs are met as well. For long-term needs, the organization has connections throughout Anne Arundel County with apartment complexes, grocery stores and other businesses where they assist in getting their friends connected with people who can help them.

Big Willy, a man who Fred Rost met in a laundry mat four years ago, had been homeless for a total of 10 years, living in his van or sleeping outside.

“I don’t like to talk about my situation before, but I used to sleep over at a church,” Big Willy said. “I don’t know how I did it; I was scared, and I didn’t know if I was going to make it. Then, I met Fred and I have a place now. Fred knew some people over at an apartment complex, he helped me talk to somebody and they got me in.”

If volunteers can’t help the friends,

they connect them with someone who can help.

“For example, Hope for All, located in Anne Arundel County, can help people get housing,” Fred Rost said. “We can’t do everything, but we do everything we can to help.”

The organization sees volunteers of all ages, ranging from 5 years old to 85 years old. The organization encourages youth to get involved; many students take part in volunteering to earn merit credits for school, but Finch said they almost always return even after their volunteer requirements are met. Bkind Gives works with elementary, middle and high schools in Anne Arundel County to give young students the opportunity to give back to the community. Many of the schools organize field trips and service-learning events with BKind, where they help serve food and distribute clothing to their friends.

“Watching my kids come out here and give back warms my heart,” BKind Gives volunteer Bill Atkinson said. “My 13-year-old daughter says to me, ‘Dad, this makes me feel so good inside.’”

Not only is the organization focused on helping people, but they also focused on other four-legged members of their friends’ families. BKind partners with local veterinary offices like Noah’s Ark and Small Miracles and offers free vaccines to dogs and cats for rabies and distemper, along with free grooming and washing services. However, in 2020, that was not possible due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The pandemic has caused hardship for many of the organization’s friends; many of them are service and frontline workers and were laid off during the pandemic. Finch said that they’ve seen about a 20 percent increase of friends in need during 2020. In earlier years, many local churches were able to house people for weeks at a time in auditoriums and other large buildings, but due to social distancing restrictions, they can no longer do so, leaving many people outside during cold winter nights. However, at every meeting, COVID-19 precautions are put into place; social distancing is practiced and masks and hand sanitizer are made available to all.

BKind Gives has long-term goals of expanding to the point of getting a warehouse. As of now, they are working with small storage units to store clothing and other donated items. Additionally, they want an old restaurant or another type of establishment with sitting areas, air conditioning and heating to give their friends a sheltered and safe place to rest and relax. The volunteers and friends all inspire one another to continue to work hard to make a difference in the lives of others.

“It’s not one person who inspires me, but what inspires me is actually doing the work — seeing the need, getting involved and doing everything I can to help everyone I can,” Rost said. “The things we thought we could never accomplish, we are. Just seeing the reception of the people who need a hand up, not a handout, we’re an extended family to individuals who don’t have much in terms of family. They don’t have a network of people to consider friends. If you ask any individual in line if they considered us as friends, they would say yes.”



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COVID-19 And The Maryland Courts, Part 6

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Arundel County courts. As this article goes to print on January 18, we are regrettably into our 10th month of social distancing, sheltering in place and wondering when it all might end. All of us are itching for a return to normality.

The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University is reporting more than 87.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with more than 1.8 million deaths. The United States has the largest number of known cases, exceeding 21.6 million cases and 366,434 deaths. Thankfully, we have seen over 9.6 million of our fellow Americans recover from the virus. Check out the data for yourself at www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html. The data is updated daily at 8:00pm.

In Maryland, we have had 328,214 cases and 6,423 deaths. See www.coronavirus.maryland.gov. With 30,114

This is my sixth update to friends and neighbors regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect upon the administration of justice in Maryland, with a particular emphasis on our Anne

Arundel County courts. As this article goes to print on January 18, we are regrettably into our 10th month of social distancing, sheltering in place and wondering when it all might end. All of us are itching for a return to normality.

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“Maryland courts will hear certain cases remotely or in person, but there will be no jury trials until infection rates decline and we are able to move to Phase V.”



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Ardath M. Cade Scholarship Fund Serves Those Who Service The Community

By Molly Beirsto

Few can accurately claim that they have devoted their life to public service, but Ardath M. Cade can. She has spent nearly her entire career in the field, particularly community development, to make Severna Park and Anne Arundel County flourish as much as possible. Due to such achievements, Cade's name is attached to the AMC Scholarship Fund, presented by Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS), which was created by Cade. It has granted more than \$10,000 to six housing and community development organizations and 13 individuals in the same field, a broad spectrum that can make a world of a difference.

Cade began working in the public when she stepped into the Charles County Chamber of Commerce in the mid-1960s, an opportunity that sprung many more, taking her all the way to the state level to work with the governor and Maryland legislators to advocate for these community developments. In turn for Cade's many contributions, Tara Clifford insisted that the scholarship be named after Cade.

Cade, who at first resisted the move to name it as such, can be credited for the success that not only the fund has, but ACDS in general. The name is "after someone who is a living example of mentoring and building the capacity in the nonprofit organizations that are engaged in community development," said Erin Shearman, the ACDS policy and development director.

As someone who oversees such grants, Shearman gives this one a new level of importance to help those who have a passion for helping others in the community. From Cade's eyes, the fund provides just the needed amount.

"It's used to get the funds to train people - to make them a little more professionally better than they were," Cade said, "and that's really what it's all about."

Most of the funds help local nonprofits and individuals, such as Kelly Anderson, who was stepping into the main leadership position at Sarah's House, Anne Arundel County's homeless shelter, and needed to take a course at Leadership Anne Arundel.

"The scholarship was an absolutely necessary part of me moving into a leadership position at Sarah's House, seeing I hadn't developed the skill to take different perspectives and see things at a different level," Anderson said.

Acquiring that skill wouldn't have been possible without the funding needed to further her education in leadership.

For the future of the fund, Shearman is looking to spread awareness and generate interest. Anderson can vouch for it, advocating for the AMC fund as something to better the community.

Cade is still involved in public service and community development, being on the board for Maryland Citizens of the Arts, the school board for St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School,

and chair of the Maryland Lenin Drive sister state committee in accordance with Russia, based in St. Petersburg, Maryland.

"For a lot of people at this time in life, it's appropriate for them to be doing a lot less," Cade said. "But for me, just as an individual person, I'm happy to still be involved in things. Why slow down if you don't want to?"

"You can't start over a community, but you can make it more workable. Maybe I was supposed to be an architect. I don't know. But I've learned more while doing this than I ever had before."

— ARDATH CADE



Named after Ardath Cade (above), the AMC Scholarship Fund has granted more than \$10,000 to six housing and community development organizations and 13 individuals in the same field.





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Severna Park People And Other Locals: Ye Are The Salt Of The Earth

Ellen Kinsella
Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



This column is dedicated to those people who support SPAN, whom we consider the salt of the earth. We have all seen the news, and are aware that times are tough everywhere. The pandemic has taken jobs, lives, and our ability to visit loved ones. We all pray for life to get back to normal, but some families in our community are having trouble. Utility shutoffs and eviction looms in the near future. Some of these families are forced

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his followers, who were mostly fishermen and other unassuming people, “Ye are the salt of the earth.” This expression is usually used to describe anyone who is basically, fundamentally good.

to choose between keeping their heat on or buying their child a coat.

Those who work at SPAN get inundated with gratitude from our client families, but the truth is that our community donors deserve all the thanks. While some other local pantries are short on food and financing, SPAN’s contributors have stepped up to fill our pantry and bank account so we can continue to stay open and meet whatever needs arise.

We want to thank all of our member churches for their faithful support with their financial pledges. We want to thank the local businesses, like Clement Hardware, Diehl’s Produce, BB&T Bank, Severna Park Racquetball & Fitness Club, Heartlands, Spring Arbor, Annapolis Pediatrics, Pedal Power Kids, Severna Park Giant, Chartwell Tennis Club, Barranco & Sons, Severna Park Lanes, Jing Ying School of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, Talbot Realty, Landmark Roofing, Leave Dinner to Lettie, and so many more, for their generous donations.

Civic groups and neighborhoods

constantly take care of us, like the For Ellie Foundation; Cub Scout Pack 688; Archbishop Spalding High School (Brice Persico’s Pack-a-Pickup food drive); Severna Park Middle School (the Crawford kids); Severna Park High School; the Friends of Kinder Farm Park; the Severna Park Community Center; the Colchester, Lakeland, Berrywood, Kensington, and Pond View neighborhoods; plus the “New Year Full Pantry Project’s” Reverse Advent Collection.

Then there are the donations that really warm our hearts, like the group of Sabrina Park kids, organized by Brittany Williams, who donated \$45.92 that they raised from a lemonade stand, Keri DeLuca’s kids and friends who donated \$150 that they raised from baking and selling homemade dog treats to neighbors, and SPAN volunteer Lori Pagnanelli, who hand-made Christmas ornaments for our clients, and Lori’s husband, Ken, who built desks for kids who had none.

I would be remiss if I didn’t give a shout-out to the finest volunteers in the

land. SPAN volunteers work tirelessly every day, sometimes even on weekends, sorting and packing food, helping our clients, and even doing construction products on the SPAN house to improve it. We are blessed!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, and happy new year!

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-12:45pm. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit 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!

New Home, New Baby

Lauren Burke Meyer



Let me rewind a little. When I last left you on the topic of a “Tale Of Two Pregnancies,” I was comparing my first experience with my daughter, Charlotte, who arrived three days ahead of her due date. I wrote, “One thing’s for sure, I hope baby two is here by the time this is read!” In true Lauren’s Law fashion, baby two was hanging out until the last possible moment and had to be induced. Basically, the opposite of what most pregnant women experience — baby one coming late and baby two early. In Riley’s defense, the world was an especially scary place with the pandemic and political climate.

Anyhow, back to how I ended up getting a house and baby in the same day. The day before Riley’s scheduled induction, we made an offer on a house in Chartwell, where I’d previously grown up and where my parents still reside. Anyone watching the housing market knows it’s a feeding frenzy these days. We were hopeful that we’d get it. However, after other homes in Severna Park didn’t work out, we tried not to get our hopes up too much.

As if we didn’t have a stressful night upon us already. What with me repacking my hospital bag for the fifth time, fielding calls from family members wishing me good luck and

I’m back. In Severna Park that is! This past October, I took the saying “new home, new baby” as literal as one could. My husband and I had an offer accepted on a new house hours before our second daughter, Riley, was born.

folding laundry like I would never have a free moment or free hands again. So, sure, let’s up the ante and make an offer on a house too. Naturally, my husband and I had a sleepless night ahead of many sleepless nights with our newborn.

Distractions can be great while in labor. While pacing around my hospital room, the call that our offer was accepted was the most wonderful of distractions behind my husband’s “dad joke” book.

