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JUNE 2025

STATE DEFEND TITLES CHAMPS



Photo by Fincham Photography

Severna Park swept aside Towson 11-4 on May 21 to win the 2025 3A boys lacrosse state championship.



Photo by Dennis McGinley

Savannah Libby (21) scored twice and quietly led from the midfield in her team's girls lacrosse championship win.



The Bruins tennis team won their third straight title on May 24, scoring 20 points to Churchill's 19.

Severna Park and Broadneck sports teams not only won state championships in May but also cemented their legacies as some of the most impressive squads Maryland has ever seen. The Falcons beat the Towson Generals 11-4 in the Class 3A boys lacrosse final on May 21 to capture the program's ninth straight state championship and 14th overall, both Maryland records across all divisions. On the girls lacrosse side, the Bruins held off Urbana 8-6 on May 22 to win the program's fifth straight championship in Class 4A.

Broadneck also had another champion. The tennis team took home a third straight Class 4A trophy on May 24 and had an individual winner, Olivia Mellynchuk, who reclaimed her girls singles title for the third straight year. Severna Park's Brynn Bilnoski capped a stellar tournament by claiming the girls singles title in Class 3A.

To read more about each team's accomplishments, flip to page 22.

Celebrating 100 Years Of The Kinder Farmhouse

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Inside a brick house at Kinder Farm Park, visitors can examine 1900s relics: a candlestick telephone, a hand-crank sewing machine, insulated milk boxes, an RCA Victrola record player and other items.

Volunteers from the Friends of Kinder Farm Park Historical Society have

collected and preserved the donated materials to display them to the public once a month, because they love history. They plan to celebrate that history and the farmhouse's 100th "birthday" on June 21 from 11:00am-3:00pm. A rain date is set for June 22.

With the house decked out in patriot bunting, the event will include children's games from the 1930s in the front yard, photo opportunities with a 1930s era automobile and farm tractor, two watermelon eating contests (for ages 5-8 and 9-12), small barnyard toy gifts for children, and a birthday cake and cookies.

The event should be fun for visitors and volunteers alike.

"We're going to be trying to get the sewing machine on the front porch so I can sit in my 1930s dress and show the kids how people used to sew without electricity," said volunteer Janice Hendra.

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Photos by Zach Sparks

Henry and Hilda Kinder raised eight children in the farmhouse, which is now open monthly to visitors who want to learn how daily life has changed since the 1900s.

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Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

Every month, the *Voice* recognizes the good work of a local volunteer to honor *Voice* founder and lifelong Severna Park resident Margueritte Mills.



The Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month is proudly sponsored by Affordable Outdoor Kitchens. **Affordable Outdoor Kitchens**
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Tim Yarbrough Helps Beautify County Trails

By Meredith Winter

Years ago, Tim Yarbrough's friend and former colleague Ed Parker, a runner who frequently utilized the B&A Trail, asked Yarbrough to consider becoming a trail-blazer, or a volunteer who helps people out along the trail. He didn't respond to the request, and over time lost touch with his friend during retirement.

An avid bicyclist, Yarbrough had also been a longtime trail user — for as long as the B&A Trail has existed — and on a ride one day from his Arnold home to the trail, he saw the newly installed Edgar and Jean Parker Memorial. Yarbrough thought perhaps he had missed the news that his old friend had passed, but not long after, Parker called him. He extended a second invitation to volunteer with the trails — this time as caretaker of the small respite park the Parkers had funded at the north end of the Broadneck Peninsula Trail, across from Anne Arundel Community College.

"When he called me to ask the Friends of the trails and to be a board member and take care of his memorial, I thought that was appropriate, and I was happy for an opportunity to volunteer," Yarbrough said of his former coworker at Westinghouse and Northrop Grumman.

He began volunteering with the Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails in 2022. The organization is a nonprofit comprised of volunteers who help "promote, protect and enhance the multimodal trails" throughout the county, including the B&A Trail, the BWI Trail, the Broadneck Peninsula Trail and the West B&A Trail.

Yarbrough's role began as caretaker of the Parker memorial and grew to include installing memorial bricks



Photo by Meredith Winter

Arnold resident Tim Yarbrough serves on the board of directors for the Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails and volunteers as a caretaker for some of the trails' parks and memorials, including the one behind Arnold Station.



Yarbrough began his volunteerism with the Friends as caretaker for the Edgar and Jean Parker Memorial in Arnold. Yarbrough worked with Ed Parker for many years, and it was at Parker's invitation that he got involved with the Friends.

in the legacy gardens along the trail, such as the one behind the Arnold Station shopping center as well as at Hatton Regester Green and Jonas Green Park. He cleans up and beautifies various gardens along the trail, often with a group of fellow volunteers. And, he serves on the Friends' 10-member board of directors.

A highlight during his years of volunteering with the Friends has been learning just how much effort goes into maintaining the county's trails. "Seeing how much is involved in taking care of the infrastructure has been very impressive," he said, noting the county staff do a great job.

"We're here to support the people that run the trails and make the trails prettier," Yarbrough said, noting he lives in a beautiful place — one he's been happy to reside in since 1981.

The retired engineer has also volunteered for nearly a decade with the county's annual Lifeline100 cycling event by driving "SAG," which stands for support and gear. Yarbrough drives around to help cyclists who are unable to finish the course, or who have had an accident.

His primary areas of volunteering, though, are the Parker memorial and the legacy garden bricks, and he's content to do those things humbly under the leadership of others.

"Something I learned as a Cub Scout leader is the one thing that all leaders need most is helpful followers," Yarbrough shared. "That's my goal, to be a helpful follower."

His other goal is to enjoy retirement for as long as he worked, and he's about 14 years into that goal so far. His bride of 45 years, Mary Ann, taught at South River High School for 37 years and is also retired. Together, they have two children, three grandchildren, and a 1-year-old

German Shepherd mix that gets "tormented" by their two Siamese cats.

With a hip replacement scheduled in June, Yarbrough is eager to get back on his bike by the end of summer. In the meantime, he continues to care for the beautiful parks and memorials along the trails.

"Something that's real rewarding, when I'm working on the garden at the Parker memorial ... people come by and thank me for doing what I do, and they love the little park," he said. "The locals come by, and their dogs get water there, so more people than I realized do appreciate that little park."

Impact100 Will Award \$56,000 Grant To Local Nonprofit

The members of Impact100 Greater Chesapeake Inc. (Impact100) will award a 2025 grant in October in the amount of \$56,000. This grant will be awarded to a nonprofit to fund a transformational project in Anne Arundel County. Nonprofits are encouraged to apply for this grant by June 30.

Since its founding, Impact100 Greater Chesapeake has awarded \$499,000 to local nonprofits that

have had a huge impact on the community. From food insecurity to elder care to mental health, Impact100 grants have provided programming and infrastructure to address the needs of Anne Arundel County's most vulnerable neighbors.

The Impact100 annual member meeting will be held in October. Finalists for the grant will deliver brief presentations about their project proposals to Impact100's membership,

followed by a vote of the membership to award the \$56,000 grant.

For more details about the grant, visit www.impact100greaterchesapeake.org/grant-application. Women interested in learning more about the Impact100 organization and the benefits of membership are invited to visit the website or join the Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/greaterchesapeake.



SEVERNA PARK VOICE

Publishers

Dianna Lancione
Lonnie Lancione

V.P., Operations

Brian Lancione

V.P., Business Development

Jonathan Katz

Account Executive

Larry Sells

Editor

Zach Sparks

Assistant Editor

Meredith Winter

Sports Reporter

David Bashore

Reporters

Lauren Burke Meyer
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Alyson Kay
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Lauren Meyer
Kevin Murnane
Jaina Peveto
Judy Tacyn

Columnists

Amanda Fiedler
Dawn Gile
Liz League
LaToya Nkongolo
Michele Sabean

Contributors

Julie Antinucci
Lisa Bogan-Reohr
David Diggs
Cynthia Drogula
Jason LaBarge
David Orso

Photographers

Chris Fincham
Dennis McGinley
Steve Overton

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Please send your news to:
spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com

P.O. Box 608
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Annual Music Festival To Benefit Katherine’s Light Foundation Slated For June 14

Save the date for this year’s Katherine Mueller All-Day Music Festival coming up on June 14. The annual event is a fundraiser hosted by local nonprofit Katherine’s Light Foundation (KLF) in honor of Katherine Mueller, who died of a rare form of cancer in 2021 at the age of 31.

All proceeds will further KLF’s mission of supporting organizations that promote education, awareness, research, support and wellness for cancer patients. In 2024, KLF donated over \$100,000 to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation, Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation, Wellness House of Annapolis, Anne Arundel Community College Foundation, Luminis Health — Anne Arundel Medical Center Foundation, Mercy Medical Center, and SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods).

This year’s music festival will again be held at Severna Park Taphouse and will run from noon to 8:00pm. Attendees can enjoy acoustic jams indoors and numerous bands outside under a big tent, making the experience a fun one rain or shine. Musicians scheduled to play at the event include The Crayfish, Lost & Found Trio Band, Miggs Rangel, DJ Brian Austin, George Evans, Honey Sol, and others.

The festival will also include live and silent auctions and raffles. Food and drinks will be available for purchase as well. KLF has a goal to raise \$50,000 through the event to continue their philanthropic work.

Larry Sells, Mueller’s stepfather and co-founder of KLF, said that the positive impact the nonprofit has in the community is not only a way to honor Katherine, but also is therapeutic for those who loved her. “It helps us to pour goodness over some sadness,” he said in anticipation of the music festival.

He and his wife, Robin Sells, Mueller’s mother, consider it a blessing when people in the community choose to attend KLF’s annual fundraiser or support the nonprofit in other ways. “We take it personally ... the love — we feel it loud and clear, and when they choose (to support) us it just means the world to us,” Larry said.

For more information about the music festival, or to purchase tickets or sponsorships, go to www.katherineslight.org.

Vietnam War Memorial Dedicated During Day Of Remembrance Ceremony



Community members gathered on Memorial Day, May 26, for the unveiling of the Severna Park Heroes of the Vietnam War memorial and to pay tribute to five U.S. Army soldiers from Severna Park who were killed in action during the Vietnam War. The memorial is located at Hatton Regester Green next to the B&A Trail.



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U.S. Navy Blue Angels Visit Annapolis For Commissioning Week



Photos by Meredith Winter

On May 20, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels flight demonstration squadron took to the skies over the United States Naval Academy (USNA) for a rehearsal air show. The show planned for May 21 as part of the USNA's Commissioning Week celebrations was canceled due to poor weather conditions. The Blue Angels wowed crowds with the delta formation, in which all six F/A-18 Super Hornets fly together; the diamond 360 maneuver, in which four of the jets fly just 18 inches apart; the sneak pass, where a solo jet blasts by spectators at roughly 700 miles per hour; and many other awe-inspiring maneuvers. The all-Marine Corps crew of Fat Albert, the Blue Angels' C-130J Super Hercules support aircraft, closed out the rehearsal by demonstrating the versatility of the large cargo plane with its own set of aerobatic maneuvers.

Crush MS Fest Set For Saturday, June 7



The Maryland Cornhole Association will host a cornhole tournament with social and competitive brackets during the festival.

Get ready for an afternoon of family fun, food and festivities at the Crush MS Fest on June 7 from noon-5:00pm at the Severna Park Elks Lodge. This event brings the community together to raise awareness and support in the fight against multiple sclerosis.

Crush MS Fest will feature delicious eats from food trucks, including Breaking the Burger Bus, Bun'd Up, Pura Vida Bowls and Java, and Greek on the Street. Live music by Controlled Chaos is expected to keep the energy high throughout the day, with a mix of rock and crowd-pleasing favorites.

For anyone feeling competitive, the Maryland Cornhole Association will host an optional cornhole tournament with

social and competitive brackets, offering fun for casual players and seasoned pros alike.

Attendees can also look forward to raffles, refreshing beer and the festival's signature freshly squeezed orange crushes, available for purchase throughout the afternoon.

This family-friendly event promises a vibrant atmosphere for all ages — and it's all for a great cause. All proceeds will be donated to MS4MS (Mission Stadiums for Multiple Sclerosis), an Arnold-based nonprofit that focuses on raising funds directly for families with MS Warriors and for the advancement of research at the Johns Hopkins Project Restore MS Research Center in hopes of finding a cure.



A family-friendly event, Crush MS Fest is designed to offer a vibrant atmosphere with fun activities.

Severna Park High School Class Of 1967 To Meet June 7

Severna Park High School's class of 1967 will gather on the patio at Mother's Peninsula Grille on June 7 from 3:00pm-6:00pm to celebrate 58 years since graduation. The occasion is scheduled for the same date that 406 students enjoyed their graduation ceremony on Falcon Field, now known as Roberts Field, in 1967.

The class of 1967 was the last one to attend Severna Park Junior Senior High from grades seven through 12 from 1961-1967. Event planner Robyn Turner said she wanted to organize the reunion because she has many fond memories from the six years she spent with her classmates. Her mother, Agnes, worked as a physical education teacher at the school from 1959-1973.

To RSVP, visit www.classmates.com or go to www.classreport.org. For additional details, email robyn@sphs-memories.com.



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Celebrating 100 Years Of The Kinder Farmhouse



This 1937 Chevrolet manual and clarinet from around 1930 are part of the display.



Calvin Cox donated this Singer hand-crank sewing machine, which belonged to his grandmother.



This is one of four upstairs bedrooms in the farmhouse.

» Continued from page 1

The Friends of Kinder Farm Park also hope to book a German-style food truck and German musicians. The German connections fit with the history.

Kinder Farmhouse — The Early Years

The farmhouse is filled with notebooks and documents detailing the history of the building and everything inside. Framed pictures are flanked by labels explaining how the Kinder family settled on the Millersville property. Three siblings — Gustave, Ulrika and Henry — traveled to America from Germany in 1893 or 1894. In 1896, their mother, Henrietta, six other siblings and a 2-year-old granddaughter joined them in Curtis Bay.

"The Kinders had left in the mid-1890s to come here in three separate groups because the kaiser was drafting every man available and some of the sons were very young — 7, 8, 10 — when they came, but they were targets," said Diane Rausch, co-chair of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park Historical Society.

Gustave bought about 45 acres of land in 1898, and Henry bought acreage in 1902, adding many more purchases until the 1950s. One of those purchases included the land where Henry and Hilda built the farmhouse in 1925.

The brick farmhouse originally got electricity from a generator-run battery and had running water. A basement with partial dirt floors was used for storing

jars of canned goods, hanging laundry during inclement weather, and for other purposes. The Kinders reserved the first-floor bedroom for visiting guests, and the rest of the family slept in four upstairs bedrooms. They shared one bathroom upstairs. Heat was circulated through a large floor vent on each level.

"When Henry Kinder Sr. moved into this house, he had seven children and four bedrooms," Rausch said. "They managed just fine, but I tell the kids (who visit), nobody had a bedroom by themselves and nobody had a bed by themselves."

Henry and Hilda had one more daughter after they moved into the house. Those children worked with Henry, a truck farmer, picking produce and vegetables.

"Then he drove into Baltimore by wagon for many years, and then later in the '30s, they acquired a truck," Rausch said. "But by that time, the truck farming in Baltimore was less productive financially for the farmers because so much was coming on refrigerated trains and trucks from the south, which had an earlier growing season. So, Henry and his four sons began cattle farming."

The Next Era

The Kinder family raised eight children and nine grandchildren who lived in various houses and converted barns around the park until 1979 when they sold the property to Anne Arundel County.

"They had more than 277 acres, but they began to

sell off to the developers and that's part of the reason Kinder Farm decided to move because there was suburbia putting pressure on them," Rausch said. "Fortunately for us, Robert Pascal, who was the Anne Arundel county executive, came here hunting one day, heard they wanted to sell the land, came back and approached them about selling this land for park land and that they would try to create a farm park."

In 2011, volunteers decided to turn the house into a museum, an endeavor that took three years. About 30 men showed up to help on the first day.

"They were a great help because they came with many talents," Rausch said. "We gutted walls, we tore out bathrooms, we had to paint and put up wall-board after that."

All that hard work paid off, with the farmhouse hosting visitors for over 10 years now. The Friends of Kinder Farm Park hope to see many guests for the 100th anniversary celebration in June, an event that Rausch hopes will inspire more people to get involved as stewards of the farmhouse.

"It is history," she said. "We'd like to see the maintenance go to another generation because we're all over 60, some of us well over 60, and it's just a big job. You need a big team, and the history is fascinating."

The farmhouse is open on the second Saturday of each month from 11:00am-3:00pm.

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Earleigh Heights Hosts Rescue Training

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

With shattered windows, jammed doors and flat tires, vehicles at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company (EHVFC) turned the parking lot into a junkyard from May 15-18, but that was by design. The Severna Park department created the setup for a specialized heavy rescue class.

During four days of hands-on vehicle extrication training, participants learned to safely stabilize, pry, cut and lift cars, trucks, buses and construction equipment. Students worked in teams while sharing ideas and skills.

