



Toby's Returns
With "Shrek:
The Musical"
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Young Actors Premier First Episode Of "The Point"



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APRIL 2021

The Votes Have
Been Talled
And The "Best
Of Severna
Park" For
2021 Are...

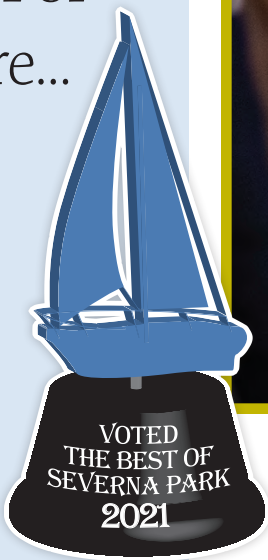
The results are in! We had 2,175 people cast their votes either online or via newsprint for this year's Best Of contest.

Top vote-getting categories included Best Restaurant Overall (719 votes), Best Breakfast (519 votes) and Best Pizza (488). It's clear that people are passionate about food.

To be eligible, each business must have a commercial address within Severna Park, Arnold or Millersville, and a nominee had to receive at least five votes to qualify. We had only a few categories that didn't receive enough votes, and we are listing both the winner and the runner-up in each qualifying category.

So without further ado...the envelope, please!

Turn to page 10 to see the complete list of winners.



A Dominant Return

Playing in competitive games for the first time in over a year, Severna Park's varsity football, soccer, volleyball and field hockey teams went a combined 9-0-1 to kick off the "fall" season. Read about their efforts, as well as a thrilling Broadneck football win over Old Mill, by flipping to the sports section on page 22.

The Food Trucks Are Back Tuesdays, Saturdays

By Kevin Murnane

One of the few positive aspects of the pandemic and all of the associated closings was the increase of food truck access to residents. Through social media, area restaurants are notifying followers that they are making road trips and bringing their unique cuisine to neighborhoods to increase their revenue lost during the pandemic.

"It's like having gourmet restaurants on wheels," said H2 Markets owner Chad Houck. "It's like the old food courts at malls — there's something for everyone and it's really high-caliber food."

H2 Markets organizes and runs numerous food trucks in Anne Arundel County including at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company on Tuesdays, and in April, a new food truck at 8401 Veterans Highway (across from East/West Highway) in Millersville. The second event is being called Food Truck Fridays on the Farm.

"These nights are fantastic for families as the variety is spectacular," Houck said. "Families can eat together and enjoy the friendly atmosphere and stay off of their phones for a while."

Food Truck Tuesdays has been at Earleigh Heights since 2014, with nearly 12 trucks there every week. The followers of the food truck craze go to social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram to see what trucks are participating on any given Tuesday. There are 9,000 followers for the food trucks in the area.

» Continued on page 6



Photos by Maddy Fangio

On every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 8:00pm, Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company has an array of food trucks that may offer pizza, pasta, tacos, desserts and more.



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Margueritte Mills
**Volunteer
 Of The Month**

Kiwanis Club Member Is Dedicated To Helping Children

By Haley Weisgerber

When most people graduate from high school, the clubs that they once belonged to become a memory, but not for Rachel Jacobs. Jacobs' experience with the Key Club at Severna Park High School turned into a long-term commitment with the Severna Park Kiwanis Club.

"I liked that it was community service and not like sports," said Jacobs. "I wasn't the sports or the theater person. It was just about giving back."

The Key Club is under the umbrella of the Kiwanis Club. She intended to join a Circle K club, the collegiate version of the Key Club, after high school, but when no groups were available, she made the decision to jump right into the Kiwanis Club.

For as long as she can remember, giving back has always been important to Jacobs and her family.

"We are very community oriented in my family," explained Jacobs. "My mom is a nurse and my dad is a doctor, so we do a lot of giving back."

Jacobs has worked as an early childhood educator for 11 years and specializes in special education. She currently teaches virtually in Prince George's County through a hospital system in a Head Start program. Jacobs has always enjoyed working with children, and her main attraction was the Kiwanis Club's dedication to children.

"I love working with kids, and part of the Kiwanis mission is 'all about children,'" said Jacobs. "That's what drew me to this organization."



Rachel Jacobs was named the April Volunteer of the Month for her work with the Severna Park Kiwanis Club.

Jacobs was nominated for Volunteer of the Month by Kiwanis Club district 4 lieutenant governor and Severna Park Kiwanis Club secretary Krista Latchaw for Jacobs' work with the Kiwanis Kids Closet. The Kids Closet collects items that parents need such as diapers, formula, baby food, onesies and toddler clothing. Jacobs places donation boxes around the community and brings donations to Belle Grove Elementary in Brooklyn Park, where they are housed until a family needs them.

She organizes the closet with her mother, who joined the Kiwanis Club while Jacobs was in her high school Key Club, and any other Kiwanis member who volunteers. She said working with her mother on the Kids Closet and other projects has been a bonding

experience.

"There are plenty of husbands and wives, but not like parent-child pairs," said Jacobs. "We've found that it is special. We've got to encourage other families to do it."

Jacobs currently sits on the board of directors and was formerly the president of the club. Currently she wears many hats within the organization and helps out wherever she can. She has a hand in everything from planning events to updating the club's Facebook page.

Jacobs enjoys being a part of the Kiwanis Club and frequently attends training events and national and international conferences, as long as they are within the United States. She enjoys the perks and privileges that the Kiwanis Club offers as an international organization.

Most recently, Jacobs coordinated a fundraiser with Tio Pepe, a popular Spanish and Mediterranean restaurant in Baltimore. On May 15, from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, Jacobs will stand outside the Severna Park Elks Lodge representing the Kiwanis Club as community members pick up preordered meals. From each meal, \$5 will be donated to the Kiwanis Club and the restaurant will make an additional donation after the event. This money will go to the Teenager of the Year scholarship.

Jacobs has volunteered countless hours to the Kiwanis Club and has no intention of stopping anytime soon.

"I am dedicated," Jacobs said. "People say as you go higher up in the ranks and I don't have time to go higher up, but maybe in the future."

Tio Pepe To Deliver To Severna Park

Have you been wanting a special meal from Tio Pepe Restaurant in Baltimore, but did not want to drive downtown or eat inside during the COVID-19 pandemic? The Severna Park Kiwanis Club has you covered! The club is partnering and helping Tio Pepe deliver to the Severna Park Elks parking lot Saturday, May 15, with pickup from 4:00pm to 5:00pm.

Stay tuned for more details, but customers need to preorder from the restaurant's delivery menu. The Severna Park Kiwanis Club will post on Facebook and its website. When you call your order in, mention Severna Park Elks as the pickup location. For every order taken, the restaurant will give \$5 to the Severna Park Kiwanis Club. If you would like to donate more, you are more

than welcome to. All the money will go toward the club's Teenager of the Year scholarships and other activities done for the community.

For more information as it becomes available, visit www.severna-parkkiwanis.org and www.facebook.com/severnaparkkiwanis. If you have questions, contact board member and past president Rachel Jacobs at racheljacobs@gmail.com or 443-900-1743.

Comments Sought For Linstead Shoreline Project

The Linstead Community Association is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide shoreline erosion protection and improve habitat by constructing a stone revetment and a stone sill, capping a stone groin, and constructing a living shoreline in the Severn River at 33 Boone Trail in Severna Park.

The proposed living shoreline would result in a net increase of tidal wetlands. The applicant designed the project to the minimal footprint nec-

essary to achieve the project purpose successfully. It is anticipated that once functionally mature, the tidal wetland component of the constructed living shoreline project would compensate for any aquatic resource losses on-site and within the watershed.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity.

The comment deadline is April 27. Opinions can be mailed or emailed using the following information:

Nicole Voelker
 (nicole.m.voelker@usace.army.mil)

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Severna Park Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday

Photos by Jennifer Lee Kraus

Juanita Williams celebrated her 100th birthday on March 27 at her daughter's Severna Park home. She had an appropriate COVID-19 drive-by visitation from 2:00pm to 4:00pm while sitting next to a 25-foot birthday sign in her front yard. Flags were flying, repre-

senting her birth state (Ohio), her family rearing state (California), her retirement state (Maryland) and the family military service — the United States Navy.

Visitors included family, over 60 neighbors and friends, and Anne Arundel County fire and police vehicles, with their sirens and lights

blaring. Each received a chocolate candy bar commemorating Williams' special day with a wrapper designed by her granddaughter, Heather. Williams' recognition included citations from Governor Larry Hogan and County Executive Stuart Pittman, and over 200 cards with congratulations and best wishes.



Inaugural Cuisine For A Cause Is Underway

From now through April 30, the Baltimore Washington Medical Center (BWMC) Foundation and the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce are joining forces to launch Cuisine for a Cause, presented by Sandy Spring Bank. Eighteen area restaurants are offering exclusive deals, discounts and specials through a "cause card" with an accompanying printed or digital coupon brochure. A portion of the proceeds benefit the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation (UM BWMC) COVID-19 Response Fund and the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of

Commerce, a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization.

The cause card gives purchasers access to specials such as free appetizers, 15% off dine-in meals, drink deals, buy-one-get-one-free deals, and more. Your purchase not only supports restaurants in our community, but also the frontline staff at UM BWMC. The cause card and accompanying coupon brochure can be purchased online for \$30 at www.umbwmc.org/giving/cuisine-for-a-cause.

Promotions run through April 30 and are one-time-use only. A digital cause card and coupon brochure are emailed directly after purchase, or

books can be picked up in person at the BWMC Foundation or at the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce office at 7549 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Glen Burnie. To make arrangements to pick up the printed cause card and coupon brochure, call 410-766-8282.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

- **Cafe Mezzanotte** — Severna Park
- **Severna Park Taphouse** — Severna Park
- **Hellas Restaurant** — Millersville
- **Primo Pasta Kitchen** — Pasadena
- **Mutiny Pirate Bar & Island Grille** — Pasadena

- **Bonefish Grill** — Glen Burnie
- **Bubba's 33** — Glen Burnie
- **Capri Pizza** — Glen Burnie
- **The Grill at Quarterfield Station** — Glen Burnie
- **Italia's Corner Café** — Glen Burnie
- **Mi Pueblolito** — Glen Burnie
- **Romano's Restaurant** — Glen Burnie
- **Nando's Peri-Peri Chicken** — Annapolis, Arundel Mills and Waugh Chapel
- **Caliente Grill** — Annapolis
- **Leeward Market Café** — Annapolis
- **Miss Shirley's Café** — Annapolis
- **Three Brothers Italian Restaurant** — Odenton
- **Timbuktu** — Hanover

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Spring Brings Change: An Update On SPAN

Ellen Kinsella
Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



A long-awaited spring has finally arrived, and with it the promise of flowers, babies and new beginnings. In the second pandemic-spring, we are less restricted than last year, and we have hopes that by next spring, COVID-19 will be but a distant memory!

Despite the continued hardships posed by COVID, SPAN donations have been extremely plentiful. Each food client can leave here with meat, eggs,

milk, toiletries, cleaning supplies, paper products and three boxes of nonperishable food. This is available to residents of Severna Park, Millersville, Broadneck and Arnold; however, we will provide emergency food for anyone who is in a crisis and can't get it anywhere else. We are also able to give financial assistance to families for court-ordered evictions, utility turnoffs, and prescription/medical expenses from 14 zip codes.

We would like to recognize a successful 2021 Scouting for Food campaign, of which SPAN was the recipient. On March 20, we received a mountain of food from Pack 688 (Shipley's), Troop 918 (Elks), Troop 993 (Severna Park United Methodist Church) and Troop 1644. We also received a special donation of food organized by Michele Seebold, a Girl Scout Senior from Troop 140 in Severna Park. Michele created a virtual food allergy support group for local teens called Teen FASA (Food Allergy Support and Advocacy). For her first project, she organized a collection of allergy-friendly food donations for SPAN.

On March 27, SPAN was the recipient of another Scouting for Food delivery, this time from Cub Scout Pack 441 in Pasadena. Thanks to all the scouts for a fantastically successful food drive!

As we noted in our headline, change is coming. Jennifer Pumphrey and I will be stepping down from our roles as co-directors of SPAN in the next month. The timing was merely coincidental, but it allows SPAN to find two individuals who work well together, as Jennifer and I have. I speak for both of us when I say that working for SPAN — and this wonderful community — has been an honor and a privilege, and though it's time to move on for personal reasons, we will both miss SPAN tremendously. If you are interested in applying for either the director of operations or the director of development positions, or if you'd like more information, please email SPAN at spanhelps@yahoo.com.

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!

The Weekday Food Trucks Are Back

» **Continued from page 1** "We have a great selection of cuisine include Heavenly Hotdog Grill, Greek on the Street, Kooper's Chowhound Burger Wagon, Jimmy's Famous Seafood, Diner on the Go, as well as places that offer pizza, pasta, tacos and desserts, said Earleigh Heights event organizer Andy Price.

Price estimates that close to 1,000 people come through on some Tuesday nights, and the food trucks change locations, so there are always new trucks to choose from.

"The event is weather-driven as when it's a beautiful night, many people will bring lawn chairs, blankets and their dogs to the event, and it's great because there is a real tailgate atmosphere," Price said.

Food trucks also bring fundraising opportunities to the Earleigh Heights firehouse, and for the one in Millersville, some of the proceeds go to the Orphan Grain Train organization. Orphan Grain Train collects and donates clothing and medical supplies to needy areas in America and throughout the world. Former Severna Park Chamber of Commerce CEO Linda Zahn

was instrumental in establishing Food Truck Fridays on the Farm.

"After I retired from the chamber, I wanted to become involved with a charity and Orphan Grain Train was part of the chamber," Zahn said. "We plan on having a stand there on Fridays to help the awareness of our organization and the great work it does supplying humanitarian aid across the world."

The organization also helps with natural disasters as well as donates medical equipment. This winter, Zahn and her husband, Steve, delivered 900 boxes of winter clothing and coats to Appalachia.

For Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, the fundraising from Food Truck Tuesdays has offset the cost of equipment that the firehouse continues to need.

Both food truck events are open from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and masks are required.

"They're great events and [it] shows that there is still a great sense of community and folks have a great time," Houck said.



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No, No, Bad Dog!

By Rachel B. Fabrizio
The Law Office Of David V. Diggs

Dogs attacks on other domestic animals or humans are taken seriously by the Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control agency. Anne Arundel County has laws in place to protect the public from aggressive animals. These laws can be found under Article 12, Section 4 (public safety) of the Anne Arundel County Code.

If you are bitten by an animal in the county and there is no threat to the public's safety, call the police on their non-emergency line: 410-222-8610. A bite report will be taken, and the information will be forwarded to Animal Care & Control, as well as to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health. Always seek medical attention when you are bitten. An animal's mouth is dirty, and the wound can become infected if left untreated. If the bite is severe, you may need stitches. Domestic animals that inflict bites to humans are required to quarantine for 10 days under Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regulations.

If an animal-on-animal attack has occurred, Animal Care & Control should be contacted at 410-222-8900. There are Animal Care & Control officers within that agency who are assigned to investigate these offenses.

If there is a dog in your community that is known to act aggressively, it is important to report it to the agency. At times, people within a community do not want to report their neighbor's pet behaving badly. Such hesitancy, however, may come at a price when that dog severely injures

a child or someone's beloved pet. An Animal Care & Control officer can speak with the owner, advising him or her of the neighbor's concerns and how to better manage the dog so that it can become a better canine citizen in the community.

Animal Care & Control also protects the family pets of Anne Arundel County. There are strict guidelines that must be followed to house animals outdoors. Severe weather alerts enhance these laws, whether it be for excessive heat or cold. Animal Care & Control also investigates animal cruelty. If you suspect someone is abusing or neglecting their pet, you can contact Animal Care & Control to report it.

On Animal Care and Control's website, www.aacounty.org/departments/animal-control, you can find information about the agency, other animal laws, animal adoption, licensing your pet, frequently asked questions, hours of operation, and programs and services offered through Animal Care & Control.

Animal Care & Control does not handle civil matters. If you or a family member are injured in a dog attack, you will have many questions. You should consult with an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law, who will assist you in making informed decisions and who will make sure that you receive the compensation to which you are entitled.

If you need further information regarding this subject, contact The Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 204, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1189 or by emailing david@diggs.law.com.

State Of The Magothy Show's River's Slight Decline



During the Magothy River Association's annual State of the Magothy presentation — held this year on March 17 — the organization gives the river a grade based on the Magothy River Index. The metric uses three criteria to determine a grade: water clarity, dissolved oxygen levels and achievement of the Chesapeake Bay program goal of 579 acres of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). This year's index showed a score of 30, down roughly 15 points from last year and about the same as 2018.

Dissolved oxygen saw a big drop from 2019 levels. SAV requires water clarity for growth and provides dissolved oxygen as well as key food and habitat for fish and crabs while reducing the impact of wave action on the shore. Most fish and aquatic inver-

tebrates require at least 5 milligrams/liter dissolved oxygen in the water for their growth and reproduction.

In 2020, BayLand Consultants & Designers Inc. surveyed Dividing, Deep and Grays creeks and Hunters Harbor. They found 83 acres of submerged grasses in those areas. Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) aerial data for 2020 showed a decline from 183.4 acres of SAV in 2019 to 123.1 acres in 2020. Adding the Bayland coverage to VIMS coverage without counting areas twice gives the river a total of 164 acres, reaching only 28% of the goal.

To learn more about the Magothy River Association and its work to preserve the river for generations to come, find the organization on Facebook or visit www.magothyriver.org.

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And The 2021 “Best Of Severna Park” Winners Are...

