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Millersville Veterinarian Nikhil Joshi Makes Strong Showing On "Jeopardy!"

By Meredith Winter

Nikhil Joshi was not nervous as he stood under bright lights before an audience of 100, staring down a board of challenging questions as he appeared on the set of "America's favorite quiz show." He was totally in the zone while he competed on "Jeopardy!"

By taping time, the anxiety had already come and gone.

"The nerve-wracking part was actually as soon as I got the call from them on February 28," Joshi, a Millersville resident, shared. "They called me in the afternoon (and asked), 'Do you want to be on "Jeopardy!"' And I thought, 'Oh yeah! That's wonderful. For sure.' And then I immediately panicked and realized that I didn't know enough and that I didn't want to make

a fool of myself on national TV."

In early June, "Jeopardy!" viewers discovered that Joshi did in fact know enough, and that he certainly did not make a fool of himself. He appeared on three episodes of the decades-old game show, winning \$20,199.

Joshi shared that it was a multi-step process to appear on the show he has watched with his brother for as long as he can remember.

The first step is one that tens of thousands of people take each year: completing the "Jeopardy!" online "Anytime Test," which Joshi said consists of 50 varied questions that TV hopefuls have about eight seconds each to answer.

If one does well, they do it again — but on a Zoom meeting moderated by a producer. If an aspiring contestant does well a second time, they move on to a gameplay audition on Zoom in which a mock game is played in a group of three. Producers then interview "Jeopardy!" hopefuls about their



Photos courtesy of Sony Pictures Television/Tyler Golden

Millersville resident Nikhil Joshi appeared on three episodes of America's favorite quiz show, "Jeopardy!" in early June, winning \$20,199.

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Historian Scott Jay To Serve As Independence Day Parade Grand Marshal

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Want to know something about Severna Park history? F. Scott Jay probably has the answer.

Who developed Severna Park? Oscar Hatton.

How much did it cost to take the train from Severna Park to Baltimore in the 1940s? A nickel or a dime.

Why does Dawson's Liquors have poles in front of its parking spaces? Someone drove a car through the store in the 1950s.

And the list goes on.

Now 82 years old, Jay was born and raised in Severna Park, and he loves studying the town's past. These factors made him an easy choice to be the grand marshal of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's 50th annual Severna Park Independence Day parade this summer.

Lifelong Severna Park resident and Winkelmeyer Plaza owner Betty Winkelmeyer Wells gave Jay the reassuring nudge he needed to accept the honor. As the daughter of Walter Winkelmeyer, who formed the chamber of commerce with Bob Barranco, Winkelmeyer Wells knows a thing or two about preserving traditions.

"When you pick Scott Jay, you have picked a walking encyclopedia," Winkelmeyer Wells said of the grand marshal nomination. "He and (wife) Donna — they're loving, they're kind and they love history."

The couple loves history so much, they have spent most of their lives in homes previously owned by Severna Park founders and business owners. From 1985 to 2001, they lived in a

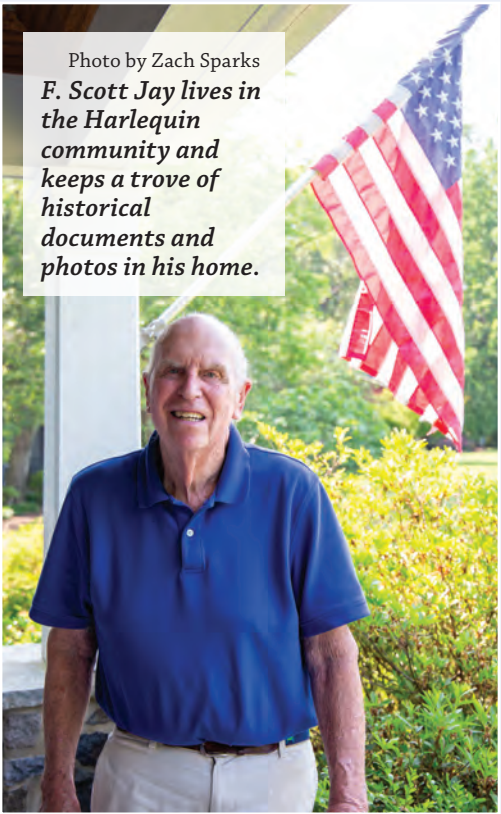


Photo by Zach Sparks

F. Scott Jay lives in the Harlequin community and keeps a trove of historical documents and photos in his home.

house that previously belonged to the Linstead family and brothers Harry and Francis Riggs. The Jays then moved to and renovated the former Harlequin clubhouse of ice cream entrepreneur Lionel "Manny" Hendler on the road bearing his name. Now, they live down the street.

High school sweethearts, the Jays are celebrating two milestones: the parade's 50th anniversary and 60 years of marriage. They raised two sons who attended Severn School, and the couple now has five grandchildren. Throughout their kids' childhoods, Jay regaled them with stories. And boy, did he have plenty.

He grew up at 100 Evergreen Road, across from Severna Park

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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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Petra Roche Facilitates Faith-Focused Summer Fun At Trinity Bible Church

By Meredith Winter

Petra Roche did not grow up in a Christian household, so when her childhood friends would invite her to Vacation Bible School (VBS) at their churches, her parents were a bit tentative and declined the offers.

She made a personal decision in her mid-20s to follow Jesus, and she began attending Trinity Bible Church (TBC) in Severna Park in 2019. Early on, she volunteered as a Sunday school teacher, and currently serves on the board of trustees, but after the pandemic Lead Pastor Stephen Mitchell approached her with a special request.

Mitchell invited Roche to take on the volunteer role of VBS director, pointing out that it was “in her DNA” because she already enjoyed working with children and managing projects.

At TBC, as is true with many churches, VBS is a summer experience that typically runs for about a week during which children engage in exciting activities while learning about the Bible and Christian faith. This year, TBC’s VBS will take place during the evenings of July 14-17. The event is free and open to all children in the community.

With an army of about 20 volunteers pulling off VBS each year, Roche oversees the planning, marketing and facilitation of the faith-centered week of fun. Each evening, children in kindergarten through fifth grade come to the church to learn Bible stories, do crafts and experiments, play games outdoors, memorize verses of Scripture, indulge in snacks, sing songs and more.

“Number one, we hope that they see the love of Jesus — that’s the ultimate goal — at least in a way that a child can understand it,” Roche said of the heart behind TBC hosting VBS for kids. She added, “We want them to get the message that Jesus loves them and that religion isn’t scary.”

Roche explained that this year’s VBS, titled “True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World,” will follow an Alaskan adventure theme. During



Photo by Meredith Winter

Arnold resident Petra Roche has attended Trinity Bible Church in Severna Park since 2019. This July marks her fourth year volunteering as the church’s director of Vacation Bible School.

a portion of each evening, animal characters called “Bible Buddies” will reinforce the Bible point of the day, and kids will get to take home small animal figurines with a corresponding Bible verse on the bottom.

“We want them to get the message that Jesus loves them and that religion isn’t scary.”

— PETRA ROCHE

Directing VBS was initially a daunting task for Roche, even though she had volunteered in other capacities. The fear she felt four years ago about facilitating the program has melted away over the years, as attendance has nearly doubled and Roche has enjoyed having the opportunity to create something.

“I love seeing the whole thing just come together, and every one of the kids laughing and having fun. It makes it all worth it,” she said.

Roche emphasized that all children are welcome at VBS, regardless of whether they attend the church. TBC

views VBS as an opportunity to reach out to the community.

“Kids sing songs — nobody’s preaching fire and brimstone. It’s just a fun couple of hours with the children, and they get to take home what they want,” she said. “Some parents will reinforce things when they get home, and some of them will just take it, but I feel like we’re planting little seeds, which is a great feeling.”

Roche worked for many years in sales. She resides in Arnold with her husband, Dan, though she spends a good portion of the year in Florida. A self-proclaimed Disney fan, she loves visiting the theme park. Maryland is home base, though: It’s where her core friend group is, and is home to the church that is such an important part of her life.

Having completed multiple marathons and half-marathons, Roche is also a runner. With two cats of her own, she has volunteered with a local cat rescue through fostering, caring for and helping find places for feline friends.

To learn more about Vacation Bible School at Trinity Bible Church, go to www.trinitysevernapark.org.

Hearings Scheduled Regarding Preliminary Plan Approval For Arnold Chick-fil-A

The Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals will conduct six public hearings in July regarding preliminary plans for a drive-thru-only Chick-fil-A in Arnold.

The appeals come after the county granted preliminary plan approval earlier this year for the construction of a 2,852-square-foot restaurant, along with associated parking and landscap-

ing, as well as conditional approval of modification requests.

Chick-fil-A has sought to construct a drive-thru-only restaurant at 1500 Ritchie Highway, just south of CVS and the Sunoco gas station, for several years. Nearby residents and community members have raised concerns about pedestrian and traffic safety as well as environmental im-

pacts of building a restaurant at that particular location.

The meetings will take place in the council chambers located on the first floor of the Arundel Center, 44 Calvert Street in Annapolis, and are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, July 1 at 5:00pm

Wednesday, July 2 at 5:00pm

Wednesday, July 9 at 5:00pm

Thursday, July 10 at 5:00pm

Tuesday, July 29 at 5:00pm

Wednesday, July 30 at 5:00pm



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Bello Machre Ensures That Every Step Counts

By Zach Sparks
zach@severnaparkvoice.com

As president and CEO of the nonprofit Bello Machre, Robert Ireland has a strong purpose. “Our mission is to provide a lifetime of loving care and opportunities for the people we serve,” he said, referring to people with developmental disabilities. “That lifetime of loving care is what helps me get out of bed in the morning.”

He had no trouble getting out of bed on the morning of June 14. He was especially excited because Bello Machre was hosting the 34th annual Every Step Counts fundraiser at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold and Dutterer Park in Westminster.

Both events celebrated positive energy and good vibes as attendees walked, rode bikes and showed off their dance moves.

As of June 18, the nonprofit received over \$200,000 in donations from Every Step Counts, with 350 attendees at the Anne Arundel County event and over 100 in Carroll County.

Organizers marveled at the success of the event, which had humble beginnings as a Flag Day parade. “We were happy if we raised \$10,000 (back then),” Ireland said. “It’s turned out to be a nice event thanks to the support of the community and our sponsors.”

All that support is not something Ireland and his team take for granted. Still, the financial need is as great as it has ever been.

“Fifty years ago, roughly 5% of infants born would have some disability,” Ireland said. “Now, the infant born at six months is surviving. People are living longer.”

Bello Machre serves more than 200 adults who live in 56 community homes, and it supports more than 200 children and adults in their own homes or family residences.

The average age of a Bello Machre beneficiary was 20 years old when Ireland joined the nonprofit in 1979. Now, the average age is 57.



Photos by Jonathan Katz

Bello Machre’s 34th annual Every Step Counts fundraiser drew crowds to two locations this year. The event at Anne Arundel Community College had a strong turnout with more than 300 participants.

Funds help Bello Machre with medical equipment and community inclusion activities that are fun, challenging and meaningful.

“Donors and sponsors are critical,” Ireland said. “State and federal funding provide a foundation.”

With potential Medicaid cuts looming, Ireland and his leadership team are nervous about the future. But if Every Step Counts proved anything, it’s that Severna Park, Arnold and the greater Anne Arundel County community always rally around an important cause.

That support reinforces his purpose and keeps him getting out of bed in the morning.

“I truly feel blessed,” said Ireland, who once lived in the Shipley’s Choice neighborhood and now resides in Annapolis. “Every day, I’m surrounded by people who are loving and kind.”



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Centenarian Celebrates Milestone In Style

By Judy Tacyn

Phyllis Bauernschmidt enjoyed a grand 100th birthday celebration at Brightview Senior Living in Severna Park on June 5, two days before she officially hit the century milestone on June 7. The party included family, friends, and Brightview residents and staff.

After the party, rather than relax and reminisce about her extraordinary life, Bauernschmidt did what she's done for a century — she got ready for her next adventure! The following day, a smaller group of family members boarded an Amtrak train bound for Bauernschmidt's favorite city, the Big Apple.

"New York is my favorite place in the world!" said the Bayonne, New Jersey, native who first visited the city with her family when she was just 7 years old and saw the Rockettes perform.

"Years ago when we were talking about (going to New York City for my 100th birthday), I didn't think it could happen," she said. "I am the only one in my extended family to make it to 100! But I've been very lucky."

Her New York birthday trip included hotel accommodations in the heart of the city, Times Square, and a dinner at the famous Sarabeth's, where a Tony Award winning performer serenaded her with a traditional "Happy Birthday" and a festive rendition of Frank Sinatra's "It Had to Be You."

Bauernschmidt was born Phyllis Roberson on June 7, 1925, to loving parents — the middle child between a brother and a sister — less than 20 miles away from her beloved Manhattan. She vividly remembers the route she took when, at only 11 years old, she made her first solo trip to New York City. "I wouldn't suggest a child try that now," she said, "but my mother trusted me, and I was very responsible."

"Mother was a strong woman who made sure we ate very healthy, good food. She was a great cook," Bauernschmidt said. "She was way ahead of her time in terms of good nutrition. She was a conscientious cook. You ate food that was good for you, and she never wasted."

Bauernschmidt's adventurous nature likely came from her mother.

Right: Janet Gill, John Kasner and Nancy Kasner joined the birthday girl, Phyllis Bauernschmidt, at her 100th birthday party at Brightview Severna Park on June 5.



Left: For her 99th birthday in 2024, Phyllis Bauernschmidt got to pet elephants at Myakka Elephant Ranch in Florida.



"She made sure we got outside, hiked, camped and played outside in the fresh air as often as possible," she explained. "I had wonderful camping adventures, so I grew up with mountain climbing and lots of activities."

In her adult life, she stayed active as an aerobic dancer.

Shortly after graduating from Wellesley College with a biblical studies degree in 1946, she attended the Missouri wedding of a classmate, the bride. At the reception, she met a handsome class of 1946 United States Naval Academy graduate, George Bauernschmidt Jr., who was attending the wedding of his classmate, the groom.

The would-be couple spent the eve-

ning talking. "I remember him saying, 'Phyllis, I want to marry a woman like you,'" she recalled. She returned to New Jersey without exchanging contact information with her suitor.

Years later, Bauernschmidt was working at former luxury department retailer Bonwit Teller as a fashion buyer in New York City when she heard from George. He was pursuing a master's degree at New York University. The groom from the fated Missouri wedding had learned that Phyllis was working in New York City and urged his friend to look her up.

"We connected, but I didn't remember him," she admitted.

The reunion was a boat ride around Manhattan Island on April 30, 1957.

If he failed to make an impression a decade earlier, he certainly did a better job the second time. George proposed barely more than two months later, over the Fourth of July weekend, and the couple was married that September. "George proposed and I remember saying, 'I cannot say no to you!'" Bauernschmidt recalled.

The couple settled in Severna Park, where his parents lived; George was a graduate of Severn School and earned a law degree from the University of Maryland. Together they raised five children: George Bauernschmidt III, Janet Gill, Emilie Langfitt, Nancy Kasner and James Bauernschmidt. When her children were older, she started a career in real estate, which she practiced until she was in her 80s.

She's circled the globe twice on extended trips with her father, and she has taken two more recent trips to Prague, as well as numerous other jet-setting adventures home and abroad. For her 99th birthday, her family took her to the Myakka Elephant Ranch in Florida. She recalls falling in love with the gentle giants on her first trip to the circus as a child at Madison Square Garden.

When asked what has changed the most in the last 100 years, she playfully rolled her eyes at the mention of technology. She reads a paper copy of The Wall Street Journal daily. "I have to know what's going on," she noted. "And for the life of me, I do not understand artificial intelligence! But I would like to."

She also reads the Journal of American Medicine Association (JAMA) weekly and is amazed at all the advancements and research that are happening. "I think that is very exciting," Bauernschmidt said.

"As far as I am concerned, when JFK (President John F. Kennedy) was shot, that's when the country changed. Our innocence was gone. That was a pivotal moment," she said with a sigh.

As for today, she said, "I think we've done permanent damage. There is too much hate in the world. What the world needs now is kindness and prayers. All we can do is pray. I don't think there is anything better that we can do."

Bauernschmidt has 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild. She's already planning her next trip to New York City.

New Standalone County Department Of Animal Services Established

By Judy Tacyn

The seven-member Anne Arundel County Council unanimously passed Bill 25-25 in May. The bill will transition Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control into the Department of Animal Services, and it establishes the department as an executive-level branch of county government reporting to the county executive.

The current Animal Care & Control department operates under the Anne Arundel County Police Department. The bill was introduced March 17 by council chairwoman Julie Hummer, of District 4, at the request of County Executive Stuart Pittman, following his July 2024 announcement that the department would be reorganized. The changes take effect on July 5.

As the Department of Animal Services, the organization is expected to be more efficient and effective. At a May 5 council meeting, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Hannah Dier told the council the bill wasn't intended to introduce any policy changes within the department; rather, the focus was on the organizational structure of the new department following months

of studying similar departments in other Maryland jurisdictions and throughout the country.

Recognizing long-standing challenges operating under the leadership of the police department, Dier said, "The mission of Animal Control doesn't necessarily align with the mission of the police department," and that the best solution is to elevate animal control to a cabinet-level department.

Claudia Roll was named administrator of Animal Control & Care by Pittman in July 2024 and will retain that position within the Department of Animal Services. Dier said during the May 5 meeting, she said, "The police department has been very helpful, but there is a chain of command that slows down (efficiency) and it can be a challenge."

She added that whether the animal advocate department is tucked under the police or even the health department, "We are a square peg."

The Department of Animal Services will establish all positions, including the addition of a director of the Department of Animal Services and the creation of an Animal Welfare Council. All responsibilities and

requirements of the former Animal Care & Control under the police department will be transferred to the newly approved Department of Animal Services, which will report directly to the county executive.

"The residents of Anne Arundel County will not initially experience significant changes, as our core duties of animal care and enforcement remain the same," Roll added. "Being a standalone department, Animal Services will have increased flexibility to move forward with improvements. Those improvements will benefit both the animals in our care and county residents. We look forward to being even more equipped to fulfill our mission effectively and efficiently."

The Department of Animal Services manages two municipal shelters with an annual intake of 24,000 animals. The organizational structure should be transparent to county residents and the high-level care and advocacy provided to animals in Anne Arundel will be maintained.

Bill 25-25 can be accessed at www.aacounty.org/council-legislation/bill-no-25-25.



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Scott Jay To Serve As Independence Day Parade Grand Marshal

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Elementary School, and fondly remembers playing outside with friends who all remain close.

"We had a river, woods and swamps," Jay said. "We had bows and arrows, hatchets and knives. We would build forts. You could dam up the pond, catch frogs. We played touch football across from Severn School and went swimming at night."

Jay attended Severna Park Elementary School and Wroxeter School. He spent one year at Severn School before joining Severna Park High School for the class of 1963, just a few years behind the school's first graduating class of 1961.

"We got to name the mascot and come up with the colors and the song," he said. "It was a fun time."

After high school, he worked at the Wilmer Eye Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where he removed bandages and cleaned up post-op patients. Later, he rekindled his love for the outdoors by becoming a lumber broker. By 1976, he had his own company: F. Scott Jay Specialty Wood Products in Millersville.

After selling his business — now known as Amer-

ican Cedar & Millwork — in 1996, Jay was recruited to oversee a "facelift" for Severn School, for which he sat on the board of directors. As an owner's representative, or construction consultant, he handled that project, followed by others at Chesapeake Academy, Chesapeake Montessori School and other locations.

Jay determined what stakeholders wanted and interviewed architects and engineers before he assigned them the job. He oversaw the plans and specifications to make sure construction was completed according to each school's wishes.

He remained active in the community by serving on the board of directors for Severn School, the Severna Park Community Center and Anne Arundel Medical Center. Donna is one of the original organizers of the Annapolis 10-Mile Run.

