



Falcons Football Rebounds

» Page 18

"Saturday Night Fever" At Toby's

» Page 39



LOCAL
POSTAL
CUSTOMER

ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 546
Millersville, MD

FREE - Grab A Copy

SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

SEVERNA PARK, MD

OCTOBER 2025

Kinder Farm Park Fall Fun Day Will Be Rich With Seasonal Festivities

By Jaina Peveto

Each year in October, members of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park (FoKFP), park rangers and community volunteers hold a festival for thousands of visitors, celebrating autumn through a day filled with seasonal activities. Community members are invited to this year's Fall Fun Day at Kinder Farm Park from 10:00am-3:00pm on Saturday, October 11, for festivities including a pumpkin patch, straw maze, hayrides and more.

Though this year's Fall Fun Day has been scaled down from last year's event, there is still plenty for visitors to enjoy. A professional face painter will be at the event to provide more intricate face painting than in previous years. Local vendors will offer fall-themed crafts, including honey and pottery from one vendor, as well as farm- and Halloween-themed jewelry created from cans by a vendor who attends Severna Park High School. Two food trucks and a snack truck will have food available for purchase.

"I get excited about the whole thing. It's usually a lot of fun," said FoKFP President Barbara Buchleitner. "It's very family-oriented, so people of all ages can have a good time."

FoKFP is also hoping to use the day to raise awareness for its Shade Tree campaign, which is a fundraising mission dedicated to bringing shade trees onto the farm to help Kinder Farm's grazing animals find relief from humidity and heat. Park ranger Jessica Furr has created a "giving tree" for the fundraiser, where each

» Continued on page 8

Walk The Walk Foundation Celebrates 20 Years Of Community Impact



Photos courtesy of Erin Brooke Bogan

At the WTWF 20th anniversary celebration in September, (l-r) board member Scott Haulik, Founder Kim Mitchell, Executive Director Nicole Dolan, and Founder David Mitchell shared about the nonprofit's impact.



By Meredith Winter

What began in the late '90s with one family's desire to give back in the wake of personal loss has blossomed over the years into a robust nonprofit that has impacted tens of thousands and surpassed the 20-year mile marker of serving people in need.

The Walk the Walk Foundation became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2005, a few years after founders and longtime Severna Park residents David and Kim Mitchell began an organic movement of helping others.

"Walk The Walk got started out

of my desire to buy Christmas gifts for a child that would have been my son's age. I lost the baby right at the beginning of December in 1998," Kim shared. "I just got a longing every time Christmas came around — I would be reminded of the loss — and I started to want to buy for a child that would have been his age."

She contacted her aunt, a school principal in a low-income area, and got connected with a family who would benefit from Christmas gifts. The Mitchells told their friends about the family, and many of them asked if they could do

the same. That first year, they collectively provided gifts for 63 children.

After Christmas, new and used items started appearing at the Mitchells' home; people had assumed they were collecting things for people in need beyond the holidays. Kim shared that they developed a strategic plan, came up with a name, applied for nonprofit status, and the faith-based Walk the Walk Foundation (WTWF) was born.

In addition to Christmas for Children, WTWF soon established its other two signature programs:

» Continued on page 5

"Thankful Is Not The Word"

Severna Park Middle Student Saves Grandmother With CPR

By Jaina Peveto

On September 25, a life-saving team came together for a special reunion at the Anne Arundel County Fire Department headquarters in Millersville. Fire Communications Operator Victoria Gowland and members of the Engine 12 and Medic 5 crews gathered to meet someone who played a crucial role during an emergency one day this past August: 12-year-old Shipley's Choice resident Ethan Patty.

Ethan had been watching television in the basement around 2:00pm on August 16 when he heard a sudden thud from upstairs. He and his grandmother were the only people home at the time — his brother was lifeguarding, and his mother had flown to Florida to help

his father drive their dogs home from a family trip to Disney World.

When Ethan went upstairs to see what the noise had been, he discovered that his grandmother had fallen, her head on a basket. He tried to shake her awake, and when she was unresponsive, he called 911 on his Apple Watch.

On the other side of the line, Gowland told Ethan to see if his grandmother was breathing. Then she had him start doing chest compressions, which Ethan kept up for the entire 10 minutes it took for help to arrive.

"I was impressed," Gowland told Ethan when they met in person. "I hung up the phone and was like,

» Continued on page 10



Ethan was given a patch and a challenge coin during his visit to the fire department.

Photos by Jaina Peveto

Inside

Community.....	1
Religion.....	13
Politics & Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	18
School & Youth.....	28
Health & Fitness.....	34
Arts & Entertainment.....	39
Business.....	47

Scan Here
To Visit Our
Website





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
The Outdoor Living Experts!

After Navigating Breast Cancer, Francine Scott Is Devoted To Serving Women Facing Similar Diagnoses

By Meredith Winter

Following a routine mammogram that had been postponed for one year due to COVID, Arnold resident Francine Scott received a diagnosis in June 2021 that she did not see coming. Subsequent testing revealed she had stage 2B triple negative breast cancer, a very aggressive cancer with a high recurrence rate.

According to the National Cancer Institute, about one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

Scott began a chaotic journey of five months of chemotherapy, surgery, an immunotherapy drug, and relentless appointments. She described the experience as feeling like a tornado had ripped through her life and her family's life, including her husband and their daughter who began her freshman year of college this fall.

As Scott navigated this challenging season, she made a mental note to reach out to someone she had met at a mom's group in 2008. Fellow Arnold resident Kara Hamilton had been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011 and later returned to the mom's group as a guest speaker. Scott recalled that Hamilton was developing a ministry for women facing cancer diagnoses, called Pinked Perspective.

Hamilton ended up contacting Scott first after mutual friends let her know about Scott's diagnosis. In September 2021, Hamilton brought Scott a Pinked Perspective breast cancer kit — the signature outreach of the faith-based nonprofit.

These kits, or care packages, contain comfort items including button-down pajamas, a mastectomy pillow to keep one's arms away from an incision area following surgery, a flannel wrap to prevent irritation from surgical bras, a seatbelt pillow to protect chemo ports, a "Jesus Calling" daily devotional, a journal, soap and more.

Since 2012, Pinked Perspective has distributed more than 2,000 breast cancer kits to women in all 50 states, including 400 kits in the last year.

Knowing firsthand the impact of receiving one, Scott began sending kits to women she knew who had been diagnosed with breast cancer. "I became passionate about (Kara's) mission and what she's standing for, and how she's been able to serve the breast cancer community with

After receiving a breast cancer kit from Pinked Perspective during treatment, Francine Scott jumped in with both feet to devote her time and talents to serving other women facing the same diagnosis through the Arnold-based nonprofit.



Photos by Meredith Winter

Pinked Perspective has distributed more than 2,000 breast cancer kits since 2012. The kits include button-down pajamas, a mastectomy pillow, flannel wrap, seatbelt cover, daily devotional, journal, soap and more.

As the owner of a marketing consulting company, Scott couldn't stop there. She offered Hamilton her expertise, and she has refreshed and created new marketing materials for Pinked Perspective including informational cards, brochures and website revisions.

Scott has also been instrumental in Pinked Perspective's launch of empower hour workshops for breast cancer warriors that are held every other month.

As Breast Cancer Awareness Month approached this year, Scott helped Hamilton develop a full calendar of fundraising events and kit supply drop-off points throughout October. Pinked Perspective's annual fundraiser is slated for October 28 and will take place at Oscar's Alehouse in Pasadena.

Hamilton expressed appreciation for Scott's faithful volunteerism. "Although I would never wish for anyone to have to navigate a breast cancer diagnosis, I am not sure that Francine and I would have connected again in the same way without her journey of treatment for triple negative breast cancer. ... What a joy to see that she would want to use her experience to make a difference for others, and what an absolute gift to me and many others that she would choose involvement with Pinked Perspective to make an impact," she said.

To find a complete listing of Pinked Perspective October fundraisers, breast cancer kit supply items, and drop-off locations, go to www.pinkedperspective.org/events.

her ministry," Scott shared.

She added, "A cancer diagnosis is a very dark time for the person and their family and loved ones, and no one knows the future. So, to be able to offer just a little piece of hope and light in a kit (lets recipients know) that someone is thinking of you, is there to support you along the way, even if they're across the country."

In 2023, Scott wanted to support Pinked Perspective more formally. She combined her loves of fall and entertaining and hosted a fall brunch and kit assembly with friends.

Knowing that Hamilton lived nearby, Scott asked how else she could help. She got involved with personalizing the kits to prepare them for shipping — inscribing the devotionals with recipients' names, ensuring they include the correct size pajamas, and inserting a letter from Kara.



SEVERNA PARK
VOICE

Publishers

Dianna Lancione
Lonnie Lancione

V.P., Operations

Brian Lancione

V.P., Business Development

Jonathan Katz

Account Executive

Larry Sells

Editor

Zach Sparks

Assistant Editor

Meredith Winter

Editorial Assistant

Jaina Peveto

Sports Reporter

David Bashore

Reporters

Ashley Craig
Alyson Kay
Kevin Murnane
Judy Tacyn

Columnists

Heather Bagnall
James Buxton
Amanda Fiedler
Dawn Gile
Liz League
Dana Schallheim
Michele Sabean

Contributors

Laura Amodei
Joe Boccek
Marit Duffy
Jason LaBarge
Liz League
Stephen Mitchell

Photographer

Chris Fincham
Dennis McGinley

The Severna Park Voice
is published by

 THE VOICE MEDIA INC.

Family owned and
operated since 1981

Please send your news to:
spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com

P.O. Box 608
Severna Park, MD 21146

410-647-9400

SevernaParkVoice.com

The Severna Park Voice is partnered with **Evergreen Printing Company**, which examines all aspects of its operation to protect the environment and conserve resources. Evergreen Printing has installed 5,924 solar panels, uses soy- and vegetable-based inks and their process-free plates have no environmental impact and are 100% chemical free.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission of the publisher ©2025. The publisher is not responsible for any errors, omissions, etc. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Shop Local, Celebrate The Season At Shoptoberfest On October 11

Every year, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) hosts Shoptoberfest, inviting families to participate in a festival celebrating both local businesses and Halloween. This year's event will take place at Park Plaza on October 11 from 11:00am-3:00pm.

Entertainment will be provided throughout the day by the Priddy Music Academy, Bach to Rock, and dancers from The Edge Dance Complex who will

perform Michael Jackson's "Thriller." "Shoptoberfest) offers a platform to showcase local talent like our music schools and dancers," said GSPACC CEO Liz League.

The event begins with its sponsors presenting checks to their charities of choice. Close to 60 exhibitors from local businesses and nonprofits will have food, items for sale, games, and more available for people to peruse and purchase during the event.

Many vendors will lean into the Halloween theme by offering trick-or-treat games and candy. Kids should prepare to come dressed in their best costumes, because in addition to trick-or-treating, they can look forward to joining the costume contest, which will be held around 1:00pm.

The GSPACC is still accepting sponsorship and booth applications for Shoptoberfest. To learn more about the event, go to www.gspacc.com.

My specialty is Severna Park. Your advantage is my experience.

Why have so many Severna Park families trusted
David Orso to sell their home?

Every dollar matters when buying or selling real estate, and with David, you won't leave money on the table. His negotiation expertise—sharpened through elite training at Harvard University—gives you a distinct advantage, ensuring you get the best possible outcome.

Take the next step with confidence. Contact David for a confidential consultation
and turn your real estate goals into reality.



2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025



DAVID
ORSO

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES
PENFED REALTY

443.372.7171 –o • 443.691.0838 –m • 8 Evergreen Rd | Severna Park, MD

DAVIDORSO.COM

VOTED BEST OR RUNNER UP FOR 13 STRAIGHT YEARS



©2025 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC.
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service
marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

PROGRAM ON NEGOTIATION
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL





Investment Strategy
Comprehensive Financial Planning
Education Savings
Estate & Trust Planning
Insurance Planning
Retirement Planning
Tax Planning
ERISA Business Retirement Services

At Modera Wealth, we recognize that financial decisions are deeply personal—and should reflect what truly matters to you. When you partner with Modera, you're choosing more than just a wealth management team. You're selecting advisors who help simplify your life, prioritize your goals, identify blind spots, and help you navigate the complexities of financial, tax, and estate planning.

Modera was founded on the core principle of serving clients as fee-only fiduciary advisors. This steadfast commitment means **your best interests always come first**. Because what matters most deserves more than just financial advice.



Dan Ebinger ,CFP®, CFA®, CPWA®
Wealth Manager, Principal

Contact us today to learn
how we can help you
achieve your financial goals.



moderawealth.com



582 Bellerive Road, 4D
Annapolis, MD 21409
410-626-8198

409 Love Point Road
Stevensville, MD 21666
443-249-3337

Modera Wealth Management, LLC is an SEC-registered investment adviser, which does not imply any level of skill or training. For additional information, see the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). Investments are not suitable for everyone, and any information provided should not be considered a recommendation. Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (CFP Board) owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®, and CFP® (with plaque design) in the United States, which it authorizes use of by individuals who successfully complete CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements.



HOMETOWN HEROES

Arnold Native Serves With U.S. Navy Patrol Squadron

By Ashley Craig

Navy Office of Community Outreach

Lieutenant Samantha Stearns, a native of Arnold, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 26.

Stearns graduated from Severn School in 2016 and earned a bachelor's degree in quantitative economics from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2021.

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

"My hometown taught me to seek out new opportunities to step outside my comfort zone because that is where the most impactful growth happens," Stearns said. "Growing up so close to the Naval Academy taught me to dream big and chase what makes me passionate. It's helped me be comfortable in a multitude of environments; you kind of grow where you're planted. It's helped me make each new place my own."

Stearns joined the Navy four years ago. Today, she serves as a pilot.

"I come from a big military family," Stearns said. "My dad served for 43 years in the Navy. My grandfather and uncle also served in the Navy. My brother is in the Navy as well; he's also a P-8A pilot at a different squadron. I have a cousin who is a Navy helicopter pilot in Norfolk."



Growing up near Annapolis, I was surrounded by midshipmen, and I saw their passion for service and felt myself called to do the same."

Members of VP-26 fly and maintain the U.S. Navy's P-8A Poseidon multi-mission maritime aircraft. Designed to secure the U.S. Navy's future in long-range maritime patrol capability, the P-8A has transformed how the Navy's maritime patrol and reconnaissance force will train, op-

Photo courtesy of Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Hanchar

Stearns joined the Navy four years ago. Today, she serves as a pilot.

erate and deploy, according to Navy officials. P-8A aircraft deploy around the globe to monitor the world's oceans wherever they are needed.

"The hard work and dedication of our sailors have been the driving force behind our squadron's success, enabling us to remain mission-effective and ready at all times," said the VP-26 commanding officer, Commander Taylor Barros. "Their relentless commitment has shaped a forward-leaning team that consistently meets challenges head-on and excels in every operational environment."

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America's warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom.

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

Stearns has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"Earning my 'Wings of Gold' and becoming a pilot," she said, naming her achievements. "Two years of flight school, a lot of hard work and sleepless nights went into making my dream come true, as well as the relentless support of my family and friends. I'd always wanted to be a pilot; it was the moment it all came together. My dad pinned my wings on me. It was pretty special."

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

"Serving in the Navy means giving back to the nation that I am proud to call my home and being a part of something bigger than myself," she said. "Seeing the dedication of the sailors around me drives me to be a better version of myself every day. The Navy has given me some of my best friends and memories I will cherish forever."

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

"I want to thank my dad, Chris; my mom, Suzanne; my brother, William; and my boyfriend, Kyle, who have loved and supported me through deployments and flight school," Stearns said. "I would not be the person I am today without them."

LABARGE FINANCIAL Hometown Heroes is proudly sponsored by LaBarge Financial.

Walk The Walk Foundation Celebrates 20 Years Of Community Impact

» Continued from page 1

Backpacks for Kids and Diapers for Babies.

At the height of the Christmas program, the generous people who sponsored gifts for kids through WTWF were blessing roughly 2,000 children each year. Partnering churches were equipped to facilitate the program on their own, and WTWF now focuses solely on children in Anne Arundel County. Backpacks filled with school supplies and diaper donations go directly to county families as well.

In just the last five years, 6,604 county students have started their school years on the right foot with new backpacks stuffed with supplies. On Christmas mornings, 1,928 children have experienced the joy of opening gifts that would otherwise have been out of reach for their families. And WTWF has distributed over 1.4 million diapers to banks around the county, easing the financial burden of this critical supply for families in need.

Along with an army of volunteers, the Mitchells led WTWF for 15 years before handing the baton to Nicole Dolan to serve as executive director. During that decade and a half, they accumulated countless memories of families being blessed, and people young and old devoting themselves to volunteering.

Kim recounted one young boy's joy at Christmastime. "This little boy walks through (the gift pickup area) and he sees bikes, and he sees this really cool bike, and he is like, 'Mom, I know it's not for me and I know I can't have it, but if I could ever have a bike, I would want it to look just like this one,'" Kim



Backpacks for Kids is one of the signature programs hosted by WTWF. This year, through the generosity of the community, the nonprofit was able to provide more than 1,400 backpacks filled with supplies for Anne Arundel County schoolchildren.

recalled of one distribution day. "And the person that was taking them to get their gifts said, 'What's your name, son?' And he said, 'Michael.' And (the volunteer) turned the handlebar and there was the 'Merry Christmas Michael' sign. And the little boy just started crying."

As the Mitchells celebrated their younger kids' graduations and became grandparents, they began to search for someone with a heart to take over WTWF. Due to COVID, in 2020 they focused on the diaper program since kids were not returning to schools, and Christmas for Children was scaled back because people were not gathering in public. During that season, Nicole Dolan stepped up to learn the ropes of Diapers for Babies.

When David Mitchell was diagnosed with leuke-

mia in May 2021, he and Kim handed the WTWF reins to Dolan. During her tenure as executive director, she has focused on expanding the diaper program while continuing robust Christmas and backpack operations.

Dolan shared that she learned there was a gap between how many diapers families need versus how many they were receiving. WTWF committed to doubling the diapers it provides to distribution partners around the county, jumping from 20,000 a month to 40,000 a month.

In summer 2024, WTWF moved into a larger facility in Millersville, just in time to begin receiving significant donations from Huggies and financial grants from the county that have bolstered the nonprofit's operations.

Dolan's priorities now include growing the nonprofit's donor and volunteer rosters, and continuing to create structure for scalability.

"I know there's a huge need, and I know people want to help, so how can we help people? And how can we help people help people?" she shared.

On September 24, the Dolans, the Mitchells, the WTWF board and many volunteers and friends gathered for a 20th anniversary celebration. Stories of impact were shared, the Mitchells were honored, memories were recounted, and dreams for the future were revealed.

The nonprofit's next fundraising event is the Bay Bridge Run/Walk in November. For those interested in participating in the run or getting involved with WTWF, volunteer and donor opportunities are detailed at www.wtwf.org.