It’s incredible how much your life can change in one day. What’s even more special about these two major milestones happening on one day is that it was the birthday of my husband’s beloved maternal grandfather and the same grandfather’s mother. I like to think this was not a coincidence but a larger, more spiritual act at play.

“New home, new baby” is now thankfully followed by the new year. It’s understandable that many are ready to put 2020 behind them. I completely understand and can relate. However, I will always cherish these two special milestones that happened this year. One thing is for sure — I want to wish everyone a wonderful 2021.

Lauren Burke Meyer is a Severna Park native who was inspired to write Lauren’s Law as a humorous play on the well-known Murphy’s Law adage: “anything that can go



Puppy And Kitty, It’s Cold Outside!

Dr. Karen Van Kirk
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



can be susceptible to cold and frigid temperatures.

It is important to keep in mind that if the temperatures feel too cold for you, it is probably too cold for your pet unless they are an arctic breed such as a Newfoundland or an Alaskan Malamute. So, keep your pets inside on cold winter days and nights. Pets can freeze if left outside in icy temperatures. If they do spend a large amount of time outside, pets trying to stay warm require a little extra food, as they burn extra calories while trying to maintain their body temperature. If your pet must spend extended periods of time outside, make sure they have an area that they can go to escape the wind and stay dry. When in the house, make sure they have a warm place to sleep that is comfy and away from drafts.

Wintertime can be hard on your pet’s skin as well. Their coats can dry out faster in the winter due to dry heat in the house. Make sure that your pets have easy access to clean water. Check their water bowls frequently, as they may drink more in the winter. Keeping our pets well-hydrated may help to reduce dry, flakey skin, which is more common during the winter months. If your pet has long hair, never have it shaved down to bare skin, as its hair coat is designed to

Winter is upon us. As the temperatures start to drop, there are some extra considerations we need to take to keep our pets safe and secure. Remember, even though our pets have a fur coat, they

provide warmth. Simply trim your pet to keep its coat tidy and free of ice or chemicals that can harm its skin. If your pet is short haired, consider providing a sweater or coat. Keep baths to a minimum, and when you do bathe your pet, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo or topical conditioner.

In addition, exercising our pets takes extra planning. If the weather is icy, you might need to reconsider a long walk. Our pets (as well as us owners) can fall, slip, and seriously injure themselves in freezing temperatures. Black ice is especially hazardous, as it is difficult to see and avoid. Salt crystals and de-icing chemicals can irritate paw pads and skin. So, after each walk, wash and dry your pet’s tummy and feet. Many pet stores sell booties that can provide extra protection for paw pads and toes. If you use an ice melt product on your walkways, please make sure that it is pet friendly.

Antifreeze is a serious poison for dogs and cats. It has a sweet taste, and sometimes, pets can be attracted to it. It is crucial that you clean up any spills from your vehicle. If possible, use products that contain propylene glycol instead of ethylene glycol. Cats left outside will sometimes crawl up on a warm engine of a car in a driveway and be seriously injured or killed, if an unsuspecting driver starts the engine. To avoid this scenario, keep cats indoors during cold temperatures.

If we are extra careful, winter can be a fun, cozy time for all of our family members, including our “furry friends.”

As always, if any concerns arise, contact your local veterinarian or local emergency clinic. At VCA Calvert Veterinary Center, our veterinarians and staff are always happy to see you and assist your pets, but following the tips above may prevent any unexpected visits and keep you at home with your loved ones.

Local Businesses Band Together For Severna Park Plunge



Just because the Polar Bear Plunge is virtual this year doesn't mean people can't continue freezin' for a reason. Garry's Grill is hosting a Plunge event on Saturday, January 30, from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Each hour, a different business will take over the dunk tank in a friendly competition to raise money for Special Olympics Maryland.

Come to Garry's Grill, located at 553 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park, to cheer on local businesses. Garry's will have a heated tent onsite and will practice social distancing.

In a Facebook post, Conway explained his inspiration for the event. "I was driving to Restaurant Depot listening to the radio and I heard, 'Just because we can't plunge together doesn't mean the Polar Bear Plunge is

canceled. It just means we are asking for you to do it differently.' At that very moment I thought how can we get our community involved for the incredible cause that is the Special Olympics Maryland?"

Business Participants

- **Rita's Italian Ice** — 8:30am
- **The Big Bean** — 9:00am
- **Mahon Landscaping** — 9:30am
- **Kevin Gattie, Wynn Point Financial** — 10:00am
- **Landmark Roofing** — 10:30am
- **Larry Sells Consulting** — 11:00am
- **The Matt Wyble Team of Century 21 New Millennium** — Noon to 1:00pm
- **Garry's Grill** — 1:00pm to 2:00pm
- **Savvy Consignment** — 2:00pm
- **Kaycie Quinones** — 2:30pm
- **Severna Park Lanes** — 3:00pm
- **Rockwell Fitness** — 3:30pm

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Understanding what motivates us and how we fit into the world is a lifelong journey. Many people seek new activities when they retire or have other changes in life. A Woods Counseling & Care Center program is delving into participants' interests, values and passions

to discern what their next steps might be. Join the center on Sundays February 14, 21 and 28, and March 7, from 3:00pm to 5:30pm via Zoom for a discussion on personal growth. For cost and other information, contact Bill Daniel at bill.daniel@woodsgcc.org or 410-570-8500.



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Civil Emergency Powers: Lessons Learned

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



County Council meetings and social media. There is confusion, anger, support, indifference, questions, and opposition. To understand why this is a topic of regular conversation, it may help to understand the history behind this section of county law, how often it has been used, and why. The details may surprise you.

In 1968, Bill 32-68 was introduced by the chairman of the county council on behalf of County Executive Joseph Alton Jr. According to meeting minutes, while the bill was introduced after riots related to the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, the legislation had been discussed previously for another unrelated reason. The county had lost a court case related to a snowstorm from 1966. During that storm, County Executive Alton declared a state of emergency. Legal action stemming from a car accident that took place during that state of emergency resulted in the judge's findings that county law didn't give a county executive that authority. Bill 32-68 passed unanimously and gave the authority to the county executive to issue a civil emergency for no more than seven days. A civil emergency longer than seven days would require a vote in favor by the county council.

Aside from a definition amendment in 2016, the civil emergencies section of our code has remained unchanged since 1968. Civil emergencies have been declared only a handful of times in the past 50 years, and all were related to weather events. None have ever gone beyond seven days — until March 2020. Knowing the historical background of this section of our code will help to understand its language.

A civil emergency is defined as “a riot or unlawful assembly characterized by the use of actual force or violence or any threat to use force without the authority of law; or a natural disaster or human-made calamity, earthquake, snowfall, or explosion, within the limits of the county; resulting in the death or injury of persons or the destruction of property so that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare.”

Once a civil emergency is declared, a

For months, the conversation regarding civil emergency powers granted to the county executive has been the focal point of heated discussion in both

Anne Arundel

county executive has many immediate actions at their disposal. For example, they may close any or all business establishments, regulate or prohibit the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages, institute a curfew, prevent the sale of gasoline or any flammable liquid, prohibit the sale of firearms and close roads. They may also take “any other measures necessary for the protection of life and property.”

As most readers will remember, on March 5, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, little was known about the pandemic, how to treat it, who was most vulnerable, the rate of hospitalizations, and when or if a vaccine was possible. The state was making all of the decisions related to restrictions and closures in every jurisdiction.

On March 13, 2020, County Executive Stuart Pittman declared a civil emergency, authorized by bill 32-68. As required by law, Mr. Pittman returned to the council for approval of extending the civil emergency beyond seven days and to expire with the end of the state of emergency under the governor. My colleagues and I had many questions about this since the power had not been used by a previous county executive. The language of civil emergencies seemed dated, old-fashioned and not the intent under the present circumstances. It was unclear why the county would need to take any action at all due to the state's actions and an anticipated “stay at home order.” The answer was simple: “essential government functions.”

Until March 2020, most Anne Arundel County employees did not have remote capabilities and virtual council meetings were not even a topic of conversation. We simply did not have the technology ready to carry on the jobs that serve the public. Departments that are required by law to respond to certain applications in a specific amount of time would be in violation of law. Legislation would lose important public hearing and amendment time before the 95-day expiration date. There was no mechanism to “pause” the timeclock according to the Office of Law, unless we had a civil emergency order in effect. The request to extend the civil emergency powers passed unanimously.

We are 10 months into COVID-19. Technology support has increased tremendously, enabling county government to function remotely. The executive and legislative branch have successfully resumed public hearings and votes for months. While there are still many unknowns about COVID-19, we are in a different position than March. A lot has been learned in the

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A Different Session

Ed Reilly
Senator
District 33



will run differently for the General Assembly this year. The changes are across the board and will include access to the state complex by consti-

The Maryland General Assembly convened for the 2021 session at noon on Wednesday, January 13. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, things

tuents, lobbyists and special interest groups. Let me explain some of the implemented changes.

The Miller and James Senate office buildings will not allow the general public access during this session. This is also true for the House of Delegates and the Maryland State House. Typically during session, I have meetings in my office on many issues important to my constituents and to Marylanders across the state. Due to constraints in accessing the buildings, the best way for me to continue with these meetings is through internet platforms such as Zoom or

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We Cannot Turn A Blind Eye To This Constitutional Crisis

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33



multiple challenges of a raging pandemic (which has had the knock-on effect of an economic crisis), the stalemate in Congress (which has stalled federal aid essential to our state and local partners), the delays in the rollout of the vaccine essential to our recovery, and the hurdles presented in trying to operate with transparency and engagement in the virtual realm, any one of these topics could easily

This is a challenging article to write. Normally this time of year, we talk about our legislative priorities or what we believe to be the hot-button issues, or how we believe the session will go. Given the

fill a column.

However, I believe as elected officials, we must also speak to the moment. Many of you have heard me before say that words matter, that as representatives, we have a platform and an expectation to speak truthfully and thoughtfully. We are often tasked with the challenge of extrapolating nuanced, comprehensive policy into understandable talking points that can be articulated in a three- to five-minute hearing or a town hall speech.

I have spent the last few days trying to cull my thoughts. I hesitated to write this article early because, as I said to the editor, “A lot of history will happen between now and deadline.” I had hoped that I would be referring to the Georgia runoff and the certification of the presidential election, but in the pit of my stomach, I feared that I would be writing the article I am writing now, that we witnessed not only an attempted coup on our government to over-

» Continued on page 22

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Granting Financial Relief To Those In Need

Peter Franchot
Comptroller of Maryland



on by a thread.

For months, I have been urging Governor Larry Hogan to initiate a Maryland stimulus to provide financial relief for our most vulnerable citizens. My agency could immediately deposit these funds into accounts through our existing tax system. All we need is the political will to make this happen because Maryland has more than \$1 billion sitting in its reserves.

If ever there was a time to tap these funds to help our fellow Marylanders, it is now.