Jay was also a member of the Severna Park Old Timers, or SPOT.

"We told stories and had a great time," Jay said.

"One day, I looked around and I was the only one left."

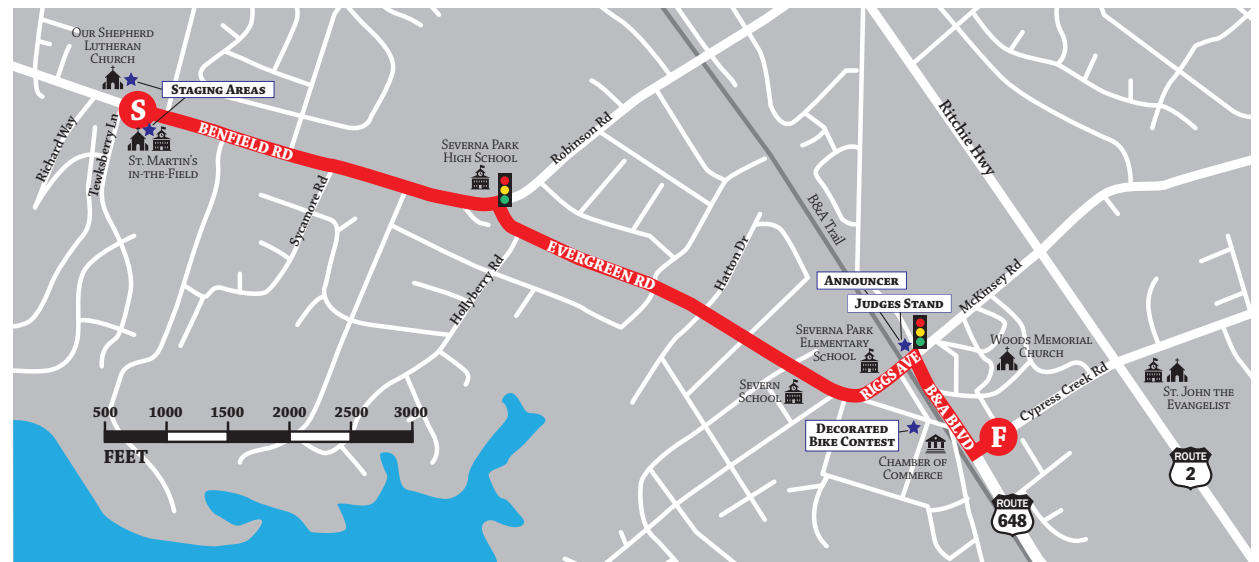
Jay wants to preserve history and all the people who have made Severna Park a special place. One of his favorite stories involves Dr. Billingsley, or Dr. Bill, who called store owner Cliff Dawson and instructed him to drive a 9-year-old Jay to University of Maryland Hospital because Jay had appendicitis and his mom did not have access to a car. Dr. Bill even gave Jay's mom money for the hospital.

Jay wants several kind people from Severna Park's past to be remembered.

"Mrs. (Lydia) Giddings would collect ration stamps so the Jay boy would have milk," he said, citing one example. "Everybody looked out for each other. Everybody helped each other."

This year's Independence Day parade gives Jay another opportunity to reminisce. A student of history, Jay has also considered his own legacy.

"When you die, all you leave is a memory of you," Jay said. "You want people to say, 'You know, he was a good guy.'"



Where To Watch The Parade

The parade steps off from two churches, St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal and Our Shepherd Lutheran, at 10:00am on July 4. The route winds along Benfield Road, Evergreen Road, Riggs Avenue and Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard before coming to a stop at Sunrise Senior Living on Cypress Creek Road.

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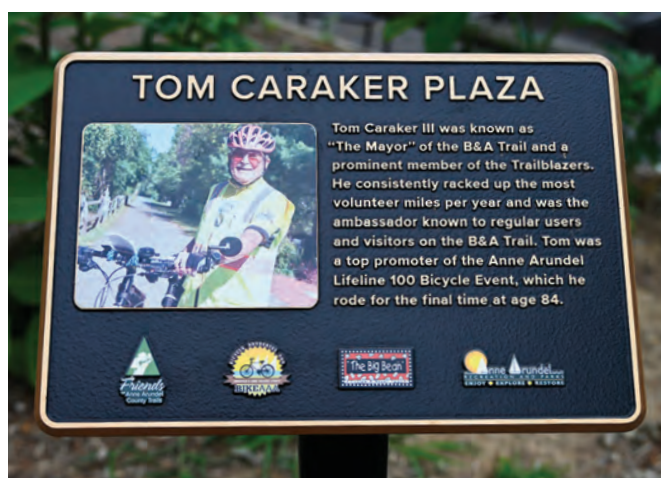
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Plaza Along B&A Trail Dedicated In Memory Of Tom Caraker III



Photos by Meredith Winter

Above: Representatives from Recreation and Parks, BikeAAA, and the Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails shared brief remarks with a group of Caraker's family and friends before his family members were presented with a citation from the county. **Right:** A plaque installed at the newly improved plaza along the B&A Trail informs visitors of the cyclist's passion for riding and for helping fellow trail users.



By Meredith Winter

Light rain did not stop members of the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails, Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA), and friends and family of Tom Caraker III from coming out on June 7, National Trails Day, for the dedication of the Tom Caraker Plaza along the B&A Trail.

Located in the heart of Severna Park along the trail behind The Big Bean and neighboring businesses, the newly expanded plaza features a patio-style rest area of tables, chairs and bicycle racks for trail users to enjoy for years to come. A sign denotes that Caraker was known as the "mayor" of the B&A Trail and was a prominent member of the Trailblazers volunteer group.

The sign, which features a photo of Caraker with his bike, states that he "consistently racked up the most volunteer miles per year and was the ambassador known to regular users and visitors on the B&A Trail." Over the years, he received numerous citations recognizing his dedication to the trail and its many users.

Though he was a resident of Glen Burnie, Caraker was a fixture on the trail in Severna

Park, particularly at The Big Bean and Pedal Pushers, according to friend and BikeAAA President Jon Korin.

"I recall him telling me that the trail saved his life, especially after his wife passed away," Korin shared. "He was an ever-present ambassador and greeter on the B&A Trail and a top promoter of the Anne Arundel County Lifeline 100 bike event. His presence on the trail was welcoming to all."

Caraker last rode in the Lifeline 100 in 2018 at the age of 84 before succumbing to cancer later that year.

After Caraker's passing, members of the Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails and BikeAAA fundraised in his honor to improve the plaza, which was one of Caraker's favorite spots. In his memory, The Big Bean offers "Tom's Blend" and will donate 10% of sales from the coffee to support this year's Lifeline 100. The event is scheduled for October 5 at Kinder Farm Park, and more information is available at www.lifeline100.com.

During the June 7 dedication ceremony, Korin, Jack Keene of the Friends of Anne Arundel County Trails, and Chris Carroll of Recreation and Parks shared brief remarks to honor Caraker before his family members were presented with a citation from the county.

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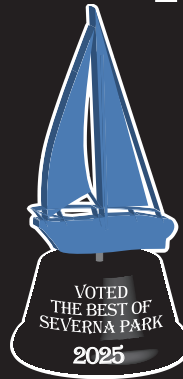
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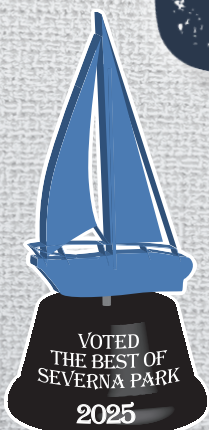
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Kinder Farm Opens New Pollinator Garden And Monarch Butterfly Exhibit

By Hannah Bates

Past the signature white silos and the busy athletic fields of Kinder Farm Park (KFP) lies a new pollinator sanctuary. This is KFP's new "hidden gem," according to Jessica Furr, a park ranger with the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. The area was once used as a collection area for broken sports equipment and deflated balls. Now, it is a reclaimed wildlife area featuring a giant sculpture of a monarch butterfly, created by Furr, at the center of the garden.

The pollinator garden contains native flowers, including black-eyed Susans and milkweed, that are crucial to sustaining Maryland's declining bee and butterfly populations. Furr, who led the creation of the garden, started KFP's new pollinator education program to teach children and conservation enthusiasts how to grow the right plants for pollinators at home. She also launched the adopt a flower box program, which encourages volunteers to sign up to plant and maintain native flowers in certain areas of the garden.

Other rangers at KFP started the new bluebird box program in the pollinator garden, where children can learn about the life cycle of bluebirds. A ranger involved with the program tracks data on bluebird populations and nesting activity in



the pollinator garden. Children can also go online to track bluebirds in birdhouses scattered across the garden.

In the back of the pollinator garden is a new vivarium for monarch butterflies. The small, wooden shed provides rangers with a place to safely raise monarch eggs found

around the property. KFP staff chose to focus the shed on monarchs because of their popularity and beauty. Furr calls the monarchs a "keystone species" for their striking orange color and distinct look. She explained that by creating a program around this endangered butterfly, Kinder hopes

to increase awareness about all endangered insect populations in Maryland. "This is a way to build a caring connection with the public and get them interested (in conservation)," Furr said.

Another reason Kinder staff chose to focus on monarchs is because of the astounding an-

Photos by Hannah Bates

Top Left: Anne Arundel County park ranger Jessica Furr demonstrated the butterfly tagging process utilized at Kinder Farm Park. **Top Right:** Furr created this monarch butterfly sculpture as an art installation for the garden. **Bottom Left:** The garden at Kinder Farm Park provides a protected wildflower space for monarch butterflies, which need these plants to survive. **Bottom Right:** A monarch butterfly rests on milkweed.

nual international journey they take. Once the monarchs in the vivarium are fully grown, the rangers release them with small, white stickers attached to their dorsal, or bottom, wings. Each sticker has a number that allows the rangers to track the butterflies' movement to Mexico, where monarchs spend the colder months. As the butterflies travel, scientists from partnered organizations spot the stickers and record each butterfly's location on www.monarchwatch.org. Over time, nearly every butterfly raised and released from KFP has a tracked 2,500-mile journey from Kinder Farm Park to Mexico City.

Furr shared that volunteers can sign up this summer to tag the monarchs. Volunteers can then track their butterflies' locations on Monarch Watch and through Furr's logs of all the butterflies' movements.

Sign-ups for all classes and volunteer opportunities are available at www.kinderfarm-park.org.

Food Insecurity Does Not Take The Summer Off

Michele Sabean

Director of Development
SPAN Inc.



Summer is typically a slow time for food donations at SPAN. Routines are different, and without the seasonal focus on giving that comes during the winter holidays, it is easy for food insecurity to shift out of mind. But it doesn't go away.

This has been one of the busiest years for our food pantry. With one month to go in our fiscal year, we have already helped more households with food than last year and most of the previous years. SPAN has some slow days and sometimes we have a line of clients. It is unpredictable. Recently, on a day when the rain was steady and strong, we had one of our busiest days. As I was stepping around puddles, helping to load food into a car and trying to keep the cardboard dry, I was reminded of the importance of getting this food to the many people making the trip on such a stormy day.

It can take a little creativity when it comes to giving in the summer. We don't have school food drives or other seasonal reminders. At SPAN, we are inspired each year by the thoughtful ways this community steps up. Grandparents turn shopping trips into giving opportunities with their grandchildren.

Neighborhoods and swim teams collect at their summer events. Some people contribute through their church or Vacation Bible School. Other people drop off food in our boxes when they go to summer programs at the Severna Park Community Center or library. And some people simply add extra items to their grocery list every week for SPAN.

SPAN's most needed items include:

- **Meat and potatoes:** canned meat, instant and canned potatoes, and gravy packets
- **Vegetables:** canned vegetables — and garden extras are welcome too
- **Spreads:** syrup and jelly — we often have more peanut butter and pancake mix but run short on these items
- **Breakfast foods:** cereal, syrup, pancake mix, coffee and tea
- **Sweet treats:** cookie, brownie and cake mixes and frosting
- **Cleaning and hygiene:** laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, deodorant, soap and toothpaste

In addition to food assistance, SPAN continues to support many families facing utility shutoffs, another area where the need remains high. When I have given food to a client who cannot take items that need to be refrigerated, I am reminded of things

I take for granted. When I step into an air-conditioned building after time outside, I am grateful. Hearing our clients share some of the reasons they got behind on their bills and seeing their stress as they work to gather funds to avoid their power turn-off are reminders for me and help me connect with my gratitude for being able to get out of the heat.

Look for SPAN in the Severna Park Independence Day parade. We will illustrate how together, for the last 35 years, we have been helping neighbors in need with food and emergency financial assistance. As we walk in the parade, wave us over - we welcome food and financial donations!

Thank you for remembering that these needs don't take a vacation. With your help, neither does our support.

SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is an independent nonprofit food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping local families with eviction prevention, utility turnoffs, medical/prescription bills, and food since 1990. SPAN serves 15 zip codes in Anne Arundel County. For more information, call 410-647-0889, email spanhelps@yahoo.com or visit www.spanhelps.org. Financial donations may be made through the website. Food donations may be dropped off using the storage bin behind SPAN's building or at the Severna Park Library and Severna Park Community Center. Please "like" SPAN on Facebook!



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Fourth Of July Fireworks Alight Throughout Maryland

By Jaina Peveto

The days surrounding Independence Day are the perfect time of year to view fireworks in local areas. Whether you are planning to stay local or hoping to travel for the holiday, there are opportunities to view fireworks shows throughout Maryland. Below is a list of fireworks displays taking place all over the state the week of the Fourth of July.

July 2 — Chester: Queen Anne's County will hold a fireworks display at 9:15pm, following free family activities that commence at 6:00pm. Additional event details can be found at www.qac.org/1411/annual-family-fireworks.

July 3 — Aberdeen: Ripken Stadium's Red, White & Boom! event will take place from 7:00pm-9:30pm the night before Independence Day, finishing out with a fireworks extravaganza. Tickets can be purchased at www.ripkenevents.com/redwhiteandboom.

July 3 — Glen Burnie: Glen Burnie Improvement Association (GBIA) will begin its annual fireworks display after sunset, approximately at 9:00pm, with a rain date of July 5. Additional information can be found on the GBIA Facebook page.

July 3 — Severn River: A day before the holiday, the Sherwood Forest community on the Severn River holds a fireworks display, which is visible to spectators outside the community by boat on the Severn River or from select community beaches in the area.

July 4 — Columbia: Produced by Columbia Association and Howard County, the fireworks celebration will feature live entertainment and take place from 5:00pm-10:00pm, with a start time for this year's fireworks still to be announced. The rain date is July 5. Additional information on the free event will be posted at www.howard-countymd.gov/july-4th-fireworks.

July 4 — Bowie: The Chesapeake Baysox will hold a Red, White & BOOM! event on July 4 after their game against the Richmond Flying Squirrels, as part of their Independence Day celebration. Tickets are available at www.milb.com/chesapeake/tickets/promotions.

July 4 — Baltimore: Baltimore City's Inner Harbor will start a fireworks and drone show at 9:00pm, following an afternoon picnic and live music performances. More information about the free celebration can be found at www.baltimore.org/event/fourth-of-july-in-baltimore.

July 4 — Annapolis: Independence Day celebrations in Annapolis will kick off with a parade at 6:30pm, followed by a fireworks display launched from a floating barge in the harbor starting at 9:15pm. Anyone looking for the best views will want to find their spot by 8:00pm. Additional information can be found at www.visitannapolis.org/events/annual-events-and-festivals/4th-of-july.

July 4 — Catonsville: Catonsville's fireworks display will begin at 9:15pm, though guests are invited to arrive early to stake out their spot, buy from vendors, and listen to music during the Fireworks Family Fun Fest, which begins at 6:30pm. The fireworks display's rain date is July 5. For more information, go to www.catonsvillecelebrations.org/schedule-of-events-4th-of-july.

July 4 — Dundalk: Dundalk will hold a fireworks display beginning at 9:15pm, centered around Grange Elementary School. Additional information can be found at www.dundalk-heritagefair.com/fireworks.

July 4 — Bel Air: Bel Air's fireworks display will begin at approximately 9:30pm, launched from Rockfield Park. There is no rain date. More information can be found at www.belairjuly4.org.

July 4 — Ocean City: Ocean City will set off two fireworks displays. People staying uptown can enjoy fireworks at 9:30pm following DJ music provided by Radio Ocean City's BK and Chrissy, while people downtown can watch fireworks over the ocean at the same time, after a music celebration hosted by DJ Kutt. For additional information on the free events, go to www.ococean.com/event/july-4th-fireworks/2301.

July 4 — Easton: Hosted by the Easton Knights of Columbus, Easton's carnival will have a fireworks display that begins after dusk. The rain date for the fireworks is July 5. The event's webpage can be found at www.tourtalbot.org/easton-carnival.

July 4 — Salisbury: Salisbury will have a Red, White and Boom fireworks show at 9:15pm at James M. Bennett High School. Learn more at www.redwhiteboomsalisbury.com.

July 5 — Laurel: Laurel's fireworks will begin at 9:00pm, taking place after a day full of Fourth of July festivities. The event highlights and schedule are available at laurel4th.org.

July 5 — Havre de Grace: Havre de Grace's fireworks will take place after two free concerts. The fireworks will be launched from a barge in the Susquehanna River, and the show will start around 9:15pm. To learn more, go to www.hdgjuly4th.com.

July 5 — Chesapeake City: Chesapeake City will hold a fireworks show in Pell Gardens at dark, starting around 9:15pm-9:30pm, following a free family event with vendors and live music. Check the Chesapeake City Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for more information.

July 5 — St. Michaels: St. Michaels' fireworks display will begin at dusk, though guests are invited to settle in for music and dancing before they begin. Fireworks will be viewable from town and from the Miles River. Additional information on the fireworks show, as well as tickets for the preceding event, can be found at www.tourtalbot.org/celebrate-independence-day-in-talbot-county.

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Millersville's Nikhil Joshi Makes Strong Showing On "Jeopardy!"



After bantering with Ken Jennings while taping three episodes, Joshi remarked that the "Jeopardy!" host is a super nice and very down-to-earth person.

» Continued from page 1

to air the first week of June gathered early in the morning at the studio to rehearse, complete paperwork, soak in a few words of wisdom from host Ken Jennings, and then wait their turn.

Joshi first appeared on the June 5 episode, and his was the fourth to be taped that day. His wife Katie Bardales, a high school friend who had competed on "Jeopardy!" in 2016, and his friend's wife were in the audience. Before taking the stage, Joshi felt comfortable.

"I realized no matter what happens, I'm proud of myself for making it on the show, and hoped for the best, but I wasn't expecting anything," he said. "I definitely wasn't expecting to win, but I was obviously thrilled when I did."

In the first episode, Joshi was introduced as a Montville, New Jersey, native and shared the interesting fact that Katie had talked him into hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro, which they did in 2023. It was a low-scoring game all around, as 19 questions stumped all three contestants — as did Final Jeopardy. Yet, with \$5,400, Joshi advanced to the next episode.

For the June 6 episode, Joshi told viewers about writing for the University of Maryland's student newspaper, The Diamondback, as a hip-hop critic while completing his undergraduate degree. He ran a category, "Volcanoes Are So Hot Right Now," and racked up an impressive \$16,200 heading into Final Jeopardy. Though the answer to the last question evaded him, Joshi's low wager kept him in the game, and he walked away from that episode with another \$14,799.

Understandably, Joshi admits he did not sleep well before returning to the studio to tape a third episode, and he believed that impacted his buzzer speed. He went into Final Jeopardy with \$10,400, but fellow contestant Jackie Rogoff of California had already amassed \$23,600, leaving Joshi and contestant Ted Nyman, also of California, with no chance of eclipsing Rogoff's total even if they wagered everything.

In his final "Jeopardy!" appearance,

which aired June 9, Joshi shared that he used to work in a 24/7 veterinary hospital, and on days when there were no patients, he would head to the front desk and watch "Jeopardy!" to the amusement of his colleagues, who were impressed by his breadth of knowledge.

