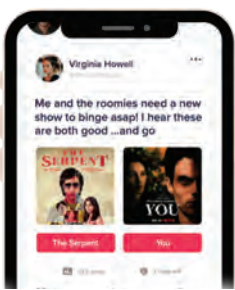




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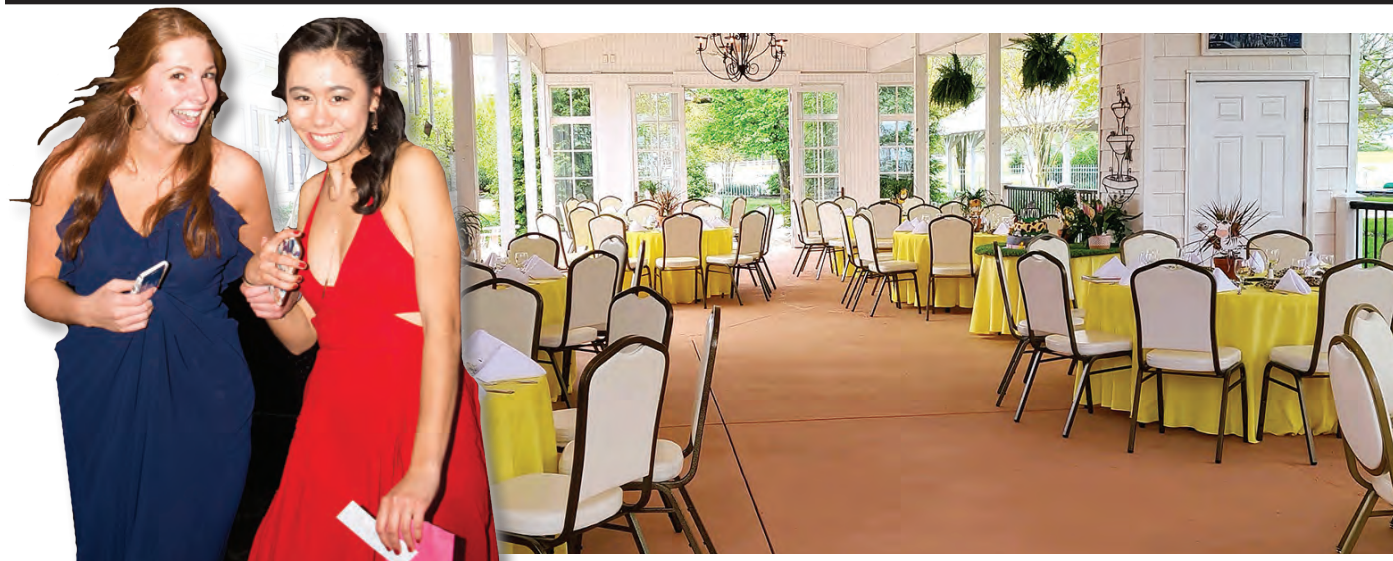
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SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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SEVERNA PARK, MD

MAY 2021



Pittman Proposes FY22 Budget

Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman delivered his proposed \$1.87 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2022 to the Anne Arundel County Council on April 30. Pittman touted the budget as a plan that strengthens the county's fiscal health, while investing in public safety, education, and other key needs identified through an "open and transparent" budget process.

In his budget address to the council, Pittman noted that after reduced revenue projections led to belt tightening and a healthy year-end fund balance, the FY22 budget proposal puts the county back on track for key initiatives in a fiscally responsible manner.

"This budget helps us achieve four basic goals: restore trust in government, create economic opportunity for all, implement smart growth policies, and promote health and wellness. These are the principles that guide us, not only as we budget, but also as we govern," Pittman said. "I want to thank the residents who participated in our seven budget town halls and provided valuable feedback on the budget, and I want to thank our budget team for taking the needs identified by our residents and staff

» Continued on page 20

Giving SPHS Seniors A Night To Remember

By Dave Topp

A group of parents have gathered to give the Severna Park High School graduating class of 2021 "a night to remember."

Gone this year are the pep rallies, a homecoming dance, assemblies, prom and so much more. Seniors at Severna Park and across the country have missed out on numerous milestones this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We started looking into alternatives for what that might look like if there was no prom," said Helene Nicholson, who, along with other parents of graduating Severna Park students, has assembled an event to celebrate this senior class. "What

could we do to still give them something? It's been such a bad year for them. They've had pretty much everything taken away that you could possibly take away from them."

After news broke in late March that the 2021 prom would be canceled, a group of about 30 parents, led by Cookie Drummond, organized an event for all the graduating Falcon students to gather one more time. On June 9, from 7:00pm to 11:00pm at Kurtz's Beach in Pasadena, students will be treated to a safe evening of fun and festivities.

"To a young person graduating, in their senior year there are things that are a rite of passage," said John Mason,

president of Kurtz's Beach. "Celebrating is one of them."

Knowing the difficulties that students have faced over the last year, Mason said that there was a desire to use their property to make a positive impact for the kids.

The event is not sponsored by Anne Arundel County Public Schools, making it a challenge to contact the families of all graduating students.

"Our mission from the first moment that we started was to make certain this information is shared with every single senior," said Jen Whitlock, who has headed up the fundraising efforts for

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JB's Bar & Grill Poised For May Opening

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Severna Park has several upscale restaurants that make an ideal destination for celebrating anniversaries or for meeting friends after a day at the office. Coming soon to the Park Plaza shopping center, JB's promises a different experience.

"JB's has more of a casual sports bar environment, with 40-plus TVs," said Greg Keating, a managing partner with 206 Restaurant Group. "It will have a little more energy, a little more of a fun vibe."

JB's is part of the 206 Restaurant Group, which also includes Park Tavern in Severna Park, Donnelly's Dockside in Arnold, Pratt Street Ale House in Baltimore, Five and Dime Ale House in Hampden, Oliver Brewing Company in Baltimore,

» Continued on page 5



Located in the Park Plaza shopping center at 566 Ritchie Highway, JB's has the capacity to seat more than 150 patrons.

Sports Bar To
Occupy Former
Space Of Bill
Bateman's Bistro

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Margueritte Mills
**Volunteer
 Of The Month**

Rock 'N' Roll Volunteer Supports High School Theater

By Haley Weisgerber

Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXXII British Invasion is tentatively scheduled for the end of May and volunteers like Kirsten Mummert, the president of the Severna Park High School Drama Boosters, are working harder than ever to ensure that the virtual show is a success.

Mummert became involved with Severna Park High School Drama Boosters when her daughter, Kaitlyn, who is currently a graduating senior, was a freshman. Mummert, who was not involved in the arts when she was in high school, started seeing live shows, especially community theater, as a way to bond with her daughter.

"When she was younger, I used to bring her to shows at the high school, and I remember thinking about how impressive those shows were," Mummert said. "I didn't realize then that I would be supporting such shows from behind the scenes and that she'd be up on that stage, singing her heart out."

Mummert has volunteered behind the scenes at her daughter's show since she was in elementary school. She has done everything from helping with stage crew and quick scene changes to supporting fundraising and social media efforts.

"I think it's important as parents to support the activities of our kids, and, honestly, it's been such a pleasure to be part of this world," Mummert said. "I love seeing a show come together, see the camaraderie develop among the cast and see these



Kirsten Mummert was named the May Volunteer of the Month for her work supporting the Severna Park High School drama program.

students get up onstage and kill it."

Mummert became involved with the ticket crew after Tracey Mooney, an alumni parent and volunteer, invited her.

"During Rock 'N' Roll season, the ticket crew gets together several times a week in the months before the show, filling ticket orders while listening to current and past Rock 'N' Roll playlists," Mummert said.

Mummert is currently the chair of the publicity committee for the boosters. She said that posting on social media and getting the word out about the productions has become one of her favorite tasks. She is the 2020-2021 president of the drama

boosters board. Mummert said that she can't take all of the credit, as the other volunteers put in just as much work.

"No matter what title we have, though, we're really a team," she said.

This year especially, volunteers have been creative to make Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXXII a success despite the performance being virtual this year. Instead of costumes, Stephanie Wright has made over 100 British-themed masks, the website has been updated to include online giving, and the staff members have had to start from scratch after over 30 years.

"I'm really proud of our parents, students, and faculty and staff who could have easily said that it would be too hard to do theater this year," Mummert said. "Instead, we came up with creative ways to have productions."

Mummert is thankful that the creative team, Angela Germanos, Atticus Boidy, Michael Brisentine, Jenn Nicolosi and Kelly DeLeon, took the risk to make Rock 'N' Roll Revival happen this year, especially as a mother to a senior.

She said that she is proud to be a part of a supportive team of parents, alumni, students, staff and volunteers.

"The SPHS drama program is really a family, and there are so many strong traditions that our students and parents are fortunate to be part of," Mummert said. "I'm also fortunate to come behind so many dedicated volunteers."

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Calendar

ONGOING

Wednesday: Bingo at the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company beginning at 7:25pm. Doors open at 5:30pm. Info: www.ehvfc.org.

Thursday: Bingo at the Severna Park Elk Lodge from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Info: www.facebook.com/severna-park-elks.

Thursday through Saturday: Live music at Brian Boru. Info: www.brianborupub.com.

MAY

May 6: SPHS parent-organized prom ticket pickup at Long & Foster from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. 541-B B&A Boulevard in Severna Park.

May 7: Mother and son date night at Garry's Grill with "Monsters Inc." presented by Funflix at 8:00pm. Info: www.garrysgrill.com.

May 8: B&A Trail Planet Walk held virtually on Zoom. 10:00-11:00am and 7:00-8:00pm. Info: www.planetwalk2021.eventbrite.com.

May 8: Aural Disturbance live at Romilo's from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Info: www.romilosrestaurant.com.

May 9: Mother's Day

May 15: Troop 0152 to host a craft and vendor fair at Severna Park Baptist Church from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Info: mdo152ahg@gmail.com.

May 15: Severna Park Kiwanis Club partners with Tio Pepe Restaurant to deliver meals at the Severna Park Elks Club from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. Info: www.severnaparkkiwanis.org.

May 16: Sue Matthews will perform in a Jazz Beyond Borders concert at Cafe Mezzanotte at 6:00pm. Info: www.instantseats.com.

May 18: SPHS parent-organized prom ticket pickup at Long & Foster from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. 541-B B&A Boulevard in Severna Park.

May 21: Left of the Dial live at Romilo's from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Info: www.romilosrestaurant.com.

May 22: Free community shred event hosted by RE/MAX Executive at 650 Ritchie Highway from 9:00am to noon. Info: 410-544-8800.

May 22: Wheelhouse live at Romilo's from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Info: www.romilosrestaurant.com.

May 28: Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce spring blood drive from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Registration is required. Info: www.gspacc.com.

May 29: Big Money Band live at Romilo's from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Info: www.romilosrestaurant.com.

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JB's Poised For May Opening

» Continued from page 1 and The Ale House in Columbia.

"Park Tavern is a place where you might bring your kids before a movie or after school," Keating said. "With JB's, you're going to bring your kid after soccer practice."

Keating, along with business partners Justin Dvorkin and Don Kelly, expects to open JB's at the former site of Bill Bateman's Bistro on Ritchie Highway by late May, barring any unforeseen setbacks. That may come as welcome news to anyone who saw the JB's signs go up in July 2020 and have been patiently waiting to visit the new restaurant.

The restaurant's slogan is "Bites. Brews. Ballgames. Just Because." Keating and 206 Restaurant Group spent more than a year crafting the menu.

"It is smash burgers with double patties, cooked crispy with melted cheese," Keating said. "There will be more wing sauces [than Park Tavern] and boneless wings. It will be a fun, playful menu."

Some craft beer will be on tap, but domestic beer will be a bigger focus.

"We see this as more of a Bud Light crowd," Keating said.

The ownership group sees their restaurant as filling a need in the area. Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz League agrees.

"We are so excited to welcome a new sports bar to the family of eateries in Severna Park," League said. "This new restaurant, put on hold for so long due to the pandemic, has been beautifully renovated and is ready for sports fans and family fun. It will bring more jobs to the community and will be another great dining option."

The community has been supportive of 206 Restaurant Group since Park Tavern's opening in 2014 and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're blown away by the level of support," Keating said. "Severna Park has been outstanding to us."

The best way to repay the community is through top-notch service, he said.

"Our main focus has always been service, from management on down," he said. "That does not mean that we never make mistakes, but we learn from them and correct them."

As patrons anticipate dining at JB's for the first time, Keating said there is little concern about stealing business from Park Tavern.

"If a family is coming to JB's or Park Tavern, we're happy about that," he said. "There are definitely good dining options in the area and we're presenting one more alternative. It has its own niche. Most of the restaurants in the area are sophisticated and we're more casual."

Katherine Mueller Proves Miracles Happen

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Fighter. The word that best embodies the whirlwind and emotional journey that Katherine Mueller has been on. Those following Mueller — a Severna Park native — are aware that she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer called neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) in November 2018. At the time, she was 28 years old, and the odds of her survival were low. The typical person would want to curl into a ball and give up. Mueller did the opposite.

In 2019, she and her family organized Fight NET Cancer with Katherine at Severna Park Taphouse, raising an unbelievable amount of \$73,000 for the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation (NETRF). The monetary amount was then matched through the NETRF's Spark Hope campaign.

NETRF was founded in 2005 in the Boston area by a NET patient with the goal to find the best scientists and to build awareness around the uncommon disease that impacts only 175,000 patients in the U.S. Ninety-two percent of all revenue raised for NETRF funds innovative NET research projects around the globe.

"Katherine truly inspires all of us at the foundation to do as much as we can to raise critical funds for NET research," said Susan Payson, chief development officer at NETRF. "Partnering with patients like Katherine and coaching her from afar in fundraising has allowed us to follow her cancer journey's highs and lows, which has motivated us to expand NET awareness and grow our fundraising program. It's emotional for all of us."

Mueller learned that her wishes to have a follow-up fundraiser in 2020 wouldn't be possible, at least not the way she initially envisioned it, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, and with the help of her husband, Matt Mueller; mother, Robin Sells; and stepfather, Larry Sells, they went "virtual." In less than two months of fundraising and including the initial success, a total of \$201,000 has been raised and contributed to the Katherine Mueller NET Research Fund at NETRF.

Although fundraising was going well, this past February, Mueller had devastating news. She had acute liver failure and a prognosis of only three to four weeks to live.

According to Mueller, "Of course, Matt and I just could not accept that news. We took the weekend to cry and be with family, but as soon as offices opened Monday morning, we were calling around, making appointments and reaching out to anyone we could think of that might be able to help get us in with a liver specialist at one of the top Maryland hospitals for a second opinion quickly."

Thanks to a favor called in by Dr. Eric Liu, a NET specialist in Colorado, Dr. Jean Emond, a world-renowned liver transplant specialist and the chief of transplantation services at Columbia University/NewYork-Presbyterian, took on her case.

"I literally didn't think a transplant would ever be a possibility for me



Katherine Mueller and her husband, Matt, are grateful that a man donated a healthy liver, saving Katherine's life.

"If I am able to save even one family from going through the heartache mine has been through, then that is a legacy that I can be proud of."

— KATHERINE MUELLER

because of having stage 4 cancer," explained Mueller.

After overnighing her health records, Emond confirmed the initial assessment that Mueller would have only weeks of life without a liver transplant. Dropping everything, Mueller and her husband hopped in the car and headed to New York.

Following an in-patient evaluation, she learned that she was an eligible candidate for the national liver transplant recipient list. Soon after that, she received a healthy liver from a man who saved her life.

"I never in a million years expected the turn of events that led to me receiving a liver transplant, effectively resetting my clock," Mueller said. "Doctor after doctor told me that transplant would never be a possibility for me, simply because of my diagnosis. Dr. Emond and his team at Columbia University took the time to delve into the details of my individual case and decided to take a chance on me ... I am living proof that cancer patients should not be discriminated against when it comes to organ transplant eligibility."

Today, Mueller is about a month post-liver transplant and total pancreatectomy. Technically, the

surgeon removed all visible cancer. While Mueller and her family remain hopeful, it is too soon to label her as cancer-free or even NED (no evidence of disease).

"Right now, I am just enjoying my life and feeling extremely grateful for every moment I have and every extra memory I can make with the ones I love," said Mueller.

Without the research by NETRF-funded projects over the past 15 years, Mueller wouldn't have had nearly the number of treatment options or specialized imaging techniques readily available upon diagnosis.

"My purpose for fundraising for NETRF has always been with the next generation of NET patients in mind," explained Mueller. "If I am able to save even one family from going through the heartache mine has been through, then that is a legacy that I can be proud of."

For anyone who has fought cancer or had a loved one touched by the dreaded disease, Mueller's unwavering faith is an inspiration. Her story is also a reminder that miracles do happen and that when a supportive community comes together, they can have a hand in miracles too.

"She keeps me moving forward," said Payson. "I don't think she realizes the impact she has on people. She's such an optimist and breath of fresh air with a can-do attitude. She's going to do great things down the road."

For anyone who would like to learn more or contribute to the Katherine Mueller NET Research Fund, visit bit.ly/katherine_mueller. You can also get involved by contacting Susan Payson at susan.payson@netrf.org.

Local Businesses Partner To Recognize Severna Park High School Senior Athletes



Braden Layne



Jake Whitlock



Ally Fletcher



Olivia Nicholson

By Laurie Edwards

Athletes at Severna Park High School have traveled a rocky road over the past 14 months. Their seasons have been cancelled (spring 2020), postponed and shortened (fall 2020), replaced with virtual only training (winter 2020-2021) and condensed (spring 2021) due to COVID-19. These interruptions and cancellations have been hardest on the senior student-athletes who will end their high school playing years with graduation this May.

To recognize the senior athletes, Chick-fil-A and Landmark Roofing have partnered to pay for yard signs at the home of each senior. The signs acknowledge the athletes who missed out on a normal season.

"We wanted to make sure they feel supported," said Chris Schenck, owner of Severna Park Chick-fil-A. "I know the year has been disappointing to them."

Schenck also said the high school is a big part of the community and it is important for businesses to give back.

The Falcon Athletic Boosters Club came up with the idea of yard signs after a parent approached the organization, asking if there was something that could be done to honor senior athletes. Kati Elliott, president of the Falcon Athletic Boosters Club, welcomed the suggestion as the club exists to support student-athletes and their athletic programs.

"Anything we can do to recognize these athletes and acknowledge the tough time they have had," she said.

With approximately 175 senior student-athletes, Elliott knew the \$3,000 cost of yard signs was beyond the booster club budget and would require community support. Normally, the booster club earns revenue from game concessions, scoreboard advertising fees and

membership fees. The reduced sports schedule and COVID-19 restrictions have eliminated or cut all three of these sources. Larry Sells, board member of the club's outreach committee, called upon the owners of Chick-fil-A and Landmark Roofing, both long-term sponsors of Severna Park athletics, for assistance.

"Both companies were delighted to [sponsor the senior signs]," Sells said. "They saw the value immediately and what it could mean to these kids that were shortchanged."

Rob Calhan and Artie Hendricks, owners of Landmark Roofing in Severna Park, describe the "raw deal" COVID-19 has handed athletes and all students.

"Throughout your high school years, you can't wait for your senior year," Calhan said. "I can't imagine what the kids went through."

Calhan and Hendricks sympathize with the students. The Land-

mark Roofing owners recall playing soccer, football, baseball and lacrosse collectively for their alma mater, Annapolis High School.

"For us, the signs were a way to do something for the kids, to recognize the athletes and their challenging year," Hendricks said.

Sean Foreman, a senior representing football and baseball reflected, "It's nice to be recognized since we couldn't have a regular season." The resiliency demonstrated by volleyball senior Annalou Marriner provides positivity as the class of 2021 prepares to graduate.

"At the rate everything is going right now, it was a gift to have our season," Marriner said. "I am proud to be a part of the volleyball team and to be acknowledged as a senior athlete."

As you drive around town, take note of the signs — a SPHS athlete lives at that home, located in a compassionate and supportive community.



Emersyn Kelter



Carson Sloat



Annalou Marriner

Giving A Night To Remember

» Continued from page 1
this event.

The committee has used mask sales and graduate yard sign sales to help fund this event. Donations have also been made to a GoFundMe page.

Tickets will be available for in-person purchase outside of the Long & Foster office located at 541-B B&A Boulevard in Severna Park. The \$65 tickets can be purchased on May 6 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and May 18 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. A valid student identification card must be presented at the time of purchase. Walk-up tickets will not be available on the day of the event.

Students in attendance will be treated to an evening of dinner and dancing. There will be a live DJ and photo opportunities. Organizers also expect several raffled giveaways including prizes such as a television or AirPods. Whitlock said there will be at least one raffle in which all graduating seniors, regardless of their attendance to the event, will be eligible to win a prize.

"We're in this to reach every kid and have them participate," Whitlock said.

The committee is also in search of sponsors for the event, with different levels of involvement available for purchase.

Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to email sphs2021parents@gmail.com.

"It's going to be great to see them together," Whitlock said. "They've truly persevered."

Rockin' And Rollin' — RBSA First Race Night

By Mary Marta

With an average windspeed of 22 knots and gusts of 30 to 35, Round Bay Sailing Association (RBSA) hosted its first race of the season on April 21. Temperatures were decreasing during the race starting at 50 degrees, with wind chill much lower, prompting one tactician to say, "This was a good night to be a grinder; at least they were warm!" Four of the usual 20 or so boats started the race. Of those, two boats grounded, one boat had equipment failure, one had to retire early. In other words, all had the opportunity to test their boats and crew under heavy wind conditions.

Mark Lister, skipper of Winsome Ride, sailed with a heavily reefed main and his usual complement of six crew members. Lister said, "Last night was a good shakedown cruise. It's good to get out early in heavy winds to make sure that equipment is working properly and to give the crew experience in heavy winds." With only four boats on the race course, there "was plenty of room to maneuver," which made the heavy wind conditions a good test.

Indeed, it was a challenging night to sail, as both Annapolis Yacht Club and Magothy River Association canceled racing for April 21. The wind conditions favored the large, heavy boats, according to Mark Oursler, race committee (RC) chair. Most of the lighter, smaller boats in the fleet didn't brave the conditions. For 2021, the RBSA board implemented the ORR-EZ



Don Snelgrove's boat, *Himmel*, sailed with a reefed main.

time-on-distance handicap system. In addition, RBSA updated the sailing instructions to include a novel starting procedure. Given the heavy wind conditions, the new handicapping system and new RC procedures, it was a race to remember!

As to the groundings, the race mark "N" on the course for April 21 is somewhat close to shore. A few years back, the club moved the mark so that it would be further from the shore and shoaling area. However, according to the club commodore Don Snelgrove, mark N presents a challenge and must be rounded in a seaman-like way,

going in wide and coming out tight. Snelgrove's boat, *Himmel*, draws 6.5 feet, so *Himmel* must be very careful with mark N roundings. Snelgrove commented that the heavy winds were a "wonderful experience for the crew because it's very rare to have heavy weather in Round Bay on the Severn." He also noted that the main trimmer was busy during the race and that, overall, the race was good experience for an upcoming offshore race, Annapolis to Newport, for which *Himmel* (*Winsome Ride* and *A L'Assaut*) are registered. As Rum Puppy tactician Collin Jones commented, the race was "an adventure."

