



Burgers And Bands  
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To Suicide Awareness  
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SP Boys Lax Off  
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# SEVERNA PARK VOICE

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SEVERNA PARK, MD

JUNE 2021

## Plan 2040 Passes Along Party Lines, What's Next?



County Executive Stuart Pittman and several other county officials gathered in Odenton on May 13 as the General Development Plan, Plan 2040, was signed into law.

By Zach Sparks

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

When Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman held a ceremonious bill signing in Odenton on May 13 for the General Development Plan, known as Plan 2040, he was joined by four members of the county council. County Council Chairwoman Sarah Lacey (District 1) and councilmembers Allison Pickard (District 2), Andrew Pruski (District 4) and Lisa Rodvien (District 6) attended. The other three councilmembers were noticeably absent.

"Plan 2040 does something that's very rare in government — it transfers power from the government to the people," Pittman said in a statement. "It literally puts the people first. I want to thank councilmembers Lacey, Pickard, Pruski and Rodvien for their support for this legislation, and our residents and community leaders, who this plan empowers"

**>> Continued on page 2**

## SPAN Welcomes New Leadership

By Zach Sparks

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

When people visit SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods), they often come for food or financial assistance to get them through an emergency. But those people often leave with more, having been treated with respect and compassion.

Since 2017, directors Ellen Kinsella and Jennifer Pumphrey have been the faces of SPAN who helped those people. They stepped down from their roles in May, giving new directors Michele Sabean and Maia Grabau a chance to make a positive mark on the community.

"Both of them wanted to be involved in making a difference in the community," said Kathy Berge, president of SPAN's board of directors, when asked about Sabean and Grabau. "Both of them are extremely well qualified. Working for a nonprofit would not have enhanced their careers necessarily, so this is something they wanted to do because they enjoy helping others."

Sabean will serve as director of development. She has worked as director of operations for a charter school operator in Baltimore City and as a program manager who developed math and reading tutoring programs. She is a member of Our Lady of the Fields Church and has taught faith formation classes there for many years.

"I am great with details, data, and implementing systems and procedures



Maia Grabau (left) is joining SPAN as director of operations. Michele Sabean will serve as director of development.

to make things run smoothly and efficiently," Sabean said. "I also love working with people! I look forward to working with the volunteers and this great community to continue to spread the word about SPAN for those who can help and for those who need some help."

She is excited to branch out to a new area by providing food and financial assistance, while working with passionate volunteers.

"We have wonderful and dedicated volunteers, many of whom are regulars," Sabean said. "Some work with the clients to understand their needs. Others have great systems in place to keep the pantry organized, stocked and the food sorted by date."

SPAN's new director of operations, Grabau has 20 years of experience as a pastor's wife, serving in church leadership in a variety of settings. She has ministered to people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

"I loved the idea of working for an organization that serves people who need a helping hand," she said. "It could be because of job loss, cancer or many other reasons. It can happen to anyone. It can happen to the most hardworking people."

Grabau hopes to expand SPAN's client base to help even more people. For example, people without transportation cannot get to SPAN to get the resources they need.

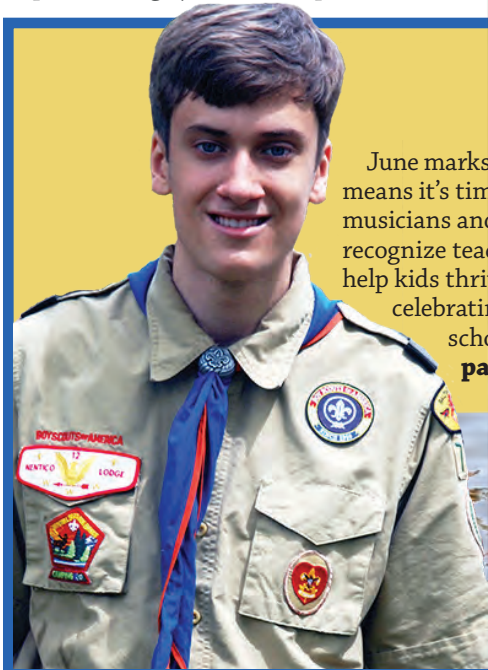
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## School's Out!

June marks the end of the school year, which means it's time to highlight student artists, musicians and Eagle Scouts. It's time to recognize teachers and principals who help kids thrive. So join us in celebrating our students and school leaders. **Flip to page 16 to read more.**



Margueritte Mills  
**Volunteer  
 Of The Month**

## Volunteer Is Dedicated To Supporting Schools

By **Haley Weisgerber**

For volunteer Analisa Webster, playing an active role in a child's education takes on a new meaning. For eight years, Webster has dedicated herself to the parent-teacher organization (PTO) at Oak Hill Elementary and Severna Park Middle School.

Webster, who has a son in seventh grade and a daughter in fifth, was volunteering at the Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church preschool when she was approached about taking over as the volunteer coordinator at Oak Hill Elementary.

"I really love to help and I'm not somebody that sits around doing nothing," she said. "I have kids, so it makes sense to help while they're in school."

As the volunteer coordinator, Webster, who was new to the area, had to recruit volunteers for various events.

"I started out at the school and not knowing anybody, other than who had been at Woods," Webster said. "I met lots of people throughout the years and became good friends with most of them, so it's been exciting."

She has recruited and managed volunteers for many events at Oak Hill, including the bedtime story event, the fall movie night and the race for education. She was also present at the events to ensure that they ran smoothly and to help wherever needed. One of her proudest moments was the



*Analisa Webster was recognized as the June Volunteer of the Month.*

silent and live auction, which is an adult-only event for staff and members of the community. The event includes dancing, dinner, a silent raffle of baskets, and a live auction of student art. The event, which Oak Hill principal Deneen Houghton said Webster was instrumental in organizing, raised over \$30,000 for the school.

"I'm proud of the amount of money we were able to raise and support Oak Hill with anything that they needed," Webster said.

Webster's son and daughter were both involved in the Oak Hill theater productions and, even with all of her other responsibilities, Webster was eager to help.

"I helped with ordering T-shirts and distributing them to all the crew members and cast members," Webster said. "And I was backstage, frontstage side-stage, wherever they needed me. It was so much fun. I loved it."

Her son is now a member of the varsity choir at Severna Park Middle School and her daughter is planning to audition in the fall.

For two years, Webster has moved on from the Oak Hill PTO and begun to volunteer with the PTO at the middle school. She is the treasurer of the Spartan Lyrical Society and the PTO. A self-proclaimed lover of numbers, she crunches the numbers for other organizations as well.

Webster said she hopes that her children will see her volunteering and playing an active role in their education and do the same for their children in the future.

"I think that children model their parents," Webster said. "If I can be a good model for them, they will grow up and be good parents for their kids."

Webster said that she will continue to volunteer at her children's schools as long as there is something for her to do, but when there isn't a job for her, she will continue to help in the community.

"When they go off to college, I will most likely help other nonprofit organizations in the area," she said. "I just enjoy it. I'm lucky to be able to do it."

## Plan 2040 Passes Along Party Lines, What's Next?

» **Continued from page 1**  
 moving forward."

A guiding document for the next 20 years of land use, Plan 2040 was passed after some controversial debate among the council. About 128 amendments were included and several of those were packaged together, Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler explained during the Greater Severna Park Council (GSPC) meeting on May 11.

"We had to be transparent, we had to be diligent, we had to present everything to the public individually," Fiedler said. "One of my colleagues wanted to bundle amendments ... about a dozen land-use changes were introduced as a bundle, and we couldn't vote yay on some and nay on others ... so I voted against the entire bundle. It was a very difficult vote for me to take because I put so much work into the bill, but I felt like those residents were not served, and that was unsettling to me."

For Lacey and others who supported the General Development Plan, the bill creates a framework for community involvement in the land use process. That community involvement will come in the next step: nine region plans across the county.

"Plan 2040 reflects the culmination of a rigorous legislative process where the council worked with the people to ensure our communities come first in the

planning and zoning process," Lacey said. "Along with County Executive Pittman and my colleagues who voted in support of this legislation, I remain committed to empowering our communities and our residents through this bill - by giving power back to the people."

Not everyone feels that power is going back to the people. GSPC's vice president of public affairs, Amy Leahy, was a Citizens Advisory Committee member who attended meetings for two years, giving input on the wishes of Anne Arundel County residents and, in particular, those who live in Severna Park.

"A handful of CAC members present for our last Zoom meeting, when asked if they agreed with the plan and the process, said they felt the process was administration driven, not community driven, and their concerns were not addressed," Leahy said. "They therefore refused to 'sign off' on the draft plan."

The CAC meetings included a year's worth of background information on county departments, yet the CAC did not have enough time to work on the actual plan, Leahy said.

"When the county council has to pass something as important as the General Development Plan, it should be able to set the pace, but the administration took up so much of the lead time, it 'ran out of time,'" Leahy said.

The 23-person CAC lost about half of its

membership along the way, for various reasons.

Pittman praised the plan as one that shifts away from sprawling growth and toward smarter, more focused redevelopment of existing urban areas, including town centers and areas surrounding mass transit stations.

When GSPC meeting attendees asked about Pittman's plans for Severna Park, he was straightforward.

"We don't want to develop in Severna Park; Severna Park is built out," Pittman said. "However, Odenton's not. There are places out by Laurel ... it's a big puzzle figuring out how it all works."

All eyes are now on the region plans, which will be completed three at a time. District 5 — which includes Severna Park, Arnold, Cape St. Claire, Pasadena and Gibson Island — is part of Region 4. This region is scheduled to be included in the first round of plans.

Each county councilmember will appoint someone to serve on a stakeholder advisory committee, which will examine land use trends, infrastructure, environmental features and more.

"The General Development Plan provides us with a path toward the future," Pruski said. "While there is a lot of work still left to do, there is a roadmap that can help us with conservation, smart growth, and sustainability in Anne Arundel County."

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Zach Sparks

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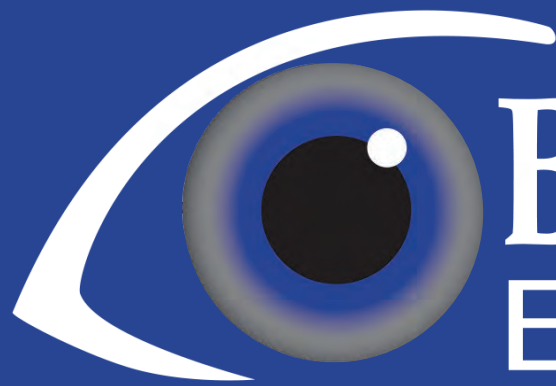
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## Burgers And Bands Goes Back To Its Roots



Photos by Larry Sells

Even though this year's Burgers & Bands for Suicide Prevention was planned in three weeks, without an auction, the event raised \$12,000. Thanks goes to the Priddy Music Academy for bringing musicians and for everyone in the community who showed up at Severna Park Taphouse on May 23 to raise awareness and to support mental health programs.



## Arnold Couple Celebrates 50 Years Of Marriage

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

For their fourth-grade play at White Sulfur Elementary in West Virginia, Joe and Karen Moran played husband and wife. They could not predict that nearly six decades later, they would be celebrating their 50th year of marriage.

"My wife was about a foot taller than I was," Joe said with a laugh, recalling the play.

Joe and Karen were high school sweethearts and best friends who got hitched at 20. Joe worked for CSX, a rail-based transportation supplier. The company transferred him to Baltimore, bringing the couple to Arnold in 1981. Together, the Morans raised four kids, who all still reside in the area.

Karen said the couple's secret is "always

being kind and thoughtful."

"I think our secret is communication," Joe said. "We never go a day without talking to each other. We're good friends. A lot of times, we finish each other's sentences."

Joe and Karen's fondest memories are of traveling the world together, an activity they have done more frequently in retirement. Together they have visited Hawaii four or five times, Las Vegas, St. Thomas and other places.

They plan to celebrate their anniversary by spending time near Deep Creek in Western Maryland with their daughters and by having a family dinner on the Eastern Shore. They now have 10 grandchildren.

"All of our kids have wonderful families. I think we did our job," Karen said. "That's a blessing."



Joe and Karen Moran are not just spouses but best friends who enjoy traveling together.

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# Formed During The Pandemic, Unity Bands Fills Long-Term Need

By Logan Hill

It was March 2020 and nationwide stay-at-home orders had just been put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time at home, John Schirrippa had an idea.

Schirrippa, an Arnold resident and member of the Annapolis-Anne Arundel County Community Response Team, created Unity Bands, a nonprofit organization supporting COVID-19 response and research efforts, while also looking to boost morale in the community.

"I was thinking about how to create a symbol, really just to draw people together," Schirrippa said. "I didn't do much with it until

December, and then I started thinking, 'Well maybe this is more than just an image. Maybe this is something we can sell and then raise money to provide support.'"

An all-volunteer project, Unity Bands primarily sells white wristbands with its logo, a green infinity symbol, as well as other unity-based merchandise. All of the collected proceeds go toward COVID-19 response and research efforts. The nonprofit has also teamed up with other organizations in the area, creating a couple of fundraising opportunities set to take place in June.

As of May 18, Unity Bands has already raised \$6,000, which has been donated to various Mary-

land medical facilities, including the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center and the University of Maryland Medical Center and School of Medicine. Schirrippa hopes to raise \$10,000 by the end of June, and a couple of events could help Unity Bands exceed its initial goal.

"I know that we're going to blow past \$10,000 with all the things that we have lined up," Schirrippa said.

The fundraising began with a raffle that started June 3 and runs for a

week, sponsored by Stefan Holtz of Northrop Realty. Another opportunity arrives on June 18, when 1,000 unity bands will be given out to fans as the Bowie Baysox face off against the Akron RubberDucks in a home series in Bowie. This giveaway was made possible thanks to the Williams Home Team Gifting for Gratitude program, which seeks to celebrate local heroes.

"It's really been incredible to see how the community has responded, for a need that we all know is very important," Schirrippa said. "Even though the crisis is winding down in the U.S., COVID is not going away. So I think, fundamentally, I would like to keep supporting the COVID efforts, as long as [organizations] are willing to partner with us."

“It's really been incredible to see how the community has responded, for a need that we all know is very important.”

— JOHN SCHIRRIPPA  
FOUNDER, UNITY BANDS



An all-volunteer project, Unity Bands primarily sells white wristbands with its logo, a green infinity symbol, as well as other unity-based merchandise.

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# Celebrate Life Of JOY Day June 5

Life of Joy Foundation (LOJ) is holding Life of JOY Day on June 5. Members of the community are invited to celebrate mental health awareness at Lake Waterford Park from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. All ages can participate in a variety of family-friendly activities to build joy in mind, body and spirit.

The event will feature:

- Uplifting acoustic music with the Life of Joy Band
- LOJ programs, tables and mental health support info
- A gentle, grounding yoga session (beginner's level) with yoga therapist Shannon B Yoga
- Grooving to a Zumba session with dance instructor Sherri Jolly
- Growing your green thumb through a planting activity with Square Foot Gardening 4U

- A mindfulness scavenger hunt and pickup kickball for teens and tweens; bubble fun for younger ones
- Latin-American fare from the Chow food truck
- Raffles, LOJ merchandise and more

The Life of Joy Foundation seeks to strengthen community, build joy in mind, body and spirit, and raise awareness for holistic mental health and suicide prevention. Through events like this, LOJ provides community and resources for mental health support.

Those who wish to support the mission of the Life of Joy Foundation can join the spring #LOJRiseup campaign by donating, fundraising or raising awareness. For more information, contact LOJ founder Joy Cortina at [joy@lifeofjoyfoundation.org](mailto:joy@lifeofjoyfoundation.org).

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# RBSA Fifth Race In The Series – A Doozy!

Mary Marta

Round Bay Sailing Association

Sometimes you're the meat in the sandwich, with nowhere to go. That's how John Stefancik, boat captain of Rosalita, described a pileup at one of the mark (buoy) roundings during the fifth race in the first Round Bay Sailing Association (RBSA) Series. Winds were light on Round Bay on May 20 and with 18 starters, the race committee set a short course. Despite or perhaps because of the light winds at one mark rounding, there was a bit of a kerfuffle.

Here's how it set up. According to Gary (Patsy) Patenaude, skipper of Seamma, three boats were flying their spinnakers, approaching the downwind mark. All were in or near the "zone." As they approached the mark to round it to port (keeping the buoy to the left), there were questions about who had rights to round the mark and not give room to the others. Stefancik recalled that the wind was low at 2 knots. Patrick Hylant, skipper of Pegasus, thought there was an overlap in the zone. Regardless of the racing rules, all three boats were near the mark, trying to round, in close proximity. There were questions of whether one of the boats made contact with another during the attempted rounding. Finally, only one boat, Seamma, rounded the mark successfully on the first pass. Rosalita and Pegasus had to make a second attempt and were successful then.

According to the "Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024" ("Racing Rules"), the "zone" is "the area around the mark, within a distance of three hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the zone when any part of her hull is in the zone." The zone is important because it basically governs who has rights around the mark. Another governing rule that helps determine rights is "overlap," whose definition is difficult because it is defined by what it is not. An overly simplified definition is - one boat (B) overlaps another (A) when B's "hull and equipment in normal position" are not "behind the aftermost point of the other boat's hull and equipment in normal position" (racing rules). The rules are dense, sometimes making real-time decisions on the water difficult!

As is usually the case, there were no protests lodged by any of the three skippers. Tom Lloyd, skipper of Rosalita, summed it up, saying there are not a lot of protests in the RBSA club. Hylant quoted the "Corinthian spirit" of the club, which emphasizes polite conduct within a competitive environment, while Patenaude explained that the three boats thoroughly discussed the rounding after the race after passing the finish line.

According to Lloyd, "Hopefully next time we'll have a little more breeze and a little less drama," and RBSA is a "uniquely fun group."



Photos courtesy of James Augustine







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## Go Forth And Garden

By Diane Lewis

It can be quite an overwhelming process to start working in an established garden or to start one.

Spring is the most joyous season for me because it means I can enjoy sunny days while having my hands in the soil of a garden. One of the first things I do is look for what plants (herbaceous perennials) are poking their way up through the ground from their winter rest. Then I start thinking about what other plants I would like to add, divide, or move to other areas of the garden where they might be better suited.

One of the most important things that I've learned is how it is important to incorporate native plants, ones that naturally grow on their own in this geographic area. Native plants support the ecological area and provide benefits for wildlife, bees and other insects. An excellent online resource is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's publication *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, available at [www.nativeplantcenter.net](http://www.nativeplantcenter.net). I strongly encourage every gardener to look at this site. It has explanations for how each plant, shrub or tree can benefit the local environment and which are best suited for specific types of landscapes.

My first suggestion for first-time gardeners is to get your soil tested so you will know what it contains and so you can choose plants that have a preference for its type.

My second suggestion is to identify what is already growing in your yard and decide whether it looks healthy or not. If a plant looks bad, you can decide whether to provide the care it needs, or you can remove it entirely if it is too diseased to salvage. If you don't know what it is, plant apps can help

you identify what it is. Another way of identifying an unknown plant is to take photos of its different parts (leaves, stem, flowers) so that staff at a nursery can identify it. Detailed and close-up photos will better enable nursery staff to correctly identify it for you. I have to stress that photos are more helpful than any description you can provide for identification.

There is another resource for gardeners with questions regarding identification, problems or concerns about a plant, shrub or tree. The University of Maryland Extension Office allows people to address horticultural concerns, including identification of plants, at [www.extension.umd.edu/ask-extension](http://www.extension.umd.edu/ask-extension). The site contains many suggestions on how to take photos.

One of the most important things to know before you invest in any plant is to know what kind of light it needs so you can site it according to its needs. To save money, find out what direction the sun moves over the areas in which you want to plant and for how long it shines on an area, whether it is morning sun, which is not as strong, or afternoon light. This knowledge will save you a lot of heartache and cash before you buy anything because you can figure out what plants' light requirements are suitable for your area.

If you want immediate pops of color for your landscape and then annuals, plants that live only one growing season are a good bet to place in the ground. Annuals usually grow quickly and produce either a lot of foliage or flowers before they die at the end of the season. One product that I like to use is Bio-tone by Espoma. I use it when I'm planting annuals or perennials, since it helps the plants to create stronger and healthier root systems so that

plants can more effectively take in moisture and soil nutrients.

As spring flowers like daffodils fade, I start to deadhead or pinch off the dying blooms where the now brownish/tan papery covering of the originals bloom. This helps the plant from expending energy to create more seeds and instead send that energy that it would use back down to the bulb where it will help it bloom again next year. Daffodils and tulips leave unsightly leaves while they die off, but do not cut off this foliage. It is vital that the plant be able to go through photosynthesis so it can give the bulb more energy to rebloom. Some people like to tie up this foliage to make the planted area neater, but that's also a no-no since that too interferes with the photosynthesis process.

Now is the time that I've begun to fertilize my peonies with bonemeal. Simply scratch some in around the base of the plant where the shoots are forming, but do it gently since they have shallow roots. Water around the plant where you have fertilized. Be careful not to get any fertilizer on the plant leaves or blossoms since it can burn them.

Most shrubs like to be fertilized once in the spring and then again in the fall.