FOOD/DINING

Best Restaurant Overall: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern

Best Wait Staff: 1. Garry's Grill
2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Breakfast: 1. The Breakfast Shoppe 2. Garry's Grill

Best Lunch: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Dinner: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Cafe Mezzanotte

Best Kids' Menu: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern

Best Barbecue: 1. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Burger: 1. Five Guys 2. Garry's Grill

Best Coffee: 1. The Big Bean 2. Starbucks

Best Crab Cake: 1. The Point Crab House and Grill
2. Hellas Restaurant and Lounge

Best Bakery/Cakes: 1. Kirsten's Cakery
2. Cakes and Confections Bakery Cafe

Best Dessert: 1. Garry's Grill
2. Cakes and Confections Bakery Cafe

Best Ice Cream/Frozen Treat: 1. The FroYo House
2. Bruster's Real Ice Cream

Best Pizza: 1. Squisito Pizza and Pasta
2. Little Carmine's N.Y. Pizza Kitchen

Best Salad: 1. Garry's Grill 2. Park Tavern

Best Sandwich/Sub: 1. Jenos Steaks
2. Jersey Mike's Subs

Best Seafood: 1. The Point Crab House and Grill
2. Joe's Seafood

Best Wings: 1. Adam's Taphouse and Grille
2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Fast Food: 1. Chick-fil-A
2. Chipotle and McDonald's (tie)

Best Asian: 1. Ming's Cafe 2. Thai Paradise

Best Italian: 1. Cafe Mezzanotte
2. La Posta Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen

Best Mexican: 1. Mi Pueblo II 2. Vida Taco Bar

Best Gluten-Free Menu: 1. April's Table
2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Vegetarian Menu: 1. April's Table
2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Caterer: 1. Be My Guest Catering 2. April's Table

Best Bar: 1. Severna Park Taphouse 2. Park Tavern

Best Food Truck: 1. Wingman 2. Greek on the Street

Best Special Occasion: 1. Cafe Mezzanotte 2. Cafe Bretton

Best Outside Seating: 1. The Point Crab House and Grill
2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Restaurant Outside Severna Park:
1. The Point Crab House and Grill 2. Lewnes' Steakhouse

BEAUTY & FITNESS

Best Fitness Club: 1. Park Fitness 2. Rockwell Fitness

Best Hair Salon/Barber Shop: 1. Image Creators
2. Emidio Vincenzo ESCAPE Salon and Spa

Best Martial Arts Program:
1. Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi
2. Kwon's Taekwondo

Best Place For A Massage: 1. Sass Well
2. Emidio Vincenzo ESCAPE Salon and Spa

Best Nail Salon: 1. Emidio Vincenzo ESCAPE Salon and Spa
2. BellaLuxe Nail Care & Spa

Best Spa: 1. Emidio Vincenzo ESCAPE Salon and Spa
2. Image Creators

Best Weight-Loss Program: 1. Park Fitness 2. CoreLife

HEALTH

Best Medical Practice: 1. Maryland Primary Care Physicians
2. Hearing Solutions Audiology Center

Best Physician: 1. Victor Plavner
2. Lisa Keithley and Janna Davis (tie)

Best Women's Specialty Practice: 1. Bay Radiology

Best Chiropractic Practice: 1. Back and Neck Care Center
2. Fare Chiropractic

Best Dental Practice: 1. Paul J. Kinsey DDS
2. McCarl Dental Group

Best Orthodontic Practice: 1. Wright Orthodontics
2. Spivak Orthodontics

Best Eye Care Practice: 1. Severna Park Eye Care
2. Rutzen Eye Specialists & Laser Center

Best Pediatric Practice: 1. Gvozden Pediatrics
2. Annapolis Pediatrics

Best Pharmacy: 1. Park Pharmacy 2. CVS

Best Physical Therapy Practice:
1. Patterson Physical Therapy 2. Lynch Physical Therapy

Best Mental Health Care: 1. Arundel Psychological
Associates and Waypoint Wellness Center (tie)

Best Speech Therapy: 1. Budding Voices
2. Kid Connections Therapy

Best Veterinary Practice:
1. Severna Park Veterinary Hospital
2. Bayside Animal Medical Center

Best Senior Living Facility: 1. Brightview Severna Park
2. Sunrise of Severna Park

Best Health Care Provider Outside Severna Park:
1. Hearing Solutions Audiology Center

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Best Accountant: 1. Gardiner & Appel Group
2. Lisa Feinman, CPA

Best Insurance Agent: 1. Lee Talbot — State Farm

Best Investment Adviser:
1. Freddie Cassilly — Cassilly Financial Group

Best Lawyer: 1. Paula Darrach 2. Andrew DiBlasio

Best Mortgage Lender:
1. Primary Residential Mortgage Inc. (PRMI)
2. First Home Mortgage

Best Real Estate Agent:
1. David Orso — The David Orso Team of Compass Real Estate
2. Jessica Welder — Keller Williams Realty

BEST HOME SERVICES

Best Fence/Deck Contractor: 1. Fence & Deck Connection
2. The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company

Best Cleaning Service: 1. Park Power Wash

Best Home Improvement Contractor:
1. Landmark Roofing

Best HVAC Contractor: 1. Cornett Heating & Cooling

Best Interior Designer: 1. Karen Renee Interior Design
2. The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company

Best Kitchen/Bath Remodeling Service:
1. The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company
2. Severna Park Kitchen and Bath

Best Landscape/Lawn Service:
1. Boucher Lawn and Landscape 2. Homestead Gardens

Best Pool Service: 1. Goudy Pools

Best Plumbing Contractor: 1. Dwyer Plumbing

BEST COMMUNITY SERVICES

Best Auto Repair: 1. Severna Park Automotive
2. Magothy Auto Services

Best Bank: 1. M&T Bank 2. Bank of America and BB&T (tie)

Best Car Wash: 1. The Great American Car Wash
2. Mister Car Wash

Best Dry Cleaner: 1. Admiral Cleaners 2. New Cleaners

Best Marine Repair: 1. South Shore Marine

Best Pet Grooming: 1. Lisa's Pet Grooming 2. Mutt & Joe

RETAIL/SHOPPING

Best Overall Customer Service: 1. Park Fitness
2. The Cottage

Best Art/Photography/Frame Shop:
1. Side Street Framers & gift Gallery 2. Benfield Gallery

Best Bicycle Shop: 1. Pedal Pushers 2. Bike Doctor Arnold

Best Consignment Shop: 1. Savvy Consignment
2. Honeysuckle Quality Consignment

Best Florist: 1. Severna Park Florist
2. Peaceful Petals Flower Shop & Truck

Best Garden Center: 1. Homestead Gardens
2. AA Co. Lawn & Garden Center

Best Gift Shop: 1. The Cottage 2. Park Home

Best Grocery Store: 1. Giant Food 2. Harris Teeter

Best Hardware Store: 1. Clement Hardware
2. Rommel's Ace Home Center

Best Home Décor: 1. Park Home 2. The Cottage

Best Jeweler: 1. Marc Todd Jewelers
2. Zachary's Jewelers

Best Liquor Stor: 1. Dawson's Liquors 2. Goska's Liquors

Best Pet Supply Store: 1. All For The Pet 2. Petco

Best Toy Store: 1. Franklin's Toys

ENTERTAINMENT

Best Place For Family Entertainment:
1. Severna Park Lanes 2. The Blended Essentials

Best Live Music Venue:
1. Brian Boru Irish Restaurant and Pub
2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Happy Hour: 1. Park Tavern 2. Severna Park Taphouse

Best Place To Watch The Game: 1. Severna Park Taphouse
2. Park Tavern

Best Place To Take Out-Of-Towners:
1. The Point Crab House and Grill 2. Severn Inn

Best Entertainment Venue Within 25 Miles:
1. Rams Head On Stage

KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Best Activity Center: 1. Rolly Pollios of Severna Park
2. Severna Park Community Center

Best After-School Program:
1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. Kwon's Taekwondo

Best Children's Dance Company:
1. Creative Force Dance Center
2. Severna Park Community Center

Best Day Care: 1. Vineyard Child Care Center
2. Severna Park KinderCare

Best Music Instruction Program: 1. Theater in the Park
2. Music Together Chesapeake

Best Party/Special Occasion Venue:
1. Creative Force Dance Center 2. The Blended Essentials

Best Playground: 1. Kinder Farm Park

Best Summer Camp: 1. Creative Force Dance Center
2. Theater in the Park

Best Sports Facility: 1. Kinder Farm Park
2. Severna Park Community Center

Best Youth Sports League:
1. Greater Severna Park Athletic Association (Green Hornets)

COMMUNITY

Most Desirable Community To Reside:
1. Shipley's Choice 2. Olde Severna Park

Best Community Beach: 1. Olde Severna Park
2. Round Bay

Best Community Pool: 1. Severn River Swim Club
2. Shipley's Choice

Best Club/Organization: 1. Chartwell Golf and Country Club

Best Nonprofit Organization: 1. SPAN
2. Burgers & Bands for Suicide Prevention
and Orphan Grain Train (tie)

Best House Of Worship:
1. Severna Park United Methodist Church
2. St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church

Best Pastor/Church Leader: 1. Father Erik Arnold
2. The Rev. Lee Ferrell, the Rev. Patrick DeVane
and the Rev. Ron Foster (tie)

Best School: 1. Severna Park High School
2. Jones Elementary and Severn School (tie)

Best Business To Open In 2020:
1. Lynch Physical Therapy
2. Larry Sells Consulting



Severna Park Osprey Cam 2021 Is Live

The ospreys are back in town and fans of the popular Severna Park Osprey Cam can gear up for another popular viewing season. Comcast Business is providing the internet connection that will give thousands of wildlife enthusiasts an up-close and personal look at these birds in their nest via a live video feed that is available for viewing at www.severnaparkospreys.com. The ospreys' nest is atop a Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE)-constructed platform outside Severna Park High School.

This is the sixth year that Severna Park residents Mark and Heather Jeweler — apprentice and master raptor rehabilitators respectively — are

collaborating with Comcast Business to provide connectivity for the live broadcast that is made possible by HDOnTap, which donated the camera, solar and battery equipment.

“Our nonprofit, Maryland Raptor Conservation Center, is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured or orphaned birds of prey, and educating the public about them,” said Heather Jeweler. “So, this nest cam is a great outreach to the community. Through the support of incredible partners like Comcast Business, BGE and HDOnTap, we’re able to provide wildlife enthusiasts the opportunity to watch these amazing birds as they nest.”

Ospreys are large, diurnal, fish-eating

birds of prey that are black or brown on their upper parts and grayish on their head and underparts. These birds are unique among North American raptors for their diet of live fish and the ability to dive into the water to catch them.

The ospreys’ outer toe is reversible, allowing them to grasp prey with two toes in front and two behind, which is particularly helpful when grabbing slippery fish. Osprey pairs are generally monogamous and often mate for life. The male selects a nesting site in a dead tree, on a cliff or on a man-made structure in or near the water. The pair collects sticks and other nesting materials together, but the female generally arranges the nest, which is large and bulky.

In 2014, the ospreys lost their home on a light pole that was removed during the construction of Severna Park High School. When the ospreys returned the following spring to find their nest gone, they tried building a new one atop a construction crane, and later settled on a nearby live utility pole. Mark and Heather, who had admired the nesting pair for years, reached out to form a partnership with BGE, Comcast Business and HDOnTap — giving the ospreys a long-term nesting location and providing a livestream from it.

The osprey cam will remain live until September 2021 — through egg laying, incubation and hatching, and until the chicks fledged (take their first flight).

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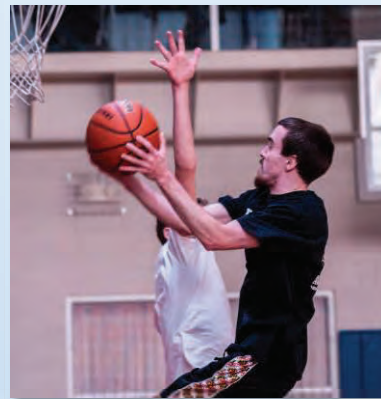
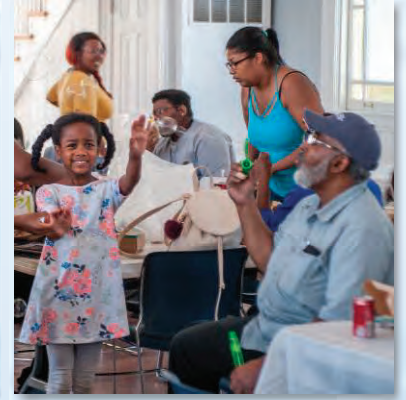
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SPCC Gala Honorees Are Dedicated To Founders' Mission

Part 1: Andy Borland and Carl Gutschick



By Haley Weisgerber

In 2020, the Severna Park Community Center (SPCC) planned to honor Andy Borland, Mark Cornal, Carl Gutschick, Charlie Kreter, Lee Marston, Jeff Norris, Terry Schoener, John Strange and Joan Tiernan at the annual fundraising gala before it was canceled. These nine honorees are considered founding members of the SPCC and dedicated countless hours to establishing the community center that has served the community for over 25 years.

Two of these men, Borland and Gutschick, have made their commitment long term, serving on committees and as members of the board of directors since 1998.

Before the SPCC was founded, the building housed the YMCA. After falling on hard times, the YMCA closed its doors, leaving the land open for developers and no place for the community to gather, play, grow and thrive.

"What they were afraid of is that since it had zoning for townhouses on that corner, that if they had to put it up for sale, somebody would buy it and just build townhouses on that corner," Gutschick said. "And the building that they had used as the YMCA would be gone, and the services they provided for the community would be gone."

In 1995, a group of community members, affiliated with Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, arranged for the purchase of the land and established the SPCC, a nonprofit, outreach orga-



Carl Gutschick and Andy Borland were two of the nine founding Severna Park Community Center members chosen to be honored at the 2020 SPCC fundraising gala. They will instead be honored at the next gala, tentatively planned for fall 2021.

nization designed to serve the community, particularly the underserved community. While it is no longer directly affiliated with Woods Church, the SPCC still operates under that same mission, to create a recreational space for the community to gather.

"There are people that talk about wanting to make the center a club with dues, and then the place wouldn't be on hard times," said Borland. "That's not the issue. The issue is that the underserved part of this community would not be able to go there."

Borland is a retired physical education teacher and legendary Severna Park High School (SPHS) coach. He began working at SPHS in 1963 and coached track and field, wrestling and football. For nearly two decades, Borland was the athletic director and led the Falcons to 42 state titles.

"I know a lot of people, because I taught most of them," said Borland.

"I mean, I have students now that are 75 years old. I know a lot of people in this town."

Borland, who Gutschick has nicknamed the "mayor of Severna Park," assisted the SPCC in establishing important relationships. He chaired the capital campaign, a group that raises money for renovations. He also sat on the financial committee and oversaw the weight room. The Andy Borland Gymnasium was named for him, after many community members donated in his name.

Carl Gutschick is an engineer by trade and opened his own business, Gutschick, Little and Weber, P.A., in 1986. He volunteered time with the SPCC at first, but eventually joined the board and even served as the chair of the board.

"I first got involved with the community center before the big renovation took place," said Gutschick. "I helped

out designing a solution to some drainage problems around the old building."

He has been consulted many times in his volunteer tenure, and according to Borland, has been a tremendous help in completing projects around the center grounds.

Both Borland and Gutschick were recruited by Charlie Kreter. Borland said it took many calls to convince him to come aboard. After saying no many times, Borland made the lifechanging decision to join. He has been all in ever since. The duo said they were happy to be honored, but that was never their intention.

"That's not why we did it, to get notoriety," explained Gutschick. "So you do feel honored that people notice that we've made meaningful contributions to the center over time. But I guess the main thing is just feeling honored to be on that list, because there's a lot of people there that did a lot for the center over time."

Although they are both humble, Gutschick and Borland are proud to see the SPCC operating under its original mission.

"It's a sense of pride," said Borland. "But we're very humble about the whole deal. We don't take credit for it."

Borland and Gutschick agree that the current staff, and staff members from the past, have worked hard to keep the mission of the founding members.

"We're very happy to have the staff that we do right now, particularly the executive director, Sarah Elder," said Gutschick. "It's run by a very dedicated and energetic staff that really keep the place in good working order, but they really run the center to accomplish its mission."

Fencing Etiquette 101: How To Be A Great Neighbor

Nicole Bailey
Fence & Deck
Connection



Being outside with friends and family is the perfect way to spend warm spring and summer days. If you live in a townhome or subdivision, you might find your property lines

particularly close for private get-togethers. Installing a new fence not only provides security and safety for pets and children, but it's a great way to keep social gatherings intimate and minimize disturbing your close neighbors with lights and noise. Before you schedule an appointment with a trusted fence installation company, there are a few things to consider to avoid becoming the neighborhood nuisance.

Follow The Lines: First, you'll want to study your house line drawing or plat, or order a new survey from a land surveyor, to be sure of boundaries. This may seem like an overwhelming task, but some fence installation companies will offer customers a



survey service at very low cost. Without an official survey, it's safer to just install a foot inside the property line.

Communicate Early: No one likes surprises, especially when it comes to an exterior home renovation. Save yourself a potential property line dispute by having a conversation with your neighbors on the opposite side of your planned fence line. You don't need to share your design plans — that just may open a can of worms — but a friendly "heads up" will go a long way!

Know Your Limitations: Fencing companies obtain permits and must know local zoning regulations for height, setbacks and other restrictions. On average, height limits are six feet for side and back yards and four feet for front yards. Waterfront properties and corner lots require building permits and may have other height restrictions. Plan on discussing any limitations with your fencing company before you get your heart set on a certain design and style.

Follow HOA Rules: On a related note, a homeowners association most often dictates the style, height and maintenance of neighborhood fencing. If your HOA wants uniform structures in your community, unfortunately, you won't have much creativity with your design plans. You can avoid gossipy neighbors and conflict with your HOA committee by following HOA guidelines from the get-go.

Show Them Your Good Side: You're investing in a new fence, so you should get to look at the good side, right? It's actually common practice to put the more finished side of your fence facing the street and your neighbor's yard! Be sure to keep it clean and properly maintained throughout the year as well. Your neighbors will appreciate it!

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Two Lessons From Mister Rogers And Reverend Schoener

Lauren Burke Meyer



Growing up, I was vaguely familiar with Mister Rogers. It wasn't until this time last year where I exhibited a newfound fascination for the gentle man known for his red sweaters, blue shoes and, more importantly, his immense impact on children. It began with watching the movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," starring Tom Hanks. That prompted reading Tom Junod's lengthy *Esquire* article, "Can You Say...Hero?" that inspired the movie.

Soon after, I began watching the children's show "Daniel Tiger" with my daughter. Inspired by a puppet from the "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" television show, the main character in this spinoff series features a shy tiger.

My obsession continued with reading the book, "The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember." I found it endearing and surprising to learn in the book that Fred Rogers most related to Daniel for his shyness.

As a parent, I think we can learn as much as our children from Mister Rogers' teachings and life's work. Here are two lessons that stood out to me after talking with someone who was fortunate to meet Fred Rogers, because, let's be honest, I can't help myself anymore.

Finding Your Ministry

"A lot of folks don't realize he was a presbyterian minister," explained the Rev. Dr. W. Terry Schoener, who was a minister at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church for 27 years. Dr. Schoener baptized and confirmed me, and also kindly came out of retirement to marry my husband and I in 2016. Here I was roping him into another favor, when I heard he was a few years behind Mister Rogers at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

According to his bio, Fred Rogers "completed a Master of Divinity degree at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained as a presbyterian minister in 1963 with the unique charge of serving children and families through the media."

When asked about his early encounters with Mister Rogers, Dr. Schoener said, "He did have a special something that you sensed immediately. He was just what you saw when he was on the show."

Naturally, I asked what he used to wear in the early 1960s. Apparently, the sweater came later. It was usually a sports coat for a casual look.