Rum Puppy, skippered by Kevin Fitzgerald, experienced equipment damage. During the pre-race sequence with a gust of 30 knots, the jib halyard on Rum Puppy failed and crew had to race under mainsail alone. It proved challenging but Fitzgerald said, "It was pretty windy, but exciting to get out for the first Wednesday race. Overall, it was fun for the first race of the year; everyone was anxious to be out on the water."

Ken Shuart, skipper of *Lightfoot*, agreed that it was a challenging race. He said the heavy winds during the race "put skipper and crew to the test. When wind is that high, you can't take things for granted as you can with light air."

Don Snelgrove's Dehler 39 "*Himmel*" took the honors for the first race of the season.

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Maryland's 442nd Legislative Session Comes To A Close

By Andrew Reed

The Maryland legislature wrapped up its annual 90-day session on April 12, passing some of the most comprehensive bills to come across the statehouse floor in recent history.

As the pandemic continues across the country, the 141 members of the House of Delegates were split between two groups, while masks and social distancing made up the House and Senate floors.

Most committees were held over Zoom, introducing new opportunities and challenges to legislatures and members of the public wishing to testify.

"There were really great things about being virtual for folks that don't live close to Annapolis," said District 33 Delegate Heather Bagnall, a Democrat. "But it's certainly not a perfect situation. And virtual will never replace in person."

Nevertheless, the State House had one of its most exhaustive sessions to date. Most notably, lawmakers tackled issues of pandemic relief; police, education and unemployment reform; and new avenues of tax collection through sports betting and the first-in-the-nation digital ad tax. They accomplished all of this with an increased balanced budget of \$52 billion, with roughly \$4 billion coming from federal pandemic relief.

But "the primary duty of this year was to deliver relief to individuals and small businesses," said District 33 Republican Sid Saab.

Lawmakers passed more than \$1 billion in pandemic relief in February. The bill

included over \$178 million in relief to roughly 400,000 state residents. A tax credit for low-income residents was expanded by roughly \$478 million for the next three years. Unemployment benefits for tax years 2020 and 2021 cut state or local income taxes, while small businesses also saw a break in sales taxes.

"We fought to make sure people had money in their pockets," said Bagnall, "and we had to do it immediately because we said, 'Help is coming.'"

And while all members were pleased to put money back in the hands of individuals and businesses, some have concerns about the impact of that kind of spending.

"As a fiscal conservative I'm always concerned about the long-term impact," said District 33 Senator Ed Reilly. "It's always a double-edged sword. You try to do your best for your community without destroying the long-term financial fabric of our country."

Similar concerns were also brought up by Saab and fellow District 33 Delegate Michael Malone. Saab noted his concern that this money could potentially be going to members of the community that are here illegally.

The Police Reform and Accountability Act was one of the more public and contentious bills to pass this session, just two weeks before Derek Chauvin was read a guilty verdict for killing George Floyd.

The bill, which is one of the most expansive plans in the country, guarantees body cameras for every officer by July 2025, a new civilian-ran disciplinary process, restrictions on no-knock warrants,

and a newly created unit in the attorney general's office that will investigate all police killings of civilians, among many other bills.

And while Bagnall hopes "it provides a roadmap for reforms across the country," others worry that these new regulations could hinder officers' ability to do their job.

Malone and his District 33 Republican colleagues all pointed to the new law that forces officers to wait 20 seconds after knocking before they can enter with their search warrant. Additionally, no-knock warrants must be carried out between 8:00am and 7:00pm, except in emergency situations.

"Although there is police reform that is needed," Saab said, "I don't think the product we ended up with was the reform we needed."

Each representative also found challenges and success with their own bills this year.

Reilly managed to pass the Dennis Rob-in Act. This bill will require closing pharmacies to alert clients 14 days in advance. This way, they will have the opportunity to choose their next pharmacy without being automatically reassigned.

While Bagnall's Mental Health Access Initiative (which sought to lower the age of informed consent when a child may be struggling with mental health and substance abuse) did not pass through the House, a similar bill was able to make it through the Senate.

"I couldn't be prouder of a single piece of legislation that will never have my

name on it," Bagnall said after spending two years developing the bill with District 44 Senator Malcolm Augustine. "It is a bill that will absolutely save lives."

Saab proposed a bill that would allow constituents to vote on the addition of term limits to the Maryland legislative branch.

"Honestly, after eight to 12 years of being in office, there's really not much more you can do; you just become part of the problem," Saab said, hoping his bill will gain more traction next session.

Malone was pleased to have his court dog program bill pass the House — which will expand therapy dogs for testifying witnesses to include veterans. But he was frustrated that his anti-gerrymandering bill was not even voted on, especially with redistricting coming up next year.

Reilly, Bagnall and Malone each had bills pertaining to riparian rights — control of the waterfront — of community organizations, in reference to a lawsuit out of Cape St. Claire in which a developer was given permission to build a pier over shoreline that belonged to the community.

The bills would create a clearer relationship between the state and county so permission is not given for a possibly illegal structure, while also protecting communities from losing their rights to the shoreline in the face of erosion and rising sea levels.

Due to time constraints, none of the three bills were voted on but each representative plans to work to get them passed next session.

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SPCC Gala Honorees Are Dedicated To Founders' Mission

Part 2: Lee Marston and Joan Tiernan



By Haley Weisgerber

In 2020, the Severna Park Community Center (SPCC) planned to honor Andy Borland, Mark Corneal, 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.

Marston and Tiernan have become lifelong supporters of the SPCC.

Tiernan moved to Severna Park in 1968 from Philadelphia with her husband and her daughters.

"When we moved down here, I was surprised that there wasn't a community center," Tiernan said. "Where I grew up, we had a town that was defined; when we came down here, it was county."

She attended Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, where she first heard that the church had purchased the YMCA. Tiernan was interested in getting involved for two reasons.

"One of which was that this would be a community center for everybody from all the different developments," she explained. "Secondly, I felt it was very important that it be for

the entire community, not just Woods Church people, because it was associated with Woods."

Tiernan became involved with making sure the SPCC was inclusive.

"I was on the board when the community center was getting formed, and one of the discussions we had many times was how to make sure that the community realized that the community center was for everybody," Tiernan said. "It was not just Severna Park. We wanted to spread the word to people in Pasadena, in Glen Burnie, in Annapolis."

Tiernan was a part of the capital campaign, a group that raises money for renovations, under Andy Borland. She currently sits on the board of directors and the gala committee.

Although Marston didn't move to Severna Park permanently until 1966, his grandparents owned property on the Severn River, which now houses St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church. He visited Severna Park for the first time in 1933, and visited every year before he moved. Marston's family owns J.J. Haines, which was once the largest floor covering distribution company in the U.S.

Before the YMCA went bankrupt, Marston was recruited by Newth Morris and Skip Carr to assist with a



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

Lee Marston and Joan Tiernan were two of the nine founding Severna Park Community Center members chosen to be honored at the center's next gala, hopefully in fall 2021.

project. He helped Nancy Pascal, the wife of former County Executive Robert Pascal, with raising funds to build a swimming pool. When the YMCA closed, Marston was recruited again to help with securing the flooring and for help with fundraising efforts. His church, St. Martin's-in-the-Field, had also teamed up with Woods Church, so getting involved seemed like the right thing to do.

"I just thought that's what we needed in the community," Marston said. "And I was involved with the YMCA, so it seemed natural to really care about this."

Marston's connection with J.J. Haines came in handy when the SPCC

was being built, and he even receives calls in the present day when a floor needs to be fixed.

"All the floor coverings that have ever been put in this place, as far as I know, have all been given by J.J. Haines," he said.

He was also asked to help with many fundraisers because of his connections within the community and his unique approach.

"I just had never asked people for money, but it gives them the opportunity to give something if they want to give," Marston said.

Marston and his wife, Sylvia, have both remained involved with the SPCC since its opening. Together, they served on the gala committee until recently, and Marston frequently uses the pool to exercise. He said he is happy to have contributed to establishing the SPCC, which he considers to be the heart of Severna Park.

"I'm very proud of it because it's attractive, it's appealing and it's serving a lot of people," Marston said.

Both Tiernan and Marston said they will continue to be involved in the community center in some way as long as they are able. They are grateful that the current leadership and executive director Sarah Elder have upheld the Christian values that the center was founded on, while making the SPCC a place for all.

"We're both hoping that this continues to grow and develop to serve the community as the original member intended," Tiernan said.

Lighthouse Baptist Church Celebrates 20 Years

By Haley Weisgerber

After graduating from Bible College in 2000, Paul Arcand and his wife were unsure of what their next mission would be.

"We were praying about where the lord might have us serve and we ended up here," said Arcand.

In 2001, his prayers were answered and the Arcand family moved to the Baltimore area to start Lighthouse Baptist Church. Now, as they celebrate the church's 20th anniversary, Arcand is looking back on the long road that brought them where they are today.

In order to build a congregation, the Arcand family knocked on almost 600 doors to spread the news about the new church. Their first service took place on April 1, 2001 in Armiger Fire Station in Pasadena. There were 61 people in attendance. After 18 months of service in the fire hall, Lighthouse Baptist Church rented storefronts all over the community. While they were in and out of locations, Arcand continued to look for a permanent location for the growing church.

"We looked for 17 years," said Arcand. "We looked at and considered no less than 60 different properties that we could purchase or long-term lease, so it was difficult."

In 2016, the Arcand family finally found the perfect location for the church. The building, positioned prom-



Photo by Haley Weisgerber

Pastor Paul Arcand stood outside the Ritchie Highway location that the church obtained in 2016, after 17 years of renting storefronts.

inently on Ritchie Highway, was a State Farm insurance office. Extensive renovations took place over the next year to transform the space.

Arcand said the congregation, excited to have a permanent location, was generous with donations. On one Sunday, over \$75,000 was collected for renovations. Arcand said this is an example of the faith that Lighthouse Baptist Church

emphasizes.

"They want to shine the light and get the message of the gospel to everybody in our community," said Arcand. "Even in the midst of that move, the storefronts, the pandemic — they have just rallied at every hurdle."

To reach out to some communities in need, the church obtained a few old school buses and formed a successful

bus ministry. Members have even gotten commercial drivers licenses (CDL) on their own time, so that they could drive buses into Brooklyn Park, Pasadena and Glen Burnie to bring people to church and Sunday school.

With Lighthouse being a grassroots, traditional church, the pandemic was difficult. The members and leadership had to learn to livestream and set up online donations. The bus ministry and door-knocking have still not returned to normal, but Arcand said people are excited to be back in-person in time for the anniversary.

Although the 20th year was nothing like Arcand and his family pictured, they have made the most out of their situation.

"Honestly, if I could have just kept a group of people loving God and loving each other, I would have been happy," said Arcand. "I'm happy to say that our people do love our community and to see how God's done it all is just miraculous."

In the next 20 years, Arcand hopes that Lighthouse will continue to expand. He would eventually like to expand the bus ministry into Annapolis, Baltimore and down Route 1, and buy more property.

"We'd like to see more ministries flourish out of it and continue to develop and love people," said Arcand. "That's what we're here for."

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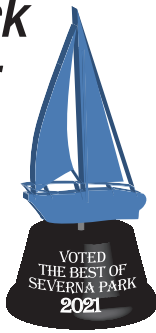
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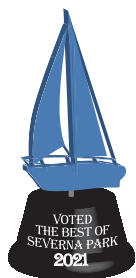


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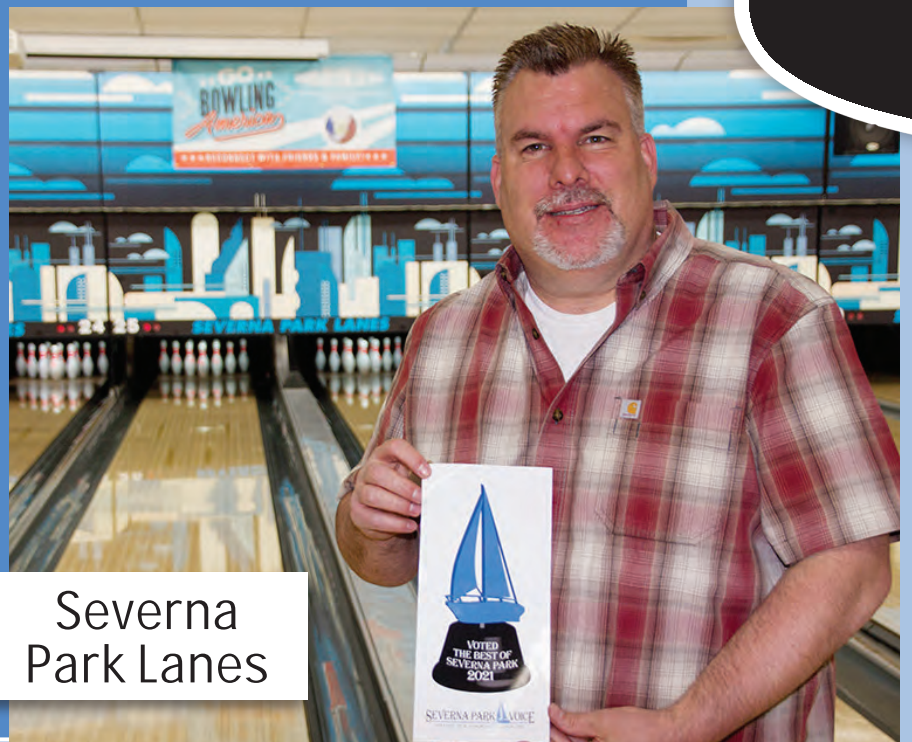
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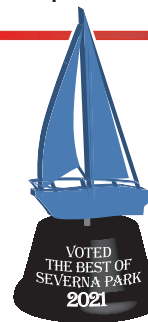


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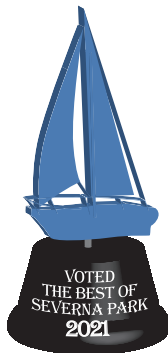
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The Three Basic Rules For Surviving Divorce

David V. Diggs
Esquire



With nearly 34 years of family law practice, I've learned many tips along the way that may help clients facing divorce. My job is to help

my family law clients navigate an emotionally taxing, potentially expensive and legally complex terrain. Along the way, I have divined three basic rules:

1. Put the kids first
2. Be nice
3. Remember, this too shall pass

A lot more goes into the legal end of handing a family law matter. Following these rules will help anyone contemplating divorce to survive and perhaps even thrive. These are rules for clients to internalize and they in no way compromise my ability to aggressively advocate for them or achieve the desired outcome.

Most of the parents who I have represented follow rule one instinctively, although some need more reminding than others. Their first words to me are inevitably something like, "I'm just so worried about Tommy and Sarah." Whatever the age of your children, your separation will upend their world and divorce will profoundly affect them. It might also improve their lives, particularly in homes that have become domestic battlefields.

Limiting as much as possible the deleterious effect of divorce is a collaborative process between parent and lawyer. Children may feel that they are to blame for their parents' problems. Your responsibility, as a parent, is to explain to the children that both parents love them uncondi-

tionally, that they have nothing to do with your "adult problems" and both you and your spouse are committed to continuing to take care of them.

By applying rule one, you will take the first steps to fulfilling rule two. Be nice, be civil, even if the other side is incapable of such behavior. Being decent to your separating spouse does not mean that you will be a pushover. You must also be firm and honest. At this stage of the process, consider what your goals are in terms of custody, support and property division. Experienced counsel will explain the likelihood of success in these areas and plan for each phase of the process.

While divorce may bring an emotional whirlwind, rule three serves as an important reminder that your life will inevitably improve. Divorce too passes. Every one of my thousands of clients who has asked for a divorce has received one. The law has evolved from a fault-based system, looking to ascribe blame for the failed marriage, to one that recognizes that some wedded unions fail and the court's job is to transition divorcing parents to their next phase of life, while taking steps to insure the best interests of children. Working together with the appropriate professional to identify issues, construct creative resolutions and preserve assets is the key to moving forward.

If you find yourself contemplating separation or divorce, you will have many questions. You should consult with an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions. David Diggs is experienced in all facets of family law. 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 410-244-1171, or email david@diggsllc.com.

Woods Counseling & Care Center Launches Parenting Blog



In response to all that has happened not only in the world this past year but also in the Severna Park community, the Woods Counseling & Care Center is expanding its resources to help turn the tide, equip and encourage. The center has launched a parenting blog on the Woods Counseling &

Care Center website to be a resource regarding mental health and wellness for children and adolescents. It can be found at www.woodsccl.org/parenting.

New content will be added regularly. Read it and follow the Woods Counseling & Care Center Facebook page for notifications of new posts.

MRA Celebrates Earth Day



Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman visited Beachwood Park in Pasadena on Saturday, April 24, in honor of Earth Day and to recognize the efforts of the Magothy River Association to enhance the park. MRA volunteers, with the help of Maguire Marine Construction and other local businesses, installed a series of walled terraces to prevent further erosion and enable better public access to the water.

Maryland Takes Action To Protect The Magothy River

The Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland attorney general have filed a suit alleging that a waste management and recycling business in Anne Arundel County operated without required permits and in violation of an agreement to prevent water pollution from the site.

The lawsuit against Ecology Services Inc. states that Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) inspectors have observed mud and sediment being tracked offsite. The facility's entrance, exit, parking area and fueling area are unpaved and exposed to stormwater — and stormwater from the exit mixes with stormwater from Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard and is discharged to the Magothy River, the suit states.

The suit filed April 19 in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court seeks financial penalties and a court order requiring the facility to perform all necessary work to meet the terms of the consent order agreement to prevent stormwater pollution.

"The Maryland Department of the Environment is taking this strong enforcement action to bring this facility into compliance with our clean water laws and to protect the Magothy River," said Maryland environment secretary Ben Grumbles.

The suit states: Ecology Services uses the Pasadena property for heavy vehicle storage, fueling and operations. During a series of inspections in 2020, MDE observed evidence of unpermitted discharges

of pollutants from the site, including mud and sediment being tracked off the site, waste storage containers, vehicle parts, and trash exposure to precipitation, and soil stains indicating the discharge of oil at the site. Ecology Services agreed to the issuance of a consent order authorizing the continued operation of the site subject to certain pollution-control conditions, and MDE approved the consent order for the site on August 3, 2020. Subsequent inspections revealed multiple violations of the consent order's requirements.

The suit includes two counts, the first alleging that the facility operated without a permit for 213 days from January 3, 2020, to August 3, 2020. MDE is asking the court to im-

pose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each day of unauthorized operation.

The second count alleges the facility's operation on four days breached multiple parts of the MDE-issued General Permit for Discharges from Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activities and the facility's

stormwater pollution prevention plan in violation of the consent order and state environmental law and regulation. MDE is asking the court to impose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each day of each violation under that count. MDE is also seeking an injunction to compel the facility to perform all necessary remediation to bring the site into compliance with, and to operate the site in conformity with, the consent order agreement.

The facility's entrance, exit, parking area and fueling area are unpaved and exposed to stormwater — and stormwater from the exit mixes with stormwater from Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard and is discharged to the Magothy River, a lawsuit states.



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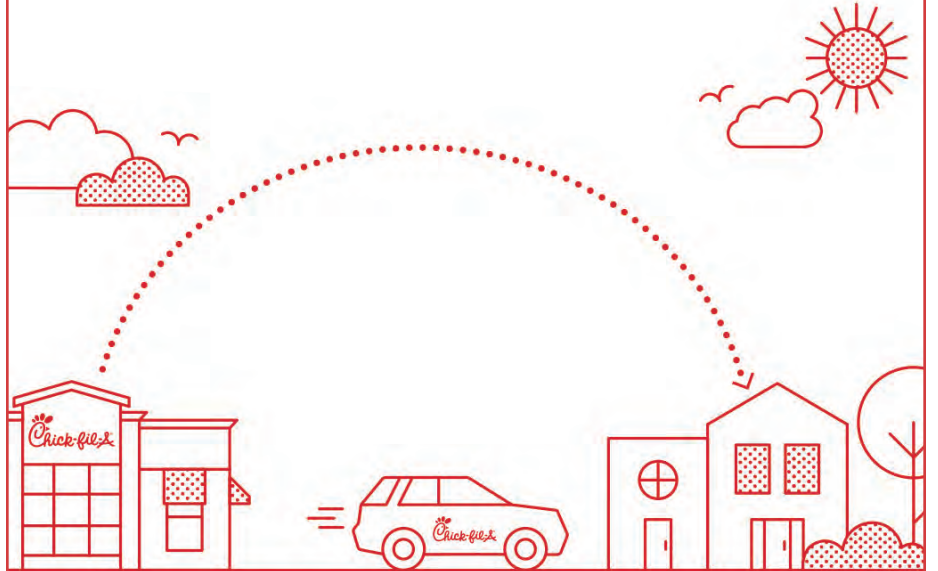
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Understanding How Your Chimney Works

Chuck Roydhouse
CEO, Clean Sweep of Anne Arundel County



When it comes to proper chimney functioning, one of the biggest things you need is good airflow. Draft and air pressure work together to ensure your fires burn strong and that all of the created fumes, gases and smoke flow safely up and out of your flue. Yet, not many people know much about how this process works, and find themselves frustrated when they can't enjoy a cozy fire during the colder months.

Most chimneys and venting systems work the same way. Whether we're talking about water heaters, furnaces, boilers, fireplaces or wood stoves, all of these units operate off of a neutral pressure plane within your home.

All About the Neutral Pressure Plane

How does negative air pressure and the neutral pressure plane work? Well, there is a point in your home where your air pressure starts to increase, causing it to rise and look for places to escape out of your home. If your home is too tight (well-insulated) and the air cannot escape, appliances below this plane won't work correctly because the airflow won't syphon in to create a draft.

Basically, when you heat something (like your fireplace), the heat wants to rise. Once it does, it has to pull in make-up air to make a draft. But if your fireplace is built in a vacuum-tight, well-insulated home, it will not flow out, which means no make-up air can come in, and you'll be left with smoke and other fumes entering your home. You need that make-up air coming in for things to flow efficiently.

Over-Insulating And Indoor Air Quality

Now, we know over-insulating your home seems like a good idea in theory, and we understand the appeal

of keeping heat in during the cold months and cool air circulating in the summer, but this can lead to a lot of problems on top of fireplace inefficiency.

You see, the air in your home gets dirty and it needs to circle in fresh air. If new air can't get in, you'll just keep recycling that dirty air you've been breathing all day. In theory, if your home stays completely tight, you'll eventually run out of clean oxygen to breath. Now, we don't foresee this happening, as doors and windows don't typically stay shut indefinitely, but maintaining good air quality will still be a challenge!

Now, this same thought process applies to your appliances. When new air can't be circled in, they are left with nothing in terms of draft and airflow, causing their overall efficiency to suffer. In the end, going overboard with home insulation isn't going to be your best bet!

The Dangers of Smoke and Carbon Monoxide

As I stated, trying to operate a fireplace without proper airflow can be immensely challenging. Yet, inconvenience and a loss of aesthetic appeal are only the first of your worries. Poor draft can actually lead to significant health risks, too!

In a wood-burning unit, for example, you'll experience smoke entering your home, which can lead to respiratory issues, especially for those who already have asthma or severe allergies. That being said, the one good thing about smoke is that it is clearly visible in your home, so you know to get out of the area right away and open windows.