Azalea and rhododendrons particularly like to be fertilized so that it can help them bloom more fully and strengthen the plant.

If you haven't already, roses need to be cut back and then fertilized, the same way as the peonies. Scratch some into the surface and water afterward. Roses prefer to be fertilized each month to produce more blooms and strengthen the plant.

Gardening is one of the best things I can do to improve my mood, while beautifying my surroundings. I hope it can do the same for others.

## SPAN Welcomes New Leadership

» Continued from page 1

Sabean hopes to continue building community support and spreading the word about SPAN. She looks forward to the Turkey Trot 5k fundraiser returning in the future.

Overall, SPAN is in good shape.

"It seems to be a very well-run organization," Grabau said. "For the food pantry, it's almost all volunteers. SPAN has a well-organized board of directors, and there are clear guidelines as far as who we help and how much help to give. Oftentimes when you deal with a smaller organization — whether nonprofit or other group — it can be chaos. This organization is running very smoothly."

Kinsella and Pumphrey won't be forgotten. They increased outreach efforts, bringing in needed resources, and made SPAN a welcoming place to all.

"They made it a very pleasant place for volunteers to work, and the volunteers describe it as a family," Berge said. "They also made it a respectful place for clients and created an environment that made people comfortable."

Kinsella is proud of how everyone at SPAN worked to make the nonprofit more visible in the community.

"We increased our presence on social media, brought presentations to students, and also began participating in the Shop Local events," Kinsella said. "With Jennifer Pumphrey by my side, the greatest volunteers in the world, and an incredibly generous community of donors, I believe we have improved SPAN immeasurably!"

They also helped SPAN meet growing needs during the pandemic. They implemented safety changes and conducted business outside.

"One example of that is that the porch was adapted to make it like a drive-thru; clients can drive up and boxes of food can easily be accessed through the porch," Sabean said. "It is wonderful to see all that we have to offer. In addition to nonperishables, we often give items such as fresh produce, milk, eggs, toiletries and diapers. Sometimes we are also able to give a family a birthday bag, filled with items to help them celebrate their child's birthday."

SPAN's presence has grown, but there are still many people in need of help, and the new leadership will work to address those needs.

"My personal belief is that change is good because it brings new ideas," Berge said. "It will certainly be SPAN as everyone knows it, but new eyes see things in a different way. I'm excited."

### A Need For Volunteers

SPAN lost many of its volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers are needed to come to the SPAN office and interview clients to assess their needs. This requires a training session of about three hours.

On a short-term basis, SPAN needs help around the holidays. During Thanksgiving and Christmas, SPAN gives out food baskets and gifts as part of the Holiday Caring program. SPAN is looking for families and local businesses to sponsor meals and gifts for children. To help, email [spanhelps@yahoo.com](mailto:spanhelps@yahoo.com).

# Anne Arundel County Launches Our wAater Program

Anne Arundel County invites residents living in neighborhoods near the Chesapeake Bay to learn more about connecting to the county's public sewer system by applying for the new Our wAater program. This program, led by the Department of Public Works, will help reduce the costs of converting from private septic tanks to the county sewer system.

"Converting from private septic tanks to the county sewer system will help our residents experience improved water quality, while allowing us to better control pollutants impacting the bay," County Executive Stuart Pittman said. "Residents with private septic systems should take this innovative opportunity to lower their cost of connecting to the county system — it helps you improve your water and helps the county protect our environment."

Our wAater is the Anne Arundel clean water program, established to provide long-term benefits to protect local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay while sustaining groundwater supplies and enhancing water resiliency. The program strategy integrates five initiatives: wastewater treatment enhancements, septic-to-sewer connections, groundwater resiliency, stormwater improvements, and small system upgrades.

"In densely located subdivisions near the water, even well-maintained septic systems can release harmful pollutants

into the bay," said Chris Phipps, DPW director. "The septic-to-sewer connection program will improve water quality and public health by converting up to 6,000 private septic systems to public sewer connections over the next 30 years, or approximately 200 per year."

How do septic systems impact public health and water quality?

More than 40,000 properties in Anne Arundel County use on-site septic systems to treat residential wastewater, which can significantly pollute water under certain conditions.

In dense subdivisions located close to the water, even properly operating septic systems can release up to eight times more pollutants into the bay than the county's water reclamation facilities.

When systems do not operate properly or are too close to private drinking water wells, contaminants from the wastewater may even reach drinking water.

Residents can determine eligibility for the Our wAater program by visiting the septic-to-sewer connection page on [www.ourwaater.com](http://www.ourwaater.com) and entering their address into the search bar.

Help protect the community and preserve and restore the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay. To learn more about eligible neighborhoods, visit [www.ourwaater.com](http://www.ourwaater.com), email the team at [info@ourwaater.org](mailto:info@ourwaater.org) or call 410-222-7500 for more information.

# Impact100 Greater Chesapeake Announces Record \$81,000 Grant Opportunity



Impact100 Greater Chesapeake Inc. (Impact100) is offering the largest grant in its four-year history and is now seeking nonprofit applicants for an \$81,000 competitive grant to be awarded in October 2021. Nonprofit organizations in the greater Anne Arundel County area are invited to submit a proposal in one of five key focus areas — arts and culture, education, environment, family, and health and wellness.

Grant applications are due June 30,

and the process for submission of a proposal is available on the Impact100 website at [www.impact100greaterchesapeake.org/nonprofits](http://www.impact100greaterchesapeake.org/nonprofits).

During July and August, Impact100 members serve on committees that evaluate the grant proposals and vet the organizations applying for the grant. The committees select a finalist in each of the five focus areas. In October, the full membership will meet to hear presentations from the five finalists and vote to select a grant recipient.

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## Round Bay Hosts Don Nippard Birdie Ball Masters Tournament



*The Round Bay community held a golf tournament fundraiser in April to honor Don Nippard (left), who died on New Year's Eve.*

On April 24, members of the Round Bay community opened their homes and hearts to honor one of their beloved, longtime fellow residents, Don Nippard, who died unexpectedly on December 31, 2020.

"Big Red," as he was affectionately referred to by neighbors, enjoyed a good laugh, a great dance, and beautiful sunsets on the Severn River. His larger-than-life personality required a proper tribute, so his wife, Janet Anderson, came up with an unconventional but fitting way to pay homage to her fun-loving husband, combining two of his favorite passions — golf and community service.

Last year, while golf courses were closed due to COVID-19, Nippard designed a nine-hole course in his neighbors' yards within the Round Bay community. To minimize any damage to property, he incorporated "birdie balls," which are lightweight plastic rings that travel only a limited distance. His creative format utilized only one club and included Christmas tree stands as the target.

As a result of the success of the 2020 COVID-19 Birdie Ball Tournament, many neighbors asked if their yards could be included for the 2021 tournament Nippard was planning for the spring. Unfortunately, due to his untimely passing, Nippard was not able to fulfill this plan. However, in keeping with his vision, his wife enlisted some friends to establish the Don Nippard Memorial Invitational Birdie Ball Masters Tournament with the proceeds benefiting one of his favorite charities, the TCP Youth Empowerment organization.

TCP Youth Empowerment was one of the charities that Nippard felt strongly about and enjoyed supporting with his mentoring. Its mission is to equip middle and high school students with programs geared to inspire local youth in becoming future business and community leaders.

In fact, on his last evening, Nippard served as a judge on a panel evaluating student presentations, providing feedback and voting as to which group should be awarded funds to execute their project. His favorite project was

the one proposed to restore oysters to the Chesapeake Bay. He suggested that the group try working with water-privileged communities (such as Round Bay) to seek contributions and potentially additional support for their endeavors. Unfortunately, the oyster conservationists were not the first-place winners, however, after meeting with organization founder Andy Schindling, discussions indicated that the establishment of a separate fund in Nippard's name could fund this team and possibly others in the future.

So, with a turnout of about 100 golfers and more than 30 volunteers, participants came from as far away as Missouri and North Carolina to take part. The event was a mixture of golf meets tailgate party — a function that completely reflected Nippard's character!

Prior to the shotgun start, the golfers heard from Carys Preston, the young student who was part of the oyster restoration initiative. She shared how TCP Youth Empowerment has helped her understand the importance of creating and executing on a vision.

After the round was completed, the golfers and spectators were treated to a barbecue dinner catered by Adam's Taphouse and Grille and won prizes generously donated by local businesses such as Dawson's Liquors, Bike Doctor, and La Posta Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant.

They then presented Schindling with a check for \$7,700. Schindling expressed to the crowd the impact that the funds will make. "I want to thank you all again for choosing TCP Youth Empowerment as the beneficiary of this inaugural event in Don's memory. This event was remarkable in all aspects," he said. "The course was fun and challenging, the food was great, the atmosphere was buzzing, and the overall support amazing! Kudos to everyone who played a part. The funds donated will go a long way in helping to bring our students' community events to life and bring much-needed support to the communities we serve."

To learn more about the TCP Youth Empowerment, visit [www.tcpyouthempowerment.org](http://www.tcpyouthempowerment.org) and its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/tcpyouthempowerment](http://www.facebook.com/tcpyouthempowerment).

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# MILITARY SPOTLIGHT

## Leadership Qualities Exhibited Early For Monseu

By Kevin Murnane

**E**van Monseu played on Severna Park's boys' soccer championship team in 2013 and was voted team captain in 2014.

Monseu then used those leadership skills honed in Severna Park through a rigorous Air Force ROTC program at the University of Tampa. Upon graduation, he was stationed at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma, where he underwent pilot training and graduated in 2020.

On "drop night," Monseu was selected to be one of the few graduates to be named a first assignment instructor pilot (FAIP), which will allow him to use his knowledge and leadership abilities and teach new pilots how to fly for the Air Force.

"I always wanted to be a pilot," Monseu said. "While I was in my freshman year at the University of Tampa, I saw a notice for joining the Air Force ROTC program and I wanted to give it a shot."

Monseu went through three years of ROTC training that included summer field training in Alabama and Mississippi.

Upon graduating from Tampa, Monseu received his orders the next day to undergo pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

"It was a dream come true," Monseu said. "I was ecstatic with my selection."

Monseu went through challenging classroom and flight training and flew several types of airplanes. A flight instructor was with him for these training flights, which prepared him for the eventual test of flying aircrafts on his own.

"My first solo flight was a combination of



*Evan Monseu was selected to be a first assignment instructor pilot (FAIP), which will allow him to use his knowledge and leadership abilities and teach new pilots how to fly for the Air Force.*

confidence and anxiousness," Monseu said. "I was trained very well by the instructors, and it was a great experience to fly by yourself; I really enjoyed that moment."

Now Monseu will be the one providing that training to future pilots only a few months from

his own graduation. Monseu was given this honor that is bestowed to only a few graduates.

Monseu reflected that his sports background helped him with gaining confidence. By listening to coaches and having great practices, when the games and competition started, he was able to handle that stress and react to any situations that may occur in games.

"I have such great memories of my time playing soccer at Severna Park," Monseu said. "Winning the state championship was an unforgettable experience, and to be champions with my best friends was very cool."

Monseu was honored to be chosen as captain of his soccer team his senior year and liked being held to a higher standard during that season.

He still keeps in touch with his former head coach, Ryan Parisi, and they meet for coffee at The Big Bean when he comes home.

"I've been fortunate to keep in touch with many of my players and Evan is one of them," said coach Parisi. "Evan was a three-year varsity player for us and led by example, and the players took to his leadership style. He was a very hardworking and dedicated kid and practiced very hard and took those skills into our games."

Monseu was raised in Chartwell and enjoys coming home several times a year to see family and friends. He misses many aspects of Severna Park but really misses the water as there are not many bodies of water in Oklahoma.

Once his Air Force commitment is over, Monseu will look at many options including being a commercial pilot or something in the international business and finance sector, in which he received his degree at the University of Tampa.

## Lauren's Law: Vacation-Going In Your 20s Vs. 30s

Lauren Burke Meyer



By Lauren Burke Meyer

**F**irst vacation in two years. Second vacation in four years. The math doesn't seem right, but with a pandemic and starting a family, it sadly adds up.

In May, my husband, mother-in-law, 2-year-old daughter and 7-month-old daughter drove to Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. At some point during the combined 24 hours round

trip, I began mentally comparing traveling in my 20s to 30s. Adding two little ones to the picture sure makes for a big adjustment for every aspect of vacation.

Oh, how I long for the days of one packed suitcase and purse for a trip. Preparing for a family trip took one giant, never-ending packing list and borrowing my father-in-law's car. Portable crib, two highchairs, bath seat, umbrella, enough beach toys for a family of 10, five backpacks, and clothes for all types of weather were packed in every available spot. Anyone watching us unpack would wonder, "Are they moving in here?"

In my 20s, a long drive might require, at most, two quick pit stops. On the drive to Hilton Head, our first pit stop took over an hour, and we were only two hours into the drive.

Another stop, we were at a Burger King for so long,

I had to use the bathroom twice myself, plus a bonus trip helping my toddler. One blowout diaper later and toddler tears over a chocolate milk spill followed with two wardrobe changes, and my husband summed the stop up perfectly, saying, "A little piece of me died at exit 173." Throw in the gas shortage a few days prior to our return trip, and yes, there were several stops.

Sometimes when I'm having trouble falling asleep, I picture the best summer of my life, when I lived in Ocean City. In my free time, I'd often go to the beach alone. I'd grab a tiny blue beach chair, towel, sunscreen, book and water, then say, "Ready!" I'd go for hour-long walks by the water's edge and listen to whatever recent songs Beyoncé, Rihanna or Justin Timberlake had just released. At lunchtime, I'd drive



*Lauren's toddler, Charlotte, kicked sand on this bagel during a recent vacation.*

to Wawa. I can almost taste my chicken salad sandwich, Doritos, sour watermelons and Dr. Pepper that I'd devour.

Going to the beach looks different a decade later. Walks include either a baby in a carrier on my chest or a toddler in my arms. Lord help us with the number of bags we need even for a few hours at the beach. Plus, getting everyone sun-screened and dressed is nothing short of an Olympic sport. Meals look different too. We brought bagels to the beach one morning. My toddler couldn't get playing soon enough in the sand, which resulted in my bagel having an extra seasoning besides salt. Sand. My bagel was covered in sand. The perfect metaphor for the day because it wasn't long before my daughters and I were also covered in sand too.

Despite the chaos, I'm still pinching myself that I was able to take a vacation after all the craziness from the pandemic. However, I'm only human and am already daydreaming about my next kid-free trip and praying it's sooner rather than later.

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

# School's Out!



## 2021

## Teachers Recognized For Excellence In Education

By Haley Weisgerber

Forty-six educators were nominated for the 2021 Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. These nominees were honored alongside Teacher of the Year Jing Dai from Meade High School at the 35th annual Excellence in Education Awards on April 15. Meet the nominees at Severna Park and Arnold schools.

### Patricia Bartlett

Benfield Elementary School

“

*What's so awesome is I am teaching children of my former students, multiple times over. That's so rewarding to actually see the next generation.”*

— PATRICIA BARTLETT  
BENFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Patricia Bartlett has taught at Benfield Elementary for her entire career. In 41 years, she has taught fourth grade, fifth grade and in the beginning of her career, sixth grade.

“What's so awesome is I am teaching children of my former students, multiple times over,” said Bartlett. “That's so rewarding to actually see the next generation.”

Bartlett attended University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) where she studied psychology with a minor in education. There were not many teaching positions available at the time, so UMBC discouraged her from pursuing a career in education, but she knew that was what she wanted to do.

“I finally decided I was going to bite the bullet and go into education because that's my love,” said Bartlett. “I've always loved children and I've never regretted it.”

Four decades later, Bartlett is still just as passionate about education. She values the relationships she builds with her students and is honored to be a part of their lives.

“I don't think there's any profession that can give you that satisfaction in knowing that you're impacting children and making a positive difference in their lives,” she said.

Bartlett is currently teaching fifth grade, which she enjoys because students begin to understand the importance of education at that age.

“I love this age where they are somewhat independent learners,” said Bartlett. “I see them so ready for challenges that [they] know the material that I teach.”

Bartlett said that the parents at Benfield Elementary are extremely supportive of the educators, especially during the virtual learning experience. She is grateful to have

» Continued on page 28

## Sixth-Grader Wins First Place In Clean Air Poster Contest

*Destiny Hope Felder, a student at Severna Park Middle School, displayed her award-winning poster which shows how air pollution also causes water pollution.*

With the number of COVID cases going down, vaccinations going up and weather warming, Marylanders have a perfect recipe for a joyful summer. The hopefulness can be seen on the smiles of many families' faces as they flock to Kinder Farm Park's sports complex. Because that's what summer is looking like — hopeful.

Surprisingly, on May 20, an orange air quality alert was released from the National Weather Service for 12 counties in Maryland, along with Baltimore City. An orange code means that air pollution concentrations may be hazardous for children, people with lung disease, asthma, heart disease, and older adults. This was the first time this year that an air quality code has been given in Anne Arundel County.

One ambitious girl is trying to help prevent future air quality codes by reminding others what they can do to improve the air quality. Destiny Hope Felder, a sixth-grader at Severna Park Middle School, recently won first place in the Clean Air Partners poster contest for category 1 (grades four through six). The contest was for students grades four through eight in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. to submit a creative poster that highlights solutions to air pollution and climate change. The goal of the



posters is to inspire people to take actions to improve the region's air quality. To encourage participants, the first-place winners in both categories were rewarded \$150 Amazon gift cards.

Destiny's creative poster reflects not only the air but also a beloved water symbol.

“I always liked how doves represent hope, and one surprising thing I learned when researching air pollution is how much of it causes water pollution too,” she said. “I didn't know that. So I wanted to create something that would both represent air and sea, as well as hope.”

Clean Air Partners has been around for over 20 years and its goal is to empower individuals and organizations to take simple actions to reduce pollution and protect public health. The poster contest is just one of many ways they help to accomplish this goal. To view several of the creative posters submitted for the Clean Air Partners poster contest, go to the Twitter account @CleanAirPartner. For more information about Clean Air Partners and to learn more about what you can do to help prevent air pollution, go to [www.cleanairpartners.net](http://www.cleanairpartners.net).





We want to say CONGRATULATIONS to all the students who had a successful year, regardless of the circumstances! And we all owe a huge THANK YOU to the educators that made a school year possible!

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# Jamey Hein To Depart From St. Martin's-In-The-Field

By Haley Weisgerber

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School is saying goodbye to Head of School Jamey Hein after seven years of loving service and steady leadership.

St. Martin's became an accredited independent school in 2012 under the then head of school, the Rev. Frank Sawyer. After two years, Sawyer departed and Hein interviewed for the position.

"The board of trustees was eager for an experienced administrator who could help the school in its trajectory as a preschool-through-eighth-grade school," said Hein. "I came in and was given significant latitude, support and responsibility to help create a future vision for St. Martin's as an independent Episcopal school, which is what we have been doing for the duration of my tenure."

Hein and his family relocated from Michigan, and he quickly got to work strengthening the school. One of the first improvements he made was putting a sign outside of the building, visible from Benfield Road. He helped bring the school into the 21st century with new science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) education programs, and an innovation lab that was established in the school's basement. During his tenure, Hein also oversaw the construction of a new wing, a playground renovation. He also restructured the school's administrative operation by creating a leadership team, and has worked hard to improve teachers' salaries and to promote overall diversity efforts.

Most recently, Hein was challenged with creating a plan to send students to school in-person during the 2020-2021 school year, when many schools remained virtual. He said that although this was a challenging year, he learned many important lessons.

"We're stronger together, when we can be together learning as one com-



*Jamey Hein said that after seven years at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, he will miss interacting with the students the most.*

munity," said Hein. "We've learned a lot about how by being a small school we can be really responsive to kids' needs. We've learned that kids need school and kids need the caring relationships that exist within school."

While his last year may not have been what he was expecting, Hein will cherish the memories of school events, preschool readings and enjoying time outside with classes this year. What he will miss the most is the students.

"We allow kids at our school to be kids and to truly enjoy their childhood. Each child here is genuinely known, valued and loved for their unique potential," said Hein. "I'm going to a place that ends in 12th grade, and so I'll miss

the atmosphere where everything is centered around young kids."

He will also miss the collaboration with the staff, of which Hein has hired over half, and the tight-knit school community.

"I'm incredibly proud of what we've been able to accomplish here and that it's been a truly collective and collaborative effort," said Hein. "I often remind my teachers that a lot of my job is working for the future and to ensure it remains sustainable."

"We've truly taken something from one place to a much more elevated place, and that there's a lot to be proud about here."

Hein accepted a position as the interim head of school at the Calver-

ton School in Huntingtown, Maryland, where he will be for at least two years. The position will offer a new challenge for Hein, as the campus is large and offers education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Charlie Sachs will take over as interim head of school at St. Martin's. Hein is confident that Sachs will build upon the foundation he built as the head of school.

"My greatest hope and aspiration for the school is to remain truly child-centered and to keep moving forward in its evolution," said Hein, "and that it remains a place that teaches kids how to be compassionate, how to have character and how to be confident."