The top highlight of his experience on "Jeopardy!" was meeting his fellow contestants, followed by seeing "behind the scenes" how everything works on the show he has loved for so many years.

"These people are kind of just like me," Joshi said of the other contestants. "They're very down-to-earth, easygoing, but also smart — we like trivia — so it was fun to meet them."

Since taping, he has kept in touch with them through a group message thread, and he recently met one of them who resides in Washington, D.C., for dinner.

Joshi works full-time for Merck Animal Health, functioning as a consultant for vet clinics in the Mid-Atlantic region. He also works part-time at a vet clinic in Millersville. Not surprisingly, he and Katie have a dog, Daisy, and a cat named Hamilton.

In his free time, Joshi enjoys playing golf; staying active through cycling and hiking; and traveling with Katie. The couple tries to travel internationally at least once a year, and they enjoy many local and day trips as well.

For "Jeopardy!" fans who dream of one day appearing on the show, Joshi had a word of encouragement: "If you have any interest in trivia or any interest at all in 'Jeopardy!' you should take the test. There's no harm in taking the test and seeing what happens," he said.

"I think the biggest thing I learned from this is, I never thought that 'Jeopardy!' would be possible. Actually, I always thought my brother would be on the show, because he's older than me, I think he knows more than me, but I gave it a shot and it ended up working out," Joshi shared. "Obviously I'm not a super champion, I'm not Ken Jennings, I'm not a millionaire because of 'Jeopardy!' and I never will be, but it was a fun experience regardless and I'm glad I took that leap and did it."

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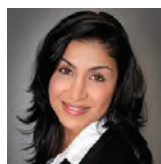
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National Night Out Will Encourage Engagement With Law Enforcement

Every year on the first Tuesday of August, community members unite to foster the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement and to allow residents to interact with police in a positive environment. This year's National Night Out for the Anne Arundel County Police Department's (AACPD) Eastern District is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Kinder Farm Park.

This year will mark 10 years of National Night Out for AACPD's Eastern District. The free event will take place rain or shine, and there will be activities for all ages to enjoy. Community members can look forward to games, prizes, Touch a Truck, light fare and beverages, and more.

The event allows community members to explore police and fire vehicles and observe a K-9 demonstration in a safe environment. Attendees will also have the chance to talk with members of local law enforcement and ask them questions.

The Eastern District National Night Out began at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company in 2015, but it outgrew the space two years ago and moved to Kinder Farm Park. In previous years, the event has been one of the largest of its kind in the country.

The venue is located at 1001 Kinder Farm Park Road in Millersville. For more information on the upcoming event, go to www.nationalnightouteasterndistrict.org or view the "Anne Arundel County Eastern District: National Night Out" Facebook page.

Corporal Jeffrey Jackson and others from the Anne Arundel County Police Department's K9 unit hosted a demonstration with Pazzo, a German Shepherd, at last year's National Night Out event.



Earleigh Heights VFC Carnival Returns For Classic Summer Fun



As in years past, the 2025 EHVFC carnival will entertain attendees with over two dozen rides including an iconic Ferris wheel.

A Severna Park tradition that began in 1945 continues 80 years later: The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company's (EHVFC) annual carnival is coming to town July 10-19.

Kids and kids at heart can look forward to more than two dozen thrilling rides from locally based Jolly Shows as well as fun games, iconic concessions and more at this year's event. Jolly Shows will offer sweet treats including ice cream, cotton candy and candy apples, and the EHVFC auxiliary will offer an expansive food menu to raise funds as well.

Carnival chairman and EHVFC board member Andy Price has been involved with the beloved event for over three decades. He shared that all proceeds from

the carnival support the firehouse; funds are used to buy new apparatus and equipment. In recent years, carnival proceeds were used for a new rescue squad. Plans are also underway to construct a new fire station behind the existing one.

The carnival is closed on Sunday, July 13, but is otherwise open daily from 6:00pm-11:00pm. Unlimited ride wristbands can be purchased in advance online through the Jolly Shows website, www.maryland-carnivals.com. Tickets and wristbands are cash-only at the carnival grounds, though ATMs will be available. Food can be purchased by credit card. If necessary, weather updates will be posted on the EHVFC and Jolly Shows Facebook pages.

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Anne Arundel County's FY26 Budget Prioritizes Education, Public Safety

The seven-member Anne Arundel County Council unanimously passed a \$2.4 billion Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget on June 13. After 45 days of deliberation, the council made some tweaks to County Executive Stuart Pittman's proposal before agreeing on the final bill.

"As we face threats to federal funding and attacks from the federal government on the services that families rely on, our elected officials in Anne Arundel County worked together to support a budget that protects our people," Pittman said in a statement. "I want to thank the county council for their collaboration that allowed us to pass a budget that delivers for all our residents."

Here's an overview of the FY26 budget:

Taxes

The budget includes no new taxes and offers a modest cut on the property tax rate, from 98.3 to 97.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Education

The FY26 budget includes a \$52.28 million increase over current spending for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, adding 30 special education positions and additional staff for bilingual support, social-emotional learning, and community schools. It also invests in middle school athletics, early childhood enrichment, and construction of new school facilities, including \$120 million for the Old Mill Master Plan.

Public Safety

Five new positions will allow the Anne Arundel County Police Department to staff an additional shift

at the Real-Time Information Center and the Anne Arundel County Fire Department will receive five new positions dedicated to the fire training academy. The budget also adds eight vehicles for sheriff's deputies and creates two civilian positions that will allow deputies to focus on courtroom security. The capital budget invests in the construction of a new Northern District Police Station, a joint 911 center, and new fire stations in Jessup, Waugh Chapel and Arundel.

Health and Human Services

Investments include \$1.5 million for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank, recurring funding for the Health Ambassadors and Healthy Communities programs, funding for violence interruption programs in Eastport and Severn, and increased support for crisis response mental health services.

Severna Park and Arnold Projects

The supplemental budget will reallocate funds in the capital budget to address needs for sidewalks and pedestrian safety. In her July column for the Severna Park Voice, District 5 Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler wrote, "This increased investment will keep two important projects moving forward for the Berrywood community (a feasibility study for a sidewalk connection at Maryland 648 and Asbury Drive) and Severn View community (funding completion of design so a sidewalk project can move forward). Without it, these projects would have been stalled for another year."

See Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler's full budget commentary by flipping to the Politics and Opinion section on **page 18**.

Benfield Corridor Study

During a June meeting, the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works shared some startling statistics about the Benfield Road corridor from Veterans Highway to Evergreen Road.

- Over the last five years, 176 crashes have been reported, 34% of which resulted in injury.
- More than 40% of vehicles travel 6 miles per hour or more over the speed limit.
- Pedestrian facilities are available along only 45% of the corridor (both sides combined).

Following several stakeholder meetings, the first public community meeting was held on June 4 for the Benfield Corridor Study project. Construction is not funded yet, but this feasibility study examines current conditions so the county and state might identify possible improvements for pedestrian and bike traffic, and vehicle traffic safety. Potential improvements include shared-use paths; sidewalks; and additional bicycle lanes, speed feedback signs and high-visibility crosswalks.

The planning phase will continue through November 2025. To learn more, go to www.aacounty.org/public-works/engineering and click the "Capital Projects" link.

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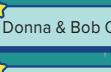
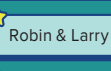
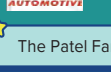
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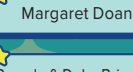
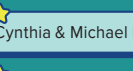


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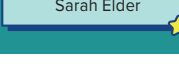
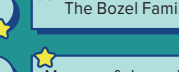
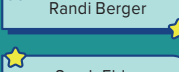
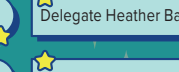
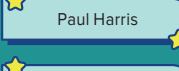
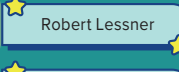
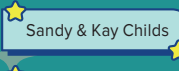
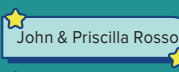
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As we mark 60 years of service at **University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center** (UM BWMC), I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you — our neighbors, patients, partners and supporters. Your trust and collaboration have shaped our journey from a small community hospital into a regional leader in health care.

When UM BWMC, then known as North Arundel Hospital, opened its doors in 1965, no one could have imagined the transformation that would unfold. Over the decades, we've grown in both size and scope, reflecting your needs and our shared vision for a healthier community. From expanding our emergency department to opening centers dedicated to cancer, women's health, breast health and outpatient care, we have continuously invested in your health.

In 2000, we became a member of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), an organization that has always championed health care for Marylanders. Today, UMMS provides more than 25% of all hospital-based care across the state of Maryland. This connection has enhanced our commitment to high-quality, cutting-edge care and reinforces our commitment to improve health outcomes for the communities we serve.

While we honor our history, we're equally focused on our incredibly bright future. We create community partnerships to improve the health and well-being of our residents. Through our work with local schools, we're introducing students to coping strategies, internship opportunities and leadership skills that will serve them both now and in the future. We partner with workforce development organizations to create career advancement opportunities and prepare the next generation of health care providers.

These efforts are laying the foundation for a healthier, more resilient community for years to come.

We are also embracing the power of innovation and compassion to elevate the care we deliver. Whether through a network of primary care providers or enhanced diabetes and pulmonary programs, our commitment is to always care for our community and help them live their best lives. When patients are faced with more complex illnesses, UM BWMC continues to invest in the physicians, staff, technology and facilities to provide personalized, comprehensive care.

As a result, this past year we were ranked the No. 5 hospital in Maryland by *U.S. News & World Report* and rated High Performing in several key areas, including heart and stroke care, cancer surgeries and chronic disease treatment. Our nursing teams have been recognized nationally for excellence. We received recognition from the Maryland Patient Safety Center for our commitment to patient safety innovation and health equity. We have multiple awards for stroke and cardiac care. Our cancer program remains accredited as an Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program. These honors reflect our team's unwavering dedication and the incredible support of our community.

Thank you for standing with us over the past 60 years. With your continued support, UM BWMC will remain your trusted partner in health for generations to come.

With gratitude,



Kathy McCollum

President

University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center

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The County Budget

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



On June 13, the Anne Arundel County Council voted on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget. The budget passed unanimously after a 45-day marathon of hearings and deliberations. The FY26 budget provides essential government functions in our county, without increasing your taxes. This was an important factor in my support, because I hear regularly how frustrated residents are with the increasing cost of living in Maryland, especially those on fixed incomes. I cannot control the decisions at the state level, but I do have a vote at the local level. At the end of the day, I don't believe residents care where the increased costs are coming from; you just know that you feel it, and it has an impact on your daily life and your family's financial decisions.

The FY26 budget had investments in public safety, education and infrastructure. This aligned with my priorities for our district and the county. Through the budget process, I worked collaboratively with my colleagues to make agreed upon cuts, reducing the proposed budget by \$1.6 million. This is a small dollar amount compared to the \$2.4 billion budget, but it was enough to allow for potential funding of other priorities in the supplemental budget.

I can't speak for my colleagues, but it was very clear going into this budget cycle that it was a tight year. After hearing from all county departments, and residents who came to speak at the public hearings, I personally set my priorities for what could or should be focused on in the supplemental budget (the follow-up budget that reallocates any money cut by the county council).

How many of those priorities would be possible depended upon the amount that the council could agree to amend or reduce. Within the amendments that passed with bipartisan support was the reduction to the Public Campaign Finance Fund. Maybe you support this funding element, maybe you don't. Perhaps you don't even know what it is. It is important for me that you know my "why," as this amendment has been highlighted in post-budget analysis by supporters and critics alike.

We are one year away from the 2026 primary election, and to date, no candidate has qualified for public campaign financing — a type of financing that uses county taxpayer dollars to match funds made through private contributions and prohibits contributions from businesses, unions or political organizations. Taxpayers do not get to decide what

campaign their money is used to match, as the fund is set up to be available to any candidate who qualifies, regardless of political affiliation.

Since this financing was enacted in 2023, the county has shared little information about its existence and how to utilize the funds. Meanwhile, we have very immediate needs, as expressed by the dozens of individuals who testified before the council, requesting changes to the budget. I could not, in good faith of the taxpayer, support those funds sitting potentially unused. I do believe there is a way forward, through legislation, to add to the Public Campaign Finance Fund, should it need more financial support than the \$1.25 million that is already reserved. By making this reduction, I was able to work with the administration and my council colleagues to invest in other important areas of the county, like the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office, and public libraries, just to name a few.

Three personal priorities that I worked closely on were the funding of a pay stipend for our national board-certified school counselors, adding two special education positions, and providing the sheriff's department with eight sheriff vehicles so that sheriff deputies are not using their personal vehicles on the job, as the county currently employs more sheriff deputies than there are sheriff vehicles. This is a department challenge that has been brought up over several budget years and one that has been a deterrent in recruiting deputy sheriff officers while posing a potential safety issue for those deputies using personal vehicles.

While there were policy and principle disagreements through the budget process, I remained focused on getting things done for our district and appreciate that my colleagues and the administration supported my request in the supplemental budget to reallocate funds in the capital budget to the Sidewalk Bikeway Fund and the State Highway Pedestrian Improvement Fund. This increased investment will keep two important projects moving forward for the Berrywood community (a feasibility study for a sidewalk connection at Maryland 648 and Asbury Drive) and Severn View community (funding completion of design so a sidewalk project can move forward). Without it, these projects would have been stalled for another year.

It is an honor to continue to advocate for residents all over the district through the budget process and make these important budgetary adjustments within the limited flexibility of our current fiscal position. This is your money at work, and I take that responsibility seriously. When government can live within its means, just like you do, I can support that.

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

Here To Help, All Year Round

Dawn Gile
Senator
District 33



As your state senator, one of my greatest responsibilities — and privileges — is serving the people of District 33 not just during the legislative session in Annapolis but every day. Whether it's navigating state agencies, answering questions about legislation, or simply helping you connect with resources, my office is here to assist you year-round.

I often hear from constituents who aren't sure whether an issue falls within my office's responsibilities. The short answer? If it involves state government — or if you're not sure where else to turn — please don't hesitate to reach out. My team and I are here to serve as your advocates, problem-solvers, and partners in government.

Helping You Navigate State Government

One of the most common ways we assist residents is by helping cut through red tape. Whether it's resolving issues with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, Maryland State Highway Administration, unemployment insurance, tax matters, or state health and human services, my office works directly with state agencies to get answers and help resolve problems.

We also work closely with our county and federal partners to advocate for constituents on a broad range of issues, ensuring your voice is heard at every level of government.

Recognizing Milestones and Achievements

Public service is also about celebrating the moments that matter to you. My office offers commemorative citations and Maryland state flags to recognize retirements, business openings, anniversaries, Scout awards, and other milestones. I also welcome invitations to speak with schools, community groups, or civic organizations — and I'm always eager to connect directly with residents to hear your questions and concerns.

» Continued on page 20

Honoring Independence Day And America's Ongoing Journey

LaToya Nkongolo
Delegate
District 31



Each year on the Fourth of July, we gather to celebrate the birth of our nation and the ideals of freedom, opportunity and self-determination that laid the foundation of the United States. For many people, Independence Day is a time of fireworks, parades and barbecues. But for me, it's also a powerful reminder of how far we've come and how much further we can go together.

As a Black woman who grew up in

poverty, I have lived the complexities of the American experience. Yet through it all, one truth has remained: America is just as much my country as it is anyone else's. I was raised to believe that with hard work, faith and determination, success is within reach. That belief didn't come easily, but it was rooted in a hope that has carried me through every challenge.

Now, as a mother, I pass that same message to my children. I tell them that the American dream is not reserved for a select few. It belongs to all of us who are willing to strive, serve and uplift our communities. And as a member of this community, I carry that message to everyone I meet because representation matters, and so does belief in the promise of progress.

Independence Day is not just a celebration of our past. It's an opportunity to reflect on how far we've come as a nation and renew our commitment to the work ahead. Yes, we still face real challenges. But we also stand on the shoulders of those who came before us — people who fought, built and sacrificed to make this country better for future generations.

This Fourth of July, as we flood the streets of Severna Park and wave our flags, let us also remember the deeper meaning of this day. Let it remind us of our shared values and our collective power to shape the future.

I look forward to celebrating with you and honoring the enduring spirit of America.

Happy Independence Day!



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Lawsuit Challenges Closed Primaries

By Zamone Perez

Maryland News Connection

A new lawsuit is challenging Maryland's closed primary system. If the lawsuit is successful, nearly 1 million Marylanders may be able to vote in upcoming primaries.

Unaffiliated voters signed up as neither a Republican nor Democrat when they registered to vote, but in Maryland, that means they can't vote in primary elections.

Jeremy Gruber, senior vice president of the Open Primaries Education Fund and a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said states must expand primary election access to independents because the vast majority of general elections aren't competitive.

"This lawsuit is meant to address a situation where publicly funded and administered elections — which primaries are — are shutting out American citizens," he said. "We cannot continue

to call ourselves a democracy when we allow that to continue to happen."

Supporters of closed primaries argue the system makes sure only dedicated members of a political party vote for a nominee, and they also prevent efforts from an opposing party trying to influence another party's nomination process. Maryland is one of 15 states with closed primaries.

Colorado, Alaska and New Mexico recently changed their primary process. Gruber argued that if the government runs primary elections, then it must ensure all people are allowed to participate.

In 2024, 17.6 million voters were barred from voting in primaries because of their unaffiliated or independent status on voter rolls. According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, average voter turnout was nearly 20% higher in open primary states compared with closed primary states.

Here To Help, All Year Round

» Continued from page 18

The Legislative Process: Your Voice Matters

Each year, the Maryland General Assembly convenes from January through early April to consider legislation that impacts every corner of our state. I encourage anyone with ideas, questions, or concerns about legislation, whether pending or existing, to contact my office. Many of the best policy ideas come directly from constituents who see opportunities for improvement in their communities.

Opportunities for Students: Internships and Scholarships

Investing in our next generation of leaders is one of my top priorities. Each year, my office offers internship

opportunities, particularly during the legislative session, for students interested in public service and state government.

In addition, I award legislative scholarships each year to help constituents pursue higher education. Scholarship applications typically open each January and can be accessed through my website at www.dawngile.com/scholarships or by contacting my office directly.

Always Here to Help

No matter the time of year or whether the legislature is in session, my door is always open. If you have questions, need assistance, or simply want to share your thoughts, my team and I are here to help. You can reach us by phone at 410-841-3568 or by email at dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us.



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A Warning To Protesters, A Unanimous Budget, And A Bad Amendment



Stuart Pittman
County Executive

Editor's note: This column appeared in the county executive's weekly newsletter on June 13. It has been shortened for space.

I must start this week with a warning. Many of us are outraged at the way that ICE is being used by the federal government, and all of us have the right to protest and to record on our phones the work being done by federal agents with our tax dollars. Our local police department does not participate in immigration enforcement activities and will even protect your safety as you peacefully exercise your rights.

My warning is that as soon as anyone engages in any violation of our civil or criminal laws, our police officers must act against them. That includes assaults on federal officers, interfering with their work, and threats of violence. So please, do not ever cross that line.

A pretty good measure of whether a government functions well is how it makes decisions about spending. Not many do it better than Anne Arundel County.

The Anne Arundel County Council passed the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) oper-

ating and capital budget, right on time with no drama, and with a unanimous 7-0 vote. Congratulations to our seven county council members, our budget office, our auditor's office, and every advocate who lobbied for or against a budget item over the last six months. Not many of you got everything you wanted, but all of you were a part of creating and approving a budget that reflects our county's values.

As we face attacks from the federal government on the services that our children, seniors and families rely on, our county council came together to support a budget that protects our people, all of our people, from the worst of the federal impacts.

The FY26 budget includes a record \$52.28 million increase for Anne Arundel County Public Schools. For public safety, we are adding five positions to increase staffing at the fire training academy, five positions to fully staff an additional shift at the police department's new Real-Time Information Center, and two civilian positions to the sheriff's office that will allow deputies to focus on courtroom security.