Old Stone House Plantation Dates Back To 1680s

By Kevin Murnane

Every day, hundreds of cars go by the “old stone house” next to Berrywood on Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard, with the drivers not knowing that this structure was originally built around 1745-1750. The land was originally sold to Richard Beard from Lord Baltimore in 1685.

Beard established a grist mill on Old Man Creek and used the grain he raised to produce flour, then transported it to Baltimore or Annapolis to sell.

In 1702, Beard sold his 700 acres to Thomas Robinson. Then, the land went to O’Neal Robinson, who built the original stone structure in 1745. Only 2% of the homes built in that era used sandstone, which is still prevalent around Berrywood today.

Elijah Robinson, O’Neal’s son, inherited the land in 1768. Elijah was a colonel in the Revolutionary War and was in the Maryland Militia, Severn Battalion.

Records show that the plantation was used to raise multiple crops in 1796, and a schooner and numerous canoes were used to transport goods to local ports.

“During that time period, the plantation thrived with multiple businesses,” said Steve Hittle, who is current owner of the house and land. “They had the tavern, the mill, and the plantation, which raised numerous crops, as well as an orchard. I assume that the major crop was tobacco, and they used Cattail Creek to ship their crops to either Baltimore or Annapolis.”

The tavern was in the basement of the house and had its own entrance. It had a large fireplace that was used for cooking as well as keeping the lower level warm for guests.

“When you traveled from Baltimore to Annapolis, you either stayed at the Rising Sun Tavern in Crownsville or took the ferry to Robinson Landing



Photos by Kevin Murnane

“Stone house” owner Steve Hittle stood by the original fireplace in the plantation’s tavern, used to heat the home’s lower level and cook for guests staying at the inn. Inset: Numerous graves of the Robinson and Tydings families are still on the property.

and stayed at the Robinson House,” Hittle said.

In 1837, the Robinson family sold 500 acres to John Tydings, which began four generations of Tydings living in that house. During that era, the plantation used slaves to maintain crops and orchards and tend to the large parcel of land.

“I have documents that show there were about 30 slaves on the property,” Hittle said. “I also have documents that the Tydings gave parcels of land to former slaves for their hard work on the plantation.”

In 1888, the Tydings also sold a piece of their property to Thomas Sye and several other men, who later constructed Asbury Town Neck Church.

The Tydings had four generations to occupy the plantation, but the last family member to be there, Laura Tydings Garcelon, sold the property to Wilson Evitt in 1955. Evitt stayed in the house until 1979, but during that time he sold parts of the land to developers who built Berrywood in the late 1960s and 1970s. The house had renters for several years until Evitt

sold the house to Hittle in 1991.

Hittle, who was a dentist in the Riviera Beach area, has always had an interest in history, and on a drive to Pasadena from Severna Park, he discovered the house was for sale. He has since renovated parts of the house, but the tavern still has the original layout.

He also invited a crew to do an archaeological excavation that uncovered bits of plates, hardware, glassware tools and other artifacts from past centuries.

“They found a 1780 Connecticut penny and a musket lock from the Civil War during the dig as well,” Hittle said.

History reveals the importance of Cattail Creek for this plantation as it was the main travel artery between Baltimore and Annapolis for selling and trading goods.

“There were really two sides of the creek in that period,” said Magothy River Association President Paul Spadaro. “There was the marshy part of the creek from where Berrywood’s softball field is to Ritchie Highway and then the other side is the main creek that leads to the Magothy River. The plantation was a great geographical spot to send their crops to the large ports.”

The original business of the plantation was a grist mill, but as time went on, other grist and lumber mills were created down Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard.

“By Lake Waterford, there were more grist mills as well as a large sawmill,” Spadaro said. “I’ve heard that the lumber processed in that sawmill was used to build the row homes in Baltimore.”

The plantation now sits on only one acre of land and the last parcel was used to build the Berrywood West community. The graveyard for many of the Robinsons’ and Tydings’ family members is still located there, another poignant reminder of how one part of Severna Park began nearly 340 years ago.



CYPRESS
RESTAURANT & BAR



Welcome to Cypress Restaurant

Where every dish is crafted to satisfy a variety of tastes—from fresh seafood to hearty classics, there’s something for everyone!

Monday - Kids Eat Free

Tuesday - Crab Night—Discounts on all Crab Dishes including a \$15 Crab Cake Sandwich and \$30 Double Crab Cake Entree

Wednesday - Half Price Bottles of Wine and \$18 Charcuterie Boards

Thursday - Buck a Shuck Oysters & \$8 Martinis

Friday - \$5 Drafts & \$12 Burgers
(choice of three different chef inspired burgers)

Saturday - Brunch—10am - 3pm

Sunday Brunch—10am - 3pm
Happy Hour—3pm - close

552 Ritchie Hwy, Suite L | Severna Park, MD 21146

443-906-2542

www.eatatcypress.com





SOLD

**993 Magothy Avenue
\$2,900,000**



SOLD

**963 Phillips Drive
\$2,450,000**



SOLD

**378 Forest Beach Road
\$2,350,000**



SOLD

**713 Cottage Drive
\$1,900,000**



SOLD

**755 Dividing Road
\$1,895,000**



SOLD

**420 Beach Road
\$1,710,000**



SOLD

**432 Maureen Lane
\$1,702,500**



SOLD

**1507 Circle Drive
Offered at \$875,000**



UNDER CONTRACT

**105 Water Street
Offered at \$3,150,000**

Representing the finest waterfront homes in Arnold and Severna Park

CALL THE BRAD KAPPEL TEAM TODAY
TO MAKE YOUR MOVE

Brad Kappel m 410.279.9476 | bkappel@ttrsir.com | BradKappel.com
Annapolis Brokerage 209 Main Street, Annapolis, MD | 410.280.5600



TTR | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Kinder Farm Park Fall Fun Day Will Be Rich With Seasonal Festivities



Families enjoyed exploring the pumpkin patch at Kinder Farm Park during last year's signature fall event.

» Continued from page 1

donation contributes a leaf to show off the funds raised.

The hayrides offered during Fall Fun Day will last about half an hour each and take visitors all throughout the park, giving them a chance to take in the sights. The farmhouse will also be open for the public to visit. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the farm animals, including chickens, goats, sheep, a few cows and more.

"The nice thing about our fall festival is that it is also an educational opportunity for the community to learn more about farming and about livestock and just about animal husbandry in general," Buchleitner said.

In addition to the work done by the park rangers and the organization's own members, FoKFP is looking for volunteers from the community to help run the event. Volunteers can sign up to work a single shift or the full day. Prior to the event, they will

be required to attend a 45-minute training and information session on either Tuesday, October 7, at 6:00pm, or Friday, October 10, at 4:00pm. For more information on how to volunteer at the event, go to www.kinderfarmpark.org/volunteer.html.

Class sessions on how to make a scarecrow will take place throughout the "fun day," which people can register for in advance, as spots are limited. The class cost is \$20. The scarecrows will be man-sized, and all materials are provided, but it's recommended that participants bring their own gardening gloves for stuffing their scarecrows.

Fall Fun Day will take place rain or shine. Park gate fees will be suspended, and no advance registration is necessary. Tickets will be available for purchase onsite for the straw maze, pumpkin patch, hayrides and face painting. Parking will be limited. Additional information and registration for scarecrow classes can be found at www.kinderfarmpark.org.

ASK ABOUT FALL SPECIALS!

THE SHERIDAN
AT SEVERNA PARK
a Senior Lifestyle community

Fall in Love

WITH THE SHERIDAN AT SEVERNA PARK

ALL MONTH LONG | BY APPOINTMENT

134 RITCHIE HWY. | PASADENA, MD 21122

Curious about life in our warm and friendly community? You're invited to join us for a private, personal tour. We'd love to show you around as you enjoy seasonal treats and snacks, meet our executive director and chat about what you're looking for in senior living.

Discover why we're the community of choice.

SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONAL TOUR TODAY. RSVP TO 667-220-6721

Assisted Living | Memory Care
WWW.SENIORLIFESTYLE.COM



Follow Us On **Pet Friendly**

Cornucopia Of Fall, Halloween Events Slated For October

Crisp air, changing foliage, and all things pumpkin spice have ushered in the fall season, bringing with them fun family events around town. This month, kids young and young at heart can enjoy fall festivals, trunk-or-treats, and other festivities in the greater Severna Park area to celebrate autumn and Halloween.

Himmel's Landscape And Garden Center Fall Festival

Weekends, October 11-12 and 18-19, 9:00am-4:00pm

4374 Mountain Road, Pasadena

There are four opportunities to enjoy the fall festivities at this annual celebration, which will include games, live music, a market, food trucks, seasonal décor, pumpkins, mums and more. Learn more under the events tab on the garden center's Facebook page.

Woods Church's Fall Costume Party And Parade

Friday, October 17, 4:30pm

Boone Station Hall, Severna Park Community Center

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church will host its third annual fall fun event for kids, beginning with games at 4:30pm followed by a parade to Sunrise Senior Living at 5:30pm. Costumes are encouraged but optional.

Accessible Trunk Or Treat With The County Sheriff's Office

Friday, October 17, 5:00pm-7:00pm

2009 Commerce Park Drive, Suite F, Annapolis

Join the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office for its third annual accessible trunk or treat event. Kids can enjoy collecting candy, free food, games and more throughout this evening of family friendly, spooky fun with local deputies. The event will include a prize for best costume, and new this year, a children's coat giveback drive. Learn more on the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

Trunk Or Treat At Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, October 18, 2:00pm-4:00pm

8249 Jumpers Hole Road, Millersville

Community members are invited to join the church for a fun afternoon of fall and Halloween festivities spanning a bounce house for kids to activities for families. Kids can wear their favorite costumes as they collect candy from decorated trunks. Hot dogs, drinks and other snacks will be available for a donation to Tabitha's Backpack, the church's ministry that provides meals to school children. Learn more under the events tab of the church's Facebook page.

American Legion Fall Festival & Yard Sale

Sunday, October 19, 9:00am-2:00pm

832 Manhattan Beach Road, Severna Park

Browse vendors, enjoy face painting, create fun crafts, savor baked goods and more at the American Legion Post 175's Fall Festival & Yard Sale. The event will include raffles and food and drink specials. All proceeds are for active-duty military members and the community. Those interested in hosting a yard



sale or vendor space can email gerrilynn311@gmail.com.

Naptown Philharmonic Orchestra's Halloween Spooktacular

Sunday, October 19, 3:00pm

Key Auditorium at St. John's College

The Naptown Philharmonic Orchestra will host a spooktacular performance with a music program featuring the "Peter Pan Suite," "The Devil's Dance," "Monster Mash" and more. Come dressed in your Halloween best, as there will be a costume contest for all ages with prizes. Find a full program and purchase tickets at www.naptownphil.org.

Halloween Spooktacular At The Community Center

Friday, October 24, 5:00pm-8:00pm

623 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Severna Park

The creative folks at the Severna Park Community Center want to see you at their annual Halloween Spooktacular presented by KMA Law Office. This family-friendly event will entertain young and old with children's activities, a dance performance, a spooky photo booth, crafts, games, popcorn, treats, food and beverage trucks, and more. And, of course, kids can look forward to collecting candy from decked-out cars during a trunk-or-treat! Learn more at www.spcommunitycenter.org/events.

Trunk Or Treat At Saints Baptist Church

Saturday, October 25, 10:00am to noon

160 Truck House Road, Severna Park

Join the congregation of Saints Baptist Church for its annual candy-palooza and enjoy games, apple cider, doughnuts and free books in addition to collecting sweet treats from creatively decorated cars. Trunk or Treat is free and held at the Severna Park Elks Lodge. Check the events tab on the Saints Church Facebook page for more information.

Trunk 'N Treat At Severna Park Baptist Church

Saturday, October 25, 5:00pm-7:00pm

506 Benfield Road, Severna Park

Kids in costume can collect sweet treats from festively decorated trunks at this family-friendly event. Prizes will be awarded for fun and creative

costumes, and door prize giveaways will be available for attendees who register in advance. Discover more at www.spbcmd.com/events.

Spooktacular Story Time (Broadneck)

Saturday, October 25, 11:00am to noon

Broadneck Library Community Meeting Room

Kids ages birth through 10 years old are invited to don festive costumes and gather at the Broadneck Library for a Halloween themed story time and party. Celebrate spooky season with silly stories, a costume parade, treats and other activities. Learn more at www.aacpl.net/events.

Hallow-STEAM

Wednesday, October 29, 6:00pm-6:45pm

Severna Park Library Community Meeting Room

What have the mad alchemists at the Severna Park Library cooked up for Halloween this year? Kids ages 6 to 10 can find out as they watch demonstrations of STEAM alchemy that can be repeated at home. Participants are encouraged to wear clothing or costumes that can get messy as they concoct potions under the watchful eyes of the event facilitators. Want to know more? Go to www.aacpl.net/events.

STEM Tinker Lab: Spooky Science

Thursday, October 30, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Broadneck Library Community Meeting Room

Young scientists ages 6 to 10 can join the team at the Broadneck Library for some open-ended, explorative fun – with a spooky twist! Kids can engage their creativity and ingenuity with eerie STEM-based activities that are equal parts creepy and cool. Find more information at www.aacpl.net/events.

Spooktacular Story Time (Severna Park)

Friday, October 31, 11:00am to noon

Severna Park Library Community Meeting Room

Costumed youngsters up to 5 years of age can spend part of their Halloween at the Severna Park Library for a not-so-scary story time filled with songs, activities and a traditional Halloween parade through the library. Learn more at www.aacpl.net/events.

USNA Halloween Concerts

Friday, October 31, 7:00pm and 10:00pm;

Saturday, November 1, 7:00pm

United States Naval Academy Chapel

A popular event year after year, the Naval Academy will again host its Halloween concert featuring music, light, drama and dance on the yard. This electrifying production spotlights Monte Maxwell, chapel organist, with the multifaceted talents of many midshipmen. With music spanning multiple genres, including "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor," this concert celebrates the triumph of good over evil and All Saints' Day. Learn about shuttle services and purchase tickets at navyperformances.showware.com.

Homestead Gardens Fall Festival

Saturdays and Sundays through October 26, 10:00am-4:00pm

743 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville

Meet barnyard animals, cruise around on hayrides, pick the perfect pumpkin, ride ponies, and navigate a straw maze at Homestead Gardens' annual Fall Festival in Davidsonville. Kids can play on inflatables and get their faces painted while adults enjoy live music, a beer garden, fall market, baked goods, food trucks and more. Tickets are only available in advance online and can be purchased at www.homesteadgardens.com.

Maryland Corn Maze

Through November 2; Dates And Times Vary

389 Gambrills Road, Gambrills

Test your navigation skills — or get lost — in the Land of Oz, this year's theme for the Maryland Corn Maze. Once you successfully find your way out of eight acres of challenging corn maze fun, you can also enjoy farmyard activities including hayrides, a petting zoo, a hay pyramid, and many other games and activities. Find a whole list and learn more at www.mdcornmaze.com.

Changing Lives One Bike At A Time

The unused bikes in your garage or basement can become valuable transportation for people in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and South Pacific through a simple donation to Bikes for the World.

On October 25 at Pedal Pushers in Severna Park, volunteers will collect used bicycles. This year's bike collection is in memory of Ann Jackson, Jack Koczela and Larry Pratt — active volunteers with Bikes for the World for many years. In 2005, Jackson partnered with Pedal Push-

ers owner Rod Reddish to hold the first bike collection in Severna Park, establishing a long-running collaboration. Those events have gathered 2,000 bikes from the Anne Arundel County community.

Bikes for the World makes affordable, good-quality used bicycles available to low-income people in developing countries. These bikes provide better transport for work, education and health care appointments. Bikes for the World is a registered nonprofit organi-

zation with headquarters and a warehouse in Rockville, Maryland.

Event Details

Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm

Location: 546 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard

Donations: Any repairable bikes. Scooters, adult tricycles, unicycles, trail-a-bikes and most spare parts and accessories. Children's tricycles, "razor" scooters, bicycle frames missing major parts or rusted bikes cannot be accepted. Bike donors are asked to give \$10 to cover shipping. Donation receipts will be provided.

SPMS Student Saves Grandmother With CPR



Left: Fire Communications Operator Victoria Gowland (right) showed her workspace in the dispatch center to Ethan and his mother, April Patty. **Above:** Firefighter Michael Klein showed Ethan the different apparatus that the fire department sends in emergencies.

» Continued from page 1

‘Wow, that was...’ I mean, it’s tough. We give those instructions every day, but it’s a hard situation to be in. Especially for someone saving.”

Ethan was sent outside so that he wouldn’t have to watch once help had arrived from the fire department and professionals had taken over helping his grandmother. One member of the crew stood outside with him and helped him call his mom to explain what happened.

“It was kind of comforting because they were so supportive of me,” Ethan said. “They were doing everything that they could to help me feel better about it.”

Ethan had dinner with a neighbor, and a friend of his mother picked up his brother and stayed with them for the night. His parents were in Georgia, and they drove straight through the rest of their trip, arriving home in the middle of the night.

Ethan’s mother and brother were both CPR certified due to lifeguard training, but he had never learned how to do it. His Boy Scouts training had only taught him to call 911. But his chest compressions kept his grandmother alive long enough for help to arrive. Four weeks after having the heart attack, Ethan’s grandmother is in rehab with an implanted defibrillator.

“Every doctor and nurse that has read it and has seen what he was able to do with (Gowland’s) help ... We know she would not have made it otherwise,” said Ethan’s mother, April Patty. “Thankful is not the word.”

Ethan, a Severna Park Middle School student, hopes to work in the musical theater industry someday. He plays for Liverpool Soccer, and he’s involved with the varsity choir and the dance team at school. Though his dreams for the future don’t involve any of the jobs people do at the fire department, he enjoyed learning more about the

behind-the-scenes operations when he went to meet everyone and say thank you.

“I was really excited about seeing how everything works. I’ve only seen a 911 office in the show ‘9-1-1,’” Ethan said.

Gowland presented him with a challenge coin, and he also received a fire department patch. After reuniting with Gowland and the crews of Engine 12 and Medic 5, Ethan joined Gowland for a trip to the dispatch center, where she showed him what she does, including how to keep track of which units have been dispatched. While there, Ethan explored the types of fire apparatus, getting to experience what it’s like inside as well as all of the tools and equipment that are used in different situations.

The reunion wasn’t just special for Ethan. “In the dispatch center, we don’t often get to have closure and meet the families,” Gowland said.

Let us help you create
your outdoor
Dream Space

Visit Our
Website for
Our Monthly
Specials

**FENCE & DECK
CONNECTION**
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Serving MD Since 1991 / MHIC #45780

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
CALL 410-757-5511
www.FenceAndDeckConnection.com

CHOOSE THE BEST

- Lifetime Structural Warranty
- Incredible Financing Offers
- Award Winning Customer Service

AWARD WINNING & HIGHLY ACCLAIMED

2010-2024 2014-2025 2012-2024 2015-2025 2015-2025 1995-2025 2016-2025

BUILDING LIFELONG CLIENTS THROUGH OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The Burden And The Blessing

Michele Sabean

Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



At SPAN, we witness the incredible power of people coming together to help their neighbors in need — and it is truly inspiring. When we share that our shelves are empty, the community responds! Together, we helped provide food for more than 720 families last year, an increase over previous years. SPAN also provided emergency financial assistance to over 800 households last year — families helped so that they would not be evicted or have their utilities turned off. Together, we are making a difference!