## Youth Compete In St. Martin's Cardboard Boat Race



St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School seventh- and eighth-grade students participated in the annual cardboard boat race on May 21. Students spent the past several months constructing boats as a part of their technology class, using only cardboard and duct tape. They learned how to calculate buoyancy to determine what the size of their boats should be. On May 21, the teams enjoyed a fun competition, racing their boats against one another on the Severn River.

# BHS Seniors Honored At Maryland History Day Event

By Alyson Kay

Two Broadneck High School seniors were recognized with a special award at the virtual 2021 Maryland History Day awards ceremony held on May 2. Gabriella Mills and Natalie Smith won the Excellence in Maryland History, Senior Division honor for their website “A Passage to Freedom: The Underground Railroad.”

This year’s contest theme was “Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.” Because the topic of communication is so vast, Smith and Mills picked a topic that people wouldn’t normally associate with communication.

“We found all these really cool ways of indirect and nonverbal communication on the Underground Railroad and so we really thought it’d be cool to highlight that because it kind of spins the topic in a new way,” Smith said.

The topic is also somewhat local, as some routes went through Maryland, and conductors, including Harriet Tubman, were from Maryland. Some accounts from slaves mentioned places like Frederick County and Baltimore.

Mills even found a story about a family of slaves that had the same last name as her.

“That’s kind of scary almost because it’s so personal to me, but not, at the same time,” Mills said.

Smith and Mills used a mixture of personal stories and secondary sources from books and websites.

Finding accounts from former slaves and the people who helped them escape proved to be difficult because slaves were rarely taught to read and write.

“It did include quite a bit of research to find those



Gabriella Mills and Natalie Smith created a website on the Underground Railroad using a mixture of personal stories and secondary sources from books and the internet.

primary sources,” Smith said.

For Mills, it was difficult emotionally to see photos and hear stories about what slavery was like.

“I would have to listen to these audios and then try to remove myself emotionally from it to actually create the website about it,” Mills said.

Smith and Mills decided to make the project as a website because of how much they’ve needed to learn how to use online resources due to the pandemic.

“We know how to use the virtual resources given to us, and how to upload it because for the past year we’ve had to become pretty familiar with that just to do school in general,” Smith said.

There were some benefits to having the project as a website as opposed to one of the other formats available for the project. Smith and Mills liked that it was self-directed and afforded some creative liberties for using different ways of conveying information beyond a text format.

“You don’t have to pay attention to a long presentation or read an entire paper, so it makes it more digestible for audiences, and we like to add the cool graphics and virtual elements to it,” Smith said.

An important part of the project was showing how the historical communication that was used in the Underground Railroad continues to be visible in Black culture. Things like certain styles of hair braids, codes and songs were used to communicate advice on which routes to take. Learning the roots of these practices may help others understand why they are important in Black culture.

“A lot of you can almost see the importance in which it plays in African American culture,” Mills said. “And I think that’s important that a lot of people see that to avoid being disrespectful.”

Both Mills and Smith saw the Maryland History Day award event online and were excited to see that their project had won an award.

“It was so exciting to see that, especially because this topic is something we were both really interested about, and it’s not spoken about as much as it should be, especially in the mindset of, ‘What has this contributed to these overall communities of art or song?’” Mills said.

Smith appreciates the sponsors of the Maryland History Day competition and the special awards.

“It’s keeping students interested in doing research projects and in history,” Smith said.

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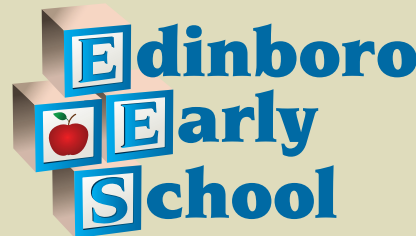
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# Easy Ways For Kids To Learn This Summer

**Beth Nolan, MAT**  
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This hectic school year is coming to a close. Whew! Whether our kids were in school full-time, part-time, remote full-time or a mix of them all, they were part of a structured learning routine. That is not the case

during the summer months, and all parents are familiar with the “summer slide.” The summer slide is the tendency for students to lose some of the achievement gains they made during the previous school year.

The degree of the loss will vary by child and depends on the amount of reinforcement that occurs during the summer. For children with exceptionalities, mastery of concepts may be harder to build, easier to lose and take longer to build back. There are many ideas on how to slow the summer slide.

**Keep it simple.** It’s summer — let’s not get complicated. Each student and their family need to approach this in a way that works for them. For example, you can make a folder of educational

activities to do over the summer or you can just write things on a sheet of paper. Stay away from complex learning activities that take too much time to figure out. Activities do not need to cost a lot. The dollar store can be your best friend in this process.

Flash cards are big in our house — simple and effective for us. One aspect of simplicity is to keep the time limited. Marathon sessions in the summer can be counterproductive. Think of it as series of sprints. Setting aside 10- to 20-minute blocks of time — maybe once or twice per day or having a number of blocks that you want to do each week — will be a good way to frame it for you and your child.

**Make it “public” in your house.** Whatever type of learning activities your children engage in, keep track of them and make it public in your house. That means put it somewhere they can see it or easily access it. Post a chart on the fridge or in a bedroom or keep a log on a family Google doc. Ask your kids where they would like to see it. Make it a fun tracker where it is easy to see “success” and visualize the “wins” — don’t use one that highlights what has not been done yet.

For reading, keeping a chart of what you have read is a great benchmark for children to see so they can celebrate their accomplishments. Typically, our library provides a sheet to use as a

tracker that may be helpful to others. My kids were excited when we signed up for summer reading because they got prizes for just signing up! Think about signing up for the summer reading challenge through Scholastic by visiting [www.scholastic.com/summer/home](http://www.scholastic.com/summer/home). All kids can log their minutes there. If your method of keeping track becomes too overwhelming, you will likely not use it — back to our advice to keep it simple!

**Make it work for your team.** One of the biggest themes to work toward is how to make it fun and engaging - your children do not want their summer learning to be like school. Make it different and allow your child to have more input or control over the content. This is a big difference from school where they are often told what to do, study, read, etc. For example, let your child give input on making flash cards — they can pick from a list of topics and make the flash cards with their favorite color paper. Did I mention we like flash cards in our house? Our kids put their flashcards on rings so they are easier to access, and we do one set a day. This is another good way to reinforce those foundational skills — it could be letters, numbers, facts, money, or whatever is fun for your child.

**Read. Read. Read.** Reading is foundational and essential. Yet reading skills and comprehension are areas that often fall prey to the summer slide. Give

your child room to choose what they read. Take a field trip to the library and find books about topics that your children want to learn about. Think about reading in a variety of ways — you can read to your kids, kids can read aloud and they can read silently. When they read aloud, they can build confidence by reading to you or a friend, or by reading to their stuffed animals or maybe even a real pet. Our golden retriever has been a great listener over the years!

See if a few of your child’s friends want to read the same book or check out what is happening in your local bookstores and libraries. In my community, Park Books & Literacy Lab has a fabulous book selection, and the staff is running book groups for children this summer! When you read with your child, stop and ask questions about the story — talk about what is happening - this helps develop your child’s reading comprehension and gives you an idea where they are. Keeping reading skills intact will positively impact other areas of learning as well.

To recap — **keep it simple, keep track and celebrate all of the wins**, do what works for your family and read! This summer, keep the summer slide limited to something you do in your bathing suit. As always, if you are looking for help figuring out what your summer learning plans should entail, call Education Team Allies at 410-793-7060.

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# Patrick Bathras Named Washington Post Principal Of The Year Finalist

*Colleagues Explain Why They Nominated SPHS Principal*

**By Zach Sparks**

*zach@severnaparkvoice.com*

Severna Park High School Principal Patrick Bathras is viewed as someone others rally around, a true leader with a laser-like focus to carry out the vision of the school he leads. It's those traits that earned him a spot as one of 12 finalists for the Washington Post's 2021 Principal of the Year.

Each year, the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Office of School Performance considers Principal of the Year candidates. A group of eight to 10 directors and regional superintendents discusses their choices and makes suggestions to Superintendent George Arlotto, who makes the final decision.

AACPS had a Principal of the Year two years ago, Nelson Horine II, who oversees six campuses of Anne Arundel Evening High School. Although Bathras was not selected as the 2021 winner — that honor went to Denise Lancaster of Howard County — he had the support of teachers and staff members who praised him in a nomination packet sent to the Washington Post.

"Mr. Bathras is an open-minded yet decisive leader who consistently uses his expertise, experience, and vision to solve problems and tend to his students, staff, and families' needs," wrote Janine Robinson, regional assistant superintendent for Glen Burnie and Severna Park. "He is considered a leader and confidant amongst his principal colleagues and has successfully mentored many new principals, aspiring principals and teacher leaders."

According to the packet endorsing Bathras for the award, he values the opinions and ideas of others but also knows when he will have to be the one to make the final decision, keeping in mind what is best for the overall good.

"As a career changer, I have had the opportunity to work under many different management styles and can honestly say that Mr. Bathras is an excellent leader," said Paige Chang, school performance coach at Severna Park High School. "He is always available to talk through any concern that I may have. He listens and develops any idea I may have that would help the school."

That support has been invaluable this year, said Tamara Bauer, Severna Park High School's department chairperson for world and classical languages.

"Since COVID-19 hit and we became virtual, Mr. Bathras used our circumstances as an opportunity to increase efforts to connect with faculty and staff," Bauer said. "In a time when we needed him more than ever, he has



**Patrick Bathras**

*Severna Park High School Principal*

been there for us in countless ways. From frequent emails with updates, helpful advice and reassuring messages, Mr. Bathras has made his staff feel cared for, heard, understood."

Bathras is an active participant on the school's Business Advisory Board (BAB).

"Mr. Bathras is always approachable and engaging when working with our volunteers," said Thomas McGinn, BAB president. "He is an excellent communicator who thoughtfully listens to the enthusiastic ideas generated by our group and provides positive, constructive feedback on what can be accomplished within the structure of the public school system."

Robinson explained how Bathras has also addressed adolescent mental health and social justice in schools by initiating a Teen Mental Health Advisory and developing the STAR (Students Taking Actions Responsibly) program.

"This school-wide program is designed to promote a positive and healthy learning environment for the entire school community by improving decision-making strategies, enhancing self-esteem, increasing social support resources, and preventing destructive behaviors," Robinson said.

Overall, Bathras is a leader who wants the best for students and puts their success and personal well-being above all else.

"He engages in fun ways with our students throughout the year whether it is by hosting and playing in a school-wide game of rock, paper, scissors each spring; breakdancing in a school spirit video; or playing in the student versus faculty basketball game," said Lindsay Brown, Severna Park High School's counseling department chair. "That engagement with students is just one example of how he fosters relationships and builds a strong sense of community at our school."

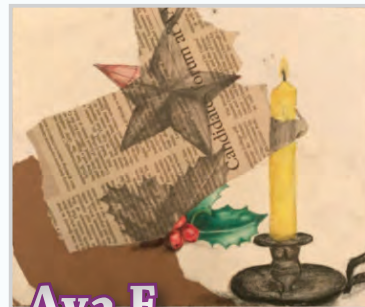
# Celebration Of The Arts

*Severna Park High School's talented artists created a variety of pieces this year: drawings, paintings, photography, mixed media and more.*

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**Ella B.**



**Ava F.**



**Emma S.**



**Julian R.**

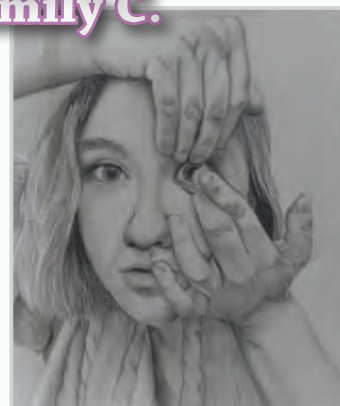


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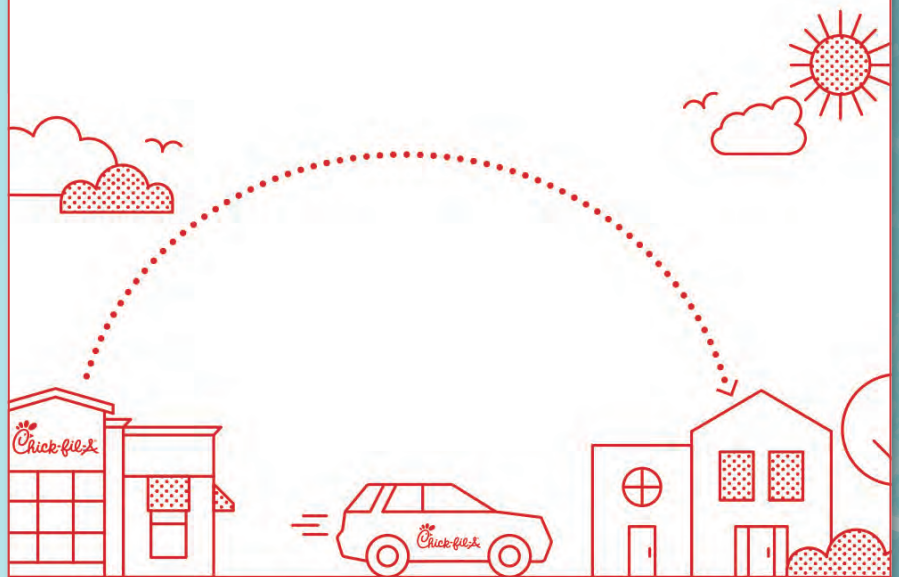
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**Incredibles 2**

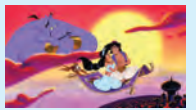
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**Week 3 July 5 - July 9**

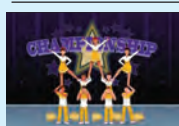
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# Q.

## Question of the month

Each month, the *Severna Park Voice* poses a question to a local class. This month, students from Mrs. Austin's sixth-grade class at Severna Park Middle School answered the question:

### If you could travel to the future and be yourself for one day, how old would you be and what would you do?

I would bring an old coin or something and leave it at my house because it



*Mrs. Austin's sixth-grade class at Severna Park Middle School answered the Voice's question of the month for June.*

would probably be worth a lot more. I would also buy a cool gadget from the future and bring it back with me.  
**Andrea R.**

I would want to be 18 and figure out if COVID is still there.  
**Angie C.**

If I could travel to the future for one day, I would go to the day I turn 75. I would do this to see if I am still alive by that point. If I am indeed living, I would see what house I live in, if

I have any pets, and most importantly, make sure I don't have a Karen haircut.  
**Audrey Si.**

I would go to when I am about 40, and I would see what technology they have then and take it back to better improve our current world.  
**Audrey Sm.**

I would travel to the year 2027, because that's when I will go to college.  
**Ben S.**

I would be 23, and I'd race Formula 1 for Red Bull Racing.  
**Gideon D.**

I would go 10 years into the future so I could see what the stocks look like. Then I will come back with that knowledge and I will get loaded.  
**Jacob R.**

I would go to the future and find the most popular product. I would be about 22, go back to the past, patent it and then be a

whole lot different when I'm 22.  
**Judson P.**

I would travel 100 years from today into the future and see how climate change has impacted our world. I would also see how far our technology has come to stop climate change.  
**Morgan R.**

I would be at least 16 with an ID, so that way I can at least drive. I would probably travel all around the

world. I would also see how me and my friends are doing if I can find them, just to see what will happen to us in the future. I would also see what big events happened that I would be a part of.  
**Quinlyn B.**

I would be 40 and probably just see, like, how different it is from now and take one-sixteenth of my money back with me.  
**Tristen S.**

## One Man's Bird Hobby Inspires St. John Students To Love Nature

By Diane Lewis

Mark Schilling, a teacher at St. John the Evangelist School, is on an enthusiastic mission to teach children, parents and anyone else to become naturalists by birdwatching. He leads the St. John Eagles Bird Club at the school.

Schilling's 40-year history of birdwatching did not begin with him wanting to become a teacher.

"I realized that ambition after I became a naturalist/instructor at the Ashokan Center in the Catskills and really enjoyed interacting with the grade school kids who came there to learn," he said.

Schilling has energy to spare. "I rise each day by 3:00am so I can enjoy a few hours of identifying birds more often by the songs they sing than by seeing them. I have a strong auditory sense.

"May 20 is always a sad day for me because by then, the majority of birds have completed their time here until the next spring."

Schilling started the school's birdwatching club in 2018 after trails on the 17 acres of land adjacent to the school's property (previously acquired in 2016) were completed by the Maryland Conservation Corps and parent volunteers.

"I took groups of no more than 10 to 12 kids at a time from the



fifth through seventh grades for walks at 7:00am before classes began at 8:00am," he said. "I soon realized that the accompanying parent volunteers enjoyed these outings as much as the students."

Schilling created a blog for the bird club students in 2020 ([www.st-johntheevangelist.weebly.com](http://www.st-johntheevangelist.weebly.com)), when COVID-19 put a halt to in-person school activities, to encourage students to continue birdwatching on their own. His blog is comprehensive and immersive, packed with interesting links for all levels of birdwatchers.

St. John has already built one bird blind in the woods, a small,

approximately 10-by-4-foot building made of recycled wood. It has a roof and is open on one side so the kids can enter and peer through its slats to observe the birds without being seen.



*St. John the Evangelist teacher Mark Schilling has a passion for birdwatching, an interest that has grown stronger over the last 40 years. And the land adjacent to the campus at St. John is the perfect birdwatching sanctuary with 17 acres of trails.*

"I put down different kinds of birdfeed among the several feeders and on the ground to attract a greater variety of birds," Schilling said.

St. John has received grants in the past for work on the trailhead property for more naturalist activities. Schilling hopes that money can be raised for a platform for a second bird blind on Cypress Creek so the kids can observe the wetlands birds along the trail.

Schilling is optimistic that interest within the school community will continue to grow and the birdwatching club can begin using the trails again in spring 2022.

"I began to see the students' increasing curiosity about other flora and fauna," Schilling said. "The woods can be scary to kids if they are not accustomed to them, and I hope that the kids who feel this way will become more at ease by exploring the wildlife here."

# Musicians Reflect On Their SPHS Memories



**Colin Benedict**

Double Bass

**Favorite Memory:** Playing and talking to my section in sophomore year.

**Favorite Band:** Queen

**Future Plans:** I plan on going to college with a major in biology. I will be doing a minor in theater if I'm able to.

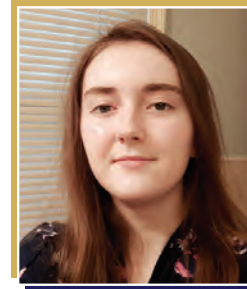


**Lauren Hong**

Piano/Synthesizer

**Favorite Memory:** My favorite memory is when we were performing at the Naval Academy in my sophomore year, and immediately after we finished our final movement, I just knew that we did well. The rush of having a good show is unmatched.

**Favorite Band:** At the moment, Childish Gambino



**Danielle Larios**

Bb Clarinet

**Favorite Band:** Dirt Poor Robins

**Future Plans:** I'm attending UMBC in the fall as a chemical engineering major. However,

I still plan to practice my musical abilities as often as possible.



**Tommy Bresson**

Alto Saxophone

**Favorite Memory:** The Orlando trip. I can't think of it without being reminded of tons of good memories. I'm really happy I was a part of that.

**Favorite Band:** David Bowie

**Future Plans:** I'm going to Penn State University, where I will be studying criminology. Despite this shift in interest, I plan on continuing my music career for years to come.



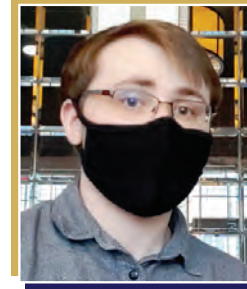
**Jane Jackson**

Flute

**Favorite Memory:** Spring concert in freshman year.

**Favorite Band:** Joe Hisaishi

**Future Plans:** Going to University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



**Matthew Meleney**

Percussion

**Favorite Memory:** Singing "Xerxes" in the hotel room with Sydney Astle, Tommy Bresson and Colson Jones. Favorite Band

**Future Plans:** Virginia Tech, and while I'm not sure what I'll do musically, I definitely plan to continue in theater and hopefully use my musical talents to work.



**Christina Currie**

Flute

**Favorite Memory:** Going to the county festival and stopping along the way in different shopping centers for breaks.

**Future Plans:** Going to the University of Richmond.

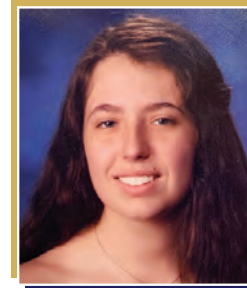


**Colson Jones**

Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Soprano Saxophone

**Favorite Memory:** Going to Florida and playing in the parade at Disney.

**Favorite Band:** King Crimson  
**Future Plans:** Going to University of Maryland, College Park while double majoring in jazz performance and engineering.



**Katy Yeatts**

Flute and Piccolo

**Favorite Memory:** Performing at all the football games was really fun. There was always a great energy and everyone had a

good time.