“It’s just like athletics — it’s all about practice,” said EHVFC Chief Dave Crawford. “You have to practice when you can, as often as you can, and as realistic as you can, so when it comes down to the real thing at 2:00 in the morning when a driver needs to be rescued, you will be ready. That’s really what it’s all about.”

National expert Ron Moore taught the class. An independent consultant from the University of Extrication, Moore previously served as division chief with the McKinney Fire Department in Texas and as a training chief with Prosper Fire Rescue. He resides in Plano, Texas.

“I travel around the country, west to east, north to south. Of all the places I visit in a year, I find that coming to this part of Anne Arundel County, and this station in particular, these guys are best equipped,” said Moore, who leads 14 to 20 classes per year.

The training opportunity included personnel from Annapolis, Fort Meade, Baltimore



Photos by Zach Sparks

EHVFC hosted extrication expert Ron Moore and fire departments statewide during a four-day training class in May.



“At the end of the day, we want to get the person out of the vehicle, or the people out of the vehicle, with as much care and as quickly as possible ... The more we sharpen our skills, the better we get.”

— EHVFC CHIEF DAVE CRAWFORD

and other fire companies across Maryland. As EHVFC members explained, the training is difficult to coordinate because of a limited number of experts; complicated setup and oversight; and the necessary donation of cars, trucks and buses.

The benefits outweigh the challenges, though. Training helps crews understand the constantly evolving changes in vehicle construction.

High-strength steel, used as lightweight reinforcement for portions of some vehicles, is vir-

tually impossible to cut. Airbags in steering wheels, dashboards, roofs and seats can explode when disturbed, presenting hazards to rescuers. Some vehicles have electrical systems that operate with thousands of volts, and some alternative-fuel vehicles have high-pressure gas storage tanks.

Fire departments learned about all this and more in May. When each class ends, Moore leaves a PowerPoint presentation for the supervising fire chief so that new recruits can learn the same methods.

Facts About Earleigh Heights Heavy Rescue Squad 12

1. Purchased in 2022 for \$1.2 million
2. Responds to car accidents throughout the area including Ritchie Highway, Route 10 and I-97
3. Carries specialized equipment for firefighting and vehicle accidents including:
 - Hydraulic rescue tools capable of quickly cutting cars apart to get to entrapped occupants
 - Equipment to stabilize overturned cars and trucks
 - Jacks and winches for truck accidents
 - Saws capable of cutting wood, steel and concrete

Crawford wants all EHVFC members to participate, from the newest recruits to the most seasoned veterans. He said his approach is meant to foster teamwork, collaboration and problem solving; familiarize members with tools and techniques; develop skills and confidence; and provide leadership opportunities for emerging team leaders.

Fire department members gain a sense of accomplishment, moving and cutting heavy vehicles. The experience gives every person opportunity and ownership.

“At the end of the day, we want to get the person out of the vehicle, or the people out of the vehicle, with as much care and as quickly as possible,” Crawford said. “The more we sharpen our skills, the better we get.”

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Michele Sabean
Director of Development,
SPAN Inc.



forward to their daughter coming home from the hospital and instead learned that her daughter’s cancer had returned. Later the same morning, I learned that one of our volunteers and her family are also going through a difficult situation.

Working at SPAN, I frequently reflect on how we all go through tough times. You never know what someone is currently dealing with — and each of us

We recently had a hard day at SPAN. One of our clients got a phone call from her daughter while she was waiting for us to get her food. She and her husband were looking

can find ways to help. Sometimes it is spending time listening, bringing food, praying or helping by donating money to an organization, such as SPAN.

We often have clients at SPAN who are dealing with lots of big challenges, and recently we have especially had lots of clients with large utility bills and turn-off notices. A single mother came to SPAN for the first time seeking assistance with a utility turn-off notice. She was employed as a nurse, but following a medical issue, she could no longer work and applied for disability. The lengthy process of waiting to qualify for disability had caused her to fall behind on her bills. SPAN was able to help her keep her utilities on for her and her children.

At SPAN we see a lot of people dealing with big challenges and we also see lots of people — our volunteers, clients and community members - donating time, money and items to help those facing

the challenges. Students in the Arundel High School Service Club painted beautiful kindness rocks and put together birthday bags for our clients. A huge thank you to Asbury United Methodist Church in Arnold for collecting toiletries and cleaning supplies for SPAN.

SPAN helps about 60 families per month with food. Clients often specifically ask for and appreciate receiving toiletries and cleaning products in addition to their food. When an emergency hits and families struggle to put food on the table, they often don’t have money for hygiene and cleaning products. Donations of those items allow adults and children to be clean and presentable for job interviews and school. Our clients regularly request shampoo, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, laundry and dish detergent. In addition, canned meat and potatoes are items that are always great to donate.

We also see examples of our clients caring for others, giving rides to their neighbors, helping with child care, and

sharing as they can. One woman, who comes to SPAN occasionally for food, recently gave SPAN a \$10 donation. She said that she cannot give much, but she felt that it was appropriate to give what she could to pay it forward for the help she has received over the years.

All of us have moments of needing help and times of being able to help others. Being there for our friends and neighbors is what makes for a good community. We can all be a blessing to someone every day. Being part of SPAN is a consistent reminder for me of the immense power and impact of neighbors helping neighbors.

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is an independent nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills, and food since 1990. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit www.spanhelps.org.

HOMETOWN HEROES

Severna Park Native Serves With Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command At Fort Detrick

By Ashley Craig

Navy Office of Community Outreach

Petty Officer First Class Steven Tabisz, from Severna Park, serves as the senior enlisted leader assigned to Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command (NMRLC) Detachment Fort Detrick, Maryland.

Tabisz is a 2004 graduate of Severna Park High School. Additionally, Tabisz earned a bachelor's degree in computer networking and security from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Severna Park.

"My dad always says, 'If you're going to do something, don't half do it,'" Tabisz said. "My mom taught us the golden rule, to always respect and treat everyone the way you'd like to be treated."

Tabisz joined the Navy 19 years ago.

"I joined the Navy because I was bored with college and wanted something new," Tabisz said. "September 11 fueled a want to serve my country."



Today, Tabisz serves as a hospital corpsman. Headed by Captain Christopher Barnes, NMRLC develops, acquires, produces, fields, sustains and provides enduring lifecycle support

Photo courtesy of the Navy Office of Community Outreach

Petty Officer First Class Steven Tabisz is a 2004 graduate of Severna Park High School and serves as a hospital corpsman.

of medical materiel solutions to the Fleet, Fleet Marine Force, and Joint Forces in high-end competition, crisis and combat. At the forefront of Navy Medicine's strategic evolution, NMRLC is well positioned to be the Joint Force's premier integrated medical logistics support activity.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Tabisz serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

He has many opportunities

to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I'm most proud of being the command career counselor at Field Medical Training Battalion-East and Second Marine Division," Tabisz said. "I'm able to help the sailors figure out their future in the Navy and provide guidance."

Tabisz can take pride in serving America through military service.

"I've been in the Navy over half of my life now and it's been a great adventure," Tabisz said. "It's given me a different viewpoint on life and the world, a career to be proud of, and skills to utilize when I grow up and retire."

Tabisz is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I want to thank my mom and dad, my sister, Jen, and my brother, Matt, for their support from the moment I joined in 2005," Tabisz added. "I also want to thank my wife, Katie, my daughter, Skylar, and my son, Charles. I love you. Thank you for supporting me throughout our career; we're almost finished. To my Aunt Kathy and Uncle Chris: Go Navy, Beat Army!"



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Private Exclusive Listing – Right For You?

David Orso

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market dynamics and home selling strategies. Labeling a market as a seller's market, normal market, or buyer's market is actually rooted in simple mathematics:

MONTHS OF INVENTORY EQUALS NUMBER OF HOMES FOR SALE/NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD PER MONTH

- **Seller's Market** Equals Less Than Four Months Of Inventory
- **Normal Market** Equals Four To Six Months Of Inventory
- **Buyer's Market** Equals Six-Plus Months Of Inventory

A segmentation of a market may exist within a broader market. For example, it is a deep buyer's market currently for waterfront homes above \$3 million in Anne Arundel County, but conversely it is a deep seller's market for homes between \$500,000 to \$1 million in Severna Park.

During the "COVID years," private exclusive listings or off-market sales became a prominent strategy due to the total imbalance of inventory and demand. During the years 2020-2022, there was less than a one-month supply of inventory, which was the strongest seller's market we have ever witnessed. Buyers were crazed and willing to extend inconceivable terms to simply secure a home.

In a shifting market, the allure of a private listing should be tempered with a market analysis. A home seller should absolutely know what type of market their home exists within. Too often, I am observing home sellers falling into a sexy narrative about private exclusive listings. The top three statements I hear daily related to off-market (not listed on the Multiple Listing Service) home sales are:

- **"Buyers pay more for off market homes."** **FALSE** – Homes listed on the MLS sold for almost 20% more than private sales.
- **"Private listings attract elite buyers and have an aura of exclusivity."** **FALSE** – Private sales draw attention to the questionable motivation of the seller and exclude the majority of the marketplace.
- **"A private listing allows me to test the market."** **FALSE** – Limited exposure is never a thorough test.

There are certain situations where the private exclusive listing (not listed for sale on the Multiple Listing Service) is convenient to a home seller. The top five situations I experience in practice may include:

1. **CONDITION:** A seller is considering making significant repairs to a home and would like to find a buyer willing to accept the home in as-is condition.
2. **PRIVACY:** A privacy issue exists (for example, divorce, financial hardship, embarrassment of con-

dition) and the seller just wants the home to be sold without pictures on the internet.

3. **ACCESS ISSUES:** An impediment to showing the home exists (tenant occupied, a disagreement among divorcing parties, a medical condition exists within the home, many pets exist)

4. **PRE-MARKET FEEDBACK:** If a seller is genuinely interested in obtaining feedback about their condition or price then pre-market marketing efforts is a strategy to test the market.

5. **PRE-MARKET OFFER:** Word of a sale is leaked to the market or presented through "coming soon" status on the Multiple Listing Service and a seller is presented with an offer that satisfies all their needs or is "too good to gamble with."

We are not in the COVID years anymore and the market has shifted. Strategies need to be adjusted accordingly and what worked then may not work now. Being completely educated is always the best strategy for making savvy decisions. My professional advice is to be careful of the overstated, exaggerated and hyperbolic statements without supporting data, which can lead to unsupported and contrived strategies.

David Orso was born and raised in this community and is a proud graduate of Severna Park High School. He is a local market expert whose office is based in Severna Park at the corner of Evergreen Road and Riggs Avenue. Orso has been a top agent in Severna Park and Anne Arundel County for sales since 2013 and has almost 400 five-star reviews online. David and Dawn Orso are well known for their philanthropy and community involvement. They have three children, and outside of kids' sports, they spend their time playing golf and tennis at Chartwell Golf and Country Club or boating on the bay.

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Annapolis Dragon Boats Awaken On Spa Creek



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Forty paddlers, two drummers and two steersmen from the Annapolis Dragon Boat Club quietly pushed their boats back from the Fourth Street Pier 4 into Spa Creek on May 17 as part of the annual Awaken the Dragon ceremony.

By Judy Tacyn

Forty paddlers, two drummers and two steersmen from the Annapolis Dragon Boat Club quietly pushed their boats back from the Fourth Street Pier 4 into Spa Creek on May 17 as part of the annual Awaken the Dragon ceremony and to officially open the 2025 paddling season. More than 100 supporters and members waved from the pier as the vibrantly painted boats ventured into the open water.

For the last 15 years, the Annapolis Dragon Boat Club of more than 150 breast cancer survivors and members has celebrated healing, hope and harmony on the water. Founded in 2010 by breast cancer survivor Mike Ashford, the club works toward the mission of developing healthy bodies and spirits and building a community through dragon boating for everyone impacted by breast cancer.

The Awaken the Dragon ceremony includes an ancient tradition. To awaken the dragon for the new season, club members present the dragon heads to dignitaries, who “dot” the pupils of the slumbering dragons’ eyes (pupils are painted over at the end of each season so the dragon appears to be sleeping). With the dragons wide awake, the heads are once again secured to the 650-pound boats that are 48 feet long and four feet wide at the center.

A large contingent of state, county and city officials stood behind Maryland Congresswoman Sarah Elfreth as she shared the paddle the Annapolis Dragon Boat Club gave her previously. That paddle is now hanging on the wall of her Washington, D.C., office to remind her every day to fight for cancer research. She commended club secretary and breast cancer survivor Kate Horne for leading the strong men and women of the club and promised to work for them and federal cancer research funding as fiercely as they fight cancer.

After sharing special remembrances, paddlers headed to the pier. As they entered their boat, each paddler received a pink carnation. After the boats reached deep water, paddlers released the flowers into the creek in remembrance of every man or woman who has died of breast cancer.

Under the direction of the steersmen and to the rhythmic beat of the drummers, the boats paddled atop Spa Creek and returned to the pier for refreshments and fellowship.

Research has shown group exercise like paddling provides mental and physical benefits including reduced lymphedema, increased strength and stamina, and a powerhouse support group of warriors.

Jill Samples of Severna Park, a breast cancer survivor in remission since 2023, has been a member for two seasons. Shortly after her diagnosis, she



received a card from the Annapolis Dragon Boat Club with an invitation to learn more.

“I ended up reconnecting with a family friend who was part of the team and who was an amazing support and assured me that a spot would be waiting when I was healed,” Samples said. “I love the camaraderie of the group and the encouragement I receive. Everyone here knows what you have been through because they have been through something similar. Everyone is welcome in the boat.”

The legend of the dragon boat goes back to Qu Yan, emperor in the Chinese Kingdom of Chu. Yan was falsely accused of treason by his political rivals. In protest, he threw himself into the Mi Lo River and drowned. His supporters raced their boats in an unsuccessful attempt to save him. Many people believed that Yan became a water spirit surrounded by and protected by dragons. To remember his heroic act, racing of dragon boats became a way to honor him.

The year-round Annapolis club is on Spa Creek five days a week during the outdoor season. During the offseason, members gather for social events and indoor training. Part of the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission, the club competes against other dragon boat clubs throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, and internationally at festivals. Members are preparing for their next international competition in 2026 in France.

The Annapolis Dragon Boat Club is an all-volunteer organization that relies on the support of donors and sponsors. To support the organization, join the group, or to paddle as a guest, email info@annapolisdragonboatclub.org for more information.

Family Law Cases May Bring Out Contemptuous Conduct

By David V. Diggs, Esq. and Lisa Bogan-Reohr, Esq.



So, you’ve made it through your divorce, but now your ex-spouse is failing to pay the child support or is refusing visitation. What can you do? An attorney may file a petition for

contempt against your ex-spouse for failure to comply with a court order. In the family law arena, the court has the power to compel compliance with its order and punish a non-compliant party.

Violation of any court order, including a judgment of absolute divorce, which may or may not incorporate a separation agreement, may constitute constructive contempt. Failure to pay alimony or child support, failure to comply with custody and visitation orders, as well as other issues, are often addressed with a petition for contempt.

A contempt proceeding should be brought in the same court that issued the initial order. The court will issue an order to show cause to the defendant, setting a hearing date for him or her to explain why they are not complying. The petitioner must prove, by clear and convincing evidence, that the defendant is in contempt of court.

When a court issues a civil contempt order imposing a penalty on the defendant, it must contain a purge provision with which the defendant can comply. *Dodson v. Dodson* (2004) is an interesting case illustrating the limits of the court’s contempt powers. Ms. Dodson brought a constructive civil contempt action against her husband for his failure to maintain insurance on a condominium pursuant to a pendente lite (temporary) order. The husband failed to make a payment after the bill was sent to his previous address, and coverage lapsed. A fire destroyed the condominium, and the wife sought compensatory damages from the husband.

The Maryland Court of Appeals held that Mr. Dodson could not be found in contempt, because contempt requires that the defendant have a present ability to comply with the court order. Because the husband could not change the past, he did not have a present ability to reinstate the insurance coverage as of the date of the fire. No contempt action would lie to impose a sanction for his past failure to comply with a court order.

Instead, Ms. Dodson could pursue a tort or breach of contract action to obtain damages from the defendant. The court ultimately held that compensatory damages could not ordinarily be recovered in a civil contempt action, and they could never be recovered in a civil contempt action based upon a past negligent act. The court refused to decide whether a willful violation of a court order could form the basis for compensatory damages in a civil contempt case.

As always, a petition for contempt must be brought within a certain period of time. In the case of contempt proceedings for failure to make a payment of child or spousal support under a court order, the petition must be brought within three years of the date that the payment of support became due.

If you find yourself frustrated by your ex-spouse’s failure to comply with a judgment of absolute divorce, you will have questions about these issues. You should consult with an attorney who is familiar with this area of the law and who will assist you in making informed decisions.