Even if you do not get to see it directly, we want you to know the smiles and relief that your generosity brings. As we put out boxes of food and load cars, we routinely hear lots of gratitude and often astonishment at the quantity of food. The relief is clear, whether from clients who were stretching food until the end of the month or from those who are working hard to prioritize bills between car payments, rent and utilities.

A consistent theme for many of our clients, both those who come for food and those who need financial help, is that they or other family members are struggling with serious health issues. We have clients who lost pay while in the hospital and others who have been injured and get behind on their bills as they wait for disability pay to be approved. Our clients are dealing with a lot of stress.

Daily, we see both the burden and the blessing. We see the stress — and we see you showing up to help.

We see the toddler carrying big boxes of cereal to our porch as they help their parents drop off food. We see retired community members and those who have gaps of time, between jobs or college, show up to help. We see teens finding ways to contribute: having food drives, creating inspirational cards and putting together birthday bags. We see kids helping through their churches, scout groups, schools or as a family. Recently, we have had a

couple sets of adult daughters and parents spending time together while volunteering.

Donations of money and food are always good ways to contribute. SPAN's most needed items include:

- **Proteins:** canned meats, fish and beans
- **Vegetables:** canned vegetables
- **Carbohydrates:** pasta, rice and instant potatoes
- **Sweets:** canned fruit, cookie mix, brownie mix, cake mixes and frosting
- **Cleaning & Hygiene:** laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, deodorant and toothpaste

In addition to donating, SPAN has a couple of events this fall that are great ways to contribute while having fun. Join us for the 13th Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot 5k Race and 1-Mile Fun Walk on Saturday, November 1. It is our main annual fundraiser and is held at Kinder Farm Park.

Also, this time of year, we are in full swing organizing one of SPAN's wonderful traditions — our Holiday Caring program. It is an initiative where community members and groups sign up to provide clients with holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children. Thanksgiving and Christmas are difficult for families who can't afford a large meal and gifts for their children. See below to learn how you can participate in the program.

There are many ways to show up for others. Simple acts of kindness remind our clients that they are not alone. At SPAN, we are lucky to witness this — to be the bridge between those who give and those who receive.

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

Holiday Caring Program

Last year, SPAN helped 200 families and about 500 kids through its Holiday Caring program.

Please consider becoming a sponsor. Look for sign-up information soon or email Maia Grabau at spanhelps@yahoo.com.

SPAN's Turkey Trot Set For November 1

Runners can mark their calendars for November 1 and get set to join SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) for its 13th annual Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot from 9:00am-noon. The event will feature a timed 5K starting at 9:00am, and a one-mile fun walk starting at 9:30am. Packet pickup will take place the morning of the race.

Ticket prices range from \$25-\$35 plus service fees. Online registration

is available until Monday, October 29, or until the race fills up. Same-day registration is available at the race with cash or check.

The Turkey Trot is SPAN's largest annual fundraiser. SPAN, based in Severna Park, assists neighbors in need with utility turn-offs, court-ordered evictions, prescriptions and medical needs, and food. To learn more about the Turkey Trot, go to www.spanhelps.org/events.

Stefanie Ashdown Memorial 5K Keeps "The Ripple" Going



Photos courtesy of Nana Sue Photography

In support of ovarian cancer patients and cancer awareness, adults and kids attended the ninth annual Stefanie Ashdown Memorial "Do Your Best" 5K and 1-mile walk at Anne Arundel Community College on September 14. Ashdown was a 1996 Severna Park High School graduate who lost her life to ovarian cancer in 2017. Ashdown's family members want to share the principles of Ashdown's life — be thankful, be helpful, be kind — and as they say, keep "the ripple" going.



Sunflowers For Sallie: Planting Seeds Of Kindness, One Basket At A Time

When the holiday season nears, families in Severna Park and throughout Anne Arundel County look forward to gathering around the table while sharing food, laughter and gratitude. However, for many neighbors, food insecurity makes maintaining that tradition difficult. Sunflowers for Sallie, a nonprofit organization that began humbly during the COVID-19 pandemic, has spent the past five years changing that reality by delivering what members call Baskets of Hope.

The mission of Sunflowers for Sallie is straightforward but impactful: to deliver baskets of nourishment to families in need while planting seeds of kindness that freely give love and inspire others. Each basket represents more than just food; it conveys a message of care, dignity and community. Since becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2021, the organization has operated without payroll or overhead costs, ensuring that every dollar donated is directly redirected to families. All monetary gifts are fully tax-deductible, and every donation makes a direct impact.

What began in 2020 as a small circle of friends assembling just 25 baskets has evolved into a remarkable community effort. This year, Sunflowers for Sallie has set its most ambitious goal yet: To gather and distribute 450 baskets filled with everything a family needs for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner,

along with extra food to provide additional meals. Rising grocery costs make this goal more urgent than ever, and the organization is inviting the community to rally behind its volunteers.

The baskets are carefully packed with turkey, stuffing, vegetables, pies, and more so families can enjoy a holiday meal and share the joy of preparing and eating together.

Over time, the organization has grown beyond its initial partnership with a local school counselor. Now, the network includes more than 10 schools, churches and senior communities, as well as neighbors who learned about the program through word of mouth. Each year, the circle of kindness expands.

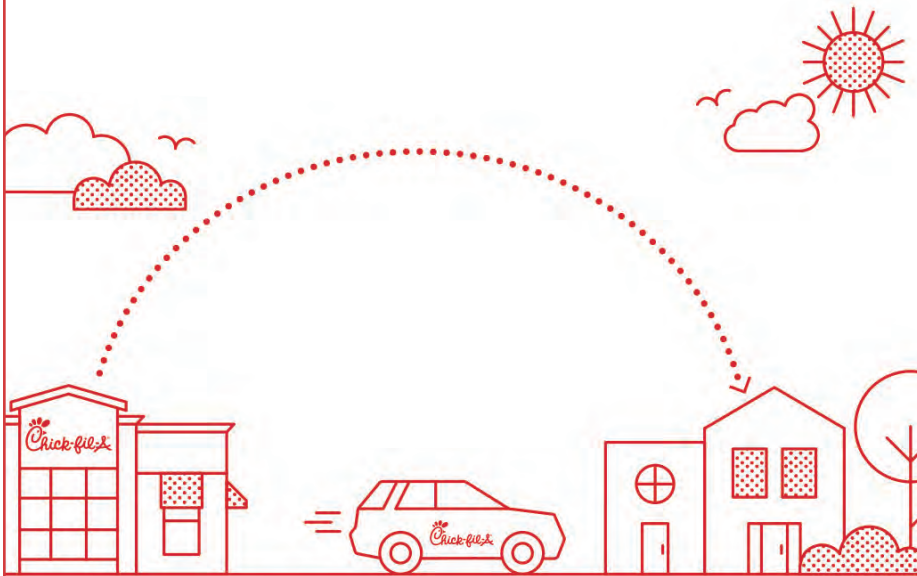
Baskets of Hope 2025

On Saturday, November 22, at 10:00am, Sunflowers for Sallie will host its fifth annual Baskets of Hope distribution at Ruth Parker Eason School in Millersville. Volunteers and supporters will come together to pack and deliver hundreds of baskets, making sure that local families can enjoy the holiday season with joy and plenty.

"Our hope is that what we do inspires others to do the same," Williams-El-lingwood shared. That spirit is reflected in the organization's tagline: Planting the seeds to help families in need. To learn more, donate or sign up to volunteer, visit www.sunflowersforsallie.org.

Your doorstep? Our pleasure.

Order delivery through
the Chick-fil-A® App.



Delivery available from 8 AM to 9 PM.
Now available at Chick-fil-A Severna Park.

©2020 CFA Properties, Inc.

Arundel Federal's **FALL FOOD DRIVE**
October 1st - 31st, 2025

Drop off location:
Arundel Federal's
Severna Park Branch
50 W. McKinsey Rd.
Severna Park, MD 21146

Food donations will
be distributed
through SPAN

Visit ArundelFederal.com for more info



**Advanced Hearing Healthcare
with a Personal Touch**



Who should get a Hearing Test?

Cardiac Patients • Diabetics • Cancer Survivors

Cardiac Patients - Inadequate blood flow from heart disease can contribute to hearing loss.

Diabetics - High blood glucose levels can damage the small blood vessels in your inner ear, diminishing the ability to hear.

Cancer Survivors - Damaged hair cells in your inner ear do not grow back, and can lead to hearing loss, ringing in the ear and dizziness.



Call to schedule your annual hearing evaluation today.

410-672-1244

479 Jumpers Hole Road, Suite 203A | Severna Park | www.HearSolutions.com

America's Watershed

Stephen Mitchell



One afternoon, I was picking up my children from school and while waiting for them to emerge from their school building, I noticed something that caught my

attention: a runner who happened to be running while carrying the American flag with pole in hand going up the street. What made this stick out even more to me was that I saw this runner carrying the flag on the Friday of a very heavy and difficult week for America.

I started getting teary-eyed as I thought about what was happening to our country, and my heart was filled with dread and apprehension at what could be ahead of us. It had been a week of vivid reminders of how broken, divided and unhinged our country and society have become. The Bible foretold that in the last days, the "love of many would grow cold" (Matthew 24:12) and the cascade of viral examples of how heartless our society has become — from ongoing mass shootings to the viral video of a Ukrainian refugee getting fatally stabbed for no reason, to the graphically horrible assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk — all demonstrate that we are tragically there.

The assassination of Charlie Kirk is the most graphically brutal act of political violence we have seen on camera since John F. Kennedy, and it went viral quickly. Yet, as tragic as it was to happen and as shocking to see, anyone who has been paying attention to the growing epidemic of political violence in America cannot be totally surprised we got here.

Sadly, we have seen numerous examples of political violence carried out by actors from the far left and the far right, and a growing acceptance in the polls with political violence from all sides. We have demonized those with whom we disagree; our politics have become so polarizing

that we see the other side as the mortal enemy. And once we get to the level of dehumanizing those with whom we have strong political and ideological disagreements, it creates a toxic culture where acts of political violence can not only happen but can even become mainstream.

Whether someone agreed with Charlie Kirk's views and faith or not, murdering someone who is engaged in the act of sharing and exchanging those views is an attack on American democracy itself.

In an age where we have the tools to be more interconnected than ever before in human history, ironically, we have been losing the art of dialogue. The algorithms that feed us information are designed to keep us coming back for more and are designed to keep us angry, surrounded by our own echo chambers. They have served to only further create large chasms in American society, making it much harder to truly share and listen to one another.

Social media has made it easy for us to shout instead of listen and to be entrenched entirely with our political and ideological tribes. We have lost the art of civility, of being able to have radically different views from one another, and to disagree on fundamental issues without hating one another.

In a passionate plea, the governor of Utah, Spencer Cox, recently said that our politics have become "rage" and that they can be changed only if we are willing to cultivate a culture where we can have "hard conversations."

"History will dictate if this is a turning point for our country, but every single one of us gets to choose right now if this is a turning point for us; we get to make decisions," Cox summarized.

For those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ and passionate about our faith and our beliefs, we have a decision to make. Are we going to be part of the solution or part of the problem? Will we live out the radical teachings of Jesus in a climate like the one we are living in now, or will we allow the toxic anger, polarization and hate that is permeating our

culture to rub off on us?

The call of a Christian is to be counter-cultural, and in the political environment of 2025, that means standing out and speaking up in a way that reflects Christ to a world that so desperately needs to see Jesus' people speak and act like Jesus' people. If ever in America there was a moment to truly shine the light and love of Christ and to share the truth of his message, it is now. The only hope for America and for the world is Jesus.

We can either join in on blaming those whose political and ideological views are different than ours for the escalating political violence in America, or we can seek to cultivate respectful dialogue as the Bible instructs us (2 Timothy 2:24). We can join in on demonizing those with whom we disagree, or treat them and see them as God does, image bearers for whom his son died.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and that means our Republican or Democrat neighbors, our conservative or liberal neighbors, our progressive or MAGA neighbors. The only way we can reverse the escalating political violence and turn down the temperature in our

nation is if we all do our part to be part of the solution and not add to the problem.

The only way we can avoid civil war is if we can continue to see one another as human beings, family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers and if we continue to choose to peacefully exchange our views and work together to preserve the republic that is not guaranteed for tomorrow unless we do our part to preserve it today.

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely, they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

— Abraham Lincoln

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

Community Day Blessed Crowds At Wayman Good Hope A.M.E. Church



The Rev. Joseph Brown and the members of Wayman Good Hope A.M.E. Church celebrated their third annual Community Day on September 20. Attendees enjoyed free food, school supplies, fellowship and fun. Activities for children included a bounce house, face painting, games and prizes. Walker's Life Memorial Center provided snowballs, cotton candy and popcorn, and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health was on hand to provide helpful information. Gently used clothing and household items were available for free. Wayman Good Hope A.M.E. Church looks forward to continued partnership with the community for future events, because members believe "community is another word for love."

Fuzzy, Feathered And Scaly Friends Alike Welcome At Church Pet Blessings

You don't need to bring your pets two by two for them to receive a blessing at one of three upcoming church blessings of the animals. During the first weekend of October, furry, feathered and scaly friends are invited to be blessed at these events.

On Saturday, October 4, **St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church** will hold a Blessing of the Animals at 4:30pm at Heck Hall. Pets must be leashed or in a carrier for the outdoor service, which will offer blessings for all of God's creatures. The event is rain or shine.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian

Church will host its annual Noah's Ark Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 5, at 1:00pm in front of the church. All pets are welcome and will be individually blessed by pastoral staff and receive a blessing certificate to take home. In the event of bad weather, the event will be moved indoors.

Later that afternoon, **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church** will also host a Blessing of the Animals at 2:00pm on October 5. The pet blessing will take place on Larsen Field, and event organizers ask that pet owners bring a bag to clean up after pets if necessary.

State Laws For Electric Bikes And Upcoming County Zoning Updates

Amanda Fiedler
Councilwoman
District 5



The Anne Arundel County Council returned to council chambers in September and kicked off the 2025-2026, 11-month legislative session. It will be a busy one, with proposed large-scale updates to the zoning code set to be introduced in November. More on that in a moment. First, I want to touch on a recent topic that has come to my attention as a concern for a growing number of residents.

Over the course of the summer months, and during the council's August recess, I received a larger than normal volume of emails and phone calls regarding electric bikes on roadways, sidewalks and trails. The use of electric bikes by people of all ages has increased exponentially in recent years. It is understandable that concerns over this evolving mode of transportation would end up in my inbox, as they are being ridden on county infrastructure, as well as state roadways. But the ability to address concerns rests mostly with the state, and I hope the following information helps explain why.

The definition of vehicles used for transportation is found in Title 11 of the Maryland transportation code. In this section of Maryland law, a "bicycle" is defined as the following:

1. A vehicle that is designed to be operated by human power; has two or three wheels, of which one is more than 14 inches in diameter; and has a drive mechanism other than by pedals directly attached to the drive wheel
2. An electric bicycle
3. A moped
4. An electric low-speed scooter

Maryland law goes on to further define an "electric bicycle" as:

1. Is designed to be operated by human power with the assistance of an electric motor
2. Is equipped with fully operable pedals
3. Has two or three wheels
4. Has a motor with a rating of 750 watts or less
5. Meets one of the requirements of subsection (b) of this section

Subsection B goes on to identify three classes of electric bikes that are classified by the need for pedal assistance (or not) in order to operate, and speed at which the bike cuts off

electric assistance, which is between 20-28 miles per hour.

The county looks to the state for definition of transportation vehicles and/or devices, including bicycles. Because current state laws define electric bikes as a type of bicycle, any county policy regarding the use of bicycles now includes the use of electric bikes. The county has not officially updated its policy with regard to electric bikes on places like county trails, but that change is likely to take place soon in order to align with the state definition. The posted speed limit on county trails is 15 miles per hour, regardless of the type of transportation being used.

The county does allow for bicycles to be used on county sidewalks, and with the state update to the bicycle definition, this would include electric bikes. Because sidewalks are the primary mode of transportation for pedestrians, pedestrians have the right of way on a sidewalk.

Maryland state law also controls the "rules of the road" for all modes of transportation, including those that utilize county roadways. It is my understanding that there is growing interest among state elected officials to re-examine this section of state law in the future, given the increased concerns of residents.

While transportation is one of the many sections of law that the state regulates, one major section of county code is set for a large-scale rewrite. Under the direction of the county executive, the Office of Planning and Zoning is expected to introduce an update to Article 18 by the end of 2025.

Article 18 is the zoning code, which regulates definitions, bulk regulations (how high, wide and close to property lines development of any kind can be), parking, signage, lighting, types of uses in commercial, residential and mixed-use areas, and many more provisions and prohibitions related to the use of land in our county. This is not an unusual update to the code. It is a much needed and necessary update. It is important that you are engaged, know about the proposed changes, and reach out to me for feedback and/or questions.

When the bill is introduced, I will review it with a fine-tooth comb. I will share the legislation through my twice monthly newsletter and welcome your feedback. You can sign up for the District 5 newsletter by email request, and you can reach me for any other constituent concerns at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your family on the Anne Arundel County Council.

Happy Fall!

Dana Schallheim
Board of Education
District 5



First, let's discuss the latest redistricting news. During the September 17 meeting of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, we moved four plans forward for public briefing and public

hearings. The first two are the superintendent's original recommendations without amendments. The second two are each of the superintendent's recommendations but with amendments. Each of the amended plans contains the same amendments.

All four plans will redistrict some residents within the Folger McKinsey Elementary catchment area to Severna Park Elementary as well as some residents within the Belvedere Elementary catchment area to Arnold Elementary. In total, 54 students are slated to move from Folger McKinsey Elementary to Severna Park Elementary and 88 students are slated to move from Belvedere Elementary to Arnold Elementary.

Since the meeting on September 17, I have heard from several concerned parents and guardians regarding the movement of students entering the fifth grade to another school, which will inevitably cause students to change schools two years in a row since everyone attends a new school in the sixth grade.

I want you to know that I hear you and I am currently considering bringing or supporting an amendment later in the redistricting process that would establish fifth-grade students impacted by redistricting as legacy students who may be allowed to attend their current school for their fifth-grade year.

Should an amendment like this pass, it would likely be conditional on available space in their current school as well as on a family's ability to self-transport their student. The board is also considering establishing a legacy clause for students entering 11th grade with similar conditions.

All amendments will be debated in public by the board in November in advance of a final vote on a redistricting plan that will be implemented beginning August 2026. Please refer to www.aacps.org/page/redistricting-process-phase-2 for the latest information including a broader description of the redistricting plans.