**Favorite Band:** Hozier

**Future Plans:** I'm going to Towson University for elementary education. I will be in the marching band.



**Katie Currie**

Trumpet

**Favorite Memory:** The county festival each year.

**Future plans:** Attending the University of Pittsburgh.



**Katelyn Landgraf**

Viola

**Favorite Memory:** Getting at least part of the class to dance along to a "Just Dance" video the class after the winter concert during

my freshman year.  
**Future Plans:** In the fall, I plan to attend Virginia Tech.



## St. John The Evangelist School Creates Class Book

Caitlin Sica's third-grade class at St. John the Evangelist School has won an award from Studentreasures Publishing for their class book. The book highlighted all the ways in which students let their light shine, one way for each letter of the alphabet.

"Our school theme this year is 'Be the light for all to see' (Matthew



*Caitlin Sica's third-grade class won an award for writing about ways they let their light shine.*

5:16)," Sica said. "Each student in my class wrote and illustrated a letter for our ABC book detailing how they let their light shine this school year."

Here are some examples from the book:

"N is for new friends. We let our light shine by caring for our new friends by playing with them at recess.

"P is for prayer partners. In third grade, we have eighth-grade prayer partners. They are our school's role models. We let our light shine by writing letters to our prayer partners.

"E is for eyes. In third grade we smile, but with our masks on, only our eyes show our happiness. We let our light shine by smiling to give others a bit of happiness on a bad day."



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## Teachers Recognized For Excellence In Education

» Continued from page 16

spent her career in an environment that is as passionate about education as she is.

“This is an amazing community, and that’s why I’m still here,” said Bartlett. “I think because the community values education and they know how important it is that they’re supportive of the teachers.”

### Renee Austin

Severna Park Middle School



*“The kids have amazing ideas; they have different perspectives on how they see things. I love how they are willing to help each other out and how they’re willing to help me out.”*

— **RENEE AUSTIN**  
SEVERNA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL



Renee Austin has worked at Severna Park Middle School for 17 years. She attended Frostburg State University, where she studied speech communications and public relations, and she never intended to work in education. After a few years, she needed a change and made the career switch.

“I took a gamble, and I went back to get my master’s degree actually in special education,” said Austin. “At that time there was a huge need and Prince George’s County was hiring people who were new to teaching and they would help pay for it.”

She taught kindergarten in Prince George’s County for a few years before accepting a job at Severna Park Middle School to be closer to her family.

“It’s funny because I went from kindergarten to here,” said Austin. “I was scared because in kindergarten, they’re so loving and huggy. I wasn’t sure what it was going to be like.”

She currently teaches Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Austin said this program is ideal for her because she can focus on teaching executive functioning skills and utilize her previous experience in business.

“You got to really develop these great relationships with students and help them see what they could do in their core classes,” said Austin. “It’s just like being their mom at school.”

Austin said that she knows middle school can be a difficult time for students, and she is honored to help them develop important skills during these years.

“The kids have amazing ideas; they have different perspectives on how they see things,” she said. “I love how they are willing to help each other out and how they’re willing to help me out.”

When she learned that she was nominated, Austin admits that her reaction may not have been traditional.

“I had a different feeling than I thought I would have felt,” said Austin. “I felt a little uncomfortable because I felt like so many teachers deserve Teacher of the Year.”

She said is grateful to have been nominated, but she is surrounded by incredible teachers every day.

“I just felt proud,” said Austin. “I was thankful to be recognized, but I would have kept doing what I was doing had I’d never been recognized.”

**Stacey Curry from Arnold Elementary was also nominated, but she could not be reached before the June edition of the Voice went to print.**

### Editor’s Note

Three other Teacher of the Year nominees reached the semifinalist round and were previously featured in the *Severna Park Voice*. Those educators were Lauren Ebersberger (Magothy River Middle School), Melissa Quigley (Broadneck High School) and Sara Wagner (Folger McKinsey Elementary School).

# Simple Ways To Include Screen-Free Learning In Your Summer

**Sara Miller**  
Severna Park  
Tutoring &  
Educational  
Advocacy



The end of the school year and start of summer is a time that provides parents and students with opportunities to begin new routines, to explore new activities, and to continue learning outside the classroom and away from screens. Independent free play is an important aspect of childhood, and the summertime is a perfect time for it. Plus, incorporating educational activities is simpler than you think.

Success starts by asking these questions:

- What motivates my children?
- What activities do they enjoy?
- What are their strengths?
- Which new skills do they want to develop?

Your answers are the foundation for how to develop engaging activities, and the following tips are the building blocks for a memorable summer filled with learning and fun.

**1. Communicate.** For early learners, the simple tasks of talking and listening are opportunities to learn. Using language to describe your daily tasks and your observations as you move through the day helps young children make sense of the world around them. For older children, hearing rich language helps build new vocabulary and expand their knowledge. Sing songs. Ask questions. Tell stories. Have your children do this right along with you.

**2. Turn learning into a game.** If there is a skill that your child needs to work on, ditch the workbook and play a game. Take sight word cards and play a game of "Go Fish." Have kids keep score when you play miniature golf. Need to practice math facts? Get a deck of cards, flip two of them over and multiply them together. Keep it simple and fun!

**3. Get moving.** It is always helpful to connect movement to learning. Write letters on your driveway in sidewalk chalk. Ask your children to run, jump, or hop to various letters.

Predict how many steps it will take to walk the sidewalk in front of your house. Try it out to see if your prediction is correct. Do your children need to practice spelling? Give them words to spell and throw a ball back and forth to each other when you say each letter in the word.

**4. Get outside.** A change of scenery is good for everyone and makes common activities feel new. If you usually read books on the couch, grab a blanket and take books outside. Go for a nature scavenger hunt at your local park and make a chart or graph of how many different categories of things you see. Make a list of local parks that you would like to visit over the summer and keep notes about each one. At the end of the summer, have your children write a recommendation about their favorite park.

**5. Get messy.** Summer warmth and outdoor spaces allow kids to get messy with their learning. Practice forming letters in shaving cream. Use a paint brush and a bucket of water to "paint" your name on the backyard fence. Roll out paper in the backyard and give your child paint. Allow them to experiment with shapes and colors.

**6. Make connections.** Help your children become pen pals. They could write to a grandparent, distant friend or local neighbor. If you are traveling this summer, have your children write a postcard including a special memory. They could send it to themselves at home and track how long it takes for the postcard to arrive. Give opportunities to tell jokes. Nothing helps kids make connections better than silliness.

**7. Explore.** Help your children be observers of their surroundings. Ask them to look at things in the world with a critical eye. Have them describe the shapes they view as you are out on a walk. What connections can they find between the words you see as you're driving and those you read in your books? Walk around a local historic area and discuss how life was different for people of the past.

**8. Utilize your local resources.** Take a trip to any library in the county where various resources and activities are available for all ages. Visit your local bookstore. And if you need to, reach out to educational professionals in your area to help provide additional academic supports.

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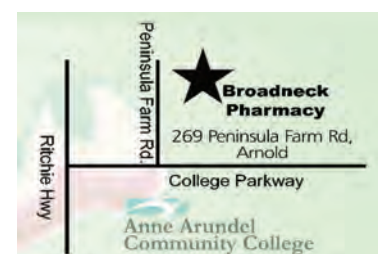
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## Dishonesty In Public Policy

**Sid Saab**  
Delegate  
District 33



Trust in government remains at an all-time low and deception continues to prevail. Recent actions in the 2021 legislative session reveal how local politicians use misleading titles to gain public support, with hopes of selling a tax hike as a tax relief. Many will say it's false advertising. I'll let you be the judge.

Here's an example fresh out of Annapolis:

Anne Arundel County leadership heavily lobbied the passage of the Local Tax Relief for Working Families Act of 2021 (House Bill 319). A title with a name like this, you would immediately think that it does as it says, and you would think that everyone would support it. The actual result of this bill

is that it will raise taxes on so-called unidentified high earners with absolutely no guarantee that it will provide any tax relief to lower-income families. This is misleading constituents.

Anne Arundel County's local income tax rate, which was raised in 2019, is currently at 2.81 percent. Local officials set the rate, ranging between 2.25 percent and 3.20 percent for the current tax year. Comparatively, Anne Arundel County has one of the lowest income tax rates in Maryland — which should be celebrated, not used as a reason to be raised. That in itself is what makes our county desirable. We should retain this incentive to allow all to afford to live here.

Anne Arundel County leadership was wrong to have written in its testimony: "The current state ban on local income tax progressivity is unfair." As Thomas Sowell once said, "I have never understood why it is greed to want to keep the money you have earned, but not greed to want to take somebody else's

» **Continued on page 32**

## A Memorial For "The Guardians Of Free Speech"

**Michael Malone**  
Delegate  
District 33



Each morning over the past 25 years, I read *The Capital* newspaper. As a state delegate and a family law attorney with deep roots in Anne Arundel County, it is ingrained in me to absorb the local news, the letters to the editor, as well as featured articles, which affect our local communities.

Each day, I see the names of the various reporters who bring us the news. The reporters' names have changed over the many years as many have moved on to larger papers having gotten their start here in Annapolis. Many remain at the paper as well.

However, since the events of the tragic day of June 28, 2018, *The Capital's* editorial board decided to name and include pictures of the five persons employed in various positions at *The Capital* newspaper who lost their lives: Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters.

**"In memorial" it says. "Today and forever, we remember our colleagues who were murdered in the targeted attack on the Capital Gazette office."** It appears on the opinion page of *The Capital* every

publication day. Their loss has and will continue to affect this entire community. Individually, the families and friends of these lost loved ones personally have created some "in memoriam" remembrance to celebrate the lives which truly touched our community each day. National news agencies as well as the federal government have honored them as heroes. And now we will have a memorial dedicated in Annapolis on June 28, 2021. Newman Park is the location, and the memorial will be named "Guardians of Free Speech."

My legislative assistant was employed by *The Capital* newspaper in the 1970s as the switchboard operator during her college years and then as the paper's librarian in early 2000. She describes the passion and dedication to the community by her past coworkers. These trying times remind us how unique the newspaper profession and their professional community is. One could argue that is it one of the most selfless and least self-serving professions.

The types of people working for local newspapers, whether *The Capital Gazette* or the *Severna Park Voice*, are not there to tout their prestige or ego. They work for the community and the stories they write about others while establishing a deep comradery with each other. Seeing the names and pictures of those lost almost three years ago in *The Capital* shows a reverence and respect that goes beyond words or stories one could say or write. I look forward to having a place to honor them in Annapolis.

## Pride Month Is Here, But There Is Still Work To Do

**Heather Bagnall**  
Delegate  
District 33



June is Pride Month, and it couldn't feel more relevant. My support for pride and for the LGBTQ+ community goes back decades. I'm always loath to tell a story which is not my own, however, as we see a renewed national narrative of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and legislative attacks on gay and transgender rights, in particular dangerous, abusive attacks on our transgender and queer and questioning youth, it becomes all the more important for our LGBTQ+ community to hear and feel support from their elected representatives.

Following the passage of marriage equality in 2015, the question of whether pride was still necessary and relevant started to circulate. Had pride become too commercial, too mainstream? After all, pride didn't start with a parade, it started with a riot.

However, it was less than a year later that the largest mass shooting of a LGBTQ+ community occurred on June 12, 2016 at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and seven months later we would usher in an administration that would launch a relentless assault on LGBTQ+ rights.

Although homosexuality and gay culture has been ever-present in our world, the gay rights movement really began in the U.S. a little under a century ago after a rash of anti-gay laws that not only criminalized homosexuality but defined it as "sexual perversion."

Although the movement began in response to raids, harassment, and brutality from the Ku Klux Klan and law enforcement in the 1920s and 1930s, which often had significant cross pollination, the landscape was changed by several other incidents — the repeated raids and police brutality which resulted in Stonewall Riots in 1969 and the murder of Harvey Milk nearly a decade later and subsequent support by law enforcement of his murderer, as well as the slow governmental response to the AIDS crisis, which not only decimated a generation of young gay men, but was politicized to destroy lives, livelihoods and political careers.

I am a Gen-Xer, who came of age during the spectre of death AIDS crisis. Working in theater, I remember the fear, the lump in my throat when I would learn of a friend, colleague, or mentor who had the "flu," or was under the weather with "pneumonia" or "liver cancer." These were all euphemisms. The media initially dubbed it "GRID —

gay related immune deficiency — gay cancer" and the conservative religious right proclaimed it "God's judgement."

I remember attending a Sunday school event with a dear friend and a guest speaker spent an hour and a half expounding on the value of AIDS in ending a crisis of perversion. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a young woman my age enraptured by the speech. I could not see my friend and didn't know what to do if she too had that same look on her face. I was relieved at the end of the meeting by her sheer horror at what she had just been subjected to.

I used to sing with Dick Gessner, a local cabaret performer and piano bar owner whose talent and musical knowledge expanded back 50 years to the early days of the movement. He was also a veteran, an educator and mentor. One of his regulars was Shirley Gershman, mother of renowned lyricist and Baltimore native son Howard Ashman. Throughout my high school and college years, I participated in several fundraisers for HERO, Health Education Resource Organization, which led national efforts to help people with AIDS, in honor of Howard Ashman, who continued to share his immense gift even from his death bed.

The last year and a half has been an experience of immense post-traumatic stress disorder as we reconcile with a renewed national push to end police brutality and seek meaningful police reform, as we saw a public health crisis politicized and polarized, and people's lives and livelihoods devalued and disregarded, as we've seen state legislatures passing laws targeting transgender youth, and a national narrative attempting to conflate once again homosexuality with perversion and pedophilia, even criminalizing parents for supporting their queer and questioning children. This is not new; we've been here before.

As anyone who has followed my posts or legislative efforts knows, my passion is in adolescent access to behavioral health services and suicide prevention. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 24, and LGBTQ+ youth are five times as likely to attempt suicide as their heterosexual counterparts. Transgender women of color are at greatest risk of harassment, abuse, assault and homicide of any community in our country.

I won't pretend I will ever fully understand how hard it is to live out loud, to live your truth, but I do know that one of the most effective preventative measures against suicide is inclusion. So I'm asking today, take the time to learn about the movement, to really understand where we came from, and the work we still need to do.



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# See You Later 2020-2021 School Year

**Dana Schallheim**  
Board of Education  
District 5



The end is in sight! I doubt anyone will disagree that this year has been challenging. Challenging for students. Challenging for parents. Challenging for teachers and staff. We started this year with so many unknowns about COVID-19 and a lot of questions about how school would resume. Back in September 2020, the Maryland State Department of Education mandated a daily average of 3.5 hours of live, synchronous instruction and we were off the races with a fully virtual program. This fact was the predominate factor when developing all iterations of daily class schedules. The prescribed daily synchronous instruction mandate did not change when we moved to a hybrid model in early spring at the end of the winter COVID-19 spike. The hybrid model attempted to balance the mandate of the state with two groups of students, one learning in person and the other from home. This entire year has been a

balance of hours of screen time, breaks from screen time, developing relationships with classmates and teachers over Google Meet, equitable access across all student groups to meals at lunch, and the needs of every student regardless of location. No, it hasn't been pretty, and the hybrid plan was often referred to as "messy" by both the Board of Education and Dr. George Arlotto. We have all navigated arguably the most complex, unique, and stressful school year in modern history during a once-in-a-century pandemic with no road map and ever-changing guidance from the state, Centers for Disease Control and our county health officer. This is not an excuse or a deflection. Hindsight is always 20/20 and certainly, if given the chance to redo this year, I am sure all of us would have done things differently. What is more important now is moving forward for our students and ourselves, while applying the lessons learned from the pandemic to closing achievement and opportunity gaps and improving educational outcomes for all students. To that end, my board colleagues brought forward two motions, which I supported, during the May 20, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education. These motions addressed increasing in-person instruction

for the remainder of this school year and to set expectations for a full return to five days of in-person instruction next school year. I am hopeful recent board actions will bring some relief to our students and families both in terms of increasing the potential for more in-person instruction during the last days of this this academic year and reinforce our commitment for a more "normal" 2021-2022 school year. While no one can look into a crystal ball and foresee where COVID will be in the fall, I voted in favor of a full return to school, hopeful that COVID-19 and all its variants will not spike again and that our case rate remains low. CDC guidance for how schools should operate during this pandemic has been just that, guidance. While safety has always been our chief concern, with or without a pandemic, I am confident that our school system will continue to keep COVID-19 at bay in our schools via a combination of mitigation strategies employed at every school. I look forward to a time when all COVID-19 lingo can be used in the past tense and am delighted that our plans for full, in-person instruction are in full swing. Happy summer everyone and congratulations to the class of 2021!

## Dishonesty In Public Policy

» Continued from page 30  
money." With a progressive income tax, the more money you make, the more money you pay. Yet, Anne Arundel County leadership feels entitled to more money they did not earn. Although the bill claims to affect high earners, it doesn't define who those people are. Suppose this bill was truly about providing tax relief for working families. Why did the Democrat majority reject an amendment that would allow an increase to the tax rate for higher-income brackets only if the income tax rate for lower-earners was reduced? One of the main conflicts governments face is between spending and revenues. County leadership has made it clear that they want to raise revenue, which in this case implies raising your income tax rates based on reported income to the county. This is not fear-mongering. This is one law of many that have a propaganda title. This is an effective political strategy that impacts public policy. People can accuse anyone who does not support the bill of not providing tax relief to local families. This is how non-support (opposition) can be used as a weapon. I would like more people to do their research and not rely on the title of a bill. How ironic that the "Local Tax Relief for Working Families Act" does not provide a single tax relief for any taxpayer, regardless of income.

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By HHHunt

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# Bringing Attention To Elder Financial Abuse

**Peter Franchot**  
Maryland  
Comptroller



Every year, thousands of older Americans fall victim to financial scammers. Some of these criminals are strangers, but often these nefarious crimes are committed by family members or friends. The first line of defense in preventing these fraudulent acts is education, and that brings me to Protect Week.

Protect Week, which this year runs from June 13-19, is an annual event that coincides with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to educate Marylanders about elder financial exploitation and to equip them with the necessary tools to help victims of these debilitating crimes.

Four years ago, I partnered with the Maryland Attorney General's Office, the Maryland Department of Aging, AARP, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Maryland, El-

derSAFE, and many others, in founding Protect Week to bring attention to this common, yet often unreported crime. Only one in 44 victims of elder fraud file a police report, and the average loss is \$120,000. Victims are reluctant to notify law enforcement or others due to embarrassment from being duped.

More importantly, victims often face severe and lasting financial loss that can't be recouped since many have already retired and live on a fixed income. Consequently, their standard of living declines, their ability to pay for food, medication and other expenses is jeopardized, and it could impair their mental and physical well-being.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, fraudsters have significantly stepped up their attacks and scams, with vulnerable seniors as their primary target. I am urging seniors to keep their elbows up and remember some important tips:

- Don't answer telephone calls from people you don't know
- Don't click links in emails or text messages

- Reconcile bank, insurance and medical statements
- Never share your personal information, Medicare or Social Security numbers by phone or email
- If you are concerned about a financial decision, speak to someone you trust before handing over money

Lastly, I want to share an old adage: If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Do your research, consult with knowledgeable and trustworthy people, and don't be pressured into making a decision you don't understand or haven't fully

considered.

Together, we can prevent elder financial exploitation by educating seniors, families and caregivers, and providing them with the resources they need to fight this reprehensible crime. I urge everyone to visit [www.protectweek.org](http://www.protectweek.org) to find out how to protect against elder fraud, read about the latest scams, see the full listing of Protect Week events and much more.

*Peter Franchot is the 33rd comptroller of Maryland. He can be reached at [pfranchot@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:pfranchot@marylandtaxes.gov).*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**M**ental health is an issue that despite its effect on many of those we love, continues to live in the dark. For many, it's something they are ashamed of or fear facing ridicule as a result of. However, this should not be the case.

In this community, we are seeing a massive rise in people, especially teenagers, who struggle quietly with mental health disorders and issues. This has gone on so long and become such common knowledge that our community's high school has been nicknamed "suicide high." In the past three years alone I've seen nearly five students in my school end their own lives, and countless others have attempted to or consider it every day.

It's always the same response from our community and school administration. They hand out meaningless "we love you's" and drill monotone reminders of self-value into our heads. They put up signs and hold public ceremonies for the departed. This is all a spectacle, meant to make these administrators and parents look good, when in reality, the core of the issue has not changed. The culture of our community is one of constant overachievement and toxic pressure to outdo one another.

My entire middle school and high school career has been filled with friends, family, and myself worrying about how we stack up, class ranks, GPAs and AP scores. Who's going to what college and how they got in. This has created a self-feeding cycle of pressure and pain. If we want to see a change in the mental health of our community, and our children, we need to change our community's mindset as a whole. When a tree rots at the core, you don't cut it down; you pull it out by the roots.

This is all to say that as a teenager myself, I see this pattern and worry deeply for my family and friends. I don't want to worry about who's next up on a poster or funeral bill. I want to be a high schooler, playing sports, going to movies with friends, and enjoying my life while I can. Not sucked into a mire of grades, tests, class ranks, and stress-induced panic attacks. I urge every parent to talk to their child and dissolve any expectations they may have set for them. Let your child be themselves; don't force them to prove their worth to you through arbitrary grading systems. Appreciate them as they are and let them know you do. We all have to live with each other, and the only way to do so happily is if we all have the freedom to be ourselves naturally.