While COVID-19 vaccines offer hope that an end to this pandemic is near, we can't escape the fact that its economic impact is devastating and will take years to recover from. Fortunately, Mary-

As 2021 begins, too many Maryland families are struggling to avoid eviction, put food on the table and pay their bills, while many small businesses are hanging

land's strong economic foundation will help us rebound more quickly than others.

This is why I feel it's fiscally responsible to use the state's Fiscal Year 2020 fund balance and our Rainy Day Fund to not only issue state stimulus payments of \$2,000 to our most deserving families — taxpayers with at least one dependent who earned less than \$50,000 as a single filer or \$100,000 as joint filers — but to also invest \$250 million immediately to help save as many small businesses as possible.

In the meantime, I have taken action under my authority as the state's tax administrator to immediately help our local businesses and employees keep critical cash on hand by extending the deadline for most business-related state taxes due in January, February and March to April 15, 2021.

This essentially serves as a penalty-free, interest-free loan to give businesses a breather at a time when they need it most. There is no need to file for an extension, and the action is revenue-neutral for the state's economy since all taxes owed are required to be paid down the road.

We made this same tax forbear-

ance decision in the early days of the pandemic and after that 90-day extension, businesses filed their returns and made their payments as required. Many business owners I have spoken with said this move last year was critical to keeping their doors open and paying employees while awaiting the federal and state economic relief funds.

It's the least we can do to try and run out the clock on this deadly pandemic and help Marylanders who, through no fault of their own, have either lost their jobs or had to either close or significantly scale back their business operations.

What does this tax forbearance mean for employees and businesses?

In addition to relieving pressure on businesses to make their monthly state tax payments, self-employed individuals and independent contractors who typically pay quarterly estimated income tax payments in January can file those returns and payments by April 15, 2021.

Similarly, employer withholding payments due between February and April now will be due on April 15.

These new extensions ap-

ply only to tax filings under my authority as the comptroller of Maryland. You may need to consult other state agencies on deadlines for other tax filings, such as personal property or unemployment insurance.

Additionally, I have written to IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig, urging him to make similar extensions on federal tax payments that would be due during the year's first quarter.

Our agency has set up a dedicated email address — taxpayerrelief@marylandtaxes.gov — to help answer extension-related questions.

You also can find more information about these extensions on our website, www.marylandtaxes.gov.

The Comptroller's Office is here to help you during this difficult time.

A new year always offers a chance for a fresh start and renewed optimism. While 2020 tested all of us, I hope these extensions are among the many steps we as public officials can take to make 2021 a much brighter and more successful year.

“Stupid” Is A Dirty Word

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



one's opinion. In our current political environment, dirty words like “stupid” too often are knee-jerked at others without pausing to listen, to find common ground.

As Justice Antonin Scalia said, “I attack ideas, not people.” Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia, while diametrically opposed on political issues, were, in Ginsburg's words, “best buddies.” In controversial, issue-driven cases, Scalia and Ginsburg voted together less than 10% of the time. Neither minced words when spiritedly denigrating the other's viewpoints: Scalia called her opinion recognizing women's right to attend state-sponsored all-male Virginia Military Institute as “politics smuggled into law.” Ginsburg, in turn, wrote that Scalia took a “wrecking ball” to a statute in one of the Enron cases.

The justices could have celebrated their differences, both political and personal — Scalia was a boisterous, conservative man, and Ginsburg a

“Stupid” is a dirty word in my house. People are not stupid, but actions, ideas, policies, etc. can be, and often are better described as factually incorrect, ill-considered, or simply

shy, liberal, woman. Instead, they found common ground. They both hailed from New York City and both loved opera, travel and good food. More importantly, they found common ground in their absolute commitment to uphold the U.S. Constitution, albeit with rather divergent points of view. They respected each other's work ethic and drive to advance and excel in a world in which they, as a Jewish woman and a Catholic Italian, were outsiders. They challenged each other to refine and clarify their ideas — in their demand for excellence, they were known to share drafts of their opinions with each other, and invite the other's criticism. This insistence to overcome political differences to serve the people proves invaluable given that their ideas, codified in their written opinions, will inform American jurisprudence for decades if not centuries to come. In the words of Justice Ginsburg, “You can disagree without being disagreeable.”

In the 1980s, Republican President Ronald Reagan and Democrat Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill transcended party loyalty and political philosophy, putting their loyalty to America and the government first. As Senator O'Neill's son put it, “While neither man embraced the other's worldview, each respected the other's right to hold it.” Unlike Justices Scalia and Ginsburg, they weren't close friends, but like them they shared harsh words and found common ground anyway: understanding what Ameri-

cans wanted and letting government work. They sometimes met for drinks, saying that after 6:00, they were buddies and left the political world behind, even celebrating St. Patrick's Day together as Irish Americans.

Together they forged agreements to help save Social Security, accomplished historic tax reform, and formed a united front to bring down the Soviet Union. They reformed immigration and worked toward peace in Northern Ireland. In 1981, when President Reagan was shot, White House Chief of Staff Jim Baker immediately notified Speaker O'Neill, who rushed to Reagan's bedside. O'Neill held Reagan's hand, and together they recited the 23rd psalm: The lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. They reformed immigration and worked toward peace in Northern Ireland. John McCain sometimes followed Reagan's path: as a Vietnam War prison camp survivor, he worked with war protester John Kerry to address veterans' issues, and enjoyed a lifetime of friendship with Senator Lindsey Graham and former Democratic Senator Joe Lieberman, fostered by their common beliefs on Bosnia and Iraq.

What do else do Reagan, O'Neill, Scalia, Ginsburg and McCain all have in common? They are all dead. It's time for us as Americans to shrug on their mantle, place people before politics, and find ways to exchange ideas, not insults. The word “label” is, after all, only one letter different from “libel.”

Civil Emergency Powers

» Continued from page 18

medical world, and in the balance of power between branches of government.

Improving the county code is one of my duties as your councilwoman. Most bills I have introduced have come from constituents like you. But in this circumstance, legislation will come from experience and lessons learned.

In February, the council will hear and vote on two pieces of legislation I have introduced that amend this dated section of our code. One bill would require that if a civil emergency is issued in conjunction with a state of emergency under the governor, and if the governor reduced restrictions related to the state of emergency, the county executive must get approval from the county council to be more restrictive than the governor's actions. Jurisdictions cannot be less restrictive than the state.

The second bill would limit the length of a council-approved extended civil emergency to 45 days, at which time the county executive would have to declare a new civil emergency. This legislation, if passed, would fix an open-ended timeframe for the ending of civil emergencies that go beyond seven days. While it is highly unlikely this council will experience another pandemic in our term, there are many other scenarios in which a civil emergency can be declared. It is critical that we address the flaws in our laws for this council and for future leaders of our county.

As always, you can read more on these bills and other legislation by visiting our council website at www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council or contact me at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

Happy new year!

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

We Cannot Turn A Blind Eye

» Continued from page 18

turn the elections, tear up the constitution and deny the will of the people, but then watched as elected officials rapidly displaced blame with cynical calls for unity.

I'm not precognitive. I need only look at my emails, or social media, the threats made against our county executive and health officer. The alarm bells have been steadily ringing, we have been warned by multiple security agencies, and even by other countries. On Election Day, I witnessed adults intimidating, bullying and harassing high school students, urged by an organization and the anonymity of the internet. Adults from across the county yelled "party of hate" and "communists" at students who were sign-waving in front of their own school. Most uncomfortably was recognizing that I represented people from both sides of that argument, but when it came to adults versus students, I had to pick a side.

I try to be as apolitical as I can to attempt to not make anyone I represent feel under-represented, but in this moment, we have to pick a side. Some of my colleagues have called for unity, healing, forgetting party, and not judging all Americans by the actions of a few — all great talking points for a three- to five-minute speech, a quick social media post, or even a carefully crafted op ed to hit the right notes of patriotism and condemnation, of acts, not actors, meant to distance but not offend, nor appear binding, written and spoken not from a place of outrage but rather political expediency.

I cannot endorse such a call. It is no mystery that I am a Democrat, and I am

proud that I have pushed back against white supremacy, against false rhetoric, against voter suppression and stood up for the integrity of our election officials. I have endorsed a more perfect union, a more equitable system and an end to the structural imbalances that reward the few on the backs of the many, and I won't have that muddied by a call for unity when there has been no inflection point, no condemnation of the people who swore an oath to protect and uphold the constitution and violated that oath. It makes me angry because we can't simply turn a blind eye to the very real constitutional crisis we face, a crisis that has pit Americans at every level against one another; law officers were left to defend our nation's capital and the representatives of our nation with no aid, no leadership, and with members of their ranks within the mob of attackers. How do we simply move on? We cannot.

Some would caution that I not be so forthright, but we were led to this moment by our faith that this moment would never happen, that we are better than this, that we don't need to speak out. This is our time of reflection when we must all recognize that this is exactly who we are, and it is imperative we question what part we each have played. We cannot be bystanders to this moment. If we truly wish to unify, we must unify behind holding accountable those who incited and engaged in an insurrection; we must unify in thoughtful, critical thinking; we must unify in creating a more equitable system for every American. We cannot unify to simply move on.

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A Different Maryland Legislative Session

» Continued from page 18

Microsoft Teams. Having said that, there may be some circumstances when I am available to meet with you at another location. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please contact my office through my district email address, edward.reilly.district@senate.state.md.us. Please include information on the date, time of day, and the topic you would like to speak to me about. Include your phone number, and one of my legislative aides will reach out to you for further discussion.

With regard to procedures of the Senate floor sessions, they too will be run differently this year. For the first time in the history of the Maryland Senate, floor sessions will be televised live on the Maryland General Assembly website. You may watch these sessions from your

computer by visiting www.mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/flooractions/followbothchambers.

The Senate will hold two to three floor sessions a week: one on Tuesdays starting at 10:00am and again on Fridays starting at noon and 2:00pm. As you may expect, all schedules are subject to change, so I advise you to check the General Assembly website daily if you have an interest in listening to a floor session.

The standing committees will also have significant changes to their procedures in 2021. Hearings are currently scheduled to be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting generally at 11:00am. Of course, checking the committee website is advised in case there are any changes. You will find information on all committees through

the following link: www.mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/committees/index/senate.

Committee hearings will be streamed live on the Maryland General Assembly website. All scheduled bill hearings will be posted in the Maryland General Assembly hearing schedule along with the "live" link to go directly to the meeting. Check this schedule daily for the most up-to-date information pertaining to bills in committee. If there is a bill you want to submit written testimony on, you must first create a "My MGA" account on the Maryland General Assembly website. Written testimony must be submitted two business days in advance of the scheduled bill hearing. If you want to offer oral testimony to the committee via Zoom, please follow the committee's directions on how to sign up for a chance to testify.

This link may help understand the committee guidelines: www.mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs-current/senate%20committee%20guidelines.pdf.