Secondly, the board recently voted on its operating budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2027, which will begin July 1, 2026. Ideas are solicited from each board member every fall and are discussed and approved during a board meeting. While board members may also advocate for additional items that are

» Continued on page 16

A Step Forward Against Step Therapy In Breast Cancer Care

Dawn Gile
Senator
District 33



So many of us have watched someone we love endure the battle against breast cancer. A dear friend of mine is going through treatment right now, and her journey is a daily reminder of the courage

it takes to fight this awful diagnosis and of how many families are touched by this disease each year. In the United States alone, more than 300,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2025. Behind each statistic is a person, a family, and a story.

Every October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month brings pink ribbons, fund-

raising walks, and survivor stories that remind us of the progress we've made but also of the work that lies ahead. Awareness is important, but action is essential.

Earlier this year, I sponsored Senate Bill 921 to make sure compassion — not bureaucracy — guides cancer care in Maryland. For too long, patients with advanced metastatic cancer were forced to endure insurance rules known as "step therapy" or "fail-first" protocols. These rules made patients try — and fail — on less effective treatments before insurers would cover the medication their doctor originally prescribed. While Maryland law had already banned step therapy for certain cancer drugs, it did not protect patients when it came to the medications needed to manage the painful symptoms and side effects of stage 4 cancer.

Senate Bill 921 closes that gap. Beginning in 2026, if a doctor prescribes a medication to ease nausea, control pain,

or manage the debilitating effects of late-stage cancer, insurers will no longer be able to stand in the way with red tape. Patients will be able to get the care they need without delay.

The most powerful voices in this fight were survivors and advocates like Rachel Joseph, a two-time breast cancer survivor with the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She testified with incredible grace and shared not only her own story but also that of her dear friend Diane, who passed away from metastatic breast cancer. Rachel told us it was a privilege to testify, but one Diane never had because she ran out of time. Diane's story drove home the truth that inspired this bill: No one should lose precious moments battling insurance bureaucracy when they are already fighting for their lives.

As we mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let's honor survivors, remember those we've lost, and recommit ourselves to policies that put compassion at the center of health care. And let's also take personal action. If you are due for a mammogram, please don't wait. It's one of the most powerful tools we have to detect breast cancer early and save lives.



BAYRISE
BUILDERS

410-561-6203
www.bayrisebuilders.com

MHIC #159017



DID YOU
ROCK THIS
HAIRSTYLE?

It Might Be Time
for a Hearing Check

Join us at our
How's Your Hearing?
Event **October 13-17**
Call 410.695.6246 to RSVP!



\$500 TRADE-UP ALLOWANCE

or new-user credit toward new hearing devices

All trade-ins are accepted regardless of where they were purchased. Good toward the purchase of an AGX5, 7, or 9 two-device hearing system.

Offer cannot be combined with any other promotional discount. Expires 10/31/25.



Severna Park
650 Ritchie Hwy
Ste 104

CHESAPEAKE
HEARING

With seven other convenient locations in Annapolis, Columbia, North Bethesda, Easton, Kent Island, Salisbury, and Ocean Pines

HelpYourHearing.com



Dr. Allison Holtz-Caspar
Au.D., CCC-A
Mariya Hutto, Hearing Aid
Dispenser, Co-Owner



Maryland State Board of Elections Creates High School Senior Voter Registration Contest

To increase youth participation in the democratic process, the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) is launching an annual statewide voter registration contest this year for Maryland high school seniors. At the end of the 2025-2026 school year, SBE will present an award to the high schools that achieve a voter registration rate of at least a 90% among eligible seniors.

Approximately one out of three 18-year-olds in Maryland is not registered to vote, according to a 2024 report from the Civics Center, and a national decline in youth driver's license registrations is reducing the reach of the automatic voter registration law with motor vehicles.

With an estimated 78,000 Marylanders turning the voting age of 18 annually,

SBE's contest seeks to boost high school seniors' participation in the democratic process as soon as they are eligible. In Maryland, 16-year-olds may register to vote and 17-year-olds may register and vote in the 2026 primary election, provided they will be 18 years old on or before the general election date of Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

"No high school sports team ever won without participation by every teammate, and democracy is no different," said Jared DeMarinis, state administrator of the State Board of Elections. "Young Marylanders can shape the future of their country and Maryland at the ballot box only if they register to vote. Our new contest will be a fun and engaging way to ensure that today's high school seniors

win at being empowered and strengthening democracy for decades to come."

High schools interested in participating in the competition may contact SBE at info.sbe@maryland.gov for more information. To learn how to register to vote, visit SBE's online application page or contact a local board of elections office.

SBE is announcing the contest on National Voter Registration Day, which was created in 2012 to serve as a nationwide nonpartisan rallying point to promote voter registration and help eligible voters across the country get #VoteReady to participate in America's shared democracy. More than 6 million citizens have registered to vote nationwide since as part of National Voter Registration Day efforts, including 820,000 in 2024.

Happy Fall!

» Continued from page 14

important to them, board-approved budget priorities are integrated into the superintendent's recommended budget during its development rather than amended in by board members later on in the budget process. Board-approved budget priorities include the following:

- Increase funding for special education programming and positions.
- Educator positions to lower class size.
- Improve compensation competitive with neighboring school districts for:
 - Food and nutrition service positions
 - Evening/summer school positions
- Increase funding for extracurricular programs.
- Increase funding for music instrument repair and replacement.

The recommended Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget will be presented to the board by the superintendent in mid-December. The board will hold budget hearings in January before voting on amendments and finalize a budget for the county executive's consideration in February.

If you have an opinion on any of the above, please make your voice heard! Emails can be sent to boardoffice@aacps.org for dissemination to each board member. As always, I can be reached at dschallheim@aacps.org, 443-534-2660, or on the socials.

Letter To The Editor: Random Act Of Kindness

There are people who have your back, who call you right on that day when your blues kick in, or who drop off some freshly baked bread on your doorstep. Well, there is one of those people here in Severna Park who has *all* of you in mind, and that is she who keeps the gardens going in front of the stores along B&A Boulevard and at Dawson's corner. She would be horrified if I mentioned her name, so let's just refer to her as MM.

She starts in early spring with weeding and mulching. Then she designs the flowers for the year, a combination of annuals and perennials, some of which now rebloom after her five or so years of working on this project. She solic-

its help from various store owners, many of whom water during the summer. She likes to keep local, so she buys plants from Diehl's Produce (which gives her a discount).

Dawson's provides a hose so that garden can get nourishment. The Carr Building, by the way, also has lovely foliage tended professionally. In the fall, MM cleans her plots up and readies for another year. So, if you drive by and see a tall woman early in the morning as she is pulling weeds or watering, toot a thank you to this neighbor who has a strong sense of goodwill and an eye for beauty.

Suzanne Ochs, Round Bay Resident



BULL & OYSTER ROAST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

1 pm to 6 pm

Earleigh Heights Fire Hall
161 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park



Food

Eye Round of Beef, Fresh Turkey Breast, Country Smoked Ham, Oysters on the Half Shell, Oyster Stew, Fried Padded Oysters, Homemade Maryland Crab Soup, Sausage with Peppers & Onions, Barbeque Chicken, Beef Barbeque, Macaroni & Cheese, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, String Beans, Pickled Beets, Garden Salad & Assorted Dressings, Fresh Fruit, Assorted Cheeses, Crackers, Seasonal Veggies & Dips, Bread, Rolls & Condiments, Coffee & Sheet Cake

Tickets: \$55 per person

For Tickets Contact:

Lisa M. (410) 353-2242
Kathleen G. (443) 336-2789
Bill Poteet (410) 428-9097

Email: aacoretff@gmail.com



Beer & Wine Included

SERVING THE GREATER SEVERNA PARK COMMUNITY FOR OVER 45 YEARS



CASSILLY & APPEL

CPAs & ADVISORS



Karl J. Appel, CPA



Patrick S. Cassilly, Jr. CPA



Debra L. Feather, EA



Virginie Bolton, CPA, EA

Our professional & knowledgeable staff understand your business.
Our team approach helps us to provide the attention & expertise
your business needs to succeed.

- BUSINESS ADVISORS
- FINANCIAL REVIEW
- TAX PLANNING
- TAX PREPARATION

Your business is part of the community. Your accountant should be too.

570 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park, Maryland 21146
410.647.7777 | CASSAPP.CPA

How H.R. 1 Affects You

Heather Bagnall

*Delegate
District 33C*



It was called the One Big Beautiful Bill, a name which belies the ugly truth contained within. I shall simply call it H.R. 1. Rammed through the chambers and signed into law July 4 to meet an arbitrary deadline imposed by the president, H.R. 1 contained numerous provisions that would directly affect residents of Anne Arundel County.

As chair of the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee, I spent most of the summer interim working to understand the state level implications of the various proposals before H.R. 1 passed into law. Contained within the bill's 330 pages are provisions that make permanent the 2017 tax cuts for individuals and businesses (primarily for the highest earners), provide temporary income tax deductions for qualified tips (up to \$25,000) and qualified overtime pay (up to \$12,500), temporarily raise the SALT (state and local tax) deduction cap, and retroactively end the Employee Retention Tax Credit.

The bill includes a provision to increase the federal government's

statutory debt limit by \$5 trillion and allocates an additional \$170.7 billion to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for immigration and border enforcement, creating the largest private law enforcement organization under the oversight of the White House in our nation's history.

H.R. 1 also terminates several energy-related tax incentives, such as tax credits for clean vehicles and clean electricity, which have directly impacted Maryland as we work to meet our green energy goals.

I will focus my attention on the impact on health care.

Unlike Medicare, which is a federal program, Medicaid is a state-run program that leverages state dollars to receive federal match dollars. Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) cover insurance for approximately 25% of Marylanders, nearly 50% of our children. That includes about 40% of births, one in three people with disabilities, and five out of eight nursing home residents.

H.R. 1 creates stricter requirements for state Medicaid financing and eligibility, imposes mandatory community engagement requirements, and alters how states can use provider taxes to fund the program. Though that may sound like accountability, the reality is that Medicaid is one of the most efficient programs in the country with an overhead of just 4% on average.

Anyone who has ever owned a business and tried to navigate overly

burdensome regulation understands that it is a time-consuming and costly endeavor. According to Kaiser Family Foundation, 72% of adult Medicaid beneficiaries are employed, and many of them are underemployed so they would be eligible under the new employment requirements, but by creating more hurdles for eligibility and requiring redetermination every six months, H.R. 1 creates an administrative burden that will cost participating states and result in nearly 230,000 Marylanders losing their health care coverage. In Anne Arundel County, that translates to approximately 9,279 people.

H.R. 1 ends the health care tax credits that have stabilized our insurance market and kept premiums down, the impact of which we are already seeing as our insurance regulators announced an average increase of 13.4% in individual insurance rates, the highest increase since 2017, when Maryland took multiple steps to stabilize the market and expand the

healthy pool of insured Marylanders.

Although we will see the increase in our health care costs immediately, the full impact of H.R. 1 will not be felt until 2026, following the mid-term elections.

However, one provision that will be felt immediately is the cuts to SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which will begin October 1. The projected impact for Anne Arundel County is 5,005 residents who will be disenrolled, but that doesn't just affect families and that isn't just children going hungry; it also impacts the bottom line of our businesses that accept SNAP. So how much money will we save with these draconian policies?

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected that the law will increase federal deficits by \$3.4 trillion over the next decade. I will continue to stand up for Marylanders, but we need everyone to speak up and call on Congress to restore our funding and protect our health care.

Got An Opinion? Share It With Us!

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

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

Join us

Sip wine. Shop local.

Support cancer care in Anne Arundel County.

The Wine Festival at Kurtz's Beach

Sat, Oct. 18 | Sun, Oct. 19

Noon - 5 pm

Kurtz's Beach
2070 Kurtz Avenue
Pasadena, Maryland 21122

Learn more and purchase a ticket today:
umbwmc.org/winefest

Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the
**Tate Cancer Center at UM Baltimore
Washington Medical Center.**

With your support, we will continue to offer innovative medical, surgical and therapeutic cancer care, and help more people make the transition to survivors, all closer to home.

That's a better state of care.

UM BALTIMORE
WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER



The Beat Continues For Severna Park Girls Soccer

Photos by David Bashore

Below: Ava Scott has stepped up into a leadership role this season for the Falcons. **Right:** Severna Park celebrated one of their four goals during a shutout win against Broadneck. The Falcons are undefeated to start the season as they have scored 24 goals and conceded just one through seven games.



By David Bashore

One should never become accustomed to success in sports. But for the Severna Park girls soccer team, it's starting to feel like a thing.

The two-time reigning 3A state champs have picked up right where they left off in November 2024, rolling to seven straight wins to start the 2025 season. And the name of the game is still defense: the Falcons have conceded just once in seven games.

They beat Severn School 3-0 to start the season, then stacked wins over Broadneck (4-0), Chesapeake (3-1),

Severn Run (4-0), South River (5-0), Northeast (2-0) and finally Crofton (3-0) to put a stranglehold on the county and region standings.

The win over Broadneck may have been the most complete game they've played all season. Two goals from **Ella Baxter**, a wondergoal and an assist from **Emma Lawrence**, and the fourth goal from **Molly Koistinen** lifted the Falcons to victory.

"I was just trying to make an impact and come in with some high intensity, be the first to every ball. Just breaking
» Continued on page 23



Falcons Vying For County, Region Supremacy

By David Bashore

Severna Park's boys soccer season is about halfway through, but there's already been one indelible memory forged.

Captain **Garrett Moden** lived the dream, then made it reality, when he took the ball in the last minute of overtime against Broadneck on September 9. With the game tied 1-1, he had been felled in the penalty area, and the referee pointed to the spot.

Moden put the ball down 12 yards from goal, waited for the whistle, then put it on frame and raced to the corner flag as the net rippled, giving the Falcons a 2-1 win over their rivals.

"I've been on this team for three years. At this point, you feel like you've got to be the leader, cool, calm, collected and put it away," Moden said. "I've played with these guys for a long time, even before high school. To be able to celebrate in the corner with the guys is special."

The win was one of five Severna Park has posted in their first seven games of the season. They also beat North East (of Cecil County) 6-0, Northeast (of Anne Arundel) 8-1, South River 4-0 and Severn Run 5-0.

Behind a stingy defense and the skill and movement of forwards **Stephen Bacho** and **Aiden Min**, the Falcons have a formidable combination of savvy, skill and steel.

That proved especially handy against Broadneck, as no fewer than eight players from both sides play for the same club team, and a further six play for



Severna Park's Garrett Moden (right) jostled with Broadneck's Erik Akhtar during action on September 9. Moden lifted the Falcons to a 2-1 victory over the Bruins, scoring the game-winner on a penalty kick in the waning moments.

Photo by David Bashore

other teams in the club. In that scenario, where players know each other so well, any edge is crucial.

"There's definitely a lot of chirping going on in that game. We're teammates in club, but here we're rivals, and you've got to turn it off and do business," Bacho said. "We have a lot of experience and a

lot of returners. I'll take our guys over anybody, and I feel like we have a great chance this season."

Everything is still in their hands, but the season hasn't been without its hiccups. The Falcons' lone loss was a 4-0 setback to Chesapeake, in which county player of the
» Continued on page 23

Offense, Defense Click As SPHS Football Moves To 2-2



Photo by Fincham Photography

Quarterback Blake Howell tucked the ball away for a carry against Severn Run. Howell led the Falcons offense to 39 points during the shutout victory over the Wolves.

After scoring a combined 27 points in their first two games of the season, losses to Boys' Latin and Northeast, Severna Park's football team found a spark with quarterback transfer **Blake Howell** at the helm. The Falcons scored 67 points over their next two games, a 28-27 victory over Crofton on September 19 and a 39-0 shutout over Severn Run on September 26.

Severna Park came alive in the win over Crofton. Howell engineered the offense with 170 yards passing and a touchdown to go along with 80 yards on the ground and a rushing score. **Cole Cavanaugh** hauled in three passes for 107 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, the Falcons did their part to preserve the win. **Kamari Brown** was all over the field as he made 13 tackles including a fourth-down sack to effectively end the game. **Lincoln Fox** added 10 tackles, and **Landon Williams** had nine. Brown and Williams were among seven players who recorded a tackle for loss against the Cardinals.

Other players made their mark in the win over Severn Run. **Noah Croghan** opened the scoring on defense with a safety. **Graham Guenther**, an excellent
» Continued on page 26



Cunningham Contracting Inc.

Roofing & General Contracting, Residential/Commercial
"Customer Satisfaction is #1"

Roofing | General Contracting | Residential-Commercial

Cunningham Contracting, Inc. specializes in Roofing, Exteriors, and Remodeling Contracting. We are fully licensed, insured and provide guarantees on all our work. We have over 25 years of experience and have serviced thousands of satisfied clients in the Maryland area.



Mark Cunningham
Owner



Visit our website or call today to request a free no obligation estimate.

www.cunninghamcontractinginc.com

\$500 OFF

COMPLETE SHINGLE
ROOF REPLACEMENT

(Min. 2,000 sf roof. Expires November 30, 2025)

NOW OFFERING
MULTIPLE
HOME
IMPROVEMENT
FINANCE
OPTIONS!



CALL TODAY
410-721-8757

Licensed & Insured
MHIC#87171



BHS Volleyball Looking Formidable Early On



Photo by David Bashore

The Bruin girls were all smiles as they outlasted Severna Park in five sets.

By David Bashore

When last we saw the Broadneck volleyball team, they were taking lessons from their state championship match appearance and taking stock for another run in 2025. Approaching the midway point of the 2025 season, things are starting to click.

When last we saw the Broadneck volleyball team, they were taking lessons from their state

The Bruins sit at 6-1, having won in different ways and having only been topped by Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland juggernaut Annapolis Area Christian School.

Broadneck has swept aside most of their opponents but faced a unique test against upstart Severna Run — in which they rallied from a steep third-set deficit to complete the sweep — and rallied from a set down to outlast rival Severna Park in five sets.

The rivalry tilt in particular, coming in just the Bruins' third game of the season, gave a great advertisement for local volleyball and a stern reminder that everyone is gunning for Broadneck.

"I feel like both teams were playing really well, and it was a good test," said Broadneck coach **Tracey Regalbuto**.

With the Falcons limiting standout outside hitter **Kennedy Smith**, it fell to the other known supporting cast, including outside hitter **Anna Graves** and setter **Sydney Lawrence**, to carry the load.

And they got some contributions from a quality freshman class that is only further bolstering Broadneck's depth and quality.

"We have way more hitters than just Kennedy. I thought (freshman) **Camryn**

Bedell played amazing, and she picked up especially in set five," Regalbuto said. "(I) thought our libero played amazing, and Sydney ... I thought they were fighting the whole time."

In addition to those two wins, Broadneck swept Crofton, St. John's, Meade and South River to put themselves in the driver's seat for another county championship appearance.

The loss to Annapolis Area Christian School, while it counts in the standings, served as a quality measuring stick for a team hoping to be at its best when the playoffs roll around.