**Dylan Wallace**  
High school student in Severna Park

## Guardianship Information

**Scott Poyer**  
Clerk of the  
Circuit Court



America's population is aging, and an increasing number of families and individuals are facing the question of what happens when someone can no longer manage their personal or financial affairs. Often, the answer is that the court can appoint a guardian who will manage the person's affairs. This can be a scary prospect both for the person needing the help and the person assuming the guardianship. But there is help available for people dealing with this issue. In the clerk's office at the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, we have a trust and adoption department that is dedicated to helping people with information about establishing guardianships.

The court is the ultimate guardian of those who are judged to be no longer capable of handling their own affairs, and the court maintains oversight of those it appoints to guardianship duties. Guardians have a tremendous amount of responsibility to ensure individuals have safe living conditions, receive proper medical care, and their money and possessions are handled carefully.

The clerk's office has a vital role in the oversight of guardians for the court. Guardians are required to file an annual report of guardianship of the person and an annual fiduciary report. These reports are reviewed by the clerk's office regarding the living situation and care the person is provided and specifically looking

for evidence of improper spending of assets. This oversight of guardians is necessary because while most guardians are honestly trying to do the best job they can for those in their care, that is not always the case, and when that does happen, the court has needed to step in.

If you are a prospective guardian, or you are already a guardian looking for guidance, clerks cannot give legal advice, but we can provide resources for information. One of the most popular resources available is a video series from the Maryland courts. This series of five- to 10-minute videos includes "Court-Appointed Guardian Orientation Program," "Decision-Making for a Disabled Person" and "Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation," which covers what to do if someone is harming a person you care for. These videos and others can be found on the court website at [www.mdcourts.gov/family/guardianship/guardianvideoserries](http://www.mdcourts.gov/family/guardianship/guardianvideoserries).

The People's Law Library of Maryland also has free information available on guardianship. It covers topics such as alternatives to guardianship, the guardianship process, and knowing your legal rights if you are the subject of the guardianship proceeding. Information is available at [www.peoples-law.org/adult-guardianship](http://www.peoples-law.org/adult-guardianship).

I hope that you never find yourself in need of a guardian or needing to become a guardian yourself. But if you do, I hope you will remember that you are not alone and there is help available.

*Scott Poyer is the clerk of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court. The opinions in this article are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of the Maryland judiciary.*

## Got An Opinion? Share It With Us!

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

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

## Worship Update: Local Churches Return To In-Person Services

By Haley Weisgerber

As vaccines continue to roll out and restrictions are lifted, churches are beginning to ease restrictions and worship is returning to normal. The *Severna Park Voice* checked in with local churches for an update on how they are currently worshipping.

**Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church** is currently offering one in-person service at 9:30am that will be livestreamed on YouTube for people who are unable or uncomfortable with attending services. Masks, social distancing and preregistering for in-person service is still required for now. Woods' senior pastor, the Rev. Susan DeWyngaert, said Woods has reopened slowly, but she is excited to get back to gathering face to face.

"We started regathering in person, which has been wonderful," said DeWyngaert. "We missed it so much."

Most of Woods' ministries are still operating virtually, including the new Dismantling Racism Ministry and the various Bible studies. However, the WoodsWork summer mission trip will take a group of teens to Shelby, North Carolina, to build habitat houses.

To make these important decisions, Woods has established the congregational health team made up of health care workers, church elders and staff members.

"We know that we can do church remotely if we have to," said DeWyngaert, "so, they've been cautious."

DeWyngaert said she is proud of the congregation's resilience as the



*Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church is currently offering one in-person service at 9:30am that will be livestreamed on YouTube for people who are unable or uncomfortable with attending services.*

church has navigated the pandemic.

"It's been wonderful for me, as a pastor, to watch all the different groups and ministries rethink what we're doing," said DeWyngaert. "We're working toward the same purpose, but we're using safer methodologies to accomplish that."

The Woods community is looking forward to returning to in-person worship, but church leaders are cautious not to return to "normal." Though DeWyngaert encourages people to begin to return to church, it will continue to offer virtual services for people, like new mothers or older adults, who may not be able to attend in the future.

"We're going to be different as a result of this, but hopefully in a really

good way," said DeWyngaert. "Our goal isn't to repeat what we used to do. Our goal is to improve what we used to do and make it more accessible to everybody."

Members of the community are encouraged to check back with Woods throughout the summer, as DeWyngaert expects more restrictions to be loosened as more people are vaccinated.

**St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church** has been hosting one in-person service on Sunday at 8:00am and a livestream at 10:30am. Masks and social distancing are still required. The Rev. Matthew Hanisian said that he is glad to be worshipping face to face.

"Our church loves our church and

loves the people in our church," said Hanisian. "And when we're apart from one another, that makes us diminished somehow."

While many churches are making decisions on their own, St. Martin's follows orders from the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, which supersedes the guidelines in Maryland and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"It's very data-driven and very scientific in its approach and it's helped keep us safe," said Hanisian. "For that, I give great thanks for the leadership of our diocese."

Hanisian said that being together is an important part of going to church, and he is looking forward to the day when the congregation can come back together and continue to establish relationships.

"Christianity is built on relationships," said Hanisian. "It's been difficult to have a relationship with our congregation. I miss being able to see everybody and hear what's going on in their lives."

However, the virtual services have not been all bad. Hanisian said the church has established relationships with families all over the country, including a family in Oregon that has been tuning in consistently since the start of the pandemic. For this reason, Hanisian said there is great value in virtual services.

"I think that the big learning is that we need to remember that we're not just doing online worship for our community," said Hanisian. "We're

» **Continued on page 37**

## New "Saints Church" Has Severna Park Roots

By John Singleton

Life has taken Alex Bouffard lots of places, but love has brought him home.

"It's particularly special to start a church in the town you grew up in," said Bouffard, lead pastor of the newly planted Saints Church. "I have been reunited with several people that I played Green Hornets sports with as a kid. It seems like I have mutual friends with every new visitor at our church."

From ages 7 to 11, Bouffard lived in Shipley's Choice before moving to Rhode Island. The son of a Navy veteran, moving from place to place was a staple of his childhood. But Severna Park was special. He even met Corrine, the girl who would become his wife, in the area.

All of these experiences helped create the mission of Saints Church: "to love God and love others," explained the 25-year-old Bouffard. "In so doing, we believe that we are obeying the Great Commission of Christ and blessing the Severna Park community."

Meeting in person has been a staple of Saints Church despite strictures surrounding COVID that have left other churches scrambling.

"*Pastoring in Severna Park is challenging and rewarding... I am consistently met with detailed theological questions.*"

— PASTOR ALEX BOUFFARD  
SAINTS CHURCH

"Do not neglect meeting together," Bouffard said, quoting Hebrews 10. "The physical gathering of the saints is commanded in scripture. The unique gifts of encouragement and fellowship require physical presence."

For young people struggling with isolation, Bouffard encourages a return to tradition.

"Pastoring in Severna Park is challenging and rewarding. We are a pretty educated area," he said. "As a result, I am consistently met with detailed theological questions. It's a special thing as a pastor to see the amazement on the face of our people as they realize that the Bible has an answer for even the most complex life questions."

Severna Park has responded with love

and generosity. The youthful, Bible-based church already has 40 members and 75 weekly attendees to Sunday services. Moreover, when Bouffard was looking for a place to launch his fledgling church, a local charity stepped up big time.

"Pastor Bouffard came to us in March with a request to rent our hall for Sunday services," explained George McDowell, exalted ruler of the Severna Park Elks Club. "They were such an impressive organization, we offered the arrangement at cost. Since then, about 10 of their members have applied to become members of the Elks Club."

Over the last 45 years, the Elks in Severna Park have invested over \$3 million in the local community. These contributions include food baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter; college scholarships; and annual awards for the local Policeman of the Year and Fireman of the Year.

"We would not have been able to plant our church without the hospitality and generosity of the Severna Park Elks," said Bouffard, a graduate of Liberty University. "They are like family to our church. We look forward to continuing to partner with them."



*Alex Bouffard is the lead pastor at Saints Church — a newly established house of worship with 40 members and 75 weekly attendees to Sunday services.*

# Worship Update: Local Churches Return To In-Person Services

» Continued from page 36

doing it for a wider audience, and that we need to be welcoming to everybody.”

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland is basing restrictions on COVID numbers and vaccines, so Hanisian expects to see restrictions loosened soon. He is getting people back to church.

“It’s also really nice not to preach to an absolutely empty congregation and then to church with a video camera on the balcony,” said Hanisian.

Other churches are convening as well. **Severna Park Baptist Church** has followed CDC guidelines throughout the pandemic and is now allowing people to decide whether they want to wear masks for a 9:30am Bible group and a 10:45am worship gathering.

“Some will be ready to show their smile and others not quite yet,” a message on the church’s Facebook page declared. “Please know, we want to warmly welcome every person on our campus. Our hope is to be like Jesus, who considered others more important than himself, showing love to others, especially those we might differ.”

**Severna Park United Methodist** holds an indoor worship in the sanctuary during a 10:30am livestreamed service (guests are asked to arrive 10 to 15 minutes early). A 9:00am outdoor service will be offered through June and possibly beyond.

**Trinity Bible Church** has in-person services at 11:00am each Sunday. Masks are not required but they are welcome based on each individual’s comfort level.

At **St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church**, wearing masks is no longer mandated, although it is strongly encouraged for those who are not vaccinated. Social distancing of three feet is still required inside of buildings.

**By Pastor Earl Janssen**

Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

It is great to be back for in-person worship. Following our recent services, we received a variety of comments and questions about our practices. Some wanted the masking to be eliminated. Some wanted to be sure that masking continued. There were comments about Holy Communion and about singing. As we begin our journey back to a “new normal,” please understand that we are guided by the principle that it is our responsibility to protect the vulnerable. St. Paul is clear in scripture that protecting the vulnerable is a priority in the life of a congregation (see, for instance, Romans 13-14 and 1 Corinthians 8).

And yet, as vaccination rates rise and cases of COVID-19 fall, we have some added latitude in what is safe. We look first at what the federal, state and local health officials declare. That means reviewing the material in its entirety, not just listening to the parts that are described in the media. There is often nuance in that guidance.

This is the guidance for in-person worship at Our Shepherd. It will be amended as conditions allow.

### MASKS

Face masks will continue to be worn when inside the building. Not all people are vaccinated and not all people are eligible to be vaccinated (children under 12 and immunocompromised people, for example). We want to be as welcoming to all as possible.

### SIGN-IN

We will continue to ask you to sign in either by text message or by adding your name to the log. We will use this to notify you if someone in worship tests positive for COVID-19.

### COMMUNION

We will continue to use the pre-filled communion cups until we exhaust our supply.

### SINGING

Singing will be permitted once again. Remember that masks are required. We are delaying sung liturgy for now, but we expect that will return soon.

### HYMNALS

The hymnals are back in the pews and may be used during worship. This is the source for music for the in-person worship. Lyrics or music will not be printed.

### DISTANCING

We will permit seating in every other pew, leaving a vacant pew between people. You are encouraged to sit with your household and leave three feet between you and those not of your household.

### OFFERING

We will not pass offering plates yet. Please continue to give online or place your offering in one of the offering plates as you enter or leave worship.

### LIVESTREAMING

Worship will continue to be livestreamed. We have invested in those resources and will continue this option even as the pandemic fades into history.

### WORSHIP TIME

For now, there will be one worship service at 9:30am on Sundays. This will continue at least through the summer unless attendance requires us to add another service.

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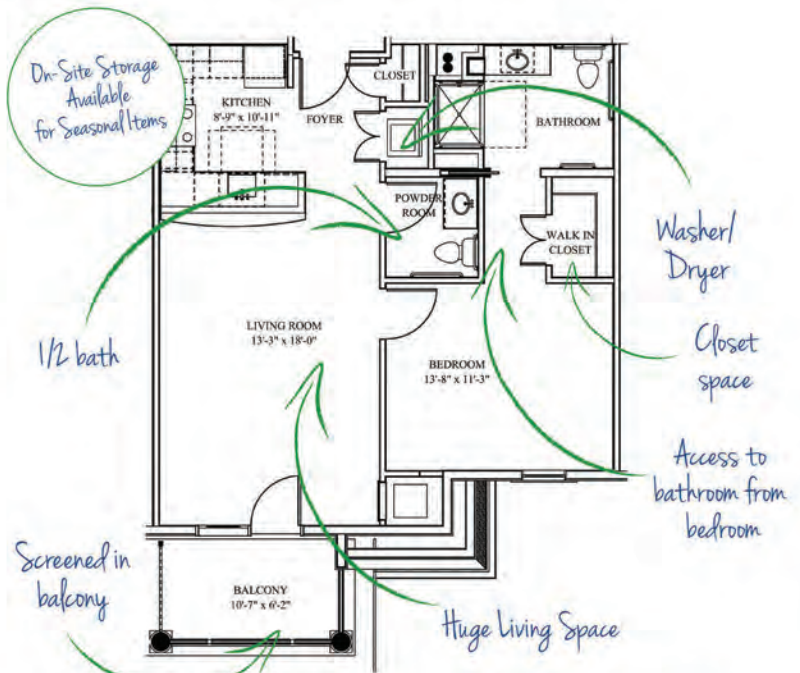
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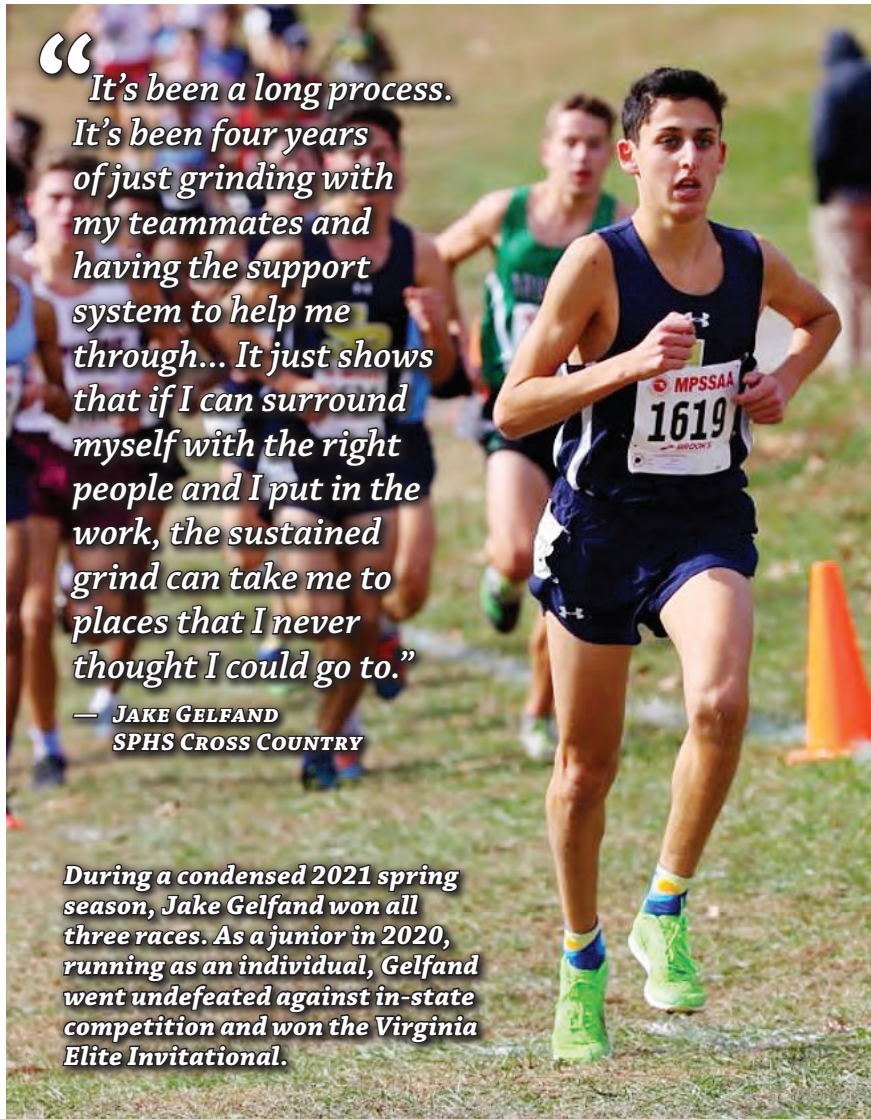


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## Jake Gelfand Named Gatorade Maryland Cross Country Player Of The Year



“It’s been a long process. It’s been four years of just grinding with my teammates and having the support system to help me through... It just shows that if I can surround myself with the right people and I put in the work, the sustained grind can take me to places that I never thought I could go to.”

— JAKE GELFAND  
SPHS CROSS COUNTRY

During a condensed 2021 spring season, Jake Gelfand won all three races. As a junior in 2020, running as an individual, Gelfand went undefeated against in-state competition and won the Virginia Elite Invitational.

By Dave Topp

Severna Park High School’s Jake Gelfand now has something in common with former NCAA soccer national champion Drew Yates, NBA power forward Jalen Smith and two-time Olympian Matthew Centrowitz.

Gelfand been named the 2020-2021 Gatorade Maryland Cross Country Player of the Year, joining other athletes who have been ranked as the state’s best in their respective sports.

“I was just ecstatic,” Gelfand said of winning the award. “First thing I did was let my parents know and they were really excited. It was just really an honor to get the award.”

The award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field.

A four-year varsity runner for the Falcons, Gelfand credits a strong support system of family, teammates and coaches for his success.

“It’s been a long process,” he said. “It’s been four years of just grinding

with my teammates and having the support system to help me through these last four years. It just shows that if I can surround myself with the right people and I put in the work, the sustained grind can take me to places that I never thought I could go to.”

Gelfand has committed to Cornell University, where he will run cross country and track. He has also upheld a weighted GPA of 4.16 in the classroom.

“Cornell’s program is really on the rise,” he said. “Academically, it’s going to be able to challenge me really well. Finding that balance and combination of both those things is really what I was looking for. Ithaca is a beautiful place and I love that too.”

Juggling two- and three-hour practices plus the rigors of AP courses wasn’t easy, but Gelfand believes he and his teammates banded together with their shared workload and that was vital to their collective athletic and academic success.

“I was just so happy for him,” said  
» Continued on page 44

## Not Satisfied: SP Baseball Hopes 10-0 Record Is Just The Start

By Zach Sparks  
zach@severnarkvoice.com

**Editor’s Note:** The Falcons played three regular season games after the Voice went to print: against South River on June 1, versus Southern on June 2, and against North County on June 4.

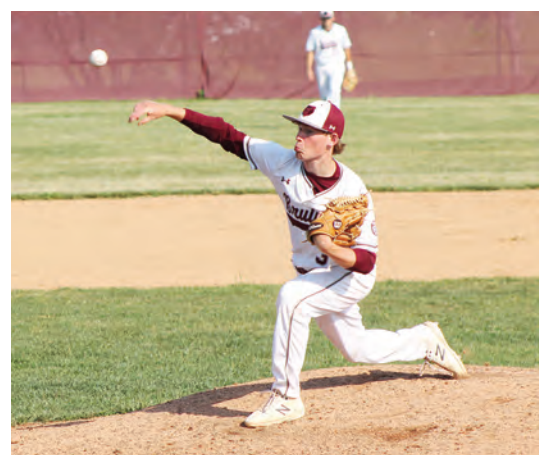
Wins often mask the deficiencies of a team, but through 10 wins this season, Severna Park’s varsity baseball team has shown no weaknesses, outscoring opponents 107-16.

On the mound, the pitchers have been dominant. **Nick Carparelli III** tossed five scoreless innings in a 24-0 win over Meade on May 10 and had six scoreless innings in a 2-0 win over Old Mill on May 28. **Connor Eaton** had a scoreless game against Glen Burnie on May 12. **Michael Bowles** threw five innings of shutout baseball against Northeast on May 17, and he allowed only one run against Broadneck on May 25.

Offensively, Severna Park has been a juggernaut, starting with leadoff hitter and shortstop **Jackson Merrill**, who slugged one home run against Meade, two in a pair of games versus Glen Burnie, and twice against Annapolis. **Luke Herz** has also flashed power, hitting two homers against Meade and another in the first of two games against Northeast.

Up and down the lineup, many Falcons have added to the potent offense including **Drew Crowley, Sean Foreman, James Henson III, Tucker McDonough, Ben McLay, Clay Weaver, Evan Stefanovich, Ben Horgan, Andrew Bashor, Ben Peacock, Daniel Key, Nick Marsella** and **Jimmy Miller**.

“From the top of the lineup with Jackson [Merrill] to Michael Bowles, a junior who not everyone knows about, he pitched an absolute gem today,” Carparelli said after the win over Broadneck. “Everybody has a role when it comes to games and practicing  
» Continued on page 43





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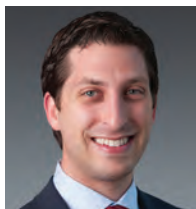
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# STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

## Colin Shadowens

Severna Park High School  
Lacrosse, Football, Wrestling

By Zach Sparks

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

**W**hen Colin Shadowens turned 3 years old, his father deployed to Iraq. Shadowens remembers gazing at his birthday cake, which was decorated with tanks.