If you need further information regarding this subject, reach out to the Law Office of David V. Diggs LLC, located at 8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 302, in Millersville, by calling 410-244-1189 or by emailing david@diggsllaw.com.

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Park Men Are Part Of History With Election Of New Pope

By Judy Tacyn

Following the April 21 death of Pope Francis, many of the 1.4 billion Catholics worldwide anxiously awaited the appointment of the 266th successor to St. Peter by sticking close to social media or their televisions. Two young men among 120 Catholic American seminarians studying for the priesthood at the Pontifical North American College (PNAC, colloquially known simply as the NAC) in Rome watched history unfold from some of the best seats in the house: St. Peter's Square.

Ben Oursler of Severna Park, whose home parish is St. John the Evangelist Church, and Andrew Chase of Severna Park and Our Lady of the Fields Church, are third-year theologian seminarians at the NAC, a seminary just a short walk up the Janiculum Hill from the Vatican.

Oursler, who is just 25 years old, is finishing his third year of study in Rome, since graduating from Saint John Paul II Seminary and The Catholic University of America. Baltimore Archbishop William Lori appointed Oursler to the NAC to study theology (the Catholic seminary formation process can take between seven and nine years).

"The last few weeks have certainly felt like a roller coaster, but there have been certain experiences that I will never forget because God has given me the gift to be in Rome during this special time," said Oursler, who was present in St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday to receive Pope Francis' final blessing and to wave to him as he went around the square in the popemobile.

Oursler was attending Mass at an Italian parish on Easter Monday, when he and the world learned that



Pope Francis had died. The following Saturday, April 26, Oursler was remarkably close to the altar for the papal funeral Mass and prayed before the casket before Mass began. He said the overall tenor of Rome that week was one of mourning the much beloved pope, yet prayerful for the happy repose of his soul.

After the traditional nine days of mourning for the holy father, the conclave to elect his successor commenced. On May 7, the first night of the conclave, Oursler was among the thousands of people outside the Vatican when black smoke arose from the chimney to indicate no new pope had been elected. He was present on the second day of voting, May 8, waiting for the conclave ballot tallies.

"That evening, a couple seminarian friends and I walked down to the square around 4:30pm and decided to get as close to the front as we could. Since it was still relatively early, we weaved our way through the crowd to the third row behind the front-most barricade, a remarkable spot!" Oursler explained. "After praying a rosary together and talking with fellow Catholics near us, one of my friends began to film the seagulls, which had perched themselves on the roof of the Sistine Chapel. After hours of watching a chimney for smoke, these

» Continued on page 16



Top: Pope Leo XIV greeted people who gathered near Vatican City following the pontiff's installation Mass on May 18. **Inset:** Severna Park resident and Archdiocese of Baltimore seminarian Ben Oursler, while studying in Rome, showed an Italian newspaper announcing the election of the first North American pope.

Severna Park Baptist Church Is Growing Godly Generations



By Sharon Mager

Severna Park Baptist Church (SPBC) is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. Started by Glen Burnie Baptist Church to establish a Baptist presence in the area, SPBC was created when the founders purchased 6.4 acres of land for \$13,000. They held revival services in a house on the property and later a Vacation Bible School (VBS).

The church began to grow, and members thanked God for his blessings. Af-

ter the first year, the church clerk wrote, "With hard work, sacrificial giving, and earnest devout prayers, the members of this church press on toward a great church in this community."

Today, SPBC continues to press on.

Through the years, church leaders built their sanctuary and added a building for classrooms. They sold a portion of their land, which is now the Bendale community. They helped launch other churches, including Crofton Baptist

Church and Elvaton Baptist Church. They also established a preschool, known as the Wee Center, which operated for 40 years.

Since its founding, SPBC has been served by eight pastors, two of whom have had significant tenure: Lawrence Baylot, who led for 23 years, and current pastor Dave Brown, who has served with his wife, Danielle, since 2009. Baylot led during a time of significant growth in the church, and many people say the ministry was a time of joyful fellowship.

Dave Brown has led the church in an emphasis on "growing Godly generations," and he and Danielle helped kick off that emphasis. He said, "When we got here, we had two daughters, and they were the first ones who had been in the nursery for a long time." It got even more exciting in the church when, just a few months later, the couple announced

they were expecting their third child.

Danielle said, "There were mostly senior adults then, but that was fun. They were all so excited to see the kids. It was like having lots of grandparents around."

More families joined as the Browns and others began engaging the community. Today, Dave and Danielle have five children — Alethia, Amiyah, Audry, Avey and Zeke — who are all actively involved in the church.

Over the past 15 years, the congregation has pasted not only to be multigenerational but also to reflect the ethnic diversity of the community, comprising members of Anglo, African American, Hispanic and Asian backgrounds.

Beyond family ministry, SPBC has also prioritized missions work, both locally and abroad. Members have served in Nicaragua for seven years, in partnership with Glen Burnie Baptist Church and later Life Connection Church. SPBC later served in the Dominican Republic and Cuba, as well.

Locally, SPBC engages with the community through its annual VBS

» Continued on page 16

Godly Generations

» Continued from page 15

programs, its Easter journey and trunk-or-treats. The church also has multiple active ministries, including youth, men's, and women's groups, as well as a fairly new outreach, Park 60, which ministers to seniors at the Severna Park Brightview senior living facility.

SPBC also financially supports SPAN and has started a unique ministry to supplement community services by providing bags of food, baby kits with diapers and other baby needs, and hygiene kits. This outreach is spearheaded by Alethia Brown, Dave and Danielle's oldest daughter. It's her capstone project (similar to an Eagle Scout project) through American Heritage Girls (AHG).

Explaining AHG and Trail Life groups, which meet at the church, Dave said, "They're faith-based programs, and families from all backgrounds participate. It's a great way to connect with the community."

These Scout-type programs draw about 100 people to the church each week. Some families involved in these programs have begun attending SPBC.

Danielle said she is amazed at the connections the church has made with the community through AHG and Trail Life, past car shows, Independence Day parades, pumpkin sales, VBS and family gatherings.

"It's crazy how many people are connected," she said. "We have so many people who either know us from being a part of the preschool, or they got married here 30 or 40 years ago."

Dave said, "The highlight for me has been seeing the transformation of families and young people over the years. We've seen toddlers grow up, graduate, and remain connected to the church. That's what we want: to pass the gospel from one generation to the next."

The church celebrated its anniversary on May 25 with a worship service featuring video tributes from current and former members, testimonies, and reflections centered on Psalm 100, which honors God's faithfulness across generations.

Park Men Are Part Of History

» Continued from page 15

birds had become a source of great entertainment for the crowd gathered below."

Less than 10 seconds into the video, someone called out "fumata bianca!" which, Oursler said, is "white smoke!" in Italian. Uncontrollable joy erupted into cheering. The time was approximately 6:10pm in Rome.

After about an hour, the designated cardinal came out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Square and the crowd became silent.

"Even with thousands of people present, you could have heard a pin drop. The announcement was made in Latin, including the new pope's name," Oursler said. "As one can expect, amidst all the excitement down below, it was hard to hear every word that was being spoken.

However, when the name Prevost was said, the seminarians and I were stunned, a pope from the United States of America! We never would have guessed it. Then came his name, Pope Leo XIV, a great name, everyone agreed."

Shortly after the announcement, the new pope walked out onto the balcony to greet the crowd in the square and the entire world. His first words were, "Peace be with you all," the same words that Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, spoke to his disciples when he gave them the holy spirit.

Back in the seminary, the NAC was "electric," Oursler said. Seminarians and priests shared stories from the square, where they were when each heard or saw that it was white smoke, and what their first impressions were of the new pope.

"Most of us were still in shock and many agreed that it was a remarkable sign of unity within the Catholic Church that, although there were cardinals from all over the world, some of which did not previously know each other, they successfully elected a new pope in only four ballots," Oursler remarked.

Similar to the funeral Mass for Pope Francis, the Vatican reached out to the nearby seminaries seeking assistance in serving the papal liturgies. Generally, the greatest need is to distribute holy communion to all the

faithful present in St. Peter's Square and down the Via del Conciliazione, the main road leading away from St. Peter's and toward the Tiber River.

Oursler and Chase were among the hundreds of priests, deacons and seminarians present to assist at the Mass.

"Seminarians from all over the city gathered a couple hours before Mass in a nearby church and prayed together before the solemn liturgy began," Oursler said. "About an hour before Mass began, Pope Leo rode out into the square in the popemobile to greet all those present. We had a magnificent view of him as he drove by — twice! We participated in the Mass, and as the time for holy communion came, we positioned ourselves throughout the square and the long road leading away from the square."

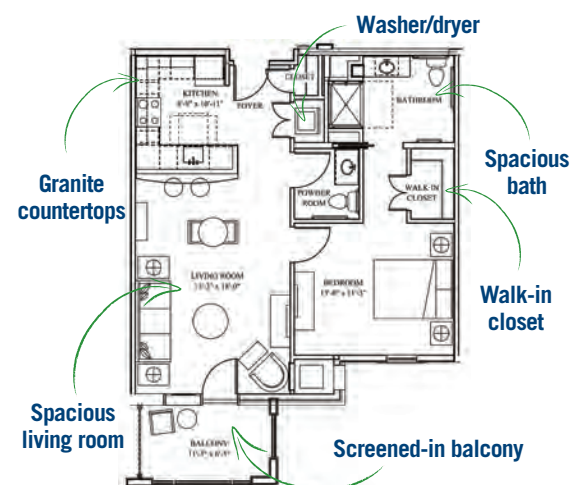
Last Thanksgiving, as Cardinal Prevost, the newly appointed pope visited the NAC to celebrate the American holiday. Oursler was serving the liturgy and was able to briefly greet the would-be pope in the sacristy.

"While it was challenging to adjust to life in a different country when I first arrived and there are more than a few times when I feel the sting of not being close to family, friends and my many fellow priests and brother seminarians from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, experiences like the ones I have had over the last several weeks certainly cement in my head and heart that God, out of his superabundant generosity, desired me to be in Rome during these momentous days, not because I have accomplished anything particularly noteworthy, but simply because he is a good father who gives good gifts to his children," Oursler said.

Oursler and Chase are finishing a Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology degree. They will return to Baltimore and be assigned to different parishes in the archdiocese for one year. In May 2026, they will be ordained to the transitional diaconate and return to Rome that fall to complete a Licentiate of Sacred Theology. In June 2027, the young men will be ordained priests for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

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Severna Park Republican Women's Club Celebrates 60 Years In Style



Above: (L-R) Julie Harris, president of the National Federation of Republican Women; Amy Leahy, president of the Severna Park Republican Women; and Nikki Beaver, political director of the National Federation of Republican Women, gathered at the SPRWC's 60th anniversary celebration **Right:** Archbishop Spalding High School senior Shannon Curtis is the winner of this year's Marjorie Holt Scholarship. She was congratulated by Carolyn Smith, chair of the scholarship committee.



The Severna Park Republican Women's Club (SPRWC) celebrated its 60th anniversary with its annual fashion show fundraiser held at Chartwell Golf & Country Club on May 14. National Federation of Republican Women's President Julie Harris, of Arkansas, served as the noted speaker.

SPRWC was chartered in 1964, and for 60 years, its members have assisted Republicans to get elected and supported them once in public office. In honor of founding member and former Congresswoman Marjorie Holt, the club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to an Anne Arundel County senior and young woman to assist with future education. The award is based on the best essay submitted on a topic chosen by the committee. This year's winner is Archbishop Spalding High School senior Shannon Curtis.

SPRWC meets monthly and everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.sprwc.org.

The Budget Process

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



On June 13, students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) will have their last day of classes, and the Anne Arundel County Council will convene to vote on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposed by the county executive. The \$2.4 billion budget sees a majority of expenditures going to AACPS (49%) followed by the second largest investment in public safety (21%).

Since the budget was proposed on May 1, the county council held two public hearings where we heard from national board-certified school counselors, the library system employees and special education teachers, just to name a few. I have also heard from residents via email, pleased that there are no property or income tax increases, a sentiment I agree with.

The county council has also concluded all budget hearings with each county department. These hearings are an opportunity for council members to ask questions about year-to-year budget changes and new or ongoing projects. The departmental budget hearings take place over several days of hearings both in person and virtually, and all are available online for your review.

The acting county auditor has recommended budget adjustments, and the county executive's budget officer has responded to those recommendations. Ultimately, as the final fiscal authority, the council will determine what changes to make through the amendment process, proposing cuts to various areas of the budget either from the recommendations of the auditor or individual councilmember proposed changes. A proposed cut via amendment requires four affirmative votes to pass.

At the conclusion of amendment day, which will take place on June 9, there

will be some amount of budget money to be reallocated through the supplemental budget process. While ultimately the authority to introduce spending legislation lies solely with the county executive, the executive and legislative branches communicate to identify shared goals for the supplemental budget.

In past supplemental budgets, there have been additional investments like vehicles for the sheriff's office, additional teachers, increased library staff salaries and additional police officers. Each year's supplemental budget is different and is dependent upon all of the hearings and steps in the budget process that lead to that point.

Within the package of budget bills each year are the bills related to the different community/private property taxing districts, taxing districts that were voted on by residents as a self-imposed tax collected by the county for maintenance use within the community or among a group of private property owners.

A bill proposed by the District 6 councilmember, Bill 32-25, aims to change the fee structure and impose regulations with penalties for non-compliance. The three taxing districts that the county manages are the special community benefit district, shore erosion control districts, and waterway improvement districts. If you live in any of the listed communities below, I encourage you to contact community leadership so that they are aware of this legislation and can provide feedback on the impact it may have on residents.

- **Amberley**
- **Birchwood**
- **Cape St. Claire**
- **Capetowne**
- **Carrollton Manor**
- **Chartwell**
- **Hollywood On The Severn**
- **Homewood**
- **Indian Hills**
- **Kensington**
- **Landhaven**
- **Little Magothy River**
- **Magothy Beach**
- **Manhattan Beach**
- **Pines On The Severn**
- **Scheides Cove**
- **Severna Forest**
- **Severndale**
- **Timbers**

I welcome your feedback every budget session, because I never forget that the money at work is the money you worked hard for. Any member of the public can testify on the budget bills, or any other legislation, at our legislative meetings. The county council meets on the first and third Monday of every month (Tuesday if there is a holiday) to consider legislation that may impact you. Be sure to visit the county council website to stay up to date on information: www.aacounty.org/county-council.

As always, you can reach out to me with any county related questions or concerns by emailing amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org. It is an honor to serve you and your family.

Restoring Dignity: Honoring Service, Righting Wrongs

Dawn Gile

Senator, District 33



Later this year will mark 15 years since the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) — a policy that forced lesbian, gay and bisexual service members to choose between serving their country and living openly. For nearly two decades, DADT institutionalized silence and shame, stripping thousands of courageous individuals of their military careers, their benefits and their dignity.

Among them was Anthony Woods, a West Point graduate, Bronze Star recipient, and exemplary soldier who was discharged under DADT despite two combat deployments to Iraq. Years later, he brought that experience and purpose to his role as Maryland's secretary of veterans and military families, as he championed support for all who serve — including military families on the homefront. He served with distinction until

recently stepping down, and I'm deeply grateful for his leadership and the lasting impact he's made on our state.

But the injustices of our military discharge system did not end with DADT. For decades, service members struggling with the invisible wounds of war — post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and military sexual trauma (MST) — were often punished rather than supported. Instead of receiving treatment and compassion, many were discharged under less-than-honorable conditions that carried lasting consequences: denial of health care, housing assistance, GI Bill education benefits, and more.

PTSD and TBI are not signs of weakness; they are service-connected injuries that can profoundly affect cognition, behavior and emotional well-being. Military sexual trauma, which affects both women and men in uniform, leaves survivors grappling not only with the trauma itself, but too often with disbelief or retaliation when they come forward. For too long, these experiences were used as grounds for

» **Continued on page 20**



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Year-Round Work Continues After Session Ends

LaToya Nkongolo
Delegate
District 31



It has been an incredible honor to serve the residents of District 31 during the 2025 legislative session. Every decision I made was in response to conversations, phone

calls and emails from constituents, including protecting our small businesses, easing the burden on taxpayers, and improving the quality of our educational system. With your voices guiding my work, I actively challenged legislation that posed risks to our shared values and priorities.

This session brought meaningful recognition — not for personal gain but as a reflection of the strong partnerships we've built together. I was deeply honored to receive the Legislative Rookie of the Year award from the Republican caucus, as well as the Perfect Attendance award. I was also nominated and chosen by several colleagues across party lines to represent Maryland as a state director for Women in Government. Additionally,

Leadership Anne Arundel named me a 2025 new leader honoree. These acknowledgments reinforce the importance of collaboration and consistent advocacy on your behalf.

Supporting our youth is especially important to me. I was proud to award 126 students in our district with the Delegate Nkongolo Scholarship, an investment in the next generation of leaders from our community. I look forward to celebrating their accomplishments during senior awards nights and graduation ceremonies.