My committee assignment has changed for the coming session. Over the past five years, I have been a member of the Finance Committee. This year I will sit as a member of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

These are just a few of the general changes that the office of Senate President Bill Ferguson has put in place for this legislative session. We will work to the best of our abilities within these guidelines, and we will continue to represent our constituents. Please contact me through email at edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us. I am here to represent you as your state senator during the upcoming legislative session.



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Recruiting Advice From NCSA, AACPS



Photos by Colin Murphy

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Many high school sports seasons across the country have been paused or canceled altogether, but recruiting has not stopped. To help aspiring college athletes prepare for the next level, Anne Arundel County Public Schools and Next College Student Athlete (NCSA) partnered for a virtual information session on January 12.

The session was led by Holly Ismail, NCSA's director of regional recruiting and former All-American athlete who was once recruited for volleyball and basketball. She later played Division I basketball at Syracuse University. Joining her via video was Michael Ionescu, who has more than 15 years of tutoring experience with iZeducation.

The Pandemic Has Changed Recruitment

As Ismail explained, Division I colleges are in a dead period until April 15, 2021, so college coaches cannot recruit in person.

"What you can do, and I encourage you guys [to do] if you're in that timeline, visit the schools anyway," Ismail said. "Just because you can't meet with the coaches doesn't mean you can't get a little bit of a feel of a campus. I know some don't have a lot of students on campus. Some don't have any at all. It kind of varies, but the biggest thing you hear is control what you can control, do what you can do."

She urged student-athletes to contact college coaches by Zoom calls, texts and emails.

Division II, Division III and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics returned to a normal recruiting calendar on September 1, but not all of those schools are meeting recruits.

"The recruiting is going to be affected in a pretty big way through 2025 graduating classes because spring sports from last year, fall and winter from this year, can all take another year whether they've played a full season or not," Ismail said, urging athletes to be patient, because college coaches are still determining which players are returning next season.

Ismail advised athletes to build a winning team comprised of parents, high school and club coaches, guidance counselors, teammates and friends. Athletes, though, should take control of the process.

"Ultimately it is up to your son or daughter to be the one to take charge of this process," Ismail said. "Have a balance there. You certainly can help them, but you don't want to do too much because that is going to turn away coaches as well."

Academic Requirements

The minimum grade point average for Division I is a 2.3, although that won't make someone "very recruitable," Ismail said. Division I athletes are also required to complete 16 core courses (English, Algebra I or higher math, natural or physical science, etc.) by graduation. Division II athletes need a 2.2 GPA. For some universities, test scores are important.

"A lot of scholarships are tied to maintaining a certain GPA or having

a certain SAT score," Ionescu said. "... there is kind of a backlog of players now because how the pandemic has backed everything up scheduling wise. You have a lot of students now who are competing for the same sports. The only thing that coaches are going to want to do is create more competition with that. They're going to be looking for other things that make you stand out from the crowd and having competitive SAT scores is going to be part of that."

Recruitment Starts Early

Almost 50 percent of prospective student-athletes for women's basketball have had some type of contact with college programs by the time they're done with their freshman year, Ismail said. Individual sports, like track and field, tend to start later. For boys, recruiting often starts at a slightly older age than girls.

"That's just because, of course, it just takes a little bit longer to have that growth and that strength sort of kick in for you," Ismail said.

She also encouraged youth to take the process seriously regardless of their next destination.

"There's not a huge difference between Division I, II and III," she said. "It's still a lot of work to be able to go and play and achieve your dream of playing at whatever level it is. So don't take it for granted, if you're like, 'Hey, you know what, I know I'm not Division I' that you don't have to do much for Division III,' that it's just going to happen, right? You still have to put the work in. But I will tell you guys again, if you're qualified, there is a place for you. You just have to put the work in, just like anything else, to be successful."

Choosing The Right School And Being Persistent

Student-athletes should create a list with a minimum of 25 schools that make sense for their individual needs.

"Where do you qualify academically?" Ismail said. "Where do you qualify athletically? What type of schools are you looking for? What size? What location?"

Ismail emphasized that all student-athletes should send video, and not just stats, to college coaches.

"It doesn't really matter if your stats look great, some measurables look great. At the end of the day, they've got to see what you're doing on the field, on the court," she said. "So video has to be done well, and you want to make sure the beginning portion of highlight videos are really, really solid so they want to continue to watch."

Some athletes may not have much film because of injuries or because they have yet to play on varsity.

"Coaches right now are telling me, 'Send something,'" Ismail said. "If you can do some type of skills video, coaches are open to look at that, guys. You are in the same boat that everybody's in, so everybody's just trying to figure this out. Coaches have had to pivot as well."

Watch the full video by going to the AACPS YouTube page or by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aiqb5ioimK4.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Grace Frankl

Green Hornets Field Hockey

By **Conor Doherty**

Throughout an unusual field hockey season, members of the Green Hornets Junior A team relied upon one of their quietest teammates. Grace Frankl excelled with her play as a defender on the field and her leadership off the field.

"She's a quiet force on the back line of the field," said head coach Sherrie Day. "As a defender, she sees the entire field and is a strong leader in that position."

Grace was surprised she was chosen for the honor of Student-Athlete of the Month. "I'm usually quieter on the field," she stated. "My leadership style is to always have my teammates' backs. Whenever we're on the field, I try to play as part of the team, not as an individual. We win or lose together."

According to Grace, her style of leadership is not to hype up the rest of the team but rather to raise the level of her own play and to lead by example. Day agreed, stating that Grace's positivity and encouragement of her teammates, on and off the field, would take her far.

Although she looked forward to playing this season, Grace found it to be much more difficult due to the COVID-19 restrictions placed on the team. "It was harder because we

couldn't see each other [off the field] and we had to stay physically spread out," Grace continued. "So there wasn't a lot of interacting with other teammates, which made it more difficult to become closer as teammates."

While Grace continues to develop and improve her field hockey game, she says that Day has taught her some great lessons to rely on. One such lesson she took to heart is to "never give up when you're out on the field. Put everything you have out there and give as much as you can." Beyond that, Grace also knew that to get better, she "would have to practice a lot more on her own, outside of team practices." Day emphasized to Grace and the rest of her team that they "always need to practice more outside of [team] practices ... and that we always need to be trying to get better."

All but two members of the Junior A team will go to high school next year, including Grace, who plans to continue playing field hockey for Severn School. Day wanted to emphasize to her team the importance of growing and getting better this season over wins and losses, and Grace understood that.

"Coach Day taught us that we always need to work outside of practice to become the best," Grace explained. That's the lesson Grace will carry with her as she continues on her field hockey journey.

“
She’s a quiet force on the back line of the field. As a defender, she sees the entire field and is a strong leader in that position.”

— **SHERRIE DAY**
HEAD COACH
GREEN HORNETS
JUNIOR A FIELD
HOCKEY TEAM



Grace Frankl's style of leadership is not to hype up the rest of the team but rather to raise the level of her own play and to lead by example.

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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SPHS Prepares For Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXXII: British Invasion

By Haley Weisgerber

Traveling to Great Britain may not be an option right now, so the Severna Park Stage Company is bringing England to Severna Park with this year's virtual Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXXII: British Invasion.

"We've been wanting to do this for several years," said director Angela Germanos. "We're going to highlight the 1960s and 1980s because there were two main invasions. Of course, we'll have numbers that are not British. We always do a supreme number."

The event will feature songs from the Rolling Stones, Queen, the Beatles, the Kinks and many more of the "greats."

"I think that it's a really integral part of the history of rock 'n' roll," said student director Lucy Feldmann. "I think that's why it's probably been so highly requested."

The cast and crew of 105 students has just started rehearsals on the show's 31 songs. This year's show will even feature American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation from students.

Rehearsals are being conducted on Google Meet, but the students are responsible for perfecting their individual numbers on their own. The new format



has been a learning curve for students and staff alike.

"We feel that it is important for the morale of the students and the community to have this event that has meant so much to everyone over the years as a signature event at our school," said Germanos. "We feel that the additional headaches that doing it virtually involves are well worth the final product of doing this for them."

While other events at this scale are being canceled all over the state, the Severna Park Stage Company knew that they had to do whatever it took to keep the Rock 'N' Roll tradition alive.

"To be able to have an event this year, even with everything going on, is really significant, especially because of the way everyone stepped up to make it happen," said student director Nick Iver.

The students are making the most of the experience and getting creative with choreography, backdrops and songs.

"I think that backup harmonies and choreography are going to be really unique this year, because we're not having mic stands," said Feldmann, » **Continued on page 28**

Teachers Recognized For Excellence In Education

By Haley Weisgerber

Fifteen educators have been named semifinalists for the 2021 Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. These semifinalists will be among 46 teachers to be honored at the 35th Annual Excellence in Education Awards on April 15. Meet the semifinalists at Severna Park and Arnold schools.

Sara Wagner

Folger McKinsey Elementary School



Sara Wagner has been a special education teacher at Folger McKinsey Elementary School for six years. She has a bachelor's degree from Niagara University in elementary

and special education, and a master's from Johns Hopkins with a focus in autism and severe disabilities. In 2004, she began her career in Calvert County, teaching a self-contained autism program. Once her children were entering school, the Arnold resident wanted to shorten her commute.

"I randomly applied and got a phone call from Folger McKinsey, and just

fell in love with just the feel of the building," Wagner said. "They offered me the job, I took a chance, and it was the best move I've made for my career."

Though she originally studied general education at the elementary level, Wagner always had a feeling she would work in special education.

"I can remember the special educator in our school, holding the hand of a student with Down syndrome and walking the halls to the next class or to the speech room, or to the occupational therapy room," recalled Wagner. "I just remember being so curious about it. I just wanted to know more about people with disabilities, and I wanted to know more about how they were learning differently than what we were learning, which is a pretty weird thought for like a third- and fourth-grader. That's just what I was curious about."

She changed her major after joining a sorority that supported the Special Olympics, and she never looked back.

Wagner said that the administration and staff at Folger McKinsey have worked hard to build an inclusive environment for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs.) Wagner and the other special educator, Allison Lowe, have become a resource

for other teachers who have students with IEPs.

"It's cool to be seen as a resource; you feel valued by your school, your community," Wagner said. "To be teaching for this many years, and still look forward to going to work every day is a pretty cool thing."

She hopes to continue to promote inclusivity and encouraging her coworkers to look beyond "the first identifier."

"You see that I have a student with Down syndrome," she explained. "OK, but what else? Let's look deeper into the students and tell me, what else do you see? Did you know that she's an above-grade-level reader? She's a great friend. She's creative. She loves to learn. So, just getting people to see more than what that first thing is that they notice."

Wagner was honored to have been nominated for Teacher of the Year, especially because she is inspired by everyone she works with.

"I've been teaching for so long, I think I have quite a bag of tricks," said Wagner. "But I learn new things from teachers every year. It could be well-seasoned teachers, or brand-new teachers; they just have so much to offer. And I just think it's so cool that I get to work with these people every day."