To that end, they're tinkering with line-ups and formations, figuring out the best way to maximize talent and cohesion on the floor. That involves getting new talent involved and asking even three-year starters to sacrifice a little for the team.

"Sydney's playing middle this year in the front row, which she's never done before," Regalbuto said of her three-year starting setter. "We asked that of her, and she's done it with a smile on her face. It's difficult and it's exhausting, but she's working overtime and I'm proud of her."

Tests still await for Broadneck: a county championship rematch with Arundel on September 30, another trip to Musselman (West Virginia) in October, a season ending tandem against Howard and Reservoir, and then a potential tangle with Leonardtown in the region playoffs.

"It's so early in the season. We're still learning what we need to learn on. We're taking things in stride, and we just keep pushing forward," Regalbuto said. "It doesn't matter what good teams we play during the season; our focus is on the end of the season."

Bruins Promote Gogoll To Head Girls Lax Coach

Broadneck High School has hired **Caitlin Gogoll** to lead the girls lacrosse program beginning with the 2026 season, the school announced in a September 26 release.

Gogoll, an assistant for the last two

years, takes over the five-time reigning 4A state champions from longtime coach **Katy Kelley**, who stepped down in May after 25 seasons with the program.

The hire represents continuity within the program: Gogoll spent the last two

years as an assistant on Kelley's staff.

Gogoll played collegiate lacrosse at James Madison, where she helped the Dukes win successive Coastal Athletic Association championships and reach the national quarterfinals in 2010.

8

Years In A Row!

Severna Park's Best Fitness Center
and Best Weight Loss Program



You Belong Here.



PARK FITNESS

564 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park MD 21146
410-432-2113 | info@parkfitssp.com | parkfitssp.com



Your
**NEIGHBORHOOD
ELECTRICIAN**

443.396.3797

HaasAndSons.com

Falcons Volleyball Hopeful Of Turning Corner

By David Bashore

The last few years of Severna Park volleyball have been ones of growth, gaining experience, and taking some lumps.

After the first five matches of 2025, it feels like the Falcons are almost ready to start handing some of those out themselves.

Following a difficult opening run to the season, Severna Park has put together three straight impressive performances to sit at a deceptive 2-3. They were swept by Annapolis Area Christian School and lost in four sets to Severn Run to start the season, before battling to a thrilling five-set loss to Broadneck.

As Severna Park coach **Caitlin Mills** walked off the court that day, there was nothing but pride in the effort despite not quite getting across the finish line.

"The goal for us at this stage of the season is just to get better each game at three things, and that's all the focus is on," Mills said. "The fact we went to five with an incredible team that's really, really good ... props to them, but we did what we needed to do, and that was fun to see."

That incremental improvement looks to be paying dividends already. The Falcons breezed past both South River and Annapolis to get their first wins of the season.

Severna Park is leaning on a mix of the tried-and-true and

new, fresh talent. Outside hitter **Lizzie Ranaghan** remains one of the steadier hitters in the area, hovering around double figures in kills and nearing .200 in hitting percentage. She's been helped by freshman **Hannah McKinstry**, who has come on and chipped in nine kills against Annapolis.

Senior setter **Genevieve Willis** leads the team in hitting efficiency while also dishing out nearly 20 assists per match. **Stella Kidney** anchors the middle, and **Jennifer Hong** has held the libero position and steadied the defense.

Despite a relative lack of height, the Falcons are working their way toward creativity on offense and a system designed to suit their strengths. Keeping opposing teams off balance will go a long way to their long-term success.

With more tests coming, like Arundel on October 7, there are ample opportunities to show how far they've come.

"I knew we were going to start the season with really tough games, but I'm glad for it because our confidence is high after playing through that," Mills said.

Regardless of record and outcome, they have already garnered attention. In the words of one rival coach: "They're good ... should watch out for them in the playoffs."



Photo by David Bashore

Maggie Morgan attacked the ball during Severna Park's five-set match with Broadneck.

Severna Park Listings



807 Lilac Bush Lane



605 Pine Tree Drive



651 Whittier Parkway



601 Pine Tree Drive

Jody Buck

Key Group of
Cummings & Co. Realtors
www.KeyGroupMD.com



C: 410.804.9597
O: 410.823.0033
Jody@KeyGroupMD.com



SEVERNA PARK
KITCHEN & BATH

Located in Park Plaza 580C Ritchie Hwy • 410-777-9526 • spkitchenandbath.com




**Shop Local
Give A
Gift Card**



**SEÑOR
CHILE**
CAFÉ
MEXICAN FOOD

senorschile.com
410-431-3000
594 Benfield Road
Severna Park, MD 21146

**SEÑOR
CHILE**
CANTINA
MEXICAN FOOD

www.toasttab.com/senor-chile-cantina
410-421-1010
1264 Bay Dale Drive
Arnold, MD 21012

BHS Boys Looking Strong As Soccer Midseason Hits



Photo by David Bashore

Joe Brenner has backstopped the Bruins to four wins this season, posting 11 saves.

2-0 in the early going in something of a hangover from the rivalry loss.

"It really hit us because we fought our heart out in that game, and we just kind of came out with the wrong mentality against Chesapeake Science Point.

There were some emotions going on in that game, and it was deserved," said Broadneck senior midfielder **T.J. Remson**. "We should never come out with that mentality, and that game really helped show us that we needed to pick it up."

In hindsight, the Chesapeake Science Point start might have been just the thing the Bruins needed to kickstart their season.

Since then, Broadneck has conceded just four goals in five games, beating Meade and Glen Burnie by identical 5-0 scores, coming from behind to top St. Mary's 4-1, routing Annapolis 7-1, and topping South River 5-2.

"These guys are going to work hard, they're going to compete, and they aren't going to give in," said Broadneck coach **Sean Tettermer**. "... we've got an experienced group. They know how to battle and compete."

As is expected with a team so deep and as is customary with Broadneck's style and culture, the Bruins are getting contributions from all over the roster.

In total, 15 players have a goal contribution. Twelve players (plus one own-goal) have scored, led by **Braeden Kelly** with nine, Remson with six, **Erik**

Akhtar with five, and **Quinto Barrett** and **Wilson Banwell** with four. Ten players have assisted: Akhtar leads the team with Barrett at five, while Kelly and Remson each have four.

The defensive rotation, headlined by **Brady Miller, Lewis Tippin, Wyatt Shaw** and **Mason Kaline**, has helped keep the defense tight and made life easier for the goalkeepers. **Joe Brenner**, having made six starts, has posted 12 saves in goal, including six against Severna Park. **Dalton Bashore** has posted six saves in seven appearances (two starts), including three in the victory over Mount Hebron, while **Jonas Encarnacion** has logged five saves in as many appearances.

Broadneck currently sits third in a loaded region, despite having just one defeat. They have a tough test remaining in Chesapeake, which comes to Broadneck on October 9. That game is followed by

their regular-season finale at Crofton a week later. Then comes the region tussles, with Broadneck, Crofton, Bowie and Leonardtown all looking formidable in their own ways.

The unpredictability of county play has kept Broadneck on their toes all season, and it's forced them to take it game by game — an approach that keeps them honest and gives each opponent their due.

"We see those scores online and things, but we don't really feed into that very much because when you see how unpredictable these games are, you can't really think that any team is better than another," Remson said. "Teams are having good games and bad games, so you never really know what's going to happen when you come out against a team. We just go out with our opponent and with what we know about them, and we do what we can to try to get the win."

By David Bashore

A heart-wrenching defeat, followed by a flat 20 minutes in the next game, could have caused Broadneck's season to crater early. Instead, it served as a valuable fulcrum on an upswing toward greater things.

After an 2-1 overtime loss to Severna Park in the first week of the season, Broadneck's boys soccer team has reeled off six straight wins to position themselves nicely for the stretch run.

The Bruins opened the season with a 4-1 win over Mount Hebron in Bowie before the Severna Park tilt, then followed that up with a 7-3 win over Chesapeake Science Point in which they fell behind

Severna Park Girls Soccer

» Continued from page 18

the defense (down) and trying to find any gaps that we can find," Baxter said.

Lawrence got things started three minutes in with a 25-yard thunderbolt into the top-left corner that left her as surprised as anyone, and it was off to the races from there.

That Severna Park is good at soccer is no surprise. That they've built a juggernaut is a different matter altogether, especially given the names they have had to replace in successive seasons.

But now it is the supporting cast's turn to shine, and the names we've heard for years like **Emerson Scott, Ava Scott, Maria Bragg** take center stage.

"We have a lot of fast players up top, so

it gives us a chance to run in, and it helps when the ball is in the other team's third," Lawrence said. "We definitely miss our midfield (from last season), but the midfielders that came back have done a really good job stepping up."

As quickly as it started, it's already starting to end. By the time October comes around, the Falcons will have just three regular-season games left. Then a potential county championship game looms before the drive for a third successive title begins.

How much more room is there to improve? At the end of the season, it's more about fine margins than massive overhauls.

"We can always be better, and there are always things that you can tweak," said Severna Park coach **Rick Stimpson**. "But I think we're where we want to be at this point."

Falcons Vying For Supremacy

» Continued from page 18

year **Byron Klohr** netted all four of the Cougars' goals. There was a late concession against Crofton in the September 25 game, canceling out goals from **Bacho** and **Caden Morris**. That contest ended in a 2-2 draw, leaving both teams perched together atop their county division standings with nothing to separate them.

Charlie Samples, last year's starting keeper, left the Broadneck game with an injury after colliding with the frame of the goal while trying to keep the ball out.

Junior **Henry Bauer** has been between the sticks since then.

Regardless of who's in, who's out, or what the results are, the Falcons are relying on skill and togetherness to weather whatever storms they might face.

"We just get behind our guys, backing Henry, making sure he's ready to go and give him the confidence we have in him," Moden said. "We've got a lot of returners. Everyone here has a lot of varsity experience, and with the group of guys we have, we feel like we can beat anybody."

Girls Continue To Demonstrate Growth For Bruins Soccer



Photo by Dennis McGinley

Broadneck's Raegan Milnes (left) leads the Bruins in scoring with 12 goals.

By David Bashore

For the last couple of seasons, the Broadneck girls soccer program has been in the midst of a youth movement, one giant exercise in patience.

Now, the progression is starting to show, and with it some green shoots of success.

Broadneck sits 5-2 on the season, with impressive wins over Annapolis (3-0), Chesapeake Science Point (9-0), Meade (8-0), Glen Burnie (9-0) and Urbana (3-0). The two games they lost were against Severna Park (4-0) and South River (2-0), meaning all seven games have ended in a shutout.

"We're just trying to work on our communication, work on our shape, work on stepping up as a group, having the team move as a group," said Broadneck coach **John Camm**. "This is probably the hardest-working group we've had since pre-COVID, so they know what it's about. Get stuck in, win the little battles."

Winning the little things has led to a lot of success so far this season, and the contributions have come from all over.

Raegan Milnes has led the Bruins in scoring this season with 12, adding in two assists. **Lola Banks** is next on the

charts with four goals to go with four assists, while **Carmen Hubbard, Avery Katzen** and **Ashtyn Coates** have all netted three times.

Twelve Bruins in total have found the goal column through seven games, and a dozen also have contributed assists, led by **Hadley Crooks** with eight. Sixteen players have a goal contribution on the season.

The defense, meanwhile, has played its part as well, helping keeper **Cameron Terhune** keep five clean sheets.

This youthful group boasts only three seniors and plays 12 underclassmen in the rotation. Stacking up against Severna Park and South River, with Chesapeake and St. Mary's still left to play, will only serve to help the Bruins as they go forward down the stretch in hopes of outlasting Crofton and Leonardtown to gain the region's championship and lone state quarterfinal bid.

"We might take some lumps now, but hopefully in November it will pay off," Camm said. "We're really optimistic about where the team is heading. They're going to win a lot of games over the next couple of years."

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

ALEXA JOHNSON

Broadneck High School
Cross Country

By David Bashore

Alexa Johnson is not simply one of 31 runners on Broadneck's girls cross country team.

It's not that she doesn't contribute — she's a team captain and figures to score for the Bruins at meets more often than not — but the Broadneck junior isn't defined by her performance on the running circuit.

The 2025 season marks Johnson's second year running cross country. She entered her high school career as a soccer player, and she played for the Bruins' JV team in 2023 before making the switch to running last year.

It turned out to be something she truly enjoyed, even if it took a major adjustment to perform a sport that is most other sports' punishment: running.

By the end of last season, though, Johnson knew she was capable of big things.

"I felt it was like being consistent with my training and trying to push times harder than I thought was possible," she said. "I just stayed positive with myself and told myself that it's only my mind stopping me, and I could do more than that. Once I realized that, I could start going faster."

Johnson has a 4.22 weighted GPA, 3.9 unweighted, and has taken several AP classes. But she goes well beyond the academic rigor and has established herself as a leader in the class of 2027: she is a member of the Broadneck Athletic Leadership Council, a member of



the National Honor Society (NHS), and one of two vice presidents for Broadneck's junior class.

"I really like to be involved and speak for my community. Recruiting for cross country (for example), we have the largest group of freshmen that we've had in a really long time, and a few of

Alexa Johnson is in her second year running cross country. She has established herself as a leader in the class of 2027: she is a member of the Broadneck Athletic Leadership Council, a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), and one of two vice presidents for Broadneck's junior class.

us went to the middle schools and advocated for cross country," Johnson said. "I like representing my school community, and if there's something to be vocal or advocating for it, I always like to be available for that."

Between three AP classes, student government, athletics and leadership, NHS, clubs, and community involvement, there isn't much that Johnson doesn't have her fingers on in the pulse of Broadneck High School.

It's that feeling of involvement that allows her to feel connected to her school, her community, and the people in both of those circles.

Whether running at school or in free time, life-guarding, serving at school or in the community, or simply trying something or going somewhere new, Johnson views everything as an opportunity.

"I love making friends through different activities," said Johnson, who hopes to attend college someplace "warmer" and major in marketing and advertising, a discipline befitting someone so connected. "I've made friends in cross country, track, my classes, and everything else. Getting to know new people and learning more things that I don't think I would have come across in life is really exciting to me."

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

#MOVEUPWITHMATTWYBLE

NEXTSTEP
REALTY



Realtor®
MATT WYBLE

410.562.2325
410.571.5248



The Voice's Student-Athlete of the Month is proudly sponsored by **Matt Wyble of Next Step Realty**.

Contact **Zach Sparks** at zach@severnaparkvoice.com to nominate a local student making a positive impact through sports.

HOA Board members

— need legal advice?

- How to run a meeting
- When to amend your documents
- Enforcing against violations
- Collecting unpaid fees
- Anything else HOA related

Call your local HOA
attorney today!

Find out more at www.FLSlawyer.com

Follow us on Facebook

Community Association questions
answered at www.FLSlawyer.com/blog/

485 Ritchie Highway, #203-D
Severna Park, Maryland 21146

443-906-0117

bfellner@flslawyer.com

www.FLSlawyer.com



Service. Success. Simple

Docksiders Gymnastics

Session II

November 3rd thru January 17th

Don't Delay...

Sign Up Today!

Registration starts October 20th

Don't miss out on a fun-filled, upside-down
adventure no child should miss.

EXCELLENCE BY CHOICE!

410-987-8780 • 216 NAJOLAS RD, MILLERSVILLE, MD 21108

Broadneck Facing Rare Challenge To Start Football Season



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Left: Broadneck sophomore Gabe Denius rushed for 161 yards and three touchdowns during the Bruins' 49-48 defeat against Arundel. **Center:** Aaron Foote celebrated scoring one of his two touchdowns on the night. **Right:** Receiver Aidan Tupper racked up 99 receiving yards and a touchdown in the loss to the Wildcats.

By David Bashore

As memorable as the run of the last four seasons was, when the Broadneck football team made the state semifinals or better in each campaign, the start to 2025 has been, in similar measure, befuddling.

After playing as tough a season-opening slate as one could find — a 21-6 loss at St. Mary's, a 36-13 setback to perennial power Milford Mill, and a 49-48 heartbreaker against last year's 3A champ Arundel — the Bruins found themselves 0-3 for the first time in recent memory.

The way they got there was equally mystifying: against St. Mary's, the Bruins led 6-0 in the second half, but the Saints took charge in the final period.

Against Arundel, it was death by a thousand papercuts: two blocked extra points; two touchdowns called back by penalty, one of which saw a player run on the field for the PAT before the scoring play began; a 96-yard touchdown run given up; a kickoff return touchdown conceded; a dozen penalties, two of which were for personal

fouls, and two more for illegal participation; two players losing their helmets, one of which put quarterback **Nate Kropkowski** out of the game for a critical fourth down, and the other of which drew a penalty when the player continued to assist in tackling the Arundel runner.

"We're just not good enough to make mistakes," Broadneck coach **Rob Harris** said. "Give up a kick return, get a touchdown called back, miss extra points ... what are you going to do?"

Though the Wildcats' **Naseem Tention** rushed for 274 yards and four touchdowns, it still felt like the Bruins let one get away that was in their control.

"Just little stuff. End of the day, the buck stops with the head coach, and I've got to get them better prepared," Harris said.

Replacing the entire core of the last two years was always going to be a challenge. Though the start to the season was rough, Broadneck has some bright spots, particularly on offense.

Against Arundel, Kropkowski passed for 213 yards and three touchdowns. Sophomore running back **Gabe Denius** burst onto the scene with a 161-yard, three-touchdown performance out of the backfield. The back to whom Denius has played understudy, **Aaron Foote**, went over 100 yards from scrimmage and scored twice. **Aidan Tupper** nearly eclipsed 100 yards receiving and had a touchdown catch.

"I think our guys are trying to find a way to win. That's our goal and we've got to keep working," Harris said. "I've got a good group of kids, and they'll work really hard on it."

Broadneck rebounded with a 35-7 win over Annapolis on September 26. Kropkowski tossed three touchdown passes, and **Alijah Hawkins** punctuated a stout defensive effort with a pick-six. The Bruins hope to keep that momentum going with upcoming contests at home against Glen Burnie (October 3) and at North County (October 10).

JBs

★ bar & grill

YOUR GAME DAY

DESTINATION

GAMEDAY FEATURES!

40+ TELEVISIONS!

566 Governor Ritchie Hwy

Severna Park, MD 21146

www.jbs-sp.com

Bruins Field Hockey Team Is Finding Their Stride

By David Bashore

As the season approached, the chief question for Broadneck's field hockey team mirrored that of the other prominent school teams in the area: now what?

Virtually all of the prominent programs in Anne Arundel County graduated a decorated class of 2025 that represented a multi-year core of success. Now, though, the understudies have been given their chance to shine.

For the Bruins, it's not been perfect, but the signs of future success are there.

Broadneck nears the midway point of the season with a 3-3-1 mark. The Bruins had a couple of rough games with a 6-0 setback against Glenelg and a 4-3 defeat by Liberty, but they picked off Patuxent 7-1 and Southern 6-0 before playing their most complete game of the season thus far in handling Crofton 5-1.