With the legislative session now behind us, I am turning my full attention to listening, learning and connecting even more with the community. Whether it's a homeowners association meeting, a local event, or a simple conversation, I want to hear directly from you. I have office hours on Tuesdays; if you would like to schedule a virtual or in-person meeting, please reach out to my office.

Please don't hesitate to reach out. I am here to serve, and together, we are just getting started.

For assistance, contact my office at 410-841-3510 or email me at latoya.nkongolo@house.state.md.us. My chief of staff, Julie Butler, and I are happy to assist you.

Governor Moore Announces Grants For Maryland Institutions Of Higher Learning

Governor Wes Moore announced on May 27 that the Maryland Higher Education Commission will provide \$1 million in grants to 11 colleges and universities to support new career paths for displaced federal workers. Through the Teacher Quality and Diversity Program, institutions of higher education can help federal workers secure jobs in education through targeted training, licensure support, and school district partnerships.

"This funding helps our federal workers land on their feet, while also addressing the teacher shortage throughout our state," Moore said. "To-

gether, we will continue to innovate, collaborate, and protect our people in the face of attacks from Washington."

The governor announced the new grants during a roundtable discussion between higher education leadership and displaced federal workers enrolled in the ACET Flex: From Feds to Eds program at Montgomery College in Rockville. The discussion centered on innovative pathways to transition into careers in education through targeted retraining and certification programs, highlighting the value of federal employees' diverse work experience and commitment to public service.

Honoring Service, Righting Wrongs

» Continued from page 18

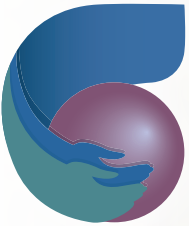
discharges that left veterans without the resources or recognition they deserved.

While the federal Department of Veterans Affairs has taken important steps to allow for discharge upgrades in these cases, Maryland's process had not fully caught up. That's why I was proud to sponsor and pass Senate Bill 491 (cross-filed by Delegate Nick Allen, himself a West Point graduate) during the 2025 legislative session. Maryland already allowed veterans discharged due to their sexual orientation or gender identity to request reconsideration of their eligibility for state benefits. Senate Bill 491 expands that opportunity to include discharges connected to PTSD, TBI, MST

and other now-recognized injustices.

This bill brings Maryland in line with federal policy, but more importantly, it helps ensure that every veteran has a fair shot at the support and respect they've earned. Senate Bill 491 is about righting past wrongs and affirming a simple truth: that those who serve our country with courage and sacrifice should be met with dignity, not discrimination.

As we celebrate Pride Month and reflect on how far we've come, let us also recommit ourselves to the work ahead — especially at a time when hard-won protections and values are once again being tested at the national level. Those who step forward to serve should never be left behind.



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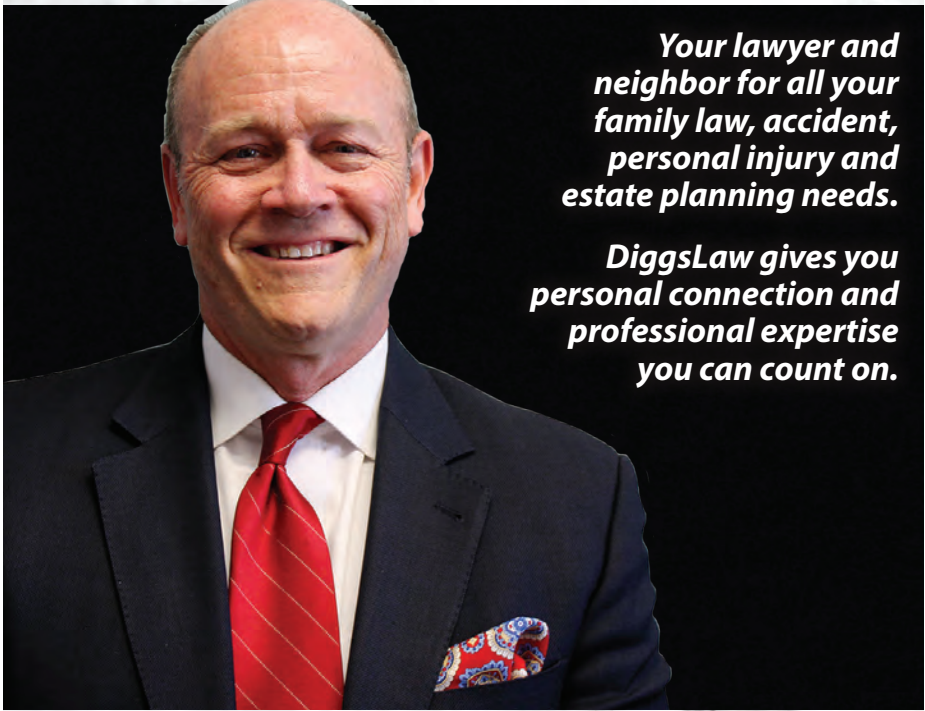
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With Ninth Straight Title, Falcon Boys Embrace Dynasty Status



Photo courtesy of Fincham Photography

Severna Park showed off their medals and plaque after winning the Class 3A state championship over Towson on May 21.

By David Bashore

The Severna Park boys lacrosse team knows that, outside of their own fanbase, they're largely hated on account of their dominance in Maryland public school lacrosse.

They don't care — and they've even come to embrace playing the heel.

"Every time someone plays SP, it's their Super Bowl," said senior **Merric Warren**.

"Everyone hates us. We're the New York Yankees, we're the New England Patriots. They're all coming after us. They want what's ours," said senior **Jack Fish**.

Call it arrogance, call it swagger.

When you're on a run like this, you've earned the right to say what you please. For nine straight seasons, Severna Park has absorbed everyone's best shot. In the end, much like comic book and movie megavillain Thanos, the Falcons are ... inevitable.

As with the titanic bad guy, eventually Severna Park's lacrosse team will be vanquished. But not this year.

Behind hat tricks from **Timmy Sullivan** and **Duke Sealey**, a pair of goals from Fish and **Ben Ruppert**, a suffocating defense, and a trio of timely quality saves from **Hastings Fava**,

Severna Park swept aside Towson 11-4 on May 21 to win the 2025 Class 3A state championship.

It's the ninth straight state championship trophy headed back to Severna Park and the 14th overall, both Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association records across all divisions.

In breezy, cool, and rainy conditions at Stevenson University, the two teams delivered a game fitting the conditions: hard-nosed, physical, often testy, occasional moments of magic.

The Falcons started well, negating

» Continued on page 35

Mellynychuk, Broadneck Complete Three-Peat

Severna Park's Bilnoski Makes Unseeded Run To 3A Girls Tennis Title



In the 3A competition, Severna Park's Brynn Bilnoski capped a stellar tournament by claiming the girls singles title.

Olivia Mellynchuk and the Broadneck tennis team are both three-time state champions.

Mellynychuk reached the girls singles final for the fourth year in a row, winning her third straight title on May 24 by defeating Winston Churchill's **Lily Ganjbaksh** 6-2, 6-2.

The Army-bound senior was one of four scoring entries for Broadneck in the five competitions, helping the Bruins win their third straight team title. This one came outright, after winning on a tiebreaker last year and sharing the title in 2023. They scored 20 points to Churchill's 19.

"Truly is a team effort," said Broadneck tennis head coach **Andrew "Rex" Kennedy**. "If everyone didn't win their respective matches, even for second or third place, we wouldn't have been able to secure a third consecutive state title."

Broadneck's **Hadley Crooks** and **Gigi Garner** reached the girls doubles final but fell 6-4, 6-0. **Anissa Jean-Claude** and **Ryan Sar** reached the mixed doubles final but fell 6-4, 7-6. **Henry Cukor** and **Kekoa Hamilton** finished third in the boys doubles competition.

"Broadneck relied heavily on the dominance of senior captain Olivia

» Continued on page 25

Bruins Rally For Fifth Straight State Title



Photo by David Bashore

The Bruins overturned a deficit to beat Urbana 8-6 and win the program's fifth straight 4A girls lacrosse championship.

By David Bashore

After conceding the first four goals of the 4A state girls lacrosse championship game on May 22, it would have been easy for Broadneck to panic.

Nothing was going their way, and their long string of titles was in distinct jeopardy.

Instead, they refocused and reminded themselves: this isn't us.

The next 36 minutes of play was very

much Broadneck, as the Bruins overturned that deficit and held off Urbana 8-6 at Stevenson University's Mustang Stadium to win the program's fifth straight championship.

"These girls are just resilient, and we've known that all year," said Broadneck coach **Katy Kelley**. "Lacrosse is a game like basketball; 4-0 is nothing to worry about in the first quarter. In the fourth quarter, maybe, but we played quarter-to-quarter, and we wanted to

just play like Broadneck."

Normally playing provider and draw specialist, **Ceci Facciponti** scored three times and assisted on the eventual game-winning goal. **Nora Lopes** and **Savannah Libby** both netted twice, while **Sienna Miller** had a goal and an assist. **Raleigh Kerst** had two assists.

The Bruins made their headway from gaining 8-meter free position restarts. Half of their goals came from that

» Continued on page 30



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Broadneck Baseball Wins Third-Ever Region Title

*Controversial Ending To
Semifinal Game Ends
Bruins' Run At 23-2*

By David Bashore

In the bottom of the eighth inning of the 4A East II baseball region title game May 15, members of Broadneck's boys lacrosse team shouted from the bleachers at junior left fielder **Aiden Casey**, encouraging him to "bring him home" and end the game.

Never mind the fact that Casey was on deck, and there was nobody on base.

They were prophetic.

After a one-out single, Casey smashed a hanging slider down the left-field line. The ball landed just fair and went all the way to the fence, pinch runner **Cooper Mengel** scored with ease, and Broadneck started to party like it was 1995.

Casey's second hit of the day gave the Bruins a 2-1 walk-off win over defending 4A champion Leonardtown and put Broadneck in the state tournament for the first time in 30 years, adding to the county championship won the week before over Northeast.

"I knew the pitcher kept wanting to throw that slider on the inside corner, and he left one middle-in and I knew that was the one," said Casey, who was mobbed between second and third base by a black-with-maroon-trim wall of elated teammates after Mengel scored. "I thought it was going to go foul, then I thought the left fielder was going to cut it off; as soon as it got past him and went to the wall, I knew Cooper was going to score. That moment felt so good."

To get Casey to his moment took an effort from every player in the order, plus the pitching crew. Leadoff hitter **Mike Swick** didn't record a hit, but he walked twice and ran down a deep fly ball in the left-center field gap for a long out. Shortstop **Avik Cherry** twice flashed the leather to rob Leonardtown



Photo by David Bashore

Cooper Mengel (9) and his Bruins teammates celebrated after their 2-1 walk-off win over Leonardtown in the 4A region final.

of sure hits.

Later, catcher **Nick Cicale** scrambled to chase down a dropped third strike and made an off-balance throw that still had pinpoint accuracy. First baseman **Noah Forman** saved four outs in the field, stretching and leaping to corral throws that were slightly off target. Freshman third baseman **Max White** made a hard play look routine to end an inning, then led off the home half with a single that turned into Broadneck's first run. **Grant Morsberger** singled to lead off the eighth, which proved to be the game-winning run. **Luke Smith** and **Kobe Owen** worked counts and tried to drive up the pitch count, and Owen picked up the win with two innings of relief pitching.

"We all just want to give the next guy a chance. The theme for us is to pass

the torch," Casey said. "Every one of us just wants to go 1-0 in our at-bat, every pitch, every game, so the next guy gets a chance to do something."

The resilience and grit helped Broadneck avoid the bugaboo of years past: one bad inning that derailed everything they had worked so hard to earn.

That inning could have come in the sixth on that Thursday, when Leonardtown finally got to starter **Chase Hannon** and knocked him around a little, scoring their only run of the game. But Hannon dug deep, the defense rallied around him, and they got out of the inning with the game still tied.

Hannon pitched six complete innings, allowing three hits and striking out eight.

"None of this is easy at this stage of the season," said Broadneck coach **Matt**

Skrenchuk. "We believe in our guys, they believe in themselves, and they have a lot of experience in situations like this."

The Bruins' run ended in controversial circumstances in the state semifinals against Urbana. Having overcome a catastrophic first two innings in which they committed six errors and allowed as many unearned runs, Broadneck rallied to tie the game and force extra innings — six of them, to be precise.

In the bottom of the 13th, with two on and two out and the Bruins down 9-7 and down to their final strike, Smith flared a fly ball down the right-field line. Urbana's right fielder dove for it and missed, and the ball squirted into foul territory as the Bruins circled the bases to tie the game once again.

Or so they thought.

Urbana's protests of a successful catch forced a conference of umpires, who ruled the ball was not caught. Continued protests resulted in a second conference, after which the play was ruled a foul ball. Video footage of the play in question showed the ball landing in fair territory.

Smith grounded out on the next pitch, and Urbana was off to the final with Broadneck's season suddenly, achingly, over just like that.

It was a strange ending to a truly strange game: the teams combined for nine errors, seven double plays, and five baserunning outs. There was also an incident in which Casey's metal bat snapped just like a wood one would have, leaving only the handle left in his hands as he stood bewildered after reaching first base.

With the loss, the season ended, as did the decorated careers of eight seniors: Forman, Hannon, Swick, Cicale, Owen, Morsberger, **Garrett Drish** and **Cade Schuetter**. They leave the Broadneck program with two county championships in three years and the program's third ever region championship.

BHS, SPHS Tennis

» Continued from page 22

Mellynchuk and the versatility of junior captains Hadley Crooks and Anissa Jean-Claude," Kennedy said. "While Olivia dominated the singles spot, it should be noted that Hadley and Anissa paired with six different teammates throughout the year, showing their ability to reach high levels regardless of who they were paired with."

In the 3A competition, Severna Park's **Brynn Bilnoski** capped a stellar tournament by claiming the girls singles title over Mount Hebron's **Riya Rai**, 6-3, 6-4.

Unseeded, Bilnoski knocked off second-seeded Rai the day after knocking out top seed **Katherine Yao** of Thomas S. Wootton in a super tiebreak, 10-8, after they split the first two sets of their semifinal.

Carys Preston and **Gavin Gerard** reached the mixed doubles final but lost in a super tiebreak. **Ty Maddox** and **Koby Bragg** finished third in boys doubles.

Severna Park finished third in the team standings.

Bruins And Falcons Softball, Severna Park Baseball Exit In Regionals

By David Bashore

Broadneck

A season of promise for the Broadneck softball team was derailed late on by injury. The Bruins returned to the 4A East Region II championship game against Leonardtown, but absent their starting pitcher for much of the stretch run, that was as far as Broadneck could get as they fell 9-0 on May 15.

Broadneck, down normal starter **Rylan Crisafulli** due to injury, reached the region final after beating Bowie 16-0 three days earlier. **Al-iceanna Weibley** had four hits and drove in four runs, while **Lily Kisling** drove in two runs. **Kiera Plumley** and **Izzy Barrass** teamed up to pitch five perfect innings, striking out a combined 12 of Bowie's batters.

Broadneck, which finished with a 15-5 record, graduates 10 seniors from this year's squad: Weibley, Kisling,

Chiara McIntosh, Elena Durkin, Malayna Owens, Addie Cornelius, Grace Purdum, Amanda Ford, Abby Favazza and Bella Herrera.

Severna Park

After a surprising upset on the other side of the bracket, the Severna Park baseball team had itself a home game in the region final. Unfortunately, the upset was because Arundel got hot, and the Wildcats ended the Falcons' season with a 7-2 victory at Joe Cannon Stadium in Hanover on May 13. Severna Park finished with a 14-7 record.

The Falcons got to the region final by clipping James M. Bennett 3-2 on the road on May 10. They built up a 3-0 lead heading into the seventh inning but had to hang on after a two-run error tightened the game. **Evan Boucher** had two hits, while **Jacob Williams** and **Charlie Delobe** each knocked in a run.

The Falcons say goodbye to nine seniors: Williams, **Adam Clark, Ethan Dillion, Eric Benner, Vince Nguyen, Charlie Hartman, Dylan Grice, Benji Beisler and Ryan Jamison.**

The Severna Park softball team reached the region semifinals before losing to top-seeded Northeast 8-1 on May 12, ending their season with a record of 11-10.

The Falcons survived a wild first-round game against South River four days prior, winning 12-11 in come-from-behind fashion after seeing a huge lead slip away. They plated nine runs in the first inning and led 10-0 after two, but South River scored the next 11 runs to take a one-run lead into the sixth inning. **Lucy Benner's** double scored the tying run and the eventual winning run came around on an error.