Not all fumes are as easy to detect, though. If you own a gas-fueled unit, it is vital that you are aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide exposure. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, so noting its presence is next to impossible. Because of this, it causes hundreds of deaths every year.

What can you look for in terms of carbon monoxide exposure? Well, some physical symptoms include dizziness, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath, confu-

sion, fatigue and other flu-like ailments. Keep in mind, though, that most assume these symptoms have to do with cold weather coming in and making people sick. This can lead to devastating health risks.

Don't take any chances. Invest in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for your home and be sure you're having your fireplace and gas-fueled appliances regularly inspected and serviced to avoid these deadly threats.

The Many Components of Your Fireplace

The components that make up your fireplace will vary based on whether you own a masonry system or a prefabricated unit.

Masonry set-ups consist of a brick or metal firebox where the logs go, a damper, a smoke chamber (which is essentially an upside-down funnel designed to send smoke and heat out of your home), and a flue liner that runs to the top of the unit and pokes out of chimney crown.

A factory-built fireplace will include a metal firebox (four panels with brick imprint), a damper mechanism, and an 8- to 10-inch round pipe that sends fumes away from your household.

Whichever type you have, investing in annual care is a must. Think of this way — operating a chimney with gaps or openings is like trying to drink through a straw with cracks or holes. You'll be left working a lot harder than necessary to get that refreshing sip. Just like your straw, a chimney with damage just won't work like it's supposed to.

If you notice unpleasant smells in your home or are experiencing issues with your chimney, summer is a great time to call and schedule your yearly sweeping and inspection with Clean Sweep of Anne Arundel County Chimney Repair & Maintenance at 410-590-4800. Clean Sweep has been making chimneys healthy for over 43 years. Its technicians are CSIA certified chimney specialists. For more information, visit www.cleansweepaa.com.

County Executive Steuart Pittman Proposes FY22 Budget

» Continued from page 1

to create a budget that puts us back on track.”

Pittman said the proposed budget accomplishes these goals while keeping the local income tax at the fourth-lowest rate in the state and slightly decreasing the property tax to 93 cents per \$100 of assessment, the seventh lowest in the state.

Councilman Nathan Volke, a Republican from Pasadena, took issue with Pittman branding the budget as a cost-cutting measure.

“For the third year in a row, he disregards the property tax cap in Anne Arundel County and is using the resulting tax dollars to increase the budget at an unsustainable pace,” Volke wrote in a Facebook post. “This is the same person who campaigned in 2018 on not raising taxes, then raised taxes the very next budget. He continues to implement a back-door tax increase year-over-year by going over the tax cap that is allowing this funding to occur while claiming he has not raised taxes.”

Councilwoman Sarah Lacey, a Democrat who is chair of the council, said the budget invests in programs and services county residents depend on.

“The county executive's budget supports our educators, gives the health department the COVID resources it needs and funds key programs to support our most vulnerable residents,” she shared in a statement.

Another supporter of the budget is John Hammond, former budget officer and chairman of the board of trustees of both the retirement and pension system and the retiree health benefit trust.

“I am pleased that this year's proposed budget continues to enhance the financial soundness of the county,” Hammond said. “Enhancing our annual pension contribution, fully funding the retiree health benefit trust's annual contribution, and providing a significant boost to the county's rainy day fund position Anne Arundel County well for the future.”

The county charter provides 45 days for the county council to deliberate on the budget, and a final vote is

scheduled for Monday, June 14.

Pittman's Priorities

Pittman said the FY22 budget reflects four basic goals:

RESTORE TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Fiscal responsibility

- \$11 million contribution to the county's revenue reserve (rainy day) fund
- Shores up the pension fund by adopting a more conservative rate of return
- \$20 million pre-payment on the retiree benefits fund
- Achieves debt affordability in the capital budget for the first time in five years

Public safety

- \$874,000 to expand the county's crisis intervention teams
- Creates a new Community Services Bureau in the police department
- Increases the number of paramedics in the training program from 14 to 42
- \$5.4 million investment to replace aging tanker trucks and other fire apparatus
- Starting four new fire stations (Herald Harbor, Waugh Chapel, Jessup and Arundel)

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Investing in educators

- \$34.5 million of new funding, which is \$15.7 million over the maintenance of effort requirement
- Fully funds FY22 compensation package
- \$8 million for back steps for all units
- 15 new positions for behavioral health and special education
- Raises pay for substitute teachers
- Fully funds community college request

IMPLEMENT SMART GROWTH POLICIES

- Three new positions in the Department of Inspections and Permits to create a stormwater strike team to inspect development sites
- Three new long-range planners in the Office of Planning and Zoning
- \$500,000 startup funding for the Resilience Authority
- \$250,000 to create a new forest conservation mitigation fund
- \$200,000 to begin rebuilding the county's reforestation fund

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- \$1.1 million increase in funding for mental health services
- \$5 million for COVID-19 testing and vaccine efforts
- \$3.3 million renovation and expansion of Arnold Senior Center
- \$2 million investment to increase access to parks for people with disabilities
- Bringing a county-wide trail network from concept to reality by connecting the Broadneck, WB&A and South Shore trails
- Approximately \$1 million for water access projects

In addition to the priority items noted above, the budget includes key investments in county infrastructure:

- \$35.7 million for corridor improvements to Route 2 and Route 3
- \$771.1 million for school construction and capital improvements in the six-year plan, including \$82.8 million for Old Mill Middle School South, \$119.8 million for Old Mill West High School, \$73.3 million for CAT North, \$155 million for Old Mill High School, and more

Plan 2040: Moving On To Regional Plans

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



Editor's Note: This article was written before the May 3 Anne Arundel County Council meeting, when the final GDP hearing was scheduled to take place.

When I was campaigning to represent District 5 on the Anne Arundel County Council, I called the General Development Plan (GDP) “the single most important piece of legislation this council will work on.”

I committed to examining each land use change request, and I gave my word that transparency and communication would be at the forefront of my approach to tackling this enormous piece of legislation. One that comes only once every eight years.

On April 19, the council debated amendments 56 through 128 — a

six-hour meeting discussing and debating most amendments. Roughly half a dozen failed. All others passed with bipartisan support.

That evening, I introduced about a dozen amendments, each of which gained super majority support.

The most complicated of the amendments, at least in my opinion, was Amendment 63, also known as the “small business” amendment. This amendment added a new land use into Plan 2040. It was the most time-intensive effort to correct the removal of the small-business land use category that was proposed in the original land use plan.

Small-business land use was developed decades ago as a transitional tool for properties that are not residential, and yet, are not commercial. They are unique and blend in with the surrounding characteristics of the community.

District 5 has many examples of how this land use tool yields great outcomes. You probably don't even realize what they are as you drive by them along Route 2 or Baltimore

Annapolis Boulevard. These are houses or smaller structures, with little to no signage, yet there is a flourishing business or nonresidential operation inside.

In the initial GDP draft, the Office of Planning and Zoning merged small business under “commercial” land use as a zoning category under this larger intensified commercial umbrella. This forced businesses — those that wished to have only small-business zoning — to request commercial land use, a category that includes up to the most intense commercial zoning of C4, which includes car dealership lots and larger commercial developments.

In most cases, these small-business owners have lots located in residential areas, have residential land use or residential zoning. The potential for intensified commercial zoning took these properties out of the transitional realm that they and the community were both supportive of.

My amendment corrected this obstacle by reinstating the small-business land use and giving those parcels, best fit for this type of land use, the desired request.

In addition, there were several properties in our district that were given commercial land use with the merger of small business in

the original GDP. This was done without discussion from the community during the drafting process and without a land use application. I found this to conflict with the commitment I made to each of you, for a transparent general development process. My amendment moved each of these properties into the newly reinstated small business land use category. In this land use, only small business or residential zoning is applicable. A much more transitional use of those properties.

This was a big lift, but it was an important one for our district and other areas of our county. With the support of my colleagues, the amendment passed with a super majority vote. A win for small business and a win for residents of our county.

Plan 2040, or Bill 11-21, came before the council for its final public hearing and vote on May 3. Within this document is the schedule for regional plans. Our district, District 5, is part of Region 4. Region 4 is one of three regions scheduled in the first round of regional plans. There are nine regions total that encompass all of Anne Arundel County. Three regions at a time will have an active “deep dive” by appointed stakeholder advisory committees (SACs). These

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Session Notes From The Senate

Ed Reilly
Senator
District 33



This year's legislative session included bills related to pandemic relief, education, taxes and much more. Let's take a closer look.

RELIEF Act

Governor

Larry Hogan signed a \$1.2 billion RELIEF Act into law in mid-February. Under this act, the following will happen:

- Those who filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) will receive a direct stimulus payment of \$500 for families and \$300 for individuals.
- The RELIEF Act will increase the state's match to the federal EITC for taxpayers with dependents from 28% to 45% for three years. That means a family with two or more children that earns \$25,000 a year will see a yearly credit increase of roughly \$1,100.
- \$1,000 payments to those waiting on unemployment insurance benefits.
- Removes state and local income taxes on unemployment benefits received during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Businesses will not see an increase in their unemployment insurance rates due to COVID-19 related layoffs.

- Businesses will have a temporary reprieve on paying state sales tax and eliminating taxes on pandemic-related grants and forgiving loans.
- \$300 million in other targeted relief funds to support food banks, utility payment assistance, restaurants, entertainment and tourism venues.

2021 Income Tax Deadline Change

The IRS announced in March that its tax deadline would be pushed back from the usual date of April 15 to May 17 for individual tax returns.

Comptroller Peter Franchot has extended the deadline for filing and paying state income taxes from April 15, 2021 to July 15, 2021.

Veto Overrides

In May 2020, Governor Hogan vetoed many pieces of legislation due to how the COVID-19 virus would affect the state budget. At the start of the 2021 legislative session, the General Assembly brought back many of these bills to consider overriding the governor's veto.

Here are two of the more high-profile bills that passed on the override:

Senate Bill 1000 – *Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation*
Governor Hogan vetoed this bill, criticizing its yearly \$4 billion price tag. It has a 10-year plan to expand prekindergarten. It will increase

» Continued on page 24

Understanding The Mental Health Access Initiative

Heather Bagnall
Delegate
District 33



On April 12, we adjourned. I joined the 2021 legislative session. This is my third and was once again an historic session without precedent. I'm never sure where to start, especially

in a session which saw landmark legislation in pandemic relief; criminal justice, unemployment and police reforms; telehealth and health equity expansion; environmental resiliency; and so many other areas. However, this month I knew what I wanted to write about, because it is a bill so close to my heart, and of which this community was the impetus.

Anyone who read the *Voice* last year knows well of Our Minds Matter, a youth-led advocacy group dedicated to mental health access, destigmatization and suicide prevention. Last year, after multiple meetings not only with these young people but also adults in our community asking for solutions to help keep their

children safe following a rash of youth suicides, I introduced the Mental Health Access Initiative, which corrects a troubling disparity between how we address substance use disorder (SUD) and mental illness. In response to the opioid crisis, under the health occupations statute, the floor age for consent to services for SUD was undefined, but the floor age for mental health services was 16, which creates a grey area for services because not only are the providers often the same, but also SUD and mental illness can be co-occurring. Because behavioral health is a broad umbrella, depending on what avenue the adolescent enters, they may or may not be able to get help. Additionally, because this consent restriction applies only to licensed health providers under statute, without a change in the law, any adult can speak to an adolescent about their mental health except one who is licensed and trained to do so.

Last year I worked with Senator Malcolm Augustine and multiple stakeholders in the field of behavioral health to craft this bill. Initially we tried to align the two arms of behavioral health, but in attempting to

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Broadneck Pharmacy



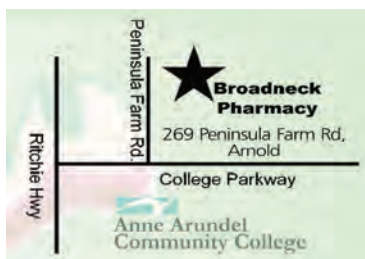
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A “Unique” 2021 Session

Michael Malone
Delegate
District 33



In past legislative sessions, meeting for the 90 days in our House office building has been a hustle and bustle of activity and events. Every day, the hallways were filled with innumerable activist groups and constituents advocating for their particular legislation and issues. Mornings were spent meeting with those groups in my office before heading over to the State House for the daily floor sessions where the important work of voting on legislation took place. Afternoons were devoted to public hearings where hundreds of witnesses testified before the Judiciary Committee about bills being considered by the General Assembly.

This session held many of the same events, but with the pandemic, most of the events were held virtually either in my office at the State House or at my law office. Committee and subcommittee hearings were held virtually with debates and votes for legislation in front of a camera with multiple committee members, constituents and interest groups sitting in front of their cameras. Hopefully the pandemic will be in our “rear-view mirror” by next session and we will return to the “old” normal of meeting face to face.

The most important legislation passed this year was the COVID Relief Act and the budget, which helped deliver relief to individuals and small businesses affected by COVID because of no fault of their own. Just days after the General Assembly convened, Governor Larry Hogan presented a bill that passed nearly unanimously with only one dissenting vote in the House of Delegates. This bill delivered needed health care services and resources to truly devastated families dealing with loss of life, sickness and also financial ruin. The \$50 billion budget passed in balance with a healthy rainy day fund. This balanced budget helps allocate much of the federal funds to help small

businesses that were drastically affected because of COVID, again due to no fault of their own.

Each session since 2018, I have sponsored legislation to end gerrymandering of legislative districts. Next session will be the most important year as new lines will be drawn for both congressional districts and local Maryland legislative districts. I will once again sponsor anti-gerrymandering legislation and press for appropriate and fair legislative districts. Many organizations and constituents have reached out to our office over the years supporting this important cause. Please reach out to our offices if you would like to receive information, get involved by providing testimony, etc. The bills have never come out of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee for a vote since I have sponsored them.

Due to the pandemic’s impact throughout Maryland, legislation that may have passed in a “normal” economic environment was sidelined with more important pressing legislation, which took precedence in discussions and in voting. Many committees did not take action on various bills they normally and easily may have passed out of their respective committees. However, in the 2020 general election, the voters of Maryland overwhelmingly approved the passage of a constitutional amendment authorizing fantasy gaming competitions and sports wagering in Maryland. This bill establishes and implements sports wagering in the state and provides for the regulation of sports wagering and fantasy gaming competitions. The bill establishes a multi-tier licensing system, application fees and requirements for specific types of licenses. This bill passed both chambers and now heads to the governor for his approval.

Other important pieces of legislation that passed include the continuation of telehealth services, which became vitally important to our population in reaching physicians, mental health care workers, and nurse practitioners. I fully support the continuance of telehealth services after the pandemic subsidies.

If there is any legislation you would like to know about, please reach out to our staff at the State House. Our direct phone number is 410-841-3510.

Looking At Laws Passed This Year By The General Assembly

Sid Saab
Delegate
District 33



The 2021 legislative session ended on Monday, April 12, at midnight. This session was like no other given the COVID protocols and restrictions. Though we were to limit the bills we sponsored to only the most important, 817 bills passed. I would like to share with you some of the good, the bad and the ugly actions that were taken, so hang onto your seat ... and wallets!

VETO OVERRIDES ON BILLS PASSED IN 2020

After the 2020 legislative session, Governor Larry Hogan vetoed two bills that increased taxes: a bill expanding the sales tax to digital streaming services like Netflix and Peloton (House Bill 932 of 2020), and a bill increasing tobacco taxes and taxing digital advertising (House Bill 732 of 2020). He also vetoed the massive Blueprint for Education spending bill that could cost each Maryland household \$6,200. Republicans voted against these tax-and-spend bills, but the vetoes were overridden.

THE BUDGET, TAX RELIEF AND ECONOMY

The Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs and Families (RELIEF) Act (Senate Bill 496) was Governor Hogan’s COVID economic recovery proposal that provides more than \$1.45 billion in tax relief and economic stimulus for small businesses and families struggling from the economic impact of this pandemic. The bill also provides immediate sales tax credits for small businesses and unemployment tax relief for small businesses. Also, it codifies parts of Hogan’s executive order to calculate the 2021 unemployment tax rate based on the employer’s non-pandemic years.

OPERATING BUDGET

Fiscal 2022 Budget Bill and House Bill 589, Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (HB 588): The only action the General Assembly is required to take during the legislative session is to pass a balanced budget. The \$54 billion budget enhances the state’s savings accounts by including \$1.4 billion in the Rainy Day Fund and nearly a \$700 million fund balance in the general fund.

The budget also maintains the governor’s ongoing commitment to education, health care, transportation and the environment. State support for public schools will exceed \$7.5 billion. The budget plan provides \$371.5 million for community colleges, a 9% increase over Fiscal Year 2021. Unfortunately, the House and Senate have chosen to steadily chip away at the BOOST program, a scholarship that allows low-income

children in failing schools to attend a private school of their choice.

EDUCATION

The Blueprint 2.0 is a technical companion bill to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. It contains the following provisions. 1) Increases foundational per-pupil funding to address technology needs, including broadband, devices, and information technology (IT) staff. The amount progressively increases per pupil spending through 2033. 2) Immediate access to Judy Center funding (early childhood), which increased from \$275,000 to \$330,000 per center. 3) Speeds up the timeline for delivery of per-pupil grants for community schools that qualify for a Concentration of Poverty Grant. 4) Eliminates school year 2020-2021 enrollment data from funding formula calculations to account for unusual enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HEALTH

Legislation passed that expands telehealth access and medical debt protections. Telehealth connects people with medical care where they are, and a key component is covering an audio-only option for those who don’t have internet access — an issue in both urban and rural communities. This legislation helps provide a long-term solution to improving access to care in our state.

Medical Debt Protection (HB 565):

This bill prevents hospitals or collection agencies from garnishing the wages of former patients who qualify for free or reduced-cost care as well as prohibits them from placing a lien on the former patient’s primary home regardless of their income level.

SPORTS BETTING

Class A licenses will go to casinos, professional sports venues and horse racing facilities. Class B licenses will go to smaller businesses or to any businesses not covered under the other classes. Sports betting proceeds will be taxed at 15% under this legislation.

RETIREES

Retirees are important for a robust community. Undoubtedly, retirees deserve a tax cut on their retiree pensions, but our supermajority disagrees. I will continue to put effort behind making the Maryland tax code fairer for seniors. Governor Hogan pushed for the support of the Retirement Tax Reduction Act of 2021 (SB 572), a bill that he requested. Unfortunately, the bill did not even get a vote in committee.

As you might imagine, legislators are barraged by lobbyists touting the pros and cons of particular issues, but it is the opinion of my constituents that I truly care about. It is my honor and privilege to serve you as your voice in Annapolis. Please contact me at 410-841-3551 or sid.saab@house.state.md.us if I can be of any help to you or your families.

Read the full version of this column at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

Introducing The Sheriff’s App

Jim Fredericks
Anne Arundel
County Sheriff



In February 2021, my office rolled out a new program called Safe Surrender. I developed the program to make more warrant information public-facing through the sheriff’s office website and provide a safer environment in which to serve those warrants, for both deputies and citizens. Now, I am excited to announce another new tool for citizens to use to share information with the sheriff’s office: the Sheriff’s App. This new mobile application can be downloaded to your phone or other

mobile device to access information about active warrants, victim services, the court system, COVID resources and more.

The mobile app blends well with the Safe Surrender program to provide another platform to access warrant information. Someone who finds they have a warrant can arrange to safely turn themselves in by contacting the sheriff’s office or start the process to have the warrant recalled with good cause. Citizens can also view the warrant database and submit tips to the sheriff’s office right from their phones.

Users can allow for notifications through the app to get information about ongoing activities by sheriff deputies and news about arrests.

There is no cost to download the mobile app and it can be found by searching for “Anne Arundel sheriff.”

Session Notes From The Senate

» Continued from page 21

funding to schools with a high percentage of poor, special education or limited English-speaking students. For the teachers, it will increase their pay, as well as raise their required standards. The governor's 2020-2021 budget had included \$7.3 billion for education. This will provide historically high funding for K-12 education. Prekindergarten also received \$94 million in the 2020-2021 budget. Governor Hogan stated in his veto that Kirwan lacked accountability and a funding source.

House Bill 732 – Taxation – Tobacco Tax, Sales and Use Tax and Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax

This bill is the nation's first tax targeting digital advertising. The tax will affect large technology-based and online companies that derive revenue from advertising on their websites. It will ultimately be passed along to advertisers, small business, and entrepreneurs who are trying to make a living by advertising online. This tax will eventually flow down to the consumer.

I voted to uphold Governor Larry Hogan's veto to avoid raising taxes and fees on Marylanders during a time of financial struggle.

The following are important bills from the 2021 legislative session.

Police Reform

Senate Bill 71 – Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 – Body-Worn Cameras, Employee Programs, and Use of Force

This bill enacted the following for police officers:

- Requires the use of body cameras by all county police departments by 2025.
- Provides for counseling and mental health services and support for police officers.
- A standard adopted for "use of force," which changes the perspective from that of the "reasonable police officer" to one of the "totality of the circumstances."
- Use of force is required to be "proportional," and to adjust to the force being used against the officer.
- Officers may only mirror (and slightly exceed) the force being used by the suspect, with the suspect given the first swing/shot.
- Penalty for misjudgment of what is later determined to be reasonable under the "totality of the circumstances" is criminal for the officer (punishable by up to 10 years in prison), together with the possibility of civil liability.

This bill was vetoed by Governor Hogan, and the General Assembly overrode the governor's veto. I voted to uphold the governor's veto.

Senate Bill 178 – Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 – Personnel Records – Investigation of Law Enforcement Officers (Anton's Law)

The following was included in this piece of legislation:

- Adds significant restrictions on the use of warrants (including

no-knock warrants), which can endanger police executing those warrants while not substantially protecting citizens.

- Police officers' personnel files will be available for public inspection. It will include administrative discipline and ever anonymous complaints (whether or not sustained).
- Publicizing unsubstantiated — unsworn — accusations against police officers is an unwarranted attack on their privacy and is not done in the case of any other public official.

This bill was vetoed by Governor Hogan, and the General Assembly overrode the governor's veto. I voted to uphold the governor's veto.

House Bill 670 – Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 – Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures (Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights – LEOBR)

This bill removes the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, which was created in the 1970s. It creates a multi-step disciplinary process for officers accused of wrongdoing on the job. This bill's final draft after going through both chambers and a conference committee included the following:

- Altered the tort claims provisions to clarify that the civil liability cap applies to the violation of constitutional rights
- Allows misconduct complaints to be filed with the new police accountability boards established under the bill
- Changes the makeup of county charging committees to include only civilians
- Establishes that officers can have attorneys when appearing before charging committees only if they were compelled to appear
- Requires that police officers are provided a copy of their investigatory file at least 30 days prior to their trial board proceedings
- Authorizes police chiefs to fire officers who have been convicted of secondary assault
- Strikes the provisions of the bill that would require officers to forfeit their pensions as a punitive measure

This bill was vetoed by Governor Hogan, and the General Assembly overrode the governor's veto. I voted to uphold the governor's veto.

Legislative Bond Initiatives

Through the Legislation Bond Initiative Program, I was able to help secure funding for the following organizations located within District 33.