Lauren Ebersberger

Magothy River Middle School



Lauren Ebersberger's experience at Severna Park Middle School inspired her to become an educator. Now a middle school science teacher at Magothy River Middle School,

she strives to inspire her students in the same ways she was. Although she has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Salisbury University, Ebersberger never taught elementary.

"I went right into sixth grade," said Ebersberger. "Someone said, 'You'll be fine. It's like fifth grade, but a little higher.' And so I went to sixth grade and I never left."

Ebersberger, who started teaching at Magothy River in 2015, said that while many people consider middle school to be a challenging time, she wouldn't have it any other way. She has found that her students are excited to learn and enjoy the hands-on aspects of science.

"I like the sixth grade because I can build these relationships where we have great conversations, we can joke » **Continued on page 28**

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Teachers Recognized

» Continued from page 27

around," she said. "They get my sense of humor, which I have a lot of in the classroom. And then at the end of the day, I know that they learn something from me whether it's, you know, how to deal with life or something about science. It's just, I can't describe. They're young, but they're also in this age where I can see their progress over the years."

Ebersberger also attended graduate school at Loyola University, where she studied curriculum and instruction and eventually got her administrator certificate, though she doesn't know if she will ever leave the classroom.

"I really don't want to leave the classroom," she said. "I have filled in at my school for our assistant principals, and it is good to see a different angle of education, but I definitely missed my students when I fill in [as an administrator]. I'm like, 'What are they doing in my class? I wonder what they're learning.'"

Her favorite thing about working in the classroom is the hands-on kinesthetic learning that comes with science. Although virtual learning has been challenging, she has worked hard to keep her students engaged in learning.

"You never know what you're going to get with sixth grade," said Ebersberger. "You don't know what you're going to get every day, and every day is something new. I don't want to be bored. Every day I come in, there's a challenge for me."

Ebersberger said it is a shock and an honor to be a semifinalist for Teacher of the Year, but it's also emotional.

"My dad is my biggest fan," she said. "He said, when I got hired back in like 2006, 'I expect your name to be in that paper for an award.' So this means a lot."

Melissa Quigley Broadneck High School



Melissa Quigley wears many hats at Broadneck High School. She teaches health, physical education and dance, while also coaching field hockey and unified lacrosse, acting as the department chair for physical education and dance and the wellness committee, and acting as

the advisor for the Bruins Dance-A-Thon. She has worked at Broadneck for 20 years.

"This is my first and only teaching job," she explained. "I've been lucky enough to stay here the whole time. But I'm also an alumnus of Broadneck. I think we have a pretty high percentage of alumni at Broadneck that come back and teach there."

While most teachers in her department focus on physical education, dance or health, Quigley teaches both. While she enjoys health, her unified dance class is her favorite.

When deciding on her career, Quigley knew she wanted to work with children, but she didn't want to sit behind a desk. After talking to her former physical education teacher and coach, she decided to become a teacher.

"I've always loved coaching," said Quigley. "I know coaching and teaching are separate, but I kind of took that love for coaching and teaching healthy ways to live and put them together."

Now that she has been teaching for two decades, Quigley has shifted her focus from physical education to health.

"I'm a big proponent of mental health for our students," said Quigley. "That's kind of why I went from PE more to the health background, because I felt like I was making more of a difference in being mentors to students. They felt more comfortable coming to me."

Building relationships with her students is her favorite part of the job.

"Because they're in high school, I've been able to have relationships with them after high school as well and kind of keep up with what they are doing," she said. "And, you know, some of them still check in with me. I just enjoy seeing them grow and seeing them be successful."

She said that this nomination has given her a chance to reflect on being a teacher and has validated her hard work.

"It is very humbling because the process kind of makes you self-reflect upon your teaching because you're all of the things that you have to do to get to each round; you're doing essays, reflection and stuff like that," she explained. "But I guess I'm humbled by it, because they could have nominated anyone else because every other teacher deserves it."

SPHS Prepares For R'N'R Revival

» Continued from page 27

who also assists with choreography. "I think that the way that will work onscreen is going to be completely different, which is exciting, especially as a choreographer."

Though no concrete plans are in place, Germanos said they will film the show and most likely give the community access through a private Facebook group or YouTube link.

"I'm looking forward to people being able to see the ways in which we use the virtual platform to do some truly amazing things," said student director Kaitlyn Mummert. "It might be a brand-new environment, but we aren't

letting that stop us from going all out and putting together some really fantastic numbers, just like we do every year."

No official date has been set due to the pandemic. For updates and ticket information, visit www.sphsdrama.com.

"I think it's going to have a specific homegrown flair to it, just because everybody is in their house," said Feldmann. "And I think that it'll really reflect to the community what we've all been experiencing throughout 2020, which is adapting. The fact that Rock 'N' Roll is going to be like this is going to be just a nice way to show everybody that the community spirit still exists."



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The Water Street Players Bring Radio Drama To Life With "Gaslight"

During the fall, Severn School's Water Street Players faced more challenges than ever in creating their annual fall upper school drama production. With distancing guidelines and rotating schedules, a typical performance simply was not possible. But they rose above these obstacles to create an impressive dramatic experience with the 1940s radio play "Gaslight." The result? A gripping, chilling performance that reached beyond the limits of traditional theater and kept the audience on the edge of their virtual seats.

About The Play

This classic 1940s radio play is set in fog-bound London in 1880, at the upper middle-class home of Gregory Manningham and his wife, Bella. It is set in late afternoon, a time that playwright Patrick Hamilton notes as the time "before the feeble dawn of gaslight and tea." Bella and Gregory are recently married, having honeymooned in Italy, yet months later, Bella begins to become forgetful and is clearly on edge, and Gregory is beginning to change as well, making unexplained disappearances from the house; he will not tell her where he is going, and this increases her anxiety. The arrival of a police detective called Rough causes further anxiety for Bella, as he explains that there may be something sinister going on and that ghosts from the past may continue to haunt her house. It is a time-tested story of melodrama and manipulation that con-

tinues to enthrall audiences to this day. This version of the play is based on scripts by Patrick Hamilton, Jan Van Druten, Walter Reisch and John L. Balderston.

The cast, most of whom voiced multiple roles, includes Maddie Clarke, Grace Derderian, Sam Grady, Michael Hesford, Maddie Howell, Jeffrey Huang, Jack Mandish, Zarah Meek and Ava Wisnom.

Ingenuity Takes The Stage

Upper school drama teacher Ron Giddings, a 1999 Severn School graduate, worked with technical theater director Ralph Derbyshire to create a set that would allow the actors to interact with one another in real-time during the filming of the production while following current safety guidelines. They transformed the stone amphitheater in the Stine Environmental Center into a set of radio booths complete with vintage microphones.

With striking lighting and '40s era makeup and costumes, the visual effect amplified the complicated tension among the characters in the play. In post-production, Giddings added music and sound effects to the performance to heighten the overall experience. Severn School held a Zoom showing of the film in December, followed by a real-time Q&A session with the cast and crew. In the face of incredible obstacles, the performance was a remarkable success.

Visit the Severn School website (www.severnschool.com) to see a video of "Gaslight."



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FY2022 Public Schools Budget To Include New Positions, Improved Technology

By Haley Weisgerber

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Superintendent George Arlotto proposed a \$1.37 billion operating budget and a \$234.5 million capital budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022) to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education on December 17. The budget, which is a \$52.3 million increase from the previous year, includes new teaching positions and funding to improve virtual learning for students and staff.

Nearly half of the increase, \$25 million, is dedicated to compensating employees. While the specifics will be negotiated at a later date, this amount is sufficient to provide a step increase for all eligible employees, a 1 percent cost-of-living increase for all employees and the second half of the mid-year step increase for teachers approved by the Board of Education in November.

The budget will also create an additional 225.9 new positions across the school system, and 97 percent of those positions will directly interact with students. The recommendation includes 15 new teacher assistant positions to support elementary schools.

"We are placing every additional position in this recommendation where it will most impact children,"



George Arlotto
Anne Arundel County
Public Schools
Superintendent

Arlotto said during his budget presentation.

Another priority focus area is additional support for students with special needs. Nearly \$2 million is recommended for 30 new positions for specialty sites and

support for comprehensives schools.

As of October 30, AACPS had more than 6,150 students in the English Language Learners program. Due to rapid growth of the program, the budget recommendation contains six positions to meet the needs of these students.

"Much has also been written and said over the last nine months about the social-emotional health of our students and employees," said Arlotto. "Our Mental Health Task Force's report presented in October laid out a variety of areas in which every

agency and individual in our county should focus."

The budget would include 5.5 positions to assist with students' mental health. Three school counselors will go to the schools with the highest enrollment and to elementary schools that currently have one school counselor.

"I want to be clear, however, that this is just one more step on a path to boost the school counselors at the elementary level as we continue to strive to meet the social-emotional needs of our young learners," said Arlotto. "Addressing these issues at an earlier age can help avert more serious issues in our older grades."

Currently, federal and state grants have funded the technology to make virtual learning a success in AACPS. That funding will soon disappear, so the budget dedicates more than \$7.5 million to improving virtual learning and technology for students and staff. It also includes \$4 million for the refreshing and replacement of Chromebooks for teachers, students and other employees. This is the first part of a five-year rollout of the Chromebook program. More funding will be needed for this program in the future.

The capital budget contains \$188 million for construction to provide the best educational environment

for when the pandemic is over. This includes construction and renovation of the Old Mill Complex in Millersville.

Arlotto also addressed concerns that a budget increase and more teaching positions are unnecessary in a year where enrollment has dropped by 1,500 students. Arlotto said this is the first decrease in enrollment in 15 years and it is caused exclusively by COVID-19.

"Those students will be back, and they will likely be back in September when the new school year begins," he explained. "Any failure to account for them in our funding request now will exacerbate our class size issues and eradicate the progress we have made in this area in recent years."

On March 1, the Board of Education will request approval on both the operating and capital budget approval, and on May 1, the budgets are due to County Executive Stuart Pittman. The FY2022 budgets would be adopted on June 16.

"Whether it is with the enhancement of educational facilities in which our students learn or the delivery of programs, support and instruction, we have the opportunity every single day to positively impact the lives of children," Arlotto said. "Every second spent with a child is a chance to inspire."

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St. Martin's-In-The-Field Student Actors Perform In "The Nutcracker"

By Anna Portela

Two St. Martin's-in-the-Field student actors, 12-year-old Madelyn "Maddy" McKinty and 10-year-old Colin Bixby, have both found community, friendship and fun through dance. They each shared their ballet journey and their experience in performing in the Chesapeake Ballet Company's 2020 production of "The Nutcracker."

Maddy McKinty

Maddy began dancing in 2013 and enrolled at The Dance Academy in Severna Park in 2015. During her initial years at The Dance Academy, she had seen "The Nutcracker" a few times and was pleasantly surprised when her mom presented her with a new black leotard and told her she would have the opportunity to audition. In her first year performing, she had four roles ranging from a mouse to an angel.