We are also planning for tomorrow by setting aside \$10 million to backfill cuts to the county's most essential federal grant funding, in addition to maintaining our rainy day fund at the maximum allowable amount. And we're protecting our working families by lowering the property tax rate and maintaining the lowest income tax rate in central Maryland.

I am one of many who believe that our

loss of trust in government is a product of the way we fund our elections. We all know that it's the companies who are regulated by government and get contracts from government that write the biggest campaign checks, whether it's federal, state or local government they seek to influence. Democracies that have public campaign funding programs score higher on trust in government rankings.

That's why I promised and delivered a public campaign finance program in Anne Arundel County, similar to the state program that Larry Hogan used in his first election for governor, and like the programs that exist in counties across Maryland and the United States. The council approved the program as an option for candidates in races for county council and county executive, starting with the 2026 election.

That brings me to the one amendment that the county council passed before approving the FY26 budget that surprised and disappointed me. It cut the \$1.5 million that I was required by law to introduce, the level recommended by the legally mandated, bipartisan Public Campaign Financing System Commission, to just \$250,000.

The four council members who voted for the cut noted that their plan was to introduce legislation allowing them to add funds later in the year if needed, or next year. They did not address Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien's warning about how

inappropriate it would be later this year or next, in the heat of political campaigns, for council members to make decisions about how much funding their opponents can access.

I share her concern. The bill established the commission and its budgeting timelines to take the politics out of the process. I also worry that underfunding the program in this budget will have a chilling effect on candidates considering the program. Each must decide whether to forgo all corporate and PAC money and limit individual contributions to a \$250 maximum to be eligible for the public match, and that decision will always be based on advance assurance that the funds will be provided.

Fortunately, the fund already has \$1 million in it, so with this budget, the balance will be \$1.25 million. But that's probably not enough. When the council voted to create the program, they were told based on estimates from other counties that it would cost \$2 million to \$3 million for each election (once every four years). The commission was correct to treat the fund the way we treat our snow removal fund. It's OK if they overestimate and the money is not all spent, because it rolls over to cover future expenses. What's not OK is to underestimate the cost, because in this case doing so decimates the budgets of candidates who choose to run small-donor-driven campaigns and benefits the ones who don't.

I trust that the council will move quickly to amend the bill so that it can add funds later in the year and get the needed money into the fund before the election heats up. Doing so would restore some of my trust in the system, and hopefully yours.



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We hope you have a wonderful 4th of July!



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Are There Benefits To Playing Multiple Sports Versus Concentrating On One Sport?

What's Better For Young Athletes' Development?

By Kevin Murnane

What do Tom Brady, Patrick Mahomes, Aaron Judge, Travis Kelce and Caitlin Clark have in common?

They all played multiple sports throughout their youth and into high school.

With the dream of attracting college recruiters and being offered scholarships, parents and players have always asked, "Is playing multiple sports or concentrating on one sport better for young athletes?"

"Great coaches like Bill Belichick, Mike Krzyzewski and Nick Saban always preferred players who had a background of competing in multiple sports," said former Severna Park High School boys basketball head coach Paul Pellicani. "Belichick had a former college lacrosse player, Chris Hogan, be a very successful wide receiver for him when he coached the New England Patriots."

Belichick also played multiple sports at Annapolis High School and one of Krzyzewski's standout guards, Severna Park's Steve Wojciechowski, played multiple sports at Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore.

"When a college recruiter came into my office to talk about a player, he always liked when a player competed in multiple

sports because it added to his versatility, athleticism, and developed different muscle groups, and in my opinion, reduced overuse injuries," Pellicani said.

Playing multiple sports also gives players exposure to competing before different size crowds and improves the chances of them playing in district or regional championships.

"Playing multiple sports for multiple seasons increases a player's chance of gaining playoff experience and learning how to compete when so much is on the line is key to an athlete's confidence when playing at a high level," said former Broadneck High School assistant baseball coach Neal Herrick, a former Baltimore Orioles minor league outfielder and member of the Anne Arundel County Sports Hall of Fame.

Other coaches encourage their athletes to play multiple sports to avoid "burnout" from playing one sport throughout the year.

"I personally find it incredibly important that student-athletes participate in more than one sport as long as they can," said Severn School's varsity girls lacrosse coach, Kathy Rudkin. "We live in a world where there is so much pressure to specialize in one sport and the pressure and demands of club and travel sports have made it harder to play multiple sports. Here at Severn, I highly encourage our lacrosse players to play more than one

sport. This helps prevent burnout.

"The cross-training aspect oftentimes makes an athlete an even better and more effective player in their main sport because the skills learned in other sports usually translate well. College coaches love to recruit multi-sport athletes."

Broadneck varsity girls head lacrosse coach Katy Kelley, who stepped down from her role after her team won a fifth-straight state championship in May, echoed that opinion. "One of the main reasons multiple sports is beneficial is from a mental burnout perspective," she said. "Student-athletes learn to navigate different coaching styles and get a 'change of scenery' mentally, keeping them fresh from a mental standpoint. They aren't always focused on one sport, or they escape from that main sport and the pressure that comes with that. From a skills standpoint, focusing on one sport has its benefits. But placed in the grand scheme of sports teaching life, I feel multi-sport athletes reap greater rewards."

Coaches look at the mental aspect of burnout and many worry about whether the players will lose their love of the game because they have practice and games six or seven days a week.

"I firmly believe that there needs to be a day off each week, regardless of what day it is, to enable rest and recovery and to help avoid overuse injuries and men-

tal fatigue," said Anne Arundel Community College women's soccer head coach Jim Griffiths.

Pellicani also worries about these young athletes having time to do activities other than sports.

"When are these players allowed to be kids?" Pellicani said. "There are so many camps and showcases out there that these athletes are traveling on weekends with games and practices during the week. My generation had pick-up games that were unstructured and fun. If you moved into a new neighborhood, sports were the ice breaker to meet new friends and be outside and have fun."

Other coaches have thoughts on some players specializing in one sport, especially if the player is passionate about one sport and not interested in other sports.

"I advise athletes to do the activity that gets them excited to get out of bed each morning," said Archbishop Spalding football head coach Kyle Schmitt. "If it's lifting weights in the offseason, hitting a baseball, or shooting a basketball, that's the right place to put their energy. One reality that often is forgotten in the debate is that some athletes specialize because they aren't good enough to compete in other sports at the high school level, so it makes sense to put their time into one sport."

Many coaches are also parents who use the multi-sport philosophy when raising their children.

"My own kids were encouraged to play a sport every season, and my husband and I always felt strongly about the benefit of that," Kelley said.

» Continued on page 29

Athletes Commit To College

Over 80 local high school student-athletes in the class of 2025 are committing to competitive sports at the college level. Here is the list, as reported to the Severna Park Voice.

Fall Sports

—Field Hockey

Shannon Curtis, Archbishop Spalding - Meredith

Sydney Day, Severna Park - Vassar

Faith Everett, Broadneck - Maryland

Grace Figueroa, Broadneck - York

Katelyn Kearns, Broadneck - Massachusetts

Raleigh Kerst, Broadneck - Ohio State

Madeline Lancione, Archbishop Spalding - Washington & Lee

Camryn Lowman, Severna Park - Catholic

Mia Moody, Broadneck - Salisbury

Chloe Page, Broadneck - Syracuse

Gabrielle Prentice, Archbishop Spalding - Delaware

Kelsey Rowe, Severna Park - La Salle

Emma Weber, Severna Park

- Christopher Newport

Ava Zimmerman, Severna Park

- Johns Hopkins

—Football

Tyrin Chinn-Thompson, Broadneck - Shepherd

De'Marien Hayes, Broadneck - Wilkes

Ian Mauldin, Broadneck - Shepherd

Declan Miller, Broadneck - McDaniel

Vince Nguyen, Severna Park - Wagner

Joey Smargissi, Broadneck

- Washington & Lee

Joey Tramontana, Severna Park - Kenyon

C.J. Watkins, Broadneck - West Virginia Wesleyan

Delmar White, Archbishop Spalding - Maryland

—Men's Soccer

Kyle Crawford, Archbishop Spalding

- Salve Regina

Jed Meehan, Broadneck - U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Cooper Thompson, Broadneck

- Notre Dame of Maryland

—Women's Cross Country

Natalie Bowman, Severna Park - Flagler

—Women's Soccer

Breanna Brown, Broadneck

- St. Mary's (Maryland)

Abby Cover, Severna Park

- North Carolina-Greensboro

Grace Gartrell, Broadneck - Salisbury

Olivia Nardone, Archbishop Spalding

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County

—Women's Volleyball

Amanda Protzman, Broadneck - Millersville

Winter Sports

—Men's Basketball

Jordan Brown, Broadneck - Roberts Wesleyan

—Men's Swimming and Diving

Patrick Ciorna, Severna Park

- Loyola (Maryland)

Owen Mahoney, Broadneck - Salisbury

—Women's Basketball

London Best, Broadneck - St. Mary's (Maryland)

—Women's Gymnastics

Charlotte Ritchey, Broadneck - Maryland

—Women's Swimming and Diving

Ashley Connor, Archbishop Spalding - Marist

Amberlynn Gong, Severna Park

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Spring Sports

—Baseball

Benji Beisler, Severna Park - Albright

Nick Cicale, Broadneck - Army

Adam Clark, Severna Park - Beloit

Garrett Drish, Broadneck - Wilson

Dylan Grice, Severna Park - Lebanon Valley

Chase Hannon, Broadneck - Anne Arundel

Community College

Charlie Hartman, Severna Park - Salisbury

Cade Schuetter, Broadneck

- Colorado State-Pueblo

Mike Swick, Broadneck - Frostburg State

Jacob Williams, Severna Park

- Lebanon Valley

Nathan Wines, Archbishop Spalding

- East Carolina

—Men's Lacrosse

Elliott Danielson, Archbishop Spalding

- Flagler

Teddy Evans, Severna Park

- Randolph-Macon

Hastings Fava, Severna Park

- Hampden-Sydney

Jack Fish, Severna Park - University of

Maryland, Baltimore County

Robbie Hopper, Archbishop Spalding - Virginia

Connor Lamoreaux, Severna Park

- Frostburg State

Blake Levicki, Broadneck

- Christopher Newport

Joey Matassa, Archbishop Spalding - Bucknell

Donovan Probst, Broadneck - Wingate

Tim Sullivan, Severna Park - Salisbury

Brayden Schmidt, Broadneck

- Salisbury

Merric Warren, Severna Park

- Randolph-Macon

Cole Wittlinger, DeMatha - University

of Massachusetts Amherst

Noah Yoder, Broadneck

- St. Mary's (Maryland)

—Softball

Addison Bianco, Severna Park

- East Stroudsburg

Abby Favazza, Broadneck

- Franklin & Marshall

Isabella Herrera, Broadneck - Eastern

Malayna Owens, Broadneck - Hood

Grace Purdum, Broadneck - Wilson

—Women's Tennis

Olivia Mellynchuk, Broadneck - Army

—Women's Lacrosse

Kiera Abere, Severna Park - Rollins

Cayman Holmes, Broadneck - Flagler

Erin Hussey, Severna Park - Delaware

Savannah Libby, Broadneck - Salisbury

Payton Jeffers, Severna Park - Tampa

Jessica Ricci, Severna Park - Dickinson

Isabella Van Gieson, Severna Park

- William & Mary

—Women's Rowing

Sammy Madarang, Severna Park - Drexel

—Women's Track and Field

Natalie Bowman, Severna Park - Flagler

Ava Zimmerman, Severna Park

- Johns Hopkins

Year-Round Sports

—Women's Competitive Cheer

Laney Deaton, Severna Park - Stevenson

Molly Sims, Severna Park - Hawaii Pacific



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

ADAM CLARK

Severna Park High School
Baseball

By David Bashore

For **Adam Clark**, balancing his three focal points as a high school student — baseball, academics, and his family — was a task that took some time to develop.

As a senior in 2024-2025, Clark was able to balance those best and shine even more brightly.

The Severna Park graduate finished most of his academic requirements in three years, taking only English and calculus his senior year. That freed him up to focus on baseball and his family, most notably his younger brother **Casey**, also a Severna Park student.

"The classes I took made me stay on top of studying and getting all of that work in and done. It made senior year lighter, but it was still tough. I couldn't be checked out of school," Clark said. "My brother has been doing a speech program outside of school to spell out his thoughts and communicate with us, and he was leaving school early a couple of times a week. It was great that I could go with him early because that's something that's really valuable to us."



Photo courtesy of Kristin Williams

Casey Clark, Adam explained, is on the autism spectrum and until recently was largely nonverbal. Being there for his brother, like Casey has been for him at baseball games, was an important part of Adam's senior year.

"It's been awesome just learning how intelligent he is and watching

him grow throughout the years in his various phases," Clark said. "He's my biggest supporter, and I'm his biggest supporter."

Watching his brother grow up and develop before his eyes is part of what steered Adam Clark toward Severna Park's chapter of Best Buddies International.

According to its mission statement, Best Buddies is a program geared toward supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in five specific ways: one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support. Local schools with Best Buddies affiliation lean prominently into the one-to-one friendships between students with and without IDD, and that's something Clark found naturally because of his relationship with his brother.

"It's great to see how happy that makes someone," Clark said. "When you can experience that with a family member firsthand, it feels great also to experience it with other kids that you may not know as well. Brightening their day is just awesome."

As Clark turns the page on Severna Park High, he expressed gratitude for the community, and the support of

students, family, coaches and friends. Some of that he will take with him to Beloit College, where he'll continue his baseball career alongside fellow Severna Park grad **Jackson O'Brien** (class of 2024).

O'Brien, as Clark retells it, actually had a lot to do with getting Clark to Beloit.

"I had talked to him a whole bunch about Beloit, and he was saying how much he loved it, and I still was looking for a place to play," Clark said. "He set me up with the coach, told me to send him an email and film. They invited me out for a visit, and I went with my mom and dad, and we loved it, so it all worked out."

The Falcons' leadoff hitter this season hopes his tone-setting mindset and his ability to lead and build community will serve him well not only in his baseball career but in wherever life takes him.

"I had a great time at Severna Park," Clark said. "What I realized was building as many relationships as you can is the best. Having relationships with everyone and being easy to talk to is important. Being closer to guys on the team, folks in the classroom, even great relationships with the teachers is going to be a big thing."

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Spring College Report

By David Bashore

Three local high school graduates made their mark on the lacrosse field at Towson University this spring, when the Tigers won their second straight Coastal Athletic Association men’s lacrosse title (10th

Baseball

Matt Dove — Severna Park

Anne Arundel Community College

A freshman first baseman, Dove appeared in 20 games, batting .167 with one RBI.

Ethan Grieb — Mount Saint Joseph

Frostburg State

A senior pitcher, Grieb made four appearances, all in relief. He logged 2.2 innings, striking out three, and didn’t allow a run.

Ethan Hopkins — Broadneck

Anne Arundel Community College

A freshman outfielder, Hopkins played in 26 games, posting a .261 batting average with six doubles and 13 RBIs.

Kody Phillips — Severna Park — *Lebanon Valley*

A freshman catcher, Phillips played in 33 games, batting .325 with 10 doubles, three home runs and 27 RBIs.

Carver Salazar — Archbishop Spalding

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

A freshman infielder, Salazar appeared in nine games, starting four. His first career hit was a three-run home run against Cornell on March 1.

Angel Santiago-Cruz — Severna Park

Richmond

A freshman pitcher and infielder, Santiago-Cruz appeared in seven games on the mound, totaling nine innings and striking out eight and posting two saves. He also appeared in the field in an additional game.

Cody Sharman — Archbishop Spalding

Frostburg State

A redshirt freshman transfer from Seton Hall, Sharman made nine appearances, with one start. He posted a 1-1 record with a 3.86 ERA.

Nick Stergiou — Broadneck

Bluefield (Virginia)

A junior transfer from CCBC-Catonsville, Stergiou appeared in 45 games, batting .325 with 11 doubles, a home run and 39 RBIs.

Sean Williams — Severna Park

Penn State

A freshman pitcher, William made four appearances this season, logging five innings, one hit, six strikeouts, and a 1.80 ERA.

Men’s Golf

Tim Brophy — Annapolis Area Christian

Anne Arundel Community College

A sophomore, Brophy finished second at the NJCAA Region 10 championship meet, helping the Riverhawks defend their region title.

Darren Hoffman — Broadneck

Anne Arundel Community College

A sophomore, Hoffman finished 10th at the NJCAA Region 10 championship meet, helping the Riverhawks defend their region title.

Will Maddox — Severna Park

Anne Arundel Community College

A freshman, Maddox medaled at the NJCAA Region 20 championship meet, helping the Riverhawks defend their region title.

Men’s Lacrosse

Tanner Boone — Broadneck — *Mary Washington*

A freshman attacker, Boone started in all 17 of his appearances. He scored 24 goals and added five assists, also securing 35 ground balls.

overall) and reached the NCAA Division I tournament.

Archbishop Spalding grad and Arnold resident **Mikey Weisshaar** moved from midfield to attack for 2025. The junior led the Tigers with 48 goals and 24 assists. Sophomore defender **Logan Meighan**, also a Spalding

Jake Chambers — Broadneck

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

A sophomore midfielder, Chambers appeared in 14 games, scoring once, assisting twice, securing 12 ground balls, and forcing three turnovers.

Brooks Chatlos — Broadneck

Virginia Military Institute

A sophomore midfielder, Chatlos appeared in 10 games. He scored twice and assisted once, adding in five ground ball recoveries and two forced turnovers.

Jameson Coffman — Archbishop Spalding

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

A freshman short-stick defensive midfielder, Coffman appeared in 11 games, scoring once and adding three assists. He grabbed 16 ground balls and forced four turnovers.

Marcus Coleman — St. Mary’s

St. Mary’s (Maryland)

A senior short-stick defensive midfielder, Coleman appeared in 16 games, starting once. He posted three goals and two assists, securing 15 ground balls and forcing six turnovers.

Austin Combs — Broadneck — *Flagler (Florida)*

A freshman long-stick midfielder, Combs appeared in nine games, logging one assist, one ground ball, and two forced turnovers.

Ganon Cope — St. Mary’s — *Mercer (Georgia)*

A freshman midfielder, Cope started two games and appeared in eight, scoring twice and adding four assists, to go with eight ground balls secured.

Jacob Darrow — Severn School — *Navy*

A senior defender, Darrow started all 15 games, bagging 28 ground balls and forcing 14 turnovers.

Ryan Della — Broadneck — *Salisbury*

A sophomore attacker, Della appeared in 21 games, starting 17. He netted 52 goals and added nine assists, also scooping 38 ground balls as the Seagulls reached the NCAA Division III tournament’s third round. Della was a second-team All-Coastal Lacrosse Conference selection.

Aiden Doyle — Broadneck — *St. Mary’s (Maryland)*

A senior attacker, Doyle appeared in 18 games, starting 12. He scored 56 goals and added 21 assists. His single-game high in goals was eight against Vassar on March 15, and his point high came the next game against Penn College on March 22 (six goals, six assists). Doyle, the program’s all-time leading goal scorer (155), was a first-team All-United East selection and an honorable mention USILA Division III honoree, as the Seahawks reached the NCAA tournament for the third straight year.

Matthew Dryer — Severna Park — *Hampden Sydney*

A sophomore transfer from Aurora (Illinois), Dryer appeared in two games between the pipes, making two saves.

Charlie Evans — Severna Park — *Lynchburg*

A senior attacker, Evans started four of his 20 appearances, scoring 21 goals and adding seven assists. He also logged 15 ground balls and four caused turnovers.

Davis Fisher — Broadneck — *York (Pennsylvania)*

A junior attacker, Fisher started in all 21 of his appearances, scoring 32 goals and dishing out 60 assists, giving him York’s single-season assists and points records as well as the career assists mark. He also grabbed 37 ground balls and forced nine turnovers as the Spartans reached the NCAA Division III tournament’s third round. Fisher was named an honorable mention USILA All-American honoree.