"I knew I wanted to serve my country no matter what," Shadowens said.

Shadowens is poised to fulfill his dream. He is committed to play lacrosse at the U.S. Naval Academy.

A three-sport athlete, Shadowens has played sports since age 5. Growing up with two older brothers and later a younger brother, he often had opportunities to play against older athletes.

"I love to compete," he said. "Most of my life, I was the youngest [brother]. It taught me to have that underdog mentality. That's what I love about sports. You can be humiliated at some time, but you can also shock the world."

Whether he is playing lacrosse, football or wrestling, he demands the most of himself.

"He is our faceoff guy and team captain — total grinder," said head boys lacrosse coach Travis Loving, adding that Shadowens "does the right thing when no one is looking."



Photo courtesy of Tony Bellotte

**Colin Shadowens is a faceoff specialist for the Falcons varsity lacrosse team.**

The All-County faceoff specialist said doing the right thing often means leading by example. He follows his parents' mantra: always do what is expected of you.

"At points, I may not be the most vocal, but I take pride in doing the right thing and having a high discipline and

moral standard," Shadowens said. "I set an example for teammates and younger guys on how they should behave."

Varsity football head coach Mike Wright explained how Shadowens led by example with a "refuse to lose attitude" that was infectious.

"His work effort and production were always beyond expectation, and he was a great teammate by never taking his position and status for granted, constantly earning it, encouraging others to step up, working with them on their skills so the entire team could be better," Wright said. "The type of player a coach wishes he had a whole team of."

Shadowens is equally respected by coaches and teammates. Senior midfielder Kurt Klaus called Shadowens "one of the best athletes that I have ever played alongside."

"There hasn't been a single practice that he doesn't go to the side and just does faceoffs over and over and over again," Klaus said. "His determination to always be getting better inspires me and others on the team to improve as well. He also works with the other FOGOs [face off, get off] on both JV and varsity, I presume passing down all the things he has learned and helping them to be great as well."

Each sport has provided Shadowens with an opportunity to learn.

"Wrestling taught me humiliation

because I was never good enough to win state championships," he said. "Football taught me that size doesn't matter; you can make an impact on the field. The faceoff [in lacrosse] is a one-on-one battle, so if I do my role, I know I'm going to succeed."

While many athletes attend clinics and camps, Shadowens said most of his skills were self-taught.

"I analyze film of college players and look at their techniques," he said. "It sharpens my muscle memory."

Shadowens has volunteered his time to younger athletes through Mesa Lacrosse.

"I thoroughly enjoy it," he said. "It's awesome watching these kids build their technique and become better athletes."

He still wants to play football and wrestle, but "lacrosse is the way to the academy right now," he said. He won't allow his focus to wane from the dream formed by his 5-year-old self.

"I learned about the prestigious culture of the Naval Academy, becoming an officer and being a leader in the U.S. military," he said, explaining why he chose the Navy. "I want to thank my family and my coaches: lacrosse coach [Dave] Earl for giving me a chance my freshman year. Coach Loving for stepping up and being great. Coach [Trevor] Bryden. Coach Wright has been the most loving coach I've ever had."

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](mailto:zach@severnaparkvoice.com) to nominate a young person in our community making a positive impact through sports.

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# Severna Park Softball Shuts Out Broadneck, 10-0

By Zach Sparks  
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

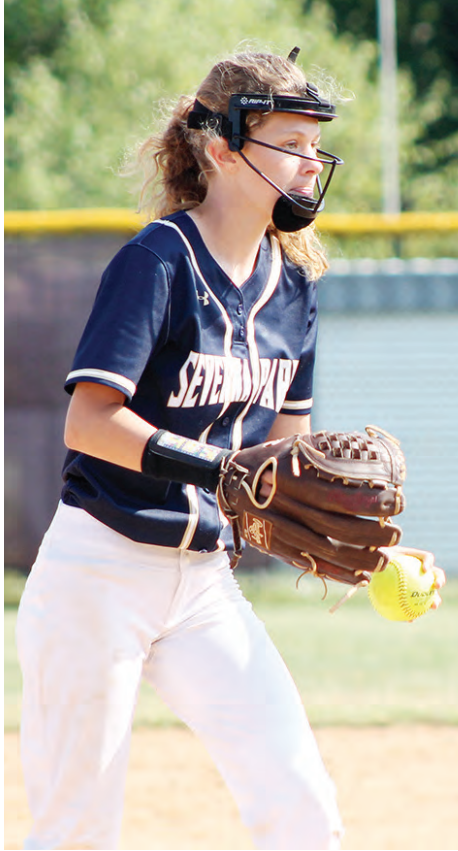
Starting the season with a 2-5 record, the Falcons varsity softball team hasn't caught many breaks. On May 25, they made their own luck, defeating the Broadneck Bruins 10-0.

**Christina Ballagh** struck out five batters in the five-inning shutout. Senior **Mackenzie Rice** added three hits, **Sally Trent** had two, and **Ally Weaver** contributed two RBIs.

"We've been having a tough season, but I think the win is good for us, good for our spirits," Weaver said after the game.

**Lily Becker** agreed, saying that although the 2-5 record leaves something to be desired, the losses have not resulted from a lack of effort.

"I feel like we have good energy," said Becker, who also drove in a run in the 10-0 win. "Throughout the season, we stay upbeat no matter what. We really persevere as a team, and I think the lesson we need to learn is to get up early. I feel like that's what we've been struggling with, in the count



*Christina Ballagh (left) was supported by outstanding defense as she pitched a five-inning shutout against the Bruins on May 25. The Falcons followed this victory with a 25-4 win over Annapolis.*

and the score." Severna Park did not struggle with that on May 25. **Peyton Sullivan**, who had an RBI in the game, echoed the sentiment that the Falcons have heart. "When we're down, we usually

make a comeback too late," she said. "Today we played a team game with no errors." Shortstop **Viktoria Dorn** was part of that effort; her teammates praised her for making a great play in the field.

The Falcons are excited to have a chance at the playoffs, Becker said, and the win against Broadneck is hopefully the start of a new winning streak.

"I was really proud of our teamwork today," Becker said. "I feel like coming from a lot of really hard games, we really rose above and did our best."

The Falcons followed that win with another dominant outing, resulting in a 25-4 victory over Annapolis on May 27. It was senior recognition night, so naturally, senior **Ella Ryan** hit her second career home run.

Severna Park was scheduled to play several games after the *Voice* went to print. Those matchups included South River on June 1, Southern on June 2, Old Mill on June 3 and North County on June 4.

Becker was convinced that the team's wins over Broadneck and Annapolis would give the Falcons a chance to put their playoff destiny in their own hands.

"We're really excited to get the shot to go all the way," Becker said.

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# Six Straight Wins Put Falcons Lax In Position For Playoff Push



Photos courtesy of Tony Bellotte

**Severna Park kicked off the season with a 13-5 win at Broadneck on May 7. During the victory, Charlie Evans (above) was instrumental to the Falcons' attack, while Paul Isenberg was part of a solid defensive team effort.**



**By Zach Sparks**

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

With a team that includes 15 seniors, many of whom played on the Falcons' 2019 state championship squad, no one would be surprised if Severna Park boys lacrosse again led the pack in Anne Arundel County and made noise in the playoffs.

But wins are earned, not given based on track record. Through their first six games of the 2021 season, resulting in six wins, the Falcons have stayed

focused and determined.

"I'd say the biggest reason for our success so far is because we are a driven team [whose players] have high expectations of each other," said senior attacker **Kyle Griffith**. "Every day, each one of us comes to practice wanting to get better and working hard to do so, and it shows on gamedays. We also have a large senior class that has grown up playing together for years. With the shortened season, that familiarity and senior leadership has really

helped the team get to where we are. The coaches have also done a great job of preparing us every day in practice for each game."

Severna Park kicked off the season in style with a 13-5 win over Broadneck on May 7.

"The Broadneck game was great as it has a different level of intensity and it's fun to compete against those guys," Griffith said.

More wins followed: 18-4 over Chesapeake on May 11, 19-2 against Annapolis on May 14, 11-0 against Old Mill on May 19, 11-4 over South River on May 21 and 17-2 over Southern on May 25.

Senior midfielder **Kurt Klaus** attributed the wins not only to hard work but also good communication.

"At every position, players are talking to one another about how to grow," Klaus said. "We regularly give one another advice about who was open on what play or how the defense should've slid or any other little detail on how to improve. Then we implement what was said in the next play. This ability to communicate and take something away from our mistakes is what makes us a 'dominant force.'"

A June 1 game against Northeast was played right after the *Severna Park Voice* went to print. The boys will play one more regular season game against Arundel, June 4, before playoff seeding is announced.

"In order to return to the state championship, I think as a team we need to be able to respond to adversity," said senior defender **Rory Sullivan**. "Fortunately, we haven't had to deal with adversity too much this year, but there will be a time when our backs are against the wall. I think as a team, we need to know how to respond in those situations and be prepared for when they occur."

Sullivan agrees with Griffith's assessment that the senior leadership will aid the Falcons during the intense playoff atmosphere.

"The identity of this team stems from guys like Kyle Griffith, **Colin Shadowens** and myself who have been on two state championship-winning teams," Sullivan said. "We know what it takes to get there and it's our job to show the younger guys in practice how to compete and work every day."



**Kyle Griffith has set an example for teammates by working hard in games and in practice.**

"Our greatest asset is, without a doubt, how close we are as a team. Everyone meshes extremely well, from the players to the entire coaching staff. This is easily one of the closest teams I've ever been on as far as how guys interact in and out of practice and how we prepare and push each other every day."

Following the win over Southern, Griffith was also optimistic but humble when asked about his team's championship prospects.

"Although we are 6-0, we are not where we want to be as a team right now, and with playoffs coming up, we are going to continue to work hard in practice and improve every day to accomplish our goal of winning a state championship," Griffith said.

Klaus said, "States is always the end goal for any team and having already been there once drives me, even more, to get back there again. Not only would it be great for the seniors to go back and create a sort of 'full circle' to our careers, but also for the freshmen on the team (like **Ganon Cope** and **Nolan Grizzle**) so that they have something to work back toward the next year. There is nothing I would like more than to end my career on an exclamation point, and in the same breath, start someone else's off with one."

## SP Baseball Hopes 10-0 Record Is Just The Start

» Continued from page 38

... The coaches and the players are on each other every day to make sure we are perfecting our craft and not getting complacent with where we are."

Following the Broadneck game, Merrill was pleased most by Severna Park's ability to play small ball when necessary.

"In this game, we just played well," he said. "There are runners on second; we're hitting the ball, we're getting sac flies, we're bunting them over. Maybe on the defensive side, there were a few [miscues], but overall, we're playing great right now."

Despite the dominant start, Falcons head coach **Eric Milton** preached the adage of tak-

ing things one game at a time before looking toward the playoffs.

"We lost a whole year, so these guys are just hungry to play," Milton said. "It's been so much fun for me because they are having so much fun playing baseball."

Wherever they are seeded, whomever their opponent is, the Falcons will be ready.

"I always have confidence, not just my ability to pitch but our team to have confidence to know we can play with anybody or beat anybody," Carparelli said. "The playoffs is ultimately what we're looking for, but we can't look too far ahead. We take one pitch at a time, one game at a time, and let everything come because we know what our ultimate goal is."

### Bruins Experience Ups And Downs

The Broadneck baseball team was 5-2 coming into the game against Severna Park on May 25. The game against the Falcons started a losing streak.

"We're a young team and we're just looking to get better every day," said Bruins head coach **Matt Skrenchuk**. "We graduated 10 guys last year, so we're just coming out here to get some experience and keep getting better until the end of the year."

On a positive note, pitchers **Blake Snyder** and **Sean Murphy** both started the season 2-0. Coming into the game against Severna Park, **Joe Robertson** was hitting about .565 and **Nick Stergiou** was hitting about .450.

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## Underdogs Rally For Strong Finish To Lacrosse Season



After an 0-3 start in the Middle Division, the Underdogs made a U-turn on their season to finish with a 3-3-1 record.

The Severna Park Green Hornet Underdogs finished 3-3-1 in the Middle Division of the Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks girls spring lacrosse season. After an 0-3 start, the Underdogs made a U-turn on their season and finished their last four games with three wins and a tie.

The Underdogs, fifth- and sixth-graders, were led by their goalies **Charlotte Triplett** and **Makayla Stauffer**. The defense was stingy and headed by **Noelle Beres**, **Anya Diggs**,

**Shanley Duncan**, **Reese Earhart** and **Regan Graves**. The Dogs' midfield was strong on both ends, with **Kendall Austin**, **Avery Billmyer**, **Arabella Gong**, **Anika Larson** and **Sarah Pawlikowski** leading the way. The attack was steered by **Ashlyn Campbell**, **Abby Lawhorne**, **Natalie Lawhorne**, **Percy Smack**, **Piper Welch** and **Caroline Werre**.

The Underdogs were coached by **David Diggs**, **Rebecca Diggs**, **Erin Tenneson**, **Klemkowski**, **Ali Meeks** and **Jenny Meeks**.

## Jake Gelfand Named Maryland Cross Country Player Of The Year

» Continued from page 38

Josh Alcombright, head cross country coach at Severna Park. "Jake is a fighter, he's a worker, he's so easily coachable. He does everything that you ask, above and beyond."

Due to the pandemic, Gelfand competed in only three races as a senior during a condensed spring season, where he won all three races. As a junior, running as an individual, Gelfand went undefeated against in-state competition and won the Virginia Elite Invitational.

"He's one of those guys who will always do the little things right," said Carson Sloat, a senior and cross country teammate. "He leads by example with these things and makes sure that the rest of the team is staying dedicated as well."

In the fall, Sloat will attend the U.S. Naval Academy and reunite with former Falcon runner Garrison Clark on the cross country and track teams.

As a part of the Severna Park cross country team, service work around the county has been stressed to the athletes. Gelfand and his teammates have donated their time by operating water

stations at local races, as well as packing care packages for the homeless.

Gelfand has volunteered time with RISE for Autism, a Glen Burnie-based nonprofit that strives to improve awareness, acceptance and understanding of autism.

"It opened my eyes to the world around me, that everyone is different, and you have to be accepting and understand that," Gelfand said.

Gelfand is one of four children. His parents, Jeffrey Gelfand and Christina Morganti, both ran cross country. His older brother, Kasey, a 2016 graduate of Severna Park, also ran for the Falcons.

"They are always so supportive. If it means going to a meet to watch, they are always there in a heartbeat," Jake Gelfand said about his family.

Gelfand becomes the second Severna Park cross country athlete to win the Gatorade Player of the Year award, joining Ryan Forsyth, who received the honor in 2013.

More information about the Gatorade Player of the Year award can be found at [www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).



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## Lucas Wright Ends Men's Track And Field Career At NCAA Outdoor Meet

Former Severna Park resident and McDonogh School graduate Lucas Wright finished in eighth place while representing Hamilton College in the finals of the men's 800-meter run at the 2021 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships on May 29.

The championships were held at Irwin Belk Track Complex in Greensboro, North Carolina. Wright ended up in 14th place out of 20 athletes in the 800 meters at the 2019 national outdoor meet.

Wright started Saturday's race on the inside in Lane 1. He stayed on the inside of the track for the entire first lap and was fourth after the first 400 meters with a time of 57.931 seconds. Less than a half-second separated the eight athletes after a relatively slow opening lap.

The pace picked up considerably in the second lap and Wright slowly drifted to the back of the pack. He tried to make a move going around the final turn but posted a time of 1:54.28. His second 400 meters was actually faster than his first at 56.349 seconds. Mike Jasa of Loras College captured the 800-meter title with a time of 1:51.66.

Wright recorded a time of 1:53.05 in the preliminary heats. The top two



Lucas Wright finished in eighth place in the finals of the men's 800-meter run on May 29.

finishers from each heat plus the next four fastest times advanced to the final. Wright owned the fourth-fastest time out of those next four as six runners from his heat advanced to the final.

## Falcons Tennis Squad Cruises Past Broadneck, 6-3

Severna Park High School's co-ed tennis team beat Broadneck 6-3 on May 27 to go 6-0 on the season. The win over Broadneck came from the following matches:



### Boys Singles 1

Lucas Fuhrmann (SPHS) vs. Gustav Kemp (BHS)  
Broadneck wins 5-7, 7-5, 6-4

### Boys Singles 2

Chris Preston (SPHS) vs. Graham Fenn (BHS)  
Severna Park wins 6-1, 6-1

### Girls Singles 1

Sydney Mudd (SPHS) vs. Clara Kemp (BHS)  
Severna Park wins 6-2, 6-1

### Girls Singles 2

Grace Warner (SPHS) vs. Natalie Hosie (BHS)  
Severna Park wins 6-4, 6-2

### Boys Doubles 1

Charlie Herman/Nicholas Patrick (SPHS) vs. Nathan Lime/Charlie Ernst (BHS)  
Severna Park win 6-1, 6-1

### Boys Doubles 2

John Melles/Ryan Davis (SPHS) vs. Alec Goldfaden/Gavin Miser (BHS)  
Severna Park wins 6-0, 6-1

### Girls Doubles 1

Merideth Schepens/Nora Farley (SPHS) vs. Anna Green/Riley Snowden (BHS)  
Broadneck wins 6-1, 6-2

### Girls Doubles 2

Lylah Mudd/Elizabeth Opladen (SPHS) vs. Cailin Snyder/Alyson Kouhi (BHS)  
Severna Park wins 6-1, 6-1

### Mixed Doubles

Kevin Breitingner/Zoe Day (SPHS) vs. David Dallenegra/Elicia Aponte (BHS)  
Broadneck wins 6-3, 6-4

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# Severna Park High School Athletes Celebrate “Signing Day”

Athletes from Severna Park High School gathered at Benfield Sportscenter in Millersville on May 5 for a parent-organized Division III signing day.

The 18 athletes represented the sports of basketball, cross country, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, track and field, volleyball and wrestling.

The signing day provided athletes with a chance to celebrate the next chapter of their athletic pursuits while also reflecting on their high school accomplishments.

“I wish every moment could last a lifetime,” said wrestler **Ty Broadway**, who looks forward to competing at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. “Having that chance to wrestle so many people ... just felt really good. I also enjoyed just being able to teach freshmen who will soon be sophomores and having an impact on their lives.”

**Ally Fletcher** will play volleyball at University of Mary Washington in Virginia. She called it “the perfect school for me.”

“I really wanted a good science program because I want to go pre-med, and I just fell in love with the campus when I went,” Fletcher said. “And the team was so inviting and welcoming and it felt like home.”

**Siena DeCicco** always knew she wanted to attend a smaller school in the Northeast, which led her to Salve Regina University in Rhode Island.

“I went to visit the campus and I absolutely loved it; it’s right on the ocean,” she said.

Signing day was a bittersweet moment. “It’s also surreal that high school is over and we’re going to college,” Fletcher said. “It’s a big next step.”

## Signing Day Athletes

- Molly Antinucci** - Track and Field  
St. Mary’s College of Maryland
- Ty Broadway** - Wrestling  
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
- Siena DeCicco** - Volleyball  
Salve Regina University
- Kyle Ernest** - Soccer  
Hood College
- Charlie Evans** - Lacrosse  
University of Lynchburg
- Ally Fletcher** - Volleyball  
University of Mary Washington
- Kyle Griffith** - Lacrosse  
U.S. Air Force Academy
- Braden Layne** - Football  
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- Leah Meyers** - Soccer  
York College
- Olivia Nicholson** - Soccer  
Eastern University
- Sydney Park** - Soccer  
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- Jimmy Patz** - Football  
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- Sophie Patz** - Swimming  
Stevens Institute of Technology
- Ella Raines** - Soccer  
St. Mary’s College of Maryland
- Mckenzie Rice** - Softball  
Emerson College
- Hunter Roberts** - Basketball  
Mitchell College
- Carson Sloat** - Cross Country  
U.S. Naval Academy
- Abigail Weist**  
- Cross Country/Track and Field  
The University of Alabama in Huntsville



A group of SPHS seniors came together to officially choose the college at which they would continue their athletic careers.

## Green Hornets 11U Baseball Wins Second Straight Tourney



A 5-0 win over API Reds capped the 11U Green Hornet championship run in the Rogue Freedom Rundown Tournament.

With a win in the Rogue Freedom Rundown Tournament in Mt. Airy, Maryland, from April 30 through May 2, the Green Hornets 11U travel baseball team won its second consecutive tournament of the season. The team’s first tournament win of the season came with the Knock the Rust Off tournament at Kinder Farm Park in March.

The Rogue Freedom Rundown field consisted of API Academy Red, Olney, Rogue, Shutdown Orioles and Severna Park.

Severna Park won its first game, against API Academy Red, 9-1. Green Hornets logged 12 hits, led by two apiece from **Jonathan Bullough**, **Brandon Matta** and **Drew Dupcak**. One of Bullough’s two hits was a fence-clear-

ing home run. Starting pitcher **Tyler Bowerman** threw a scoreless three innings, with **Charlie Delobe** closing out the victory.