Dr. Schoener also noted, "He was called to a special ministry by God and gifted to remember what most of us forget or suppress. Mister Rogers could remember what it was like to be a child with all the needs to be loved and comforted and reassured, and how to address those anxieties so a child could comprehend him."

Dr. Schoener recounts raising his young children and watching Mister Rogers in the 1960s, when the icon was first starting out with a local television program in Pittsburgh. He thought, "Well, here's a ministry I had never considered. What an impact on so many children and parents."

While corresponding with Dr. Schoener, he applauded me for dipping my toe into journalism. He said, "Make it your ministry!" Leave it to both Mister Rogers and Dr. Schoener to inspire us all to find our ministry — even when it's outside of a church or right under our noses.

Being A Good Neighbor

Mister Rogers regularly spoke about treating our neighbor at least as well as we treat ourselves. But what exactly defines a neighbor? Both Mister Rogers and Dr. Schoener helped me understand that a neighbor isn't only determined by proximity.

"When you think of the Bible story of the 'Good Samaritan,' it's a person who isn't a neighbor at all. He wasn't from the same region nor religion. All God's children should be neighbors," said Dr. Schoener. He also shared how much he appreciated that Mister Rogers would regularly introduce people who were different in some way. "Together, they made a neighborhood."

When asked how people can be a good neighbor from a distance, or social distance for that matter given the global pandemic, Dr. Schoener summed it up well by saying, "Open your heart to people who are struggling."

He shared how he and his wife deliver Irish soda bread to people in their building who are having a rough time or a blind lady who travels up to their eighth floor to chat from their doorway. This is done safely while all parties wear a mask. Phone or video calls, mailing greeting cards, leaving or sending a package, or donating to charities are all other easy ways to be a good neighbor — be it if you're near or far.

One powerful neighbor quote from Mister Rogers is: "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors — in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

If everyone could embrace being a good neighbor — like Mister Rogers — imagine how much better the world would be. Let us all give it a try. I'll end with this: "Won't you be my neighbor?"

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

Libraries Reopen For Walk-In Service



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Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) will reopen for walk-in service starting Monday, April 12. AACPL staff members have provided online, curbside and appointment service since the pandemic began last March.

Starting April 12, library hours will increase to 10:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Thursday; 10:00am to 5:00pm on Friday and Saturday; and 1:00pm to 5:00pm on Sunday at eight locations. Sunday hours run from September through May at the Busch Annapolis, Crofton, Discoveries: The Library at the Mall, Glen Burnie, Maryland City at Russett, Odenton, Severn and Severna Park locations. Curbside pickup service will run throughout library operating hours.

"We are excited to once again open the library for on-demand service," said AACPL CEO Skip Auld. "With our customers' help, we believe we can now safely provide library service in our buildings. We have missed seeing our customers and look forward to continuing to serve the needs of the community."

Safety protocols remain in place at the library and customers are reminded:

- A mask is required for all customers over the age of 2 regardless of vaccine status. Free masks are available while supplies last.
- Customers may be asked to limit their time in the building so more people can enjoy

the library.

- Capacity limits are in place for each library location.
- A reduced number of public computers will be available.
- Printing of 10 free black and white pages per day remains available.
- Limited seating is available in the branch.
- No meeting rooms or conference rooms can be used.
- The Odenton library creation station and computer lab remain closed.
- Toys have been removed from children's areas.
- No print newspapers are available.
- Please use the book drops for returning materials.
- Limited study rooms are available.
- There is no access to water fountains.
- Assistance continues to be available by calling the library, and using "Email a Librarian" and website chat.

The library also continues to increase its offering of virtual programs through Zoom and will be adding some outdoor programs. Customers should visit the library's calendar of events for a complete list of virtual programs. Stay updated on changes to library services through the library's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and on its website.

Church Tackles Trafficking With Informative Event

Our Lady of the Chesapeake Catholic Church will host an event on April 22 from 7:00pm-8:30pm to educate parents, youth and the community about the dangers that lure children into sex trafficking.

The event will feature experts including Ed Thomas, the Aglow International mid-Atlantic region's anti-human trafficking coordinator. Thomas is also a co-chairman of the Eastern Shore (Maryland) Human Trafficking Task Force.

"The public is unaware that human trafficking, sex and labor exploitation occurs in their communities and that there are steps they can take to prevent and stop trafficking," Thomas said. "Young people, social media, and human trafficking unfortunately go together."

The second speaker will be a detective from the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

The livestreamed presentation will be available at www.facebook.com/ourladyofthechesapeake.

Join SRA's Water Quality Team



The Severn River Association (SRA) is launching the 2021 water quality (WQ) monitoring season, and the organization could use some helping hands to advance the scientific understanding of the watershed.

By joining the SRA WQ team, you have a marvelous opportunity to explore and appreciate the Severn River.

The SRA is looking for volunteers who can help for a three-hour cruise on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings. There are plenty of opportunities ahead. Volunteers monitor the river from April through the first week in November. The SRA will provide training on the boat and

volunteers will become certified as a water quality monitor using the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) protocols.

All the data collected from weekly tours is shared with the scientific, regulatory and academic communities via CMC's Chesapeake Data Explore sharing platform.

Volunteers will enjoy the outdoors and a morning river cruise; collect scientific data; monitor the river, creeks, skies and shorelines; make new friends; and share stories about wildlife and their habitats.

To volunteer, email info@severn-river.org and put "WQ Team" in the message box.

Sailors, Get Ready And Sail For A Cause

By Mary Marta

Long before we turn the clocks and the sunlight grows longer, skippers and crew start thinking about sailing on Wednesday nights. One preseason Round Bay Sailing Association (RBSA) activity is the annual skippers meeting, held April 3, to discuss logistics, racing buoys, race committee duties and other RBSA business. Another

is to review the racing rules for the season. This year, in their every-four-year cycle, the racing rules of sailing were revised and updated. In order to keep skippers and crew abreast of the rules and changes,

RBSA is hosting an educational session on April 13 as part of preseason training. RBSA racing on the Severn River starts April 21, 2021. If you are interested in joining us, please check the website at www.roundbaysailing.com.

In addition to preparing for the Wednesday night racing series, skippers and crew are considering and planning for the charity races sailed on the Chesapeake Bay each year. One RBSA skipper, Dan Flagler, won the "Triple Crown of charity sailing" in both 2020 and 2019! The Triple Crown

involves sailing in all three charity races of the season: the Leukemia Cup Regatta, the CRAB Cup (Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating) and the Hospice Cup. The skipper who finishes highest in all three races, and who also raises the most funds, wins the trophy, a beauty, created by Weems and Plath.

A portion of race entry fees goes toward the charities, but fundrais-

ing by the skippers amounts to significant donations to these worthy charities. According to Flagler, there is no minimum amount of fundraising that a skipper must accrue, but skippers must race in all three charity regattas

to compete for the cup. For the 2020 Triple Crown, Flagler raised \$11,860 for the three charities — quite an impressive campaign.

This year, the charity races are scheduled as follows: Leukemia Cup Regatta June 19, CRAB Cup August 21 and Hospice Cup September 18. These are fun races and help skippers and crew not only compete on the race course but also compete for worthy causes. RBSA encourages skippers to plan for and compete in the Triple Crown.

The skipper who finishes highest in all three races, and who also raises the most funds, wins the trophy, a beauty, created by Weems and Plath."



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- 15 APR** SPHS SENIOR CELEBRATION FUNDRAISER
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- 16 APR** RESTAURANT WEEK- PRESENTED BY PASADENA EATS NEXT-DOOR GROUP
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- 23 APR** MAGOTHY COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER
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Plan 2040 — A Work In Progress

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



Two volumes, 418 pages of terms, maps, goals, policies and strategies. A combined 277 land use change requests or recommendations. Bill 11-21, also known as Plan 2040 or the General Development Plan (GDP), is before the Anne Arundel County Council. Introduced on February 1, it will have two final opportunities for amendments during the April legislative meetings of the council, before the final public hearing on May 3.

This is one of many steps in a multi-year process, planning for future growth in Anne Arundel County. In the years leading up to Plan 2040's introduction, there have been numerous community meetings and citizen input opportunities. There has been changes in leadership and staff in the Office of Planning and Zoning. There has been a pandemic. There have been concerns, questions and requests for additional content, as multiple drafts were shared in online forums.

The plan is built off four areas of focus. One focus is planning for the natural environment. These are goals and recommended strategies for forests, waterways, preservations and the like. Planning for the built

environment consists of goals and recommended strategies for land use, infrastructure, transportation revitalization and historic protections. Planning for healthy communities focuses on public education, aging populations, and county resources including our parks, waste removal and public safety. Finally, planning for a healthy economy, which discusses job growth, commercial revitalization and expansion in local business.

There are more than a dozen maps that identify everything from poverty and race to sea level rise and development policy areas. You could get lost in the details.

Since the bill was introduced, the county council has been working individually and collectively to review and amend the bill with input from stakeholders, including residents like you. Anne Arundel is a county consisting of seven districts. Plan 2040 divides the county into nine geographic regions. District 5 (Severna Park, Arnold and the Broadneck area) is part of Region 4. Region 4 consists of both District 5 and District 3 (Pasadena). As the final vote is cast on Plan 2040, regional plans will begin.

Regional plans, as indicated in the GDP and our existing code, will consist of at least nine members of the community. These stakeholder advisory committees (SACs) will be tasked with working collaboratively in producing the details of how each region should grow in the next two decades, using Plan 2040 as a "guide."

This process will incorporate regional rezoning in its conclusion.

The term "guide" has been used often during this process. Unlike the previous General Development Plan, this GDP is expected to be amended as the regional plans are developed. Because regional plans and comprehensive rezoning must be compatible with Plan 2040, any recommendations in regional plans that are inconsistent with Plan 2040 will require an amendment to this "guiding" document. This has been very confusing for many folks, understandably.

The administration and Office of Planning and Zoning have indicated that only three regions can be reviewed at a time and each region will take two to three years to complete. Nine regions, only three completed

at a time, that will take two to three years each in a process that is required by law every eight years. If you are doing the math, the next General Development Plan will begin before Plan 2040 is finalized. This has been a different approach than previous General Development Plans, and one that I have heard many concerns over.

As I continue communications with residents through this process, I have identified areas that the community repeatedly vocalizes. Here are just a few:

Small business land use – established in the 2009 GDP, this land use was used as a transitional category for properties that were residential in feel and scope but commercial in

» **Continued on page 20**

Court Dog Therapy For Veterans

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



What better way to jump into spring than with a story of Lily, a 5-year-old labradoodle that began a journey on her own along with her handler Barb Reilly three years ago. Lily hails from Caring Canines. She was the first dog in Anne Arundel County to enter a courtroom and she will not be the last.

Lily provided comfort, protection and trust to children who were in a most vulnerable position of testifying during a court proceeding. With anxiety and fear that most children may experience in such a formidable setting, having a therapy dog nearby helped to promote more trust and calmness in the courtroom and helped set a better frame of mind, according to the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Office and many other professional advocates.

In early 2020, Senator Bryan Simonaire and I brought forth legislation (Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 311, respectively) in January of 2020 that would allow any circuit court in the state to voluntarily participate in the program. Luckily, the bill hearings, the witnesses, and the advocates from the courts were supportive and lined up for testimony on the hearing dates. The bill easily passed both chambers and was signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan.

The bill was so popular that Governor Hogan held a press conference with all therapy dogs on the grounds of the State House building. Groups like the Maryland Children Alliance, Caring Canines, various county state's attorney offices, as well as administrators of circuit courts, sent in support testimo-

ny for the bill. The Maryland Judiciary Conference also fully supported the bill. This was one of the most popular bills to be presented in the House Judiciary Committee. The chairman of the Judiciary Committee (Delegate Luke Clippinger) requested a picture with the dogs that came in to testify in support of the bill. This all occurred before our March shutdown when the pandemic hit.

Fast forward to this year's 2021 session and, once again, Senator Simonaire and I brought forth additional legislation (Senate Bill 0007 and House Bill 136, respectively) that would allow the court dog therapy program to occur in the veterans treatment courts, expanding the court dog therapy program to veterans.

Once again, with full bipartisan support, both bills have passed through the Senate and the House. Unfortunately, the fanfare that was given to our precious therapy dogs last year could not occur in this session because of the pandemic. It is difficult to put the dogs on a Zoom hearing to testify. However, organizations like Puppy Spot that train and handle these service dogs came out in full force to testify on their behalf. The Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) as well as veterans testified to the importance of this bill, stating that "appearing before a judge can be a traumatic experience." Many veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and the dogs provide a feeling of safety and comfort to them.

I am cautiously optimistic that this bill will reach the finish line by *Sine Die* and be signed into law by Governor Hogan. Maybe by the fall of 2021, there will be another dog therapy press conference on the grounds of the State House where all the dogs can proudly prance about before heading to court to help children or veterans in need of emotional support during court proceedings.

Fund Our Schools!

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



The losses of the past year are incalculable. Students have lost in-person connections with friends, teachers and staff and have missed out on experiences such as field trips, concerts, theater performances, proms, graduation, sports, band, robotics competitions, other extracurriculars and more. Isolated until recently, some students at all levels now have experienced at least a few weeks of in-person instruction after nearly a full year at home.

The introduction of the hybrid learning model has restored some of the joy school once brought our students and staff pre-pandemic, but it is not enough. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) recently

released data showing conclusively that more students failed core classes at all levels during the second marking period this school year compared to the second marking period last year. The numbers are staggering. According to MSDE, nearly three times as many elementary students earned a failing grade in English and more than 2.5 times earned a failing grade in math. The data is equally troubling for middle and high school students. The tables below are taken from a presentation given to the Maryland State Board of Education by Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland superintendent of schools, during a March 22 meeting.

So how do we recover? What will it take?

First, let us continue to open schools as much as it safe to do so. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently released guidance which states, in part, that three feet between students whilst properly masked is just as safe as six feet during

» **Continued on page 20**

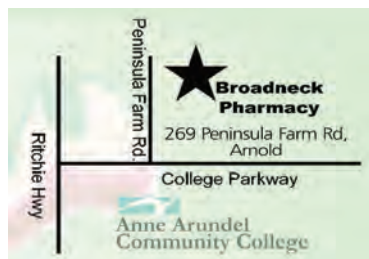
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Letter To The Editor

Opposition To Four Modifications For Enclave At Severna Park Project

Editor's Note: This letter was written to Anne Arundel County officials and shared with the Voice.

The developer of the proposed Enclave at Severna Park has recently submitted applications for four modifications (numbers 16494, 16495, 16496 and F21-002) to the Anne Arundel County code to allow him to build the Enclave at Severna Park development. Berrywood, the Greater Severna Park Council and the Magothy River Association were united in opposing this development when it was first proposed, and now the developer is trying again by requesting four modifications to county code to allow the development to proceed. Here is the link to the article that was in the *Severna Park Voice* about the community-wide opposition to this development for numerous environmental, traffic and quality of life reasons: www.severnaparkvoice.com/stories/an-open-letter-to-the-office-of-planning-and-zoning-steve-kaii-ziegler,31779?

We remain opposed to the project, and we are strongly opposed to the four modifications to our county code that would enable this project to proceed. The county has no obligation to make a developer's plans "work" for the developer when those plans will do so much damage to the Cattail Creek watershed as well as degrade the quality of life for everyone who drives daily on that section of Ritchie Highway. The health of our waterways and the life of the citizens of this county should be your top priority, not modifying county laws to aid a speculative developer!

We respectfully request that you deny these modifications.

Thank you,
Robert and Karen Royer
Severna Park

Got An Opinion? Share It With Us!

We want to hear your thoughts regarding what's happening in the neighborhood. Is there a current issue at hand that you feel strongly about? We know our readers are passionate about their neighborhoods, schools, community and so much more — and the Voice would love for you to tell us about it.

Letters to the Editor can be emailed to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com and may be edited for space, clarity, grammar, spelling, etc. We encourage you to express yourself, but please be brief — letters should be limited to 350 words, though we do on occasion run longer letters. We look forward to hearing from you!

Plan 2040 — A Work In Progress

» **Continued from page 17** use. In Plan 2040, this land use category is no longer a standalone category but has been moved under the "commercial" classification along with higher intensified commercial uses. This has created challenges for those small businesses that were seeking that classification and do not wish to concern their neighbors with the potential "commercial creep."

Staff Recommended (SR) land use changes – well-intended map cleanups that would resolve split-zoned properties (residential and maritime or commercial and open space as an example). While every property owner with a staff-recommended land use change was notified through mail, the unknown potential for future restrictions on the properties because of these land use changes is concerning.

Input from citizen advisory committee members during the

drafting process – many members have reached out to express their frustration over this process and the general feeling that their input was not taken as seriously as they felt it should have been during the drafting of Plan 2040.

You can expect these issues and others to be a topic of conversation during our final work session on April 13 and public legislative meeting on April 19. For viewing information, please visit the Anne Arundel County Council website at www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council.

There is a history in our county of backroom deals taking place during this particularly important piece of legislation. That will not happen on my watch. I am committed to transparent conversations and communications with residents like you, and I am always available to answer any questions that you and your family may have. You can reach me at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

Fund Our Schools!

» **Continued from page 17** instructional time. While there are significant hurdles and logistics to overcome regarding the six-foot requirements still in place while eating as well as no change to current social distancing and capacities on buses, I trust our school administrators will make decisions that best meet the needs of their students and communities while ensuring that every CDC guideline is adhered to. Schools should first maximize the number of two-day-per-week hybrid students by working through waitlists before opening a school four days a week for in-person instruction. I also do not believe in an all or nothing approach when it comes to further reopening. If a school has space, it should not be limited from implementing a four-day in-person instruction week, even if other schools are unable to move from two to four days.

Secondly, the trauma our students have endured over the past year is real. We are all now painfully aware that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is not just a global health crisis. Students and families have also suffered economically, and the stresses of distance learning and lack of child care have compounded parents' ability to return to work. As students return to buildings, our focus should revolve around healing the whole child. Building relationships and trust and providing support all matters. Academics will return as students get their bearings

again and feel supported by our wonderful teachers and staff. While teachers have moved mountains over this past year, fully making connections with students have been hampered by e-learning. Reading, writing and arithmetic are all crucial to our students one day becoming productive adult members of society, but let us not lose sight of their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Finally, funding our schools could not be more critical to our students' recovery. We need our veteran teachers now more than ever. Yet to be made whole from docked or frozen steps brought on by the last economic downturn, if we do not address this problem now, we run the risk of losing them to better-paying counties. Since September 2019, roughly 21% of the hundreds of teachers who resigned from Anne Arundel County Public Schools cited teaching elsewhere as their reason for leaving. I implore our county executive and county council to make good on their promises to take care of our teachers and solve our teacher retention problem once and for all.