Though the two teams are vastly different from the last couple of seasons, there was some satisfaction in the Bruins getting one over on a Cardinals team that had won three of the last four meetings and pipped them to the last two state championships.

"We really had no expectations because we had no idea," said Broadneck coach **Shannon Hanratty**. "I knew how young and fresh and changed over our players were, and I knew numbers had left (elsewhere). We've been trying to work on process and making progress. We've been making progress every game and it's been great. These kids have been so eager to learn, and I'm proud of how well we've connected and played together as a team."

Charlotte Robertson and **Cate Imber** each netted early for the Bruins against Crofton. The duo is helping to spearhead an attack light on experience but still healthy in firepower. Once Broadneck got the lead, the Bruins defense took



Photo by David Bashore

Alyssa Lewis, a team captain and senior midfielder, drove the ball downfield against Crofton.

over, anchored by returning starter **Laurie O'Leary** and goalie **Trish Maloney**, who made key saves to backstop the defense and keep Crofton at bay.

The contributions, instead of being headlined by a handful of big-time players, are now more spread across the roster. That goes from back to front, for players who have been patiently waiting their turn to shine.

"Trish has been waiting for her time, and she's really been working hard and preparing herself for it," Hanratty said. "She's been playing nice and aggressive, and growing in confidence each game."

"We have three sophomores and a freshman in the starting lineup, and we only return two starters and one of those is a sophomore," Hanratty said. "This is such a good changeover

that it doesn't matter what grade you are: if you're on the field, you're on the team, and your grade doesn't matter. Go do what you're supposed to do for your team. It's about experience, confidence, and showing the way."

Broadneck tied Severn School 2-2, following that up with a 2-1 loss to South River.

As they head into the back half of the season, the Bruins are confident that things will be where they need to be when the playoffs roll around in late October.

"We've had to be focusing so much on building us, and we have plenty of room to grow. But the progress is being made," Hanratty said. "Whether it's in small increments of bigger steps, it doesn't really matter, as long as progress is being made."

"Game to game, I wonder how things are going to go, but we just worry about the things we need to do. We're still perfecting what we're doing. We're not at our peak yet, but this simplifies our focus. Where are we on our own path? And that's the enjoyable part, painting the big picture."

New-Look Falcons Field Hockey Flying High



Photo by David Bashore

Severna Park's Emerson Clarke has anchored a defense that has conceded just two goals against in-state opposition.

By David Bashore

In 2024, Severna Park won their record-extending 26th state field hockey championship.

Then they graduated 13 seniors. But the 2025 clutch of Falcons is proving the cupboard was far from bare.

Through seven games, the Falcons are an impressive 5-2, with the losses coming narrowly against quality Pennsylvania opponents at a national tournament in mid-September.

Against Maryland opponents, though, they're undefeated and sitting pretty in both the county and the 4A East I region standings.

Severna Park's wins came courtesy of a 7-0 season-opening rout of River Hill, a pair of 1-0 wins over Chesapeake and Crofton, a 4-2 victory over South River, and a 6-0 victory against Annapolis. The losses came at the Max Field Hockey National Invitational, where

they fell 2-0 to Oley Valley and 4-3 to Gwynedd Mercy, both of Pennsylvania. During that tournament, sophomore defender **Leela Vernugopal** was given an honorable mention in the all-tournament honors list.

The team's contributions have come from all over the roster: **Izzy Scarfo** netted twice in the win over South River. **Sophia Weber** scored the game's only goal to beat Chesapeake. **Addy Hill** had a hat trick in the win over River Hill. Hill and **Katelyn Wiseman** both scored twice against Annapolis. Weber, **Grace Redmond** and others had multiple goal involvements in different games.

The Falcons' young roster is growing quickly, and they'll need to continue to do just that. A date with Broadneck looms on October 7, and with a win they would effectively cement a spot in the county championship.

SPHS Football Moves To 2-1

Photos by Fincham Photography



» Continued from page 18
gunner on special teams, scored the first offensive touchdown of the game. **Jackson Anders**, Williams

and **Charlie Cavanaugh** all notched interceptions, with Charlie Cavanaugh taking the ball away for the second straight game.

Severna Park will try to extend their winning streak against Meade on October 3, Old Mill on October 10 and Arundel on October 17.



Photos by Fincham Photography

Left: The Falcons blocked a field goal against Crofton, which proved to be crucial in the 28-27 victory. **Center:** Cole Cavanaugh fell into the end zone for a touchdown against the Cardinals. He had three catches for 107 yards in Severna Park's 28-27 win. **Right:** Kamari Brown sacked Crofton's quarterback on fourth down to seal the win.

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!



Got News?

Send Us Your Tips!

When you have big news to share, send it to the Voice.

Call us at

410-647-9400

or email us at

spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com

SEVERNA PARK VOICE
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

P.O. Box 608, Severna Park, MD 21146 • 410-647-9400
spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com • www.severnaparkvoice.com
facebook.com/severnaparkvoice @SPVoice



Fall Gym Classes & Preschool Now En"ROLL"ing!

- Gym Classes
Ages: 6 months - 8 years old
- Open Play
Ages: Walking - 8 year old
- Best Birthday Parties
- Safe, Nurturing Environment

**Call now to schedule
a free trial class!**
(410) 544-9002 Severna Park
www.rollypolliesmaryland.com

**Preschool
Program**

Mom-Fri 9:30am-1:00pm

Register Today!

Rolly Pollies®
Funtastic Fitness for Kids!

Find
Us On:



Voted
Best by:



FREE Registration

(A \$40 value)

Rolly Pollies®
Funtastic Fitness for Kids!

Bring in coupon or mention this ad when you register. Expires October 31, 2025.

**PAUL R. OVERTON
VISION**

**5K 10K RUN & WALK
FOR A CAUSE
MEMORIAL RACE EVENT**

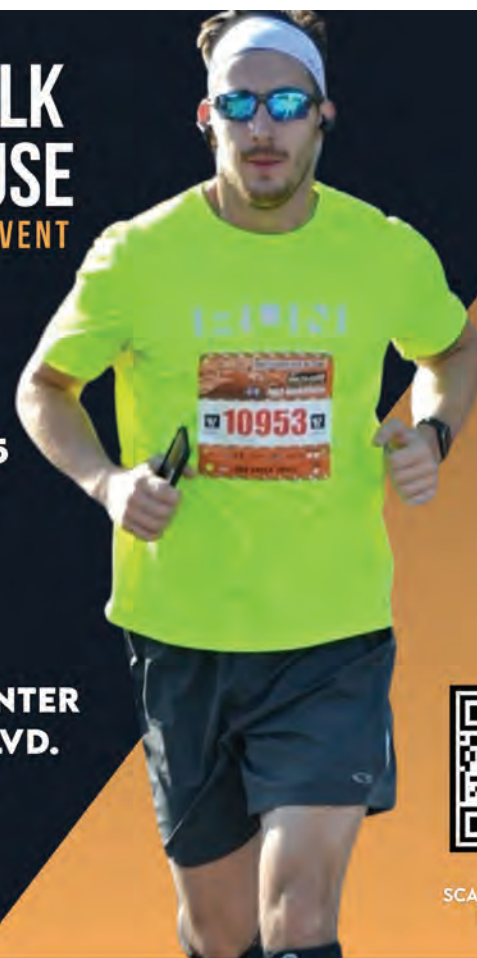
SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2025

8:30AM START TIME

**SEVERNA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
623 BALTIMORE ANNAPOLIS BLVD.
SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146**

PRO-VISION MEMORIAL FOUNDATION IS A 501C(3) ORG

PROUDLY BENEFITING



SCAN TO REGISTER +
LEARN MORE



Orphan Grain Train +



Severna Park And Broadneck Students Achieve Semifinalist For National Merit Scholarship



Broadneck High School's Nathaniel Weinbaum achieved a perfect score on his PSAT, giving him the honor of being named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.



Broadneck senior Zachariah Jackson was shocked to realize that he was one of only nine semifinalists from Anne Arundel County.

By Jaina Peveto

When Broadneck High School (BHS) student Nathaniel Weinbaum first took the PSAT, his score encouraged him to want to do even better the next time. A perfect score felt within reach. Weinbaum was determined to try to get it, so he threw himself into studying for his second attempt.

Waiting to learn his score was nerve-racking, but it was only about a month before he got confirmation that he achieved his goal. Due to receiving a perfect score, Weinbaum wasn't shocked when he got the news that he was a semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship, which recognizes the top PSAT scorers across the country.

"That really just became the goal ... because I knew it was possible. I just tried really hard," Weinbaum said. "Because when I look back on it, I can think, 'That's something I really applied myself to and achieved due to hard work.'"

Every year, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) offers a competitive scholarship to a select few students. At the beginning of this year's process, about 50,000 participants received recognition. In September, 16,000 of them were named semifinalists, keeping them in the running to compete for \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships in 2026. Additional college-sponsored and corporate-sponsored scholarships will be awarded to other qualifying semifinalists.

Nine Anne Arundel County Public Schools students were named 2026 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, including Weinbaum and fellow BHS student Zachariah Jackson, as well as Severna Park High School (SPHS) students Aaron Ahmadi, Evan Crockett, Maya Kirshtein and Christopher Lowman.

» Continued on page 31

Emily Abell Settles In As Principal At Severna Park Elementary School

By Meredith Winter

The simple yet memorable gesture of a childhood educator is, in part, what led Emily Abell to her chosen career today, evidence that small kindnesses can be life-changing.

"The reason I became a principal is because I had an amazing principal as a kid who would stand outside,

and the fact that he knew my name and my brother's name just always amazed me," she recalled decades later and hundreds of miles away from her home state of Michigan. "That really has stuck with me, the importance of being seen and being known."

Students being seen and being known are just two of the many values Abell brings to her new role as principal of Severna Park Elementary School (SPES), which she began in July after Principal Kyle Butler departed to lead Lake Shore Elementary School.

"(We) want to be a school where every student feels like they can belong, grow and succeed," she said in September as she settled into her newest role in an 18-year career within Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). "So we're really focusing on making sure everybody who walks through our doors feels like a five-star experience, because that's what kids deserve, that's what parents deserve, and that's what the community deserves."

Abell noted that SPES is already a five-star school, one of 11 in the county, but that the students are what make the school so special.

Her pathway to the principalship at SPES began at Michigan State University, where Abell completed her undergraduate studies to become a music teacher. Weary of frigid winters, she spent a couple of years teaching in Arizona, where she met her husband, a native Marylander.

His roots brought them back east, and Abell taught at Crofton Elementary School for several years before transitioning to coaching new teachers as a Right Start advisor within the Glen Burnie and Meade clusters.

Along her journey, she earned a master's degree in school leadership from National University and later a master's in school administration from McDaniel College. Abell served as acting assistant principal at Van Bokkelen Elementary before being promoted to assistant principal at Monarch Global Academy in

Laurel nine years ago. The 2020-2021 academic year was her first serving as principal at Monarch, a kindergarten through eighth grade AACPS charter school.

Abell loved the school community at Monarch and had no plans to move. But when she was approached about the opportunity at SPES, she talked it over with her family and

decided it was time to not only "talk the talk" but also "walk the walk" regarding her message to her staff to always put their families first. She applied, interviewed, and was selected for the job. After Abell put in 12-plus-hour days for years, taking the helm at SPES now allows her to serve the community she has called home for 12 years.

Residents of Severna Park, Abell and her husband have two children attending Folger McKinsey Elementary School and one who just started at Severna Park Middle School.

Since the academic year began just over a month ago, she has taken strides to foster familiarity and trust with students and SPES families. During the first week, she read aloud to every class. She visits every classroom every day. She is present in the cafeteria and the hallways; during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal, Abell opens car doors and welcomes kids to school.

Following in the footsteps of her childhood principal, she has even given herself homework: to learn every SPES student's name before winter break. Abell began her assignment over the summer by studying yearbooks, and after knowing all 840 children at Monarch, she is confident she can learn the roughly 400 SPES

» Continued on page 32



Emily Abell



Severna Park High School students (l-r) Evan Crockett, Christopher Lowman and Maya Kirshtein were named semifinalists for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship.

Clean, Dry, Shiny, Fast!

Keep Your Car Shiny, Clean & Spot Free with an **UNLIMITED CAR WASH MEMBERSHIP** Starting at **\$43** per month

Auto Detailing
"Make your car NEW again!"
CALL TO SCHEDULE 410-544-9009

- Interior Detailing
- Exterior Detailing
- Hand Waxes
- Headlight Restoration
- Carpet Shampoo
- Scratch Removal

Thank You Severna Park For Voting Us Best Car Wash! 2011 - 2025

Hours of Operation: Monday - Saturday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
825 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park, MD **410-544-9009**

548 Benfield Road
Severna Park | 443-288-0884
Open 7 days a week
www.cottonwoodinthepark.com
@cottonwoodinthepark on socials

It's that time of year again!

It's time to knit your cat a hat, sew your dog a quilted jacket, crochet a blanket for your niece, stencil a card for a friend, buy that special sewing machine for the big birthday, paint your mom a landscape or just purchase a gift card!

Fall is the beginning of gift season, and nothing says love like a handmade gift.

Need supplies?
Come to Cottonwood! We have it all!

DISCOVER

SEVERN.

Fall Open House Grades 6–12 October 23 @ 7:00 pm

Current Severn students lead the way, giving prospective families a true student's-eye view of what it's like to be a part of our community

Register Today
severnschool.com/open-house

Severn School

Happy HALLOWEEN

SEVERNA PARK!



KQ THE QUINONES TEAM
MAIN STREET HOME LOANS | WWW.KQ4U.COM

Kyndle S. Quinones
Vice President/Branch Manager
NMLS# 156081
443.254.0381
kyndle@mainstreethl.com
www.kq4u.com
479 Jumpers Hole Road, Suite 404, Severna Park, MD 21146

www.mainstreethomeloans.com | NFM Lending LLC NMLS# 2893 | Equal Housing Lender

MWE



Better Strategy. Better Results

MWE is an Enrollment Services Firm that partners with companies to offer their employees a full array of voluntary benefits.

AND WE'RE HIRING!



Join Our Team as a Benefits Counselor!

Are you passionate about helping others? We're looking for dedicated Benefits Counselors to join our dynamic team. In this role, you'll provide personalized guidance to individuals navigating their benefits options, ensuring they make informed decisions.

We're looking for:

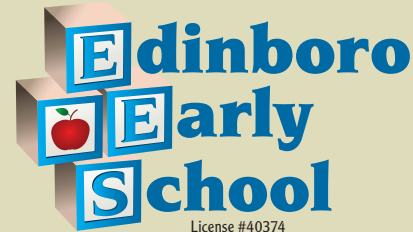
- Strong communications and interpersonal skills
- Detail-oriented with excellent problem-solving abilities
- Previous experience in benefits counseling or related fields is a plus!
- A genuine desire to make a positive impact in people's lives

Contact us now to become a part of our mission to support and empower our community!

410-394-9617
info@mwesolutions.net

www.mwepartnership.com

8370 Veterans Highway Suite 101
Millersville, MD 21108



License #40374

LIMITED FALL OPENINGS

Nursery School - Child Care - Pre-K - Before & After Care - Summer

- Childcare Age 2
- Nursery School for Age 3
- Pre-K for Age 4
- Kindergarten for Age 5
- Before & After Care - Thru Age 7

Kindergarten Full Day (Early Admission Option) Talented & Gifted Programs

Maryland State Department of Education approved curriculum for Nursery School and Kindergarten

410-544-2476
EdinboroEarlySchool.org

380 Jumpers Hole Road
Severna Park, MD 21146

SM ES

ST. MARTIN'S *-in-the-field-* EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Experience the Difference

Confidence • Compassion • Character

Visit Us!

Schedule a tour today to learn more about all that St. Martin's has to offer your child.



Preschool • Elementary School • Middle School
Severna Park, MD | stmartinsmd.org | 410.647.7055

VCA CALVERT VETERINARY CENTER

"Your Other Family Doctor"

We Want You!

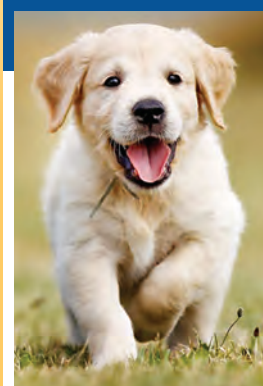
We are hiring enthusiastic people who love working with people and animals.

Apply on line at
www.vcacareers.com/
global/en
and search
Pasadena, MD
in the location field.



NEW PATIENTS BEING ACCEPTED

- Ultrasound
- Digital X-ray
- In-house laboratory
- Therapy laser
- Laser surgery
- Pharmacy on-site
- Exotic pets



VCA CareClub

Nose to Tail Health Care

Included in Standard Plan:

- Unlimited Exams
- All 1 Year Vaccines
- 1 Fecal Test
- Comprehensive Labwork
- Microchip and Membership

What You Need, When You Need It!

VCACareClub.com

4100 Mountain Road | Pasadena, MD 21122 | 410-360-PAWS (7297)
(across from Lake Shore Plaza)

Check out our website today! vcahospitals.com/calvert



BENFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Each month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Mrs. Duffy's class at Benfield Elementary School answered the question:

What is your favorite summer memory and why?

My favorite summer memory is going to Niagara Falls, Canada, with my family because I got to spend more time with them.

Abby M.

I enjoyed going to summer camp and seeing my bestie, who I had not seen all year! I also enjoyed visiting my grandparents.

Abby T.

My favorite summer memory is when I did a 20-mile hike in the mountains of Jackson Hole because of the crazy things that I saw.

Cameron L.

My favorite summer memories are playing video games and hanging

out with my friends.

Carter A.

My favorite summer memory is spending time with my brother, Nathan. We played games together.

Chloe G.

My favorite summer memory is when I went to Italy because me and my family went to different beaches.

Claire A.

My favorite summer memory is swimming in the lake in Maine on our floating swim mat because I love to swim and spend time with my family.

Cora S.

My favorite summer memory is going to the public pool because it was fun and you could do a lot of things there.

Ellie E.

My favorite summer memory is visiting my grandparents in North Carolina because I went surfing and ate ice cream.

Grover K.

My favorite summer memory is going to Anna Maria, Florida, because the water was clear, the sand was pearly white, the beach house was pretty, and they had a food bar.

Hannah B.

My favorite summer memory is having a bunch of sleepovers with my cousins because it was a bunch of fun!

Jaxson S.

My summer memories are going to soccer camp and hanging out with friends.

Joaquin R.

My favorite summer memory is

going to South Carolina because I liked the water park a lot. We also went to mini golf!

Julia W.

My favorite summer memory is going to the water park, because we went to visit my best friends, and my mom surprised us with a trip to the water park.

Kenzie M.

My favorite summer memory is going rafting down the Madison River with my family in Montana because it was calm and we had drinks and delicious homemade sandwiches.

Leo K.