Severna Park graduates just two seniors from this year's squad: **Addison Bianco** and **Ryleigh Smith.**

SPMS Girls Are County Champions



In the inaugural season of Anne Arundel County middle school sports, the Severna Park girls soccer team won their playoff game against Brooklyn Park, 6-0, to become county champions. Patrick Joyner served as the team's head coach, with Kevin Reeve as an assistant coach. Players included Laken Alexander, Emily Binnie, Kylie Crockett, Rachel Crockett, Elly Davis, Juliette Gagnier, Ella Gold, Audrey Hopkin, Juliette Jacobs van Merlen, Delaney Jones, Brooklyn Matta, Alexa Merolla, Alaina Moran, Hannah Morris, Ana Panitz, Kolbie Phillips, Lola Phippen, Sienna McPhee, Marin Schaffer and Mary Scwabenbauer.

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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

VERITY FOGARTY

Annapolis Area Christian School
Cross Country, Swimming,
Track & Field

By David Bashore

If something's happened at Annapolis Area Christian School (AACS) in the last four years, odds are **Verity Fogarty** played some part in it.

Fogarty, who graduated May 17, was involved in virtually everything possible during her time at AACS. She was a varsity athlete in three sports — cross country, swimming, and track and field — all four years of high school. She also participated in color guard for two years, tutored students in American Sign Language (ASL), and took multiple dual-enrollment classes through Liberty University. Fogarty excelled in all of it, while accumulating an unweighted 3.9 GPA.

"I'm not the best time manager, but somehow I did it," Fogarty said. "I think I did well because I could immediately go after school to practice, and then immediately go home, eat, and then go upstairs and work. It was repetitive, but luckily the work wasn't too overbearing, and I could get it done."



Of all the things she did, Fogarty loved cross country the most.

It was in that discipline that she helped AACS to the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) C Conference championship last fall, finishing sixth in the championship race despite battling illness. She didn't tell anyone until afterward, for fear of upsetting

Verity Fogarty was a varsity athlete in three sports — cross country, swimming, and track and field — all four years of high school. She also participated in color guard for two years, tutored students in American Sign Language (ASL), and took multiple dual-enrollment classes through Liberty University.

the team's momentum toward a championship.

"We were doing so well all season, and all of our top five runners were placing very high. I knew that we could win, but I knew that if I didn't run that we might not win," Fogarty said. "I didn't tell my coaches because I didn't want to sit out — I wanted to make sure we would win."

Her choice proved decisive: AACS won with 27 points to St. Timothy's 43. Had she not raced and the standings remained the same, St. Timothy's would have won by one point.

It was the program's tight-knit nature that drew Fogarty in and kept her there all four years.

"I had an amazing team and they made the whole experience even better. We also had amazing coaches that made our experience as athletes and a team really tight-knit and close," she said, praising one coach for arranging Chick-fil-A runs on Saturday mornings, and another for channeling her physical

therapy, recovery, and nutritional expertise to the athletes' benefit.

Fogarty took that second lesson and extended her studies to benefit other people, something she hopes to continue at Liberty. She chose American Sign Language as her language component at AACS, and she turned to tutoring younger students in the assignment during the school's Engage period — similar to study/lunch blocks at Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

It's a class that captured her heart, and one she plans to study at Liberty to become an interpreter.

"I thought ASL was really fun. At the same time, ASL is a bit different from other languages because you have to get down to the meaning with ASL," Fogarty said. "It's more specific than English, which is helpful for me because I have ADHD, and I have trouble telling people how I feel and being able to use ASL to do that has been really awesome. I feel heard."

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Falcon Girls Fall Short In Three-Peat Bid



Photos by Fincham Photography

Despite several setbacks, the Severna Park girls kept their energy high throughout a state championship game they would eventually lose 11-10 to Marriotts Ridge.

By David Bashore

Sometimes, the best just isn't quite enough.

Three fourth-period goals, two during a penalty and the third from a draw that took place during the advantage, lifted Marriotts Ridge past Severna Park 11-10 at Stevenson University on May 21, giving the Mustangs the 3A state girls lacrosse championship and ending the Falcons' reign atop the classification.

Maria Bragg had a hat trick plus an assist, and **Erin Hussey** scored twice and had an assist. **Payton Jeffers** and **Ava Deegan** both had a pair of goals, and **Gracie Ciuba** also scored for Severna Park.

Though the Falcons were denied a third successive state championship, the fact they were in the game at the end at

all was a testament to grit and character.

A little more than 10 minutes into the game, senior defender **Avery Saviano** picked up her second yellow card when her stick-check attempt glanced off the head of her mark — a strict interpretation of the rules but one the Falcons felt lacked the kind of leeway often considered in those situations. That robbed them of their fastest defender and a key transition player.

In the second, midfielder **Bella Van Gieson** collapsed to the turf while battling through a double-team, having suffered a right knee injury. She did not return, and with that, the Falcons' best two-way midfielder was also gone.

Still, they found a way to enter half-time tied at 7 and feeling pretty good about their chances.

"Those two are so important to us,

not just on the field but off the field they do so much for us and have been true leaders for us," senior **Payton Jeffers** said of Saviano and Van Gieson. "So it was, just do it for them."

From 6-3 down in the second quarter, Severna Park went ahead 10-8. They didn't score again, but it looked like they might not need to until Bragg was whistled for a stick to the head with 6:11 left in the game. Marriotts Ridge scored twice on that penalty, and they won the draw that gave them the decisive goal before Bragg emerged from the box.

Try as they might, Severna Park couldn't find that last goal they needed to extend the game.

"For all that we went through in a state playoff game, I'm so proud of this team. They pulled together," said

Severna Park coach **Annie Houghton**. "You always want to win and it doesn't always happen that way. They mustered energy and they were pumped up — we made some crucial plays, but they came up on the winning side. There's ups and downs — you always want to be on the ups, and the downs stink, but I'm so proud of the way this team played."

The team's nine seniors — Hussey, Jeffers, Van Gieson, Saviano, **Kiera Abere**, **Kaylee Gerber**, **Nora Gerig**, **Kate Griner** and **Jessica Ricci** — conclude their careers as three-time state finalists and two-time state champions.

"Not everyone gets to make it here. We have to fight for a spot here and fight for a win, and only one team gets that win," Hussey said. "We're definitely very lucky and fortunate to have made it here (so often)."

Lucy Davis made multiple saves in goal, but the Marriotts Ridge attack proved to be too much for the shorthanded Falcons.



Maria Bragg had a hat trick plus an assist against the Mustangs.

Erin Hussey scored twice and had an assist for the Falcons in the state final.



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Kelley Stands Down As Broadneck Girls Lax Coach

By David Bashore

In the moments after Broadneck's comeback 8-6 victory over Urbana to win a fifth straight state girls lacrosse championship, head coach **Katy Kelley** — normally as stoic as they come — couldn't suppress the emotion anymore.

Asked in the postgame media scrum, she explained why: "It was my last one."

After 25 years on the Broadneck staff, and the last 12 as the head coach, Kelley is hanging up the whistle.

Though she told Broadneck administration the day before the championship game and her team immediately after that game, Kelley said she decided in September that this season was it.

"There's a lot that goes into being a head coach at this level, and all the things that that entails. I didn't feel like I could give everything like that, and I'm not willing to do it a different way," Kelley said. "My kids are getting older, and their problems are

getting bigger, and I need to be there for that. It's just time, and it feels right because I love this senior class ... it feels right even now (after winning states), which probably means it's the right decision. I might feel different on March 1, who knows, but it feels right."

Kelley exits having been on staff for all eight of Broadneck's state championships — the last five as head coach — and nine of the program's 10 state championship game appearances.

Photo by Dennis McGinley

After leading the Bruins to five straight state championships, Katy Kelley is hanging up the whistle.



Bruins Rally For State Title

» Continued from page 22

situation, and it was a matter of sacrificing some physical contact in order to help the team get into a better spot.

"My body was on the grass a lot, but it was kind of just about getting possession," Facciponti said. "I definitely capitalized on knowing the way they played. I just tried to do it for my teammates. We were just there for

each other more after the first quarter. We pulled together, talked to each other, and it was just about believing it."

For the first 12 minutes, it looked like the problems that plagued the Bruins in their narrow semifinal win over Quince Orchard were hanging around again: lack of focus, letting in soft goals, and an overall lack of crisp play.

Goalie **Molly Robison** described the

difference in mindset that helped her, and the team, settle after a rocky first period.

"I have two completely different mindsets, and one's in the game and one's not at all. I feel like the past game, I felt like I was in the one that wasn't in the game at all, and not really understanding that I was in the game, I need to focus," Robison said. "After that first quarter, when everything went in, I just locked in — I'll get

in my head a little bit and tell myself things, and I know that's when I'm not in the game. When my mind goes blank, that's when I'm locked in."

The team followed both Robison's lead and the team mantra of "Just be Broadneck." After falling behind 4-0, the Bruins tied it up in the second quarter. Urbana netted to retake the lead just before halftime, but the Hawks would score only one more time.

Instead, Broadneck went to work. Libby scored her second of the night from a free position, and then Lopes did the same with 47 seconds left in the third to give the Bruins the lead for the first, and final, time of the game. Goals from Miller and Facciponti iced the game, though Urbana got one late on.

"We work hard collectively as coaches, and the girls do a lot to build us, and not always focus on other people," Kelley said. "We work hard, and we do things that are fun to help us stay connected. Our motto is, 'Just be Broadneck.' We have to worry about us getting better, us being prepared, and having humble confidence in that."

Anticipating a dynasty is a fool's errand, but that's what Broadneck's girls lacrosse program has become. As the seniors looked back at their completed high school careers, with hindsight, they can see the signs were always there.

"I don't think I would expect it (coming into high school)," Miller said. "I wouldn't put it past us, because I knew coming into the program that we have a great coach, we have great players, and it's an overall successful program. But I think I'm so lucky to be a part of it."

In total, the Bruins are saying goodbye to 13 seniors — Miller, Kerst, Libby, **Katelyn Kearns**, **Faith Everett**, **Cayman Holmes**, **Katelyn Curley**, **Makayla Myers**, **Abbie Morris**, **Harper Jacobs**, **Gabby King**, **Bailee Kungis** and **Izzy Lunay**.

Photos by Dennis McGinley

Top: Ceci Facciponti scored on this 8-meter restart to kick-start Broadneck's rally as the Bruins came from behind to defeat Urbana 8-6 to retain the 4A girls lacrosse crown. **Bottom Left:** Broadneck goalie Molly Robison rallied after giving up the game's first four goals, conceding just two the rest of the way. **Bottom Right:** Raleigh Kerst provided speed, savvy, and playmaking ability, assisting on two Broadneck goals.



Repsnakes Are Lacrosse Boys Spring Middie A Champions

On May 18, the Severna Park Green Hornets 2032 boys followed up their third-place finish in the GHCLC 2032 Elite division by winning the Anne Arundel County 2025 lacrosse boys spring Middie (fifth/sixth-grade) A championship at Severna Park High School. Coaches **Brad Reppert, Derek Howells, Kim Bloomfield** and **Eric Wedemeyer** led the youngest team in the league to an undefeated season (9-0) and the No. 1 seed in the playoffs. In the quarterfinal match-up, the Repsnakes dispatched the No. 4 seed SCYA 14-1 before beating the No. 3 seed GSPAA team 14-8 in the final to claim the trophy.

This season, the 2032 boys' defense was anchored by **Aiden Cooke, Henry Smith** and **Joey Blanchet** in front of net-minder **Sammy Coleman**. The all-around play of midfielders **Caden Howells, Nathan Feldman** and **River Baker** complimented the attack of **Bryce Arnold, Liam Cooke, Braxton Reppert** and **Ryan Berger**. Long stick midfielders **Carter Wasserman** and **Hunter Slater** rounded out the strong skill of **Mark Wedemeyer, Connor Wild, Lawton Bloomfield, Grame McDowell** and **George Fewster** as newcomers **Patrick Turner, Brantley Masters** and **Logan Blair** contributed to another successful season.

With a 14-8 win in the final, the Repsnakes won the Middie A championship in May.



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Broadneck Boys Lacrosse Thwarted By Urbana

By David Bashore

For the second straight season, Broadneck and Urbana locked horns in the 4A boys lacrosse state championship. In a game that was more patient than urgent, measured than intense, Urbana stymied Broadneck for a 5-2 win that defended the Hawks' title from 2024.

The muted championship game on May 22 was a dramatic 180 from last year's final between the same two teams, which was played on the edge as bad blood threatened to spill over.

Instead, the teams played out a grinding, low-energy game that wore down toward its conclusion, interrupted by the occasional goal as both teams largely canceled each other out.

"Urbana came ready," said Broadneck coach **Jeff McGuire**. "I think we came out trying to play our way and they were trying to crash course into it. Pretty much stalemate lacrosse, and at the same time, we're trying to do the same things we've done and we just needed a different plan."

"I hate to see hockey scores in lacrosse games, because we want to play a little faster. When we can't play fast, we can't get in our groove."

The game was 2-1 at halftime, but Urbana finally broke open in the third quarter with two quickfire goals, one when a defensive press just missed forcing a turnover and instead gave Urbana

Photos by Dennis McGinley

Top Right: Jack Deitch battled for possession with Urbana's midfield throughout the game. **Bottom Right:** Wyatt Hicks tried to generate offense from the attack position for Broadneck.

numbers in attack, the second after an interference penalty against the Bruins.

Just like that, it was 4-1, and with the game tempo largely already set, the mountain was too high for Broadneck to scale. **Brayden Schmidt** and **Carson Pierce** netted goals for the Bruins, who also got six saves from **Braedon Goloboski**.

"You're playing great defense, you're winning faceoffs, and you don't get really any extra man opportunities — we had one and I think they had four or five," McGuire said. "It's those quick ones that get you, and we didn't clear a few times and that killed us late."

The Bruins were making their fourth straight championship game appearance, and they were playing Urbana in the state playoffs for the fourth straight season, the last two being in the championship.

Before the young squad regroup for another run, the Bruins will bid farewell to eight seniors: Schmidt, **Blake Levicki**, **Noah Yoder**, **Carter Marquardt**, **Brayden Goldstein**, **Donovan Boyer**, **Donovan Probst** and **Zach Mengel**.



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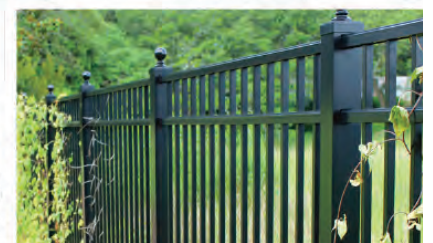
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Falcon Boys Embrace Dynasty Status

» Continued from page 22

perhaps the team's one flaw this season, that being a slow start out of the gate. But after Towson tied the game at 3 midway through the second quarter, Severna Park slowly began to squeeze the life out of both the game and their opponent. A five-goal run gave the Falcons all the breathing room they'd need.

"Early in the season, we had some early turnovers and throwaways, and it would take us five minutes or so before we started firing. It was like that all season," said Severna Park coach **Bob Zichelli**. "We kept thinking that at the end that was going to hurt us, but it was like that all season. I couldn't figure it out, but it worked for us."

The game was capped with a late goal

from senior **Mason Pugh**. That goal kicked off raucous celebration from the Falcons bench and further frustration for Towson, which came up short against Severna Park for the second straight year.

At the final horn, the Falcons celebrated with more emotion than they have in the previous few iterations. After only knowing tense, tight state finals — the last three titles were won by a combined six goals — the team's 14 seniors were able to truly savor their final moments together.

"We had a lot of motivation coming into the game, especially since (the student section of) the other team was booing us as we walked on the field. It gave us fuel; they probably shouldn't have done that," Fish said. "But me and a lot of the other seniors, we've been playing together since we were 5 years old, and to be able to win every single year with those boys, it means a lot."

The victory capped a 18-1 season, where the Falcons scored 10 goals 16 times, and gave up five or fewer goals

16 times. Of their wins, 15 came by seven or more goals.

It was a dominant stretch that sent out the seniors on a high: **Fish, Sullivan, Pugh, Warren, Fava, Joey Tramontana, Teddy Evans, Landon Zawartka, Reid Caughy, Connor Lamoreaux, Dimitri Bordone, Porter Hill, Ashton Cristallo and Bryce Gunther** wrapped up their careers with another state title and handed a large junior class the task of carrying the tradition forward.

The Falcons want to embrace their reign a little while longer, though, and they have the community support that always gives them a chance.

"I always say it's the families, and the community," Zichelli said. "We've got the Green Hornets, all these guys play club ball, and Mom and Dad drive thousands of miles and spend lots of dollars. Our community really supports us big time. If it wasn't for that, we wouldn't have accomplished what we've accomplished here."



Photos courtesy of Fincham Photography

Above Left: Ben Ruppert scored twice and helped Severna Park's attack outpace Towson in the 3A championship game. **Above Right:** Ben Ruppert and Jack Fish went airborne for this celebration after a Falcons' goal. **Below Left:** The Falcons defense swarmed Towson every time the Generals tried to build momentum. **Below Right:** Davis Bates commanded the faceoff circle for Severna Park, winning draw after draw to set up the Falcons offense.