- Anne Arundel County Fair:** \$85,000
- Cape St. Claire Improvement Association:** \$250,000
- Chrysalis House:** \$250,000
- Elks Camp Barrett:** \$89,200
- Langton Green Community Farm:** \$95,000
- Pascal Crisis Stabilization Center:** \$300,000
- Rockbridge Academy:** \$500,000

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Understanding The Mental Health Access Initiative

» Continued from page 21

address some of the concerns raised, we compromised at lowering the age from 16 to 12. We also amended the bill to clarify that consent did not extend to medication, that the minor had to be determined “mature and capable” of informed consent, which is a recognized standard in health care, that the bill did not extend to consent to refuse treatment ordered by the parents, nor did it require services be provided, and explicitly clarified that billing for services could occur only with parental consent to incentivize parental involvement. We were attempting to remove

a barrier to care, and that barrier was fear — fear of retribution, rejection and disappointment.

Nothing in the bill prohibits parental involvement unless it would be detrimental to the minor, but this bill gives flexibility to the provider as to how and when seeking consent is most appropriate. There are a myriad reasons why adolescents wouldn’t talk to their parents about their mental health issues. Asking for help can be hard, but I was determined that if and when our students were brave enough to ask for help, there would be someone on the other side, trained and qualified to provide it.

Last year, we moved the bill out of the Senate, but due to the truncated session, we weren’t able to pass it. This year we did. Anytime we are dealing with consent, it is always going to be challenging, but this is a commonsense solution that will save lives.

The debate was not pleasant and the attempts to promote this bill as something that it isn’t have been many. Two months ago, I wrote about inflammatory rhetoric and misinformation, and one might think I was precognitive to the debates we would experience. For the record, House Bill 132/Senate Bill 41 do none of the

following: allow providers to prescribe psychotropic drugs or puberty blockers, gender reassignment surgery, breast augmentation, hormone therapy, strip away parental rights; it is not a step toward communism. All of these are accusations lobbed at me and this bill — frustratingly, mostly by members not only of the Health and Government Operations Committee who know better but also by members of this community who know why I introduced it in the first place.

Some of you may be aware of the controversy another delegate created when on Holocaust Remembrance Day he compared providing mental health care by licensed health providers to the torture of Jewish children. Our children heard that. It is any wonder they would be afraid to ask for help?

Even now, there is a campaign to have the governor veto this essential, lifesaving, commonsense bill, and to ensure that I lose my seat for sponsoring it. If saving the lives of our children, if working to expand access to mental health resources for minors, and eliminating the stigma which still pervades mental health care is the reason this district wishes to replace me, than that is fair, but it’s important that you know what this bill is and why we need it. This bill isn’t going to end suicide, but it will save lives. As our crisis intervention team says, “There is no wrong path to care,” and I’m proud to have opened the door.

Plan 2040: Moving On To Regional Plans

» Continued from page 21

committees will look closely at land use trends, historical information, infrastructure, traffic, environmental features and much more. They will understand the goals, policies and strategies in the GDP, while seeking the input of residents in the region. These committees will review again the land use change applications that were submitted during the Plan 2040 process, and new ones that have never been seen before.

Each of the seven councilmembers will appoint one member to the region or regions they represent. The county executive, through a resolution voted on by the county council, will appoint the remaining

members. Who are these members? They are you.

Parent Teacher Organization parents, local business owner, property owner, renter, young adult, environmental organization, real estate broker, community or social organization. If you live here, if you work here, you could help shape the future of our district for decades to come.

For the past several months, I have fulfilled my commitment to give my full attention to the General Development Plan and collaborate with communities and residents across the fifth district. Now I ask you to consider the big responsibility of taking the deep

dive, which will shape what our area looks like for future generations.

If you are interested in serving on the regional plans stakeholder advisory committee and would like more information, or if you have any other matters I may assist with, please reach me at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

Please be sure to follow the Anne Arundel County Council website in the coming weeks as the council is set to work on the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, as presented by the county executive on April 30. Your hard-earned tax dollars are at play and I will work to make sure you aren’t a piggy bank for government spending.



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During the Falcons 1-0 victory over South River on April 13, Bennett Jefferds (13 in white) attacked the Seahawk goal and his subsequent shot hit the post.



Photo courtesy of Molly Jefferds

Falcon Boys Soccer Rose To The Occasion In Shortened Season

By **Conor Doherty**

One goal for the Falcons boys varsity soccer team was to make this shortened season as memorable as possible and they certainly have, finishing with an undefeated 5-0 record.

With 10 seniors leaving the team, head coach **Ryan Parisi** said that while winning was important, that wasn't the only focus during such a strange season.

"The emphasis was still trying to maintain the standard and the culture within the program," he explained. "But knowing that it's not a full-on regular season with a postseason, the kids and coaches just needed to kind of enjoy the process and enjoy the training."

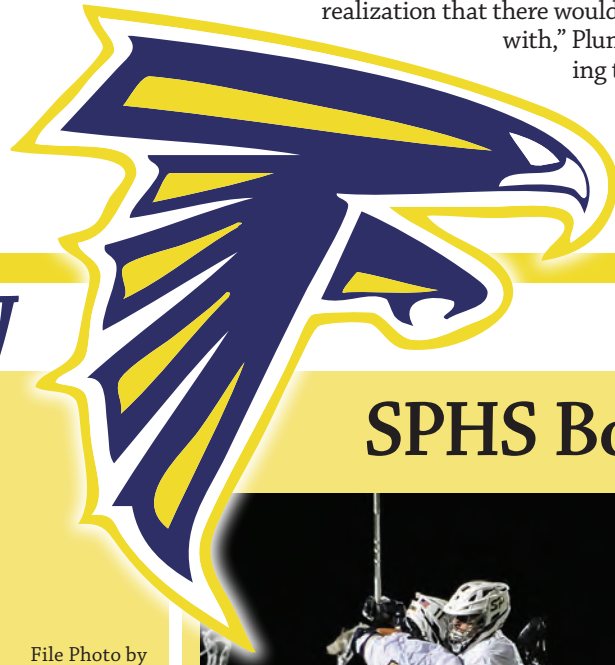
Parisi said that for the seniors, winning those five games was

important, but they knew there was nothing more for them once those games were finished.

For senior wing **Zach Plummer**, being able to play those last few games was a great feeling. "When [the county] first came out and said there would only be practices, that realization that there would be no more games was kind of tough to deal with," Plummer stated. "Once we found out we were going to play a handful of games, I was very excited."

Senior **Jack Muldoon** was relieved to know that his final game as a Falcon wasn't going to be the tough loss that ended their junior year. "It was all about

» Continued on page 36



SEASON PREVIEW

SPHS Girls Lacrosse



File Photo by Colin Murphy
In their last action, the SPHS girls lacrosse team beat Dulaney in the state final on May 22, 2019.

By **Alex Murphy**

It's been a long time coming for girls lacrosse to return to high schools across Maryland.

Since COVID-19 and the ensuing pandemic shut down the 2020 spring sports calendar, teams and players have been chomping at the bit to get back.

Finally, on April 17, spring sports were allowed to practice once again.

"Coming back out, we were very hopeful for things to start back up again," said **Kaitlyn Fuller**, Severna Park High School's varsity lacrosse head coach. "We were a little nervous that it wouldn't, but just very grateful and glad that we're able to get out here now to make some stuff happen for

this season."

While the spring sports calendar in 2020 was canceled, Severna Park still had a massive advantage going into the summer as most of its team played together on club teams.

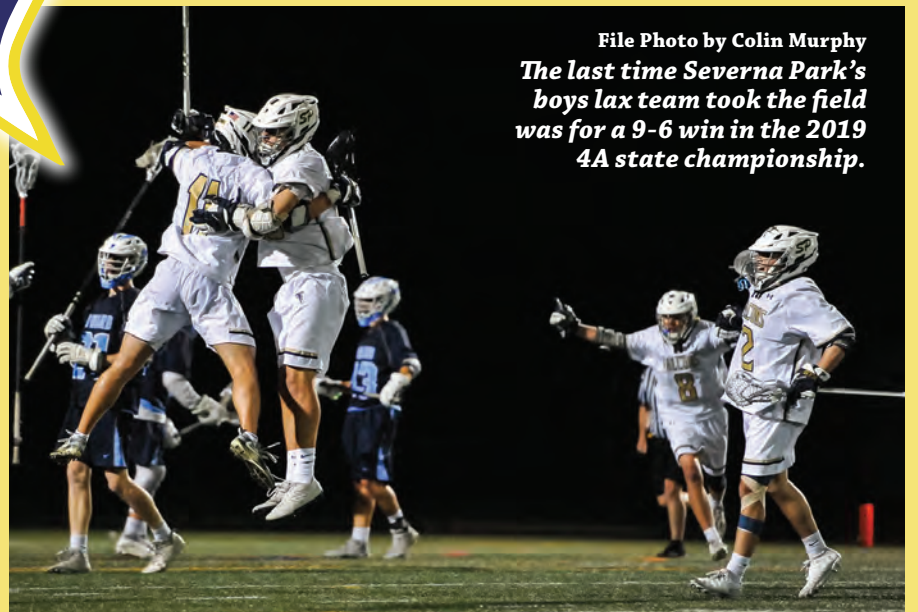
The spring season was lost, but that lost chemistry was made up for just a few months later.

"Getting used to playing with them before we can even step on a field was awesome," senior midfielder/defender **Kaila Stasulli** said.

Stasulli, who officially signed her letter of intent to play for Jacksonville University this fall, is one of several X-factors to watch out for on this team, one

» Continued on page 38

SPHS Boys Lacrosse



File Photo by Colin Murphy
The last time Severna Park's boys lacrosse team took the field was for a 9-6 win in the 2019 4A state championship.

By **Alex Murphy**

The lights of Paint Branch High School's stadium in Burtonsville shined bright on May 22, 2019 as the Severna Park boys lacrosse program won its fourth straight Class 4A title.

It was a triumphant moment for the program, tying Hereford with nine state titles, the most in Maryland boys lacrosse history.

That would also be the last time for nearly two years that Falcons fans would see lacrosse as the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 season.

However, the Falcons will return to the field this May as practices and preparations for the 2021 season are officially underway.

"I've just taken things in stride for the last year," interim head coach **Travis Loving** said. "Things changed three times in four days, but I was super excited when April 17 came along and we were actually on the field. That's when I believed it."

Loving, an assistant coach for the Falcons for the past several

» Continued on page 38

Golfers Celebrate Strong Showing At Unofficial County Championship

Severna Park High School golfers enjoyed a solid finish to their season on April 12 as senior **Carter King** shot a round of 76 at Crofton Country Club to be the unofficial county champion and the SPHS team overall took second place.

The event was considered the unofficial championship because Anne Arundel County Public Schools did not have fall postseason tournaments. Nevertheless, the Severna Park team treated the competition as their championship.

Severna Park shot 319, which was second only to South River's 316. The Falcons were led by King, **DA Regala** (79), **Liam Mahoney** (80), **Nathan Clarke** (84), **Tucker McDonough** (84), **Tommy Coleman** (85), **Ingrid Wells** (91) and **Emily Screws** (91).

Wells and Screws tied for third place in the girls division, unofficially.

King and the other golfers were grateful for the chance to compete.

"My strategy was to stay away from a big number," King said. "I knew if I could make bogies as my worst holes, I would be able to compete with the top guys. Just taking what the course gave me and not trying to do anything too crazy made me succeed."

"Going into the season I would've never thought I had that great of a chance to win, but it feels good knowing that all my hard work paid off," he added.



A score of 319 spurred the Falcons to second place in the unofficial county championship at Crofton Country Club on April 12. Severna Park senior Carter King (third from left) shot a round of 76 to be the unofficial county champion.

“Going into the season I would’ve never thought I had that great of a chance to win, but it feels good knowing that all my hard work paid off.”

— CARTER KING, SPHS SENIOR

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SPHS' Football Season Ends With Satisfying 34-14 Win Over CHS



Above: Quarterback Seamus Patenaude threw four touchdowns in the 34-14 victory over Chesapeake on April 16. He also kept drives alive with his legs. **Below Left:** Senior captain Jack Peterson beat tight coverage to catch the first of his two touchdowns, a 29-yard strike from Patenaude. **Below Right:** Colin Shadowens bounced this run outside as the CHS defense followed.



Senior captain Kaleb Blackwell and another Falcons defender shut down this running play at the end of the first half.

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnarparkvoice.com

Moments after Severna Park's varsity football team earned a 34-14 home victory over Chesapeake on senior night, April 16, Falcons head coach **Mike Wright** addressed his team for the final time this season.

"Remember, this is the group that started it all," he told them. "You should be damn proud."

Severna Park has long been considered an easy win on the schedule for opposing teams (coaches say the last winning season was around 2010). In 2021, the team not only won all three of their games, but the average margin of victory was more than 20 points.

On April 16, the team overcame a few early miscues to look as sharp as they have all season.

Senior captain **Colin Shadowens** helped cause a missed Chesapeake field goal early on. On the ensuing possession, Shadowens got to work, juking two defenders to cap a big run and keep the chains moving. A 14-yard scramble by sophomore quarterback **Seamus Patenaude** and 26-yard swing pass to senior receiver **James Patz** pushed Severna Park deep into Chesapeake territory.

What happened next was a thing of beauty. Patenaude looked right, saw a defender with his back turned and trusted his receiver to make a play. Senior captain **Jack Peterson** made an athletic grab, using his 6-foot-3 frame to pinpoint the ball in front of the defender's face mask, turn around and then step into the end zone. **Trey Smack** converted the extra-point attempt, putting Severna Park up 7-0. "We went short on the backside and I ran a go on the right side of the field because it was a one-on-one matchup," Peterson said of the touchdown play. "Seamus threw a beautiful ball right over the defender's head. I jumped up and caught it."

Not to be outshined, the Falcon defense stymied the Cougars offense on the next drive. Pressure from senior **Shane Snyder** resulted in a safety and a 9-0 lead for Severna Park with 6:38 remaining in the first half. A Patenaude run and two catches by Patz gave the Falcons another opportunity to score, but a fumble ended the drive. Severna Park's defense again stonewalled Cougar ballcarriers to end the half.

The Falcons stayed hot in the third quarter. Patenaude was flushed from the pocket. The poised quarterback rolled to his left and threw a strike to Patz, who got open in the end zone. Another Smack kick gave the Falcons a 16-0 lead with 4:15 minutes left in the third quarter. On Severna Park's next possession, Shadowens bounced a run to the outside, picking up more than 25 yards. Patenaude scrambled left and threw on the run to **James Henson III** for his third passing touchdown of the game.

The lead was 22-0 with 10:58 in the fourth quarter. That's when Chesapeake came to life.

Quarterback **Nathan Rosado** got the ball to **Rushawn Tongue**, who sprint-

ed 50 yards past the entire Falcons defense to give Chesapeake their first touchdown. Severna Park answered the call. After Shadowens picked up a first down, Patenaude lobbed a precise pass down the left sideline and Peterson came up with his second contested touchdown catch.

With the score 28-7, Rosado threw an impressive strike into the arms of **Owen Schmidt** for Chesapeake's second touchdown. But Severna Park ended Chesapeake's rally after that score. Rosado floated a ball into the flat to his left and senior **Brett Butz** made the interception, cruising into the endzone for a 25-yard touchdown.

Several other Falcons contributed to the win. To name a few, junior defensive backs **Caleb Sartalamacchia** and **Ash-ton Ferrer-White**, senior linebacker **Braden Layne**, and senior defensive lineman **Kaleb Blackwell** harassed the Cougars, making them earn every yard.

Blackwell and Layne both credited defensive coordinator **Don Linnell** for studying film and putting players in positions to succeed. Blackwell said his teammates bought into the coaching this year.

"Everybody played with their hearts," Blackwell said. "Everybody played smart. No dumb plays. And we were undefeated, so it's the best senior ending day ever."

Layne said, "It means the world to go out the last high school football game as a winner and set a good, positive path forward because this is a feeling we'll carry for the rest of our lives."

The Falcons were proud of their effort, as Wright said. Following their season, Peterson shared a message for anyone who follows football in Anne Arundel County.

"Don't be surprised when Severna Park and Broadneck and Arundel and the Old Mills of the world are competing. This is going to be a winning culture in the very near future," he said.

The Wright Mentality

The season was also special for Wright, a cancer survivor who was diagnosed with an infection near his heart in December.

"I had the right doctors and the right frame of mind, and they replaced the heart valve and they said six to eight months of recuperation," Wright said. "I thought I'd be fine for next season. Next season came a lot quicker than I thought."

Wright said doctors struck a nerve in his jaw during surgery, so he was still going to speech therapy and using a feeding tube during the football season. Yet, all of those setbacks did not stop him from leading a group of players that he has coached since they were eighth-graders.

"These guys bought in," said Wright, who previously coached Severna Park's JV team and now coaches varsity. "They know they will be remembered as the ones that made the change. We haven't had a winning season since 2010, something like that at varsity ... and even though it was a three-game season, they won all the games they played. Really proud of them."

Perfect Season Puts Broadneck In Prime Position



Photos courtesy of Karen McCassie
Quarterback Josh Ehrlich excelled in Broadneck's spread offense and it showed as he tossed four touchdowns in a 50-20 rout of Arundel on April 9.

Harris in the game's final two minutes to cap a 21-15 victory. Proctor rushed for 120 yards in the win. Ehrlich stayed hot in an April 9 matchup with Arundel, tossing four touchdowns in a 50-20 rout. Evans caught two scores, as did **Davion White**, who added 76 yards rushing with two rushing touchdowns.

The Bruins put a bow on their season with a 36-8 road win at Annapolis on April 16. Proctor caught a 10-yard score and rushed for a 7-yard touchdown. Evans and Harris each added a touchdown catch, totaling three passing touchdowns and another rushing for Ehrlich. Ehrlich led Anne Arundel County in passing. He finished the four-game season with 11 passing touchdowns and 661 yards with no interceptions while adding three rushing touchdowns on 273 yards. The quarterback credited coach Rob Harris and his staff for putting players in position to succeed.

"Scheme is everything," Ehrlich said. "Run, pass or RPOs, making sure the offensive line knows how to block. The spread offense does not work if you have bad coaching." A former running back with Cape St. Claire, Ehrlich added a dual dimension to the offense.

"My freshman year, I really couldn't do that because I was small," he said of rushing. "I've worked on getting bigger, getting stronger, and I feel very confident running."

On defense, junior **Dom Downs** served as a team captain, a responsibility he worked hard for all offseason. "I had to hold people accountable on the field to make sure they knew what they were doing on the defensive side of the ball and help them understand and get a grasp of the calls and the different blitzes," Downs said. "Off the field, [my responsibility] was cleaning up the field after practice and getting it ready before practice."

With both Ehrlich and Downs returning as team captains, along with several receivers, four starting offensive linemen and some defensive playmakers, the Bruins have an experienced and talented roster that will be hard to beat in fall 2021.

"I feel very confident in our team's success and I think it only scratches the surface on what we are capable of," Downs said. "Next season is going to be one to remember."

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

During a season in which coaches from some sports prioritized player growth above wins, Broadneck High School's varsity team was able to do both, finishing with a 4-0 record with a roster that will return several players next fall.

The Bruins kicked off the season in style, burying South River during a 42-7 home victory on March 26. Quarterback **Josh Ehrlich** threw touchdown passes to freshman wide receiver **Eli Harris** and sophomore **Machi Evans**. Senior **Rashid Proctor** added two touchdown runs, junior **Kyle Pierce** added another, and the defense suffocated the Seahawks by collecting several sacks.

A thrilling comeback at Old Mill came next on April 1 as Ehrlich tossed a 17-yard touchdown to



Dom Downs, a rock on the Bruin defense, made a tackle against Old Mill on April 1.

"I feel very confident in our team's success and I think it only scratches the surface on what we are capable of. Next season is going to be one to remember."

— **DOM DOWNS**,
 BHS JUNIOR
 TEAM CAPTAIN



Above: Behind solid play from Broadneck's offensive line, Rashid Proctor rushed for 120 yards in a win over Old Mill on April 1. **Below Left:** Freshman Eli Harris led Anne Arundel County with 197 receiving yards on the shortened season. He also had three touchdowns, with one coming against Annapolis on April 16. **Below Right:** Davion White caught two touchdowns and ran for two more during Broadneck's 50-20 victory over Arundel.



STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Amalia Hagerty

Severna Park Field Hockey

By Zach Sparks

Singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson was the first person to publicly proclaim “one is the loneliest number,” but as the only senior on Severna Park High School’s field hockey team this year, Amalia Hagerty felt anything but alone.

Knowing that her playing time would be cut in the COVID-shortened season so that coaches could groom younger players, she used the season as a chance to mentor those underclassmen and forge new friendships.

“I came back for a reason: to create those strong bonds with my teammates,” Hagerty said, “and I wanted to show that by having a positive attitude.”

Hagerty is a three-year starter who did not play field hockey her freshman year because she was committed to cross country.

This year, she continued Falcon field hockey traditions, making snack-filled “sister bags” for her teammates and joining them



Photos courtesy of Robert Haufe
Amalia Hagerty returned for her senior year of field hockey so she could mentor the Falcons’ younger players.

for bagel breakfasts. Having watched former teammates demonstrate leadership, Hagerty knew what kind of teammate she wanted to be.

“They always put in the work, on

and off the field,” Hagerty said, referring to former seniors. “I wanted to stay in contact with all of the players and make sure everyone had a good time.”

She did her part, often cheering on players from the sideline as the Falcons lost only one game.

Hagerty has also mentored a younger generation of youth, tutoring kids at Mathnasium.

“When people have a common goal, you seem to connect to them more, so I enjoy that,” she said.

During the next school year, Hagerty will create new friendships as a student at Virginia Tech College of Engineering, where she will be enrolled in the Corps of Cadets for either Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) or the citizen leadership track.

Hagerty will miss her Severna Park teammates and the field hockey program, which she credits for helping her grow as a person and as a leader.

“That was something I will cherish and never forget — not just winning but having fun,” she said.

Sophomore Reflects On Season

One of the young Falcons who grew throughout the season was Ava Drexler-Amey, a sophomore. Drexler-Amey was struggling in Severna Park’s second game of the season, against Broadneck on March 30, when coach Shannon Garden pulled her aside. After the half, Drexler-Amey scored two goals including the game-winner in overtime of the 4-3 win.

“It was an intense moment where our team proved that we could win under the pressure,” Drexler-Amey said. “At that moment, I knew that’s when our team was a force to be reckoned with.”

She credits the coaches for giving her confidence. She has been working on her dribbling and shooting drills so that during games, she can dodge opposing players and get into the circle to take shots on goal.

Drexler-Amey is excited to see how the Falcons compete next season.

“My goal going into next year is to develop a strong team,” Drexler-Amey said. “As a varsity player, I received trust and guidance from the seniors. Now that they have graduated, it’s my turn to assist with our upcoming team. My main focus is rebuilding a strong team that’s going to go all the way to states and bring it home again.”

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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SEASON PREVIEW

Broadneck Softball Squad Prepares For Spring Competition

By Alex Murphy

Christina Yeatman was preparing for her first season as head coach of the softball team at Broadneck High School when a giant wrench was thrown into her plans.