Tyler Gilbert — Broadneck — *Mercer (Georgia)*

A junior defender, Gilbert started 10 games and appeared in 13, scoring once, securing 13 ground balls, and forcing five turnovers.

alum and a Severna Park resident, appeared in 11 games, scooping two ground balls and forcing six turnovers. After redshirting in 2024, freshman goalie and Severna Park grad **Ashby Shepherd** played against Hampton on April 12, in a 25-3 win for Towson.

These three are among many local high school graduates excelling in college athletics. Below is a list of spring sports athletes, as reported to the Severna Park Voice.

Colin Gray — Broadneck

Washington (Maryland)

A sophomore goalie, Gray started in 10 of his 13 appearances, posting a 5-5 record with 134 saves, including a season-best 19 against Catholic on March 8.

Nolan Grizzle — Severna Park

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

A freshman midfielder, Grizzle played in 15 games. He scored 10 goals and assisted on five others, also securing six ground balls.

Graham Hartman — Broadneck

Mercer (Georgia)

A freshman faceoff specialist, Hartman appeared in two games, winning seven of his 12 draws and securing another ground ball.

Brett Hussey — Severna Park

St. Mary’s (Maryland)

A sophomore defender, Hussey appeared in 17 games with one start, notching three assists, 28 ground balls and 10 forced turnovers.

Paul Isenberg — Severna Park — *Hampden Sydney*

A junior defender, Isenberg appeared in three games, logging one ground ball recovery and one caused turnover.

Talan Livingston — Severna Park — *Salisbury*

A sophomore defender, Livingston appeared in four games, netting two ground balls and forcing one turnover.

Jameson McDonald — Key School

Anne Arundel Community College

A freshman defender, McDonald played in 15 games, logging one assist, 31 ground balls and 18 caused turnovers.

Logan McGill — Broadneck — *Hampton*

A freshman midfielder, McGill appeared in 10 games with one start, logging 12 ground balls and five caused turnovers.

Liam McNulty — Severna Park

St. Mary’s (Maryland)

A junior attacker, McNulty appeared in nine games, notching two assists.

Jack Meehan — Broadneck — *Virginia Wesleyan*

A first-year midfielder, Meehan saw action in one game, against Washington and Lee on April 25, in which he secured one ground ball.

Russell Melendez — Archbishop Spalding

Johns Hopkins

A senior attacker, Melendez saw his season derailed by injury. He started in all seven games he played, scoring 14 goals and adding nine assists.

Luke Miller — McDonogh — *Notre Dame*

A freshman attacker, Miller played in seven games, scoring twice, assisting twice and snagging one ground ball.

Simon Moore — Broadneck

Virginia Military Institute

A senior midfielder, Moore started in 10 of his 13 appearances. He scored seven goals and assisted on 11, also securing three ground balls.

Tristan Newhouse — Severna Park

Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham

A sophomore midfielder, Newhouse started in one of his 13 appearances, scoring once and securing 21 ground balls.

Ben Nocerito — Severna Park

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

A junior midfielder, Nocerito started 14 of his 15 appearances, scoring once, securing 17 ground balls, and causing 10 turnovers.

Spring College Report

Albie Palsa — Broadneck — *Lynchburg*

A freshman defender, Palsa started once in his 10 appearances, grabbing six ground balls and forcing four turnovers.

Jed Pellicano — Broadneck

Christopher Newport

A freshman defender, Pellicano started seven games and appeared in 22, logging an assist, 18 ground balls and 11 caused turnovers.

Kyle Pierce — Broadneck — *Mercer (Georgia)*

A junior midfielder, Pierce appeared in 12 games, starting once and logging 25 ground balls and two forced turnovers.

Jackson Roberts — Archbishop Spalding — *Navy*

A junior defender, Roberts appeared in 15 games, controlling three ground balls and forcing two turnovers.

Parker Sealey — Severna Park — *Lynchburg*

A junior short-stick defensive midfielder, Sealey started in 16 of his 19 appearances, scoring 17 goals and assisting on four others. He also grabbed 47 ground balls and forced eight turnovers.

Colin Shadowens — Severna Park — *Navy*

A junior faceoff specialist, Shadowens won 81 of 150 duels in his 12 appearances, scooping 35 ground balls and logging one assist.

Brandon Shaw — South River

Anne Arundel Community College

A freshman midfielder, Shaw appeared in eight games, logging one assist and one ground ball.

Jackson Shaw — Broadneck

Christopher Newport

A sophomore midfielder, Shaw appeared in 22 games, starting three. He netted nine goals and added 13 assists.

Bryce Stevenson — Severna Park — *Salisbury*

A junior defender, Stevenson started all 21 games, scoring four goals, securing 69 ground balls, and causing 38 turnovers. Stevenson was a first-team All-Coastal Lacrosse Conference selection.

Rory Sullivan — Severna Park

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

A senior defender, Sullivan made seven appearances with one start, scooping five ground balls and causing four turnovers.

Matt Tettemer — Broadneck

Anne Arundel Community College

A redshirt freshman transfer from St. Mary’s (Maryland), Tettemer appeared in eight games this season.

Brendan Watson — Archbishop Spalding

Flagler (Florida)

A junior defender and midfielder, Watson appeared in 11 games, assisting once, securing 14 ground balls, and causing 15 turnovers.

Jamison Wildt — Severn School

Coast Guard Academy

A sophomore defender, Wildt started in 14 of his 15 appearances, scoring twice and assisting once, to go with 24 ground balls and 14 forced turnovers.

Men’s Tennis

Luke Garner — Broadneck — *Navy*

A senior, Garner was named captain of the tennis team for the 2024-2025 season, joining older brother Finn (2022-2023) as a team captain and becoming the only brothers to have both captained the Midshipmen’s tennis squad. He went 12-9 in singles and 14-6 in doubles during the spring season.

Men’s Track and Field

Collin Fitzgerald — Broadneck

St Mary’s (Maryland)

A sophomore sprinter, Fitzgerald performed well at the United East Conference championships, finishing second in the 200 and 4x100, and third in the 100.

Luke Schwenk — Broadneck — *St. Mary’s (Maryland)*

A senior thrower, Schwenk finished 11th in the javelin and 12th in the shot put at the United East Conference championship meet.

Carson Sloat — Severna Park — *Navy*

A senior distance relay runner, Sloat helped Navy finish third in the 4x800 relay at the Patriot League championship meet. The team also ran in the Penn Relays, posting a time of 7:30.

Men’s Volleyball

Andrew Byrne — Broadneck — *Juniata*

A sophomore defensive specialist, Byrne played in six matches and recorded 2.38 digs and 0.88 assists per set.

Michael Schwob — Broadneck — *Penn State*

A sophomore setter, Schwob started 29 of 30 matches, logging .046 kills, 9.26 assists, 1.25 digs and 0.65 blocks per set.

Sailing

Ryan Wahba — Severn School — *Navy*

A senior, Wahba was named second-team All-Mid Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association for his ability in the crew, as his team finished second in both the America Trophy and the Intercollegiate Sailing Association’s Open Fleet race.

Softball

Skyla Hailey — Severna Park

Washington (Maryland)

A sophomore first baseman, Hailey played in six games, starting three. She recorded 23 putouts and posted a .958 fielding percentage.

Sally Trent — Severna Park — *Charleston*

A freshman catcher, Trent played in 17 games, starting nine. She batted .233 with five RBIs and logged 32 putouts with a .971 fielding percentage.

Samantha Waters — Broadneck — *Hood*

A freshman pitcher and second baseman, Waters appeared six times in the circle, posting a 1-2 record with a 4.96 ERA across 18.1 innings. At the plate, she batted .294 with four RBIs.

(Note: Anne Arundel Community College canceled its season due to insufficient roster numbers. Broadneck graduates Addison Hurst and Grace Mozloom were scheduled to play their sophomore seasons.)

Women’s Golf

Ela Simpson — Broadneck — *Stevenson*

After transferring from Anne Arundel Community College, Simpson participated in six tournaments this spring. Her high point came in finishing sixth in the Stevenson Spring Invitational on April 21.

Women’s Lacrosse

Alexis Abe — Broadneck — *Tampa*

After transferring from University of Maryland, Baltimore County as a graduate student, Abe joined the NCAA Division II Spartans, where she played in seven games. She scored both of her season’s goals in a game against Lee, as Tampa went on to win the Division II national championship.

Elia Alewine — Indian Creek — *Jacksonville*

A freshman goalie, Alewine appeared in six games, logging two ground balls.

Allie Ballard — Broadneck — *McDaniel*

A senior defender and midfielder, Ballard started in seven of her 17 appearances. She collected two draws and 10 ground balls, also causing seven turnovers.

Sophia Bordone — Severna Park

Embry-Riddle (Florida)

A sophomore defender, Bordone started in 12 of her 15 appearances. She controlled two draws, recovered 12 ground balls, and forced five turnovers.

Stella Bordone — Severna Park

Lafayette (Pennsylvania)

A sophomore attacker, Bordone appeared in two games this season.

Theresa Bragg — Severna Park — *Florida*

A junior defender, Bragg started all 23 of her appearances, controlling five draws, collecting 23 ground balls and causing 29 turnovers.

Alyssa Chung — Severna Park — *Navy*

A freshman attacker, Chung made an instant splash, starting just six of her 21 appearances but scoring 66 goals and adding 15 assists as Navy reached the first round of the NCAA tournament. She also picked up 17 ground balls and forced 11 turnovers. Chung was named an honorable mention All-American by both USA Lacrosse Magazine and Inside Lacrosse, as well as being named the ECAC and Patriot League Rookie of the Year (winning the weekly award a record seven times), picking up first-team honors as well.

Emma Dean — Archbishop Spalding

Mercer (Georgia)

A redshirt freshman attacker, Dean appeared in four games, scoring once, assisting once and securing two ground balls.

Charlotte Diez — Severna Park — *Villanova*

A sophomore attacker, Diez appeared in two games, logging one assist and one ground ball recovery.

Lexi Dupcak — Broadneck — *Maryland*

A sophomore midfielder, Dupcak appeared in 17 games, scoring twice. She also had 16 draw controls, five ground balls and four caused turnovers.

Kate Evans — Severna Park — *Gettysburg*

A freshman attacker, Evans appeared in four games this season.

Ryn Feemster — Severna Park

Virginia Commonwealth University

A freshman defender, Feemster started in 15 of her 16 appearances. She controlled three draws, recovered 15 ground balls and forced 16 turnovers.

Maddy Goger — Severna Park — *Columbia*

A sophomore midfielder, Goger started all 15 games, controlling two draws, winning 15 ground balls and forcing nine turnovers.

Abby Goodman — Severna Park — *McDaniel*

A sophomore defender, Goodman started in 14 of her 17 appearances. She controlled one draw, collected 10 ground balls and caused 10 turnovers.

Lilly Kelley — Broadneck — *James Madison*

A sophomore midfielder, Kelley appeared in five games this season.

Ella Killian — Broadneck

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

A junior defender, Killian started all 16 of her appearances, controlling 71 draws, collecting 24 ground balls, and forcing 12 turnovers. Killian was named first-team All-America East.

Karli Kirchenheiter — Severna Park — *Louisville*

A sophomore defender, Kirchenheiter started in 13 of her 17 appearances, corraling 15 ground balls and causing 10 turnovers.

Sarah Kreis — Severna Park — *Charlotte*

A freshman midfielder, Kreis played in seven games, scoring once from the free position. She also controlled one draw and collected one ground ball.

Regan McDonnell — Severna Park — *Salisbury*

A sophomore midfielder, McDonnell appeared in 21 games, starting three times. She scored 26 goals and added four assists, also adding 40 draw controls, 32 ground balls and 29 caused turnovers.

Sophia Miller — Severna Park — *San Diego State*

A redshirt freshman midfielder, Miller appeared in 16 games, controlling 38 draws, securing seven ground balls and forcing 12 turnovers.

Mia Putzi — Indian Creek — *Lafayette (Pennsylvania)*

A junior attacker, Putzi appeared in two games, scoring once.

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Spring College Report

Allison Schiavone — Severna Park — *Wilmington*
A freshman goalie, Schiavone appeared in 18 games, starting six, and recorded 82 saves.

Lilly Spilker — Severna Park — *Penn State*
A redshirt freshman defender, Spilker appeared in 12 games, securing nine ground balls and forcing 16 turnovers.

Bryanna Stalnaker — Archbishop Spalding *Virginia Commonwealth University*
A senior defender, Stalnaker started in 18 of her 19 appearances. She collected one draw, recovered 14 ground balls and forced 13 turnovers.

Kaila Stasulli — Severna Park — *Jacksonville*
A senior defender, Stasulli started all 16 games, scoring three goals and assisting on one. She also controlled 54 draws, recovered 19 ground balls and forced 17 turnovers, as she was named the Atlantic Sun Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight season and earned an invite to the IWLCAs senior all-star game.

Sarah Stefancik — Severna Park — *Mercer (Georgia)*
A freshman midfielder, Stefancik made her lone appearance against Gardner-Webb on April 2, securing one ground ball.

Olivia Tramontana — Severna Park *San Diego State*
A sophomore defender, Tramontana appeared in seven games, securing six ground balls and forcing three turnovers.

Lily Trout — Broadneck — *High Point*
A sophomore midfielder, Trout started in all 18 of her appearances, scoring 18 goals and assisting on four. She also controlled 46 draws, won 18 ground balls and forced four turnovers.

Women’s Tennis (Team)

Elicia Aponte — Broadneck — *Albright*
A sophomore, Aponte went 10-1 in singles and 11-1 in doubles in the spring season.

Women’s Track and Field

Avery Arizzi — Broadneck — *St Mary’s (Maryland)*
A sophomore middle distance and relay runner, Arizzi set the program’s record in the 400 meters, helping the Seahawks win their first conference championship. Arizzi also finished third in the 800 and made the final in the 200.

Carson Boteler — Broadneck — *Coastal Carolina*
A freshman pole vaulter, Boteler entered three meets this spring, posting a season best of 3.30 meters at the Myrtle Beach Collegiate Challenge in March.

Arianna Lecouras — Severna Park *St. Mary’s (Maryland)*
A senior distance runner, Lecouras was a team captain for the Seahawks, who won the United East Conference championship. She placed fourth in the 5,000 meters and fifth in the 1,500 meters.

Safiya Stimely — Broadneck *St. Mary’s (Maryland)*
A sophomore thrower, Stimely peaked at the end of the season, setting personal bests in the shot put and hammer throw in the final weeks of competition.

Jillian Zukley — Severna Park *St. Mary’s (Maryland)*
A sophomore thrower, Zukley set a new school record with her winning hammer throw at the conference meet, in which the Seahawks won their first team championship. She also finished third in the shot put at the same event.

Women’s Water Polo

Olivia Mitchell — Broadneck *Virginia Military Institute*
A freshman attacker, Mitchell appeared in 25 games, scoring once and adding four assists.

Green Hornets 2016 Boys Select Soccer Team Keeps Rolling



The Green Hornets 2016 boys select soccer team finished their spring campaign on a high note. They played top teams in EDP-CMSSL Premier I division and won the league title, their second in a row. The team was led by head coach Tony Malcolm and assistant coach Mat Merriman. “They displayed grit, determination and commitment, all while maintaining their sportsmanship,” Merriman said. “Their technical ability was on full display.” The team included (standing, left to right) assistant coach Merriman, Cal Viera, Bruno Buras, Brody Bombard, Oliver Taddeo, Hudson Merriman, Liam Harvey, coach Malcolm and (kneeling) Grant Locher, Leo Malcolm, Ethan Phippen and Vincent Marino. The 2016 boys team won the EDP-CMSSL Premier I title for the second straight year. The boys also played in the Jefferson Cup in Richmond from March 8-9, and they battled top teams from Georgia, New Jersey, Florida and Maryland. They took home second place.

Green Girls Dominate At OC Sand Duels



The 2017 Severna Park girls Green team, also known as the Cheetahs, capped off a 10-1 spring season in dominating fashion at the 30th annual Ocean City Sand Duels Beach Soccer tournament over the weekend of June 7-8. Fueled by a relentless offensive attack and suffocating defense, Severna Park went 4-0 to bring home first place. The Cheetahs included (l-r) Caroline Cober, Blake Finn, head coach Jenna Nobles, Kadia Johnson, Lyla MacQuilliam, Elian David, Logan Nobles, Summer Murphy, Lucy Rutland, coach Courtney Murphy, Laina Gonzalez, Chloe Smith and coach Joanna Rutland.

Are There Benefits To Playing Multiple Sports?

» Continued from page 22
For parents who are concerned whether their child is getting noticed by college recruiters, coaches state that through relationships with colleges and the use of video footage, the recruiters are evaluating talent throughout the season and offseason.
“If you can play, the recruiters will find you,” Pellicani said. “Just look at all the National Football League rosters and how many players are from smaller colleges, and when Major League Baseball conducts its draft, so many players are from small towns, including our own Jackson

Merrill from Severna Park High School.”
One of the greatest small-town athletes in the last 20 years was NFL wide receiver Randy Moss. He attended DuPont High School in Rand, West Virginia; played four sports; and was West Virginia’s player of the year in football and basketball, a state champion in track and field, and played center field in baseball.
All the coaches agree that sports play a vital role in the development of children and teenagers, as well as teaching so many life skills that they will use the rest of their lives.

SPHS & BHS Valedictorians And Salutatorians

Falcon Valedictorian And Salutatorian Excel In The Classroom And Beyond

By Paige Horton
Student Intern

Kateri Jarvis and Amberlynn Gong were bestowed the honor of valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the class of 2025 at Severna Park High School. Both candidates became close friends throughout the process.

Kateri Jarvis

"I did not think I was going to get it at all," Jarvis admitted.

The honor was so unexpected, Kateri was not planning to attend the school's ceremony that announced valedictorian, salutatorian and other awards for students.

"I also felt a little bit of imposter syndrome," she said. "I felt like there were so many amazing candidates this year and so many of my peers were really talented and so smart."

Jarvis' high school journey consisted of many challenging courses that would ultimately set her up on a pre-med track. She took one Advanced Placement (AP) class during her freshman year along with three honors classes. Her sophomore year consisted of five honors and two AP classes, which included French and Chinese classes. Her junior year, Jarvis took six AP courses and fully immersed herself with Chinese by taking honors Chinese and dropping French. Senior year, she took three AP classes, though her favorite course was honors chemistry, which



Amberlynn Gong (left) and Kateri Jarvis sat onstage together during Severna Park High School's graduation ceremony in June.

was one of her more difficult classes. She enjoyed the challenge.

She set the bar high for her extracurriculars and activities. Jarvis created her own English as a Second Language nonprofit, or ESL, which she started in sixth grade. It has grown into a seven-year passion and her hard work paid off.

Academics paved the way for an opportunity for a research internship at Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, where she worked alongside the team studying human iPS cell core for neurodegen-

» Continued on page 36

Broadneck's Top Students Leave Behind Legacies Of Leadership

By Hannah Bates

After many speeches, awards, tears and hugs, Broadneck High School (BHS) seniors turned their tassels from right to left, officially marking their graduation in early June. Two of those students are this year's valedictorian and salutatorian, Kiera Lord and Eva Barrat.

Kiera Lord

Lord, Broadneck's valedictorian, is an academic standout and leader.

She started and led Broadneck's biology club in her junior and senior years. The club focused on fostering scientific curiosity in students through hands-on experiments, such as testing salinity and pH levels in local water ecosystems. Lord also added an Advanced Placement (AP) Biology tutoring program and science-based game nights to the club for variety and fun. "The main thing that I wanted for the club was to just see everyone happy with the work they were doing," she said.

While Lord poured lots of time and love into the biology club, her favorite memories from her high school years are from her Annapolis marksmanship team.