Last year was Maddy's first performance on pointe, which she approached with excitement. Due to the pandemic, practices for the Dance Academy and the Chesapeake Ballet Company drastically changed. Practices for "The Nutcracker" were staggered and the entire production was filmed in one day over many hours. However, Maddy adapted to the challenges and credited the "great teachers" for making things easier.

"My favorite part wasn't actually

“My favorite part wasn't actually performing but the opportunity to have the same experience and seeing everyone Saturday [for filming].”

— MADDY MCKINTY



Maddy McKinty and Colin Bixby found community, friendship and fun through Chesapeake Ballet Company's production of "The Nutcracker."

performing but the opportunity to have the same experience and seeing everyone Saturday [for filming]," Maddy recalled.

Her experience with the Chesapeake Ballet Company is deeply cherished.

"I have a vivid memory of playing hand games with my friend, Tonya,

right behind the scenery and the lights going off [during a blackout in the scene] and hearing the beautiful music and being with all my friends," Maddy said.

Her dream role is to play the angel soloist.

Maddy enjoys practicing tap and

acrobatic dance in addition to ballet. She plans to compete in the Youth American Grand Prix ballet competition this summer.

Colin Bixby

“I just like it. I got to see Maddy a lot. I got to run around and play games,”

— COLIN BIXBY

Colin began dancing around 2013 in North Carolina, where he first performed in "The Nutcracker." His family moved to Severna Park two and a half years

ago and enrolled Colin in ballet at the Severna Park Community Center. Eventually, Colin enrolled at The Dance Academy and was introduced to Chesapeake Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker" through Maddy.

Colin's first role was as Fritz's friend, and he most recently played the part of Fritz and a Little Mirliton.

"I just like it. I got to see Maddy a lot. I got to run around and play games," Colin reflected.

Colin's dream role in "The Nutcracker" is to play Drosselmeyer or the Prince.

Like Maddy, Colin credited the great teachers who made an unusual year easier.

"Barbara [Haskell] and the team of parent volunteers were incredible," said Colin's mother, Elaine Bixby.

The day of filming, "parents were volunteering outside or inside," Elaine said. "Kids would come outside when they weren't in scene and parents would have an area set up for them. When a scene was done, they would take out the set and continue rolling."

Colin will continue to practice ballet as well as jazz and tap into the new year.

Severna Park Dancer Advances Past Southern Regional Oireachtas

Annabelle Baker, a seventh-grader at St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School, was one of 13 McGrath Morgan Academy of Irish Dance members to qualify for the world championships in Dublin. That opportunity comes after a strong performance at the Irish Dance Teachers Association of North America (IDTANA) Southern Region Oireachtas, held in Orlando during the first week of December.

"After a very challenging year, it is such a privilege to have danced at the Oireachtas and to have the opportunity to dance in the upcoming world championships," Annabelle said. "It is very exciting that I get to take my first overseas trip to Ireland this year."

Annabelle Baker has qualified for the Irish dance world championships in Dublin this spring.

The Oireachtas (pronounced Uh-ROCK-tus) is a three-day regional championship where Irish dancers compete to qualify for national and world championships. The southern region, of which McGrath Morgan is a member, includes Alabama, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Mexico.

Almost 2,000 dancers competed in Orlando. Each competitor danced one soft shoe and one hard shoe dance. Scores were tabulated and the top half of dancers were invited back to compete in the third round, which is a hardshoe set dance.

"The fact that in such a short time we have managed to pull off a regional championship is really crazy when you think about it!" said John Lawrence Morgan, TCRG. "I am very proud of all of the hard work of the dancers, especially during a year where training has been so challenging. Just four months ago, we were still on Zoom."



Family Movie Night Now Has A Tasteful Venue



Photo courtesy of Treeolow Photo

Movie nights at Garry's Grill started with a showing of "Elf" on December 18.

By Kevin Murnane

Garry's Grill's owner Eddie Conway has always asked his employees to be creative and come up with ideas to enhance the dining experience at his Severna Park restaurant.

"We have meetings quite often, and as the saying goes, we throw stuff against the wall and we see what sticks," Conway said. "Especially during the pandemic, we have had to be creative to keep our customers coming back and have fresh and exciting ideas."

The latest innovation from Garry's Grill is a throwback to another family-themed era: a drive-in theater in the Severna Park Village parking lot. The screen and speakers are located on the roof of Conway's building and the "theater-goers" can also use their radio for sound. Conway has 20 parking spots reserved for these movie nights.

"We have added a new prospective to our restaurant by bringing back the drive-in theater," said server Angela
» Continued on page 36

AACPL Celebrates 100 Years



The original Severna Park Library was opened in 1955 in the repurposed Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Station.

By Haley Weisgerber

On January 8, 1921 the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) opened its doors for the first time at the Municipal Building in downtown Annapolis. The library was open two days a week and library cards cost 10 cents. On January 8, 2021 the library celebrated its 100th anniversary via Facebook Live. From lending books and providing inter-

net services, to providing a meeting place, the AACPL has been an important part of the community from its beginnings.

The library was started by a group of religious clergy, local educators, private citizens and more who saw a need for a lending library. The library opened with 2,000 books on its shelves and volunteer librarians. The first full-time staff
» Continued on page 38

Dining Out



Tradition Of Authentic Italian Food Continues At Bella Napoli



Photos by Mary Cobbler

Top: The margherita pizza was classic with thick cheese and fresh basil leaves. **Middle Left:** The bruschetta came pizza-style with tomatoes, olive oil, basil and cheese. **Bottom Left:** The fettuccine Mediterranean featured scallops, shrimp and crab, and was topped with a delicately flavored white sauce. **Middle Right:** The lemon sorbet was tangy and sweet.

By Mary Cobbler

Whether you're craving a homemade pizza with wonderful, yeasty bread, authentic slow-cooked Italian sauce over pasta, fresh seafood or stuffed subs, you can get your fix at Bella Napoli Italian Restaurant in Pasadena.

My dining companion and I arrived at Bella Napoli in Pasadena on a cold Sunday evening. The restaurant has a cozy, retro feel with a choice of booths or tables. It's a neighbor-

hood favorite tucked in the corner of a shopping center near Food Lion. The local band, Spellbound, was setting up in a corner and played oldies music.

Our friendly waitress, Taylor, arrived quickly and gave us plenty of time to peruse the extensive menu. My dining companion was an old friend I hadn't seen for some time, so we had a lot to catch up on: cats, dogs, crafts and other fun trivialities.

» Continued on page 36

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Millersville native and current Texas resident Coral Hahn has released a 98-page poetry collection, "A Heart of Ink: A Journey From Darkness to Understanding." The illustrated book features poems about love and faith. Hahn called it "an oasis of imagery and text reminding

not only of the good of former time, but also the hope of the eternity that is lasting and beautiful." Hahn is also working on a second poetry book, "A Heart of Paper." A paperback version of her first book is available on Amazon and through Barnes and Noble.

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Tradition Of Authentic Italian Food Continues At Bella Napoli

» Continued from page 33

We kicked off our meal with several appetizers: the cream of crab soup (a restaurant favorite), mozzarella sticks, and bruschetta with tomatoes and cheese.

Taylor brought hot bread with herb-infused olive oil — a spicy, warm touch on a chilly night. The restaurant's local award-winning cream of crab soup, another comfort food, never disappoints. I enjoyed the soup leisurely, savoring the rich, creamy texture and spicy additions of Old Bay, pepper, sherry and another seasoning I couldn't identify; Taylor, asking the cook, said it's a chef's secret!

Extra crunchy mozzarella sticks were a treat. Filled with freshly melted cheese and topped with oregano, they paired perfectly with savory homemade pasta sauce.

The generous portion of three large slices of pizza-style bruschetta was a bit of a surprise. I was expecting the thinner, crispier garlicky bread I usually have, but there were no complaints. The bread was toasted and topped liberally with olive oil, fresh tomatoes, cheese and basil — a satisfying and tasty combination.

Having a good time deciding on her entree, my companion chose the fettuccine Mediterranean, and I, having perused a variety of casual reviews online, picked a margherita pizza.

As is often the case, I preferred my companion's meal. The incredible aroma of the seafood was intoxicating and added another sensory element to the dish. The fettuccine was cooked to perfection, covered with a buttery white sauce, delicately flavored just enough to enhance the seafood — shrimp, scallops and crab — prepared just right, tender and flavorful.

The margherita pizza was classic, with fresh homemade crust. I like a slightly

thinner crust, but that's a preference. It's topped with an Italian pasta sauce with the homey taste of one that has simmered for a long time to deepen the flavors and with thick mozzarella cheese with large basil leaves.

For our desserts, I chose the chocolate mousse, and my companion picked the lemon sorbet. They mouse was decadent, and the sorbet was refreshing and sweet.

Dark chocolate whipped to an airy and slightly sweet delight, the mousse was just what it should be. The sorbet was just beautiful! A lemon hollowed out and filled with sweet tart and tangy, icy sorbet. Light and refreshing, it was a great end to a heavy meal.

We had plenty to fill our doggie bags! With three appetizers, two entrees and two desserts, our whole meal came to about \$70.

Bella Napoli offers friendly service and great food. The restaurant has a full menu of authentic Italian food, beer, wine and liquor.

Due to COVID-19, the restaurant has restrictions on the number of indoor diners. It does have outside accommodations with heaters and a firepit. And, of course, curbside pickup is available. Call 410-255-9400 to place an order or make a reservation. The restaurant also offers catering. For more information, you can visit www.bellanapoli.us.

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Family Movie Night Has A Venue

» Continued from page 33

Deaton, whose entire family works at Garry's. "This has brought new customers to the restaurant and they include many families with young children. It has really been fun to see how popular this has become."

Patrons register for the spots by contacting the restaurant, and if they want dinner while they see the movie, they simply call the restaurant and place a takeout order. Conway is asking a patron from each parking spot for a \$10 donation for his staff.

With the recent holiday season, Garry's Grill has shown "Elf" and "Home Alone." Since then, the staff has asked customers for their suggestions. "Aladdin" was nominated for an early January showing.

"It has been a fantastic new idea and it has been a great deal of fun to be part of this," said server Kyler Wilson. "The first night I was the 'elf on the roof' and I saw the kids poking their heads through the sunroofs and their faces had so much joy on them."

Since the pandemic, Conway and his staff has tried numerous innovations:

broadcasting Orioles games, selling groceries and creating an outdoor eating area with games. There is even chalk for the younger guests to draw on the sidewalk.

"My neighbors at the shopping center have been fantastic," Conway said. They have been so supportive, and it just goes to show you how amazing the Severna Park community is."

Conway began working at Garry's Grill at 14 years old as a dishwasher and has worked his way through the restaurant. At 23 years old, Conway purchased the restaurant from longtime owner Garry Anderson. Because of Conway having experience in all facets of the restaurant, he knows how hard his staff works and he realizes it's important to keep them employed and engaged in the business.