Yeatman, a star on Broadneck from 2002 to 2005, has been an assistant on the coaching staff since 2013.

When head coach Deanna Hamilton retired following the 2019 season, Yeatman took over, but her first season as head coach wouldn't be until the 2021 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's been a long time coming, but not without some obstacles that Yeatman and the program have faced.

"We've been trying to keep our players engaged with virtual practices that we've had during the winter," Yeatman said. "We've shared drills and skills for our athletes to work on to stay engaged, but it's a lot harder through the computer and staying distanced."

The pandemic has had different effects on different programs, and unfortunately for Broadneck, the timeline of this season has affected the number of players who came out for the team.

While most programs would have several seniors on the roster, forming the backbone of the program, the Bruins have one.

"It's drastically affected our numbers," Yeatman said. "We have a lot less than we normally would, but we're still



File Photo by Colin Murphy

Broadneck will not have most of its players from the softball teams that last saw the field, but this year's team still expects to play hard.

focused on trying to have as great of a season as we can."

While some observers would think that having one senior on the team isn't a plus, with all that's gone on, having one this season has the ability to leave more of an indelible mark on the program.

Cailyn Dove, this season's senior leader, has already taken it upon herself to not only dominate on the field but also be a mentor to a program filled with young talent and help them reach that next level.

"I feel like I stand out because I've never heard of there being only one

senior on any team," Dove said. "Being one of only a few returning players, that holds a lot of weight, so I feel like I need to step up more than I would normally."

The challenge is a welcoming one for her as she's been in similar situations in travel programs.

This new injection of faces into the Bruins will most definitely come with acclimating to what's expected, but Dove has been looking forward to this season for quite a while and she's excited about her new teammates.

"I'm excited to see what the new players bring to the table this year," Dove said. "They look competitive, aggressive and ready to learn."

As for Yeatman, she's been patiently waiting through the pandemic for her head coaching career at Broadneck to officially get underway.

There's been an overall hesitancy to believe that this season is actually happening, but with practice already underway and the calendar turning to May, it's going to be a reality.

"There's going to be an adjustment period, whether that is a few weeks or the entire season, but we're excited," Yeatman said. "There's a level of excitement and eagerness for that first game to come."

Broadneck opens its 2021 season hosting North County on May 10 at 4:15pm.

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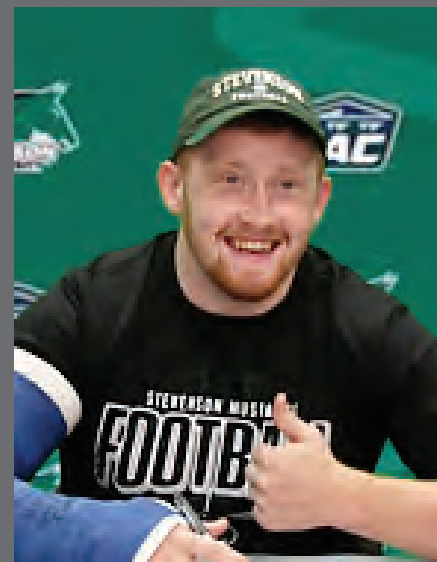
Several Broadneck High School Students Have Committed To Continue Their Athletic Careers At The Collegiate Level



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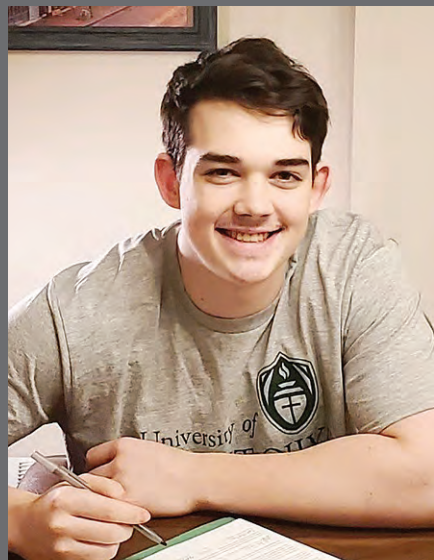
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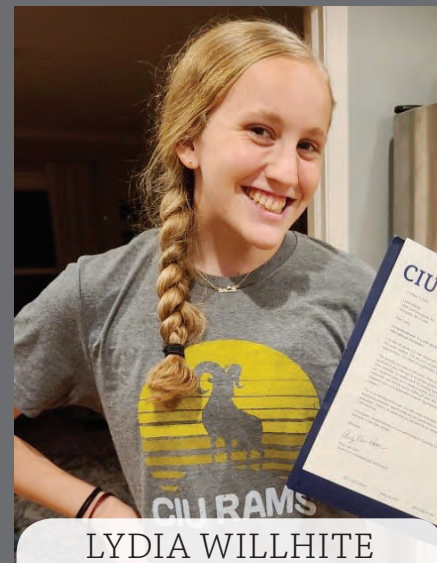
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SEVERNA PARK — SULLIVANS RETREAT

Stunning Greystone model by NV Homes located in the 55+ community of Sullivan's Retreat in Severna Park. Situated on a cul de sac, w/an impressive 2 story foyer, this home has been meticulously maintained & features numerous upgrades & enhancements! The gourmet eat-in kitchen is a chef's delight! Sit & relax at the large island or the breakfast area. It features granite counters & back-splash, tile flooring*SS appliances, 5 burner range*upgraded 42" cabinets & recessed lighting. Entertaining is made easy, with a butler's pantry that boasts built-ins & large granite top. The 2 story family room is nothing short of spectacular, with its coffered ceiling, hardwood floors, an abundance of windows, gas fireplace & 5.1 Surround System. Spacious MAIN level primary bedroom fea 2 walk-in closets and the sumptuous bath fea a jetted tub*separate tiled shower*two vanities with granite tops and tile flooring. The upper level features 3 ample size bedrooms, a Jack & Jill bath & a second full hall bath!



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.



CROWNSVILLE — ARDEN ON THE SEVERN

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Falcon Boys Soccer Rose To The Occasion In Shortened Season



Gus Bachmann (11 in white) scored SPHS' lone goal in their win over South River.

» **Continued from page 27**
 getting one last run in," he said. "Putting on that jersey one last time was really the closure any of us needed. But getting to do it for eight weeks and five games was more than I could have ever asked for."

For some players, it didn't matter that only five games were on the schedule. Center back and senior **Daniel Key** said that the team's mindset coming into this season was that of asserting their domination no matter what.

"It was safe to say that we held that mindset throughout the five games we played, and the possibilities for us if we had an actual season are endless," Key declared. "As much as we loved winning all five games, I think we appreciated those wins even more knowing that it would be some of the last games we ever played for our school."

But this season wasn't just about making sure the seniors got to ride off to college with a perfect record to look back on. It was also making sure the team could keep its winning ways going after losing so many seniors. And Plummer, Muldoon and fellow senior **Jay Pierce** think that the team has been left in great hands.

"We have a really good core group of juniors who will be going into their second year of varsity," Plummer said. "I have all the faith in the world that they will be able to keep the ship moving. I don't think the skill level will go down."

Pierce added, "They're a tight-knit group of guys. I don't think there will be

any problems chemistry wise. All of them are friends and they've got all the talent in the world."

Muldoon agreed, emphasizing that the team mentality has and will continue to take the Falcons far.

"We call ourselves a band of brothers," Muldoon said. "And it's nice to get out there, play with your brothers and have fun."

Inside The Five-Game Win Streak

March 23: 8-0 home win
— Southern Bulldogs

March 30: 4-1 road win
— Broadneck Bruins

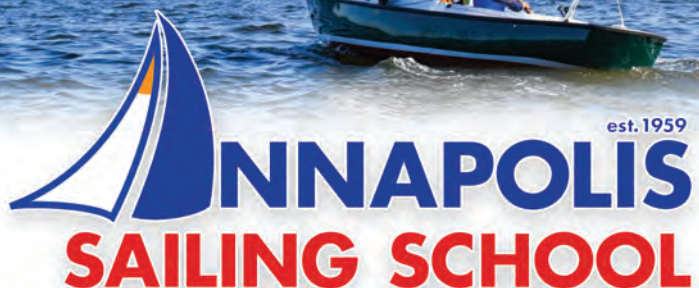
April 6: 2-1 home win
— Arundel Wildcats

April 8: 2-1 home win
— Annapolis Panthers

April 13: 1-0 road win
— South River Seahawks

Goals for — 17
Goals against — 3

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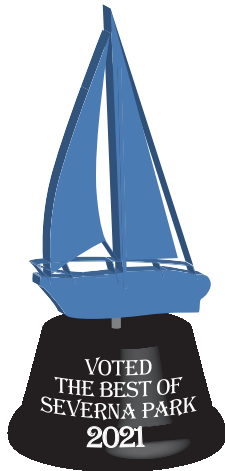
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SPHS Girls Lacrosse

» Continued from page 27

of this season's top 25 programs in the country according to *US Lacrosse Magazine*.

Five Falcons have committed to continuing their careers in college, including attacker **Haley Betch**, who is looking to help continue Severna Park's 2019 state championship dominance into 2021.

Betch, a St. Mary's College commit, credits the spring league that most of the Falcons played in before the 2021 high school season to cut down on that potential early-season adjustment period.

"It was definitely a little difficult because last year, we didn't get to play with these girls," Betch said. "Jumping into games without practices was different, but I think it was good because we got to learn how everyone else played before the season and got to connect before tryouts."

Severna Park dealt with the same problems as programs across the country as, essentially, there were two freshman classes with last year's freshmen not getting a season on varsity.

Even with those roadblocks, this is one of the premier girls lacrosse programs in the state, and Fuller is excited to see this team out on the field.

"I think we've got tons of speed and endurance across the field: offense, midfield, defense," Fuller said. "These girls really want to be out here, and I think they really understand what it means to have something taken away from them. Every day they're out on the field, they're very grateful, thankful, and it's pretty much 100 percent from them every time."

Above anything, there's a collective sigh of relief and contained excitement that will be unleashed once May 7 rolls around and games are able to be played.

While it's definitely made some people believe it when they see it in terms of this spring season, Fuller and Severna Park have been waiting for this since the 2020 season was canceled and they're hungry to return to dominance in Anne Arundel County and the state.

"It was surreal to step back out onto the field again," Fuller said. "We're so thankful for this opportunity and I think for the coaching staff and the players, we're going to do whatever we can to continue to have this opportunity."

Severna Park opens the 2021 season at Broadneck High School on May 7 at 5:15pm.

SPHS Boys Lacrosse

» Continued from page 27

years, is the newest person to take the helm of one of the best boys lacrosse programs in the state. Being around this team for the past few seasons as an assistant has made the transition much easier.

"This will be my third year in the program, so I've been around the players for a few years now," Loving said. "I know these players well, so it's been a smooth transition so far."

This team hasn't skipped a beat since 2019, with players participating in summer and fall outdoor leagues and box lacrosse leagues during the winter.

The conditioning has been there and the drive has persisted, all waiting for the announcement of the 2021 spring sports calendar in Maryland.

"We all knew there was going to be a next season," senior midfielder **Kurt Klaus** said. "Ever since [the cancellation of the 2020 season], we all have been working by ourselves, making sure that we're all up to par."

Klaus is part of a strong senior class that will anchor this program on its way to a potential five-peat in 2021.

This team is loaded with talent, but with now having two

classes of players who have yet to play on varsity, there is an added emphasis on mentorship coming into this season.

"I thought it was important for us to get out there and get after it with the new faces on the team," senior face-off specialist and Navy commit **Colin Shad-owens** said. "The sophomores and the freshmen, they don't really know what's going on, so it was really important for the seniors to take initiative and give them the lay of the land."

Bumps in the road to begin the season are expected, and there will be an adjustment period, if not during tryouts and practice right now, then during the early part of the season.

However, this is a battle-tested program that is as hungry as any other to get back on the field.

"The energy is there," senior attacker and Air Force commit **Kyle Griffith** said. "If anything, the past year and a half of waiting has built more anticipation. A lot of the seniors and younger guys are eager to be out there. Practices are up-tempo, a lot of fun, and it's just great to be back out here."

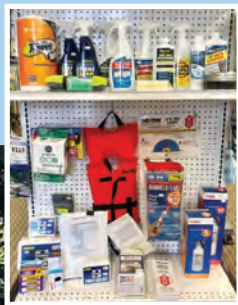
Severna Park begins its 2021 season at Broadneck High School, May 7, at 7:00pm.

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Green Hornets Boys Lacrosse Gets Back On The Field



Photos by Maddy Fangio

Coach Mike Grein's Green Hornets junior team earned a decisive 13-5 win over the Bucs on April 25 at Severna Park High School (pictured above). The team started 2-2 on the season following a 6-5 loss to Crofton on May 2.

Swimmer Moves A Step Closer To Olympic Trials

By Logan Hill

Maryland has produced a handful of great swimmers, including Michael Phelps, Katie Ledecky and others. Severna Park's Morgan Sloan is hoping to be the next.

Sloan, a current sophomore at Severna Park High School and year-round swimmer, recently qualified for this summer's Speedo Futures Championships. These championships represent the next step in eventually qualifying for the U.S. Olympic Trials and, ultimately, the U.S. Olympic team.

Competing primarily in the 100-meter butterfly, Sloan swims both for Severna Park and for a DMV-area (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia) club team, Machine Aquatics. At his latest club sectionals meet, Sloan was able to drop his time and qualify for the championship.

"My suit ripped right before my race and I was panicking; I had to borrow somebody else's suit," Sloan said. "I just ended up dropping a lot of time."

While the qualification for the Speedo Championship represents a big moment for Sloan in his swimming career, it has been a part of a years-long process. From

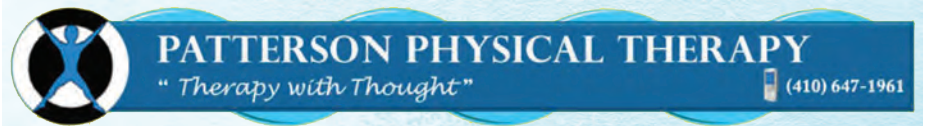
early mornings to long drives, Sloan has been committed to improving and chasing his goals.

"With COVID, it's hard to get pool space, so practice times have been pretty much 6:00 to 8:00 in the morning," Sloan said. "I don't live close to the pool, so sometimes it's waking up at 5:00, sometimes earlier, just to get to practice."

Getting his start at about 10 years old, Sloan began his swimming career on a summer swim team. He credits noticing other swimmers' year-round approach toward him beginning to train the same way. Now in high school, Sloan has seen a lot of this hard work and dedication pay off. His family has also noticed.

"There's no shortcuts, there are no style points," said Scott Sloan, Morgan's father. "The thing about swimming is that what is on the clock is what rules the day. So, you're either going to put the work in and get a result or not. It's really rewarding to see that pay off."

The Speedo Future Championships take place in Richmond, Virginia, and will last four days, spanning from July 29 to August 1.



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Falcon Senior Goes All-In For His Community



Photo by Judy Tacyn
Jeanette Middleton-Sudano presented Severna Park High student Adam Didouchevski with a Nathaniel H. McDavitt Memorial Scholarship.

“I felt incredibly honored when I heard that I received the scholarship. Nathan’s example inspires me to be ‘all in’ for my community.”

— ADAM DIDOUCHEVSKI
SPHS SENIOR

“I felt incredibly honored when I heard that I received the scholarship,” said Didouchevski. “Nathan’s example inspires me to be ‘all in’ for my community and wherever my life’s next steps take me.”

Tania Jones, a senior of Arundel High School, was this year’s other scholarship recipient.

The Nathaniel H. McDavitt Memorial Scholarship goes to high school seniors who demonstrate outstanding character, drive and service. This scholarship honors Airman 1st Class

» Continued on page 43

By Wornden Ly

For many years, Severna Park High School senior Adam Didouchevski has been committed to doing good for his community.

His character to go

all-in on academics, community service and volunteerism is among the reasons why Didouchevski is one of this year’s two Nathaniel H. McDavitt Memorial Scholarship recipients.

Girl Scout Seeks To Build Unity At SPMS



Sarah Smith based her Girl Scout Gold Award on building unity at Severna Park Middle School. The graphics she designed will hang in the hallways at the middle school to remind them to have “Park PRIDE.”



By Haley Weisgerber

The Girl Scout Gold Award is a project that involves finding the root of a problem in the community and collaborating with others to address it. When it came time for her Gold Award, Sarah Smith, a member of Girl Scout Troop 2000 and a junior at Severna Park High School, knew she wanted to address the issue of unity at Severna Park Middle School (SPMS.)

The idea struck Sarah during a conversation with her mom. She mentioned that the middle school had portraits of students in the halls, and how she always thought they were random. Her mom suggested replacing the portraits for her Gold Award.

“I wanted to just refresh the space and give students something new to look at, but also something that would

have an impact on them,” Sarah said.

As a former SPMS student, Sarah knew that the students lacked unity and decided to base her project around bringing the students together.

“I know that middle school is a really hard time for so many people for so many different reasons,” Sarah said. “And so I just felt like there needed to be something more to give the students like a way to unite and work together.”

She pitched her project to former

» Continued on page 44

SPHS’ “Bad Auditions” Wins Awards At The Maryland Thespian Festival

By Alyson Kay

The Severna Park High School drama program’s performance of “Bad Auditions...On Camera” won big at the virtual Maryland Thespian Festival in April, getting both Outstanding Vocal Work and Outstanding Ensemble.

“Bad Auditions...On Camera” is a virtual version of the comedy “Bad Auditions, Bad Actors” created by playwrights Ian McWethy and Carrie McCrossen. The story revolves around a casting director who had one day to fill the role of a lawyer for a courtroom drama and gets a pool of actors that includes stage thespians who can’t tone it down for the screen, performers unable to keep themselves in frame and an actor who seems to think they’re auditioning for an athlete’s foot commercial.

Atticus Boidy was the staff director of the show. Cade Halloran, a senior, served as the student director, along with his role as the casting assistant, Roger. Henry Wright, a junior, served as student producer.

According to Halloran, directing



SPHS thespians were recognized for “Bad Auditions...On Camera,” a virtual version of the comedy “Bad Auditions, Bad Actors.”

in the show helped him as an actor.

“It gave me a more complete understanding of the show and where we were taking it,” said Halloran. “It also pushed me to do my best in every scene because I was an example for the rest of the cast.”

Halloran’s favorite part of directing for “Bad Auditions” was the ability to create jokes that have nothing to do with the script, such as visual gags or jokes based on how an actor says a line.

“You’re taking a script and making

it your own,” said Halloran.

To help the cast get into character for the play, Boidy taught the students to put a little of themselves into their characters. Students did character worksheets to help them

» Continued on page 42



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Second-Grader Is Runner-Up In Young Authors Contest



Cameron Ochalek earned runner-up recognition in the Young Authors Contest for a short story about Down syndrome. The story was inspired by his sister, Ellie.

In the April edition of the Severna Park Voice, local winners of the county's Young Authors Contest were recognized. The Voice staff was able to reach one more student after the paper went to print.

Cameron Ochalek

Folger McKinsey Elementary
Short Story, Grade 2 Winner

Cameron Ochalek wrote a story about having a sister with Down syndrome so that others can learn how

it feels. His sister, Ellie, previously shared her story on "Good Morning America," and Cameron is her biggest cheerleader.

"It is important to share this information so that others can learn that people with Down syndrome should not have to be treated differently than people without a disability, because that is not OK, and people with disabilities do not want to be treated that way," Cameron wrote in his essay.

SPHS Students Raise \$27,000 For Make-A-Wish Foundation

By Haley Weisgerber

The Severna Park High School (SPHS) leadership program has built a reputation for excellence in community service. Each of the classes, one through three, takes on multiple projects throughout the year. Leadership II classes, which include 76 students this year and are taught by Beth Colon, have participated in the Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic Kids for Wish Kids Youth fundraiser for the past seven years. This year, the students broke the SPHS fundraising record and raised \$27,000 for Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic.

"Without being able to spread our energy in person, I didn't know what to expect, but I never expected us to be able to hand over a bigger check this year," said Colon. "I'm fortunate to work with such an incredible group of students and in a community that supports them so whole-heartedly."

The Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic chapter is headquartered in Bethesda and grants life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses in this region. One wish can be granted with \$10,000, so this year, the SPHS fundraising team funded close to three wishes.

"I just think that they support something that is so unique, and they do such a good job," said SPHS junior and Leadership II student Fletcher Port. "I've got a lot of admiration for what they do, and it's definitely an organization I'm proud to know we supported this cause in such a large way."

The students set out to raise \$21,000 for the year 2021, but Port believed that this would be the year that they surpassed the school's \$26,000 record.

"I am optimistic," Port said before the final numbers were revealed. "I definitely think that we've got the determination to make it there."

Each student had their own fundraising page that they could advertise on social

Make-A-Wish®

media and reached out to local businesses for sponsorships.

"Some students have even taken advantage of their small businesses," said Port. "We had one kid who was making stained wooden signs for people for a while, and then he decided to charge a little bit extra, and all those funds will go to Make-A-Wish."

COVID-19 was a big obstacle for this leadership class. In previous years, Wish Week would have included many in-person events outside and inside the classroom.

"This year, we planned a virtual Wish Week since we began planning in February and did not know what the spring would hold," said Colon. "The week included online fundraising, shirt sales, virtual bingo and trivia sessions, restaurant nights and a spirit week."

Wish Week looked different, but the students were still able to attend restaurant nights and other in-person events, and everything else shifted to the virtual platform. Port said that the pandemic motivated the students to work harder.

"I think that we just have a really good group of hustlers this year in the class, and that's worked really well to get us to our goal and where we're at now," said Port.

From this fundraiser, students gained real-world experience in project management, hosting events, establishing connections and raising funds. More importantly, they worked together to make a difference in the lives of children with critical illnesses.

"More than anything, I hope that the students learned what a big impact they can make and the power that young people have to make a difference in their communities," said Colon.

SPHS' "Bad Auditions" Wins Awards At The Maryland Thespian Festival

» Continued from page 40

understand their characters and feel more connected to them.

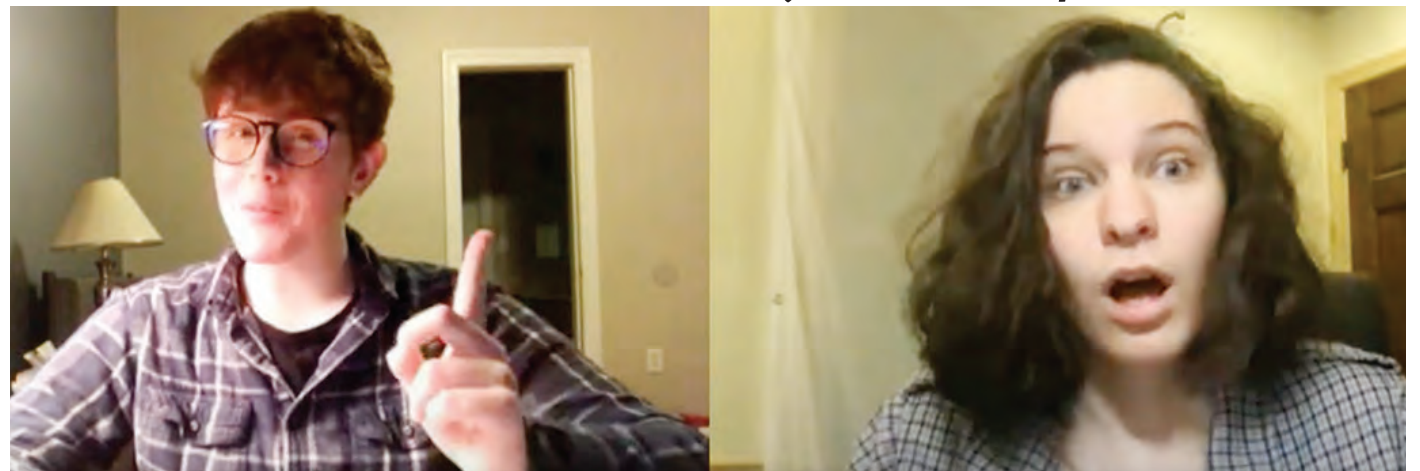
According to Boidy, the more in-depth character work helped the cast portray their characters better, especially in a virtual format.