Spalding Defensive Back Commits To Florida State



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Following his senior season next fall, Severna Park resident **Sean Johnson** will take his talents from Archbishop Spalding to Florida State University.

By Kevin Murnane

Archbishop Spalding rising senior defensive back and Severna Park resident **Sean Johnson** has committed to play college ball at Florida State University. Johnson committed in April after his March visit to the Tallahassee campus.

"It just felt like home," said Johnson, who toured the Seminole facility with his mom. Johnson, who plays cornerback for the Archbishop Spalding Cavaliers, will switch to safety at Florida State. Johnson is now 6 feet, 2 inches tall and 210 pounds, and his size will bode well in the competitive Atlantic Coast Conference.

"Sean is one of the most talented players in our football program," said Spalding head football coach **Kyle Schmitt**. "His skill set allows him to play all three secondary positions, and his length and size creates challenges for all types of receivers."

Johnson, who played youth football with the Green Hornets, wants to thank his parents, his prior Green Hornets and current Spalding coaches, and his current and former teammates for helping him achieve this accomplishment of attending a Division I university and continuing to play football. He looks forward to his senior season at Spalding and hopes the Cavaliers can win a fourth consecutive Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference championship.

Bethany Farber Earns Prestigious Socrates Award At Chesterton Academy



Senior Bethany Farber, who earned the State of Maryland Certificate of Merit, posed with her favorite Chesterton Academy educator, Tim Feeney.

By Judy Tacyn

Homeschool. Private school. Public school. California. Virginia. Maryland. Graduating Chesterton Academy of Annapolis senior Bethany Farber has done them all.

As a child of a Navy parent, Farber didn't feel grounded until her family settled in Severna Park. When she and her family started looking into high schools, Farber knew that wherever she'd enroll, it would be for a full four years.

At the Chesterton Academy of Annapolis' senior awards ceremony, held May 21, Farber received the State of Maryland Certificate of Merit and one of the school's highest honors, the Socrates Award. The distinction not only recognizes her exceptional academic achievement but also her insatiable drive for truth and understanding, and strong Socratic approach to learning.

"I never attended one school very long, so I was really excited to find a high school where I would be completely grounded for four years," Farber explained.

Her exploration took her to Chesterton Academy of Annapolis. The first Chesterton Academy was founded in 2008 in Minneapolis as a Catholic high school that was both academically challenging and spiritually fulfilling, following the education principles of G.K. Chesterton, an English writer. By 2024, 59 high schools had been formed in 25 states and in four countries. Chesterton Academy of Annapolis opened seven years ago.

After touring and shadowing at Chesterton, Farber knew she'd found her high school home.

"I really enjoyed the classroom dynamic of the Socratic seminars," Farber said. "Teachers are more guides to knowledge than lecture-based educators. There is a lot of discussion with fellow students to reach the truth."

The Socrates Award is given to the student who shows great class discussion participation, always strives to discover the truth, achieves superior academic accomplishment, and is never satisfied with a "so-so" answer.

Recalling education during the pandemic, Farber noted that online learning wasn't something she enjoyed.

"I really like being present in the moment and being able to question," Farber said. "Hearing different opinions forces me to open up my mind to other perspectives."

One of Farber's favorite teachers was Tim Feeney, whom she had for scripture and modern history classes. Feeney's biography on the Chesterton website states, "He prefers to teach using the Socratic method because it trains students to think logically and systematically work toward conclusions that are rationally defensible." Farber thrived in his classes.

"Mr. Feeney really makes hard subjects or deep philosophical issues fun," she said. "He is legendary for his 'caffeinated conversations.' In his classes, we are not allowed to raise our hands. We are just a couple of friends having a conversation. Over tea and homemade pastries, we'd have these incredibly complex discussions. Some of my favorite scripture passages are ones we studied that year, and I've never been closer to a group of classmates."

Farber will attend Belmont Abbey College, a private, Catholic liberal arts college in Belmont, North Carolina. She chose Belmont because of the strong honors college with small class sizes formatted in

» Continued on page 41

Shipley's Choice Elementary Students Perform In "Mini RNR"



Photos by Steve Overton

In May, Shipley's Choice Elementary students performed in the school's 14th annual "Mini Rock 'N' Roll Revival." For two days, students took to the stage in colorful costumes before creative set displays to sing and dance their hearts out in a repertoire themed "Shipley's Goes Hollywood."

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Educator Of The Month

Lara Beccone Severna Park Middle School



By Lauren Burke Meyer

How does one end up not only teaching middle-schoolers but thriving? Severna Park Middle School (SPMS) teacher Lara Beccone — known as Lara Hodak, until recently — shared how.

Growing up, Beccone was inspired at 5 years old by her kindergarten teacher. She dreamed of following in her beloved teacher's footsteps — until high school, when she fell in love with history and psychology. That sparked a shift in focus: she wanted to teach that content instead, rather than kindergartners. This led to a bachelor's degree in history and a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction from the University of Maryland.

"When I entered the interview process with (Anne Arundel County Public Schools), I focused mainly on middle school social studies positions as I felt slightly intimidated at the idea of teaching high-schoolers so early in my teaching career," Beccone said.

When her middle school alma mater — Old Mill Middle School North — had a position available, it was hard to resist going back to a school she'd grown up in.

"It felt right to return back to where I started," she said.

After three years, she moved on to SPMS, where she's now wrapping up her third year as a seventh-grade social studies teacher. She also serves as a team leader for the grade's Stingrays team and as equity lead.

In her role as an educator, she

regularly collaborates with fellow social studies teachers. "We plan how to best teach our world history curriculum," she explained.

As a seventh-grade team leader, she's the point of contact for team members and parents when concerns arise. Beccone also advocates for both teachers and students, facilitates parent-teacher conferences, communicates critical information to families, and plans team events and field trips.

As an equity lead, she runs four professional developments on unity days each year. She covers how to best support struggling learners and ways to ensure all students at SPMS succeed and grow.

She works with the SPMS leadership team, administration and Principal Dennis Kelly to gain insight into where the biggest gaps are among students and plan professional developments around how they can help staff best support students based on their needs.

"Ms. (Beccone's) ability to get the most out of her students each and every day is exemplary," Kelly said. "This, combined with the positive relationships she's built with our entire faculty and staff, make her a tremendous asset here at SPMS!"

Beccone always seeks to create a safe, inclusive classroom with high expectations, focused on meeting students where they are and supporting their growth. She prioritizes trust and family partnerships, and she recognizes the importance of letting middle-schoolers be kids. She teaches history through multiple perspectives to foster critical thinking.

"This new era of information comes from all different platforms and students need to be able to decipher what is real, what is biased, and what is simply incorrect information," Beccone said.

When Beccone thinks of her students, her German Shepherd puppy — who's a little over 1 year old — comes to mind.

"They want to do the right things; they are always full of energy and excitement, are incredibly smart, but still have so much to learn in their adolescent years," she added.

Her students are resilient. They juggle family responsibilities, friendships, and demanding extra-curricular schedules on top of the high expectations of school.

"They are all just trying their best and trying to survive the chaos that comes with being in middle school," Beccone said.

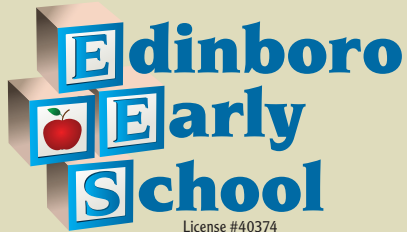
Luckily, these seventh-graders have a passionate teacher like Beccone in their corner.



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All-County Student Art Exhibit Showcases Local Talent

From May 1-14, artwork by more than 3,000 Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) students was displayed throughout the halls of the Annapolis Mall for friends, family and passersby to enjoy. A wide range of creativity and expression was on display, with mediums spanning acrylic paint to digital photography, watercolor, Sharpie, mixed media and more.



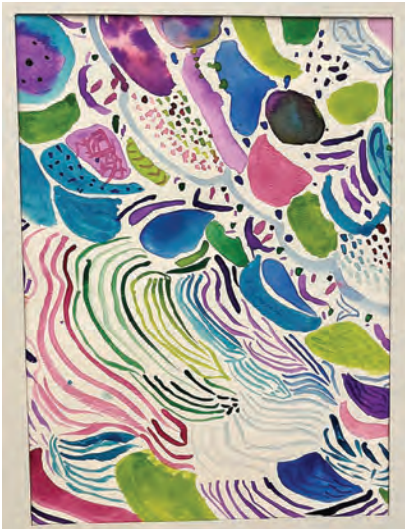
"Pieces of Me"
Digital Photography by
Severna Park High School
Senior - Kaelin Tufo



"Pepsi!"
Mixed Media by
Oak Hill Elementary School
Fifth-Grader - Berk German



"Neo Expressionism Art"
Mixed Media by
Benfield Elementary School
Fourth-Grader - Mia Harry



"Abstract Lines"
Watercolor by
Folger McKinsey Elementary School
Third-Grader - Renner Riley



"Critters in Space"
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Broadneck High School
Senior - Jenia Erwin



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Oak Hill Elementary Celebrates Legacy Of 100-Year-Old Tree



During a ceremony on May 20, Oak Hill Elementary School Principal Deneen Houghton read a poem and cut a ribbon to commemorate the planting of a new oak tree at the school. The Green Team at Oak Hill Elementary kept a piece of the old oak tree and had it inscribed with the name of the school and an acorn representing the year the tree may have been born. Following the ribbon cutting, students and teachers gathered in front of the new oak tree.



By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

When Anne Arundel County officials told Oak Hill Elementary School that the old tree by the school sign had to be taken down in 2023, it was a sad day. Over 100 years old, the oak tree had become part of the school's charm, but it developed a fungus and was deemed a hazard because it could fall on someone.

The end of that tree's life led to the beginning of a new oak tree, which the school celebrated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 20.

Prior to the ceremony, Oak Hill Elementary School's Green Team researched the importance of trees to the environment. They also learned that Oak Hill Elementary was built and be-

came a school in 1971 when the original standing oak tree was thriving.

"Although the specific origin name Oak Hill, for Oak Hill Elementary School, is not documented in available sources, we know it is common for schools to be named after the land's geographical features," Principal Deneen Houghton told a group of 32 children. "There are a lot of oak trees in Severna Park, Maryland, so it is possible that our school was named Oak Hill to reflect the natural landscape characteristic of this area."

Houghton and the Green Team did not have to go out on a limb to determine the tree's age. A neighborhood resident counted the number of rings on the cross-section of the tree trunk to determine that it was planted over a century ago.

To recognize the importance of the occasion, Houghton read a poem called "The Oak Tree" by John Ray Ryder Jr. The poem, she said, represents the school's motto, "Rise Above It," which was coined by a former student who thought of the school's mascot eagle flying high above the oak trees.

After the poem, Houghton left students with words of encouragement.

"As I cut this ribbon, in front of our new tree, let it represent the start of something fresh, thrilling and promising," she said. "Our school's vital role in educating successful students like you will be symbolized by this new oak tree. As you enter our school's grounds every day, may you gaze upon this tree and know that you are valued, cherished and essential to our school's success."

Bethany Farber Earns Prestigious Socrates Award

» Continued from page 36
the Socratic seminar style.

Since a young age, Farber has been enthralled with Shakespeare. Peek inside her backpack and she will be carrying at least one — usually several — Shakespeare titles to read, "just for fun." At Belmont, she is excited about the college's focus on the "great books."

"When I started reading Shakespeare when I came to Chesterton, I didn't

really understand it," Farber said, "but the more I read, the more I enjoyed it."

For her senior paper, Farber wrote "Injustice in Shakespeare According to St. Anselm." She compared the endings of "Hamlet" versus "The Tempest," a tragedy versus a comedy.

At Belmont, she plans on continuing her study of classic literature as a "great book" minor or major. She's also interested in a philosophy, politics and

economics track.

"I absolutely love English," Farber added. "A dream job for me would be either a high school or college professor. I feel like everyone has that one teacher they remember forever. I'd love to be the teacher who creates memories. I would love to be someone else's Mr. Feeney."

Farber is the daughter of Rebecca and Adam Farber of Severna Park.

AACPS Earns National Award For Work In Service Learning

Citing exceptional integration of service learning into every facet of student life, Youth Service America (YSA) has recognized Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) as one of six Gold Ribbon School Districts in the United States.

From curriculum-based projects to countywide leadership camps and community partnerships, AACPS was cited for the ways in which it prepares students to "make a real difference through hands-on learning," YSA said in its recognition. Among those ways are:

- Chesapeake Connections, a sixth-grade unit that combines environmental action with social-emotional learning.
- The AACPS Service Portal, an innovative platform providing multilingual, accessible opportunities for student-led impact.
- A nationally recognized collaboration with Chick-fil-A that includes service road trips, summer camps and student leadership development.
- A recognition of and culture of service learning that includes celebrations of students work, transcript distinctions, and honors such as the Superintendent's Award and Presidential Service Award.

"Conveying the importance of service learning is a huge part of our effort to help every single student 'Belong, Grow and Succeed,'" Superintendent of Schools Mark Bedell said. "This honor reflects the work of so many people who go to great lengths every day to help our students not only understand what it takes to create better communities but to provide opportunities for them to do so."

UM BWMC Celebrates 40th Anniversary Of Caring For Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Patients

Program Is Vital For Patients To Return To Normal Activity

By Kevin Murnane

During the 40th anniversary celebration of the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center's (UM BWMC) cardiopulmonary program in May, Severna Park resident Claudia Cavey used a poignant quote from baseball legend Jackie Robinson: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."

Cavey, a registered nurse with the cardiopulmonary program, was the master of ceremonies for the celebration, held at the medical center's Courtney Conference Center.

She was one of the original nurses when a team of 10 physicians opened the Arundel Heart Center in 1985. In 1989, North Arundel Hospital (now UM BWMC) acquired the facility and assisted in the program's growth to offer area residents who had experienced a variety of heart and lung ailments a structured, individualized plan to enable patients to confidently return to everyday activities.

Cavey became emotional as she ended her presentation and remembered the thousands of lives she positively impacted during those 40 years of helping patients.

"Before we had the program, we didn't have a medically supervised program to send our cardiac patients to," said June Tabler, former head nurse of North Arundel Hospital's coronary care unit. "This was a great addition for our cardiac care program."

The program has treated thousands of area residents who enter the extensive multi-month blueprint to recover

with the help of a multidisciplinary care plan. The program treats a myriad of cardiopulmonary conditions such as heart attacks, heart valve repairs and replacements, pulmonary hypertension and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Former North Arundel Hospital Chief of Emergency Medicine and Severna Park resident Dr. Richard Fields had a valve replacement procedure and was one of the more than 150 former patients who attended the ceremony.

"The rehabilitation process was great," Fields said. "I came for 24 sessions and graduated from the program. I recommend all cardiopulmonary patients to utilize a multifaceted program using doctors, nurses and other health care professionals for their recovery."

The physical location of the cardiopulmonary program has changed over the years, but the program's primary goal has remained the same: Restoring patients' confidence in returning to everyday activities in a compassionate setting that promotes long-term wellness.

Another former cardiopulmonary patient, Kristen Slavy, told the audience how she "coded" twice from two cardiac arrests. Through life-saving interventions and a lengthy rehabilitation process, she is back to living a normal life.

"Before we had the program, we didn't have a medically supervised program to send our cardiac patients to. This was a great addition for our cardiac care program."

— JUNE TABLER, FORMER HEAD NURSE OF NORTH ARUNDEL HOSPITAL'S CORONARY CARE UNIT



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Former patient Kristen Slavy of Brooklyn Park (left) spoke at the UM BWMC cardiopulmonary program's 40th anniversary celebration along with one of the program's original registered nurses, Claudia Cavey of Severna Park. Cavey was the master of ceremonies for the celebration, which drew more than 150 former patients to the hospital's Courtney Conference Center.

"It was July 20 of last year; I coded twice, once in the emergency room and once in the cardiac catheterization lab," Slavy said. "Then the process of going through ICU (intensive care unit) and the numerous step-down units, I entered the cardiac rehab center on August 12, and 16 weeks later, I finished my rehabilitation. I'm

extremely grateful for everyone's care and guidance."

The program's medical director, Dr. Asghar Fakhri, shared with event attendees that the "heart and soul of the program is the staff, and their compassion and motivation is a critical part of getting the patients back to a healthy life."

Understanding Dense Breast Tissue And Your Cancer Risk: What You Need To Know

Cynthia Drogula, MD

Medical Director
Aiello Breast Center
at UM Baltimore
Washington
Medical Center



What Is Dense Breast Tissue?

Breast tissue is made up of three main components: fatty tissue, milk-producing glands, and fibrous connective tissue. Dense breasts have more glandular and fibrous tissue and less fatty tissue. Dense breasts are

Dense breast tissue is a common condition affecting many women, but it's important to understand how it can impact your health. While dense tissue isn't harmful on its own, it can make mammograms harder to interpret, potentially making it more difficult to detect breast cancer early. Women with dense breasts also have a slightly higher risk of developing breast cancer.

quite common, affecting around 40% of women in the United States. Hormonal changes at different stages of a woman's life — such as during pregnancy or as she ages — can affect breast density.