We simply cannot afford to lose experienced teachers while focusing on educational recovery. Please ask County Executive Stuart Pittman (spittman@aacounty.org), and the Anne Arundel County Council (www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council/councilmembers) to fully fund our schools! As always, I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org.

Students Earning Failing Grades In Maryland

Elementary School Students

A comparison of the number of elementary school students earning a failing grade in the second marking period during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years

Math		English	
2019-2020	2020-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021
445	1,131	509	1,506

Source: MSDE

Middle School Students

A comparison of the number of middle school students earning a failing grade in the second marking period during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years

Math		English	
2019-2020	2020-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021
1,485	2,130	1,127	1,825
Science		Social Studies	
2019-2020	2020-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021
1,346	1,829	1,085	1,767

Source: MSDE

High School Students

A comparison of the number of middle school students earning a failing grade in the second marking period during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years

Math		English	
2019-2020	2020-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021
2,511	3,473	1,942	3,390
Science		Social Studies	
2019-2020	2020-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021
2,210	2,840	1,672	2,643

Source: MSDE

Good News: We Are Loved And There Is Lasting Hope

By Pastor Stephen Mitchell

The lights were dim, the stage had elaborate sets, the cast had biblical garb and the pews, in a pre-COVID way, were packed to the brim with people. It was one of the many times as a kid that my family attended a "passion play," which aimed, in dramatic fashion, to tell the story of Jesus Christ and of what Easter is all about. Yet, despite years of being told the story of Jesus' sacrifice, and of intellectually believing in the theological highlights, I had been told for years that there was something different this night. I felt goosebumps as the crowd of extras shouted for Jesus to die, I winced every time the whip cracked on his back, and then came the most surreal moment from that night that I will never forget: I was confronted in a personal way with this story I had learned to tune out.

As the cast playing the Roman soldiers were yelling at Jesus as he was struggling to carry his cross, with dramatic music in the background, the actor portraying Christ dropped the cross right next to where I was seated. I remember being awestruck, humbled and weeping as I came to the realization that this was not some character from a book, or some irrelevant theological myth; it was a perfect sacrifice that was purposely, voluntarily and intentionally made for me, and whether you believe it or not, it was made for

you as well.

The world is a mess. Our country is a mess and we are a mess. Five minutes watching the news, reading a blog, or looking at your newsfeed on Facebook will convince you of that tragic reality. We all instinctively know that there is something fundamentally wrong and something is missing; we just cannot quite figure out what it is, who it is or how to make it right. So, in true western fashion, we try to treat the symptoms of our problem rather than go after the root of our problem. We seek social, cultural and political solutions to the unraveling of our society that is before us. We seek pleasure, love, satisfaction, security, worth and meaning in our looks, our money, our careers, our relationships, our thrills, and yet deep down inside, remain empty. Yet we are told in the Bible that we were made with an inner longing for more than the world has to offer. We were created on purpose with a purpose.

We were made to do life with God, but to our own detriment, we have chosen individually, and collectively as a society, to tell our creator by our thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions every day that we want to do things our way, instead of his way. The Bible calls it "sin," and because of this disease we were all born with, we are guaranteed a death sentence, in this life and the life after, and there is nothing we can do

about it. That is the bad news.

Recently, my daughter had to get surgery for a condition she was born with that almost killed her two years ago. As my wife and I faced this agonizing moment, we wished with all our hearts that we could take our girl's place and experience the pain she had to endure. And that is a vivid picture of exactly what this time of year is ultimately about. Easter is about the good news that someone took our place, someone carried what we could not carry, and someone died for our sins. Sadly, today, when some people think of Christianity and what it's about, words like scandal, hypocrisy, politics, self-righteous, or hateful are what often come to mind. Yet, what Christianity is ultimately about is Jesus Christ giving his life for you, by his death on the cross and triumphal resurrection, so you will choose to live your life for and with him. Christianity is about a God who created you, knows you and loves you enough that even if you still disbelieve, he gave his life on your behalf anyway. The good news of the "gospel" is still the best news the world so desperately needs to hear; the news that we are loved and wanted, that there is forgiveness, there is a new and better way to do life and that there is real living, lasting hope.

As Jesus was dying on the cross, we are told in the gospels that there

were two criminals who were being crucified next to him, one on each side of him. One of the criminals mocked and rejected Jesus for being unwilling to save himself or the criminal, not realizing, ironically, that by choosing to not save himself, he was working to save him. The other, however, recognized who Jesus was, recognized what he deserved, and he recognized that Jesus was dying a death he did not deserve. The question is which of these two men reflect where you are at with Jesus of Nazareth?

We have two choices when we are confronted with Christ and his sacrifice: we can either accept him or reject him. We can ignore him or embrace him. What we cannot do is pretend that we get what Easter is all about, pretend we have heard and understood the good news and go on living our lives as if Good Friday were just another Friday, and as if Jesus were just another nice guy who said some inspiring things. If Jesus is who he claimed to be, he simply has not left that option to us.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

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

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Offense, Defense Fuel Falcons During 2-0 Start



Photos by Molly Bearsto

Above: James Henson is listed at 145 pounds, but he plays above his weight. During a 27-6 win over North County on March 26, he carried a group of tacklers with him to the ground. Below: Senior captain James Peterson and the Falcons defense shut down North County's offense in the Falcons' early season victory.



Quarterback Seamus Patenaude has emerged as a dual threat, leading the Falcons to a 2-0 start by using his arm and his legs in Severna Park's spread offense.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

To a man, players on the Severna Park High School varsity football team will admit that they have not always been the most feared team in Anne Arundel County. They finished 3-7

last season and 5-5 the previous year. But this year is different. After starting 2-0, with routs over North County and Northeast, the Falcons feel that they are finally building a winning culture.

"After playing four seasons at Severna Park, I really enjoy playing

with these guys," said senior running back Colin Shadowens. "A lot of the underclassmen are amazing guys and really work hard. I think that's a big difference too — a lot more people are putting in time during the offseason with sev-

» Continued on page 25

SPHS Field Hockey Outlasts Broadneck In Overtime, 4-3



Photos by Will Stumme
Ava Drexler-Amey scored two goals, including the game winner in overtime, to lift the Falcons to a 4-3 home win over the rival Bruins on March 30. Severna Park's Gen Mullervy and Sydney Rowe also scored. Arden Huntman (two goals) and Makenna Quigley (one) tallied the scoring for Broadneck.

Top Left: Delanie Abere (right) and Christine Liethof battled for control of the ball early in the game. Bottom Left: Arden Huntman fired one of her two goals past a Severna Park goalie.



Severna Park Boys Soccer Gets Off To Sizzling Start



Photo courtesy of Molly Jefferds

Both teams jumped high for a corner kick during a matchup between Severna Park and Broadneck on March 30. The Falcons came away with a 4-1 win over the Bruins.

By Zach Sparks

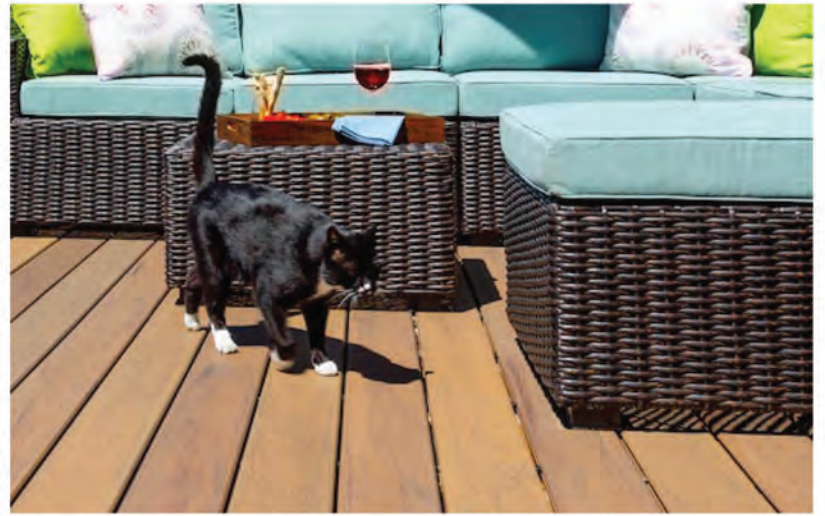
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

The Falcon boys varsity soccer team is taking the 2021 season in stride. En route to a 2-0 record, players admit disappointment that the season is short, but they're grateful for the chance to bond and, for some

of them, represent the Falcons one last time.

"Although this was not the season we expected, I think everyone is just happy to get on the field for these five games," said Bennett Jefferds. "For a lot of us, this is the last year we will be

» Continued on page 28



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This beautiful home features an eat in kitchen with sliders to the large screen porch, which overlooks one of the best yards in the neighborhood! This level also features a dining room and living room with hardwood flooring and the living room is highlighted by the fireplace. The large picture window bathes the room in sunlight. The family room also features a large picture window, wood floors and built-ins. The upper level boasts four generous bedrooms, including the primary bedroom which features a full bath. The location can't be beat, as this home is located just steps away from the community pool, pavilion, marina, playground, sport court and volleyball court.

ODENTON — PINEY ORCHARD

Rare end, two car garage townhome! Fea new quartz tops SS sink, Whirlpool oven & microwave, & a KitchenAid frig. A terrific space to entertain is the great room fea a tray ceiling & custom lighting. FR w/a gas fireplace & slider to fenced yard. Three generous bedrooms on the upper level include the primary bedroom with soaking tub, a double vanity sink & a walk-in closet. An additional tiled full bath & laundry room are also located on this level. NEW carpet and fresh paint can be found throughout most of the home! Finished garage with new garage door and Lift Master door opener.

Coming Soon

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Rare end unit, 4 level 4 bdr. Arlington model featuring numerous upgrades & enhancements! This open concept flr plan fea a gourmet kit w/upgraded flrs, 42" cab, SS Electrolux appliances, tile backsplash, huge kitchen island w/granite tops, butler's pantry, recessed & upgraded light fixtures & built-ins. Separate dining area & spacious FR also found on this level. Upper level fea 3BR, including a spectacular primary suite, fea a sitting room w/built-ins, tray ceiling, upgraded moldings, walk-in closet, 2 ceiling fans, opulent oversize shower, w/dual shower heads & large vanity. Level 1 fea a rec room, & 4th BR/office w/full bath! Kick-back and enjoy the views on the rooftop deck!

Sold

Offense, Defense Fuel Falcons

» Continued from page 22

en-on-seven, in the weight room, and really changing the culture to more of a football school and trying to get more athletes in the program.”

That work ethic is paying off so far. Severna Park kicked off their season with a 27-6 win over North County on March 26.

They followed that with a 30-7 win over Northeast on April 1. Shadowens scored a rushing touchdown in the win and sophomore quarterback **Seamus Patenaude** added two touchdowns, one on the ground and one on a pass to junior receiver **Colton Adams**. Junior linebacker **Brayden Lane** joined the scoring party with a pick-six.

Head coach **Mike Wright** praised his defense for their strong performance.

“**Kaleb Blackwell** put on constant pressure from the linebacker position and really forced a lot of errant turnovers,” Wright said. “**Caleb Sartalamacchia** had an amazing game. [Northeast] has a really dominant tight end and it was mostly Caleb’s job to take care of him.”

Wright and his offensive staff used the offseason to shift the offensive scheme to a spread system to better utilize the team’s personnel. So far, the move is paying dividends, freeing up lanes for the running backs to maneuver while also building confidence for Patenaude, who started a few games last year as a freshman.

“Seamus has matured and his arm strength has matured, as have his progressions with reading defenses,” Wright said.

Patenaude added, “Starting to run a spread offense has helped us because we are normally a power running team, we’re run heavy, and it helps us widen out and get guys out of the box.”

Shadowens also gave credit to **James Henson III**, who plays running back and defensive back, for playing fearlessly and making tough tackles against bigger players. Defensive coordinator **Don Linnell** also deserves praise.

“Coach Linnell has us prepared from week to week,” said Shadowens, who plays defensive back in addition to running back. “We all understand our jobs and what we have to do to get a win.”

On special teams, kicker **Trey Smack** gives the Falcons another threat with the ability to convert field goals from up to 50 yards away.

Severna Park closes its season with games against Glen Burnie on April 9 and Chesapeake on April 16. With no postseason because of COVID-19, the team has other goals.

“Going undefeated and growing the program so that we can attract more kids for the future and we can keep it a winning program,” Patenaude said of his goals.

Shadowens agreed, saying, “It would be awesome to go undefeated ... this team and this unit together, for senior year, I couldn’t ask for a better group of guys. The coaches keep us together, and a lot of credit for our success is due to chemistry and the will to win.”

Broadneck Rallies For Comeback Over Old Mill



After trailing by as many as nine points, the Broadneck Bruins football team rallied in the fourth quarter, scoring the final 14 points of the contest to defeat the Old Mill Patriots 21-15.

By Logan Hill

Trailing by two points with two minutes to go in an April 1 game against the Old Mill Patriots, Broadneck junior quarterback **Josh Ehrlich** completed his biggest pass of the night: a 17-yard touchdown strike to freshman wide receiver **Eli Harris** to complete the Bruins’ 21-15 comeback win.

It took nearly four quarters, but Ehrlich’s touchdown throw gave Broadneck their first lead of the game and one they held on to as the clock hit zero. It was the third touchdown of the game for the junior, who had two rushing and one passing, as Broadneck moved to 2-0 during the COVID-19 shortened spring season. Senior **Rashid Proctor** also contributed on the ground for the Bruins, breaking off runs of 64 and 59 yards en route to 120 total yards on the day on just 11 carries.

“Tonight told us that our kids can handle some adversity,” Broadneck head coach **Rob Harris** said. “We real-

ly put our back against the wall and we fought back.”

Things began poorly for the Bruins as an intentional grounding penalty in the end zone led to a safety, giving Old Mill a 2-0 lead with 17.5 seconds left in the first quarter. On the ensuing free kick, sophomore **Daquan Dorsey** returned it 77 yards to score the first touchdown of the contest. In a flash, Old Mill had a 9-0 lead.

Broadneck responded quickly in the second quarter, thanks in part to Proctor’s first big run of the day, as he rumbled 64 yards before being forced out of bounds at the Old Mill 2-yard-line. Ehrlich punched it in on a quarterback keeper and gave the Bruins their first score of the game. From there, the two teams would trade punches, with neither able to really connect, and Old Mill went into halftime with a 9-7 lead.

Another back-and-forth third quarter produced no points, but Old Mill ended the period in prime scoring position. Dorsey scored on a 1-yard run to give the Patriots a 15-7 lead with 10

minutes remaining.

“[Daquan] is going to be, I believe, another really good Old Mill back,” Patriots’ head coach **Chad McCormick** said. “It was really good for him to get his first scores here tonight.”

Following Dorsey’s second touchdown of the contest, Broadneck would take a stranglehold on the momentum, scoring the final 14 points of the game. Ehrlich found paydirt once again, this time from 8 yards out, but a failed two-point conversion left the Bruins trailing. Following a defensive stop, Ehrlich and company got the ball back with just over four minutes left. The third-year starter found Harris in the end zone, giving Broadneck the lead with 1:52 left. Old Mill’s comeback came up short and Broadneck walked out of Bob Golliday Field with the win.

“We had to earn this one,” Ehrlich said. “It was Broadneck grit in the fourth quarter. We came out and won it. Shoutout to Old Mill — they’re a great program, we were just the tougher team tonight.”

Girls 2010 Severna Park Premier White Stingers Win Amanda Post Tournament

The Girls 2010 Severna Park Premier White Stingers brought home the championship in the top tier of the Amanda Post Memorial Soccer Tournament on March 14 in Ellicott City, Maryland. The Stingers wrapped up a competitive weekend with a 3-0-1 record.

Goalie **Riley Strom** held all opponents to a single goal. The fierce attack was led by **Elena Wagner** (six goals), **Charlotte Goheen** (one goal) and **Sophia Lambert** (one goal).

The midfield play was grounded with **Lucy Ambro** (one goal) and **Marin Schaffer** controlling the field with vision and patience, while **Khady Sall**, **Delaney Peiffer** and **Meghal Spencer** provided constant pressure, game after game.



The Stingers wrapped up a competitive weekend on March 14 with a 3-0-1 record.

The paralyzing defense of **Chelsea Coward** and **Elly Davis**, whose speed and tenacity complimented **Gianna Procaccini** and **Elsa Cliffe**’s anticipation and skill, neutralized any offensive attack. A strong performance by **Delaney Jones**, **Katelyn**

Cormier and **Brynn Houghton** (not pictured) supported the success. Led by head coach **Bobby Schaffer**, with assistant coaching by **Chris Ambro** and **Marc Procaccini**, the Stingers start off their spring season as a team ready to compete.

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Siena DeCicco

Severna Park Volleyball

By Zach Sparks

Severna Park High School varsity volleyball coach Tim Dunbar has a saying: players need to work together as a team, as an amoeba.

Oftentimes the player holding the amoeba together is four-year starter Siena DeCicco.

"She is a hard worker and leads by example," said Dunbar, who added that DeCicco is "extremely well-liked on the team."

DeCicco enjoys being a role model and she draws her enthusiasm from her passion for the game. She started playing volleyball for Athletic Performance Inc. (API) in seventh grade.

"When I'm on the court, my position is mostly to help the girls where they need to go and how to conduct themselves on the court," she said. "I call the plays and keep everything under control ... when we're under stressful situations."

DeCicco feels like she thrives in the game's biggest moments. The Falcons have had a few of those moments early on during



Photo by Molly Beirsto

Siena DeCicco, a four-year starter for the Falcons volleyball team, helped her team during a win over Broadneck on March 30.

"She is a hard worker and leads by example. [She is] extremely well-liked on the team."

— TIM DUNBAR
SPHS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH

their five-game 2021 regular season, with a 3-0 win over Southern on March 23 and a 3-1 victory over defending county champion Broadneck on March 30.

"My goal is to play for every point," she said. "I pour my heart into it and play in the moment. You can't keep looking back at mistakes."

She feels at home playing for the Falcons and coach Dunbar.

"He always has our best interests in mind and wants us to play as a competitive team," she said.

Off the court, DeCicco pursues other hobbies with the same dedication that she commits to volleyball. She is active in Severna Park High School's National Honor Society and math society. She is a nanny to a Severna Park Middle School

student and a Severna Park Elementary student.

"I really like helping them with their classes online, and during breaks, taking them outside to play soccer," DeCicco said.

She will take her competitiveness to the court and classrooms at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, next year. There, she will study nursing, play volleyball and be a member of the Pell Honors Program, which challenges students to develop their analytical and communication skills by entering into respectful but critical debates on topics such as politics, international affairs, human nature, ethics, religion, and society and culture.