"This has been a great idea that my staff created," Conway said. "Kids are tired of being cooped up and this is a way that the family can have a safe night out and be together."

Garry's Grill has no set schedule for how long the drive-in movies will continue. For new event details, visit the restaurant's Facebook page.

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“Sound Of Metal” Is A Moving Experience



Photo courtesy of Amazon Studios

“Sound of Metal” offers an interesting pontification: whether or not providing an unnatural fix to a natural obstacle is right, maybe there is something more to be gained in coming to terms with the challenges we all face.

By Julian Reese

Darius Marder’s “Sound of Metal” is one of the newest films released as an Amazon original. Amazon has been keeping up with other streaming services in producing and creating original films. The film follows Ruben Stone (Riz Ahmed), a drummer who comprises half of the fictional metal duo Blackgammon. His girlfriend Lou (Olivia Cooke) is the group’s vocalist. The two live together in an RV — their lifestyle characterized as “gypsy-like.” Though the music they play is intense, their life is simple and serene.

In the film’s opening minutes, we are treated to both the sounds of the group’s music and that of their day-to-day ambience living together. Soon, Ruben’s hearing begins to fade, and upon seeing a doctor, he learns that it is progressively deteriorating. At one point early on, the images shown beforehand of Ruben’s morning routine are displayed again; this time, their sound muffled and ringing, and the absence, the deadness, that now prevails over Ruben is made immediately clear. As Ruben hits rock bottom, drastic action needs to be taken, and he finds himself at a rural community that teaches those with deafness how to overcome their obstacles. Not only is this a community for deaf individuals but also specifically recovering addicts who are also deaf.

As is revealed, Ruben has also struggled with addiction. “Four years” he says he’s been sober. But it becomes clear that the pain and anguish that comes with Ruben’s deafness is straining his sobriety. At points in the film, parallels and connections are made between Ruben’s craving for his past life — his at first unrealistic optimism that a surgery will fix all his problems, physical and

mental, and that of an individual undergoing withdrawal.

The film’s most effective sequences occur when it employs “subjective sound.” In many scenes throughout the film, the way that Ruben hears the world is expressed to the audience. Such is the work of grand and elaborate sound design, which apart from the performances, may be the strongest aspect of “Sound of Metal.” Its treatment of deafness is poignant and accurate — clearly well researched. The effort to cast many actors from the deaf community gives the film an added realism and tenderness.

The camerawork, leaning more toward that of cinema verité or the deeply humanistic work of American auteur John Cassavetes, adds a personal touch, and accentuates the film’s emotional authenticity. A brilliant sequence occurs in which Ruben is at a party, listening to Lou and her father perform a song together. To the audience, it begins clearly, and the melodiousness of the music is apparent. But as it progresses, the sound becomes characteristic of the way Ruben perceives it. The chorus and piano become chunky and warped, and they stay this way for the rest of the scene. The apparent irreversibility of Ruben’s condition is truly embodied.

“Sound of Metal” offers an interesting pontification: whether or not providing an unnatural fix to a natural obstacle is right, maybe there is something more to be gained in coming to terms with the challenges we all face — to embrace the silence, so to speak. “Sound of Metal” succeeds because its answer, or opinion, on this matter is vague and impartial. It is ultimately the role of the viewer to find a solution to this predicament.

“Sound of Metal” is now streaming on Amazon Prime.

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Anne Arundel County Public Library Celebrates 100 Years

The current Severna Park library (right) is considered one of the most used branches in the county. During the anniversary celebration, the Anne Arundel County Public Library will have special banners up in downtown Annapolis.



» Continued from page 33

member, Eliza Suydam, was hired later that year.

"She was, from what I read, your classic librarian," said Christine Feldmann, AACPL director of marketing and communications. "She was, you know, what you think of when you think of librarians from long ago. She was a very dedicated staff person."

In 1923, AACPL opened another location in Glen Burnie, and the system has been growing ever since.

The Severna Park branch originally opened in 1955 in the former Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad Station. In 1972, the Severna Park Library opened in its current location, but the move was not without controversy. According to "The Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Library: A History," a book published by a former library trustee Barrett L.

McKnown, the original 1969 proposal for the branch outlined a joint school-public library, which the community opposed. Eventually, the plans for the joint structure were scrapped in fear of the library being unsatisfactory for either the public or the school. It opened with 40,000 books and cost \$691,980 to construct.

"I can tell you that it's a very well-used branch," said Feldmann. "It is one of our busiest locations, certainly. And it is a very community focused branch."

AACPL now has 16 branches throughout Anne Arundel County.

"The early branches were sort of in spaces that we could just find and retrofit, and now we build beautiful modern-day libraries like the Michael E. Bush Annapolis library, which opened in July," said Feldmann. "So it started off as a collection of books, and it's now become much more of a community hub, a place where people

can learn and grow and connect with others in their community."

Feldmann said the growth has been made possible through the support of the community, the Anne Arundel County government (which provides 80% of the library's funding) and the Anne Arundel County Library Foundation, which was founded in 2006 to support the library through fundraising.

"The library is the great equalizer," Feldmann said, "no matter how much money you make, no matter what your address is, no matter who you are and what age you are. It's a place where everyone can come and find something that speaks to them, that they can come and learn in a safe environment and feel welcome. Our staff considers their customers family."

Although library staff cannot throw the party they originally planned, a variety of virtual events are in the works. Through the beginning of March, the library will share the community's library stories. This series was kicked off with County Executive Stuart Pittman sharing his own story on the AACPL Facebook page.

"I would say that's one of the things that I'm most excited about is we're able to show people that libraries are still relevant, that libraries still matter and make a difference," said Feldmann. "We're still here and we're still changing people's lives for the better."

Eventually, Feldmann said library staff would like to throw an in-person celebration, but for now, the community can share a library story or learn more about the virtual 100th year celebrations by visiting www.aacpl.net/100years.



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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Rockwell Fitness Builds On Strong Foundation



Photos by Maddy Fangio

Rockwell Fitness owner Brian Chisholm and General Manager Bree Moore make members feel welcome. The gym features a spin studio, a free weight room (pictured below), a cardio room, a message therapy room and other amenities.



By Zach Sparks

Just as the members of Rockwell Fitness work every day to improve their strength and cardiovascular health, owners Brian Chisholm and Sid Saab have been grinding since September 2018 to take the gym to a new level.

“It was part of my community and it was a familiar small business,” Chisholm said when asked about the opportunity to own Rockwell Fitness. “It was something I was personally connected to.”

Chisholm and Saab immediately gave Rockwell a facelift by replacing the carpeting; buying new equipment; adding a spin studio, sports training turf and two 132-inch virtual screens; improving the smoothie bar; and “painting and cleaning every inch of space,”

Chisholm said.

“I wanted a feeling of energy and openness so people feel a positive vibe, which is hard to do when the gym looks dreary,” he explained.

The Rockwell team kept their spirits positive following the onset of COVID-19 in 2020. They purchased air purification systems and established procedures to sanitize all equipment regularly.

“We put a major emphasis on making sure we’re hygienically clean every day, and industry-wide, there are very few incidents of people being infected within a health facility,” Chisholm said, citing a joint study conducted by the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) and MXM. “That’s because the emphasis on being clean but also because the people coming there are healthy people.”

Many of those people took advantage of outdoor classes in the fall, getting their workout while social distancing.

“We held everything from spin classes to boot camps outside,” Chisholm said.

While winter temperatures might deter some people from exercising outside, that is not the case with all Rockwell members. Trainer Travis Clay has been leading workout classes outside every weekday morning.

“Studies show that working out in colder weather activates brown fat cells, which burns more calories,” Chisholm said.

» Continued on page 40

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members: **Exotic Pet Pals LLC., Booth Brothers Construction and CBS Imaging Solutions**, which joined as a premium bronze

member. And we thank all our members who have renewed their memberships during this tough time, especially the restaurants.

Despite the COVID challenges, we had a busy December and ended the year on a high note.

On December 1, we held a virtual general membership meeting to elect the 2021 board of directors, and I am so excited to announce our 2021 slate:

President – Dianna Lancione
The Voice Media Inc.

First Vice President – Crystal Wiley
Severn Bank

Second Vice President – Patrick Lee
Chesapeake Think Tank

Treasurer – Valerie McLaughlin
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The Y of Central Maryland

Director – Melanie Ferragut
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Director – Tammie Neall
Anne Arundel Community College

I thank them in advance for their service to the chamber.

On December 3, we held a ribbon cutting for Tutor Partners, with 20 in attendance outside of the chamber building. Tutor Partners has been providing online tutoring for years and is a wonderful resource for students needing support and parents struggling to help with schoolwork. Owner Karima Davis is also doing live webinars on the Greater Severna Park and Arnold
» Continued on page 40

Now Is The Best Time To Consider A Roth IRA

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and Managing
Partner at Premier
Planning Group



It’s 2021. How good does it feel to say that? I don’t think there has ever been a year that everyone has wanted to end so badly. After all, 2020 was a year full of uncontrollable events. The coronavirus

brought us uncertainty, volatility, and required us to ask the “what if” questions. As the new year begins, all eyes are on vaccines and elections, which are things out of our control. It is now time to shift things into our control. What we can control is what we do with our money. Something to consider is converting your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. There are many reasons to do this but also many factors to consider, one being the deadline of April 15, 2021 to convert, establish or contribute to your Roth IRA.

In 2020 alone, the United States government spent about \$12 trillion on coronavirus relief. The government will need to eventually start repaying this debt. The big question that all of us should be asking is, “How are they going to

pay for this?” Most of the wealth in this country is being held through qualified accounts. Qualified accounts include your own 401(k), 403(b), TSP and your traditional IRA accounts. Taxing that money is a major source of where the government can take back what they borrowed. One way to protect yourself from that possibility is by converting to a Roth IRA.

Before converting, it is important to know what a Roth IRA is. A Roth IRA is a retirement account where instead of investing pre-tax dollars, you are actually contributing after-tax dollars. As long as the account has been open for at least five years, the gains made on your account are tax-free upon withdrawal. That differs from a traditional IRA or 401(k) where all proceeds are taxable upon withdrawal at income tax rates, which is a key benefit. What direction do you suspect income tax rates to go?

Anyone can convert qualified funds to a Roth IRA, but it is important to determine the benefits prior to conversion. Unlike contributing, there are no income restrictions to converting to a Roth IRA. The different part of the process is paying your taxes upon the conversion. For example, if you have \$100,000 in a traditional IRA and you want to convert that
» Continued on page 41

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 39

Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Please go to our page to see some of the great videos that are helpful for parents.