New Guidelines For Mammograms

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently updated its guidelines to require mammogram facilities to notify women whether they have dense breast tissue. This new regulation helps women understand their breast health and take proactive steps.

Understanding Your Mammogram Report

Your mammogram report will include a Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS) score, which classifies breast tissue from A to D based on density:

- A:** Mostly fatty tissue (least dense)
- B:** Scattered tissue
- C:** Heterogeneously dense tissue
- D:** Extremely dense tissue (most dense)

If your report indicates that your breast tissue is dense (C or D), it's important to review this with

your health care provider. They can explain what this means for you and discuss any next steps, such as additional screening or follow-up appointments.

Follow-Up Appointments And Additional Screening

If your mammogram shows areas of concern, your provider may recommend further testing, like an ultrasound, to gather more information. This can clarify whether a mass is present or if the dense tissue is just making it more difficult to see. Your provider will also consider your personal and family history of breast cancer, along with other risk factors, when determining if additional screening is needed.

Stay Proactive With Self-Exams

In addition to regular mammograms, it's crucial to perform regular breast self-exams. Get familiar with how your breasts normally feel and look. If you notice any changes — such as lumps, pain or nipple discharge — contact your doctor immediately.

For more information on breast health services, visit www.umbwmc.org/breast-care.

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Pasadena Theatre Company Celebrates The Theater Community With "PUFFS"

By Jaina Peveto

Pasadena Theatre Company will perform "Puffs," or "Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" at Anne Arundel Community College the weekends of June 6-8 and 13-15.

A comedy and parody of the "Harry Potter" franchise, this show focuses on a group of Puffs, who are the show's version of members of the Hogwarts house of Hufflepuff. While Harry is busy with his own adventures in the background, the Puffs grow closer together and figure out who they want to be.

"It's a story about finding yourself and finding the true spirit of what a hero is," explained director Jonathan Monroe. "The fun thing about 'Puffs' is that the Puffs are the forgotten children."

Monroe, a Hufflepuff himself, is not a huge "Harry Potter" fan, but he fell

in love with "Puffs" after seeing the play performed off-Broadway. Monroe has been part of the Pasadena Theatre Company for about four years and has advocated for the group to perform "Puffs" for a long time.

Pasadena Theatre Company has put on musicals since 1978, and "Puffs" will be its first straight play. Because of Monroe's interest in the group performing the show, he was asked to direct as soon as "Puffs" was selected.

"I'm eternally grateful to (Sharon Steele) and (Kathy Swain) for putting their trust in me and allowing me to really run with this," Monroe said.

The cast of "Puffs" features actors who have been with the group for a while, as well as some new faces. The actors are a diverse group of members of the Anne Arundel County commu-

» Continued on page 44

Severna Park Resident Pens Presidential Language Trivia Book

By Alyson Kay

In 2016, Severna Park resident Greg Nedved published "Presidential Foreign Language Trivia," a book filled with tidbits and anecdotes for people to learn and test their knowledge about U.S. presidents and languages.

Late last year, he added a new edition with an updated format, new presidents and new facts.

The project is a merging of two of Nedved's longtime interests.

"I've always been interested in history," he said. "It was my favorite subject when I was growing up and it's my degree when I majored in college."

In college, Nedved also studied Mandarin Chinese, which turned into a career at the U.S. Department of Defense as a linguist, translator, interpreter, and instructor and at the National Museum of Language as its president emeritus.

Nedved realized that despite the wealth of knowledge and numerous trivia books covering presidential history, one topic was missing.

"There's been trivia books about presidents and all kinds of other areas, never one focusing on their language skills, so I thought, 'Who better than me to write this?'" Nedved said.

He started writing the first edition in 2014 and began research beforehand. He jots down facts that he comes across or prints them out and organizes them in folders.

"Sometimes I stumble across it by accident, but usually I'm looking for something," Nedved said. "I like to have a couple of anecdotes for every president. Some are easy. Some aren't so easy. If it's a president that I'm having a problem finding specific anec-

dotes about their language skills, then I will look for it, which means I will go to the library and start researching it."

A challenge when writing any nonfiction book is sourcing.

"If there's any doubt in my mind, I won't use it," Nedved said.

One thing he found out from his research: There does not seem to be a correlation between language skills and presidential performance.

"We have had presidents that have been very good in languages, like John Quincy Adams, for example, who's not considered a good president at all," Nedved said.

"The flipside of that is we have people like

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who really didn't study languages at all, and they're among our best."

From the beginning, Nedved knew that he wanted to update the book.

"I knew at the time I wrote it that I would probably need to do an update, because you get new presidents, and since that time, we have had three presidents," Nedved explained.

He enjoys staying sharp on the ma-



Greg Nedved is a linguist, historian and author of "Presidential Foreign Language Trivia." The book was updated in 2024.

terial and being the authority on a topic.

"I like the idea that I'm the person that knows about this topic," he said. "If you want to know, you contact me."

For the second edition, Nedved updated the format from a multiple-choice format with a source list to a true/false and question/answer format.

"I thought I needed to simplify it a little bit, make it more user-friendly," Nedved shared. "Instead of having a big book with footnotes at the end and all that other kind of stuff, I thought it would be a little easier, perhaps more attractive for people, if it was simpler."

He also added sections, including sections about presidents before, during and after their terms and a "presidents general" miscellaneous section.

"It's just general topics, not necessarily connected to while the president was in office, but connected to him somehow," Nedved said. Say, for example, Latin being on the dollar bill or Latin being on the Washington Monument. That's related to a certain president, but that didn't happen

when Washington was president. It didn't happen before he was president. It didn't happen after he was president. This is just something that's identified with him."

It also features a section on English about the various ways presidents have used and affected the English language, from Theodore Roosevelt popularizing the term "lunatic fringe" to Abraham Lincoln coining the term "Michigander" to mean a person from Michigan.

Nedved also reviewed facts from the first edition and replaced weaker entries, or ones that had weaker sources, with better ones.

To further language research and education, Nedved decided to donate the money from the book to the National Museum of Language. He has been involved with the museum since 2008 and is the president emeritus of the museum and runs programs.

"I just thought it would be a way to bring some money into the museum," he said. "It's not going to be a lot of money, but it's still something that I'm willing to do."

Outside of trivia, Nedved is writing a biography on Alva Lasswell, a Marine Corps cryptologist who deciphered Japanese radio traffic during World War II and helped facilitate the victory at Midway in 1942 and the ambush of Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto in 1943. He also expects to continue researching and updating the "Presidential Foreign Language Trivia" book.

The book is out and available at major retailers and on Nedved's website at www.gregnedved.com/shop in hardcover, paperback and Kindle formats.

Photo courtesy of MPT



MPT's "Chesapeake Collectibles" Returns For 12th Season

Maryland Public Television's original series "Chesapeake Collectibles" returns for its 12th season with a treasure trove of captivating finds beginning on June 2.

The 13 weekly episodes of "Chesapeake Collectibles" will be broadcast on MPT-HD and available on the MPT livestream on Mondays at 7:30pm, immediately preceding the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow." Viewers can also find full episodes of the series anytime on MPT's online video player and the free PBS app.

Encore broadcasts of episodes air on Wednesdays at 8:00pm on MPT2 and the MPT2 livestream.

One of MPT's most successful flagship series, "Chesapeake Collectibles" showcases items from around the world and brought to the show by individuals from across the Chesapeake region. During each

episode, passionate collectors have their unique, antique and collectible possessions evaluated by expert appraisers, who reveal fascinating facts about each item's history, provenance and value.

Among the new season's highlights are a rare first-edition set of "The Lord of the Rings," a hand-annotated "Lawrence of Arabia" movie script, a sketch of the Baltimore skyline by singer Tony Bennett, and a pair of exquisitely crafted silver seahorses by Baltimore jeweler Carl Schon. Additional highlights include a letter from Fort McHenry's commander requesting the flag that would inspire "The Star-Spangled Banner," a bronze statue with a risqué surprise, and a pair of bloomers worn and signed by Baltimore icon Divine.

Nearly 1,000 guests attended the "Chesapeake Collectibles" season

12 taping event, which took place in October 2024 at The Irene and Edward H. Kaplan Production Studio on MPT's Owings Mills campus. The series' expert appraisers evaluated thousands of items, selecting the most fascinating ones for inclusion in the upcoming season.

A preview of the new season is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ66CdfbBL8.

For more information about the series, including how to register for the show's Season 13 taping weekend on October 4-5, visit www.chesapeakecollectibles.com. The website also features the series' "Talkin' Collectibles" blog, found at www.mpt.org/blogs/chesapeake-collectibles.

Major funding for season 12 of "Chesapeake Collectibles" is provided by Alex Cooper Auctioneers and Second Story Books.

SPHS Students Perform At Disney World

The Severna Park High School (SPHS) music program headed to the "most magical place on Earth" from April 25-29. This year, 130 students comprised of marching band, orchestra and chorus members made the journey to Orlando, Florida, to soak up sun and represent SPHS in front of guests from around the world.

"Playing at Disney was an awesome experience and a highlight of my four years at SPHS," said senior Will Bresson. "Disney World is a place that holds special memories of my childhood, so joining my bandmates to march in Magic Kingdom with crowds of people watching and cheering us on was a special thrill for me."

The marching band, led by Director Eric Kilby, treated guests to an array of musical numbers including "How Far I'll Go," "Houdini" and "Anchors Aweigh" while parading from Frontierland through Liberty Square to around Cinderella's castle and down the famous Main Street, USA.

"It is truly a blessing to be able to offer this experience to students," Kilby said. "Auditioning and being selected to perform in the Magic Kingdom alongside so many amazing performers is an experience that students will remember for the rest of their lives. Disney has a way of making everyone feel like they are part of the magic."

Under the direction of Sara Metcalfe, the chorus performed several songs at Disney Springs as tourists and onlookers sang along. The choirs' favorites were "Temporal" by Towson chorus professor Diana Sáez, "Hope Lingers On" arranged by Andrea Ramsey, and "Bonk" abaphandle, arranged by Michale Barrett and Mbuso Ndlovu. Bonk was conducted by freshman Jude McCallister.

"It was such a thrill to be able to perform at Disney," Metcalfe said. "I was amazed at how many people walking by us in Disney Springs stopped and watched our whole set! The thing I love most about these trips is the chance for band, orchestra, and chorus students to get to know each other and form friendships that wouldn't have happened otherwise."

Senior Tess Donegan, a member of the chorus and orchestra, said, "Not only did we get to bring a little pixie dust to the people at Disney Springs, but we each felt the magic in our own special ways: singing Disney tunes as we walked around the park, getting excited to see our favorite characters walking around, or screaming on thrilling rides. I will cherish every bit of it forever, and I am so thankful to have gotten this opportunity and become an honorary cast member at Disney!"

On the last day, the orchestra also performed onstage at Disney Springs to the sounds of Disney classics "Chim Chim Cher-ee," "It's a Small World" and "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes."

Junior Sean Monahan of the orchestra summarized it this way: "We were able to share our musical prowess and expertise with the world, all while bonding and creating memories with our friends. It was such an honor to have been able to perform at Disney Springs this year!"

Pasadena Theatre Company Celebrates With "Puffs"

» Continued from page 43

nity, ranging from as young as 8 years old up to retirement age. Some have other roles in the production as well, such as Monroe both directing and playing the bit role of Uncle Dave, or Robin Schwartz playing Harry while also creating promotional materials for the show.

Though many members of the cast are more experienced with musical theater, they are excited for Pasadena Theatre Company's first non-musical play. "We're a collection of people who really enjoy performing, and you'll feel that energy if you come see the show," Monroe said.

"Puffs" is full of fun moments, including a puppet show that takes place during the first act. The first act is comedic, while the second act is darker, much like the "Harry Potter" books from which "Puffs" draws inspiration. Throughout the show, the Puffs grow closer as a community, echoing the way

the theater community comes together when performing a show.

"It's wonderful to be in an area that has so many theater companies and that theater is so alive in the state of Maryland and in Anne Arundel County," Monroe said.

The production of "Puffs" has received support from Chesapeake High School, which donated props from its recent adaptation of the show.

The way that the theater community comes together is encapsulated by one of the main themes of "Puffs." Anyone who has struggled to fit in or who has found their place within a tight-knit community should be able to see themselves in the show's main characters.

"I've always felt kind of out of place in many of the places I'm at and many of the things that I do, and finding myself in a small community of people kind of feels Puffish," Monroe said. "Go Puffs!"

For ticket information, go to www.ptcshows.com.



Robin Schwartz, playing Harry, rehearsed scaring other students by talking to a snake.

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"The Quilters" Examines The Power Of Creating And Crafting

Julie Antinucci
Owner
Cottonwood



Just like reading a good book, crafting and making things by hand can transport you to a different time and place, elevate your mood, and positively impact other aspects of your life. This couldn't be better demonstrated than through Jenifer McShane's poignant documentary "The Quilters," which came out on Netflix on May 16.

"The Quilters" is a 32-minute documentary about a small group of men in a maximum-security prison in Licking, Missouri, who defy all the expectations of prison life and lead a quilting group, creating amazing quilts for foster children in their surrounding communities.

There are several important messages peppered throughout this little gem of a documentary: creating for others heals the soul, using your hands for art can be transformative, and creating leads to a sense of community.

Several of the men featured in this documentary are serving life sentences for crimes that involve homicide and aggravated assault. Throughout the documentary, they wholeheartedly admit and regret their crimes and know they are paying the price. But because of the quilting program, they have been able to forgive themselves, see an opportunity for healing, and take it seriously.

None of the men can stay in the program if they have any infractions. There is zero tolerance for mistakes. But they all recognize that quilting has helped to heal them of their inner demons and has provided a bright spot in the lives of the foster children who receive the quilts. One inmate said his family can even hear a difference in his voice when he calls home. He's calmer and more loving because he has learned to love himself

and to finally be proud of something in his life.

The physical and mental process of creating a quilt also has an interesting impact on the men. The process requires a separate, small, intimate room for the men to work eight hours a day, five days a week. It requires long periods of thought and concentration. As one inmate states, "This is what puts me on the outside. When I do this, I don't even be in here." Quilting, or any creative outlet, is a way to escape from difficult circumstances, even if only for a short while. It elevates these men's sense of self-worth and helps their minds grow outside of the prison. Simply put, being creative transforms one's mind.

Finally, this small community that they develop is perhaps the most important aspect of the quilt group, other than providing gifts for foster children. The documentarian said she was worried that the room they make quilts in would feel claustrophobic to the viewer, but on the contrary, it just feels intimate. The viewer can sense how close the men have grown, having this common goal and common "hobby." When one person is happy, they all feel elated. When one person has a bad time with something, they all feel that together. The sense of community that develops just through this craft is both a physical and mental one.

"The Quilters" will give you a new appreciation for what creating and crafting can do for your life. It will also give you a rare glimpse into the world of incarceration. After viewing this short documentary at a convention for shop owners in the craft industry, I was left with a sense of optimism for the men but an even clearer belief that quilting, or any kind of crafting, can truly transform your life. The only shortfall of the film that I could come up with: we all wished it were longer! Thirty-two minutes isn't long enough with these inspiring men and their mission!

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Navigating A Volatile Market With A Steady Investment Plan

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



How can 10 days cost you over \$200,000? The answer might surprise you.

We have seen significant volatility in the market in 2025, and many people feel nervous about their investments.

During times of market turmoil, selling your assets that declined in value might feel like a smart move, but history shows that it could be a mistake.

Consider the period between October 2007 to March 2009. The S&P 500 fell more than 50% during that time frame. If an investor reacted to their losses by selling, they likely lost a substantial amount. If instead they chose to stick with their investment plan, they did well because the market completely recovered from its losses by spring 2012.

This is a clear example of why I advise my clients not to let their emotions cause them to react irrationally.

Jumping in and out of the market to react to its performance is also known as timing the market, which is impossible to do reliably. A recent study conducted by Prudential found that, with a \$100,000 initial investment in 2004, staying invested through 2023 would see the account grow over \$428,875. If,

however, the investor tried to time the market and missed just the best-performing 10 days in that time period, the account would only be worth \$196,735 — a \$232,142 reduction in portfolio performance!

When you sell because your assets have lost value, you won't be able to participate in gains if their value should increase again. This is known as "locking in your losses." One good way to avoid this is to have a portfolio aligned with your risk tolerance.

Carefully consider the amount of risk you are comfortable with. If you're the type of investor who is likely to feel awful when your assets decline in value, it might be prudent to consider a more conservative portfolio to avoid tempting you into making rash decisions.

If, on the other hand, you are comfortable with temporary losses in value and will stay invested when such declines happen, you could benefit from a more aggressive portfolio with a higher potential yield. Traditionally, financial advisors often recommended a two-pronged portfolio of stocks and bonds, divided according to their clients' risk tolerance. This allows clients to take advantage of the market's potential for gains while keeping the rest of their investments in safer assets.