"It's good to have that kind of personal connection to the characters, especially since you can't focus on the physicality as much," Boidy said.

Kaitlyn Mummert, also a senior, played the casting director. According to her, one of the advantages of performing in "Bad Auditions" was that it was written to be a virtual play, so they didn't have to adapt it to a virtual format.

"We were able to focus more on the actual acting performance," Mummert said.

The Severna Park production mostly stayed true to the original story, with one significant alteration. In the original script, the audience was supposed to vote on which actor they thought should get the part. The selected actor would then do a special scene. However,



Cade Halloran and Kaitlyn Mummert won Best Actor and Best Actress, respectively, for the school's one act production.

due to concerns about technical difficulties, it was decided early on to make the show pre-recorded.

Collectively, the team helped rewrite the ending scene to include a montage of everyone's final scenes so the audience could see what would happen if each character had gotten the part.

The drama program's production raised money for Burgers and Bands

for Suicide Prevention, part of a fundraising effort by the National Thespian Society. They mostly used Facebook fundraisers, as well as a charity video to raise funds and encourage people to donate.

Along with the overall awards, Mummert and Halloran also won Best Actress and Best Actor, respectively, for the school's one act production. Mummert was also

named Maryland State Distinguished Thespian.

Mummert was excited to hear that the show won at the festival, especially in categories about the talent of the cast as a whole and how they worked together.

"It just made me really, really proud of everybody in the cast, and how much work everybody put in," Mummert said.

Q.

Question of the month

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

How have your parents or guardians made a difference in your life?

My parents have helped me have success in and out of school.

Jonathan Bullough

My dad has had a wonderful impact in my life, helping me do my best in softball. With his help, I have gotten a lot better in pitching and catching. My mom has helped me on the sidelines, always cheering me on during really tough games. She's someone that I can always talk to and rely on.

Adelaide Carlson

They helped me learn how to think about my life choices. They also taught me to think about my actions.

Nathan Chen

My parents have made a difference by making sure I am always happy. At dinner, they always ask me how school was. Also, when I get home from playing with friends, they ask if I had fun. They also make a difference in my life by making sure I am OK. For example, if I don't look so good, they will ask me how I feel.

Ella Devaud

My dad has helped me so much in softball and lacrosse by giving me tips and teaching me new things. It really has made me a better player. My mom has helped me so much, when I don't understand something and always helps me figure it out. But my parents have changed my life the most by supplying me with food, water, clothes, a house, sport equipment and many more things.

Lexi Fitzsimmons

Shipley's Choice Elementary School



They have made me breakfast, lunch and dinner. Sometimes we go out for lunch or dinner. Also, they provided me a home and food. They do a lot for my sissy and me.

Owen Henry

My mom and dad have done so much for me and they have made a big change in my life. For example, when I was not feeling well, my mom would be there for me to help me get through it. Also, my dad has been there to help me learn stuff like riding a bike, helping me play soccer because he was the best soccer player I knew. My parents do so much for me, I love them so much.

Finley Johnson

My parents have supported me in things I like doing and they have been really kind and loving. They have taken time away from their day just to take me to swim and Boy Scouts. They really are the best parents ever.

Mitchell Klee

My mom and dad helped me learn how to do many things, like how to ride a bike, read and skateboard. They always provide for food and water for me. They always have my back.

Addison Lippenholz

They have been keeping me away from foods like dyed candy.

Drew Maggitti

My parents have made a huge difference in my life and I wouldn't be here without them. They have fed me, bought me clothes, put me in sports, and taken me on vacations so I could be happy. I love them a lot and they

have made a huge difference in my life.

Patrick Mchale

They changed my life by encouraging me to do things. Also helping me with things I need help on. Also taking care of me and protecting me. That is how they make a difference on my life.

Brody Miller

My parents have made a difference in my life by taking me to practices. They have made a difference in my life by taking us to Disney World or even just letting us have a sleepover. They are the best parents. My mom has done a lot for my family; she has been taking my brother to Dallas, Texas, for a soccer tournament. She also took me to Delaware for a lacrosse tournament.

Carter Moden

First, they put food on the table and let me eat. Second, they mostly let me do what I want to do and get me lots of things. Third, they are both really kind and are nice to everybody. Fourth, they are smart and get money as fast as possible. Lastly, they try their hardest and do their best. In conclusion, my parents have made a big impact on me.

Dominic Montante

They have made a difference in my life by providing many things for me like shelter, food, clothing and school. They help me with homework whenever I need help, and they support me in sports. They help me do drills to practice soccer and lacrosse in my backyard too. My parents have made a very big difference in my life.

Addie Newhard

Yes, they have made me a nice kid. I love my parents; they always make the best decisions for me. They make me try new foods. They always watch movies with me, and it is good bonding time. My dad taught me how to ride a bike. He also taught me how to skateboard. When I was 4, my dad taught me how to skate and I really enjoyed it.

Luke Phelan

My parents have always been there for me even when I am in a bad mood and do not want to be helped. Also, they have gone to all my sports games. Lastly, they are super caring to me. They never want to discourage me. If I want to play outside, they will play with me and help me with something I need to work on. All of that seems great and all, but the most important part is that they love for who I am and they give me the chance to succeed.

Henry Snow

My aunt has helped me get smarter and I really appreciate it and that person having a difference in my life.

Joanna Tann-Funnye

They help me with a lot of things, and they challenge me and give me protection, food and water.

Bradley Vaught

My parents always want to love and care for me. I love most that they always are open to help and go to the most important events. I always know that my parents have made a difference in my life.

Lena Ventrudo

My mom and my dad gave me shelter and they have always brought me through the tough times. They have always been there for me when I needed them. They provided my food, water and toys. They are the best parents.

Starlla Willingham

My mom and dad take really good care of me. They feed me, gift me things sometimes, and give shelter. But most importantly, they love me and I love them too.

Mary Winship

They give me shelter in a nice and sturdy house. They give me food and water so I stay healthy. They protect me from anything that could hurt me.

Kyle Winters

My parents have been a huge part in my life. My mom has taught me how to have good manners and how to dress. My dad has taught me how to play sports and have a good attitude. Both have taught me how to be a better person.

Ella Worthington

SPHS Senior Goes All-In For His Community

» Continued from page 40

Nathaniel McDavitt, who was deployed to Jordan on April 9, 2016, to support Operation Enduring Freedom. On April 15, 2016, he died due to injuries he sustained from a building that collapsed during a severe windstorm on April 10, 2016.

His mother, Jeanette Middleton-Sudano, and members of the board selected Didouchevski because of his commitment to service. He resembles McDavitt's "all-in" attitude in being involved with the community.

"Nathan immersed himself in the community, and Adam seems to be that way," said Middleton-Sudano. "Nathan will be in different pockets of the community, and Adam did as well, bringing

his best foot forward in all those different areas."

Middleton-Sudano also said Didouchevski participated in volunteer activities during COVID-19 and was more community-focused during this time.

Didouchevski is currently the president of the Model United Nations Club and the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society at his high school. He is also a co-founder and vice president of the Future Doctors Organization for his school. The Future Doctors Organization is a school program that helped high school students explore careers in the medical field.

"Medicine was always an interest of mine, but at my high school, I found that minimal opportunities were

available to students to learn about the medical field," said Didouchevski. "Therefore, I was inspired to co-found this club with two of my like-minded colleagues."

After high school, Didouchevski plans to attend the University of Maryland, College Park.

"I feel the medical field can translate directly to improving the livelihood of others," said Didouchevski.

Didouchevski also volunteers at the Severna Park Library for Summer @ Your Library, a reading program encouraging children to read in his community to read more.

To learn more about the Nathaniel H. McDavitt Memorial Scholarship, visit www.iamnathan.org.



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Girl Scout Seeks To Build Unity

» **Continued from page 40**
SPMS principal Sharon Hansen, who was excited about the project, but nothing kicked off as she was retiring. Sarah shared the plans with Dennis Kelly, the current principal, and he jumped at the opportunity. "He definitely helped me, but he also gave me a lot of control," Sarah said. "He always asked me what I wanted to do and what I thought would work best."

She first established her goal, which was to encourage students to consider their actions as a measure of their success.

"I sort of also realized that, especially in our community, everything is grade-oriented," Sarah said. "That's a great measure of success, but I feel like this project helped them to focus on themselves and who they are as a person."

She sent surveys to parents to determine what characteristics they thought best described "Park PRIDE." The surveys determined that perseverance, respect, integrity, determination and empathy were the characteristics that students at SPMS should exhibit on a daily basis.

Sarah designed lesson plans for the students' Park Period around each of the characteristics. She knew she wanted the lessons to be fun, so she spoke to friends' siblings and guidance counselors to determine what activities the students would enjoy.

"It was actually fun to come up

with different things, but it was really hard because it had to be virtual," Sarah said. "I didn't want it to be boring, so I had to come up with games to get the students to talk about what each characteristic meant and how they show it in their community."

Sarah was unable to attend the lessons in-person due to the pandemic. If she were to do it again, she said, that is one thing she would change.

"I would have liked to be able to be in the classroom teaching the lessons to some of the classes and feel more connected to them," she said.

But it wasn't all bad. The pandemic allowed Sarah, who is an active member of the community and an athlete and works part-time at Savvy Consignment, more time to complete the project.

"I was able to dedicate so much time to this project and developing these graphics," Sarah said. "I seriously think that is what made me be able to get it done."

Sarah's next step is to submit her project and wait for it to be reviewed. She currently does not know if there will be a Gold Award ceremony, but she is excited to have finally completed the project that she has spent over two years working on.

"It definitely made me feel proud of myself, because I had put in all this effort," Sarah said. "Especially having something tangible that you can see at the end of a project is obviously really rewarding."



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St. John The Evangelist School Receives Honors

MAEOE Certifies St. John As Maryland Green School

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) has announced that St. John the Evangelist School has been certified as a 2021 Maryland Green School. Maryland Green Schools are part of a national and international community of sustainable green schools. These students are becoming better stewards of Earth's resources and developing a better understanding of their own local environment. There are 672 active Maryland Green Schools, which account for 36% of all Maryland schools.

St. John the Evangelist and 69 other schools have saved 36,369 gallons of water; reduced energy use by 7.3 million kilowatt hours; prevented waste from going to a landfill by recycling 721,449 pounds of material; created 16,070 square feet of natural habitat; planted 1,347 native plants, including shrubs and trees; and cleaned 38,470 square feet of streambanks to protect our water quality.

St. John has demonstrated and documented a continuous effort to integrate sustainable environmental management practices, environmental education curriculum, professional development opportunities, and community engagement into daily operations. This award signifies that

the school has made a commitment to developing stewards of the Earth and reducing the environmental impact of its school.

This year, outdoor classrooms have become part of a prevention strategy for keeping students and staff healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 cohort of schools installed 81 new outdoor classrooms, and teachers and students used the outdoor classroom 4,246 times.

"Our Maryland Green Schools are using the school grounds as an extension of the classroom," said Laura Johnson Collard, MAEOE executive director. "The Centers for Disease Control continues to urge us to spend time outside of buildings to stay healthy."

Maryland Green Schools communities, including teachers, staff and students, have worked to create a healthy and sustainable environment for everyone. During the global COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland Green Schools students have shared their passion for the environment with their families. Students have reported spending time with their families — recycling, planting vegetables and native plants, and being more mindful of turning off unnecessary lights.

MAEOE and the Maryland Green School community will celebrate virtually in May and June to recognize awardees.



The Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools, National Catholic Educational Association and William H. Sadlier Inc. joined in an April 28 celebration to recognize St. John the Evangelist School.

St. John Receives Prestigious Catholic Identity Award



On April 28, St. John the Evangelist School was honored with the National Catholic Identity Award, recognizing the school's work "in promoting a vibrant, living and dynamic Catholic identity." The Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic Schools and National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) joined in the celebration, and William H. Sadlier Inc. representatives presented Principal Casey Buckstaff and the Rev. Erik Arnold with a keepsake

and \$1,500 to support catechetical and educational ministry.


The Sadlier Catholic Identity Award honors schools or parishes that demonstrate effectively and clearly the identity as a Catholic people.

"Catholic identity embraces our beliefs, our worship, our life within the community of faith, our mission as disciples of Jesus Christ and as his witnesses in today's world," said Danny McElhinny, William H. Sadlier Inc.'s senior vice president of global sales. "We believe that Catholic identity, like love, can best be explained by pointing to examples. That is the purpose of these Catholic Identity Awards."


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How To Choose The Right Cancer Doctor: Six Things To Know

By Jason Taksey, MD

Maryland Oncology Hematology

Hearing that you have cancer can change your world completely. It can be frightening and overwhelming, but in the right hands, manageable. Whether the diagnosis came through primary care or the emergency room at your local hospital, your first step should be to choose an oncologist. An oncologist is a doctor who can treat cancer. The oncologist you select influences every aspect of your treatment. Like any relationship, it's important you feel comfortable and confident regarding the expertise and approach of your cancer doctor.

If you are diagnosed with can-

cer, you should keep the following things in your mind while choosing a cancer doctor.

1. Talk With Your Primary Care Provider About Who They Recommend

Once the diagnosis has been made by your primary care doctor, ask the same doctor, because he may know the specialist who is the best fit to handle the particularities of your case. It's OK to get a second opinion. The more people thinking about you, the better.

2. Seek Advice From Friends And Family

Seek advice from your friends, family or neighbors who may have had a similar diagnosis or expe-

rience. They can share pros and cons of their treatment plan and experience with an oncologist, support team and facility.

3. Consider A Doctor With Special Interest Or Expertise In The Type Of Cancer You Are Diagnosed With

The advances in oncology have been groundbreaking, and finding an oncologist who has knowledge of the newest therapies can be important to your outcome. You will likely be treated by a team of experts including surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and oncology nurses. All of these work as a team to give you a best-fit treatment plan.

» Continued on page 50

Taking COVID Stress Off Your Neck And Jaw

Ryan Lynch
PT, ODN, CCTT
Lynch Physical
Therapy



The COVID-19 global pandemic has affected nearly everyone's daily life. Increased mental stress and fatigue during

these unprecedented times have manifested in headaches, neck pain and an alarming surge in "TMJ" jaw pain. A recent study reported a 15 to 34 percent increase in temporomandibular dysfunction (TMD) symptoms since the lockdown began last spring.

Due to stay-at-home orders, many workplaces morphed from a formal office setting to the kitchen table, living room couch or, in some cases, from bed. Attending Zoom meetings and simultaneously caring for children became part of the new, often extended workday for many working professionals.

Such changes in environment are resulting in poor posture. Multi-tasking with laptops at home increases the tendency to forget better ergonomics by placing the neck and upper back muscles in precarious positions that cause pain. Further exacerbating the situation, tension from stress is often "carried" in the neck and shoulder regions.

TMJ pain symptoms like jaw popping/clicking, difficulty chewing, lock jaw, ear ringing/fullness, dizziness and headaches stem from teeth clenching and/or grinding. This subconscious behavior places stress on the jaw muscles and can result in tooth wear and tooth fractures. While teeth grinding typically occurs in about 10 percent of the population, it number increased to 36 percent during the lockdown, as reported by the aforementioned study.

Eliminating stress is ex-
» Continued on page 50

Help Keep Communication Clear Among Masks

Mariya Hutto
HAD
Chesapeake
Hearing Centers



Masks have been necessary but annoying accessories for all of us during the pandemic, but they have been even more annoying for those who are hard of hearing. We all rely on visual cues

when we're communicating with others, and those who are hearing impaired rely even more heavily on facial cues. Even if they are not officially "reading lips," their brains use facial cues to help fill in the blanks when communicating with others. Masks block many of those facial cues, which has made life even more difficult for those who struggle with hearing.

There are several things you can do to help your loved ones — and all those you meet who have hearing loss — communicate more easily during the pandemic.

At Chesapeake Hearing Centers, our providers alternate between different masks. One of the masks is clear so that our patients who are hearing impaired can see our lips. Clear masks are available from many online retailers and can make a big difference for people with hearing impairments.

Even if they are wearing hearing aids, hearing-impaired people often use more energy to communicate than those with normal hearing. When we can get the person's attention to let them know that we want to talk to them, it can keep the person from missing the first part of the conversation.

Close proximity can be difficult when we're social distancing, but the closer we are to a loved one when speaking, the

more easily they will hear us, especially if we're facing them. Speaking from different rooms or with our backs turned can make it difficult for others to hear us and follow the conversation.

When possible, we should eliminate distractions when having conversations. While the television or other background noises might not bother listeners with normal hearing, they can be insurmountable distractions for people with hearing impairments.

Just as we wouldn't expect a person with a broken leg to run a marathon, we should also understand that our loved ones with hearing impairments need accommodations to maximize their communication. Little changes can make a world of difference to our friends and neighbors with hearing loss. And the best news is that these changes improve communication for all of us, especially when wearing masks.

Is Your Fur Baby A Wreck At The Vet?

Dr. Karen VanKirk
Associate
Veterinarian,
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



Does your pet dread coming to the vets? Many dogs and cats exhibit some form of anxiety at the veterinary office, just like people get "white coat syndrome." To be honest, from their standpoint, it can be intimidating. As soon as they enter the door, they encounter different smells and sounds. For cats, they are often brought in a carrier, they infrequently ride in cars, and most of the time when they do, they almost

always end up at the veterinary office. At the vet office, their personal space is seemingly invaded. They are handled by "strangers" and sometimes even poked when they get a shot. As pet owners, seeing our pets uncomfortable can be a source of stress to us as well.

Take heart, with a little preparation, there are some things that you can do to make the trip easier and streamline your visit:

1. If this is the first visit to a particular veterinary office, gather records of past veterinary visits or make sure the receptionist at the new office has permission to contact your previous vet office so the new office can obtain records ahead of time.

2. If your pet will need to ride in a carrier, get out the carrier a week or two ahead of time. Let your pet sniff it and in-

vestigate it. Leave the door open, sprinkle treats in the carrier, place a favorite toy inside, and spray the inside of the carrier with a welcoming pheromone spray (available at most veterinary offices or pet stores) that emits a calming scent.

3. Try practice exams at home. Put your cat or small dog on a counter and touch its feet, ears, tummy and tail. Offer treats after handling each location. If you have a larger dog, practice your exam on the floor. If your pet is nervous around syringes, get a toy syringe and handle it around your pet. You and other family members can even try wearing a white coat or sweater around the house.

4. Take your dogs for a "just for fun ride" where the destination is the park or a play date with a friend. When conditions permit, bring your dog to the veter-
» Continued on page 48

Vaccinate For Your Family, Friends And For All

Marcus LaChapelle
Broadneck Pharmacy



Independent community pharmacies like mine in Maryland are finally receiving and administering COVID-19 vaccines. My pharmacy obtained the vaccine through the Federal Pharmacy Part-

nership. We signed a contract months ago and have been waiting patiently to be called upon to help the vaccine effort. We received the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge from the federal government and it was shipped through a major drug wholesaler, McKesson. Now, the only problem is that there is more vaccine than patients ready to receive it.

I ask every patient I encounter if they have received their vaccine and if they know anyone who is looking for vaccine. Many patients have signed up gladly and we are doing our part. However, many patients also say they have not and they will not! As pharmacists, we have been charged to make a strong case for vaccination and with the Centers for Disease Control behind me, I make my best case.

The most compelling evidence I have is that vaccination is already working. Where vaccination rates are high, COVID-19 cases are low. I also use the



At Broadneck Pharmacy and around Maryland, there are more vaccines than patients who are ready and willing to be vaccinated.

words of our governor, Larry Hogan: "Do it for yourself, do it for your family, do it for your friends, and do it so that all of us can put this global pandemic behind us." Well said, in my opinion.

Vaccination is a true public health civic duty. My most persuasive argument, though, is the family and friend

piece. As a pharmacist, I have trouble convincing anti-vaxers to get vaccinated. I urge everyone in the community who has a family member or friend who has not been vaccinated to help persuade them to get one. And persuade them not with science or data, but as family and friends who care about one another and our community.

Fur Baby

» Continued from page 47

inary office for a happy visit where they can come inside for affection and treats — no exam or treatment.

5. Remember, go slow. When your dog starts to act anxious (looks away or starts to yawn) or your cat wanders off — this is a good time to stop. End with a treat and praise rewards and practice again soon.

6. If your pet has a small blanket or favorite toy, bring it to the vets without your pet and let the veterinary office put its scent on it. This will allow your pet to experience the scent of the veterinary office in the comfort of their own home, in a non-threatening environment.

7. Finally, some pets will benefit from calming medication, dispensed by your veterinarian to be used two hours prior to the veterinary visit (and often the night before as well). This helps to "take the edge off." If your veterinarian recommends calming medication — use it. Remember, a pet's anxiety builds based on past experience. Non-stressful visits help to perpetuate other non-stressful visits and build your pets' confidence.

With teamwork and a little preparation, you and your vet can help build your pet's confidence and ensure non-stressful vet visits for years to come!

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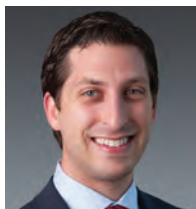
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How To Choose The Right Cancer Doctor

» Continued from page 47

4. Investigate Clinical Trial Opportunities

It's important to know what clinical trial networks the oncologist has access to. Clinical trials are often a way to gain early exposure to newer and potentially more effective therapies before they are FDA approved. The number of clinical trials may differ based on the practice or institution.

5. Consider The Cost Of Your Care And Treatment Environment

Care given at a hospital facility can often be more expensive than treatment at a private practice, both to the patient and insurer. Often, in private practice, physicians have more control over implementation of care and treatment options, whereas in a hospital system, decisions may involve non-clinical administrators and policies. Another consideration is the environment in which you are treated. Important to know is whether you'll need to go different places for frequent lab work, physician visits and treatment, or all of these services under one roof?

6. Learn About The Physician's Credentials

Where they train can impact their exposure to thought leaders in the field. Board certification is one factor to consider when choosing an oncologist. This may determine if the physician is up to date with current data and treatment options. It explains whether a doctor has the required training, education, skills, and expertise to provide treatment and therapy.