The second game was an 8-7 nail-biter against Olney. Dupcak came to the plate in a crucial moment in the bottom of the fifth inning with two outs as his team clung to a 6-5 lead. He hit a towering two-run homer over the right-field wall to give the Green Hornets an 8-6 lead and much-needed insurance. **Sebastian Kongas** started on the mound. **Chase Goldman** came on in relief and Tyler Bowerman shut down three batters with the bases loaded and no outs in the bottom of the sixth inning to keep Severna Park in the lead.

Those two wins gave Severna Park the No. 2 seed heading into the elimi-

nation round, which again pitted the team against API Red. This time, the 11U Green Hornets won 5-0 behind a scoreless complete game pitched by Bullough, who allowed only four hits while striking out six batters. The team tallied eight hits, including two apiece by Goldman and **TJ Viera**.

That win vaulted Severna Park into the championship and a rematch with Olney. In a 7-4 victory, Severna Park got a 3-3 performance from Delobe, three scoreless innings from Kongas, and relief pitching from Goldman and Tyler Bowerman.

“I am very proud of the baseball boys are playing right now,” head coach **Tim Bowerman** said after the win. “They work hard every night at practice as well as on their off days.”

## Dawson's Liquors Crowns New Beer Collaboration



*Crowning DL's unique taste comes from Mandarina Bavaria, Nelson Sauvin and Mosaic hops.*

By Dave Topp

Dawson's Liquors has partnered with Checkerspot Brewing Company to create a New England style India Pale Ale (IPA) beer called Crowning DL.

"It all blended perfectly," said Henry Stahl, the beer manager at Dawson's.

New England style IPAs or Hazy IPAs are unfiltered beers that tend to have more tropical and juicy flavors, with low bitterness. Crowning DL uses

Mandarina Bavaria, Nelson Sauvin and Mosaic hops to create its unique taste. According to the social beer drinking app Untappd, Crowning DL also includes some notes of mandarin orange flavor.

Checkerspot Brewing Company, located in Baltimore, began reaching out to liquor stores at start of the pandemic to create local collaborations.

"Right as COVID was happening, the beginning of it, we got a canning machine and basically we've been dealing with the liquor stores instead of being a tap room," said Checkerspot Brewing owner Steve Marsh.

Dawson's, which has partnered with many local breweries in the past, was eager to begin the collaboration process.

"That's what also separates us from other stores," Stahl said. "A lot of people carry craft beer. There's a lot of people that carry hard-to-get craft beer. There's not a lot of people that go and actually brew beer. We kind of stand alone when it comes to that. We've been doing it since 2012."

Stahl, along with fellow Dawson's employees Nick Cipriano and Josh Shank, traveled to Checkerspot to take part in the brewing process. Their efforts included grinding the grains, » **Continued on page 51**

## Former Sheriff Ron Bateman Publishes Fictional Homicide Tale

By Logan Hill

Many people take up hobbies after retirement, such as fishing or spending time with family. Former Anne Arundel County Sheriff Ron Bateman does these things, but he has also found success as a writer.

On May 14, Bateman released the first book in what is expected to be a series of related crime novels. The book, titled "Silent Blue Tears: Voice of the Victims," follows the story of a group of fictional homicide detectives as they deal with different cases. Bateman, who spent 23 years as a member of the Anne Arundel County Police Department before eventually taking over sheriff duties, was able to draw on a lot of his past experiences to create an



*Ron Bateman's book "Silent Blue Tears: Voice of the Victims" was published in May.*

enticing read.

"One of the things I did a lot when I was in [homicide] was death notifications, and I really got to understand the importance of them, because you only have one chance to say the right words at one time and that's it," Bateman said. "So, when I got out of homicide, I decided to put that in book form."

This is not Bateman's first crack at writing. His 2019 children's book "The Adventures of Bucky, Doey, Brownie, and Sandy, The Tine Family," follows a deer family and teaches children about a variety of animals. However, Bateman took to writing long before this.

"I've written here and there all my » **Continued on page 51**

## DINING OUT AROUND THE PARK

### Food Trucks Offer Convenience And Variety

Photos by Mary Cobbler

*Greek on the Street often participates in Food Truck Tuesdays at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. The chicken salad had large, tender chunks of seasoned chicken served atop fresh greens and cucumbers, tomatoes and red onions. It is served with Greek dressing and warm slices of pita.*



By Mary Cobbler

Hmmm, what to pick up for dinner — the hubby is craving Greek, the kids want Italian, and you're thinking tacos. How to choose? Don't! You can get them all from local food trucks. Back in the day, when you said food truck, you were probably referring to hot dogs or ice cream. No more. There's something for everyone from a variety of cuisines.

Local staples, like **Wingman**, are at set locations. You can find others at venues such as Food Truck Tuesdays at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company or at H2 Food Truck Fridays at the corner of East-West Boulevard and Veterans Highway in Millersville.

For our first excursion into the food truck world, the guys in my family voted for a visit to Wingman. Look for the bright green truck just a few miles north of Anne Arundel Community College.



We chose an order of Old Bay wings and "hot hot" wings.

It's clear the Old Bay wings were made by someone who lives near the bay and knows how Old Bay wings are supposed to taste. They're hot, but not burn-your-face-off hot. The skin was crispy and the chicken juicy — a delicate balance that many wing places miss. They either have dried-out chicken with crisp skin or moist chicken with soggy skin. This one is just right! The wings are average size — not too small, no larger than usual.

» **Continued on page 52**



*Wingman operates out of a bright green truck just a few miles north of Anne Arundel Community College. The Old Bay wings have crispy skin and juicy chicken — a delicate balance that many wing places miss.*





# “Those Who Wish Me Dead” Is An Engaging Film Full Of Loose Ends

By Audrey Ruppert

The problem with “Those Who Wish Me Dead” is that we never really discover who wishes the protagonist dead.

Our protagonist is Connor, the young son of a forensic accountant named Owen. Owen works for the local district attorney and discovers a secret, which the government does not wish to be revealed. One morning, Owen wakes up to find his boss has been killed, likely to keep the secret buried. In a panic, Owen takes Connor on the run and heads for the home of his brother-in-law, a cop who runs a survival school with his pregnant wife. Two government agents intercept them, but Connor escapes and runs into a forest firefighter named Hannah (Angelina Jolie).

Tone matters. Violence is omnipresent in slick heists like “The Italian Job,” or over-the-top summer blockbusters like “The Fast and The Furious” — but it is established early on that these films are pure fantasy and meant to be mindless fun. Nobody truly believes Vin Diesel could crash his car through the window of one skyscraper and drive through another skyscraper, and nobody feels bad for the fictional people who are mowed over in the process of doing so.

The violence in “Those Who Wish Me Dead” feels far too real, too close to home. We watch a firefighter suffer through untreated post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), brought on from her inability to rescue children who were burned alive. Wildfires are a real phenomenon that kill Americans every year



Photos courtesy of Emerson Miller/Warner Bros. Pictures

(L-R) Angelina Jolie plays Hannah and Finn Little plays Connor in “Those Who Wish Me Dead,” while Aidan Gillen portrays Jack.

and destroy their homes. We watch a child endure the brutal murder of a family member. We watch a pregnant woman nearly get blinded with a fire poker by agents of the U.S. government. This is all done for no real discernible purpose other than our “entertainment,” which is seriously distasteful.

If you are going to use violence that is grounded in reality and expose your audience to secondhand trauma, you should do so purposefully. You could lay bare the bleak realities of war, as “Fury” does, or the destructiveness of organized crime, as “The Godfather” does. “Those Who Wish Me Dead” had a prime opportunity to make a statement about government corruption; the U.S.

government has a repeated history of making violent, unethical interventions at home and abroad to further its own aims, regardless of the human cost. This film did not make any such point. We never discover why the characters are subjected to such pain, and the accountant’s secret is never revealed.

The storytelling is also lazy at times. The antagonists can deduce exactly where Owen and Connor have gone by looking at some photographs on a wall for 10 seconds. Hannah engages in a life-or-death struggle with an assassin five feet from an enormous wildfire, and she doesn’t die from smoke inhalation. Belief is suspended and details are sanitized when it’s convenient, in order

to move the plot forward — but the hyper realistic, brain-matter-against-a-window depiction of violence is required viewing for some reason.

The casting is also bizarre, frankly. Tyler Perry was inexplicably present for 15 seconds, in a random appearance reminiscent of his supporting role in “Gone Girl.” Nicholas Hoult and Aidan Gillen are fair choices; they are superb smarmy villains, though seeing them as Americans and as pure brutes was a little strange (they typically play cunning British antagonists with a political bent). Jolie would not be my first choice for a traumatized, motherly firefighter — she didn’t do a bad job, and was likely picked for star power, but I would have picked someone like Francis McDermott or Toni Collette (though this film was not nearly respectable enough to attract either actress).

Loose ends are left untied everywhere — we learn that the cop, Ethan, once dated Hannah before marrying his current wife, but this is never explored further. Hannah’s wards on the firefighting squad are shown to be boorish and rude, likely using risky behavior as a coping mechanism for the traumatic nature of their job, but this is only brushed upon and never discussed in much detail.

“Those Who Wish Me Dead” is so disappointing because it had all the elements of a good film. The story was engaging, the characters were compelling, and the action was enthralling, but the story never went anywhere and the use of a wildfire as a cheap plot device made me feel queasy.

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## McBride Gallery Hosts “Spring Inspirations...A Feast For The Eyes”

David Lawton’s pastel “The Critique” will be on display at McBride Gallery as part of “Spring Inspirations...A Feast for the Eyes.” The show runs now through July 18.



McBride Gallery is hosting “Spring Inspirations...A Feast for the Eyes,” featuring five painters and two sculptors and a graphite draftsman, just in time for Annapolis Arts Week, the first week in June. The show will run through July 18.

Fraternal twin brothers Stewart and Stephen Wegner have a selection of bronze sculptures including butterflies, a horseshoe crab and blue crabs. Sherrill Cooper is introducing her “Crabby Old Men” series and Vova Piven is arriving from Ukraine with a selection of new oil paintings of florals, mysterious forests and action sailing.

Sam Robinson is including new landscapes and interiors in gouache and oil. Christopher Best is enjoying his “dog fetching” series as well as paintings of Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay. David Lawton has started a series of museum visitors as well as his favorite florals and landscapes. Maryland graphite artist Terry Miller, coming from a solo museum show, has new images of forests and favorite farm life and wildlife. It is a feast for the eyes.

## Dawson’s Liquors Crowns New Beer Collaboration

» Continued from page 48

cracking the grains in the mill, adding hops throughout the process of making the brew as well as collecting the spent grains to take to the local farmer. That process took about six hours. The Dawson’s crew then came back to assist in the canning process.

“Everybody has been really positive about it,” Marsh said about Crowning DL. “Probably one of our best New Englands that we have out now.”

Both Marsh and Stahl confirmed plans for a new collaboration, likely to be released in the fall, with the cre-

ation of a barrel-aged sour beer. That next collaboration will center around Checkerspot’s newest kettle sour beer, Sip Happens, which is brewed with Earl Grey tea and lemon.

Crowning DL is available for purchase at Dawson’s Liquors, located at 589 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park, and in the tap room at Checkerspot Brewing at 1399 South Sharp Street in Baltimore.

“[Dawson’s] has always been straight up,” Marsh said. “They’ve always tried to support the local breweries. It’s always fun to go in there and shop.”

## Former Sheriff Ron Bateman Publishes Fictional Homicide Tale

» Continued from page 48

life. I wrote a poem while I was in homicide, and it made it to a local Millersville news group, Compassionate Friends,” Bateman said. “I was asked to be a guest speaker and speak about homicides, and they took my poem and put it in a trifold, and it made it all the way out to Colorado.”

Following the poem, Bateman began his initial work on “Silent Blue Tears,” getting roughly 35 pages done. With so much information to draw on from his career, and a lack of experience in writing in novel form, he became overwhelmed and production paused. In 2016, Bateman picked up where he had left off.

“About five years ago, my wife saw it in her desk drawer and she started reading it,” Bateman said. “She really

enjoyed the 35 pages that were there.”

After some prompting from his wife, who was intrigued by the start, he began to write again, reaching out to former reporters and writers. Having developed a steady rhythm, Bateman was able to complete the story he began more than 30 years ago. He credited Richard Abate, of 3 Arts Entertainment, with providing him with some of the ideas that helped to bring the story together.

“[Abate] said, ‘You need more drama, more violence, more twists,’” Bateman said. “Make it fiction and blow it up, blow it out of the water. So then, the sky was the limit at that point.”

“Silent Blue Tears: Voice of the Victims,” is currently available for order on Amazon, both in paperback and Kindle form.

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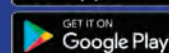
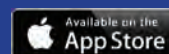
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## Food Trucks Offer Convenience And Variety

» Continued from page 48

We also tried the sweet Old Bay wings. If you're not an Old Bay fan, you should start with this one, and you'll be well on your way. The wings have a touch of sweetness complemented beautifully by the spice of seasoning. Our 8-year-old was able to eat this wing and loved it because it wasn't overpowering but full of flavor.

The name may be a little deceptive for the XX hot wings. They definitely have a respectable kick — especially if they get on your skin. But if you are really addicted to super spicy sauce, I recommend trying some orders like crybaby or the “death wish.”

Wingman nailed the flavor on the buffalo sauce. If you have a craving for buffalo sauce on crispy, non-mushy wings, this is the place to go. Of course, I love to dip mine in the creamy ranch dressing for that blow-your-mind flavor combination. Like the other wings, these had crispy skin and juicy chicken with a respectable amount of meat.

Now fried pickle fans rejoice. These, my husband said, “are the best fried pickles in the history of fried pickles.” It was the most I've seen him struggling with his decision to stay on his keto diet. He kept saying, “One more bite won't hurt,” and dunked the pickles into the flavorful sauce.

Prices here were reasonable — \$12 is not bad for 10 wings. An order of

pickles was \$5.25.

Our next stop was at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company's Tuesday food truck night right before its 4:00pm opening. Vendors were just setting up and opening their windows for orders. It reminded me of a small European market and a carnival without rides. Folks seemed happy, relaxed, and many were sitting at outdoor covered picnic tables while eating and chatting. The smells were intoxicating!

Choosing from the variety of foods offered was difficult. Greek, Mexican, Jamaican, seafood, beef, barbecue, donuts, cupcakes, brick oven pizza, and ice cream were a few of the many options. And they change each week. After strolling for a while, we settled on **Greek on the Street, Kooper's Chowhound** and **Quinn's Ice**.

Greek on the Street is one of the more popular trucks, with folks waiting for the window to open. We ordered a chicken salad and a vegetarian gyro.

We were one of the first customers, and our orders were ready in about 15 minutes. We were impressed with the generous portions. The wrap/gyro was Donald Trump-style, “huge!” The warm, soft and obviously fresh pita burst with veggies — onions, peppers, tomatoes, feta and sauce. I was also surprised to find rice. Not only was it a flavor explosion, but it was super filling. I got two meals out of it.

The chicken salad had large, tender chunks of seasoned chicken served atop fresh greens and cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions, and served with Greek dressing and warm slices of pita. We were a little disappointed because the olives were missing. We took our food and went home; otherwise, I'm sure that would have been remedied.

The cost of the wrap and salad was about \$20.

While I waited, I decided to go for an “Elvis got the blues” burger at Kooper's Chowhound. One of its signature dishes, this one rocked! Thank you very much, Kooper's! This burger was thoroughly enjoyable — a medium-cooked black Angus burger, topped with veggies and apple-wood-smoked bacon, and Maytag blue cheese. I prefer crisp bacon, but that's OK, I thought as the juices dribbled down my chin. The quality blue cheese made up for limp bacon, giving the burger a tangy bite and elevating the flavor tremendously. I'd get this one again in a heartbeat.

I also ordered sweet potato fries from Kooper's and was pleasantly surprised. It seems challenging to get tasty sweet potato fries these days. Crispy outside and soft on the inside, these were some of the best I think I've ever had.

Kooper's also has the option of building your burgers. Choose a protein including beef, turkey, veggie,

bison, wagyu (beef produced in Japan), or lamb, then add your cheese, toppings and condiments. Burgers range from \$10 to \$15.

While waiting for the Greek food and burger, I visited Quinn's Ice. There's quite an assortment of goodies, and I wanted a cold treat on a warm evening. I picked a pineapple shake before I even realized all of Quinn's offerings were lactose-free. But I wouldn't have noticed. According to their website, Quinn's uses organic vanilla-flavored rice milk as an alternative to milk with lactose.

Planning to just take a sip, I just kept going, and as usual, the shake went down quickly. The cold, sweet pineapple with creamy coconut topping really hit the spot. Not overly thick, but not thin; I did have to sip it fast due to the heat.

There are a lot of unique options at Quinn's. You can choose various toppings to go with soft serve to make a shake. Or, take your pick of soda floats, sundaes, or ice cream sandwiches — featuring chocolate chip, white chocolate macadamia nut, or oatmeal raisin.

My shake was \$12.93 and I thoroughly enjoyed it for a summer splurge.

Pace yourself, or you'll find yourself overeating or spending more than you want. It's all so tempting! Remember, you have all summer to explore the many yummy options.



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## The Cottage Opens New Store On Main Street In Annapolis



Photo courtesy of Amanda Paige Photography  
**Sarah Bender (left) and Sue Gauthier** have opened a second store to bring apparel, jewelry, gifts, decor and more to new customers.

practically grew up in The Cottage when her own mom used to work there. Before joining The Cottage, Bender admitted she didn't know much about retail.

"Sue has taught me everything that I know," said Bender, who officially joined the business in 2013, bringing a background in advertising, marketing and management. In conjunction with the new store opening, Bender was also promoted to Gauthier's partner.

"Sarah is on the hunt all the time for something that you don't see everywhere and that's what makes us really different," explained Gauthier. "The fun thing for us is we feature products from local talent, plus we have companies from all over the U.S. and world."

Beloved by locals for its coastal and relaxed theme, Annapolis is a perfect home for the new store. A few popular brands offered include Kendra Scott, Spartina, Brighton, Hobo, Scout, Corkcicle and Sand Cloud.

The Cottage also supports many local artists like Kim Hovell, carrying her oyster prints, candles and more. Additionally, both stores carry Smith & Quinn, a clothing line created by Annapolis native Kaeli Smith Quinn when she was only 18 years old. Further, this writer knows firsthand the store's support of local talent because the staff was generous in helping me fundraise to bring my first children's book to life. The Cottage went on to be the first store to carry my book too.

"We both have such strong faiths, and we don't make any decisions without asking God's direction ... With our decision to go into Annapolis, all the doors opened," Gauthier said.

» Continued on page 54

By Lauren Burke Meyer

While the pandemic has negatively impacted several businesses, one local business has not only survived but grown.

The Cottage has added a second location, opening another retail store in downtown Annapolis at 149 Main Street. Appropriately named The Cottage on Main, the new boutique is located where Kokopelli previously resided, next to The Clay Bakers and conveniently within proximity to Noah Hillman Parking Garage.

In 1974, the first location opened as Dawson's Country Cottage in the Carr building in Olde Severna Park before moving to Park Plaza in 1986 when Sue Gauthier took over. A rebrand to "The Cottage" came in 2006 with less focus on country styles. In 2017, the store moved a few more steps away and expanded into a space twice as large.

Store owners Gauthier and Sarah Bender go way back and have a mother/daughter-like rapport. Bender is the childhood best friend of Gauthier's oldest daughter and

## Understanding Cryptocurrency

**Jason LaBarge**  
 Financial Advisor  
 at Premier  
 Planning Group



The world was shaken in May when Elon Musk decided to change course and no longer accept Bitcoin as payment for products from his company. It was just this past March when Musk announced he was going to accept the cryptocurrency as payment for his vehicles, which was an eye-opener for this country and the value in cryptocurrency. However, many people still ponder the question, "What is cryptocurrency?" Clients ask me about this regularly, and with all of the recent coverage surrounding Dogecoin and even Musk hosting "Saturday Night Live," I thought now was the best time to shed some light on the subject.

Musk's car company, Tesla, is no longer going to accept Bitcoin due to the environmental damage that the currency causes. The power required

» Continued on page 54



## Chamber Update

**Liz League**  
 CEO  
 GSPACC



with Comfort LLC. And we thank all our renewing members for keeping us "chamber strong!"

With the recent lifting of mask protocols, we are overjoyed to have many parade participants and sponsors. This is a banner year for sponsorships, and we are overwhelmed with their generosity!