My favorite summer memory is our trip to Virginia Beach that we go on every year. I got to see some friends I knew from soccer camp who were there at the same time as us and got

to spend time at the pool and beach with my family.

Logan R.

My favorite summer memory is when I went to the Outer Banks because I got to go to the beach and spend time with my brother.

Natalie M.

My favorite summer memory is going to the beach with my family for a week because I am very close with my family and I love the beach!

Olivia P.

My favorite summer memory is going to Nantucket with the ocean waves and nice breeze.

Porter M.

My favorite summer memory is when I went to Florida because I went to the pool with a waterslide, we got ice cream, went mini golfing and watched fireworks!

Riley O.

My favorite summer memory is being able to sleep in and chill. I was also able to do two weeks of my favorite soccer camp.

Ryan D.

My favorite summer memory is playing soccer because I like playing soccer.

Shepherd W.

My favorite summer memory is going to Ocean City with my friends because I went to the beach with Cam and Holden.

Sylas S.

My favorite summer memory is going to Chicago with my mom to watch airplanes because airplanes are really entertaining and it's my favorite thing.

TJ R.

Students Achieve Semifinalist For National Merit Scholarship

» Continued from page 28

Now a 17-year-old senior, Weinbaum aspires to do something involving biology in college, hopefully followed by medical school. During his time at BHS, he's been part of multiple extra-curriculars, including the physics club and the track team.

To celebrate the NMSC's recognition of Weinbaum and fellow semifinalist Zachariah Jackson, the BHS band performed in their honor. "I definitely wasn't expecting a whole performance," Weinbaum said.

Zachariah Jackson

Jackson also wasn't surprised that his PSAT score helped him reach semifinalist status, but it wasn't until the list of Anne Arundel County semifinalists came out that he understood the scope of his achievement.

"It was certainly very shocking to me that I was one of only (nine) in the county," Jackson said. "I know the number in the country is like 1 percent. Seeing the numbers is shocking."

Jackson's time at BHS has been full of performances. He performs in Broadneck's plays and musicals, he's in the vocal ensemble, and he's a founding member of the school's a cappella group, Harmonix. This semester, he's playing the titular role in Broadneck's production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Jackson hopes to go to college

for either musical theater or acting.

Jackson is grateful for the support he's received while attending BHS, both onstage and academically. He found Broadneck's PSAT preparatory course helpful. "Basically, all of my teachers have been very friendly and very helpful to me," he said.

Evan Crockett

SPHS senior Evan Crockett praised his high school's PSAT prep course as well. Crockett shared that he has enjoyed his time at SPHS, noting that he's had great teachers and made great friends.

Crockett hopes to study computer science in college, following in the footsteps of his dad. "I thought it would be kind of fun, kind of an interesting field, especially because that's the kind of thing I'm good at," Crockett said.

Crockett plays sports throughout the whole year, including recreational soccer with friends in the fall and spring, swimming in the summer, and basketball in the winter. The most time-consuming of his extracurriculars is being on the SPHS cross-country team.

Maya Kirshtein

Crockett's classmate Maya Kirshtein was anxious to discover whether or not she had made the cut. When the list of semifinalists was announced, Kirshtein discovered that



Severna Park High School's Aaron Ahmadi was one of nine AACPS students named 2026 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. The Severna Park Voice was not able to reach Ahmadi before publishing time.

studying for the PSAT paid off.

"It felt a little bit surreal," Kirshtein said. "But I'm really happy that I am a semifinalist. I feel like I worked really hard."

Kirshtein started her high school career at Key School in Annapolis, but she transferred to SPHS as a junior because the school had classes that she wanted to take. She's been on sailing teams all throughout high school, and she's now the president of

the SPHS sailing team, which went to nationals last year. Kirshtein is planning to study mechanical engineering in college, and she hopes to someday become a professor.

Christopher Lowman

Seventeen-year-old SPHS senior Christopher Lowman was also glad to see a positive outcome from his studying for the PSAT when he was named a semifinalist. "I guess to be one of the few people where colleges actually look at my PSAT score, that's pretty cool," Lowman said.

Lowman currently has the highest weighted GPA in his class at SPHS. A straight-A student, he took eight AP classes last year and is taking six this year.

Lowman's favorite thing about SPHS is the people. "The teachers especially, almost all of them really care about their students having the best quality education," he said.

During his freshman year, Lowman founded the SPHS e-sports club, of which he is the president. In his free time, he has started coding a video game. He hopes to major in computer science in college.

"I would just say to anyone trying to take the PSAT, or just going through high school, make sure to give it the best effort you possibly can," Lowman said. "No matter what, it's always going to be better than if you didn't."

Expert **Care**
in the office you **trust.**

MPCP In Arnold Welcomes



Leor Krichilsky, MD

Dr. Krichilsky comes to us from San Diego, CA and is accepting patients 14 years and older.

Women's Health

Family physicians are well-trained, qualified and involved in providing comprehensive, ongoing care for women throughout their lifecycles. Our office now offers IUD and Nexplanon insertion for our patients.

For more information, visit our website: www.MPCP.com

Maryland
**PrimaryCare
Physicians**

ARNOLD OFFICE

Your Care Is Our Primary Concern



**Call us today to schedule
your appointment so you can:**

- Stay Healthier Longer
- Personalize Your Care
- Lower Your Healthcare Cost
- Ensure All Vaccines Are Up To Date

1509 Ritchie Highway, Arnold, MD 21012

410.757.7600

Educator Of The Month

Chelsea Sedghi

*Magothy River
Middle School*



By Judy Tacyn

In her 11 years in education, eight of which have been spent in Anne Arundel County, Chelsea Sedghi has accomplished much. A first-year assistant principal at Magothy River Middle School, Sedghi is most directly responsible for seventh grade and half of sixth grade, but she prides herself on being present for all grades. Her love of education and student growth is evident. Last year, she was Severn River Middle School's Teacher of the Year nominee as head of that school's math department.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," said Sedghi, a self-professed planner and lover of to-do lists.

She said one of the most challenging aspects of transitioning from the classroom to the office, though also unexpectedly enjoy-

able, has been learning to rearrange her meticulous lists. "I really try to be proactive ... I want to trouble-shoot before something happens," she added. "As assistant principal, some days are simply reactive, and I have to be ready for anything that comes that day and flexible to rearrange my day."

Sedghi has seen the worst in education over the last decade, from the "dark days" of COVID to violence in schools nationwide, but she feels education — and students — are ready to make this generation better than the one before it.

"COVID was very difficult because we were showing, not teaching, and students were simply mimicking what they saw. I feel like we are climbing out of it each year and we can see the light again," Sedghi said. "I feel we are getting back to students taking ownership of their learning, and we are not seeing the daunting gaps in education. Educators are once again able to work efficiently and effectively."

Anne Arundel County Public Schools is focused on keeping our schools safe, something Sedghi calls part of the "hidden curriculum."

"Safety is one of our top priorities so our teachers can focus on education," she added. "We want students to be happy to come to school and enjoy learning. Whatever might be going on outside, we take that on for them so they can feel safe when they come into the building and are ready to learn."

The Severna Park resident feels lucky to be able to educate in this area and be part of an amazing community of resilient educators, parents and students.

"I am excited to watch the growth of the kids' education," Sedghi said, "and to help prepare them for their next challenges."



CAFE MEZZANOTTE

The Educator of the Month is proudly sponsored by Cafe Mezzanotte.

Emily Abell Settles In As Principal

» Continued from page 28

students' names by the time her homework is due.

"School needs to be a place where students feel seen, heard and valued, but where kids are safe, and I think that so much starts with the leadership, and I try to really model expectations for everybody who's here," Abell said. She emphasized that the SPES staff are an amazing team.

When she isn't working, Abell enjoys exercising, reading, traveling the world, and spending time with her family. They are avid sports fans, with their allegiances split between the beltways: her family holds Commanders season tickets, but root faithfully for and attend many Orioles games.

Abell has completed multiple triathlons, and is an Ironman triathlete, having conquered the trifecta of a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2 mile run twice, years ago in Florida.

As she settles in at SPES, Abell looks forward to seeing continued growth among the students, building trust with the community, and attending the school's community events. She noted SPES is a school rich in traditions, and some of those will be exciting firsts for her.

"I know that this is a community that needs strong leadership, needs some support, needs positivity, needs love, needs all of that, and I'm excited to be that person for the school community right now," Abell shared.

Say Cheese: SPES Students Collect Food For SPAN



During the last four Septembers, Severna Park Elementary School (SPES) students have collected macaroni and cheese for the nonprofit SPAN. This year, SPES gathered 337 boxes of macaroni and cheese, and kids arranged the items so they formed a sunrise since "Shine" is the school's theme for the current academic year. The SPES human relations committee designed the sunrise and raised signs that stated, "SPES Shines When We Help Others."

Correction: Stars & Stripes Awards

In the September edition of the Severna Park Voice, we published a story about three young women who earned the prestigious American Heritage Girls Stars & Stripes Award. Regrettably, we accidentally paired the wrong photos with the three summaries of the girls' accomplishments. We regret the error. Below are the correct photos and captions; the full story is available online. Congratulations to Alethia Brown, Olivia Sudano and Maile Trelles.



Left: For her Stars & Stripes project, Alethia Brown initiated a care bag program in collaboration with Severna Park Baptist Church to assist individuals in need.

Right: Olivia Sudano created a prayer garden dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of Mary at St. John the Evangelist Church for her Stars & Stripes project.



Left: Maile Trelles devoted her Stars & Stripes project to working with The Well in Curtis Bay and its affiliated Hon's Honey Marketplace to transform their meeting room.



Academic Excellence in the
Catholic Tradition Since 1959



FAITH • FAMILY • ACADEMICS



2026-27 application opens October 15th!

4 year old Pre School through Grade 8

Contact Lynne Fish at LFish@StJohnSP.org
for more information.

410-647-2283 | www.stjohnspschool.org
Severna Park, MD

National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

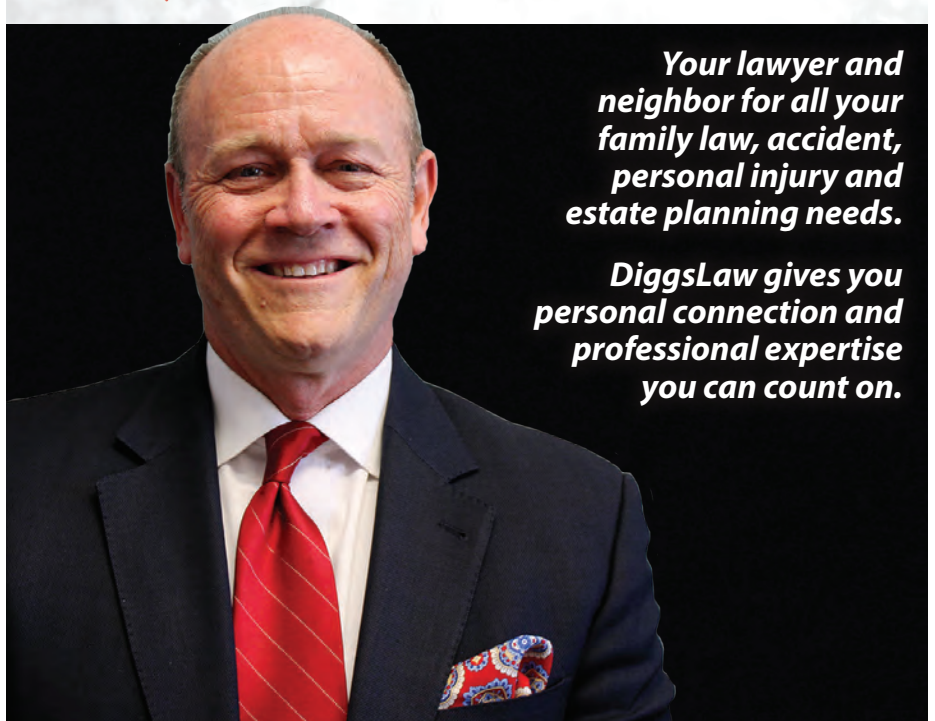


DIGGS LAW

THE LAW OFFICE OF DAVID V. DIGGS, LLC
Meet with our attorneys by phone, Zoom or in-person.

Your lawyer and
neighbor for all your
family law, accident,
personal injury and
estate planning needs.

DiggsLaw gives you
personal connection and
professional expertise
you can count on.



Call today for an appointment!

8684 Veterans Highway, Suite 302 • Millersville, MD 21108

Email: info@diggslaw.com

O: 410-244-1189 F: 443-543-6360

Website: www.diggslaw.com

Named To The
MARYLAND
**THE DAILY
RECORD**
2022 Family
Law Power List

What Are Dense Breasts And Why Do They Matter?

Dr. Laura Amodei
Bay Radiology



There is a lot of confusion about what dense breasts are and why they matter so much. When a primary care doctor does a physical exam and tells a patient that her breasts are

dense, they mean that they feel dense. But on a mammogram, we're not asking if the breasts feel dense; we're asking if they look dense, which has nothing at all to do with how firm the breasts feel.

Instead, we are assessing how much of the breast is made of fat (transparent on the mammogram) versus gland (white clouds on the mammogram). Breasts come on a spectrum, from completely clear to completely cloudy, that we divide into four categories (A-D).

Why do dense breasts matter?

Dense breasts are important for two reasons. First, that density can hide things. It's harder to see a mass in dense tissue. That part is more intuitive. But what's also true is that dense breasts grow breast cancers more often. A woman who has extremely dense breasts (category D) has four to five times the risk of breast cancer than a woman who has fatty breasts (category A), just because her breasts are dense.

How common are dense breasts?

Having dense breasts is normal and common. Around 40% of women over 40 have heterogeneously dense breasts (category C, partly to mostly cloudy) and around 10% have extremely dense breasts (category D, completely cloudy).

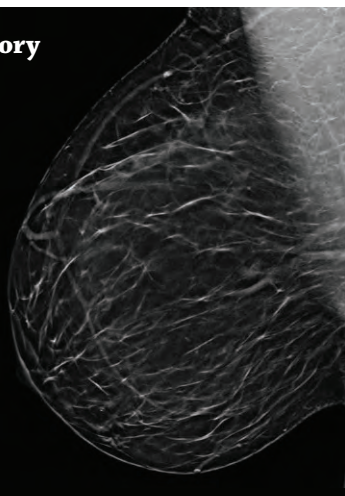
Why do some women have dense breasts?

There are several factors that contribute. Dense breasts are hereditary — a woman is more likely to have dense breasts if her mother or sisters have them. Body weight is also a factor. If a woman is very thin, she doesn't have much fat, so her breasts tend to be dense. And if a woman loses weight and her breast size decreases, her breasts usually become more dense. Some drugs (for example, tamoxifen) decrease breast density and others (hormone replacement therapy) can increase breast density.

» Continued on page 36

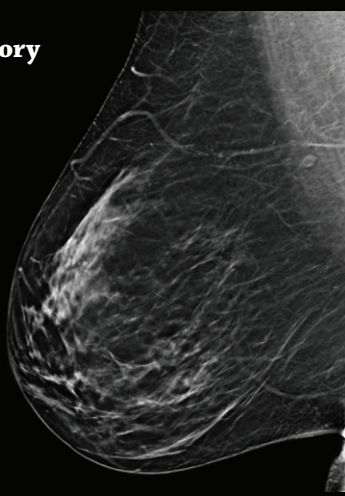
Category

A



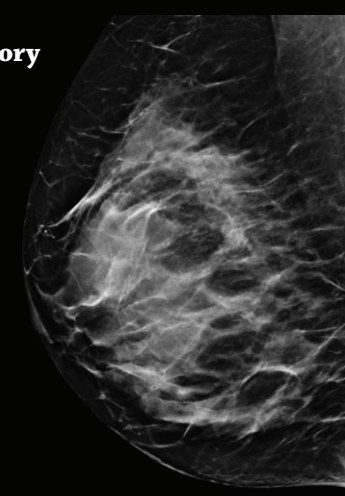
Category

B



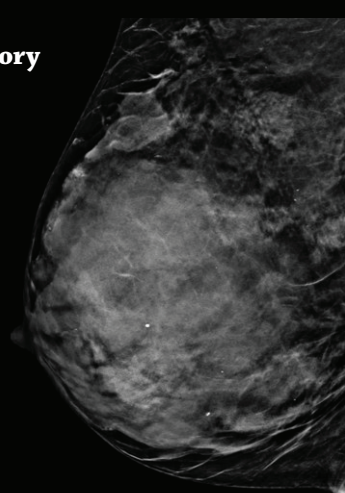
Category

C



Category

D



In dense breasts (categories C and D), cancer is harder to see and more common compared to breasts that are not dense (categories A and B).

Dance Like Nobody's Watching, Because They Aren't

Joe Bocek
Park Fitness



I was chatting with a gym member the other day after her workout. She was commenting on how far she felt she had come during her fitness journey already.

She came to us as someone who would not describe herself as a typical gym person at all, but she has really found her groove and fitness tribe.

"I don't know what I was worried about," she said, referring to her nervousness about starting a workout routine.

Stepping into something new — especially fitness — can feel daunting and even a little overwhelming.

Most people are worried about what others are going to think or say, watching the new person start working out.

In this case, I shared one crucial piece of information with the gym member: the Spotlight Effect.

Psychologist Thomas Gilovich brought this idea, the Spotlight Effect, to prominence in his research. It basically says that we tend to think other people notice us much more than they actually do.

It's like we imagine a big spotlight

» Continued on page 36



UM BWMC Announces Jeffrey Marshall As New Vice President

The University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC), a member organization of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS),



Jeffrey Marshall

has appointed Jeffrey Marshall as vice president and associate chief medical officer.

In this leadership role, Marshall will oversee key areas across both the hospital and ambulatory care settings, including quality, safety, infection prevention, regulatory compliance and accreditation, care management and ethics. He will also be involved in the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Group's operations, a multi-specialty network comprised of more than 300 employed physicians and advanced practice providers.

Marshall will work closely with Jason Heavner, UM BWMC's senior vice president and chief medical officer, to continue advancing research and academic medicine in a community hospital setting, ensuring residents of Anne Arundel County and the surrounding region have greater access to expert care, cutting-edge clinical trials and the latest medical innovations, in partnership with UMMS and the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

"Dr. Marshall is a proven leader with a deep commitment to excellence in clinical care, innovation and community health," said Kathy McCollum, president of UM BWMC. "His continued leadership will be essential as we expand access to high-quality care and bring more advanced treatments and clinical research opportunities to people in Anne Arundel County and across Maryland."

An expert in pulmonary and critical care medicine and research, Marshall has been with UM BWMC since 2018, and he has held several key leadership

» Continued on page 36

Exceptional eye care.
State-of-the-art cataract surgery.
Expert glaucoma care.



Allan Rutzen, MD, FACS



Jacey Hanna, MD



Sara Francomacaro, MD



Callia Twigg, OD

All with an un-matched level of customer service. **Right in your back yard.**



RUTZEN

EYE SPECIALISTS
& LASER CENTER

410-975-0090

RutzenEye.com

NEW PHYSICIANS, NEW TECHNOLOGY
SAME GREAT EXPERIENCE!