Until then, DeCicco is trying to make the most of her final volleyball season while following Dunbar's philosophy.

"Coach Dunbar wants all six of us on the court to move together as one," she said. "When one of us is running for a ball, then the whole team should shift and follow as support. He wants us to play as one and move together smoothly like an amoeba."

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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Green Hornets 11U Team “Knocks The Rust Off” With Tournament Win

The Green Hornets 11U travel baseball team went 3-0 to win the Knock the Rust Off tournament at Kinder Farm Park during the last weekend in March. Their schedule included wins over GORC (7-2) and the Sandy Spring Falcons (6-4 and then 9-6 in the championship).

Ty Bowerman and **Charlie Delobe** set the tone in the first game against GORC by throwing three innings each while surrendering only two runs combined. In game two, the first against Sandy Spring, **Brandon Matta** toed the mound to start, with help from **Tyson Viera**, before **Sebastian Kongas** came in to close out the 6-4 victory. Game three again pitted the Green Hornets against Sandy Spring. In the championship, Kongas went a solid four innings and Ty Bowerman notched the two-inning save.

“The best thing about the pitching as a coach was that even though some pitchers had a lot of innings, the pitch count was low,” said 11U head coach **Tim Bowerman**. “We didn’t even have to go to two of our starters, **Chase Goldman** and **Jonathan Bullough**, in the three games.



Strong pitching, smart baserunning and defense, and timely hitting helped the 11U Green Hornets win the Knock the Rust Off tournament in late March.

“Our defense was great and played very clean baseball from the first pitch in the first game to the last pitch in the championship game,” he added. “We tallied 23 hits in three games and took advantage of what they gave us on the base paths.”

Tim Bowerman credited coaches **Jim Viera** and **Tim Delobe** for instilling the fundamentals of baserunning into the boys. The team also received as-

sistant coaching from **Grant Matta**, and Green Hornets baseball commissioner **Michael Phillips** has worked hard to ensure the baseball season runs smoothly.

The boys did not rely solely on their tournament games to spark their improvement.

“We had 10 weeks of extensive fundamental workouts indoors,” coach Bowerman said. “The boys worked

“I am very excited to get out of the gate strong with some hardware and think this team has the opportunity to do some great things this spring.”

— **TIM BOWERMAN, HEAD COACH GREEN HORNETS 11U TRAVEL BASEBALL TEAM**

hard to improve as a team, and what I appreciate most was the buy-in from parents. A lot of the players had private coaches and lessons over the winter. We really have a great group of kids and families.”

The 11U Green Hornets are Ty Bowerman, **Brody Smith**, **Nathan Peacock**, Tyson Viera, Chase Goldman, **Drew Dupcak**, **Brayden Kiernan**, Charlie Delobe, Brandon Matta, **Campbell Jones**, Sebastian Kongas and Jonathan Bullough.

They expect to play several tournaments and roughly 60 games this season, finishing with a week-long Myrtle Beach tournament in July.

“I am very excited to get out of the gate strong with some hardware and think this team has the opportunity to do some great things this spring,” coach Bowerman said.

Falcons Score Rivalry Win Over Bruins



Photos by Molly Beairsto

The Severna Park varsity volleyball team celebrated senior night in style on March 30 by earning a 3-1 win over the defending Anne Arundel County champion, Broadneck. Maggie Sale led Severna Park with 16 kills. The Falcons started 2-0 after beating Southern and Broadneck.

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SPHS Girls Soccer Using 2021 Season As Opportunity To Improve



Photos by Maddy Fangio

The SPHS varsity girls soccer team battled its way to a 1-0 win over Southern High School on March 23.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severneparkvoice.com

The Severna Park High School varsity girls soccer team opened the year with two tight contests: a 1-0 win over Southern on March 23 and a 1-1 tie with Broadneck on March 30. Despite the COVID-shortened five-game season, the girls are cherishing their return to the field.

“Development wise, it’s a good opportunity to get some game experience going into next year,” said head coach **Rick Stimpson**. “We try to win every game, but not having a postseason, it changes the focus to getting experience. It’s a crazy time and definitely a challenge, but the girls are just excited to be playing again.”

Lexi Ensor scored the go-ahead goal in Severna Park’s 1-0 win. In the 1-1 tie, **Delaney Lee** scored the Falcons’ lone goal Defensively, the team has had



contributions up and down the lineup.

“We’ve had a mix of seniors to freshmen across the backline,” Stimpson said.

Even though nine starters graduated as part of last year’s senior class, this year’s seniors have filled the leadership void.

“The seniors have done a great job of leading the group and showing the young players what it takes to be successful,” Stimpson said.

The girls continue their season with home games against Arundel and Annapolis, followed by a road game at South River.

Boys Soccer Off To Sizzling Start

» Continued from page 22

playing competitive soccer and I couldn’t have asked for a better group of guys to play with.”

That group beat Southern 8-0 on March 23. The Falcons got two goals from both Bennett Jefferds and **Gus Bachmann**. **Zach Plummer**, **Jay Pierce**, **Brendan Fisher** and **Braden Van den Berg** all contributed goals in the victory. **Ben McLay** and **Brandon Asch** split time in goal during the shutout.

The Falcons’ followed that win by beating rival Broadneck, 4-1, on March 30. Severna Park goals were scored by Bachmann (two), Jefferds (one) and **Brady Denman** (one).

“There’s always going to be more weight attached to a win against Broadneck, and especially for all of us in this class of players, it has more significance because the last two or three times we have played against them, we have lost,” Bachmann said. “So to go there and win at the margin we did, it was very satisfying. Regardless, it’s always a battle against them and always a fun game to play in for sure.”

Bachmann said he has admiration for

all of his teammates who have worked hard with the limited time they have been given this season. During the offseason, seniors organized a socially distant, weekly workout to keep players in shape and getting touches on the ball, he said.

The boys’ April 6 showdown with Arundel occurred after the *Severna Park Voice* went to print. The team also has games against Annapolis on April 8 and South River on April 13. Their goal? Make the season as memorable as possible.

“We only have three games left in a five-game season, so we need to make the most of every minute we have left,” Bachmann said prior to the April 6 game. “For the seniors, it’s the last three games they’ll ever be playing in this uniform, and I have a lot of empathy for them and their situation. But I haven’t heard one of them complain or lament over the unfortunate situation that they’re in. Aside from winning the rest of the games we have, the best thing that we can take away from this season is the memories we are making each day together.”

Severn School Students Raise \$68,000 To Fight Blood Cancers



Lilly Hughes and Sage Christensen led a team of 10 Severn School students who raised \$68,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

By Haley Weisgerber

Student of the Year is a philanthropic program that teaches students important leadership and business skills such as entrepreneurship, marketing and project management. Each year, groups of students nationwide start campaigns to raise money for the Leuke-

mia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Severn School sophomores Lilly Hughes and Sage Christensen led a campaign, nicknamed "Admirals in Action," and raised \$68,000 for LLS. Of all Maryland students who competed, the Admirals in Action were ranked third.

Lilly found out about Student of the Year after a family friend nominated her. Eager to take on the challenge, she enlisted Sage as her co-leader. They are the only Severn School students to start a campaign.

They enlisted the help of classmates Will Huber, Cole Keefer, Chloe Chabot, Will Dickinson, Skylar Kagan, Grace Cowell, Matthew Kagan, Taylor Boteler, Grace Curtis and Fionn Kinsella.

"I think our team was pretty close," said Lilly. "I think we would have team meetings every week and I feel like not every other team would be able to do that since we all went to the same school."

They ran weekly meetings to check in on how much the group had raised, how they were asking for donations, and other logistics. They also met with Corinne Mayers, the LLS campaign development director, who helped the team kick off

» Continued on page 31

Girl Scout Provides Allergy-Safe Foods For Families In Need



Michele Seebold is working with the nonprofit SPAN to collect shelf-stable milk alternatives, gluten-free pasta, and safe treats.

Girl Scout Provides Allergy-Safe Foods For Families In Need
In October 2020, Severn Park High School sophomore Michele Seebold from Troop 140 founded Severn Park Teen Food Allergy Support and Advocacy (SP Teen FASA) as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Twice a month, the small group of Anne Arundel County teenagers meets over Zoom to share their experiences with food allergies and bond over games.

Thirty-two million Americans (one in 10 adults, or one in 13 children) have at least one food allergy. As of 2019, more than 35 million Americans are food insecure. Given the prevalence of both groups, they're bound to overlap. The daily struggles of food allergies combined with difficulty obtaining food makes life difficult for food-allergic individuals in need.

For their 2021 advocacy project, Michele's group is partnering with the non-
» Continued on page 32

Local Youth Get Creative With Young Authors Contest

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

This school year, students may have been limited to their homes for in-person instruction, but their minds traveled elsewhere while submitting stories and poems for the Anne Arundel County Young Authors Contest, sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Literacy Chapter.

These Severn Park and Arnold writers penned works about subjects from a variety of countries and time periods.

Arabella Gong — Severn Park Middle



Short Story — Grade 6 Winner

Arabella Gong used the Young Authors Contest as an opportunity to reference her Chinese culture in a fictional story. Writing her story, "Dumplings and Stir Fry," became a personal experience.

"Dumplings and Stir Fry" is about a girl in sixth grade who wants to experience American Thanksgiving traditions but realizes she has to be proud of her own cultural identity," Arabella said.

She was overjoyed to win the contest at her grade level, but just as important was the chance to share her message.

"Your identity makes you special and you should stick with it," she said.

Samantha Lavalley — Severn Park Middle



Short Story — Grade 7 Winner

Family history was also a motivating factor for Samantha Lavelle when she entered the Young Authors Contest. Growing up, she has been fascinated by World War II and stories about her grandfather, a Cypress native who served in the military.

In "Dreams and Resilience: A Family's Journey through WWII," a father serves in a station from the Springfield Armory.

"I love to read World War II books," Samantha said. "I am very interested in that topic and that time period."

She researched using the Army's official website, the National Archives, Encyclopedia Britannica and other sources, she said, often having up to 20 tabs open on her web browser. One of her favorite takeaways from that research was the important role played by women.

"Everyone talks about how women were not involved in the military aspects of the war, and that's not true," Samantha said. "They had the WAVES (Women Airforce Service Pilots) and WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). They had air traffic controllers and they did the radios."

Samantha has also been focused on another writing challenge: the Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest. For the essay, students nationwide in kindergarten through 12th grade were asked to imagine leading a one-week expedition to the moon's South Pole.

Every student who submits an essay will receive an official certificate and be invited to a NASA virtual event featuring an astronaut. There are even more perks for the semifinalists and finalists.

Sean Litchford — Magothy River Middle



Poetry — Grade 7 Winner

In Sean Litchford's family, there is a long-standing joke about being the descendants of Vikings. That was Sean's catalyst when writing "The Norsemen," a poem about Norse people.

The story is about a battle and the ensuing moments.

"The Vikings plunder a village and sail away to their cold homes," Sean said. "Toward the end, the Vikings make a gift for their chief — an ax so great and so terrible."

The writing process was anything but terrible for Sean.

"I got to learn a whole bunch of new words and I just had a lot of fun with it," he said.

» Continued on page 32

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INDIAN CREEK SCHOOL

Q

Question of the month

Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from St. John the Evangelist School answered the question:

If you could be any animal, what would you be?

I would be a cute, brave and cool lion. The baby cubs (baby lions) are adorable. They also like making the pride's male mad. The lion is a brave mammal. They stand up to any animal, including an elephant. Their mane is very furry and looks like a collar. Have you ever seen an animal with a collar? You better watch out next time you're in the African savanna with a lion.

Alex M.

I would want to be a scarlet macaw because they have beautifully colored feathers with hues such as scarlet, blue, yellow and green. They are extremely intelligent and can distinguish colors and shapes. Also, scarlet macaws are social animals that live in family groups or pairs, so they are rarely alone in the wild. I would like this because

St. John The Evangelist School



I don't like being alone for a long time.

Ava H.

If I could be an animal, I would totally be a dolphin. Dolphins can swim wherever they want. I've seen them when on boats, by the Bay Bridge. Dolphins are so nice and happy. They are gray with flippers, swim really fast, and also do great tricks. Dolphins are friendly to humans and are very intelligent. Dolphins let humans ride their backs and they're not scared at all of prey or any animals.

Brynn C.

I would definitely be a turtle. First, they have built-in protection. On their backs they have shells, which they hide in when scared or in danger. Snapping turtles also have really sharp teeth that can bite off your finger. Dangerous, but useful. Next, they live all over the world. Many turtles live in the ocean, in marshes, and different types of turtles are just roaming around little streams.

Lastly, they are endangered. I would help other turtles to bring the population up.

Cate G.

I would be an axolotl. They are cute salamanders that are often mistaken for "walking fish" and they live underwater. They are known for their adorable yawns. Axolotls can be pink and white, black and green, white albino, and golden albino. More rarely, they can be copper, or lavender with black spots. They can grow their limbs up to five times and they are 1,000 times more resistant to cancer than mammals. Axolotls are only found in the wild in Lake Xochimilco in Mexico City.

Colin B.

One reason I'd be a cat is because cats get to sleep and chill all day. These animals don't have to deal with anything bad happening in the outside world. Another reason I would like to be a cat is because they are treated like royalty. They

get treats all day and get to be pet and loved. Cats can also see in the dark. Also, a cat can jump off high places and land on their feet.

Finley S.

I would be a turtle because they live long. Turtles live for about 100 years on average, and I love living. Also, if I were a turtle, I could be so cute, and if you are a cute animal, more people will love you and keep you safe. Finally, I could not get eaten by a bird because of my strong shell. Turtle shells can withstand 200 times their weight or thousands of pounds.

Geoffrey M.

I like polar bears because they are such awesome swimmers. Some polar bears have been tracked swimming 96 miles at a time! I also like that they are protective of their babies. I'm super close with my family and I would do anything to protect them, too. A polar bear's main diet consists of seals and they can eat up to 150 pounds at a time. I also have a big appetite and enjoy eating, but instead of seals, I prefer devouring a cheeseburger with fries.

Jacob K.

I would be a monkey because I could live in warm weather and eat bananas. Monkeys are very funny, and I like funny things. Monkeys are very smart too; they use tools made out of wood to make things they need. If I was a monkey, I could also swing on trees and live in the rainforest. They are the closest animals to humans because they are very smart.

James H.

If I could choose any animal, I would be a horse. I love how they move in a herd. If you were going to put me in a herd, I would step on everyone's feet. I also love how they are strong. I think it is amazing how they can move so freely and wildly in their herds.

Jessalyn H.

I would be a lion. First,

back and sharp, non-venomous fangs. I like it when I see them jumping forward on their prey, ready to bite into their skin. I also think it's cool that they have thermal vision. This would help me to find my prey easier if I were a corn snake, so I don't have to look that hard.

Nolan D.

I would want to be a red panda because they look like a small puppy. Next, they are mostly found in China and I would really love to visit there one day. Also, they are great escape artists, so if they're in danger, they could just slip away easily. Also, they will literally eat human food like cheese and sugar. Red pandas don't eat meat because they are herbivores, but occasionally they will eat a bird or an odd egg.

Olivia B.

I would be a wolf. They climb mountains, dig really deep, and can fight off other wolf packs. Second, they are super cool looking. Most wolves are gray or white (sometimes they are tan), they have muscular legs that let them run really fast, and wolf pinups have the cutest little faces. Their eyes are beautiful too. Lastly, I like how wolves travel in packs. I would rather be with friends and family than be a "lone wolf."

Raquel C.

If I were an animal, I would definitely be a golden retriever. They have beautiful golden fur, which is what gives them their name. They are called "retriever," because of its ability to retrieve shot game undamaged due to their soft mouth. They also don't bark a lot, so don't count on them to be the best watchdog. I would also like to be a golden retriever because a lot of them are used as service dogs. They help people with disabilities, and I love helping people.

Reagan D.

I would be a butterfly. I love the way their wings look in the sun. Beautiful and majestic. I think it is also very interesting that butterflies start off as tiny caterpillars called larva. As the larva grow, they turn into caterpillars. After a couple weeks, the caterpillars curl up into tiny pods called cocoons. After a long time in the cocoons, the caterpillars come back out as butterflies. No two butterflies look exactly alike and that's what makes them unique.

Reese C.

I want to be a blue-ringed octopus. First, the blue-ringed octopus looks really cool; it has yellow skin and bright-glowing blue rings that shine through the dark ocean. Second, I would have no predators because blue-ringed octopuses are highly venomous; they paralyze their victims by biting them and inject poison. My final reason is because of the blue-ringed octopus's diet. It eats small crabs and shrimp, two of my favorite seafoods!

Ryan K.

Severn School Students Raise \$68K

» Continued from page 29 the campaign.

"At first, it was a little nerve-wracking leading a campaign as a sophomore in high school, but it was really exciting to know that you were going to be taking such a big role," said Lilly.

The group decided to focus on sponsorships and reaching out to individuals personally for donations. They wrote letters, presented their campaign to local businesses and made cold calls.

"We had a team that really showed off," said Sage. "We had three team members who raised more than \$5,000 and that was a lot. I don't think many other teams have that, so that definitely helped a lot."

Huber, Keefer and Chabot each raised \$5,000 individually and earned extra recognition as members of the "5K Club."

Lilly and Sage agreed that the most difficult part was learning to manage the group.

"Not only were we motivating ourselves, but we had to motivate our team," said Lilly. "It's hard being in high school and being busy with school and sports, and then telling your own classmates, 'You need to do this.'"

The team's original fundraising goal was \$40,000, but the team did not slow down once they surpassed that goal. They established a healthy, internal competition between teammates and pushed one another.

"There's no other feeling like it to see how much money we raised," said Sage. "Especially because when you raise \$50,000, you are allowed to direct your money to a certain cause within LLS. So that is great, because we can direct it to something we have a connection to. So we can literally just see the impact like so closely."

The Admirals in Action have not decided where they would like to direct the money they raised, but they plan to make the decision with the entire team. Lilly and Sage do not know how involved in the campaign they will be next year, but they are excited to build upon the success.

"I think we kind of want to pass it on to somebody else in the Severn community, so that more people can become aware of this community and we can keep spreading the word because we had such a good experience," said Lilly.

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Girl Scout Provides Food

» Continued from page 29

profit SPAN to address this issue. They are working to collect donations for food-allergic people in need and are counting on the people of Severna Park to help. Examples of the foods they are collecting include shelf-stable milk alternatives, gluten-free pasta, and safe treats. Items must be free of at least one of the top nine food allergens: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy or sesame.

"Michele is providing a much-needed service for the community," said Ellen Kinsella, SPAN's director of development. "There are many times SPAN has food clients who are vegetarian or vegan, or have Celiac's, diabetes, or other conditions requiring specialty diets. It's nice to know we have a shelf dedicated to this type of food."