"Open for business" sponsors include **Chick-fil-A of Severna Park, Bernward Mechanical and Construction, Kogen Dojo and Brow Craft Boutique.** Our "judges table" sponsor is **Romilos Restaurant and Bar.** The judges table is sponsored by **Primary Residential Mortgage Inc. and Park Tavern.** The awards sponsor is **JB's of Severna Park.** Our tent sponsor is **Comcast Business.** Our "freedom" sponsors are **Coffee News Maryland, Christina Josephs Salon, Budding Voices LLC, EscapeTime, Live! Casino and Hotel, and community members Liz and Leo Courtney.**

"Independence" sponsors are **M&T Bank, Citizens for Heather Bagnall, Jackie D'Amico Designs, McDon-**

please give a warm welcome to our newest members: **Sass Well (Massage and Reiki Health and Wellness), A Touch of Class Property Management, and Travel**

**ald's of Severna Park, Sandy Spring Bank, SERVPRO of Annapolis, Franklin's Toys, Premier Insurance Advisors, Mosquito Squad, The Big Bean, Fishpaws Marketplace, Park Plaza, Severna Park Community Center, Christine Joyce and Jean Andrews - Team of Long and Foster, Broadleaf Tobacco, Steak and Shake of Millersville, Peggy Love - Annapolis Fine Homes Long and Foster Real Estate, Firehouse Subs, and HoneyBaked Ham.**

Our "sparkler" sponsors are **Brightview Senior Living, Meridiem Dermspa, Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi, Christ Embassy Church, Higgins and Friends Pet Sitting, and Living with the Magic Vacations.**

Again, our parade will be held on Monday, July 5, from 10:00am to 12:30pm and the theme is "Celebrating our COMMUNITY." Our grand marshal is **Eddie Conway, owner of Garry's Grill** and supporter of over 20 charitable organizations this past year. If you are interested in participating, please contact 410-647-3900 or info@gspacc.com.

In keeping with the parade theme, our Star-Spangled Restaurant Week, to be held July 3-11, takes on a special meaning in supporting a local food pantry known as **ACAN (Asbury Church Assistance Network).** Originally founded in 2004, ACAN's mission is "providing access to fresh and nutritious food in a respectful and

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## Understanding Cryptocurrency

» Continued from page 53

to produce Bitcoin is higher than what the entire country of Argentina uses and just shy of Norway's usage. That power takes 115 terawatts per hour of energy. To put this in more digestible terms, if the cost of a steak is determined by the energy and cost associated to create that steak, the same principle can be applied to Bitcoin. It has value because of the energy required to create it. On May 12, 2021, the government issued its inflation numbers and inflation increased 2.6 percent over the last quarter, and that's only one quarter! Conversely, Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are able to keep their value since they are useful as a form of money and earn value based on community involvement and the belief they have value.

When Bitcoin first surfaced, it was not trading at what it is now. Clearly, it has experienced a tremendous jump in popularity over the last 18 years, becoming a household name. Bitcoin is one of several examples of what can be referred to as cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency is a form of payment that can be exchanged online for goods and services. Many companies produce their own coins or tokens, and some of the popular ones are Dogecoin and Ethereum. You do need to exchange currency, such as dollars, to get cryptocurrency. However, many people also go "mining" for cryptocurrency, which I will expand on later.

The attractive feature of cryptocurrency involves two important points. The first is blockchain technology, which can be thought of as a ledger keeping trans-

actional records digitally. This controls the creation of new coins, therefore, keeping the value in check. Furthermore, ownership of every coin can be proved through blockchain technology. We know where every Bitcoin has been; this is extremely valuable when it comes to criminal behavior and transactional records. The second attractive feature is the decentralized control of the currency. This is opposed to more traditional centralized banking, like our current Federal Reserve System.

Cryptocurrency mining contributes to the decentralized appeal. Mining refers to gaining cryptocurrency as a reward for work. As transactions are completed, they become a part of the blockchain. These transactions need to be verified in some way; that is where mining comes in. Individuals compete in solving a complex equation to verify the blockchain. The first to solve the equation earns Bitcoin, or other cryptocurrency. This reward is then added to the blockchain and the cycle continues.

Many people worry that cryptocurrency is going to take over. It is my opinion that the Federal Reserve, the most powerful banking entity on the planet, isn't going to just step aside and allow cryptocurrency to take control as the medium of exchange. It has filled that role for over 100 years and vehemently protects its interests. Many think it is a federal agency when, in fact, it is a private bank. It won't just allow cryptocurrency to take over the power it currently wields. To me, that eliminates Bitcoin as a top medium of change.

Cryptocurrency is a new development within the last 18 years. It is a byproduct of us becoming a digital society. I don't believe that it is something to be afraid of; rather, it is something we can learn from. New developments are happening every day, and while we cannot predict the future, it is certainly something to keep an eye on as it evolves. With the potential of cryptocurrency playing a prominent role in our society's future, it's crucial to educate yourself on the subject now to prepare yourself for what's to come.

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Neither Cetera nor its financial professionals offer investments in cryptocurrencies.

A note about cryptocurrency — there is a great deal of risk to these assets, including volatility, security and lack of custody, and regulatory uncertainty along with the normal and high level of risk of any currency. This article is not a recommendation to invest in any cryptocurrency, but rather an examination of the economic forces that have caused their popularity.

## The Cottage Opens New Store In Annapolis

» Continued from page 53

With the new location, the employee count is now over 20 with girls aged 16 to 60-plus.

"We have an amazing, positive team and that makes the difference," gushed Gauthier, who also noted that her employees are like family to her.

"The thing I like best about Sue is that she's always up for a challenge or risk," Bender said.

While the pandemic brought many challenges, the partners and staff remained positive and creative, adding curbside pickup and delivery, launching a new website, offering engaging Instagram/Facebook Lives and adding the Annapolis location.

"Our success comes from our people, whether it's our Cottage family or our customers who have supported us for over 30 years," Bender said. "We wouldn't be here without those two sets of people."

The Cottage on Main held a soft opening on May 1 and the grand opening is planned for the weekend of June 18-19. To learn more about the growing boutique and its future events, visit [www.shopthecottage.com](http://www.shopthecottage.com) or follow its Facebook or Instagram pages, @ShopTheCottageSP.

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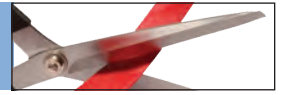


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## RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Park Books And Literacy Lab Seeks To Make Learning Fun



Melody Wukitch gathered with community members and the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the official opening of Park Books and Literacy Lab in May. Located at 555 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, the independent bookstore will have meeting rooms with book clubs, literacy assessments, small group reading instruction, writing workshops and more.

### Lynch Physical Therapy Helps Patients Heal



The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce gathered at Lynch Physical Therapy on June 1 to welcome owner Ryan Lynch and his team to the community. Although the business opened in June 2020, the ribbon-cutting was held in 2021. The office is located at 485 Ritchie Highway, Suite A202. This marks the second location for the business, which also has an office in Towson, Maryland.

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## Chamber Update

### » Continued from page 53

dignified manner to local families in need,” according to director Margo Arnoux. ACAN distributes close to 10,000 pounds of fresh food weekly.

Restaurants participating in Restaurant Week will be donating 5% of the proceeds to ACAN. Please patronize our wonderful restaurants that have been so negatively impacted by the pandemic and enjoy the specials that they will be creating for our Star-Spangled Restaurant Week! Visit [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com) for the latest updates.

Our Successful Women in Business group recently held an in-person event at the beautiful **Homestead Gardens in Severna Park**. Store manager Heidi Tyler presented tips on how to create stunning window boxes and planters. We had a wonderful time networking and shopping.

Our pet health and wellness committee had two guest speakers for this month’s meeting. Pets on Wheels and Fidos for Freedom spoke to us about how pets positively influence our mental and physical health, and provided a lot of information on the great things they are doing in the community to help people of all ages.

This month’s wellness committee speaker was Tiffany Erler, licensed speech therapist and owner of **Budding Voices LLC**. Tiffany’s focus is mainly on children, but she is knowledgeable in all aspects of vocal health, and she presented ways that we can keep our voices healthy for life.

On May 6, we held a ribbon-cutting celebrating the grand opening of **Park Books and Literacy Lab** in Severna Park. Owner Melody Wukitch has made it a family affair involving her husband, kids, and sister to create a wonderful environment. The business features a bookstore with works by local writers, reading clubs for kids, classes and more. It is also a great place to purchase unique gifts.

On May 20, we held a ribbon-cutting celebration for new business **Whoof on the Wharf**. The brainchild of patent attorney Bonnie McLeod, the business is in a beautiful waterfront building at the Pier 7 Resort Marina overlooking the bay and offers kayaking for you and your dogs. The business features a room to display work by local artists, an area to eat, and much more. We enjoyed a beautiful reception following the ceremony at the Pier Oyster Bar and Grill.

On May 25, the chambers in Anne Arundel County hosted a luncheon with Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford at the BWI Marriott. Topics discussed included how the state handled the pandemic, what is being done to help small businesses and get people back to work and the economy going forward.

On the last Friday in May, the chamber held a blood drive for Anne Arundel Medical Center. There will be a critical need for blood donations this summer as people return to work and travel and are at risk.

As always, please visit [www.gspacc.com](http://www.gspacc.com) for more information about the chamber and our activities. You can also email me at [ceo@gspacc.com](mailto:ceo@gspacc.com) or call 410-647-3900.

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

# Maryland Oncology Hematology Gives Patients The Best Of Care, Close To Home

By Zach Sparks

Cancer patients in Anne Arundel County do not need to travel far to receive life-changing care. Nine doctors, who have trained at some of the best medical facilities in the world, have opened an independent practice called Maryland Oncology Hematology in the Annapolis area to provide compassionate, affordable cancer care to patients in their own community.

“The quality of the physician makes the engine go here,” said Dr. Ravin Garg, who completed his hematology and oncology fellowship at world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. “Physicians demand excellence and want the best and brightest in their group, they want the best for patients, and they will collaborate with the best doctors on a patient’s care — that’s the benefit of being physician-owned.”

It’s important for patients to know that they have the freedom to choose their oncology doctor.

“Where you start your journey matters, because if you have a misstep along the way, your care could be compromised,” Garg said. “I think it’s very important from the beginning that you’re with a team of doctors who are providing the best cutting-edge care and is going to put you in the right hands, whether it be for surgery, radiation, chemotherapy or immune therapy.”

The doctors at Maryland Oncology Hematology come from some of the world’s best schools, including Johns Hopkins; the University of Maryland Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center; and in Garg’s case, the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“It’s rare for one community practice to have so many specialized doctors,” explained Dr. Ben Bridges, whose specialties include gastrointestinal and lung cancers.

“In the majority of community oncology practices, the physicians in those practices are seeing whatever walks through the door,” Bridges said. “They don’t necessarily have the opportunity to develop any sort of special clinical interest or expertise. At Maryland Oncology Hematology, we are fortunate that each physician has a developed area of expertise.”

Between the nine doctors at Maryland Oncology Hematology, almost all cancers can be treated by physicians who are experts in that specific disease.

“Dr. [Carol] Tweed is really a nationally known breast cancer specialist. Her level of knowledge and research in breast cancer is almost unbelievable



(L-R) Dr. Ravin Garg and Dr. Ben Bridges are part of a nine-physician team at Maryland Oncology Hematology in Annapolis.



MARYLAND  
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to get in a community setting,” Garg said. “Dr. Bridges and Dr. [Adam] Goldrich are phenomenal lung cancer physicians. Dr. [Jason] Taksey is one of the best genitourinary physicians I have ever met. Those are doctors who deal with things like testicular cancer, bladder cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer. He was at Johns Hopkins for a long time, teaching and seeing patients there, so he’s been providing the best of care. Dr. [Jeanine] Werner does a lot of gynecologic malignancies, so ovarian, uterine, cervical – and she’s a top breast cancer specialist too. Dr. Weng is incredibly well-trained and he is an expert in any solid tumor type along with hematologic malignancies (lymphoma, leukemia, myeloma). Doctors [Peter] Graze and [Stuart] Selonick are some of the best clinicians I have ever met and both have an expertise in a variety of malignancies including head/neck cancer, lung cancers, brain tumors, and hematologic cancers.”

Because the nine doctors run their own practice, they now have the freedom to work with colleagues from other institutions, giving patients the best care. For example, they are part of several tumor boards, which have representation from many academic institutions in the area. These are meetings of physicians involved in the multidisciplinary care of a patient.

“In addition to presenting cases amongst ourselves, we are getting input in real time from other nationally known experts so we can tell patients, ‘These were the people who were there and these are our overall recommendations,’” Bridges said. “That

allows us the freedom to make sure, if a patient needs input from outside the local community, we are able to get it but still provide all the care in the community.”

Patients can also get most of their care from one place. Maryland Oncology Hematology also has a comfortable and modern outpatient infusion center.

“We have every type of infusion imaginable: chemotherapy, immune therapy, targeted types of treatments,” Garg said. “Patients like to know it’s a one-stop shop where they can get their labs and infusions. It’s all under one roof.”

Maryland Oncology Hematology now offers inpatient care at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (BWMC). By accepting BWMC hospital privileges, patients receive outstanding care, now with greater access for patients to the full inpatient resources of one of the country’s leading academic medical centers: the University of Maryland network.

Maryland Oncology Hematology will soon open an additional office in a thriving community in northern Anne Arundel County, so Severna Park residents won’t have to fight traffic on the Severn River Bridge.

The Maryland Oncology Hematology staff has also been active in the community by supporting the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and Wellness House of Annapolis.

“Wellness House has provided wonderful services for over 14 years to oncology patients, whether its massage, group talks or weekly lectures,” Garg said. “It’s a peaceful environment for cancer patients, during treatment or after treatment, free of charge.”

The physicians at Maryland Oncology Hematology are committed to helping patients and their families through their cancer journeys while creating special connections in the process. They have forged friendships with patients by bonding over common interests like sports, family activities, movies, hiking and other hobbies.

“This is not something, hopefully, that anybody goes through alone,” Bridges said. “For a lot of patients and families, this is the most difficult time in their life, and developing that long-term connection with these patients is extremely rewarding.”

*Maryland Oncology Hematology is located at 810 Bestgate Road, Suite 400, in Annapolis and will soon open another location in northern Anne Arundel County. For more information, call 410-897-6200 or visit [www.marylandoncology.com](http://www.marylandoncology.com).*



## Park Home Offers Decor For All Aesthetics



Heather Summers and her husband, Scott, started Park Home in 2017.

By Haley Weisgerber

Nestled conveniently off Ritchie Highway in the Park Plaza shopping center, Park Home is a family owned and operated business offering hand-picked home decor and accents selected to fit the perfect aesthetic for any family.

Heather Summers moved to Severna Park with her husband and two children in 2012. She previously operated a local design center business in her home state of South Carolina.

“After moving to Maryland, I looked for a way to get back

into the business and came across the monthly vintage markets,” Heather said. “I was able to make some business connections and friends, and spent a few years repurposing furniture and selling vintage items.”

In 2017, Heather and her husband, Scott, opened Park Home.

“Park Home has become a favorite for customers updating their homes or buying new homes, as well as with those decorating vacation homes, especially beach homes. It is also popular with interior designers who are sourcing for projects,” Heather said.

Park Home offers a variety of accent furniture, lighting, rugs, wall decor, accessories and more. The Summers pride themselves on keeping a selection of products from a variety of vendors and styles to help their customers create the perfect space for their style.

“I always tell customers to mix colors and textures,” Heather said. “This will create focal points in the space.”

Park Home features a selection of antique and refinished furniture, as well as one-of-a-kind items hand-selected by Heather.

“I was traveling to England twice a year to buy antique and vintage items,

but COVID canceled my trips,” she said. “I hope to be able to make many more trips once we are allowed to travel again.”

In an age where online shopping has become increasingly popular, Scott and Heather strive to keep the store stocked with unique products available for customers to see and touch in person.

“We try to offer items that are on trend but different from what you find in other places,” Scott said. “We want the store to have a curated feel where customers can

see how items would look in their own homes.”

Park Home is truly a small business. There is no corporate office sending inventory. The Summers select all the products in the store to keep their customers happy.

“In a time when there is so much shopping online, we provide a location where you can touch and feel products,” Heather said. “A customer can better visualize how an item will look in their space when they can see it in person.”

Heather said Severna Park has been the ideal location for Park Home because the community is close-knit. She hopes their customers continue to spread the word about the business.

“We do our best to listen to customer needs and make suggestions,” she said. “We spend time getting to know our customers.”

*Park Home is located at 568E Ritchie Highway and is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information, visit [www.parkhomestyle.com](http://www.parkhomestyle.com) or call 410-544-1127. Find Park Home on Instagram and Facebook at @parkhomestyle.*

# Park Home

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# Share The Table: Restaurants Support Charity To Help Local Neighbors

As the world emerges from the unprecedented shutdown of this past year, the simple joys of being with others, sharing a table and dining together have taken on new meaning.

Many people here in Anne Arundel County have felt the impact of this global crisis. Some local families are struggling with lost wages, child care, and the inability to put food on the table. Local restaurants were part of an industry hit hardest by closures.

The pandemic has shown a spotlight not only on those in need but also on the generosity of this community.

ACAN, a Severna Park food pantry dedicated to providing healthy food choices, was able to serve more

than 22,000 individuals over the past year. This generosity was due, in part, to community support.

This year's Star-Spangled Restaurant Week takes on special meaning as we "share the table."

Local restaurants are teaming up with ACAN to support neighbors in need. A portion of the proceeds from the customized Restaurant Week menus will be donated to the ACAN food pantry, allowing it to continue its important work.

Please join the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce from July 3 to July 11 for Star Spangled Restaurant Week 2021 and support local restaurants as the chamber celebrates community bonds and the ability to be together.

# Arundel Federal Fills Backpacks Of Love For Children Entering Foster Care



The Arundel Federal team exceeded their goal of seven backpacks by filling 17 backpacks for children entering foster care.

toothbrush and toothpaste, soft blanket, clothing, books and toys for kids of all ages who are entering the system.

Here's how the process works: the Blue Ribbon Project has backpacks ready to go when its team receives a call from the Department of Social Services that a child is being removed. A member of the project immediately takes a backpack to the child's location. This can be at the offices of Social Services, a hospital, or police department. Visit the Blue Ribbon Project ([www.blueribbonproject.org](http://www.blueribbonproject.org)) for more information about Backpacks of Love and other initiatives.

This spring, Arundel Federal employees joined together to help local children entering foster care by sponsoring the Blue Ribbon Project's Backpacks of Love program located in Annapolis.

The backpacks contain necessities like a

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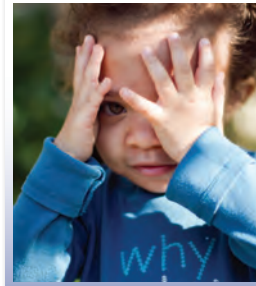
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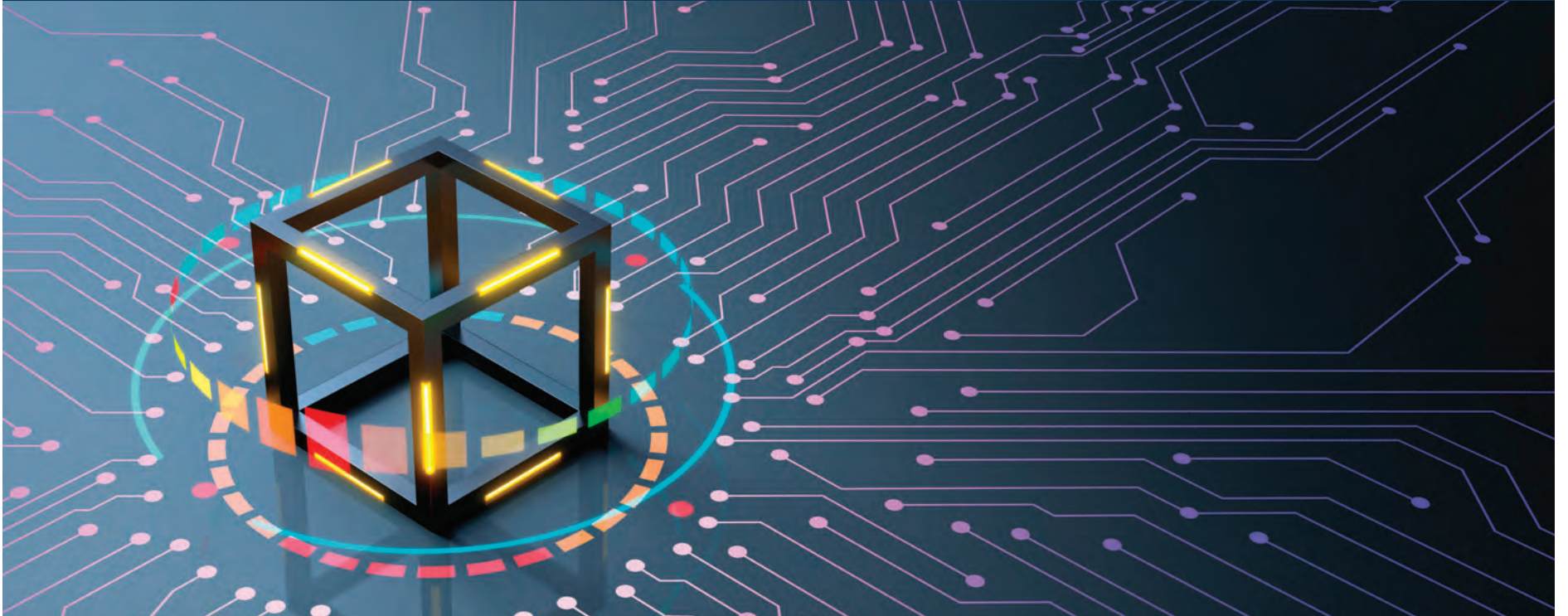
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