However, today's volatility has some shifting focus toward a three-pronged portfolio frequently consisting of 60%
» Continued on page 48

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



Please give a warm welcome to our newest members and enjoy reading about all the businesses that make our community the best place to live! Visit their websites and find them in our

directory at www.gspacc.com.

Baking on the Magothy

Using secret family recipes and only the finest ingredients — rich butter, dark chocolate, Madagascar vanilla — Baking on the Magothy makes each batch with care. Its kitchen hums with quiet joy as trays of golden-brown cookies emerge from the oven, slightly crisp at the edges and soft at the center.

Center for Transformative Dentistry

www.transformativedentist.com

At the Center for Transformative Dentistry, the team takes a holistic approach to oral health, addressing root causes for lasting balance and well-being. Led by Dr. Roland, the center offers non-invasive treatments for TMJ, orthodontics, and smile rejuvenation. The team believes in "whole body dentistry" and they utilize the advanced Q3D CBCT 3D imaging system in conjunction with treatment planning to better understand how different aesthetic imperfections may be impacting the joints, muscles, and soft tissues of your skeletal structure and influencing your physiological well-being.

De-Stress Psychological Services LLC

www.destresspsychology.com

Dr. Holly Hiltner has a wealth of experience in treating clients with trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, panic, phobias, obsessive-compulsive disorder, stress and adjustment disorders, grief and loss. She specializes in providing individual psychotherapy to military service members and their adult dependents, veterans, U.S. Department of Defense civilians, and federal employees.

Fenix Wellness

www.fenixforwomen.com

Owner Krista Hernandez's 25 years of personal experience in healing chronic conditions combined with a professional background in teaching and counseling has provided her with both deep insight and skills to guide you on your own path to vibrant health. The mind-body connection is the foundation of her coaching philosophy.

We held several ribbon-cuttings in May! Our first was in celebration of the season opening of the **Severna Park Farmers Market**. What a wonderful market filled with fresh fruits and veggies, plants, honey and so much more. The market is open every Saturday from 8:00am to noon.

Next, we celebrated the grand opening of **Yoga Factory's** third location. Yoga Factory is going gangbusters with 16 styles of classes, and we are so glad to have it in Arnold.

Another grand opening was **Anchor Family Dentistry** in Severna Park. Owner Dr. Andrew Lericos

» Continued on page 48

AACC Awards \$75,000 To Eight Student-Run Businesses

By Judy Tacyn

Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) held its "Shark Tank" style annual business pitch competition on April 29. Students (small business owners or hopefuls) pitched their business plans to judges and seasoned community business owners for a chance to be awarded a portion of the available \$100,000 in prize money to invest in their companies.

The competition also provided contestants with invaluable feedback from representatives from the Baltimore Business Journal, M&T Bank, and small local businesses. The competition was open to any AACC student who took classes during the previous 12 months. The funding for the competition was provided by the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economies and communities," said Stephanie Goldenberg, entrepreneurial studies institute academic chair and associate professor. "Much more than a competition, the program allows students to learn valuable information around marketing, financial planning, resume writing, and so much more."

AACC has held the annual competition in different formats since 2004, growing in funding and scope. Students vying for the seed money submit a written business plan with comprehensive requirements including a three-year financial projection. Coaches

» Continued on page 48



Photo courtesy of Anne Arundel Community College

Students pitched their business plans to judges and seasoned community business owners for a chance to be awarded a portion of the available \$100,000 in prize money to invest in their companies.

Karen Renee Interior Design Celebrates Triple Win At MBIA Awards of Excellence

The team at Karen Renee Interior Design was proud to receive a triple victory at the 2025 Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) Awards of Excellence in April,

earning three distinguished honors in the category of Excellence in Model Home Merchandising.

The awards recognize exceptional design and model home merchandising.

Karen Osborne, president at Karen Renee Interior Design, and her staff were acknowledged for the following projects:

Provenance Ranch – 55-Plus Detached Over \$1 Million
The Courtyards of Franklin Goldmine – Cumming, Georgia
Portico A Bonus – 55-Plus Detached \$700,000-\$799,999
The Courtyards at Bailey Farms – Dacula, Georgia
Promenade Ranch – 55-Plus Detached \$800,000-\$899,999
The Courtyards of Russell Oaks – Zionsville, Indiana

“We’re incredibly honored to receive this recognition from MBIA. These awards are a testament to the passion and creativity of our team and to the amazing partnerships we have with our clients. We’re grateful for the trust placed in us to bring their visions to life.”

— KAREN OSBORNE, PRESIDENT, KAREN RENEE INTERIOR DESIGN

AACC Awards \$75,000

» Continued from page 47

provide feedback to help the top eight students prepare for the live pitch in front of judges. Students have only two minutes to pitch their business with a five-minute question and answer session with the judges. After all students have made their pitches, the judges score them using a rubric and confer to determine the prize winners.

Student businesses included food service, custom detailing, remote tours and cosplay printing.

Pasadena resident Michael Charney of Chesapeake Charney’s earned a top prize of \$15,000, which he plans to put into the purchase of an enclosed trailer for his mobile food business. Charney hopes to purchase a trailer with a fully functional kitchen and storage for his seafood business. A trailer would allow the AACC culinary school student to drastically reduce his setup and take-down times and eliminate temporary food permits by purchasing one annual license for the trailer.

“The \$15,000 is a great head start toward my goal of \$51,000 (the quote for the new trailer),” said Charney, who has been operating his mobile seafood business for approximately one year. The experience helped him prepare a solid pitch for the judges.

“In my pitch, I outlined the pros and cons of a food trailer versus my current trailer. And because I already had one year under my belt, I was able to

more accurately determine my financial projection,” he said.

A mobile kitchen on a trailer would allow him substantial savings. For example, purchasing a one-year food service permit would cost the entrepreneur \$350, versus one-day temporary permits that add up to more than \$3,000 a year. Prep time would go from 2.5 hours before and after (not to mention the time to do dishes, clean the fryer, etc., once he gets home) to just 20 minutes before and after an event. And a trailer would allow him to be more flexible when being asked to participate in an event with little or no notice.

“If I had the trailer, I would be able to say yes to last-minute requests because I’d already have the food permit in hand, and I could easily drive the serve-ready trailer to the event,” he explained. “I have to turn down events that don’t give me enough time to obtain a one-day permit or allow food prep time at home. The trailer would really streamline my business and increase my profits.”

Chesapeake Charney’s serves seafood specialties using Charney family recipes, such as crab cakes, crab soup, codfish cakes and more.

For a full list of pitch winners and to learn more about AACC’s Entrepreneurial Studies Institute, visit www.aacc.edu/newsroom/news/2025-news/business-pitch-competition-april-2025.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 47

purchased the practice from longtime renowned dentist Dr. David Deitrick. It was an enjoyable event with Dr. Deitrick welcoming the new owner to the community.

We were honored to participate in the five-year anniversary celebration of **Inspire Integrative Medicine** in Arnold. Founded by Dr. Mariaileen Sourwine, formerly of Annapolis Internal Medicine, the practice combines traditional medicine with holistic practices.

After 20 years in business, Delegate Seth Howard and his wife, Erika, sold **Broadleaf Tobacco** to longtime customer Matt Frye. We learned all about the business and the camaraderie that has formed through their many events and the simple ability to have a place to relax and enjoy.

Our last ribbon-cutting of the month was the grand opening of **Nothing Bundt Cakes** in Park Plaza. People turned out in droves to celebrate and sample the delicious creations, and we are all excited to have a bakery back in the “park” again.

Our Spring Shop Local Fun Festival was held at Park Plaza on May 3, drawing more than 70 exhibitors and hundreds of community members. The event featured entertainment from the **Priddy Music Academy**, **Kwon’s Taekwondo**, **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi** and **Children’s Theatre of Annapolis**. In addition to our wonderful sponsors, our gold sponsors each contributed \$500 to

their charities of choice, as follows:

Landmark Roofing donated to the Newton Gentry Recovery Awareness Foundation, **SERVPRO of Annapolis and Severna Park** donated to Opportunity Builders Inc., the **Severna Park Elks** donated to SPAN, **Checkmark Power Washing** donated to Katherine’s Light Foundation, and **Kogen Dojo** donated to Reveille Grounds.

Our Successful Women in Business Group’s First Cup Club was hosted by **Cottonwood** in Severna Park, an amazing place for quilting, sewing supplies, classes and so much more. Our Wellness Business Connections Group held its monthly gathering at **The Healing Collective in Severna Park**.

The Friends of Kinder Farm **Park** hosted our first cookout of the season at Kinder Farm, where attendees enjoyed tractor rides, animals and great camaraderie.

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the annual Independence Day parade and are looking forward to a wonderful event. We will have many floats, music, community businesses and nonprofits, Scouts and more. Our grand marshal is retired business owner and local historian Scott Jay. We also have our decorated bike contest at the chamber for our youngest community members to enjoy. Find details about the parade at www.gspacc.com.

As always, we encourage you to shop locally and support our small businesses. They are the drivers of a vibrant economy, the job creators, providers of unique goods and services, donors to our nonprofits and those in need, and so much more!

Navigating A Volatile Market With A Steady Investment Plan

» Continued from page 47

stocks, 20% bonds and 20% alternative assets such as real estate. That’s often fine for people still in their working years, but I encourage clients in or near retirement to move away from such heavy exposure to stocks.

In retirement, it’s important to consider where your income is generated. If you rely primarily on market assets for retirement income, you could suffer financial losses should their value drop without having time to recover before you need to withdraw from that account. As with any strategy, it’s essential to understand all risks involved.

I coach clients to think of invested money as being in two categories: red and green money. Red money refers to assets that carry a higher risk of loss but also higher potential return, such as stocks. Green money is safer money, like municipal bonds and fixed annuities. The growth potential may be lower, but the tradeoff is lower risk.

It’s important to avoid allowing short-term market conditions to derail your investment strategy. A trusted financial advisor can help you devise a strategy appropriate for your unique financial situation and serve as an accountability partner to help keep you from making rash decisions that could harm your finances.

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Jason LaBarge, financial advisor
and president of LaBarge Financial
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Business Pitch Competition Winners

Michael Charney for Chesapeake Charney’s (\$15,000)
Kenneth Thomas for Obsessive Custom Detailing (OCD) LLC (\$12,500)
Abigail Foster for Simple Touches Hospitality (\$12,500)
Lucas Panzer Valdivia for Amanecer Tours (\$10,000)
William Sedgwick for 3D Nerd – Custom Cosplay Printing (\$10,000)
Alyssa McDaniel for Pack Dynamic (\$5,000)
Angelica Camarillo for 4Cycles LLC (\$5,000)
Katherine Paunlagui for Techies for the Oldies (\$5,000)

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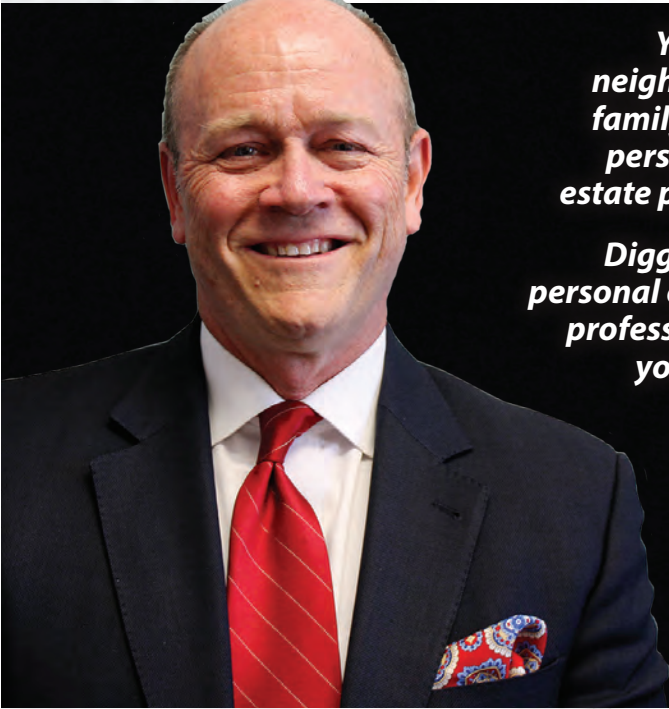
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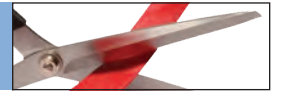
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RIBBON CUTTINGS



The Rumina Center Opens In Severna Park

In mid-May, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of The Rumina Center. Located at 836 Ritchie Highway, Suite 17, in Severna Park, the postpartum wellness center offers lactation services, mental health services and pediatric physical therapy. Learn more at www.ruminacenter.com.



Severna Park Welcomes Popular National Bakery Chain



In mid-May, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of Nothing Bundt Cakes. The specialty cake company has over 600 locations nationwide and serves up more than 10 flavors as well as gluten-free options in full-size bundt cakes, personal-size bundtlets and mini bundtinis. The sweets shop is located at 580 Ritchie Highway, Suite I, in Park Plaza. Learn more at www.nothingbundtcakes.com.

Inspire Integrative Medicine Marks Five Years

Photo courtesy of Josee Molavi

Dr. Mariaileen Sourwine and her team of physicians celebrated the five-year anniversary of Inspire Integrative Medicine on May 8 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony organized by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. Located at 277 Peninsula Farm Road in Arnold, Inspire Integrative Medicine is a medical practice offering patients a hybrid health care model that combines traditional medical care with an array of holistic care programs. Learn more at www.myprivia.com/pmg.inspire-im.



Anchor Family Dentistry Opens In Severna Park



With the experience of performing general dentistry for over eight years, Dr. Andrew Lericos has opened a dental practice, Anchor Family Dentistry, in Severna Park. He purchased the practice from longtime dentist David Deitrick. Anchor Family Dentistry offers "comprehensive care, cutting-edge technology and a commitment to your smile!" To mark the office's grand opening, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early May. The practice is located at 815 Ritchie Highway, Suite 202, in Severna Park. Learn more at www.thesevernaparkdentist.com.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Broadleaf Tobacco
Celebrates New Ownership

After more than 20 years of operation, Broadleaf Tobacco has been sold to new owners. The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce marked the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 14. The store offers premium cigars, pipes, pipe tobacco and high-quality accessories. Broadleaf Tobacco is open seven days a week and is located at 487 Ritchie Highway, Suite 101, in Severna Park. Learn more at www.broadleaftobacco.net.

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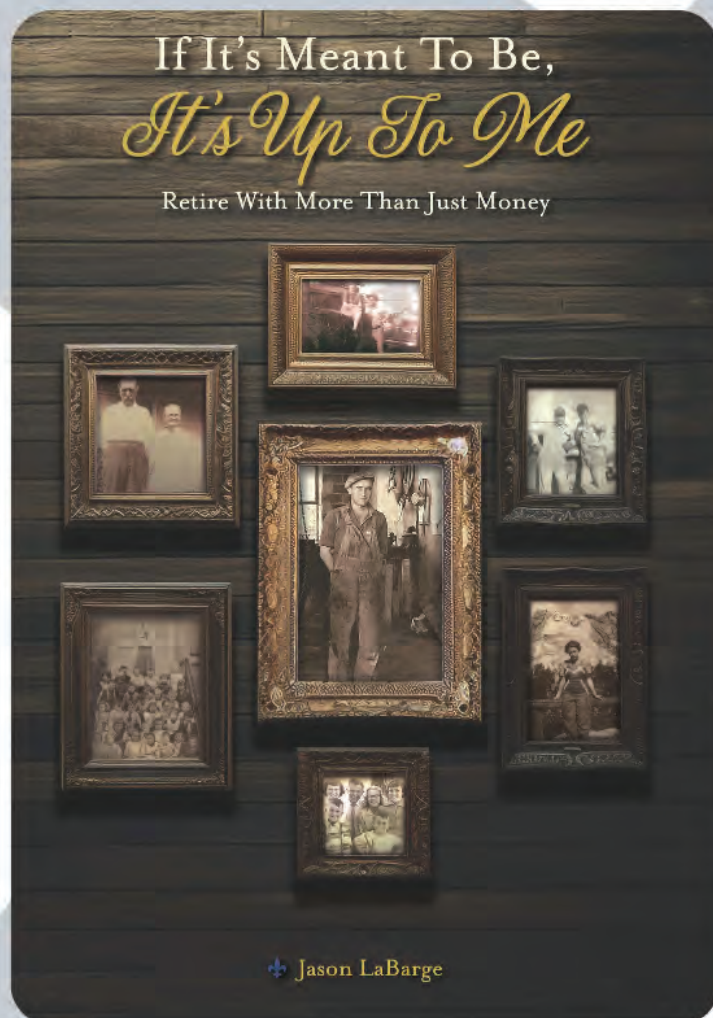
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