Here are a few questions you can ask to evaluate their credentials:

- Are you board certified in oncology and/or hematology?
- What is your experience with this type of cancer?
- Who will be a part of the team that treats me?

A cancer diagnosis can be an overwhelming experience, and as a patient, you have the power to pick your team. It often takes being a self-advocate and spending time doing research on available oncology doctors. Despite the frightening nature of this diagnosis, there is usually time to do this. The team you pick can greatly impact your experience during your treatment and beyond. You're entitled to compassion, kindness and empathy.

Dr. Jason Taksey was born in Silver Spring, Maryland. He attended University of Maryland, College Park, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Taksey received his undergraduate degree in physiology and neurobiology and graduated summa cum laude. He graduated from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, where he received his Doctor of Medicine degree. While there, he received the Merck Academic Achievement Award. Taksey completed his internal medicine residency at Temple University Hospital, and his hematology/oncology fellowship at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Taksey joined Maryland Oncology Hematology in 2020 to open a new office in Annapolis, Maryland, located 810 Bestgate Road. Since that time, he has continued to care for patients with a broad range of hematologic and oncologic disorders. From 2009 to 2014, he was also on staff at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he participated in a genitourinary oncology clinic.

He is board certified in hematology and oncology. Taksey lives in Edgewater with his wife and two children.

Taking COVID Stress Off Your Neck And Jaw

» Continued from page 47

Extremely challenging particularly in these unprecedented times, but we can modify our behaviors to reduce the stress on our neck and jaw. By being mindful of the head and jaw's position, we can reduce muscle tension and subsequent pain. It's also important to keep our top and bottom teeth apart and place the neck and shoulders in a relaxed position.

Proper computer ergonomics also can be key to reducing pain. Sitting upright in a well-supported chair greatly diminishes neck and jaw strain. Additionally, physical exercise, yoga, meditation and massage have been proven to combat the body's response to stress.

These behaviors can help prevent or minimize symptoms, but if you have ongoing pain, it's time to seek professional help. Physical therapists specialized in TMJ pain can provide relief to the aching muscle and joints of your face and

upper back. Treatment — which may include manual techniques, dry needling, stretches and exercises or laser treatments — is covered by medical health insurance and can provide relief in only a few weeks.

Hope is on the horizon as vaccinations are starting to move us beyond the pandemic. We can enjoy returning to our normal routines — without persistent jaw and neck pain getting in the way.

Ryan Lynch specializes in the treatment of jaw pain, jaw clicking, orofacial pain, neck pain and cervicogenic headaches. One of the only 70 physical therapists in North America who have qualified to specialize through the Physical Therapy Board of Craniofacial & Cervical Therapeutics in this unique area, he is owner/operator of Lynch Physical Therapy with offices in Severna Park and Towson. For more information, visit www.lynychphysicaltherapy.com or call 410-960-1601.

Sue Matthews Opens Outdoor Concert Series At Cafe Mezzanotte



Photo courtesy of Michael G. Stewart

Known for her honey-toned vocals, Sue Matthews has amassed thousands of adoring fans in her decades-long career.

Borders at Cafe Mezzanotte in Severna Park. The music series will be held spring through fall in a courtyard adjacent to the restaurant. Guests can enjoy Mediterranean cuisine as they listen to international recording and performing artists.

One of Maryland's most prominent jazz singers, Sue Matthews is celebrated on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay. Known for her honey-toned vocals, she has amassed thousands of adoring fans in her decades-long career and anyone who has enjoyed her exquisite phrasing and smokey voice can tell you why. She has entertained audiences across the U.S. and in top jazz clubs, concert halls and festivals in North America, South America and Europe. Known for her interpretations of the Great American Songbook, she has been widely praised for her recordings and performances. Her ability to find nuance in classic tunes assures listeners of a fresh listening experience time and time again.

Guitar virtuoso Steve Abshire has a sterling reputation in the mid-Atlantic. Known widely as a solo guitarist, » **Continued on page 52**

Backed by guitar stars Steve Abshire and Steve Herberman, vocalist Sue Matthews will perform Sunday, May 16, in the first outdoor concert of the season presented by Jazz Beyond

Patrick Dougherty Nature Sculpture Comes To Annapolis

Maryland Hall in Annapolis is welcoming renowned environmental artist Patrick Dougherty to create a Stickwork sculptural installation on its campus this May. For over 35 years, the public has been mesmerized by Dougherty's whimsical sculptural creations in botanical gardens, museum grounds, universities and other settings around the world. He has honed his craft at bending and weaving natural materials into over 300 monumental interactive sculptures for an unforgettable experience.

Since May 3, the front lawn of Maryland Hall — adjacent to the Nature Sacred meditative labyrinth — has started a transformation over a three-week period, serving as the setting for Dougherty's Stickwork sculpture. His vision will be executed through a team of community volunteers helping to create what will be an installation evoking Maryland Hall's historic surroundings and creative sensibility. The monumental scale sculpture will envelope visitors as they wander through the installation.

"I am looking forward to working at Maryland Hall," Dougherty said. "The space we have chosen has a majestic oak and since I am a certified tree lover, » **Continued on page 55**



Photo courtesy of

Briana Brough/Chapel Hill Magazine

Patrick Dougherty has honed his craft at bending and weaving natural materials into over 300 monumental interactive sculptures.

DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK

Donnelly's Dockside Dishes Out Good Food And Views



Photos by
Mary Cobbler

Above: Donnelly's Dockside offers outdoor patio dining overlooking Deep Creek. **Top**

Right: The chipotle fish bites were drizzled with chipotle sauce over fresh black bean and corn salsa and a fried green tomato.

Bottom Right: Oysters on the half shell offer a literal taste of the sea.



By Mary Cobbler

An early dinner at Donnelly's Dockside in Arnold was a breath of fresh air — literally. A companion and I stopped on a busy day of a hectic week, and I'm so glad we did. We had a beautiful, peaceful and delicious lunch by the Magothy River. Though we chose to eat on the large waterfront deck, we had many options available — on the pier or outside under a tent. All of the selections provided a gorgeous view.

The owners do a great job making it a comfortable place to chill. The light-colored walls, blue chairs on the deck, and wood floors — complemented by nautical themed décor — offer a clean, fresh feel. Add the laid-back country music (playing the afternoon we were there), and altogether you have a "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" vibe going on. We watched sailboats and kayaks pass and sea birds with their wings spread, resting on the pier.

Our young waitress, Grace, was friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. For our appetizer, we shared chipotle fish bites. The fish in the dish varies, Grace told us. This time it was salmon, one of my favorites. What a pleaser! The spicy, slightly hot chipotle sauce drizzled on the salmon paired nicely with the fresh black bean » **Continued on page 52**

Sue Matthews Opens Outdoor Concert Series

» Continued from page 51

collaborator and accompanist, he can do amazing things with six strings. For nearly two decades he performed with the Commodores, the Navy's premiere jazz ensemble. His mainstream style developed from years of study with Herb Ellis, Joe Pass, Barney Kessel and rhythm guitarist Steve Jordan. He has performed with Ellis and other icons such as Charlie Byrd, Bucky Pizzarelli and Frank Vignola. He can be found on numerous recordings including six of his own. Downbeat Magazine described him as "fluent, assured, directly communicative."

Steve Herberman is one of the most respected names in the world of jazz guitar. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, he began playing seven-string guitar in 1993. He has recorded numerous CDs as a leader and sideman. He has performed in many of the great American concert halls and clubs, including Birdland (New York City), Spazio (Los Angeles) and Blues Alley, and the Kennedy Center closer to home. He has performed with renowned musicians such as Keter Betts, Gary Bartz, John Pisano and is featured in the book "The Great Jazz Guitarists" by Scott Yanow.

On May 16, the trio will perform familiar favorites including Ger-shwin's "Our Love is Here to Stay," Ellington's "Do Nothing 'Till You

Hear from Me," and Lerner & Loewe's "On the Street Where You Live."

Before the evening is over, Matthews will pay special tribute to beloved multi-instrumentalist and composer John E. Starr Jr., who was killed in a car collision on Easter Sunday. The two met during freshman year at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, and were lifelong friends. She'll perform "Stormy Weather," a tune they performed many times in many places over the years. They performed together in the Annapolis-based jazz fusion group Wooden Hands.

Seating for the outdoor show is from 4:00pm to 6:00pm Sunday, May 16 (rain date May 23). Tickets can be purchased for \$25 from www.instantseats.com. Attendees must wear a mask when not dining, and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

Cafe Mezzanotte is located at 765 Ritchie Highway. The venue offers free and convenient parking. For more information, call 410-647-1100.

Now in its fifth year, Jazz Beyond Borders is a cultural diversity organization bringing world music and jazz artists to festivals concerts, classrooms and airwaves. Events are presented in live, streaming and hybrid formats. The jazz and world music series at Cafe Mezanotte was formed in November 2019.

Donnelly's Dockside Dishes Out Good Food And Views

» Continued from page 51

and corn salsa. We were pleasantly surprised to discover the fish was served over a perfectly fried green tomato, cornmeal crisp on the outside and tender, and slightly tangy on the inside.

My main course was the pan-seared Chilean sea bass, with passion fruit beurre blanc, served with citrus brown rice and the vegetable of the day — broccoli and cauliflower. The sweet taste was a bit of a surprise, and I enjoyed that contrast between the light, tender fish and citrusy sweet buttery sauce and rice. This was an excellent dish, but a little too "buttery" for our taste.

My companion chose to have oysters on the half shell for his entree. He added cocktail sauce and horse-radish before taking his first bite and smiled with a Cheshire cat grin. How does it taste? I have to admit, I did not partake. He described them as tasting like the ocean — salty, briny and delicious.

Our dessert was fabulous. One of the best! We had the vanilla/chocolate cheesecake. Grace said it's new, and folks are literally "eating them up." Vanilla cheesecake filling sits atop a circular graham cracker crust, topped with a layer of chocolate, drizzled with raspberry and topped with chocolate cream/icing. "That," my companion said, "is killer!" By

that, he meant super good. To me, it meant my diet is destined to fail, but this particular dessert is worth the temporary sabotage. Decadent and sweet, the layers of flavor — vanilla, chocolate and raspberry — were terrific. This dessert is a sweet treat best served with some strong coffee. Also, don't let the smaller portion fool you; it's filling. We didn't finish it, so I took the leftover cheesecake home, and I had some for breakfast (I can walk it off later, right?)

I plan to return to Donnelly's Dockside this year, and I'll bring friends. I'd love to sit on the pier, with the hanging lights, and enjoy the peace, beauty and fine food.

Donnelly's offers a bar on the main level and downstairs.

The cost is reasonable. For two entrees, an appetizer and three drinks, the price was about \$70.

Check out the specials on Facebook. Reservations are encouraged.

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Weebl Enters The App Store And Doesn't Wobble

By Declan Keefe

According to Apple, there are more than 1.9 million apps available to download from the App Store. But not every idea has been taken. Severna Park resident David Pechillo and his team have developed a new app called Weebl.

Pechillo, Surendra Goel and Art Binder are the group behind Weebl. Goel, founder of the roadside assistance tech company Urgent.ly, met Binder after he sold them infrastructure. The two tech entrepreneurs realized they had the same frustrations surrounding group chats.

"We came up with the idea because sometimes you need a direct answer to a question, but the answers often get lost in group chats because people tend to go off on tangents and get lost in all of the chatter," Binder said.

After some brainstorming, the idea of Weebl was born. Goel and Binder assembled a team of seven employees, including Binder's friend Pechillo, and began to build the app in September 2020. Two months later, the company was launched, and in March 2021, Weebl entered the bustling app marketplace.



Through the Weebl app, users can ask their friends poll questions via group polls named "Weebls" and avoid the clutter of the usual group chats.

Through the app, users can ask their friends poll questions via group polls named "Weebls" and avoid the clutter of the usual group chats. Weebl is not limited to text; pictures and sounds can be used. For example, if the user is car shopping and is deciding between two vehicles, they can send pictures that encourage friends to vote on the better option. One aspect where Wee-

bl really stands out is that it is multi-platform. Only the questioner needs the app, as it is compatible with SMS texting.

Perhaps the most innovative feature of Weebl is its incognito mode, which allows users to ask questions anonymously should the questioner want to keep their identity a secret.

"People want to ask questions without being scrutinized," Binder said. "Incognito mode provides a way to ask and answer questions without any worry. Both sides are protected."

As for the name Weebl, Binder said the team wanted a fun-sounding word that could also be used as a verb, in the same vein as Facebook or Instagram.

The current version is only a forerunner according to Pechillo, Weebl's chief growth hacker.

"The app, initially released in March, is merely a beta," Pechillo said. "We will have an updated product in the next six to eight weeks that will blow the original app out of the water."

Weebl is currently available for free download on the iOS and Android platforms.

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The Space Film “Stowaway” Finds Beauty In Subtlety

By Audrey Ruppert

This review contains spoilers for the film “Stowaway.”

I don't know if “Stowaway” was meant to be an allegory for coronavirus, but intentionally or otherwise, the film offers powerful insights into the strange times we find ourselves living in.

The premise is simple: Commander Barnett (Toni Collette), Dr. Zoe Levenson (Anna Kendrick) and researcher David Kim (Daniel Dae Kim) are early in their journey on a two-year mission to Mars when they discover that an engineer named Michael (Shamier Anderson) has “stowed away.” We learn that Michael did so unintentionally and is not to blame for his critical mistake. The ship does not have enough resources to sustain four people, and the crew find themselves in the midst of a real-life trolley problem. They

contemplate whether some should die to save the others, or whether the trolley can be thrown off the tracks altogether.

There's a plethora of films for comparison in what I'd call the “realistic space” genre. Broadly, there are philosophical space films (“2001: A Space Odyssey,” “Interstellar”) and problem-solving space films (“Apollo 13”). Some are outlandish (“Gravity”), some are more grounded in reality (“The Martian”). Nearly all are highly dramatic and intense. “Stowaway” is different — it is both philosophical and centered around problem solving, but it's quiet. And I don't mean quiet in the way space is quiet (“Gravity” makes the silence of space almost gimmicky). Rather, “Stowaway” is incredibly understated. There are few emotional outbursts, and intense music only makes an appearance at the

very end. Grave and painful decisions are made with stoicism. It feels like the “Dunkirk” of space films.

Many critics complained about this quietness and felt the pacing of “Stowaway” was far too slow, but I find beauty in the film's subtlety. In the midst of a deep existential crisis, the characters undergo immense tragedy and personal sacrifice, and they do so in silence.

There are further coronavirus comparisons. The crew is effectively in a two-year quarantine, separated from their loved ones — some by choice, some against their will. Suddenly the characters are thrust into a life or death situation — who should be saved? The most useful?

We are left to question the substance of what makes life meaningful in the first place. One pauses to think of our front-line care workers, many of

whom have died to save the elderly and vulnerable, and the callous refrains we have heard about how our societal sacrifice of lockdown “wasn't worth it.”

And what about the ending? So many critics had questions. In a way, I'm glad there were few answers, because often, that's how grief and trauma is. There's no tidy ending; you have to come to terms with what has happened to you and make your own closure.

“Stowaway” is a poignant film, and a somber reflection of our times. We are in the midst of the greatest collective trauma of our generation. People all around us are dying, sacrifices are being made, tragedy abounds. But unlike our grandparents or great-grandparents who survived tumultuous, war-torn landscapes, we are surviving in relatively quiet isolation, and that makes it all the stranger.



Photos courtesy of Netflix

The premise of “Stowaway” is simple: Commander Barnett (Toni Collette), Dr. Zoe Levenson (Anna Kendrick) and researcher David Kim (Daniel Dae Kim) are on a mission to Mars when they discover that an engineer has “stowed away.”

Nature Sculpture Comes To Annapolis

» Continued from page 51

I look forward to building there under the auspices of such a worthy companion. This site has great potential for creating a great sculpture.”

The sculpture has been a community affair. Volunteers will include the members of The Green Give, a coalition of area environmental groups. And Maryland Hall's outreach team has worked with its campus neighbors, Wiley H. Bates Middle School's Arts Integration teachers, to engage their students in the project through monthly “ArtReach Challenges” inspired by Dougherty's work.

From May 6-14 and May 17-21 from 8:00am to 5:00pm, the public is invited to visit Maryland Hall to observe as the sculpture takes form and progresses daily.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, email rkelbaugh@marylandhall.org or visit www.marylandhall.org/stickwork. Volunteers are needed to gather saplings on the Eastern Shore and during installation at Maryland Hall.

Library Club Spotlight: Book Club Gives Men An Opportunity For Friendship And Reading

By Haley Weisgerber

Anne Arundel County Public Library has a variety of clubs for people of all interests and backgrounds. At the Severna Park Library, librarian Andy Wolverton coordinates a monthly Guys Book Club for men to gather with other readers and create lasting friendships.

“My main goal was just to let guys know that reading is fun, and we should get together and talk about it,” said Wolverton. “And it's been wonderful beyond my wildest dreams.”

Wolverton started the club almost 10 years ago, after he found himself striking up conversations with men who were checking out books at the library. He spread the word about the club the same way he was inspired, by word of mouth.

“I talked to every guy that walked into the library,” Wolverton said. “I told them, ‘Look, we're starting a book club for guys. And here's what we're going to do.’”

Club members have read a variety of books ranging from historical fiction, to science fiction and even the occasional Jane Austen novel. Wolverton

had a system up for voting on the next book, but he has been picking the novel since the beginning of the pandemic.

“I want people to read outside their comfort zone from time to time and consider a different point of view from time to time,” said Wolverton. “And that has really been tremendous.”

Wolverton wants the group members to share their opinions, regardless of whether or not the rest of the group agrees.

“We might disagree on a certain book, or our opinions about a certain book, but all opinions are valid,” said Wolverton. “And everyone should be listened to, with equal respect, which hasn't been a problem in our club.”

The club is currently operating over Zoom. Although there were mixed opinions about the format in the beginning, Wolverton said that many of the members have tuned in this year. Men have even joined from other states or counties.

“One of the things that I'm talking with my branch manager about is when we finally do go back to in-person meetings, continuing to do the virtual meetings,” said Wolverton.

“Then guys could choose.”

About 12 to 18 men join each meeting. The group is open to teenagers and adults, as some of the content can be mature.

Wolverton said he has made lasting friendships. Before the pandemic, the men would frequently get together outside of the monthly meetings. But the most important thing, according to Wolverton, is that the club is encouraging men to read.

“I would love for guys of all ages to read more,” said Wolverton. “It's mainly just to get people interested in reading and just having a discussion about books and just realizing this can be fun.”

To learn more about the Guys Book Club, call the Severna Park Library at 410-222-6290 or reach out to Wolverton at awolverton@aacpl.net.

“When I talked to those guys in the library early on, they would say that they don't like to be part of a group, and that's OK,” said Wolverton. “But I would tell them to come to one meeting. If they don't like it, they only wasted one evening. If they do like it, they keep coming back.”

Celebrating 30 Years Of Community Pride, Food And Friendly Service At Garry's Grill



The Severna Park community showed their support for Garry's Grill and owner Eddie Conway by voting the restaurant the winner in several of the Severna Park Voice's 2021 Best Of categories: Best Restaurant Overall, Best Wait Staff, Best Lunch, Best Dinner, Best Kids' Menu, Best Dessert and Best Salad.

By Kevin Murnane

Garry's Grill of Severna Park recently celebrated its 30th year of business in April, and throughout those years, the restaurant has kept to a simple yet successful philosophy of hiring a great staff, serving quality food and creating a family atmosphere.

"I have a great staff; it's all about them," said current owner Eddie Conway, who

began his career as a teenager cleaning dishes. "I have a very simple philosophy of making sure we take care of people who come into our restaurant."

Conway's approach to great customer care comes from his early days at Garry's with the then-owner Garry Anderson, who sold the restaurant to Conway 13 years ago.

Conway enjoys telling a story recalling when he was a server and a customer wanted peanut butter with his breakfast. He knew the restaurant didn't have peanut butter, so he sprinted across the parking lot to High's, bought a jar of peanut butter, and sprinted back to give it to the customer. The only thing that Conway forgot was to remove the price tag

from the jar.

That Marriott type of service philosophy was what Conway instilled in his staff during the hiring phase of interviewing candidates. "Basically, I get a feel for the person during the interview and see if they have that 'yes' mentality for our customers," Conway said.

When a regular client comes into Garry's Grill, he or she is greeted by name and a warm, caring conversation. Several staff members have been there several years and have become "like family" to many customers.

Deena Hahn and her husband have been coming to Garry's Grill for 20 years and liked sitting at the counter (before COVID) and have become close to several staff members, especially Jennifer Newbauer.

"I have had great conversations with many staff members over the years and they have become a big family to me," Hahn said. "There are some days that I'll do the trifecta (breakfast, lunch and dinner) at Garry's, and even if I come in by myself, I never have felt alone because of the staff."

Many of those servers have been with Garry's for numerous years. Angela Deaton, who has worked there for 15 years, says the best part of her job is the regulars and seeing them several times a week.

"I love seeing the regulars and they have become family to me," said Deaton, who also attributes her longevity to her fondness for her co-workers. "We work very well together, and everyone helps each other with orders and making sure

» Continued on page 58

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members: **Three Rivers Roofing, Braveheart Run Club, Life of Joy Foundation, Severna Park Medical Supplies, Precise Books and Tax**

Solutions LLC, Lynch Physical Therapy, and Vineyard Childcare Center. We also want to send a huge thank you to all our renewing members! We truly are Chamber Strong!

Plans for the parade are well underway. We are so excited to have many wonderful sponsors: **Chick-fil-A of Severna Park, Bernward Mechanical and Construction, Kogen Dojo, Steak 'n Shake of Millersville, Coffee News Maryland, Romilo's Restaurant and Bar, Primary Residential Mortgage Inc., Citizens for Heather Bagnall, M&T Bank, Jackie D'Amico Designs, McDonald's of Severna Park, Sandy Spring Bank, SERVPRO of Annapolis, Franklin's Toys, Premier Insurance Advisors and Mosquito Squad.**

If you are interested in participating in the parade, please contact me at ceo@gspacc.com or call 410-647-3900. You can visit the website for a downloadable application and sponsorship information.

The parade will be held on the official federal holiday of Monday, July 5, from 10:00am to noon. The theme is Celebrating Our CommUNITY, and our grand marshal is Eddie Conway, owner of Garry's Grill.

If you would like more information about being in the parade, please email me at info@gspacc.com. We especially love to see our communities and nonprofits on the parade route. There is a simple application to complete and a "hold harmless"

document. Sponsorships are available too!

We are also holding our Star-Spangled Restaurant Week from July 3-11. Enjoy specials offered by our local eateries! We will continue to update our website with participating restaurants, so please visit often: www.gspacc.com.

We held our first in-person/virtual multi-chamber networking breakfast at the wonderful **Lures Bar and Grille** in Crownsville. The in-person attendees were in a large, heated tent and served a delicious breakfast of bagels, pancakes, and breakfast tacos. It was great to be in person and hear laughter and chatter at this well-attended event. We offered a virtual component as well.

On April 14 there was a ribbon cutting celebration of our newest business in Severna Park, **Severna Park Tutoring and Educational Advocacy**, located on Benfield Road. Delightful husband and wife team John and Sara Miller have lived in the area for over 10 years and decided on a business focusing on education. At the well-attended celebration, we met the Millers, their children and their parents, who recently moved here.