Though Lord enjoyed many high school highlights, she also faced a grave loss during her junior year when her mother, Jennifer Lord, died of an aggressive form of brain cancer in the middle of college application season. This forced Lord



Broadneck High School's 2025 valedictorian was Kiera Lord.

to navigate grieving while managing the stress of college applications. "It was difficult to compartmentalize something that had happened that's very personal, but also so tragic," she said, "but I knew that taking my foot off the gas and kind of backpedaling at such an important time would really damage the future."

Lord found the strength to push through college application season by holding on to what her mother wanted for her. "I knew that my mom would want me to keep working hard and stay focused through everything," she said.

She plans to study economics and criminology at the University of Pennsylvania and hopes to work in financial counterterrorism one

» Continued on page 36

School Staff Members To Retire After Years Of Serving The Community



As the school year has drawn to a close, so too have the careers of some longtime elementary school staff members. After decades of service within the Anne Arundel County Public Schools system, Jones Elementary School principal's secretary Carol Alderman and Benfield Elementary School teacher Patti Bartlett are retiring.

Alderman has been with Jones Elementary since 2000, working in the school's front office for nearly 25 years. As the principal's secretary, Alderman has been a core foundation of Jones Elementary, helping students, parents and staff alike. Her knowledge and approachability have made her an irreplaceable member of the school's community.

After 46 years of teaching at Benfield Elementary, Bartlett taught her last day on June 13. To show gratitude for Bartlett's service to the community, the Benfield Elementary PTO gifted her with personalized artwork of the school building honoring her time there. Bartlett has left a lasting impact on generations of students since 1979, being remembered fondly even by former students who now live across the country.

Do you know of other longtime staff members who just retired from the education field? Send their information and photos to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com.

Left: As the principal's secretary at Jones Elementary School, Carol Alderman helped students, parents and staff. **Right:** To show gratitude for Patti Bartlett's service to the community, the Benfield Elementary PTO gifted her with personalized artwork of the school building.



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Educator Of The Month

Tammy Chilipko Severna Park United Methodist Church Nursery School



Emma Norfolk is a 4-year-old former student of Tammy Chilipko's at SPUMCNS. Last fall, Chilipko came out of retirement to teach again.

By Lauren Burke Meyer

Three-year-olds. They're newly potty trained and temper-tantrum prone. Yet, Tammy Chilipko's prekindergarten 3 students always ran happily into her classroom. Chilipko started volunteering at Severna Park United Methodist Church Nursery School (SPUMCNS), lovingly nicknamed Snoopy School, three years ago when her granddaughter was a student. For the 2024-2025 school year, she came out of retirement to teach because she loves it so much.

"Mrs. Chilipko is truly one of the best," said SPUMCNS Director Catherine Myers. "She brings a wealth of teaching experience, and her presence this year has been nothing short of magical. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a remarkable educator shaping young minds and sparking a lifelong love of learning."

When the 73-year-old returns this fall, it will be her 40th year teaching. She's wanted to be a teacher since she was 6 years old and never wavered. Both of her parents regarded teachers highly. Her brother became a teacher too.

"Teaching is in our blood," she said.

The nursery school teacher earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Towson University. She later began teaching without a degree in education at St. Rose of Lima School with a promise she'd get one. Chilipko stayed true

to her word for the Catholic school in Brooklyn, Maryland, earning a master's equivalent in education from Loyola College (now Loyola University Maryland).

"Teaching is a gift from God," Chilipko said. "If you're a good teacher, and you strive to be a good teacher, you are constantly learning and evolving. And I think that's the gift I got."

Later, she'd set her sights on St. John the Evangelist in Severna Park. She called the nun every day and asked, "Could I please have a job?" Persistence was key. She went on to teach for two years before marrying and moving to Connecticut.

Her family eventually moved back to the area. She and her husband, Frank Chilipko, a former assistant principal at Severna Park Middle School, have been Shipley's Choice residents for about 36 years.

Years ago, when Chilipko was registering her youngest daughter in preschool, she was hired on the spot at St. John's in Linthicum, where she taught for seven years.

The bulk of her career — 17 years — was spent at Solley Elementary School in Glen Burnie, where she first retired in 2017. She taught first grade mostly, as well as 3- and 4-year-olds and second- and third-graders. Over the years, Chilipko has developed several inspiring teaching philosophies.

"I want children to feel safe," she began. "That's my number-one concern."

She wants them to know they can be themselves, and she's here to help them every day.

"If you make mistakes — that's OK because you cannot learn without making mistakes," she said. "So, we all make mistakes ... I tell them all the time, 'I made a mistake; will you forgive me?' and the class will say 'Yes!' Why do they say that? Because we're a team."

Sometimes people have to look hard to find kind gestures. Not with Chilipko.

"With gentle guidance and a heart full of kindness, she creates meaningful learning adventures that inspire every child to grow and thrive," Myers said. "Whether transforming the classroom into a circus or leading a day of superhero fun, she fills each moment with imagination and joy."

Her generosity extends beyond the classroom. She's gotten kids glasses, shoes, backpacks and other necessities — sometimes through grants; other times out of her own pocket.

"Raggedy Ann is kind of my hero," Chilipko said. "She accepts all. She's kind. I want to be like her."

She has won many awards including the Literacy Educator of the Year from Loyola College. But Chilipko's legacy is her enduring kindness.



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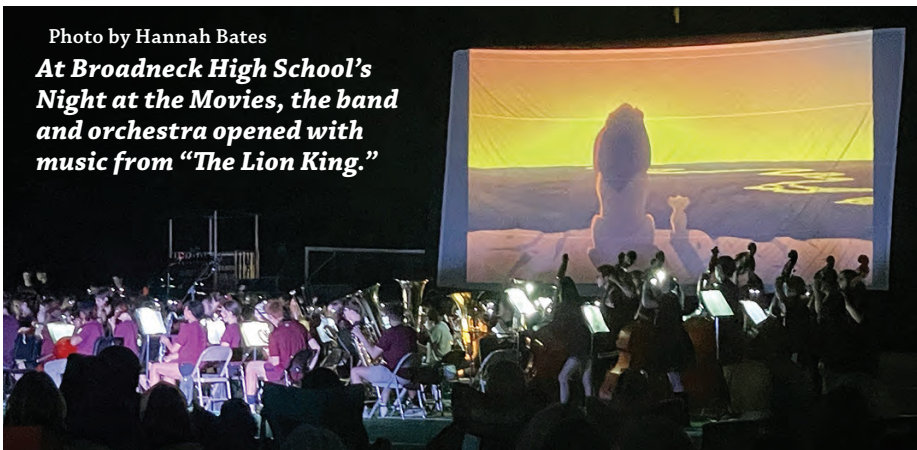
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Broadneck Schools Kick Off Summer With Annual Night At The Movies

Photo by Hannah Bates

At Broadneck High School's Night at the Movies, the band and orchestra opened with music from "The Lion King."



By Hannah Bates

Broadneck schools celebrated the end of the academic year with the fourth annual Night at the Movies orchestral performance on June 6. Students from elementary through high school joined recently graduated alumni to play popular movie themes for hundreds of spectators at Broadneck High School's (BHS) stadium.

"It's a huge event," said BHS music department chair Matthew Heist. "The whole community comes out to support it."

The orchestra performed annual event favorites from "The Lion King," "Jurassic Park," "The Incredibles" and "How to Train Your Dragon," and new pieces from "Mission: Impossible" and "Pirates of the Caribbean." The concert also featured a new choir piece in which elementary students sang with high schoolers in a pre-concert Disney medley.

Heist noted he loves watching the students from different grades support each other every year. "Getting to see the sixth-graders who are just starting out and recent graduates and alumni all coming together for music — it's a

lot of fun," he said.

Heist started the Night at the Movies tradition in 2022 after a trial run during COVID-19 in 2021. That year, the school band performed fun tunes while masked and socially distanced. Despite the circumstances, the event was a hit with the students. This inspired Heist to add a movie screening element to future performances.

Recent BHS graduate Addison Thornton has performed in all five Night at the Movies events. She remembers the 2021 one as a night of "chaos." Over the past five years, Thornton watched the program grow from a small, masked recital to a full orchestra and band performance.

"We just keep seeing more and more people show up everywhere," she said. "It's really awesome." Thornton plans to return next year to play with the band as a college student.

The early June concert lasted about 45 minutes, leaving plenty of time for socializing before and after the performance. Students received dinner provided by the school, and food trucks lined the parking lot.

AMFM Awards \$5,000 Music Scholarship To BHS Senior

Annapolis Musicians Fund for Musicians Inc. (AMFM), a non-profit organization that supports professional Annapolis-area musicians and music programs for youth, has awarded its annual Tim King Music Performance Scholarship of \$5,000 to Broadneck High School graduating senior Collin Kassal. This fall, Kassal will enroll as a freshman at the University of Maryland (UMD) College Park, where he will pursue a Bachelor of Music degree.

Kassal's instrumental focus is on the cello; however, he is also an accomplished pianist and euphonium player. Some notable places he has performed include the French Embassy and Carnegie Hall, and he has toured Europe with the Broadneck High School orchestra. He is also active in the local Annapolis music scene, performing with several bands and playing at Rams Head On Stage, Maryland Hall and 49 West.

His aspirations after graduation include working as a cellist in a symphony orchestra, teaching private cello lessons, performing regularly, and continuing to explore his non-classical



Collin Kassal

side as a cellist in a rock or folk band.

This is the scholarship's eighth year. Scholarship candidates were evaluated on several criteria — including their participation in high

school music performance groups, volunteer community-based music opportunities, private lessons, a videoed performance piece, and an essay — to assess their commitment to pursuing music performance academically.

"We are so amazed by the talent of our young musicians in the Annapolis area," said AMFM President P.J. Thomas. "We feel fortunate that we can continue to honor Tim King's legacy by awarding this scholarship to a very deserving student. Congratulations, Collin! We wish you the very best and look forward to following your career."

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BRUINS BID FAREWELL TO HIGH SCHOOL



Photos by Dennis McGinley
Graduating seniors from Broadneck High School walked across the stage at Live! Casino & Hotel in Hanover on June 2 to receive their diplomas and celebrate several years of academic achievements.

SEVERNA PARK SENIORS CELEBRATE COMMENCEMENT



Photos by Alex Bardakh

After they received their diplomas on June 3, Severna Park High School graduates gathered with friends and family members to revel in all their hard work and success. The students were all smiles during and after the ceremony, which was held at Live! Casino & Hotel in Hanover.

BHS Legacies

» Continued from page 30

day. Lord discovered a love for national security after watching family members work in that field within the military, and after attending the FBI Teen Academy last summer. The experience cemented her desire to do government and national security work.

"I knew that I wanted to do something that would contribute and make a difference," she said, "And for me, that is looking like civilian intelligence."

Lord's biggest piece of advice for younger Broadneck students aiming to make the most of their high school years is to "follow your dreams and remember why you are chasing them."

"It's very easy to get caught up in what's happening in the moment," she warned, "but if you look ahead and look to your goals ... that motivation is going to carry you through all the hard times in your way."

Eva Barrat

Broadneck's salutatorian, Barrat, has both strong academic achievements and a love for community service. She plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall and major in global studies with the goal of becoming a diplomat or lawyer for refugees.

During her four years at BHS, Barrat loved to race in cross country and indoor and outdoor track. Cross country was her favorite, though. "Some of my favorite memories from high school were getting up really early for meets where we would have to be at school at 5:00am, and we would all get there and we were all tired,

but we would all watch the sunrise together," she said.

In addition to athletics, Barrat took 10 AP courses over three years while leading two clubs. She managed her schedule by studying for an hour each morning and for two more after school and clubs ended. Her advice to younger students who also want to do well in school and live community-centered lives is to "focus on doing your best and know that it will work out." Barrat joined Broadneck's Interact Club as a freshman and worked as the club's secretary her sophomore year before becoming the club's president her junior and senior years. As club president, Barrat led projects including making goodie bags for firefighters, hosting food drives, and helping fund student-led environmental projects. She also organized multiple neighborhood 5K races and raised over \$3,000 for Doctors Without Borders, a humanitarian-focused medical organization that provides medical care to people in crisis situations across the world. "I think it was nice to know that the people in the club and I had actually managed to make a difference and potentially help someone," she said.

Barrat brought her love for other nations and people groups to the Global Awareness Club, which started her junior year. In this club, students present on international cultures.

Outside of clubs, Barrat has served her community through her church, First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis. Each holiday season, Barrat enjoys distributing meals for the homeless through her church. This summer, she is excited to travel to the Czech Republic with her church to teach English to Czech children.

Falcon Val, Sal

» Continued from page 30

erative disease research.

She also participated in JV volleyball at Severna Park High School until her sophomore year, when she shifted gears to more of a behind-the-scenes role. She became the assistant commissioner of BAYS volleyball, a youth rec volleyball team in the Broadneck area.

Jarvis created her own club called the Wishing Crane project, which modeled an organization in Arizona; however, she made it her own. The club's purpose was to create origami cranes, which would be donations to Hospice of the Chesapeake and organizations with the same mission of caring for people experiencing serious illness and loss.

Along with all her academic activities, Jarvis volunteered to help her community. For four years, she volunteered with the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy and worked to raise a \$10,000 Coca Cola grant for freshmen.

Amberlynn Gong

Amberlynn Gong also showed exceptional work in classes and extracurriculars at Severna Park High School.

Gong undertook a difficult course load including four AP classes as a sophomore, seven AP classes as a junior, and four AP classes as a senior, along with two harder classes that were weighted the same as APs. She juggled this huge workload with extracurriculars.

A varsity swimmer, Gong will continue swimming in college. She helped the Falcons win the 2025 girls county championship, a meet at which she broke the

school's 200 individual medley record and also won the 100-yard breaststroke. For the Naval Academy Aquatic Club, she won the 100 butterfly at the club state meet and finished second in the 200.

Gong is not only a swimming champion, but she also played a role in student government as her class's treasurer. She finished her senior year as a member of Severna Park High School's Math Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Honor Society.

When Gong is not in school or busy with those activities, she listens to music, enjoys the outdoors and reads in the little free time she has.

College Bound

Well-rounded extracurriculars and rigorous classes have set Jarvis and Gong up for their futures. After graduation, Jarvis is off to the University of Maryland, where she will major in biology, and she hopes to begin pre-med. Gong will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and will major in mathematical economics.

Jarvis explained that becoming valedictorian and salutatorian brought her and Gong closer. They even went to senior week together.

"We had mutual (friends), but definitely got a little bit closer because we were with each other more. I just knew she was an amazing person," Jarvis said.

Gong shared advice for younger students.

"Just have an open mind," she said. "Try new things and try to talk to as many people as you can, because there's so many unique perspectives and points of view. Don't be afraid to reach out."



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From Severna Park to Millersville, students kicked off their last day of school in style this June as they welcomed summer break.



Brielle Murray wrapped up second grade on June 13.



Above: Eighth-grade graduates from St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School met for a breakfast hosted by class parents at Olde Severna Park beach on their last day of school. **Bottom Left:** Leah Haborak completed third grade at Shipley's Choice Elementary School. **Bottom Center:** Fourth- and first-graders Charlotte and Lucie McKenna posed on their last day of the academic year at Severna Park Elementary School. **Bottom Right:** Severna Park High School rising senior Dash Havens and rising sophomore Preslie Havens posed on the last day of classes.



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Keeping Rivers Safe For Swimmers

By Judy Tacyn

Lush Severna Park lawns this spring are due, in part, to the 96% higher than average precipitation for the month of May. February and April rainfall registered above average as well, and that was coming off a winter of higher snowfall than usual. That extra water might make yards and flowers thrive, but it also means higher than average runoff into local waterways, specifically the bacteria and chemicals swept up in the flow to the Magothy and Severn rivers.

That gunk gets deposited into waterways via runoff systems and can make river swimming unsafe. Add that temperature projections call for a warmer than usual summer, and there's a recipe for illnesses brewing right in our backyards.

Maryland has 3,190 miles of shoreline, and many organizations are constantly surveying the state's coasts and waters, checking on water quality for either swimability or to watch the water's health for sustaining aquatic life. Two local organizations are the Magothy River Association and Operation Clearwater, run by Anne Arundel Community College.

Sally Hornor, vice president of the Magothy River Association who also leads Operation Clearwater for 27 years, said, "We are certainly weather dependent. Last year was really a drought year, so we didn't have nearly as many problems with bacteria, but it is certainly true that rainfall is the single biggest predictor of



Photo courtesy of the Anne Arundel County Department of Health
Anne Arundel County Department of Health teams tested the bacterial levels in local waterways.



Photo courtesy of the Severn River Association
The Severn River Association also conducts water quality testing.

bacterial water quality in all of our tributaries."

Potential illnesses from fecal bacteria include stomach issues and nausea, flu-like symptoms, ear infections, and even loss of limb or death should the bacteria get into the bloodstream through any opening in the skin.

"Everybody thinks, and I used to think before looking into it and years of studying our water, that high bacteria levels in our water were due to failing septic systems and our problems were of human origin," Hornor added. "But I've come to understand that unsafe bacteria levels are due

to stormwater runoff rich in fecal waste washing into our waterways."

Anne Arundel Community College students from Operation Clearwater constantly test water quality for bacteria from mid-May through mid-August.

"We here in Anne Arundel County are truly water-oriented communities. Residents are shocked to see how high bacteria levels are after rainfall and they rightly want to know why," Hornor said. "We've been able to establish that the primary rea-

» **Continued on page 41**

Contrast-Enhanced Mammography

Laura Amodei
Bay Radiology



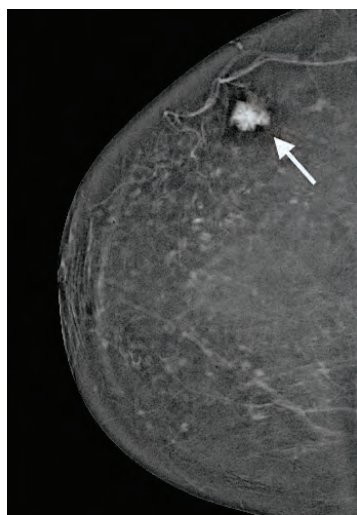
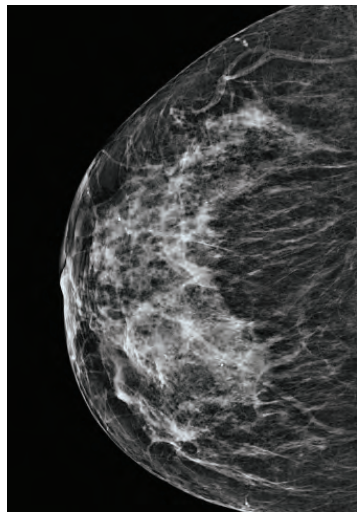
Contrast-enhanced mammography (CEM) is a new breast imaging technique that combines a traditional mammography with iodinated contrast dye (the same dye that is used for CT scans). The dye collects in abnormal blood vessels, making it possible to see breast cancers and other lesions that would otherwise not be visible on the mammogram.

Next to this column is an example: two images of the same breast, on the same day. A traditional mammogram is shown on top; the cancer is not visible. A "recombined" CEM image shown on the bottom; it is not limited by the dense tissue and highlights the cancer (arrow).

Who could benefit from a contrast-enhanced mammogram?

CEM is U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved as a diagnostic tool for further evaluation of possible or known breast abnormalities. However, centers such as Memorial Sloan Kettering and a recent paper in "The Lancet" have shown significant benefits in using CEM "off-label." Screening CEM can be considered

» **Continued from page 38**



Should You Stress About Stress?

Crystal
Osuchukwu
Luminis Health
Behavioral Health



Stress is a part of life, but its impact on your health may be more serious than you realize. While eliminating stress entirely isn't realistic, learning to manage it effectively can protect your

well-being — and in some cases, even save your life. It's important to understand how stress affects your body and what you can do to manage it.