SP Teen FASA is using this QR code for virtual food collection.



Donations are accepted three ways. 1. Donations may be dropped off directly at SPAN. 2. Donations are accepted at any SPAN collection locations. 3. Donations can be made using an Amazon wish list that SP Teen FASA has created specifically for this project. For more information about this partnership or to find out more about SP Teen FASA, contact Michele at severnaparkteenfasa@gmail.com.

Local Youth Get Creative

» Continued from page 29

Max Buono — Severna Park Middle



Short Story — Grade 8 Runner-Up

"Not Your Average Carnival" earned Max Buono second place for grade 8 short story.

"I have always loved magic and mythical worlds, and two years ago when I read 'Percy Jackson & the Olympians,' I fell in love with Greek mythology, which has a heavy influence in this story," Max said.

Not only was Max driven to write a short story, but he is also working on a full-length novel featuring the same characters from "Not Your Average Carnival."

"I set it in a carnival because I thought it would be a fun setting with lots of interesting tidbits that my characters could interact with, making the adventure seem a lot more captivating," he said. "Overall, I just tried to have fun and create something I would be happy to create and enjoy reading myself. I am very happy with the results."

Savannah Hogue — Severna Park Middle



Poetry — Grade 8 Runner-Up

Savannah Hogue was inspired by her thoughts about war while writing "The Whistle of the Train." In her poem, the speaker recalls when a loved one left for war and the emotions she felt while awaiting the loved one's safe return.

Not only is Savannah a proficient wordsmith, but she was the Severna Park Middle School spelling bee champion this year, as well as the runner-up last year. As champion, she went on to compete in the Anne Arundel County spelling bee.

Liam Sabo — Broadneck Elementary



Poetry — Grade 5 Winner

While some writers dove into the past for their subject matter, Liam Sabo focused on current events with his poem "Equality."

"I did this because during this time, there has been more injustice and not equality," Liam said, noting that he heard about the injustices rather than witnessed them. "I hope people read this [poem] and think about the injustices instead of forgetting about them."

The surprise for Liam was not only winning the contest but also the way he was informed.

"I was pretty excited; the teachers rang my doorbell and had balloons," he said.

The Young Authors Contest had four other local winners. Folger McKinsey first-grader **Abigail Wallace** had a second-place poem called "The Two Nutcrackers." Another Folger student, **Cameron Ochalek**, won the grade 2 short story contest with "Having a Sister with Down Syndrome." Benfield Elementary student **Lawson Terhune** was the first-place selection for grade 3 poem with "The Stream." For grade 5 short story, Broadneck Elementary student **Adam Goodenough** earned second place with "Game On Broadneck."

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SPHS Sophomore Will Compete For Miss Maryland Teen USA



As an equestrian, Amelia Garland has a passion for taking photos of horses and nature.

By Sharon Mager

Severna Park High School sophomore Amelia Garland is preparing for the Miss Maryland Teen USA contest, scheduled for July 24-25 at Bethesda Marriott.

Amelia was informed that she is one of 75 to 100 contestants between the ages of 14 and 18.

Asked about her platform, Amelia promptly answered, "I want to encourage girls to be the best version of themselves and not be influenced by society."

Confidence is essential, she stressed. Amelia explained that she is fortunate that her family has encouraged independence, responsibility and acceptance. "I haven't been affected by society's standards. I'm used to being myself."

Where did this young woman gain such self-assurance? "I've been onstage a lot," she said. At Severna Park Middle School, she performed in the ensemble for "James and the Giant Peach" and in "Once Upon a Mattress."

Amelia is seeking sponsorship for the contest. Her mother, Maria Garland, said Amelia will do well reaching out to local businesses for help because she has experience with Girl Scout Troop 10300.

Judges will evaluate contestants on character, poise, confidence and personality. For information about sponsorship, visit bit.ly/3di1top.

A longer version of this story is available to read at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

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Troop 531 Asks, "Can You Help Animals?"

This poster was created by Girl Scout Troop 531 members who attend fifth grade at Oak Hill Elementary. As Junior Girl Scouts, they can design a project to earn their Bronze Award. Wanting to help shelter animals, the girls created this poster and made

wish bracelets that they donated to the SPCA of Anne Arundel County, encouraging people to make donations.

Troop 1644 Completes Bronze Project

Five Girl Scout Juniors gathered enough supplies in March to stuff 41 backpacks for kids in need.



Five Girl Scout Juniors finished their bronze project on March 6 by using a Kid Kindness grant from the organization Kindness Grows Here to make 41 backpacks for Backpacks of Love.

Backpacks of Love gives backpacks full of supplies to kids as they enter foster care.

The Troop 1644 Girl Scouts — Reagan Dent, Madison Guercio, Katherine Nolan, Sophia Celeste and Marcy Malanowski —

had to complete a leadership journey and then look in their community to find ways that they could make a difference. The girls collected backpacks, did a clothing drive and a toiletry drive, got gift cards from local businesses, and were awarded the Kid Kindness grant from Kindness Grows Here.

Read the full story on the Voice website.

Hearing Health Helps Brain Health

Dr. Allison Holtz
Au.D. of
Chesapeake
Hearing Centers



Did you know your hearing health affects your brain health? Yet most people who suspect they have hearing loss wait years to get a hearing screening.

Often their reason is something like, “No one else seems bothered by it. Why should I deal with it right now?” As you’ll see below, the sooner you treat that hearing loss, the better.

Hearing: A Delicate Balance

Your ears and brain work together to make sense of the sounds you hear. But with hearing loss, your ears give your brain bad input.

Thus, your brain has to work harder to

process sounds and help you understand them. This leaves less brainpower for other important functions, like thinking or memory.

The less sound your brain is exposed to, the more it “forgets” how to process those sounds. Eventually, you run the risk of cognitive decline or even dementia.

Hearing Aids at Home

That’s why regular hearing checkups are a good idea. Catching hearing loss early helps you keep your brain in top shape. But keeping your brain engaged isn’t just about hearing aids.

In the current health climate, a lot of people

» **Continued on page 36**

Dentistry: Is Anesthesia Necessary?

Dr. Christine Calvert

Medical Director
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



Pets have teeth too! Oral health can often be overlooked in our four-legged friends for many reasons. It is important that when we care for our pets, we consider all parts of their body, including their oral health.

Unlike their owners, pets are not often willing to let their owners or their veterinarian examine their teeth. Most people will sit in the dentist chair for 45 to 60 minutes while the dentist cleans and evaluates their teeth. Some people may not like it, but they understand it is best for their oral health. Our pets can be fearful of having someone look in

their mouth, much less allow a person to put an instrument in their mouth to scrape tartar from their teeth.

Our pets don’t understand what is happening and why. This is why it is important to have a proper oral exam and dental X-rays for your pet while they are under anesthesia. Maybe you have thought, “Wow, my pet’s breath is really stinky, but I’m concerned about my pet having to be put under anesthesia.”

Most pets do not have their teeth brushed on a regular basis, so when it is time for a dental cleaning, they have a lot of plaque and tartar accumulation. This would be similar to a human having their teeth cleaned after not brushing their teeth for two to three years. Most pets will not sit still for a veterinarian to use the appropriate instruments needed to completely remove the plaque and tartar. In pets, only one-third of the tooth is visible above the gum line. The remainder of

the tooth consists of the root under the gum line, and they have as much if not more tartar and bacteria under this part of the tooth. It is impossible to remove this plaque from under the gum line in an awake animal. It takes precision and can be uncomfortable for the pet to clean this sensitive tissue.

Polishing the surface of the tooth is an important step in cleaning a pet’s teeth. After the tartar is removed with a scaling instrument, the tooth surface needs to be polished to remove any ridges and slow the progression of tartar accumulation. This is not possible without proper anesthesia.

Dental X-rays are the only way to evaluate what is under the surface of the gums. Periodontal disease is one of the most common conditions noted in pets. Often, pets can have fractured tooth roots, bone loss in the jaw due to infection and painful resorptive lesions

» **Continued on page 38**

Spot Differences Between Allergies And COVID-19

Marcus LaChapelle
Broadneck
Pharmacy



Lately at the pharmacy counter, with a mask on, socially distant, I have been talking to patients about allergies.

Following Centers for Disease Control guidelines of staying distant and wearing masks has limited the flu season, but allergy sufferers may not be as lucky. Patients are eager to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. With springtime upon us, many patients are starting to experience runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes, cough and congestion. In the COVID-19 era, any symptom can be alarming, and patients are asking how to tell the difference between normal spring allergies and COVID symptoms.

For allergy sufferers, this time of year may make things more complicated. There are many similarities between the symptoms of seasonal allergies and COVID-19; however, there are some specific differences that can help you decide. Of course, any severe symptoms should be reported to your primary care physician or urgent care center. Itchy/watery eyes are not reported with COVID-19, but many allergy sufferers will experience these symptoms. Runny nose and sneezing are rarely reported by COVID-19 patients but often are a reaction to allergies. Chills and body aches are symptoms of COVID-19 rarely reported by allergy sufferers. COVID-19 symptoms can be similar to seasonal allergies, but often include fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. COVID-19 patients may also complain of not being able to taste or smell, or experience diarrhea and other gastrointestinal symptoms. If you do not have any of these symptoms, it

» **Continued on page 36**

McCollum Named President And CEO Of UM BWMC

Kathleen “Kathy” McCollum has been named president and chief executive officer for University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC), effective April 5. After a national search, McCollum was selected to lead UM BWMC in its continued efforts to deliver the highest-quality health care services to the people of Anne Arundel County. She replaces Neel Vibhakar, who agreed to serve as UM BWMC’s interim president and chief executive officer following the retirement of Karen Olskamp in January, while also continuing his duties as chief medical officer.

“The impact Kathy has made at the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) cannot be overstated, but it’s her commitment to our team at UM BWMC, as well as to the people of Anne Arundel County, that has defined Kathy’s career,” said Mohan Suntha, president and chief executive officer of UMMS. “For the past 20 years, she has been an integral member of a leadership team that has consistently, purposefully and strategically grown UM BWMC’s footprint and mission, making it one of the most trusted institutions in



Kathleen McCollum

the county.” Korkut Onal, chairman of the UM BWMC board of directors, has no doubt that the center is in good hands with McCollum, who is an “exceptional leader.” “As board chair, I have worked alongside her for years and have experienced firsthand her depth of knowledge and long track record of success at UM BWMC,” Onal said. “I look forward to working with her as we continue to build on the medical center’s strong foundation of caring for the communities of Anne Arundel County.”

McCollum joined UMMS in 1992 as an administrative resident at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) and transitioned to UM BWMC in 2001 as vice president and executive director of the Tate Cancer Center, an affiliate of the UM Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. She was promoted in 2013 to chief operating officer and senior vice president

for clinical integration, with oversight for operations, nursing, local human resources, and strategic planning. A resident of Anne Arundel County, McCollum is active in the community, having served on boards or volunteered for several community organizations, including Hospice of the Chesapeake, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation and Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead UM BWMC, an organization made up of dedicated and talented team members and medical staff committed to providing the highest-quality patient care and serving the needs of our community,” McCollum said. “I also look forward to continuing to contribute to the mission of UMMS, which has been my professional home for my entire career.”

Some of McCollum’s major achievements include the opening of the Pascal Women’s Center in 2009 and significant surgical suite expansions. Her leadership was instrumental in the vision, planning and creation of UM BWMC’s new five-story medical office building, scheduled

» **Continued on page 38**

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Chesapeake Urology Community Outreach



Join the doctors and staff of Chesapeake Urology at the Bay Bridge Boat Show, April 15-18 in Stevensville. The staff will be on hand to create awareness about men's health and talk about keeping your body healthy. Stop by and visit Chesapeake Urology's booth while you browse the boat show. Visit www.annapolisboatshows.com for more information.

Spot Differences Between Allergies And COVID-19

» Continued from page 35

might just be seasonal allergies.

Checking your temperature is a good first step to help determine the difference, as most patients with COVID-19 experience a fever. Recalling your allergy history is also another piece of the puzzle. If the symptoms are similar to ones you have experienced around springtime in years past, that is another clue it may just be your seasonal allergies. Simple over-the-counter treatments, like antihistamines, are also a good first step. Most patients respond well to these medications if the symptoms are from simple seasonal allergies. Severe allergies can make you can feel tightness in your chest and shortness of breath, especially if you

have asthma, too. But these can also be serious symptoms of COVID-19. If you are not sure or if you have not been diagnosed with asthma, call your doctor or 911 right away.

As always, it is easier to prevent allergies than to treat them once they have started. Oral antihistamines like Claritin and Zyrtec and nasal corticosteroid sprays like Flonase and Nasacort are common over-the-counter treatments that are more effective if taken before the allergy exposure. If you are an allergy sufferer, it is advisable to start your preventative treatment before the allergy season gets in full swing. Talk to your local community pharmacist to see what treatment is best for you.

Hearing Health Helps Brain Health

» Continued from page 35

spend most of their time at home. They also leave their hearing aids turned off and put away. Here are four key reasons to leave them in and turned on, even when home alone.

- **Brain training.** You adjust more quickly to your hearing aids. Your brain learns to account for ambient sounds you might not have heard for years, such as your refrigerator, your furnace and passing cars outside. That's important exercise for your brain.
- **Brain support.** Hearing aids give your brain a break, even when you're alone, because the sounds you do hear are clear and crisp.
- **Balance help.** Your ears and brain work together to accom-

plish spatial awareness and balance as well. Even when you're alone, hearing aids are crucial for this team effort.

- **Sensory sweet spot.** Hearing is one of the five senses. You still want to see, taste, smell and touch when you're alone, so why not hear as well?

Hearing Health

As you can see, hearing is a complicated matter. And hearing care isn't a transaction; it's a process that starts with a simple hearing exam and continues through the appropriate use of prescribed technology. You get your teeth and eyes regularly checked — it just makes sense to do the same with your hearing. Your brain will thank you!

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Tate Cancer Center At UM BWMC Earns National Recognition

The Tate Cancer Center at University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC) has been recognized by the National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) as an approved NPF Academic Center of Excellence for pancreatic cancer. NPF centers are institutions that focus on a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of pancreatic cancer, treating the “whole patient” with an emphasis on the best possible outcomes and an improved quality of life.

“We are honored that the Tate Cancer Center has been designated as an NPF center for treatment of pancreatic cancer,” said Dr. Neel Vibhakar, chief medical officer of UM BWMC. “This NPF center designation underscores the high quality, innovative care that the Tate Cancer Center provides to our community.”

Approved NPF Centers of Excellence go through an extensive auditing process to determine if they meet the criteria developed by task force of pancreatic cancer experts and patient advocates. The criteria includes having required expert physician specialties such as advanced gastroenterologists, pancreas surgeons and interventional radiologists, along with more patient-focused programs such as a pain management service, psychosocial support and more.

As part of the University of Maryland Cancer Network, the Tate Cancer Center at UM BWMC joins fellow network members UM Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center and UM St. Joseph Medical Center’s Cancer Institute as three of the four NPF Centers of Excellence in Maryland.

McCullum Named President And CEO

» Continued from page 35

to open in late 2021, that will house a community wellness center and expanded outpatient practices for diabetes, vascular, neurosciences and orthopaedics. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, McCollum served as hospital incident commander, providing leadership as UM BWMC treated a disproportionate share of COVID-19 patients within UMMS, while expanding COVID vaccinations to thousands of community members over the past two months. Since 2018, UM

BWMC has also demonstrated remarkable progress in how care is delivered in Anne Arundel County, earning recognitions from Leapfrog, U.S. News & World Report, the American Heart Association and many others.

McCullum holds a bachelor’s degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Health Science degree in health finance and management from Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Is Anesthesia Necessary?

» Continued from page 35

under the gums that can be detected only with the benefit of dental X-rays. Anesthesia is required to properly position the plate in order to detect disease.

The other benefit of having a thorough oral exam and dental X-rays while your pet is anesthetized is that if any concerns are found under the gum line, they can be treated at that time. Extractions and other oral treatments can be painful and require your pet to be immobilized to ensure proper treatment. Otherwise, your pet will continue to have a painful mouth. Dogs have 42 teeth in their mouth. Often, pet owners are concerned when their pet needs to have teeth extracted, but removing the painful teeth in the mouth can significantly improve your pet’s overall health.

If you have ever had a sensitive spot on your tooth or especially a root canal, you know the pain associated with oral disease. It is a common misconception that pets must not have significant dental disease because they are still eating. Animals have an internal predator-prey drive and showing pain is evidence of weakness. They have a significant drive to continue eating despite pain. Lack of appetite is one of the last signs noted when a pet is not feeling well or in pain, so often, by the time they stop eating, they are experiencing excruciating pain and suffering from a poor quality of life.

Safety precautions are taken starting with preanesthetic bloodwork prior to anesthesia and continued by using intravenous fluids during the proce-

dures, continuous monitoring of all vital systems and proper use of anesthetic agents. When all of these things are utilized together in an otherwise healthy patient, the risks of anesthesia are minimal and the benefits to your pet’s oral health will be maximized.

The most rewarding part of performing a dental on a pet patient is seeing them come in for their recheck and hearing from their owner that they are acting like a puppy again. They didn’t realize the pain and infection in their mouth was negatively impacting their pet’s comfort level. Dental disease is more than “stinky breath” and “dirty teeth.” Dental disease has far-reaching impact on oral pain; it can contribute to infections in the liver, heart and kidney. Pets have teeth too, so be sure to have an oral exam performed by your veterinarian to ensure your pet has a healthy mouth.

For additional information, visit the Veterinary Oral Health Council website at www.vohc.org or the American Veterinary Dental College website at www.avdc.org/animal-owner-resources.

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Stage & Screen Studios Premieres "The Point"



The first episode of "The Point" is now available on the Stage & Screen website.

By Haley Weisgerber

Stage & Screen Studios has premiered its newest project, "The Point," a 10-episode thriller that has received rave reviews and international attention.

"The Point" follows a group of children from a small island, and one special child, Everly, who has the ability to see the future. In the first episode, a group of mean girls hatch a plot to kidnap Everly and use her ability

against her. The episode leaves viewers with many questions and the desire to know more.

Pete Garvey, who wrote and directed the show, drew inspiration from the Netflix series "Outer Banks." He was inspired to write something similar for the students at Stage & Screen.

"One morning, after five weeks of writer's block, it all hit me," Garvey said. "I got it and I just wrote a 36-page" **» Continued on page 42**

Area Surgeon Moonlights As A Blacksmith

By Conor Doherty

When people ask Dr. Bruce Jarrell why, as a surgeon, he spends so much of his time blacksmithing, they don't realize that they are asking the wrong question.

"The question should be, 'How come you went into surgery?'" Jarrell stated. "It's because this is what I've done my whole life, working with metal and wood. This is second nature to me."