In lieu of our annual tree lighting/open house celebration, on December 11 we held a "Trick or Tree" at the chamber. Community members were invited to see the tree and have their pictures taken with the Grinch and Santa. We distributed over 100 goodie bags with coupons and items from our members. Many thanks to our sponsors: **Minuteman Press of Crofton** (event sponsor), **Delegate Heather Bagnall**, **Mathnasium**, **Steak 'n Shake** and **Chick-fil-A**. It was a wonderful event and people loved being able to do something in

person that was COVID safe.

Our Successful Women in Business luncheon was held on December 16, with carryout from **Café Bretton**, which prepared five delectable selections for the luncheon, topped off with a cake pop from **Lisa's Cakepops**. Our luncheon sponsor was Lisa's Cakepops, and vendors were **Deca Wrap**, **Peach Coldwell Banker** and the **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi**. We said goodbye to long-serving committee chair Pam Spearman and welcomed new chairs Kelly and Peggy Pendergast of **Monument Sotheby's International Realty**. We are so glad that Nancy Greer of the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi will remain as co-chair.

We began the new year with a large multi-chamber legislative leadership breakfast. More than 80 people attended the virtual meeting on January 7 that was sponsored by the **Gardiner and Appel Group**. From a panel discussion, we learned about legislation that will impact small businesses.

Please join us on January 21 at 8:30am for a fascinating webinar on "Taming Your Monkey Mind." Hosted by our Health and Wellness Committee, this webinar will be presented by **Billy Greer, owner of the Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi**. The "monkey mind" is our inner critic, that little nagging voice that undermines our confidence. In this webinar, you

will learn techniques and practices to "tame" these unwanted thoughts and mental chatter, which so many are experiencing under the stress of the world these days. The event is free and open to the public, and registration can be found on the chamber's Facebook page or our website.

We are very much looking forward to holding events in public again, particularly the July 4 parade. Planning for the parade begins at the end of January, so our first steps are on the horizon.

As always, we urge you to support our small businesses in every way you can. Before you press that key to order from Amazon, please check in with our local businesses first. It is astounding what they have been able to put in place to better serve their customers. They are creative and innovative and have done everything possible to adapt to this new environment. Shop local, support local, give local.

To learn more about the chamber, please email me at ceo@gspacc.com, call 410-647-3900, and visit our website at www.gspacc.com. You are welcome to join our mailing list at www.gspacc.com and receive our weekly newsletter.

We also hold a Chamber 101 orientation for new and prospective members on the last Friday of each month. Meetings are virtual, free and open to the public. You can find all the information on our calendar at www.gspacc.com.

Rockwell Fitness Builds On Strong Foundation

» Continued from page 39

In the spring, Chisholm hopes to see more young athletes using the outdoor space for batting practice and soccer drills.

Inside of Rockwell Fitness, the 15,000-square-foot gym has plenty of space for members to maintain distance while exercising. FX Physical Therapy also operates in the Rockwell Fitness building, providing another service.

"Our gym offers so much more and is so much bigger than anyone would perceive by looking at it [from the outside]," Chisholm said. "We

have a spin studio, a free weight room, a cardio room, a message therapy room."

Chisholm believes the amenities and Rockwell's level of customer service set it apart from other gyms. Speaking to that level of service, Chisholm said it starts when members are greeted at the door and continues during the workout for people exercising in groups.

"We have everything from specialized personal trainers who help people with body shaping, to the older generation who wants to stay healthy," Chisholm said. "We have

one-on-one to small groups and large groups."

The gym's hours are 5:00am to 8:00pm on weekdays and 7:00am to 4:00pm on weekends. To learn more about services and programs at Rockwell Fitness, visit in person at 551 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park, call 410-401-0107 or visit www.rockwellfitnessmd.com.

"We feel like we're taking something that was already good and building something great," Chisholm said. "It's a tremendous opportunity to help people transform their lives."

Happy New Year
Severna Park!

LET'S MAKE IT A GREAT 2021!



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Now Is The Best Time To Consider A Roth IRA

» **Continued from page 39**
 money into a Roth IRA in 2020, you could owe upward of \$30,000 on that conversion based upon what your income tax rate is. For someone making between \$80,251 and \$171,500 who is filing taxes jointly, they would pay \$22,000 in federal taxes for that conversion! You might say that's a considerable amount of money, but the benefit is never paying taxes on that account again.

Giving money to the IRS is taxing on Americans, no pun intended. One strategy in making the Roth conversion more palatable is doing a partial conversion. Instead of converting the entire amount in your account, you would convert only a portion of your qualified money into the Roth IRA. There are no current limitations to the number of years or the amount you convert into the Roth IRA. In my same example, we could convert that \$100,000 over four years at \$25,000 a year and the tax liability is being spread out over those four years at \$5,500 per year. My suggestion is to meet with your accountant or tax advisor to evaluate your income and

determine if a conversion will benefit you and your tax bracket.

Three reasons make 2021 an attractive year to do the conversion. The first thing to note is that the deadline to establish and contribute to your 2020 Roth IRA is April 15, 2021. Congress has not outlawed the ability to convert, which is thereby creating a tax-free account. The second reason is many of you, due to COVID-19, have potentially lost money and contributed a lower amount than previous years. The third reason is that the tax reductions imposed by the Trump administration are set to expire at the end of 2025. Conventional wisdom tells us that tax rates are likely to increase if you are currently paying the lowest in taxes you would ever pay.

The final factor to consider is President Biden. As of this writing, it's not official that the Democratic party has taken control of the Senate, but it looks as though that is highly probable. A big part of Biden's platform is tax increases. For most of us, managing taxes is a more important factor in protecting your wealth than most other

risks, even market risks. Converting to a Roth can be a great tool in offsetting this risk.

The coronavirus has been one of the biggest threats we have faced as a nation, and the potential financial consequences could be immense as we begin to pay for it. Right now, you should do everything you possibly can to protect what's yours so you can enjoy your brightest future possible.

Interested in learning more about these factors or want help with opening and managing an established IRA? Call me at 443-837-2542 to set up an appointment!

Jason LaBarge, Financial Advisor and Managing Partner at Premier Planning Group
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A Roth IRA offers tax free withdrawals on taxable contributions.

To qualify for the tax-free and penalty-free withdrawal or earnings, a Roth IRA must be in place for at least five tax years, and the distribution must take place after age 59 1/2 or due to death, disability, or a first-time home purchase (up to a \$10,000 lifetime maximum). Depending on state law, Roth IRA distributions may be subject to state taxes.

Before deciding whether to retain assets in a 401(k) or roll over to an IRA, an investor should consider various factors including, but not limited to, investment options, fees and expenses, services, withdrawal penalties, protection from creditors and legal judgments, required minimum distributions and possession of employer stock. Please view the Investor Alerts section of the FINRA website for additional information.

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Severna Park Natives Take Aim And Hit “Bullseye”

Taylor Adams and Dan Kamenetz opened a pop-up eatery at R House in the Remington neighborhood in Baltimore the day after Thanksgiving. Menu items include dumplings, scallion pancakes, noodles and salads.



By Declan Keefe

Independent businesses and restaurants cannot seem to catch a break in these times. After countless COVID shutdowns, starting a small business may seem like heading up a creek without a paddle. Nevertheless, two Severna Park natives, Taylor Adams and Dan Kamenetz, are overcoming the odds and getting started on their dream by creating a new company: Bullseye Sriracha.

Adams has been in the restaurant business his entire career since he started working at Ledo Pizza at age 15. Following his time at Ledo, he moved next door in Park Plaza to Cynthia's. Realizing his passion for cooking, Adams pursued his dreams for cuisine by attending the prestigious Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, New York. Following his graduation from CIA, Adams spent the next 10 years working at numerous exalted restaurants in Brooklyn, New York, including The Meat Hook, Pok Pok NY, the Glasserie, and most recently, Chef de Cuisine at EMILY.

"I've never not worked in a restaurant," Adams said about his love of the industry. "It's the only thing I can imagine myself doing."

Two years ago, Adams started creating sauces in his Brooklyn apartment, where Bullseye Sriracha was born. After sampling his sauce with friends and customers, Adams sensed a potential hit was on his hands. Adams recruited his good friend from Severna Park High School, Kamenetz, who was now in the real estate profession, to be his business partner. Together, they launched a Kickstarter campaign and raised \$10,000. When the lockdown in March 2020 put a screeching halt to the restaurant business, Adams was laid off, so he and his family moved back to Baltimore.

Although the sauce was originally intended to be in production earlier this year, Adams and Kamenetz paused making it due to the pandemic. In September, a Randallstown company agreed to manufacture the sauce, and Bullseye Sriracha development began. Adams proudly proclaims on the company's website, "Our goal was simple: create a well-balanced, super flavorful hot sauce that gave your food more than just heat." The company's logo and mascot are none other than Adams' pet dog Bull Terrier, Bullseye.

In addition to this milestone, Adams and Kamenetz opened a pop-up eatery at R House in the Remington neighborhood in Baltimore the day after Thanksgiving. Menu items include dumplings, scallion pancakes, noodles and salads. Opening was a difficult decision.

"It's a time when lots of places are closing and we are opening," Kamenetz said.

The duo is currently working on a contract extension to keep the cafe open until the end of January. The next step is to sell the sauce to other restaurants.

As word spreads about Bullseye Sriracha, Adams and Kamenetz are finally accomplishing their dream of starting a business together.

"I'm very lucky to have a close friend that I've known for half of my life as a business partner," Kamenetz said. "I believe so much in this company."

The Big Bean Coffee House To Open New Location In Annapolis

The Big Bean Coffee House, a Severna Park coffee shop and longtime community staple, will expand its footprint within Anne Arundel County and open its second location in Annapolis this spring.

The Big Bean's second location, at 888 Bestgate Road No. 110 in Annapolis, will feature the same locally renowned drink menu as its original Severna Park location. The 1,600-square-foot coffee shop will offer menu favorites like its famous breakfast harvest cookie, the Mexican mocha, green protein smoothies like the popular "green gorilla," vegan and gluten-free snacks, along with other hot, cold and frozen drink options that can

be paired with the shop's breakfast and lunch selections. The company's Annapolis location will include an expanded selection of nitro coffee on tap and cold brew options, as well as a 35-seat outdoor patio.

"We could not be more thrilled to be expanding The Big Bean to another part of Anne Arundel County and introducing our concept to the workers and residents of the greater Annapolis area," said Christie Coster, co-owner of The Big Bean. "Above all things, we value community and coffee, and providing our customers with a home away from home experience that they can depend on from their neighborhood coffee shop. We look forward to meeting

Annapolis' workforce and residents, and providing our customers with a level of service, as well as food and drink options that will be unmatched locally."

The Big Bean will be open seven days a week. The coffee shop is focused on serving its community safely through the pandemic, and its priority is the health and wellness of its staff and customers. The Big Bean will continue to encourage social distancing at both of its locations, and is requiring all customers and employees to wear masks. Curbside pickup will be available.

For more information, follow The Big Bean on Facebook and Instagram or visit www.thebigbean.com.



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