Our second ribbon cutting of the month celebrated the one-year anniversary of **Healing Thyme Therapeutic Massage and Wellness Center** in Annapolis, and their business partnership with Refill Goodness of Maryland. They are not just a massage studio, but also have space to host small events such as bridal showers, girls night out, book club, workshops, meetings etc. If you are looking to relax and de-stress, this is the place for you!

Please join us on May 4 for our in-person Successful Women in Business event at the beautiful **Homestead Gardens** in Severna Park. The event takes place from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and is free. We will hear from store manager Heidi Tyler on "Creating Beautiful Window Boxes" and enjoy a bit of shopping afterward.

Our pet health and wellness committee
» Continued on page 61

Deciphering Biden's Infrastructure Plan

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
at Premier
Planning Group



When Governor Larry Hogan announced his budget plan for 2020, he had no idea what was to come of that year. Maryland had a projected annual budget of \$45.9 billion; we ended up

spending \$47.4 billion. If you multiply that by about 60, you will get the total amount that the federal government has spent in the past 12 months just on coronavirus relief!

There have been a lot of questions surrounding the problems with spending since the beginning of COVID, an estimated \$5 trillion overall. Some argue that this spending increased inflation and will spike taxes at some point in the future. The year 2021 has been presented with two colliding forces in the market, which has created its current volatility. On one side there are the Democrats and their worry as to how Wall Street will respond to the potential tax increases, further

compounded by interest rates going up. The other force is the opening of the country. The year 2021 has already seen an increase of positive movements with restrictions lifting, and it created significant market returns compared to 2020.

There are still key sectors of the economy that need to grow, and each newly opened sector will create positive returns. Looking forward into 2022 is where President Joe Biden's infrastructure bill, the American Jobs Plan, will have the most impact. The Biden administration thinks that when the economy reopens, the infrastructure will spark the upward and continued growth of the economy.

Here is what the American Jobs Plan looks like, over the next eight years: a tax increase to the wealthy class will fund Biden's program, which he calls "the largest American job investment since World War II." The resulting tax increase would offset the recent spending in the next 15 years and could reduce the nation's overall budget deficit. The plan promises to deliver the following objectives:

- Fix highways; rebuild bridges; upgrade ports, airports and trans-

» Continued on page 62

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Kitchen Encounters Marks 40th Year In Annapolis

Kitchen Encounters, a family-owned business since 1981 — offering a unique and effective approach to kitchen design — is celebrating its 40th anniversary in May.

Situated in the heart of the Annapolis Design District, Kitchen Encounters has earned a reputation for exquisite designs and exceptional customer service, boasting a staff of certified kitchen and bath designers (CKBD) through the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA).

Mark T. White, a certified master kitchen and bath designer (CMKDB) and native Annapolitan, established Kitchen Encounters in 1981. After four decades as a small business in Annapolis, the family-owned enterprise is still known for its quality products, and unique and creative designs — having received many design awards, and having projects appear on HGTV and featured in national and regional publications.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been 40 years since I started Kitchen Encounters as a small custom countertop shop in a rented basement, and my first delivery was in a 1967 Volkswagen microbus on which I stenciled Kitchen Encounters over gray primer,” White said. “I moved into selling cabinetry a year or two later and have loved it ever since.”

White said the most important thing to him has always been to do everything possible to make sure clients are happy with the Kitchen Encounters experience.

“Born and raised in Annapolis, I have many relatives and lifelong ties to the community,” he said. “My great-grandfather owned a home goods store for many years at 49 West Street, so I’ve always known that building strong relationships with clients and other businesses would be a key

to success. We have worked hard to build and maintain these relationships and our reputation of being one of the best in our field in central Maryland.”

Forty years of success has not come without ups and downs, White explained. “I owe it all to the support of my family and friends,” he said. “Thanks to all those who have been part of the journey that brought us to where we are today.”

Kitchen Encounters serves as a founding member of the Annapolis Design District, which was established in 2007 with several other businesses located within the industrial area of Annapolis, off Chinquapin Round Road. The idea was a simple: to build a “cool” urban neighborhood where leading design/build companies, artists and other innovative/entrepreneurial businesses could create and collaborate.

Kitchen Encounters has a strong reputation in the community, working regularly over the years with some of the region’s finest architects and builders, interior designers and manufacturers. The team bases their designs on a simple premise that client-involved design leads to greater client satisfaction. The interactive design process guides clients to the best design solution for their home and family.

“Our interactive design process, developed by Mark, ensures that comfort, beauty and function merge successfully in the remodeling or new construction experience,” said Cathy Terranova, sales manager and certified kitchen and bath designer at Kitchen Encounters. “By using numerous sketches to illustrate design possibilities, clients are able to identify features that fit their lifestyle. When working with Kitchen Encounters, our clients work with the entire team, not just an individual.”

Garry’s Grill Celebrates 30 Years

» Continued from page 56
we are providing great service.”

One of those regulars, Beth Strasnick, has found new friendships with other regulars. “We watch Ravens games together, go on vacations and really enjoy each other’s company,” she said.

Another regular, Stan Dewling, remarked that the Garry’s staff and other regulars “have become a second family to me.”

All of these family-centered philosophies were started by Anderson, who first opened Capers in Cape St. Claire and then Garry’s Grill and expanded the business to include The Main Ingredient catering company and Woodfire.

“When I opened Garry’s Grill, I wanted a have a restaurant that was centered on fresh ingredients and being a place where the community felt it was their local restaurant,” Anderson said. “I believed in hiring the right people to carry out my community-centered theme, and one of those great employees was Eddie Conway.

“Eddie always took such great care of people. He is an amazing young man. I was proud to be his mentor.”

Anderson now sells real estate in Naples, Florida, and misses Severna Park and its residents.

This past year has been challenging to

Conway and the restaurant industry, and Conway had to adjust his business model to meet the pandemic.

“My thinking during the pandemic was, ‘What can I do to make life easier for my customers,’” Conway said.

On the fly, he changed Garry’s from an in-person business to an exclusive carry-out business. He sold groceries and went from 200 to 300 carryout orders to 1,800 to 2,200 carryout orders a week. Garry’s Grill also did boxed-holiday meals.

“My employees worked their tails off to handle those orders and I was happy to keep all of them employed,” Conway said.

The future is also filled with excitement as Garry’s will break ground for the expansion in about two months.

“We will add about 1,200 square feet to the restaurant with an outdoor bar and patio,” Conway said. “The patio will have a retractable roof and windows so we can use it in all weather. We can also utilize this space for private parties.”

Even though Garry’s Grill will expand its physical building, the restaurant will still be known for its warm and caring customer service as well as being one of the centers of the community.

That service is simply stated by Conway and is carried out by his staff. “Being nice doesn’t cost a thing.”

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Fence & Deck Connection Keeps Customer Satisfaction At Its Core



By Zach Sparks

During their 30 years in business, the owners of Fence & Deck

Connection have witnessed plenty of ups and downs within their industry. Those shifts, though, have only made the business stronger and the staff more devoted to customer service.

The business started in 1991, pairing the skills of Ben Wolod and Jim Rubush. Much of their early business concentrated on highway fencing, with their first big job being a 32,000-foot fence along Route 50. By 1999, the business had experienced its first growth period — in addition to their thriving commercial work in the mid-Atlantic region, the small team made the leap into the residential fence and deck market throughout Maryland.

Not only did their physical presence grow but so did the staff. Jeffrey Wall, who now serves as managing partner, joined the team in 2006. A year later, the business was at a crossroads.

“We started in 1991, which was during a recession, and in 2007, we were hit with another recession, leaving us with some pretty big decisions to make,” said Rubush, a Cape St. Claire native and Severna Park High School graduate. “Either we had to get real small or we had to expand and grow our business out of the recession.”

They chose to grow. To accomplish that goal, Rubush said he and Wolod had to “sharpen our spear” and become even better salesmen.

“Jim and Ben started to set the bar in customer service,” Wall said. “Those years in 2007 and 2008, they started to home in on how to take that to another level.”

Word of mouth generated new customers. With evolving technology and increasingly diverse customer touchpoints, the marketing team became more creative in promoting the business — especially on social media. The company invested in the best customer relationship management (CRM) systems, putting culture above profits.

“We have stayed focused on what we do best: fences, decks and screened-in

porches,” Wall said. “We know what we’re good at.”

But it’s not only about business at Fence & Deck Connection. Rubush, Wolod and Wall have looked at the company’s growth as a reason to keep doing more for the community they serve. They support Annapolis-based nonprofit Warrior Events, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, the Blue Ribbon Project, and several other organizations. Whenever possible, they participate in charity activities.

“When you get involved with charity organizations and see what they do, it gives you a different perspective than writing a check,” Wall said.

Currently, there are supply chain issues because of the pandemic, but Fence & Deck Connection is selling as many stock products as possible to keep customers from experiencing delays.

Just as they have done for the last 30 years, Fence & Deck Connection will withstand any challenges to best meet customer needs.

“We’re excited during this year to be staying closer to home to be in tune with our target market of Anne Arundel County,” Rubush said.

Fence & Deck Connection has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and has won consecutive readers’ choice awards from the Severna Park Voice, Capital Gazette and What’s Up? Annapolis. The company has also won consecutive awards from Angi (formerly Angie’s List) and Houzz.

Fence & Deck Connection has an Annapolis indoor showroom open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm and by appointment only on Saturdays from May through June 5, at which time the showroom will open completely on Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Anyone is welcome to view the outdoor displays at the Millersville location at 8057 Veterans Highway. To learn more about Fence & Deck Connection, call 410-757-5511 or visit www.fenceanddeckconnection.com.



Homestead Gardens Is More Than A Garden Center

By Haley Weisgerber

Homestead Gardens was founded as a roadside plant stand in Davidsonville, Maryland, in 1973. In the decades since, that stand grew into a successful independent garden center, with three retail locations, a wholesale division, an award-winning landscape division, and a horticultural supply center. Today, Homestead Gardens continues to win local, regional and national awards for the quality of its plants. In March 2010, owner Brian Riddle opened a retail location right in the heart of the commercial district of Severna Park.

"Our Severna Park store may not be as large as our Davidsonville headquarters, but we love our location," said general manager Heidi Tyler. "Our store has an immense amount of product that our customers say they need and are lucky to have close to home."

Tyler, who has worked at Homestead Gardens in Severna Park from the beginning, said the store has always been well-received by the community. She credits her staff with making the environment so welcoming.

The plant selection at Homestead Gardens offers something for everyone. There are succulents for customers who enjoy current houseplant trends, herbs and vegetables, and countless varieties of flowering plants. Whether the customer prefers annuals or perennials, it will be difficult to leave the garden center empty-handed. Homestead Gardens is

increasing its native plant and pollinator selections through its Native Habitat Center and pollinator clubs.

"We're very proud of our Native Habitat Center, with plants that thrive right here in this area," said Zach Ebaugh, greens manager and a licensed horticulturist. "It is a part of the Homestead Gardens mission to grow and sell plants that will succeed without unnecessary pesticides and herbicides, and that are at the same time beneficial to our environment and the wildlife that depend on native species."

Homestead Gardens tries to help with everything from diagnosing growth or bloom issues, to troubleshooting pests and offering age-old garden advice. With an appointment, a staff member will even help customize or design planters or gardens.

"If you have trouble with houseplants, with annuals or designing custom combination pots, we're here to help," said Ebaugh. "We love to be able to make a true custom experience for every customer whenever we can."

Homestead Gardens offers a variety of other products such as patio furniture, home decor, Maryland-themed gifts and even live chicks in the spring.

Hard goods manager Steph Stowell said that she is constantly updating and mer-



Heidi Tyler, Steph Stowell and Zach Ebaugh work hard to bring joy to their customers and make gardening accessible to anyone.

chandising displays with new products.

"We take care of everything that is inside the store," said Stowell. "I like to say, 'What's green goods is what is alive, what's hard goods is not.' We love to showcase our gardening accessories and tools as much as we like to invite Severna Park locals to shop our unique home decor, clothing, gifts and jewelry."

The category managers have learned to get creative, while also remaining loyal to the vendors and growers that they have developed strong relationships with throughout their 48 years of business.

"Homestead is huge on supporting the growers," said Tyler. "The fact is that there are no garden centers without growers, so having a good relationship is important."

A member of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, Homestead Gardens is making a donation

to the Severna Park High School senior class for prom and regularly supports the Wounded Warrior Project. Tyler also goes all out each year for the chamber's annual Fourth of July parade. This year, she has enlisted Stowell's help to create an over-the-top float.

Tyler said the entire Homestead Gardens team is proud to serve the community and hopes that Homestead Gardens will continue to bring people joy for years to come.

"I want customers to leave happier than when they arrived, but I also want them to tell their friends so we can continue to grow and continue spreading garden joy for another 48 years," said Tyler.

Homestead Gardens is located at 522 Ritchie Highway. To learn more, visit www.homesteadgardens.com or call 410-384-7966.

2250 Financial Services Inc. Offers Personalized Service

By Zach Sparks

With financial planning, people can identify and fulfill their long-term goals while also preparing for unexpected emergencies. John Olson learned about the importance of financial planning firsthand when he and his wife, Kerin, faced an emergency in 2009.

Ten days after their marriage ceremony, Kerin got swine flu and was placed in a medically induced coma. Thankfully, she made a full recovery, but that experience was on Olson's mind when he was searching for a fulfilling career following seven years as a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy.

"When someone gets sick, the first thought is, 'Is my wife going to be OK?'" Olson said. "The second thought is, 'Now how are we going to pay for this?'"

Since 2010, Olson has helped clients — military, federal, civilian, retirees and young families — answer those questions and confront life's challenges. He started his own firm, 2250 Financial Services Inc., in 2020 to honor his father, John, who died in 2013. His father lived



The 2250 Financial Services team of (l-r) Emily Watkins, Andrea Meade, Lisa Brydon and John Olson treats each client like family.

serving his family and lived with integrity. The name "2250" comes from his birthday as an homage to him.

"Many of my values come from him," said Olson, who is not only a financial advisor and husband but also a father of two boys, Jack and William.

Olson prioritizes each person's values and goals when putting together a personalized financial plan.

"Some people care about tithing to their church, and for others, their biggest goal is leaving money to their grandchildren," he explained.

It's a team-based approach that involves Olson, administrative profes-



sionals Andrea Meade and Emily Watkins, and Lisa Brydon, who schedules meetings. Communication between the staff is excellent because Meade and Brydon have worked with Olson for nearly 10 years.

Olson likes to meet with a new client three to four times in the first six months, and for all clients,

a minimum of once per year. Through discussions about values and goals, the 2250 Financial Services staff and the client are able to build trust.

"There might come a time when I give advice that they might not like," Olson said. "They might not take the recommended action, but if we have built that trusted relationship, they will hear me out."

That trusted relationship often extends beyond finances, as clients share details of their family marriages and grandchildren being born.

When the subject does involve finances, Olson will listen and be honest in his

evaluation.

"I have always admired his integrity," Meade said. "You can tell from the clients who call that they have a great relationship."

Brydon said, "He's never in a hurry and always takes the time to explain things to people."

Clients range from recent college graduates to older folks who are on the verge of retirement. With each transaction, Olson and his team will plan with integrity, just as his father would have.

"The hardest part, at times, is getting to know the client and getting the money to match their goals and values. As much as we're trying to get to know them, they're really interviewing us to see if we meet their needs," Olson said. "That's important to us because I don't want a transaction. I want a client for many years."

The 2250 Financial Services Inc. office is located at 251 Najoles Road, Suite G, in Millersville. For more information, call 410-774-6723, visit www.2250financial.com or find the Facebook page for "John Olson — Financial Advisor & Owner at 2250 Financial Services, Inc."

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- How to handle and grow your assets
- How to continue the conversation after today
- How to create a legacy to help the next generation

May 19

6 pm to 8 pm

Women and Retirement Planning

- Join us as we cover the eight unique retirement planning challenges for women and strategies to help you create a secure financial future.
- It is more important than ever for women to implement a financial strategy that can help mitigate risk and add more certainty to their financial future.

June 8

6 pm to 8 pm

Getting Ahead Financially

- Join us for a valuable conversation with our panel of experts about money, financial intelligence, and playing the long game to help you meet your financial goals now and retire comfortably—when you choose to.

June 16

6 pm to 8 pm

Women and Money; Taking Control of Your Financial Future

- Protecting investments and retirement savings from market volatility
- Being financially secure in the event I outlive my spouse/partner
- Securing long-term health or nursing home care for retirement
- Giving to charities, communities, or educational foundations
- Goal discussion

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 56

successfully launched its first meeting. Committee chairs are **Jill Weissenbach of Higgins and Friends Pet Sitting**, **Tiffany Jackson of Ally 4 Pets LLC**, **Mariah Johnston of Constellation K9 Training** and **Bonnie McLeod of Whoof on the Wharf**. Please join us on May 13 at 11:30 where the topic is “How Pets Help Our Well-Being.” Presenters are **Pets on Wheels of Central Maryland** and **Fidos for Freedom**. Visit www.gspacc.com for more information.

On the morning of May 20, 8:30am to 9:30am, the wellness committee is presenting a webinar on “How to Care for Your Voice for Lifelong Vocal Health.” Our speaker is **Tiffany Erler, MS, CCC-SLP, founder and clinical director of Budding Voices LLC**. Learn about the ways we damage our voices and exercises that will keep our voices youthful for life.

On May 20, the chambers in Anne Arundel County are hosting a luncheon with Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford at the BWI Marriott. The event will be from 11:30am to 1:30pm and we will hear a “state of the state” update. Please visit our website for more information on tickets and sponsorships.

And on May 20 at 5:00pm, we will hold a ribbon-cutting celebration for Whoof on the Wharf at the Pier 7 Marina. Whoof on the Wharf combines the fun of kayak rental with your pup as a crew member! The event is open to all and free.

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

Here's A Long-Lasting Mother's Day Gift

Brian Conrad
CFP, Financial
Advisor



Mother's Day has almost arrived. As an adult, you can fully appreciate all your mother has done for you, so, on this occasion, you may be happy to give Mom flowers, candy, jewelry

or something similar. But Mother's Day is here and then it's gone. Is there a longer-term gift that can make a real difference in your mother's life?

Actually, there is — the gift of *knowledge* for her financial future.

Specifically, there are two key areas in which you may be able to provide valuable help to your mother: long-term care and estate planning. But don't panic — you don't have to be an expert in either one of these subjects. You can, however, steer Mom — and possibly your other parent, too, if one is in the picture — in the right direction. Let's take a quick look at both of these topics.

First, consider long-term care. If your mother is in good health, you may not have thought much about whether she would eventually need an extended stay in a nursing home

or the services of a home health aide. But the odds aren't necessarily in her favor: About 70 percent of adults who reach 65 will eventually require some type of long-term service and support, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. And this type of care is expensive: The annual median cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000, and it's nearly \$55,000 per year for the full-time services of a home health aide, according to a survey by the insurance company Genworth.

Unless your mother has accumulated a great deal of financial resources, she likely won't be able to pay these costs out of pocket without jeopardizing her financial independence. Furthermore, Medicare typically pays only a small portion of these expenses.

To help your mother deal with this potential financial threat, you might want to suggest she meet with a financial professional, who can explore possible strategies and products designed to address long-term care. And the sooner, the better, because these solutions will become more expensive and challenging the older your mother gets.

The second topic you may want to bring up with your mother is her estate plan. Has she drafted a will? Has she safeguarded her wishes by creating the necessary legal documents? These could include a dura-

ble power of attorney for finances, which allows her to name someone to manage her financial affairs if she becomes incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney for health care, which allows someone to make medical decisions for her if she is able to do so herself.

Having her estate plans in order can help protect your mother's finances and ensure her legacy is honored — which is almost certainly an outcome she would keenly desire. So, if your mother doesn't already have a comprehensive estate plan, encourage her to see a legal professional to start the process.

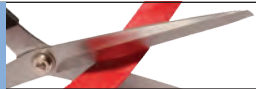
Helping your mother protect herself from the catastrophic costs of long-term care and the chaos of an inadequate estate plan may not sound like a typical Mother's Day offering, but your actions can help keep Mom in a good place in life — and that's a pretty valuable gift.

Brian M. Conrad is a certified financial planner and financial advisor with Edward Jones. His office is located 479 Jumpers Hole Road, Suite 202, in Severna Park. To learn more, call 410-544-8970, email brian.conrad@edwardjones.com or visit www.edwardjones.com/brian-conrad.

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

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RIBBON CUTTING



SP Tutoring And Educational Advocacy Cuts The Ribbon To Commemorate Grand Opening



On April 14, Severna Park Tutoring and Educational Advocacy held a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating its grand opening. The new business seeks to equip youth for tomorrow's challenges. The office is located at 517 Benfield Road, Suite 302, in Severna Park.



Investing is about more than money.

At Edward Jones, we stop to ask you the question: *What's important to you?* Without that insight and a real understanding of your goals, investing holds little meaning.

Contact your Edward Jones financial advisor for a one-on-one appointment to discuss what's really important: *your goals.*

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Deciphering Biden's Infrastructure Plan

» Continued from page 56
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- Create stable jobs that pay prevailing wages in safe and healthy workplaces

while ensuring workers have a free and fair choice to organize, join a union, and bargain collectively with their employers.

The question remaining on everyone's mind is, "How is this going to be paid for?" President Biden has made it his goal to bring the corporate tax rate to where it was before 2017, 28 percent. For reference, the current corporate tax rate is at 21 percent, and before former President Trump made his tax cut in 2017, it was at 35 percent. Biden is also proposing to implement a global minimum tax rate to offset tax havens. If companies pay lower tax rates in a particular country, their home governments could up their taxes to the agreed minimum rate. This would eliminate a company's advantage of shifting profits to a country that is deemed a tax haven.

The infrastructure plan set forth by Biden has caused a division among Americans on what Biden's definition of infrastructure entails and if his plan is even feasible. Our country has historically been witness to the promise of taxing only the wealthy and large corporations before. The outcome usually ends with the upper class and large corporations seeking loopholes to avoid paying their share.

Ultimately, we want to ensure that the American Jobs Plan will not be financed by more borrowing and that the bill will not fall on the average American.

Stay ahead of the curve by improving the infrastructure of your retirement plan. Throughout this year and into 2022, it's crucial that your portfolio takes all of these factors into ac-

count and you are allocated accordingly. Schedule an appointment with me today to ensure your accounts are in order and you're ready for the future.

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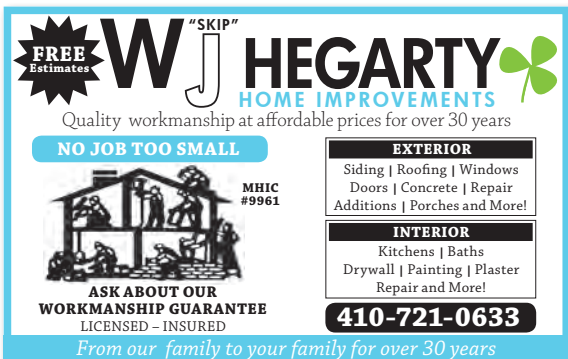
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