According to Jarrell, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, he has been working with metal since he was about 10 years old. Growing up on a farm with a small canning factory on the Eastern Shore, he worked on every piece of equipment on the farm, learning along the way how to make new machines and repair old ones.

Jarrell sees being a surgeon and a blacksmith as two halves of the same coin. "Surgery is a technical art as is metalworking, involving hand-eye coordination, being able to work on the fly and coming up with new solutions if something doesn't work," he explained. "With" **» Continued on page 42**



Photo by Conor Doherty

Dr. Bruce Jarrell said that being a surgeon and a blacksmith both require the same technical skills. He works on metal at his Severna Park home.



Dining Out Around The Park



Photos by Mary Cobbler

Above Top: The burrito norteno is stuffed with seasoned, grilled steak or chicken and topped with spicy queso and fresh pico de gallo on a bed of Spanish rice and beans. **Above Bottom:** Camarones Yucatecos featured large, succulent shrimp with sweet red, green and yellow peppers; tomatoes; squash; and zucchini.



Mi Pueblo II has a fun vibe, with earthy colors, Mexican decor and upbeat music.

By Mary Cobbler

Mi Pueblo II changed my husband, a meat and potatoes kind of guy, to a Mexican food enthusiast. "This is the best Mexican food I've ever had!" he exclaimed (and all he got were leftovers).

There are many things to like about this restaurant. First, the food is excellent. Secondly, it's got a cheery vibe with bright, earthy colors. Mexican décor and upbeat south-of-the-border music that kind of makes you want to dance (especially if you enjoy too many of their margaritas).

My companion particularly liked the tall, polished wooden booths, providing privacy and gleeful comfort for introverts. Open tables are also available.

Our friendly and knowledgeable waiter, Fernando, greeted us promptly to take our drink orders. My companion ordered a jumbo frozen mango margarita. A perfect drink for an early spring day as you look forward to summertime! They don't skimp on the alcohol, and the fruity flavor pleases without being too syrupy. I had water and took a few sips of the margarita while perusing the menu and munching on chips and homemade salsa

» Continued on page 44

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One Year Later, "Shrek: The Musical" Takes Stage at Toby's Dinner Theatre

By Dave Topp

As they say, "the show must go on." On March 13, 2020, the spread of the coronavirus saw businesses across Maryland and the rest of the country shut down. One week away from the opening night of "Shrek: The Musical," Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia was forced to reschedule its much-anticipated performance, with no clear date for its return.

A few weeks of waiting turned into months, and months then turned into more than a year without its performance.

"We were itching to get back," said Russell Sunday, who plays the lead role of Shrek.

Then, on March 23, 2021, with clearance from Howard County officials, Shrek, Lord Farquaad, Princess Fiona and the rest of the merry cast made their long-awaited return to the stage.

"To say that I was proud of everyone is an understatement," said Mark Minnick, an associate producer at Toby's. "I gave an opening night speech and could hardly get my words out. I was so choked up. There's nothing like live theater."

Sunday added, "The adrenaline rush and all of those feelings came rushing back."

Along with the many precise cleaning and social distancing measures necessary to reopen, one of the more unique challenges that the cast faced was how to handle spacing on and off stage. Because of this, the original cast of 24 was reduced to 11.

"As artists, we are like a lot of other people, just really resilient and adaptable," said Sunday. "I'm grateful; there are thousands of actors who are not back to work."

Sunday has been performing live theater for more than 30 years, while appearing in more than 50 shows at Toby's in his career.

Since opening night, the local community has turned up with increasing support of Toby's and its live performances.

"It was very entertaining," said Gayle Anis-Forder of Sykesville. "The theater is set up in such a way that even if you are in the back, you're still close."

Current regulations allow for 50 percent capacity at Toby's. While considering actors and staff, this allows for about 100 audience members per show. When at full capacity, without restrictions, Toby's seats up to 300 guests per show.

"The fact that we are doing our best to bring it back as safely and smartly as we possibly can is incredibly rewarding," said Minnick.

"Shrek: The Musical" will run through June 13 and will be followed by "Elf: The Musical," starting on June 18. Information about attending either of these live performances, or any others, can be found at www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.



Photos courtesy of
Jeri Tidwell Photography

Above: Bryan Jeffrey (Donkey) and Russell Sunday (Shrek) star in the Toby's Dinner Theatre production of "Shrek: The Musical," open now through June 13. **Right:** Lord Farquaad is played by Jeffrey Shankle in the Toby's show.



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“Yes Day” Gets A No From Me



Photo courtesy of John P. Johnson/Netflix

In “Yes Day,” two parents decide to say “yes” to every demand their children make of them in exchange for good behavior throughout the month.

By Audrey Ruppert

It’s been a heavy year amidst a pandemic, political upheaval, a recession and a national mental health crisis — so I thought I’d look for light relief this month and watch the newest Netflix comedy release, “Yes Day.” The premise sounded promising — much like “The Purge,” but for kids. For one day only, two parents decide to say “yes” to every demand their children make of them (with some ground rules, of course) in exchange for good behavior throughout the month.

In my view, the best family films are magical for kids, but insightful for parents. Pixar has always done an excellent job of this — Mrs. Incredible worries about her husband’s potential indiscretions and looks at her unflattering rear in the mirror with dismay.

A paternity test and a controversial last will and testament are central to the plot of “Ratatouille.” I found both films entertaining as a child and would watch them over and over, but they gained a level of depth and relatability as I grew into an adult.

“Yes Day” unfortunately fails on this front — I suspect as an adult viewer, you will alternate between cringing and looking impatiently at your watch. The elements of a good family film are laid down early on but are never developed. Jennifer Garner plays Allison, a mother who was once an adventurous soul. She used to take her husband skydiving and rock climbing, but now she finds herself having to be a disciplinarian to three kids. Her husband, played by Edgar Ramirez, is a regulations and compliance lawyer who is

used to saying “no” all day at work, and therefore takes pleasure in being the “fun dad” when he gets home.

Garner’s character seems relatable initially — she is demonized by her kids for being the bad cop and has to pick up the slack for her husband, who is overly lenient and often absent from family time due to work. She even tries to re-enter the work force, but she is essentially told the position isn’t suitable for a mother. The foundations of a problematic but all-too-common family dynamic are laid down, then never built upon, as the film transitions into the 24 hours of chaos that are the “yes day.”

This part of the film suffers because the kids’ demands are simultaneously unimaginative and unrealistic. Eating a lot of ice cream and throwing balloons filled with Kool-Aid are amongst the requests, activities which feel rather tame — but causing long-term damage to Allison’s car and even the family home are also part of the deal, and I just couldn’t see any parent agreeing to some of these demands, even on a “yes day,” due to the financial consequences. We are asked to suspend our disbelief, but there’s not much reward for doing so. At one point Allison is even invited by a headlining act at a music festival to sing to her daughter. It’s a cringeworthy scene; the resulting emotion from her daughter is utterly uncharacteristic of a 14-year-old, and what headliner would ever allow this?

Some lessons are learned, but those lessons feel rather shallow and forgettable. The runtime is also notably short at only 79 minutes from start to credits, so there’s not much time for any story to get off the ground (though I suspect that half-way through, you’ll be glad for the short length). “Yes Day” is clean fun for your 6- to 10-year-old children on a family night in, but it doesn’t have much value beyond that.

Annapolis Film Festival To Feature More Than 100 Flicks

This year’s Annapolis Film Festival contains over 100 films (23 feature-length narrative films; 16 feature-length documentaries; 66 short films). The festival is set for April 8 to April 18.



The films come from 35 countries.

“This year’s opening night film, ‘Marvelous and the Black Hole,’ brings a bit of magic to our program (literally),” said Patti White, festival director and co-founder.

With heart and humor, it tells the story of a rebellious teenage girl (played by Miya Cech from the current TV show “The Astronauts”) dealing with the loss of her mother and then bonding with an eccentric magician (“Marvelous Margot” played by Rhea Perlman, the Emmy-winning actress from the classic TV show “Cheers”) who helps her to reconnect with life and joy. It’s a story of being lost and found.

Passes allow for unlimited viewing to more than 70 films.

To see pricing, visit www.annapolisfilmfestival.org. For more information, contact info@annapolisfilmfestival.net or 410-263-3444.

Area Surgeon Moonlights

» Continued from page 39

metalworking, you’ve got something that you want to do, you have a vision of what you want to make and then you have to get the material to do what you want it to do, and if that doesn’t happen, you have to come up with other solutions.”

Of course, the main difference between the two is that if a mistake occurs while metalworking, the piece can just be thrown away. “Because of that, there exists a margin of safety with surgery that you don’t necessarily have in metalworking, besides safety for me,” Jarrell said.

For Jarrell, metalworking isn’t about making pieces to sell for profit; it’s about learning new techniques of metalworking. “Every one of them is an exercise where there is a new method in it,” he stated.

Jarrell uses the structures of flowers and other plants as inspiration for new pieces. Strawn on his workbench in March were several practice pieces of flowers with varying differences in the number of sides to each piece’s stem.

“If you want to get closer to nature, you got to be able to do these odd numbers, three, five, seven, etc.,” he explained.

“You don’t think of yourself as a machine,” responded Jarrell when asked why he became a doctor instead of an engineer. “Your body is one of the most interesting, complicated, not understood machines. It’s a remarkable machine. You think of it as medical; I think of it as engineering. If you asked why I would do stuff like this (metalworking), it’s my engineering passion, of putting things together, and I think that is human nature for a lot of people.”

Stage & Screen Studios Premieres “The Point”

» Continued from page 39

script in about 12 hours.”

He had a script, a plot and all he needed was a cast and crew.

“We put out kind of a gentle invitation for those that might be interested in trying something like this, and I literally thought we’d have five or six people on the cast,” Garvey said. “Elevan signed up immediately, which was fantastic.”

Conventionally, the location is chosen after the script is written, but in this case, Garvey chose his location after visiting his wife’s coworker’s house in Virginia. He wrote the script with this location in mind, and the owner graciously allowed Stage & Screen to use their property.

“We did a couple of rehearsals at the studio, and then off we went in our production motorhome and we did a three-hour drive down to location,” Garvey said. “We did that two weekends in a row.”

The students had the experience of working on an authentic television set complete with boom mics, a full crew

and a craft service table.

“It felt nice being on an authentic set because we were using everyday household items,” said Everly Hendricks, who plays Everly. “The view from the pier was incredible. I would very much enjoy being on another real set.”

Hendricks said that being on the set inspired her to be a more professional actress. Playing a sickly clairvoyant made her tired by the end of filming.

Garvey said the cast was, without a doubt, his favorite part of the production.

“One of my favorite things about this whole process is just that these kids love what they’re doing,” Garvey said. “They love being involved, and that brings more positive energy.”

The cast was dedicated to their performance. Even after 6:30am call times, long drives to location and hours of shooting, the cast never lost their positive attitude.

“I love how accepting and friendly my crewmates are,” Miller said. “We are all really close and it made the experience so much more exciting being able to

work with them.”

“The Point” even has its own soundtrack composed by James J. Kavinski.

“He worked very diligently to bring his mastery and creativity to telling the story through music, and I’m just so thrilled with that,” Garvey said.

The first episode premiered on March 19 with a showing at the studio.

“I enjoyed the premiere because I saw parts of the show that I was not involved in taping, and it was fun seeing my castmates in their scenes,” Hendricks said. “I enjoyed seeing it all put together and edited with the music and graphics. It turned out to be so much better than I could have ever imagined.”

The second episode is currently in production, but fans can look forward to beautiful locations, exciting partnerships, suspense and new characters including the sheriff, played by the voice of BWI Airport’s Jeff Miller, and a dance instructor, played by TikTok star Nick Garvey.

To watch “The Point,” visit www.stagescreenstudios.com/thepoint.

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Mi Pueblo II Is Magnifico

» **Continued from page 39**

(always perfect — fresh and a little spicy).

For starters, we split a “botana mixta” (appetizer mix) with cheese quesadillas, beef taquitos, chicken fingers, and jalapeno poppers over lettuce and a generous portion of guacamole and sour cream. Our favorite out of the tidbits were the poppers — little, fiery bursts of flavor. A bowl of poppers would have pleased us. The beef taquitos were crunchy on the outside, but the beef inside was disappointingly dry or overcooked and lacked flavor. The chicken was tender but a bit bland, and the quesadillas were average.

We ordered fresh guacamole, so Fernando brought a portable stand and prepared it at our table — that was a highlight! With a deft hand, he easily peeled two avocados. Then he added vegetables, spices and lime, and hand-mashed it together to make the freshest, tastiest guac we’ve ever had. Fernando sprinkled in just the right amount of jalapeno to give it heat and enough cilantro to make it zesty.

Moving on to the main courses — we say “bravo!” We were so impressed. I ordered the camarones Yucatecos, and my companion chose a burrito norteno. Both were excellent.

My camarones Yucatecos smelled heavenly as a waiter placed the dish before me. Tender, large, succulent shrimp blended flavors with the sweet red, green and yellow peppers; tomatoes; and mellow taste of squash and zucchini. The dish was already flavorful, but adding sour cream and the homemade guacamole elevated it to the next level of yum.

The burrito norteno was equally mouth-

watering. While the shrimp dish was a savory night of relaxation and conversation, this dish was a spicy night on the town! We quickly dug into the soft burrito stuffed with seasoned, grilled steak (chicken is also offered), topped with spicy queso, and fresh pico de gallo, on a bed of Spanish rice and beans. This rich dish was an explosion of flavor. My companion added guacamole, and a several shakes of hot sauce, making me lunge for the water after a small bite.

The finale was one of my favorite desserts — tres leche, a divine, light-tasting but decadent dessert made with cake, soaked in several types of milk, usually including heavy cream. This was a nice portion with vanilla icing and drizzled with chocolate. I always like this sweet because of the smooth, velvety texture. This was no exception, not too sweet, just right.

Servings are generous and prices reasonable. For a drink, an appetizer, two meals, the fresh guacamole and dessert, the bill came to \$75. The restaurant has an extensive menu that includes lunch specials and offerings for kids. There’s also a full bar.

So, put aside the meat and potatoes for an evening and head to Mi Pueblo II. For great Mexican food, this is magnifico!

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Local Podcaster Interviews Carole Baskin

By Haley Weisgerber

This time last year, the Netflix phenomenon “Tiger King” had caught the attention of the entire nation, but especially one local podcaster, who is bringing “Tiger King” to Severna Park.

Ben Gardner, a lifelong Severna Park resident and full-time salesman, is the host and founder of the TOTs podcast, which stands for “thoughts on things.”

In November of 2019, Gardner started the TOTs podcast in a closet in his shared college apartment. Now, he records the show in his childhood bedroom. Gardner primarily uses social media to find his guests, and while the podcast originated as a show for all things business, it now features people from all walks of life who have a story to tell.

“I find the most interesting people that I can find that I think my audience is going to enjoy, and then I invite them on the show,” said Gardner. “And sometimes you have somebody that nobody has heard of but that has a really cool story, and people fall in love with them.”

And sometimes, Gardner features a star of “Tiger King.”

Gardner, a self-proclaimed animal lover, was fascinated by the series and knew there was more to the story when the show premiered in March 2020.

“I started to realize that I have a podcast. It’s not very big, but I do have a platform where I can talk to these people,” Gardner said. “Why not



A year after the “Tiger King” premiere, Ben Gardner interviewed Carole Baskin to tie up the show’s loose ends.

reach out?”

After reaching out to the entire cast with little luck, Gardner was connected with Saff Saffery, an employee at Joe Exotic’s The Greater Wynnwood Exotic Animal Park. Even after recording two episodes with Saffery, Gardner was eager to learn more. On a whim, he sent a letter to Exotic, who is currently

in prison. Exotic wrote back that he would not be able to do the interview, but connected Gardner to his manager, Eric Love.

“I reached out to his manager and he ended up coming on the show,” said Gardner. “That’s kind of where things really picked up, because now I had access to Joe through Eric, and Eric was giving me all of this information about their side of things.”

Gardner admits to being “Team Joe,” but he still wanted to hear the other side of the story, so he reached out to Carole Baskin for a second time. Baskin, who typically stays away from the media circuit, needed some convincing. Gardner’s day job as a salesman came in handy, and he promised Baskin a fair platform to tell her side of the story.

“It’s like they say, don’t meet your heroes because it’ll ruin that,” said Gardner. “Well, never meet your villains because meeting Carole Baskin was insane.”

Gardner said his conversation with Baskin was eye-opening. In the episode, they discuss the infamous court cases, how Netflix spun the story, and

the conservation work that Baskin does at the Big Cat Rescue.

“After this interview, I’ve completely changed my mind about who she is,” said Gardner. “I use the word duped, because it really feels like Netflix and the Joe Exotic side duped everybody into believing that she’s an awful person. She’s not as crazy as they made her seem, and she’s actually trying to do something good for the world.”

The episode aired on March 12 and has received rave reviews from listeners. Gardner finally has answers to his questions about “Tiger King.” He believes that this episode will tie up any loose ends for people like him who were so fascinated by the story last year.

Gardner has two seasons of TOTs under his belt and is currently working on the third. He has many exciting guests lined up for the future and has no intention of slowing down.

“Honestly, I would love to do this full-time and make this my main occupation,” said Gardner. “It’s not common for people to be able to do that. But I’ve done things in the past that were supposed to be impossible.”

Gardner encourages anyone with suggestions for future collaborators to contact him. The TOTs podcast can be found at www.totspodcast.com or @TOTscast on Instagram and Twitter. Catch the “Carole Baskin: Cat’s Out of the Bag” episode or any of Gardner’s other impressive guests on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

“I started to realize that I have a podcast. It’s not very big, but I do have a platform where I can talk to these people. Why not reach out?”


— BEN GARDNER, FOUNDER & HOST TOTs PODCAST

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Chamber Update

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Please give a warm welcome to our newest members: **Eagle Title, REPP-C LLC, SpotOn Transact and Severna Park Tutoring and Educational Advocacy.** We also want to send a huge thank you to all our renewing members. We truly are Chamber Strong!

In celebration of Women's History Month, we highlighted five successful women business owners who have operated their businesses for decades. These talented entrepreneurs were featured in our weekly newsletter and included **Donna Duran, owner of the Broadneck Grill** and in business for 26 years; **Donna Jefferson, owner of Chesapeake Family Life Magazine** and **Jefferson Communications** and in business for 31 years; **Christina Prieto, owner of Christina Josephs Salon** and in business for 32 years; **Kim Lawson, owner of Fishpaws Marketplace** and in business for 31 years; and **Dianna Lancione, owner of The Voice Media Inc.** for 26 years, with the paper in business for 40 years.