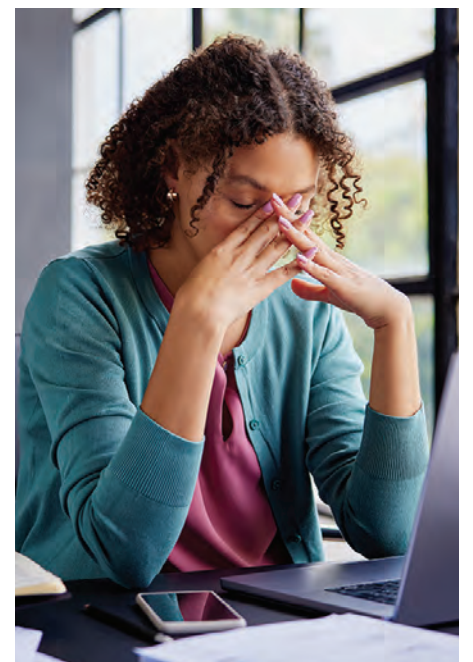
Your body can handle stress in short bursts. But chronic stress, or stress that continues over long periods, can take a toll on nearly every system in your body — mental, emotional and physical.

Heart Health

When you're stressed, your heart rate rises and your blood vessels constrict, temporarily raising your blood pressure. If stress becomes constant, it can keep your heart rate and blood pressure elevated, significantly increasing your risk of heart attack or stroke.

“

Your body can handle stress in short bursts. But chronic stress, or stress that continues over long periods, can take a toll on nearly every system in your body — mental, emotional and physical.



Digestive System

The gut and brain are in constant communication. Stress can interfere with this connection, leading to symptoms like bloating, pain and nausea. Over time, chronic stress can contribute to gastrointestinal conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

» **Continued from page 38**



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Should You Stress About Stress?

» Continued from page 38

Muscles and Joints

Stress causes your muscles to tighten. When this tension becomes chronic, it can lead to pain, especially in areas like the neck, shoulders and back. Long-term muscle tension is also a common cause of migraines and tension headaches. For people with musculoskeletal disorders, stress management can help ease discomfort.

Respiratory System

Stress can cause rapid or shallow breathing. While this usually isn't dangerous for healthy individuals, it can be problematic for people with conditions like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In fact, stress is a known trigger for asthma attacks.

Nervous System

Stress activates your body's "fight or flight" response, prompting your adrenal glands to release hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline. While this response helps in short-term emergencies, chronic stress keeps your body in a state of alert, which can wear it down over time.

Reproductive Health

In men, chronic stress can lower testosterone levels, reduce sex drive, and affect sperm production. For women, stress can lead to irregular or missed periods and may worsen symptoms of premenstrual syndrome (PMS). It can also impact fertility.

Healthy Ways to Manage Stress

Managing stress isn't always easy, but small changes can have a big impact. Try these strategies:

- **Get enough sleep.** Aim for seven to nine hours each night.
- **Connect with others.** Support from friends and family can reduce stress.
- **Eat a healthy diet.** Fuel your body with whole foods and stay hydrated.
- **Exercise regularly.** Physical activity releases feel-good endorphins.
- **Practice relaxation.** Meditation, yoga, music and journaling all help.
- **Talk to a professional.** A therapist can help you identify stressors and find healthy coping strategies.

Support Is Available

If stress is interfering with your life, reach out. A Luminis Health Behavioral Health provider can help you understand the root of your stress and guide you toward relief.

Crystal Osuchukwu, LCPC, is a licensed clinical professional counselor. To make an appointment, call 301-623-4352.

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Contrast-Enhanced Mammography

» Continued from page 38

for all women with dense breasts, especially if they:

- Have extremely dense breasts
- Have complex dense patterns (for example, many cysts)
- Should be having breast MRI but cannot or are not ("high risk")
- Are calculated to be at intermediate risk for breast cancer (using the Tyrer-Cuzick Risk Assessment Calculator)
- Are breast cancer survivors, especially if they were younger than 50 years old at the time of diagnosis

What is involved in having a CEM study?

Prior to the CEM exam, the patient will be screened to make sure she can safely have a CEM exam. On the day of the study, an IV will be placed (arm or hand) and a dose of iodinated CT contrast is administered. After a short delay, the positioning and compression of the breast are the same as for a standard digital mammogram. The images are typically read while the patient is still at the imaging center, providing immediate results.

How does CEM compare to whole breast ultrasound, breast MRI, and tomosynthesis (3D mammogram)?

CEM has been shown to find three to five times more breast cancers

than breast ultrasound. CEM detects nearly as many breast cancers as breast MRI, but CEM has fewer false positives (false alarms) than breast MRI, and most patients find CEM to be much more comfortable than breast MRI. CEM and tomosynthesis (3D) can be performed together at the same time; if an abnormality is identified, this "combo" exam can help with biopsy targeting.

What are the downsides of CEM?

CEM does add some radiation, but the amounts are still within the accepted safety range for mammography. There is a risk of an adverse reaction to the contrast (same as with a CT scan). And "off-label" screening CEM is not yet covered by insurance.

Who should not have CEM?

Women who are pregnant, have uncontrolled kidney disease, or are allergic to iodine-based contrast should not have CEM.

What happens if CEM shows a highlighted area?

If a possible abnormality is identified, about one-third of the time, a correlate can be found on ultrasound. If needed, CEM-guided biopsy can be performed.

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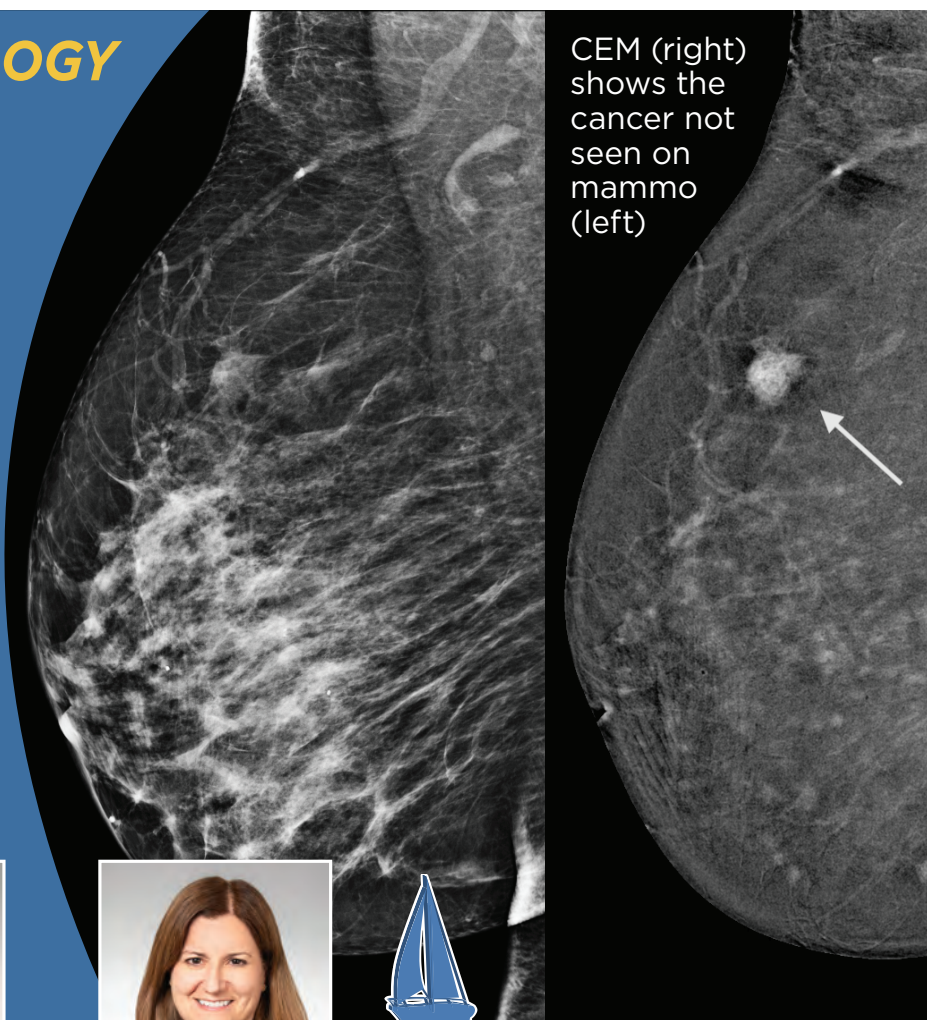
Nikki Tirada, MD
Trained at UNC, GW,
and Harvard



Michelle Kladakis, MD
Trained at Georgetown,
GW, and Harvard



CEM (right) shows the cancer not seen on mammo (left)



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Keeping Rivers Safe For Swimmers

» Continued from page 38

son is domestic pet waste and wildlife waste, and regular testing has been very impactful. People see mud going into our waterways, but they don't see the nutrients, the chemicals and bacteria. Years of testing shows how truly polluted our water can be."

Experts agree that residents need to remember they do not have to own waterfront property to be part of runoff issues. Stormwater runoff takes place everywhere. Storm drains quickly remove standing water in neighborhoods and swiftly direct it into our water. Any rainfall, even as little as an inch of rain, can be dangerous. Residents must pick up after their pets when out walking or even in their own backyards, on the water or far inland.

Jesse Iliff, executive director for the Severn River Association, added that converting lawns to different land uses filled with deep-rooted native plants and trees will also have a positive

impact on bacteria in local waters. "First, pick up after pets, absolutely, but avoiding fertilizing lawns is also critical," Iliff said. "Our lawns are only marginally better than an impervious surface, like our driveways, in terms of filtering bacteria and other contaminants from our water."

Don Curtian, director of environmental health with the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, said that Anne Arundel tests 13 community beaches along the Magothy and 23 along the Severn. Based on decades of data, the county is confident with a preemptive standing warning telling residents not to enter local rivers for at least 48 hours after rainfall.

The 48-hour threshold represents the lifespan of bacteria from fecal waste; however, open cuts can get infected for much longer.

"Immuno-compromised, the very young, the very old, and pregnant women need to be cautious about swimming in the river," Curtian said. "No one with an open cut should swim until it is healed, and everyone should take a very good shower with soap following a swim."

A Beach Swim Guide is accessible at www.aahealth.org

under the Environmental Health section's Recreational Water Quality link that provides real-time water quality reports.

"If we make a healthier river, our river will keep us healthier because our recreational contact with it will be less risky," Iliff added. "The seafood we eat from it will be healthier."

The Severn River Association aspires to have a thriving Severn River by 2050.

"We've got a good strategy in place for how to get there, and I do believe that it is possible," Iliff said. "When I think of a thriving Severn River, I think of a time when we don't have to have conversations about whether it's safe to swim or not. We don't hear headlines about a fisherman getting a small cut on his finger and losing his hand. And we see fishermen actually pulling in fish that are as big and healthy as the stories they tell later."

Residents living along the Magothy River can contact Tammy Domanski with Operation Clearwater and residents along the Severn River can contact Iliff to determine if their beach is currently being tested, or to volunteer. Testing is voluntary and must be requested.

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The Future Of AI Begins In History

By Judy Tacyn

Regardless of humans' individual understanding of, exposure to, or subsequent biases toward artificial intelligence (AI), the interactive tool is firmly embedded into global society with seemingly unlimited possibilities. One Millersville technologist is part of a movement to use the technology to preserve culture, community and history through storytelling.

In her new co-authored book, "AI for Community," Davar Ardalan explores practical strategies for applying AI through a local and partnership-driven lens.

"The book explores what it means to bring a community-first lens to AI, one that recognizes that the future of this technology is regional, shaped by cultural wisdom, and built through trusted partnerships on the ground," Ardalan wrote in a June 11 blog post written from the 2025 London AI Summit, where she moderated a session on the role of women in shaping AI innovation and soft-launched her book.

In 2018, Ardalan was part of a global team deployed to Fiji and Tonga in the South Pacific to better understand rising obesity rates due to

health issues stemming from fatty food use rather than diets based on native foods. Their concept was to develop a curriculum that would inspire young Fijians to learn about their ancestral history of fishing and living off the land. They launched a global competition for AI scientists, and the result was a comprehensive curriculum of lesson plans, story books and virtual reality experiences.

The results were immediate and impactful. Students immersed themselves in the virtual reality experience and met their ancestors, the guardians of nature.

"It was profound to see kids so enchanted and to learn about their ancestors, the keepers of the land," Ardalan said. "The kids encouraged parents to use local ingredients, make local dishes and be more sustainable with food."

Ardalan returned to the U.S. and began looking for Fijian recipes and spices using IBM's early AI tool, Chef Watson. Her search for South Pacific recipes was disappointing.

"The search came up with nothing."

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Davar Ardalan (left) attended the 2025 AI Summit in London in early June.

Chesapeake Baysox Summer Schedule Offers Curated Entertainment For All Ages



Photo courtesy of Joe Noyes

Chesapeake Baysox fans can enjoy America's pastime alongside a host of special events and activities this summer.

By Meredith Winter

The Chesapeake Baysox, a double-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles based in Bowie, began their 2025 season in April. Through the end of their season, which wraps up in mid-September, every home game played at Prince George's Stadium will have something unique to offer in addition to reveling in

America's pastime. Below are many of their upcoming curated activities for fans to enjoy.

FIREWORKS

Postgame firework shows are slated for almost every home game played on a Friday or Saturday through the end of the season. These explosive postgame shows are included in the

cost of tickets. On July 4, the Baysox will host a "Red, White and BOOM" celebration for Independence Day.

SUNDAY FAMILY FUN DAYS

These kid-centered home games are played on Sundays at 1:05pm and invite families to enjoy activities before and after the games, including a free kids' park from noon to 12:30pm,

collecting player autographs, and running the bases postgame.

Sunday, June 29: Children ages 3-12 are invited to a pregame autograph session on the field from 11:30am to noon. June 29 will also mark a pre-K graduation celebration and American Legion Day, during which veterans will be honored.

Sunday, July 6: The first Sunday in July, the Baysox will host Severna Park-Arnold Community Day to celebrate the central Anne Arundel communities and some of the local businesses based in the area.

Sunday, July 13: Local police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) workers will be celebrated during Heroes Day. Following the Baysox game, local police and fire will take the field in a "Guns and Hoses" softball game.

Sunday, August 3: A crab feast is slated for the first Sunday in August, which will also be Faith Day at Prince George's Stadium. The Baysox anticipate a postgame concert hosted by a local church band.

Sunday, August 17: Taking a break from their "street" to visit the Baysox, a loveable red monster will make a mystery character appearance as the team celebrates Daycare Day.

Sunday, August 24: A highlight of the last Sunday Family Fun Day in August will be a meet the team autograph and photo session with players on the concourse from 11:30am to noon, prior to the game. The Baysox will also celebrate Jewish Heritage Day, including a Dean Kremer T-shirt

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Maryland Hall To Host Summer Concert Series, BloomHaven



The concert series debuts on July 13 with a soulful performance by jazz singer Dominique Bianco, joined by guitarist Tommy Holladay.

BloomHaven, a summer outdoor concert series, is set to debut at Maryland Hall on Sunday, July 13. Maryland Hall's front lawn will be transformed into a festive venue, complete with lawn games, local food and drinks, kids' activities, live music and more.

Four shows will take place over the course of July and August. For those who enjoy jazz, a performance by jazz singer Dominique Bianco featuring Tommy Holladay will take place on Sunday, July 13, at 6:00pm, and Stephen Arnold & Sea Change will finish off the concert series with a jazz performance on Sunday, August 17, at 6:00pm.

Bluegrass fans can look forward to Dirty Grass Players blending improv and traditional bluegrass on Saturday, July 19, and to The Black-Eyed Suzies performing on Saturday, August 9, both at 6:30pm. The two bluegrass shows are sponsored by the Annapolis Baygrass Music Festival; tickets for that event will be available at BloomHaven at a 10% discount.

BloomHaven tickets are available as a bundle with all four shows for \$30 or can be purchased individually for \$10. Kids 12 and under can attend for free. To purchase tickets, visit www.marylandhall.org/bloomhaven.

Chesapeake Baysox Schedule

» Continued from page 42

giveaway for the first 750 fans. Kremer was the first Israeli drafted by an MLB team and is a starting pitcher for the Orioles.

Sunday, September 7: The Baysox will host a Birdland celebration to round out their season — one "last hurrah" to celebrate the future Oriole stars of today.

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHTS

Military appreciation nights take place during home games played on Tuesdays. During these special events, attendees can receive a \$10 box (100 level) or reserved (200 level) seat at the box office with proof of service. Upcoming dates include July 8, July 29, August 12, August 19 and September 2.

WOOF WEDNESDAYS

Baysox fans are invited to bring their canine best friends on Woof Wednesdays, coming up on the evenings of July 9, August 13, August 20 and September 3. All dogs must be leashed and show current tags before entering the stadium gates.

WEEKEND FUN

Baysox fans can also mark their calendars for several unique Friday and Saturday events throughout

the remainder of the season. Friday, July 11, will be **Mother/Son Night Out**, and **Daddy/Daughter Date Night** is slated for Friday, August 15.

The team's annual **Navy Night** will take place on Friday, August 1, when the United States Naval Academy class of 2029 will join the Baysox for a patriotic celebration. **Air Force Day** will follow on Saturday, August 23.

Kids and kids at heart can interact with dozens of construction, work and emergency vehicles before the game during **"Touch a Truck"** on Saturday, August 16, which will also be Country Hits Night. And on Saturday, September 6, the Baysox will host their third annual **Circus Night** featuring performances by aerialists, contortionists, hand balancers, stilt walkers and more before and during the game.

For more information about the Chesapeake Baysox game schedule, special events and promotions, and more, go to www.milb.com/chesapeake.



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Annapolis Symphony Orchestra Announces 64th Season

The Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has announced its 2025-2026 season, its 64th as Anne Arundel County's oldest and largest performing arts organization. The season's repertoire, curated by Artistic Director José-Luis Novo, will quench audiences' thirst for both classical and contemporary orchestral masterpieces — showcasing the virtuosity of the ASO's musicians while honoring the rich tapestry of human history.

POPS IN THE PARK

The ASO will host two free outdoor community concerts over Labor Day weekend: at Downs Park on August 29 at 11:30am and on August 30 at 5:30pm at Quiet Waters Park. These lively Pops in the Park concerts feature danceable pop tunes, patriotic favorites, and Broadway and movie music — perfect for all ages. The concert draws over 3,000 attendees annually. Concert-goers can bring lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and snacks, or enjoy food truck concessions. Alcohol is prohibited. Parking is free and easy, and there are plenty of convenient restroom facilities.



Photo courtesy of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra

A five-part Signature Series will feature guest artists (l-r) guitarist Pablo Sainz-Villegas, pianist Olga Kern, soprano Angel Blue and pianist Pascal Rogé.

FIVE-CONCERT SIGNATURE SERIES

Previously entitled "Masterworks Series," the ASO is renaming its popular subscription series the "Signature Series." While the name is new, audiences can continue to expect the same level of artistry and excellence that has defined the orchestra for 63 seasons.

A New World
October 10-11, 2025, at 7:30pm
Maryland Hall

This concert will feature Reinaldo Moya's "Polo Romanesco"; Arturo Márquez's guitar concerto, "Místico y Profano" with guest artist and guitarist Pablo Sainz-Villegas; and Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95, "From the New World."

Darkness to Light
November 7-8, 2025, at 7:30pm
Maryland Hall

This concert will showcase Jean Sibelius' "The Swan of Tuonela," Op. 22, No. 2 and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

Legends
January 30-31, 2026, at 7:30pm
Maryland Hall

February 1, 2026, at 3:00pm
Music Center at Strathmore

This first performance of the new year will feature Claude Debussy's "Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune" ("Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun"); Opera selections (to be announced) with guest artist and soprano Angel Blue; Richard Strauss' "Don Juan," Op. 20; and Aaron Copland's "Billy the Kid" suite.