In keeping with the theme of Women's History Month, our Successful

Women in Business committee held a virtual luncheon on March 10 featuring "serial" entrepreneur **Pat Troy**. Pat is the owner of **Bay Media** and **Next Wave Group LLC**. Notably, Pat was a co-founder of **Chesapeake Academy** with Marguerite Mills, the founder of the *Severna Park Voice*/The Voice Media Inc. Troy also was a three-term president of the **Greater Severna Park Council**, monitoring growth in our community, and the organization continues today to ensure that development does not negatively impact our environment. And she co-founded **ASPIRE** (Association for Severna Park Improvement, Renewal and Enhancement). We enjoyed hearing her philosophy of "always challenging yourself with the hardest thing you can do and then fully committing to doing it." The event was sponsored by **Valerie McLaughlin of Emerald Financial Partners**, another successful woman business owner.

On March 11, we held a ribbon cutting celebration for **Severna Park Eye Care**, formerly known as **Peepers of Severna Park** (not affiliated with the Peepers chain). **Dr. Kevin Johnson**, the owner, explained that the new name better represents their private, locally owned practice and commitment to full service, comprehensive eye care. They have also surpassed 25 years of business success! Congratulations, **Severna Park Eye Care!**

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How The Stimulus Will Affect You

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
at Premier
Planning Group



On March 11, President Joe Biden passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) totaling \$1.9 trillion in coronavirus-related relief. What is \$1 trillion? One economist

describes it as "buying every item, on every shelf, in every store, in every city, in every country in Europe." If that seems like a ton of money, that's because it is! This is especially true when you consider this massive sum of money on top of the previous two stimulus bills passed in 2020. These three bills are upward of \$5 trillion in stimulus funds. I want to describe what this new bill means to you both from a positive and critical standpoint.

Stimulus Checks

Let's start with the payment to Americans, the stimulus checks. Some Americans have already received the full \$1,400 payment, while others are receiving different amounts based

on their income salary. Individuals who earn less than \$75,000 a year and couples who jointly earn less than \$150,000 a year will receive the full \$1,400 amount.

However, individuals earning between \$75,000 and \$80,000 per year, and couples jointly earning between \$150,000 and \$160,000 a year, will receive a prorated amount of the stimulus check. Individuals earning over \$80,000 a year, and couples who jointly earn \$160,000 a year, will not receive a check at all.

Unemployment

The Biden administration approved the \$300 weekly enhancements to unemployment benefits, meaning that those who qualify to receive unemployment benefits will continue to do so. In addition, the ARPA provides income tax relief for those receiving unemployment. In my opinion, the most beneficial aspect of this act is the expansion of COBRA. With more individuals out of a health care plan due to unemployment, the COBRA Act serves as an anchor to Americans granting access to their former employer's health care plan but paying the premiums on their own.

While the individuals were em-
» Continued on page 50

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Cassilly Brothers Partner To Meet Tax And Financial Planning Needs

By Zach Sparks

Brothers Freddie and Patrick Cassilly knew growing up that they would eventually want to work for small businesses in their hometown community of Anne Arundel County. The reality has been even better than they could have hoped.

A registered investment advisor (RIA), Freddie started Cassilly Financial Group two years ago to help clients achieve financial well-being through holistic and unbiased advice. His independent firm on B&A Boulevard shares a building with Gardiner & Appel Group, where Patrick offers a variety of small-business consulting and tax planning and preparation services as a certified public accountant.

By aligning together, the two businesses are able to offer a combination of tax and financial planning services anytime someone needs those resources.

"Working in the community has always been appealing to me; we come from a family of small-business owners," Freddie said. "The fact that we get to grow our respective businesses side by side is exciting for both of us."

When opening his business, Freddie utilized his experience working for a na-



A registered investment advisor, Freddie Cassilly (right) started Cassilly Financial Group two years ago to help clients achieve financial well-being. His firm shares a building with Gardiner & Appel Group, where Patrick Cassilly offers a small-business consulting and tax planning and preparation services.

tional firm in Annapolis. When Patrick joined Gardiner & Appel Group in 2012, he brought a background from the five years he spent working for one of the Big Four accounting firms. In joining the Gardiner & Appel Group, they have gained invaluable experience in working with the partners at the Gardiner & Ap-

pel Group (Karl Appel, Debbie Feather and Tom Cleaver).

"Without the support of a large corporation, having the support and mentorship of those partners with so much experience working in this community has been huge," Patrick said.

Freddie's day-to-day schedule consists

of meeting clients and customizing financial plans that meet their unique goals and objectives.

"Being an independent financial planning firm allows me to act as a true fiduciary for our clients," Freddie said. "That was one of the biggest appeals for me in starting my own practice — being in control of recommendations that are made to clients and the solutions we come up with, knowing it is always in their best interest."

Most of those clients come from referrals. Freddie's process starts with a "discovery meeting," which is a friendly introduction and discussion of goals. Before coming to us, most clients have done some type of planning along the way. They have accumulated money in a 401(k), completed a will, or saved money for their children's education, he said, but people come to take those pieces a step further. They are looking for a comprehensive and cohesive plan.

"None of our financial plans are cookie cutter," Freddie explained. "All of our plans are tailored and customized to our clients' individual needs. Recommendations always include a healthy level of dialogue and discussion. It is this process

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Park Books & Literacy Lab To Open May 1

A traditional and independent bookstore, Park Books & Literacy Lab will open its doors in downtown Severna Park on May 1, at 555 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard. The store's literacy lab, which has been successfully operating since early January at a temporary location, will move into the new location.

The store will feature such book genres as fiction, non-fiction, travel, poetry, young adult and an expansive children's literature section, as well as the work of local authors.

"We envision Park Books & Literacy Lab as a community hub of sorts," said Park Books & Literacy Lab owner Melody Wukitch. "Not only do we look forward to celebrating local authors and artisans, but we intend to promote the love of reading by partnering with book clubs, artists and other community organizations."

Additionally, the store's Literacy Lab employs specialists to help develop children into engaged, passionate readers.

"My network of literacy specialists, special educators, psychologists, speech pathologists, college consultants, and classroom teachers are anxious to support the children of our community who may be disengaged, are new or struggling readers, or those who simply want to enjoy a reading community like ours," Wukitch said.

Have questions? Email severnepark-books@gmail.com. For details, go to www.parkbooksliteracylab.com.

SERVPRO Team Repairs Texas Homes



A SERVPRO of Glen Burnie team recently traveled to Houston, Texas, to help after a winter storm wrecked the area.

By Zach Sparks

When Texas was ravaged by a winter storm from February 13-17, the state's residents were left without power and were saddled with severe economic losses. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, 111 people died, and various news outlets estimate that damages exceeded \$125 billion.

Seeing the need for assistance, the team at SERVPRO of Glen Burnie, led by Arnold resident and operations manager Nick Whittles, traveled to Texas to help.

The eight-person team called Houston home from February 25 to March 12. The damage they saw was devastating, as Whittles estimated that 75% of the homes had debris in the front yard.

"In Maryland, when we get cold weather every few years, we get frozen pipes; typically, this is one pipe," Whittles said. "In Texas, they run the majority of piping in the attic. Texas hasn't seen cold like that in the last several decades, so it wasn't just one pipe in a house. There were anywhere from eight to 12 broken pipes in some homes. Some customers lost all of their personal belongings and a lot of their homes."

SERVPRO removed drywall, flooring, insulation and everything else that could not be dried or returned to its original condition.

"Once we remove these items, we treat anything exposed with an anti-microbial to stunt and prevent future mold growth," Whittles said. "We then

dry the structure with air movers and dehumidifiers. We took over 250 fans and 50 dehumidifiers [to Texas] and ran out within three days. At that point, we would do demo and set equipment the next day and continue to assist other customers."

Whittles said he and his team will never forget the southern hospitality shared by Texas residents, who remained kind in the wake of tragedy.

"Every customer was so grateful and appreciative of our help," Whittles said. "When you do what you love, you'll never 'work' a day in your life. Even though our techs were carrying wet debris for 15-hour days, we still had a smile on our faces, because the people in Houston were just so kind and grateful to us."

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 46

Our Learn and Lead committee for nonprofits featured **James Golden of Golden Consulting**, who presented Microsoft Office for nonprofits. Committee chairs are **Jenn Triplett of Treebranch Group** and **Larry Sells of Larry Sells Consulting**.

On March 18, our wellness committee held a webinar called "Food Equals Medicine." Presenters were **Carol Heckman, registered nurse and practitioner at Chesapeake Holistic Health Center**, and **Heather Frantz, owner and holistic health coach at Involve Your Body**. They discussed the relationship between food and physical/mental health, and the importance of selecting food that will provide proper nutrition to support overall health.

We were thrilled to have the "green

light" to hold our beloved Independence Day parade. Because July 4 falls on a Sunday, the chamber will hold the parade on Monday, which will be the official federal holiday. We plan to have all the features including the decorated bike contest, a DJ, the judges table, and of course, the wonderful parade participants. If you have any questions and would like more information about being in the parade, please email me at info@gspacc.com. You will need to complete a parade application and rules document. We also have sponsorships available if you are interested.

Speaking of sponsors, we currently have **Chick-fil-A, Kogen Dojo, Ber-nward Construction Mechanical, Steak 'n Shake** and **Citizens to Re-Elect Heather Bagnall** as supporters of the parade.

We are overjoyed to announce that our grand marshal for this year's parade will be **Eddie Conway, owner of Garry's Grill**. When it became apparent that the pandemic was not going to end in a matter of weeks, Eddie went into overdrive to add services that he had never offered before. Seeing the shortage of hygiene products, he was able to order items from distributors and created a "store" at the restaurant to sell toilet paper and other supplies. He implemented a delivery service, often making the runs himself. He promised his staff that no one would be out of a job, and he made sure that all 32 employees retained their positions even when allowed capacity in the restaurant was only 25 percent. He recognized that nonprofits would suffer greatly, and held fundraisers for 18 organizations,

including Special Olympics Maryland. Eddie created his own Polar Bear Plunge behind the restaurant, and through donations and sponsors, he raised over \$36,000. He loves his community and continues to give back, all while raising a family that includes a newborn. We are honored to give Eddie a well-deserved recognition as the parade grand marshal.

We are planning a busy April with several in-person events. Please visit us at www.gspacc.com. I would love to add you to our email list so that you receive the weekly newsletter. Please reach out at ceo@gspacc.com and I will get you subscribed so that you stay in the loop.

As always, we urge you to support our small businesses in every way you can. Shop local, eat local, give local and support local for a better community.

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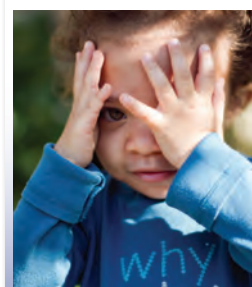
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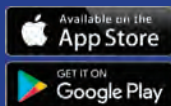
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How The Stimulus Will Affect You

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ployed, their employer was subsidizing part of the plan with the employee paying the small part left not paid by the employer. Upon employment termination, COBRA offers the employee access to the plan paying the full premium. The legislation provides a 100% subsidy for COBRA continuation coverage. In other words, if you lost your job during the pandemic, you still have access to your former employer's health benefit, paid for by this relief bill from April 1 through September 30.

Economy

Benefits were not just offered to individual Americans in this plan, but they were also offered to state and local governments. As I followed the numerous COVID relief bills going back to August 2020, I felt this was the driving force for getting this new ARPA bill completed. Local governments suffered during the pandemic and slashed a total of 1.3 million jobs. Addressing the needs of our local governments and providing them some relief was critical to lawmakers.

It's important to note that the bill included provisions assisting several other areas like FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), federal student loan provisions, and education-related relief. It's difficult to include all that the passing of ARPA accomplished, but now it's crucial to evaluate the lasting impact this could have on our economy.

Pundits argue that the passing of another stimulus package increases the problems already caused by the other two relief bills Congress passed in 2020. The total spending amounts to about \$5.9 trillion in COVID-19 relief, according to the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. Even the most liberal economists agree that some negative repercussions will result from that. Any time you're putting that much money into the system, it's going to create inflation. Inflation is the increased cost of the same good over time. The Federal Reserve is estimating an overall 2 percent increase. Could this go higher? It's worth noting that some economists are anticipating a 3 percent increase to get everything under control. It would become more worrisome around the 4 percent range once prices go up, since it'd be more difficult to get them back under control.

Analysis

My biggest concern is trying to determine how our country will pay back this money. I recognize the dire

situation that the coronavirus created and the need these stimulus packages met. Trying to wrap my head around how we are going to pay back such a staggering sum is what is concerning to me. Taxes will skyrocket. In fact, according to Janet Yellen, recently sworn in as secretary of treasury, Biden's tax plan is the largest tax plan in 30 years. It's difficult to determine what exact taxes the administration will increase, but some analysts project income tax hikes, corporate tax rates increasing, capital gains tax increasing, and the potential for new tax programs like a "wealth tax" and the introduction of "transaction taxes" like they have in Europe. For example, Elizabeth Warren introduced a wealth tax for individuals with a net worth of over \$50 million.

It seems to me that the conversation on tax increases always starts with taxing the country's top 1 percent. In practice, however, it is usually the middle class that ends up paying the majority of the taxes. We will see what happens this time around, but it's important for those approaching retirement to be prepared for the worst.

Congress was put in a tricky position when the global coronavirus pandemic began. It was a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" situation and I completely recognize that. Now that it appears we are on the tail end of this pandemic, we all have to come to grips with how we are going to pay for it. Meeting with your financial advisor and tax professional is going to be as important as ever to find strategies to help cope with the reality of an increased tax environment.

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Time For Some Financial Spring Cleaning

Brian Conrad
CFP, Financial
Advisor



On March 20, we experienced the vernal equinox — one of the two times in the year when the sun is exactly above the equator. Apart from this astronomical anomaly, though, the equinox is mostly known as the beginning of spring — a fresh beginning and the time to spruce things up. This year, as you tidy up your home and surroundings, why not also consider some financial spring cleaning?

Here are a few ideas for getting your financial house in order:

“De-clutter” your portfolio

Over the years, many of us tend to pick up duplicate items that find their way into the nooks and crannies of our homes, gathering dust and remaining unused. Over time, your investment portfolio can also accumulate redundancies — that is, you might own several investments that are essentially

similar. It might be appropriate to replace some of these and broaden your holdings.

Own your investments purposefully

You own certain things for certain reasons — a broom to sweep the floors, a microwave to heat the food and so on. As an investor, you should be following a goal-based strategy that includes the matching of certain investments with certain objectives. For example, you might own stocks or mutual funds to eventually provide the capital appreciation potential you'll need to retire comfortably. But you might also own other vehicles, such as bonds or other fixed-income investments, to provide you with a source of regular income.

“Dust off” your investment strategy

Over a long winter, your windows can get dirty and grimy, so, when spring arrives, you may want to get out the glass cleaner — and

when you're done, you'll be able to see out more clearly. Over time, your investment strategy may get somewhat “dusty,” too, especially if you've experienced significant changes in your life, such as a new job, a new child or even a new plan for retirement. By periodically reviewing your investment strategy, you'll be able to clarify your vision for the future.

Protect yourself from hidden dangers

If you poke around your garage, shed or other storage area, you may find some objects — gardening tools, paint thinners and engine fluids, leaning ladders and so on — that could be dangerous, either because they aren't stored properly or they're hard to see and can cause trips and falls. As part of your spring cleaning, you'd want to get these objects out of harm's way to safeguard yourself and your family. But when you think of your financial situation, are you also exposing yourself and your loved ones to risk? If something were to happen to you,

could your family members stay in their home? Could your children still go to college? To help keep their lifestyle intact if you weren't around, you'll need adequate life insurance. And to avoid burdening your grown children with potentially huge expenses should you ever need some type of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, you may want to talk to a financial advisor about protection strategies.

By taking some spring cleaning measures, you can brighten your living space for the seasons ahead. And by applying some of the same principles to your financial environment, you can help improve the prospects for meeting your important goals.

For more information, contact Brian Conrad, a financial advisor at Edward Jones, by calling 410-544-8970, emailing brian.conrad@edwardjones.com or going to www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Cassilly Brothers Partner To Meet Tax And Financial Planning Needs

» Continued from page 46

that helps us meet our clients' needs on a deeper level.”

After implementing a plan, reviews are held at least once a year to make sure the strategies are still appropriate for clients' ever-changing needs.

“I would say if you talk to my clients, they appreciate the process more than anything,” Freddie said. “I think that's the most helpful thing for them to get organized around their financial planning and understand that they have a thoughtful strategy versus that feeling of being disorganized. [That life] creates a lot of anxiety. The process gets them organized and being organized reduces a lot of the anxiety when it comes to finances.”

Like Freddie, Patrick enjoys working with people from his local community whether they are business clients or individual clients.

“Individual clients usually come in for one of two reasons,” Patrick said. “One, they've done their taxes on TurboTax forever and they've finally outgrown that. Two, they have been working with another accountant and they don't feel like they've been getting the attention they need and they don't have a good relationship with their clients ... In working with these clients, tax considerations are often tied to their financial planning, so the relationship with the Cassilly Financial Group can be beneficial to the client.”

The Gardiner & Appel Group stakes a big part of its reputation on its long tradition of working with local businesses.

“For business owners, tax planning is a big piece of what we do ... what they do with retirement saving can be a big part of their tax planning,” Patrick said. “Furthermore, when business owners ultimately sell their businesses, having

someone that they trust to manage those proceeds is important for them.”

People may assume that Gardiner & Appel is too busy to take on new clients in tax season, but Patrick said the team is never too busy to take on new clients.

“We are busy, but we never hesitate to set up a meeting with a potential client,” he said. “Bringing on a new client in tax season can be a good thing because we learn a lot about the client through the tax preparation process that otherwise takes longer to do.”

The Cassilly brothers both have four children — Patrick has a fifth on the

way — and they coach soccer for Green Hornets. This year, they plan to coach T-ball and lacrosse as well.

“I think 5-year-old soccer is a ton of fun,” Patrick said. “The kids have fun. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and to meet people with similar-age kids.”

They also get to meet people through their other volunteer endeavors. Freddie is on the finance committee at Chartwell Golf and Country Club. Patrick serves on the St. John the Evangelist Finance Council, and as a member of the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington

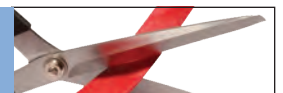
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Both Freddie and Patrick feel gratitude to be able to work for local businesses in Severna Park and to fulfill their lifelong dream.

“It's rewarding because when you do a good job, you really feel and see the effects of what you do working in the community that you live in,” Patrick said.

To learn more about Cassilly Financial Group, call 410-793-5210 or visit www.cassillyfinancial.com. Learn more about Gardiner & Appel Group by calling 410-647-7777 or by going to www.gagroup.cpa.

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