Echoes of Heritage
February 27-28, 2026, at 7:30pm
Maryland Hall

March 1, 2026, at 3:00pm
Music Center at Strathmore

The fourth concert in the ASO's Signature Series will include "Janitzio" by Silvestre Revueltas; Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18 by Sergei Rachmaninoff with guest artist and pianist Olga Kern; and "Negro Folk Symphony" by William Dawson.

Rhythm to Revolution
April 10 & 11, 2026, at 7:30pm
Maryland Hall

Concluding the series, this concert will include "Antrópolis" by Gabriela Ortiz; Piano Concerto in G major by Maurice Ravel, with guest artist and pianist Pascal Rogé; and Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47 by Dmitri Shostakovich.

HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT

The ASO's popular Holiday Pops concert will be held at Maryland Hall on December 19 at 7:30pm and at Severna Park High School on December 20 at 3:00pm. The ASO looks forward to this annual tradition of sharing holiday favorites with guest artists.

For more information about the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra and its upcoming season of performances, go to www.annapolis-symphony.org.



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Toby's Takes Audiences Under The Sea With Disney's "The Little Mermaid"



Photo courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography

Portraying Sebastian, Elijah Henderson led the cast in an upbeat, Caribbean-inspired rendition of "Under the Sea."

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

You would have to be living under a rock, or inside a giant clam shell, to have never heard of Disney's "The Little Mermaid." With its catchy soundtrack and story about a mermaid chasing her dreams, the 1989 animated film put a new spin on the Hans Christian Andersen tale and captivated audiences. A live action version followed in 2023.

Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia is recreating that magic with a musical adaptation, onstage now through August 17.

A young mermaid named Ariel yearns to explore the world above her underwater kingdom. As she bobs her head above the surface and Prince Eric catches

her eye, she fantasizes about being human. But to embark on this journey of self-discovery, Ariel needs to barter with Ursula the sea witch. In exchange for two legs and a chance to be human, Ariel must surrender her voice and agree to a terrifying condition: she has three days to get the prince to kiss her, or she will lose her soul.

Under the direction and choreography of Mark Minnick, and the music direction of Ross Scott Rawlings, the Toby's show is designed for all ages and features music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken. Families will recognize "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl" and other memorable songs, but the musical has material not included in the animated film: "The World Above," "I

Want the Good Times Back" and "Daddy's Little Angel."

Toby's makes the magical kingdom come alive with its set design and costumes. Colored cloth sways back and forth to simulate ocean currents. King Triton's staff illuminates to show the mighty power he wields. Ursula's minion eels Flotsam and Jetsam skate around the "sea" to replicate their animated counterparts' slippery maneuvers.

With the help of the cast, the show is family friendly and fun. Abby Middleton is the ideal Ariel, a role she held in the 2018 Toby's production. With a pitch-perfect princess voice, she shows off Broadway chops on "Part of Your World," "The World Above" and other songs. She resembles Disney's Ariel —

selfless, free-spirited, hopeful and a bit rebellious.

Making his Toby's debut, Elijah Henderson masters Sebastian's Trinidadian accent and skillfully balances both parts of the crab's persona — the charming confidant and the nervous caretaker tasked with watching Ariel after she defies King Triton's wishes and lives among humans.

As Scuttle, Jeffrey Shankle delivers plenty of comedic relief. He mistakes a fork for a "dinglehopper," used by adults to brush their hair. To check Prince Eric's heartbeat, Scuttle places an ear on Eric's foot. Shankle also shines on the song "Positootivity."

David Bosley-Reynolds induces plenty of laughter as the frenetic, mustached French chef Louis, who tries to cook Sebastian.

Plenty of the jokes are meant especially for adults, such as the "squid pro quo" pun Ursula delivers when crafting a contract for Ariel to sign.

Lynn Sharp-Spears reprises her role as Ursula from the 2018 Toby's show. She is wicked but also shows just enough concern for Ariel to make a believable case to mislead the mermaid.

Rounding out the cast, Carter Crosby plays the honorable Prince Eric, Nicky Kaider is the loyal yet risk-averse Flounder, Adam Grabau exhibits a full-bodied voice and intimidating presence as King Triton, and as Flotsam and Jetsam, Shane Lowry and Joey Ellinghaus, respectively, rely on mischievous grins and a serpent-like cadence to accentuate their characters' devious tendencies.

Between the performers, the set design and costumes, and the talented orchestra, Toby's has all the necessary ingredients for an enchanting musical with "The Little Mermaid." The sea-themed adventure has performances until mid-August, including a sensory-friendly performance in partnership with the Autism Society of Maryland on July 13. Next at Toby's is "Saturday Night Fever," which runs from August 22 through November 2.

As Ursula insists, "Life's full of tough choices, isn't it?" This choice isn't so tough. Visit Toby's to sing along to memorable tunes and enjoy a moving theater experience.

The Future Of AI Begins In History

» Continued from page 42

ing; it didn't know what I was talking about," Ardalan said. "I thought to myself that it can't be in this age of automation that so many people are going to be left behind because the data training these systems, for the most part, are based on western and European history and culture."

A team of AI scientists, AI researchers, storytellers and community members came together to discuss culture and storytelling. They came up with the concept question, "Can AI be used to preserve tradition and culture?" The answer was absolutely, yes!

The team created an AI symposium and began sharing their concepts with the AI community around the world.

Today AI companies like NVIDIA are working with nations to establish sovereign AI that is assisting and educating nations to ensure the AI they create uses local data from their communities so that it is authentic

and the tools they create are relevant to them.

Ardalan said this work is just the beginning and it could preserve languages on the verge of extinction and underrepresented cultures. AI also includes preserving imagery (art, text, photographs, etc.), which provides valuable cultural context.

On a local level, as an example, Ardalan described the history of Anne Arundel County: fishing, art, and how residents live, work and play are all important data points that go into infrastructure decisions being made.

"We don't want to have future computers that have no history of our county and region making decisions that affect us," Ardalan said, explaining that AI tools efficiently and effectively put data at our fingertips.

The scientist created an AI for her husband, and an environmental engineer, that summarizes all the projects he's worked on around the world.

"When he's writing a proposal, he's transparent in saying that he's tapping into his own knowledge," Ardalan added. "The AI saves him hours and hours of research time and adds to his efficiency."

The technologist is also a prolific artist. On her living room wall hangs an artistic depiction of her family tree going back 1,000 years into her Iranian roots.

"What if our family ancestors' lives were captured in AI? What if I could tap on any one of these lines and learn about who these people were?" she said. "That's the power of AI."

She sees AI not just as code, but patterns, very much like how society goes through patterns. AI takes data and pieces together a cultural foundation that tells a story about people.

Her new book cover includes a photo of a family heirloom quilt from her husband's family. "Where did each piece of fabric come from? Who stitched each pattern?" Ardalan asked. "Quilts, like AI systems, are made up

of many parts stitched together with care, context and continuity. They tell stories. They hold memory. And they're meant to last."

From the AI summit in London, Ardalan wrote, "The future of AI isn't centralized. It's local. It's shaped by lived experience. It's built when we listen, really listen, to the knowledge already held in our communities. That's why the cover of my book is a quilt. Because quilts, like great AI systems, carry legacy. They connect generations. They're built to be handed down and built to hold."

Through her art, Ardalan creates layers of cultural context, a history, a story, beautifully intertwining the past with the present and the future. She's a member of the Annapolis Arts Alliance. She utilizes handcrafted acrylic, collage, mixed media and stencils. Her "AI Currents and Code 1776" series is currently on display at Gallery 57 West in Annapolis.

"AI for Community" was released on June 16.

"Ballerina" Doesn't Dance Around The Qualities That Make "John Wick" Series Special



Photo courtesy of Lionsgate

Ana de Armas provides depth to the world of "John Wick" while being rougher around the edges than Keanu Reeves' character.

By James Buxton

Film Critic

The "John Wick" franchise has always been an outlier in the blockbuster scene. Since its debut in 2014, it's remained consistently popular despite being a completely original idea, with no novels, comics, or pre-existing fanbase to rely on. It's a celebration of what cinema can be, combining stunning visuals with unparalleled stunt work, and has never once felt the need nor the inclination to lean back on returning characters or cheap cameos.

But this, as proven by the likes of Marvel and "Star Wars," is not a sustainable way of making money in Hollywood anymore.

Fortunately, "Ballerina," the fifth entry in the series and the first to not feature Keanu Reeves in the lead role, is still a good movie. If all you're looking for is the same high-octane carnage of the early Wick pics, you can rest assured that it delivers in spades, and any problems with it are unlikely to distract from a good time at the theater.

Ana de Armas plays a great central character, providing a great amount of depth to the world while still bringing a real spark to the performance. Her character, Eve, brought into the same organization as John Wick at a young age, is similar enough to what we've come to expect from the series, but she brings a new edge as a rookie to the world of assassination. She'll still turn a man into mist with a well-placed grenade, but unlike Reeves' consummate professional, she's a little rough around the edges, which makes for a compelling narrative.

However, beneath the gleam of another competent action thriller is the imposing presence of a well-established, uncompromising continuity. Across every previous "John Wick" movie, only four characters have returned, with each one existing almost as a standalone, sporting a largely fresh supporting cast every time.

"Ballerina" matches that number in just one film, relying heavily on appearances from Anjelica Huston, Ian

McShane, Lance Reddick and, rather prominently, Keanu Reeves, to provide a quick and easy solution to narrative gaps. It's certainly not as bad as the likes of "Star Wars," which seems to have built its entire modern success on reminding us of characters we like more, but for a film as strong as this with such a competent lead actor in de Armas, it feels unfair to draw the attention away during crucial moments.

Despite struggling to break away, "Ballerina" still manages to be pretty darn great. The production difficulties surrounding this film aren't all that secret; built from a combination of multiple scripts and split across two directors at least, it's a miracle it still feels like a single movie. What was clearly meant to be a rather tedious "John Wick" origin story is now a new revenge tale packed with innovative action set pieces and incredible stunts. The story is about as bare bones as you can expect for the franchise, but that's also never been a problem before, allowing much more time for gunplay and violence.

The great thing about the Wick movies is that, even when bogged down by awkward mythology or half a dozen secret organizations that all do basically the same thing (kill people in silly, spectacular ways), they're easy movies to enjoy. It's not Shakespeare, but it doesn't need to be. I could go on about choppy dialogue or how nothing makes sense if you think about it for more than a second, but this is a movie with no less than 20 kills via rocket-powered flamethrower. Praise Hamlet all you want, but you won't catch him doing that.

It's not the revolutionary picture that the first Wick was back in 2014, but if you're even a passing fan of the franchise, you won't be disappointed. It draws that same perfect balance of self-seriousness and camp, and it works as a fantastic companion piece to the series as a whole. Whether the filmmakers can continue this hot streak is anyone's guess, but as we are right now, the future of "John Wick" is in safe hands.



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Alternative Investments: Where They Can Fit Into Your Portfolio

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



I've always had a soft spot for gold. My grandpa, Frank LaBarge, was an avid collector of gold coins. His passion dates back to 1933, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt forced people to sell most of their gold back to the government. Grandpa Frank did his best to keep some of his gold collection, allowing him to transfer his passion to the next generation — me. He would give me coins when I was a kid, and it felt like getting pirate treasure.

In times of economic uncertainty, like we've seen earlier this year, people get fearful and search for stable alternatives to the stock market. Bonds used to be viewed as an equity hedge, but recent turmoil has even led to volatility in the bond market. That's led to a rise in popularity for investing in alternative investments like gold, real estate investment trusts (REITs) and residential real estate properties. But it's also important to understand the monetary value each can bring to your portfolio, and the risks associated with them.

Owning physical gold remains as exciting for me today as it was when I was a kid, but even if the novelty of owning gold is fun, it's also important to recognize its value in your portfolio. Gold is typically viewed as a hedge against the dollar, providing a stable investment when the stock market makes our heads spin. As some people tried to make sense of the stock market's sudden volatility in early 2025, gold's value jumped close to 40% and peaked at an all-time high of over \$3,500 per ounce earlier this year. Meanwhile, the S&P 500 has grown by

just over 10% over that same period.

However, more context shows that between 2012 and 2022, the price of gold increased by just \$150 per troy ounce. Even though gold has been stable, it's also historically been outperformed by the stock market.

REITs, which are real estate-owning companies you can invest in, are similarly seen as stable investments. While they have provided competitive returns and sometimes outpace the S&P 500, they've grown just over 5% in the past five years compared to the S&P 500's 15% during that time.

Residential real estate market prices have risen at a rate of about 5% annually over the last decade, but homes aren't as simple an investment as the stock market. They are complicated to purchase, require regular maintenance along with potential upgrades, and aren't always easy to sell quickly if you need to access their value.

That's not to say alternatives can't fit into your portfolio, but it's important to invest with a long-term growth strategy rather than chasing short-term gains. If you invest in alternatives, use what we know now about their price and historical growth and plan to stay invested over the long haul. Alternative investments may have their place in your portfolio as long as you have a clear purpose for them and plan to stay invested.

Near our office is an antique shop on Riggs Avenue. Occasionally, you'll see me rifling through the shop looking for treasures, trying to recapture the magical feeling Grandpa Frank gave me as a kid. I still enjoy hunting for gold, whether it's at an antique shop or buying a coin at the Annapolis Coin Exchange. But when it comes to understanding your portfolio strategy, it's important not to let fun cloud your investment decisions. Working with a trusted financial advisor can help you understand your portfolio

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Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



our directory at www.gspacc.com.

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www.velahaven.com

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Gotta Have HeART Studio

www.gottahaveheartstudio.com

Gotta Have HeART Studio offers inspiring art classes and creative programs for all ages right here in Severna Park. Whether you're a beginner exploring your artistic side, a seasoned artist looking to grow your skills, or simply want to enjoy a fun, creative activity with friends, this welcoming studio provides the perfect space to express yourself and let your imagination shine.

Joy In Learning Inc.

www.joyinlearningjes.com

Founded in 1984, Joy In Learning has been providing high-quality child care for over 40 years. Joy In Learning is under new ownership as of February 2025 but still maintains the same goals and objectives. At Joy In Learning, the team's role is to enhance and expand the parent's

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

relationship with the child through a program rich in tolerance, encouragement and acceptance.

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Primerica has been committed to helping families save and invest for their futures since 1977. Through PFS Investments Inc., Primerica's broker-dealer, the business shows people how they can achieve a better financial future by helping them learn the "How Money Works" concepts. With approximately 2.5 million client accounts, Primerica Advisors offers the best solutions aimed at helping families achieve their financial goals. With Primerica, no client is too big or too small.

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Cafe Deliciousness

www.truckofdeliciousness.com

Beginning with the Truck of Deliciousness in November 2014, the business now offers a carryout restaurant located at 2 Somerset Road in Pasadena. The menu varies daily based on what ingredients can be found locally and in season. Cafe Deliciousness offers catering, mobile bar services, breakfast, lunch, dinner and late-night munchies. Your taste buds are its business and deserve fresh, quality ingredients made to order, and you won't be disappointed!

We held six ribbon cuttings in June! Our first was in celebration of the growth and expansion of **Perilla Wellness** in Arnold. The business provides an array of healing services including acupuncture and massage.

The community came out in full force for the "soft opening" of **Always Ice Cream** in Severna Park. The line lasted all day into the night, and the owners and brothers Mark and Adam Cohen are overjoyed to be here.

Next, we celebrated the newly renovated **Center for Transformative Dentistry** in Annapolis. Owner Dr. Yasaman Roland is a holistic dentist who practices whole-body health in addition to traditional dental procedures.

We also celebrated the seven-year anniversary of **Divine Trinity Hair & Makeup Salon**, a full-service salon featuring treatments, extensions, braiding, makeup and more.

S&D Outdoor Solutions is under new ownership, and we were proud to recognize Matt Smith for his accomplishments. Matt is the genius behind the incredible lighting of the 75-foot tree

» Continued on page 51

MOM's Organic Market Opens In Severna Park

A new grocery store has opened its doors in Severna Park, offering health-conscious shoppers a new option for organic groceries.

Located in the Park Plaza shopping center space formerly occupied by fabric and crafts store JOANN, MOM's Organic Market celebrated its grand opening the weekend of June 20-22.

The 11,839-square-foot Severna Park grocery store is the chain's 27th location and 12th in Maryland.

MOM's Organic Market was founded in 1987 by Scott Nash, then 22 years old, who began the business as a home delivery service out of his mom's garage. The grocery chain now operates in six states and Washington, D.C.

A defining characteristic of MOM's is the company's commitment to stocking a high volume of organic products, including all of its produce, and enforcing progressive standards for products that do not have organic options.

The grocery chain takes pride both in what it does offer and what it does not. Based on MOM's clean ingredient standards, the store does not carry products that include certain artificial flavorings, artificial colors, artificial sweeteners, artificial preservatives, hydrogenated oils, and more. A complete list of more than 250 banned ingredients can be found on the MOM's website.

MOM's purpose is to "protect and restore the environment." To that end,

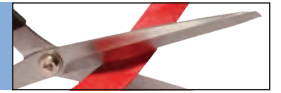
stores discontinued the use of plastic bags in 2005; removed plastic waste including bottled still water in 2010; provide free car charging at most locations; utilize solar and wind power to offset store energy usage; and offer recycling for items including denim, corks and cellphones.

Shoppers are also encouraged to bring their own containers for bulk items such as nut butters, pastas, rice, spices, herbs, coffees, teas and more.

MOM's also offers clothing, beauty and personal care items, vitamins and supplements that follow high standards for ingredients and sustainability.

The new Severna Park store is located at 562 Governor Ritchie Highway and is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00am to 9:00pm, and Sunday from 9:00am to 8:00pm. To learn more about MOM's Organic Market, go to www.momsorganicmarket.com.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Severna Park Welcomes Always Ice Cream Company

During the soft opening of Always Ice Cream Company's Severna Park location on June 13, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome the business to the community. The new scoop shop features a rotating list of flavors and is Always Ice Cream's seventh location. The new Always Ice Cream is open seven days a week and is located at 600 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Suite 100, in Severna Park. Learn more at www.alwaysicecreamcompany.com.



Growth, Expansion Of Perilla Wellness Celebrated With Ribbon Cutting



In mid-June, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in honor of Perilla Wellness' recent growth and expansion. Perilla Wellness is a heart-centered holistic wellness center that offers services from licensed practitioners of acupuncture, massage, therapy and energy work. Its newly renovated location can be found at 1481 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Arnold. Learn more at www.perillawellness.com.

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Alternative Investments

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Chamber Update

» Continued from page 49

by the chamber office. S&D provides an array of lawn care and decking services, holiday lights and more.

Finally, we celebrated as the **McCarl Dental Group** passed the baton to **Dr. Michelle Ayoroa-Perez**, who is overjoyed to be the new owner of this well-respected practice.

We combined our Successful Women in Business and Wellness Business groups for a wonderful gathering at **BluZone Hyperbaric Spa and IV Lounge** in Annapolis. The business is owned by registered nurse Heather Lamb, who worked for many years in a hospital burn unit. She saw the incredible healing that sessions in the hyperbaric chambers produced and decided to open her own business using the technology. She is

helping people with many issues in her popular and busy practice.

Many thanks to **Green Home Solutions** for sponsoring our TGIF cookout for June. Green Home provides natural, plant-based solutions for mold, odor and indoor air quality at a fraction of the cost.

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Independence Day parade this year 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 F. Scott Jay. We will also have our decorated bike contest at the chamber prior to the parade for our smallest community members to enjoy. Find details about the parade at www.gspacc.com

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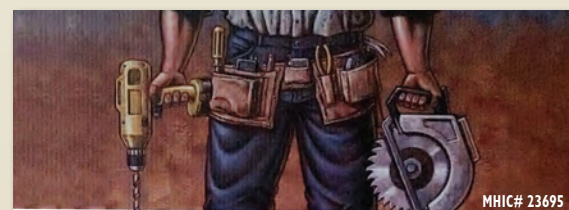
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