277 Peninsula Farm Road, Suite A
Arnold, MD 21012

- First in AA County to offer contrast-enhanced mammography, CEM
- Dedicated, fellowship-trained MDs
- Accepting new patients



Laura Amodei, MD
Trained at The Mayo Clinic
and Johns Hopkins



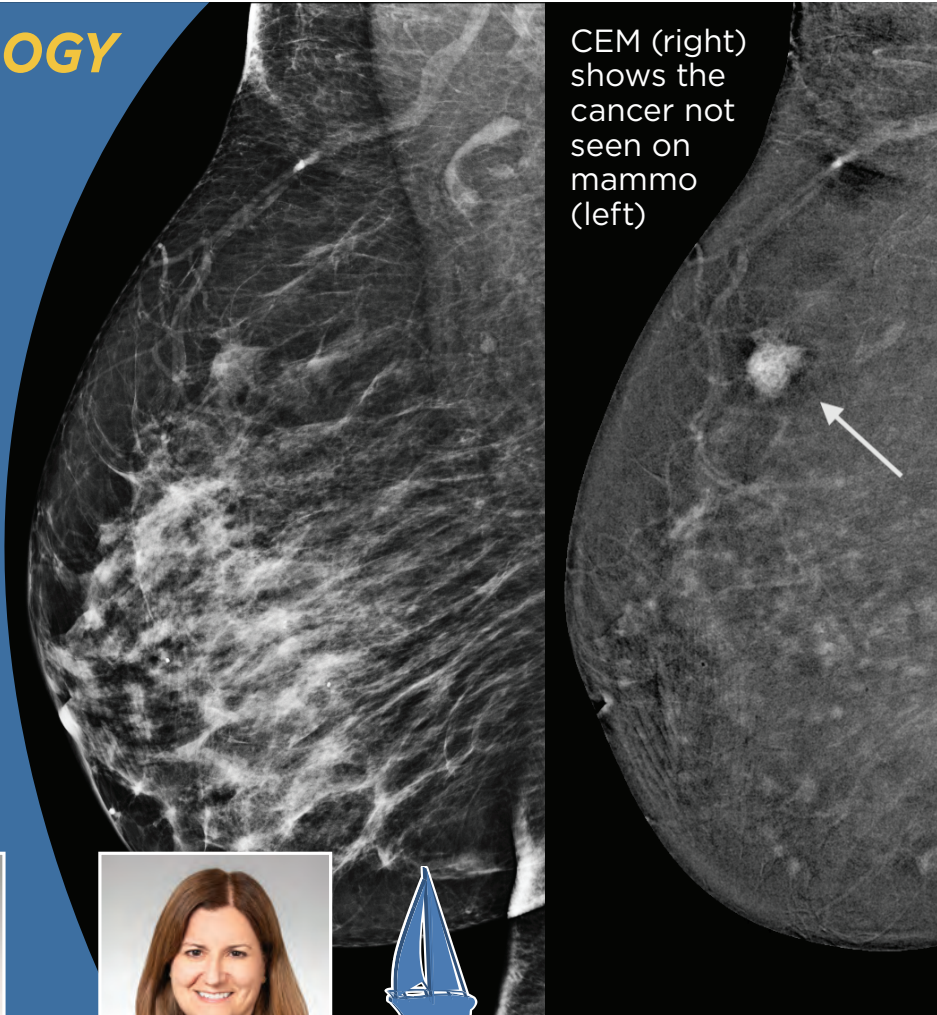
Maria Schmidt, MD
Trained at Stanford,
Yale and Wash U



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)



410-544-3331
www.bay-radiology.com

PRO-Vision Memorial Run Returns To Severna Park

On Saturday, October 18, Severna Park families are invited to the third annual PRO-Vision Memorial Run, a 5K/10K race honoring 2007 Severna Park High School graduate Paul Robert Overton. The race begins at 8:30am at the Severna Park Community Center and follows the scenic B&A Trail, with strollers and leashed pets welcome.

Following the race, participants and families are invited to a community celebration featuring awards, raffle prizes, free food and drinks, and live music.

Proceeds will benefit three local nonprofits: the Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Chrysalis House, and Orphan Grain Train. Following last year's race, the PRO-Vision Memorial Foundation presented the Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County and Orphan Grain Train with \$10,000 each, due to the support of more than 250 race participants.

To learn more about the foundation, register for this year's race, or to donate, go to www.paulrovertonvision.org. For more information, email provision-memorial@gmail.com.



Coming up on October 18, the annual PRO-Vision Memorial Run will offer 5K and 10K race options and raise funds for three local nonprofits.

NAMI Plans Inaugural 5K For Mental Health



Since 1984, the Anne Arundel County branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI AAC) has assisted area residents with free mental health support, online groups, resources and education. To help even more residents, NAMI AAC is planning its first 5K walk and run fundraiser, set for Sunday, October 19, at Anne Arundel Community College.

The rain-or-shine event will begin with registration at 9:00am and the run/walk at 10:00am, followed by an awards presentation at 11:00am. Registration is \$35 for runners and walkers, and \$55 for families. Children under age 12 can attend for free. Dogs are also welcome.

To register or learn more about the event, go to namiaac.ticketspice.com/2025-walk-run.

UM BWMC Announces Jeffrey Marshall As New Vice President

» Continued from page 34

positions, including associate chair of medicine, chair of pulmonary and critical care, medical director of respiratory therapy and chair of the ethics committee. During his tenure, Marshall has led numerous impactful initiatives, including:

- Opening the new critical care unit and expanding the clinical team to support its growth.
- Launching the hospital's robotic bronchoscopy program, providing a safer and more precise method for the early diagnosis of lung cancer. The program has rapidly grown to become the busiest in Maryland, surpassing 500 cases this summer.
- Working with the cardiology and pulmonary teams to open adjacent practices in UM BWMC's outpatient care center, nearly tripling the number of exam rooms and better aligning care for heart and lung patients.
- Expanding pulmonary care offerings, including creating the pulmonary hypertension program, adding cardiopulmonary exercise testing services and growing pulmonary function testing capabilities.
- Collaborating with interventional cardiology and vascular services to introduce a pulmonary embolism thrombectomy program in the hospital's procedural suite.

"Dr. Marshall brings a unique blend of clinical expertise, visionary leadership and a deep commitment to collaboration," Heavner said. "His ability to integrate the latest clinical advances with thoughtful, multidisciplinary planning has directly improved the care we provide to some of our most critically ill patients. At the same time, his work has strengthened our outpatient programs, helping patients with chronic conditions better manage their health at home and

in their communities. His leadership continues to drive innovation across our health system and expand access to high-quality care."

Marshall is also an active investigator leading clinical trials that evaluate the effectiveness of bedside interventions for critical care patients and explore how artificial intelligence can detect smaller lung nodules and improve earlier detection of lung cancer. Initial success with the lung nodule trial led the project to expand from the emergency department to areas of UM BWMC's inpatient and outpatient care settings.

"It's an honor to continue serving the residents of Anne Arundel County and my fellow colleagues in this new capacity," Marshall said. "I'm grateful for the mentorship and trust I've received from UM BWMC's leadership, and I'm excited to build on the strong foundation of care our team has established. This role is a chance to shape the future of care in our community, delivering compassionate, evidence-based medicine while continuing to expand access to clinical research and the benefits of academic medicine. I'm humbled by the opportunity, and excited to get it right for the people we care for and serve."

Marshall earned both his medical degree and Master of Public Health from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Cambridge Health Alliance affiliated with Harvard Medical School and his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at Yale University. He also holds a Master of Science in biomedical ethics from Albany Medical College and completed a fellowship in bioethics at Oxford University. He is a graduate of the UMMS Physician Leadership Fellows Program and serves in multiple leadership roles, including chair of the UMMS Lab Stewardship Committee and the Organ Procurement Governance Committee.

Dance Like Nobody's Watching

» Continued from page 34

is shining on us all the time, so every little mistake, awkward moment, or detail about us feels like it's being noticed and judged by everyone. In reality, most people are busy thinking about themselves, not about us. They don't notice our small slip-ups nearly as much as we think.

In fact, Gilovich oversaw a famous Cornell study in which students had to wear a goofy Barry Manilow T-shirt — not exactly a "cool" choice for college kids. Then they had the student walk into a room full of strangers. The student wearing the shirt usually thought, "Oh no, everyone is noticing and judging me!"

When asked, though, only about half as many people noticed the shirt as the wearer expected. In other words, people barely paid attention.

This is a powerful example of how we greatly overestimate how much others notice or judge us. Just like the

Spotlight Effect shows, we're not under nearly as much scrutiny as we imagine.

Another example would be if you wore mismatched socks to the gym and felt embarrassed — chances are most people never even notice, and if they do, they forget it almost instantly.

We can apply this to many things, including starting to work out at a new gym.

The truth is that most people aren't focused on you at all but rather on themselves and their own workout. And if you happen to join a supportive fitness community that lifts you up, they're too busy being happy for you — that you're there doing something for your own health and fitness.

So yes, dance — or work out — like nobody's watching. Because chances are, they're not.

And soon enough, it might be you saying to your fitness coach, "I don't know what I was worried about."

Happy dancing.

What Are Dense Breasts?

» Continued from page 34

Are there additional tests that help for screening dense breasts?

Tomosynthesis (a 3D mammogram) helps to look through dense tissue slice by slice; it's an improvement but can still miss things, especially in denser breasts. Adding whole breast ultrasound increases our detection by around 30% but there can be a lot of false alarms.

Vascular-based supplemental screening with contrast-enhanced mammography (CEM) or breast MRI has been shown to be much more sensitive. A recent study by Dr. Fiona Gilbert in *The Lancet* in May 2025 showed that CEM and MRI found three times as many cancers as whole breast ultrasound and that the cancers were half the size

(they were detected earlier, resulting in less treatment and better survival).

How do I know if I have dense breasts and whether I need additional screening?

Read your report: Breast density is now required to be included in every mammogram report and patient letter, and many will include specific recommendations for additional screening. You can also ask your radiologist or primary care provider.

Bay Radiology is located at 277 Peninsula Farm Road, Suite A, in Arnold. Learn more at www.bay-radiology.com.

This branded content is brought to you by an expert in his or her respective field.

What Happens When You Get A Mammogram Callback?



Marit Duffy
Luminis Health

You’ve had your mammo-gram, so you can cross it off your to-do list. But what if you get a call to come back for more imaging? Getting a callback can be concern- ing, but it’s not unusual. About one in 10 patients receives a callback after a routine mam- mogram. Our imaging experts explain why this happens and what to expect.

Why You Might Get A Callback

After reviewing your mammogram, a radiologist might want more images for several reasons, including:

- Dense breast tissue with a lot of overlap
- Images that aren’t clear enough
- Something in the image that looks unusual

When you return, the radiologist may take more detailed images, perform an ultrasound or both. Sometimes, your provider may recommend schedul- ing an MRI or biopsy for another day.

Few Callbacks Lead To A Cancer Diagnosis

If 100 women get a screening mammogram, the ra- diologist will usually call back 10 for more imaging:

- Of those 10, six will learn their mammograms are normal.
- In two cases, something that doesn’t look like cancer may still appear in the image. The care team may want to watch it closely and ask the patient to return in six months for a follow-up.
- For the remaining two patients, the doctor may recommend a biopsy. Of those two, about one in five is diagnosed with breast cancer.

Your chance of a breast cancer diagnosis after a screening mammogram is low — about 0.5 percent. When breast cancer is found early, before a lump can be felt, the survival rate is more than 98 percent. That’s why mammograms are so important: They can detect what fingers may not feel.

Mammograms Save Lives

Only a small number of screening mammograms lead to a cancer diagnosis, but that does not make them any less important. Regular mammograms can

lower your risk of dying from breast cancer because they are one of the best tools for early detection. Even though the odds of a diagnosis after a screen- ing mammogram are low, you should continue to schedule one every year.

Care You Can Trust For Your Breast Health

At Luminis Health Breast Imaging, radiology experts and advanced imaging tools are conveniently available in one location. Luminis also offers 3D mammography, which improves image quality and can reduce extra testing from unclear results, leading to fewer callbacks.

To schedule a mammogram anytime, visit www.luminis.health/imaging.

Dr. Marit Duffy is the chief of breast imaging at Luminis Health. She is certified in 3D breast tomosynthesis and breast MRI with biopsy, and she is a member of the Society of Breast Imaging. She is board certified by the American Board of Radiology.

This branded content is brought to you by an expert in his or her respective field.



Pumpkin
spice, cozy
sweaters...
*and peace
of mind*



Schedule your
mammogram this fall



Visit Luminis.Health/Breast
to schedule your mammogram in just a few minutes.

To make an appointment by phone, please call (888) 909-9729 for all Luminis Health Imaging locations.
Annapolis | Bowie | Kent Island | Lanham | Odenton



WRIGHT ORTHODONTICS

www.orthowright.com

Benjamin Wright, DMD, LLC



**Thank You for voting us
Best Orthodontic Practice**

410-544-0072

479 Jumpers Hole Road, Suite 203, Severna Park, MD 21146
www.orthowright.com



**VASCULAR SURGERY
ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Anne Arundel County's Vascular Experts.



**Are you
experiencing?**

Leg Pain, Fatigue,
Heaviness, Cramping,
Leg & Ankle Swelling,
Varicose & Spider Veins

**Call today to schedule
your consultation.**

410-946-6402

22 Truck House Road, Ste. 2, Severna Park, MD 21146
www.vascularsurgeryassociates.net



**hospice of the
chesapeake**



You are having a good day.

Progressive illness is something you live with every day. Caring for you is what we do every day.

Our expert team does more so you can stay in the comfort of your home, receive the care you need, and have more good days.

- ✓ Pain & Symptom Management
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Medical Equipment
- ✓ Medical Supplies
- ✓ Personal Care Products
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Emotional & Spiritual Support
- ✓ Family Support
- ✓ Care at Home
- ✓ Inpatient Care



SCAN ME

Get the support you need today. 410-987-2003 | www.hospicechesapeake.org

“Saturday Night Fever” Boogies To Bee Gees Songs At Toby’s Dinner Theatre



Photo courtesy of Katie Simmons-Barth

Tony Manero (Patrick Gover) and Stephanie Mangano (Rachel Cahoon) danced at disco club 2001 Odyssey in “Saturday Night Fever.”

By Jaina Peveto

Put on your boogie shoes and head to Toby’s Dinner Theatre in Columbia to be transported to a 1970s New York City dance club in the theater’s current production, “Saturday Night Fever.”

Based on the 1977 film of the same name, “Saturday Night Fever” explores the lives and relationships of 19-year-old Tony Manero and his friends and family around him. Though details from the film are removed from the stage version to make it more accessible to families, the show still touches on heavy topics.

Tony, played by Patrick Gover, works in a paint shop, but his real passion is spending his nights at the local dance club, 2001 Odyssey. When Tony learns about a dance competition held at the club, he ditches the smitten Annette (Tori Weaver) and becomes determined to pair up with new girl Stephanie Mangano (Rachel Cahoon), an impressive dancer who at first seems to find herself above him.

Directed by Mark Minnick, the jukebox musical features songs originally performed by the Bee Gees and other disco bands, opening with the company performing “Stayin’ Alive,” followed by takes on other hits such as “Disco Inferno,” “Night Fever” and “How Deep Is Your Love.”

Gover gives a nod to the Bee Gees’ classic falsetto at the beginning of “More Than A Woman,” a fun duet between Tony and Stephanie. Weaver shines in her rendition of “If I Can’t Have You” in the first act, and Kadejah Oné, as Candy, stuns audiences with her vocals during second act opener “Nights on Broadway.”

Bobby, played by Ben Ribler, struggles to decide what he wants out of life and whether he’s willing to spend the rest of it with his former girlfriend Pauline (Shannon Sullivan). He and Gus, Double-J and Joey, played by Benjamin Campion, Nicky Kaider and Joey Ellinghaus, respectively, make up Tony’s core friend group.

Noah Mutterperl plays Tony’s brother Frank Manero Jr., and Terrell Chambers perches above the action as Monty while helping ground the music in the world of the 2001 Odyssey dance club.

The cast does a great job of taking advantage of how close the audience is to the action. In one memorable moment during “Jive Talkin’” — for example — ensemble members react furiously to a full plate being stolen from their table, before giving in and becoming invested in the drama unfolding in front of them.

The sets and lighting add to the intimate setting as well. The dance club is complete with changing disco lights and a disco ball, transforming the entire space.

However, the dancing is where the Toby’s cast really shines. Choreographed by Christen Svingos, “Saturday Night Fever” is a show that’s built around dance, and it’s impossible to ignore that while watching the production at Toby’s Dinner Theatre. Dancing takes the spotlight, with disco scenes taking place at Tony’s favorite dance club peppered throughout the show.

Gover and Cahoon shine as Tony and Stephanie throughout the show, but especially on the dance floor. And the choreography of the ensemble around them is just as fun to watch. When the dance competition finally rolls around at the end of the show, the impressive choreography and the talented dancing of leads and ensemble alike make it feel like a real competition without an obvious winner.

“Saturday Night Fever” has performances at Toby’s through November 2. The dinner theater’s next show, “Elf,” runs from November 7 through January 4. Learn more and purchase tickets at www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

“A Big Bold Beautiful Journey” Is A Bizarre But Intriguing Love Story



Photo courtesy of Matt Kennedy/Sony Pictures Entertainment

When the movie slows down and narrows in on tackling the universal fear of the past and the struggle to move forward despite it, it’s truly excellent.

By James Buxton

Film Critic

If you’re looking for a charming, conventional rom-com starring two of Hollywood’s biggest stars right now, “A Big Bold Beautiful Journey” is not the movie for you. Despite ticking all the right boxes — the awkward meet-cute, the avoidable falling out, and the inevitable soaring declaration of love — there’s so much more going on here.

Anyone familiar with director Kogonada’s previous work (2017’s “Columbus” and 2021’s “After Yang”) will recognize his usual blend of devastating realism and focus on human connection, but beyond that is a frankly bizarre film about rejecting destiny and carving your own path, complete with time travel, magic doors, exploding cars and at least one huge musical number.

It doesn’t start on a high note. The first 20 minutes are off-putting and stilted, suggesting no reason to get behind our two lead characters, played by Colin Farrell and Margot Robbie. Farrell’s character, David, is awkward and antisocial, seemingly allergic to small talk and trapped in a spiral of missed opportunities and regret. Robbie’s character, Sarah, on the other hand, exhibits all the expected traits of the historic “pixie dream girl” trope, although it becomes apparent that this is more of a façade than a true personality.

The pair have very little in common, and it takes a supernatural force to ultimately bring them together. For a film about rejecting the expected path and breaking away from your predetermined destiny, it’s a fun twist.

The issue is that throughout the entire length of the movie, things don’t ever seem to change. Despite David and Sarah’s adventures together,

there’s never any real chemistry between them. We learn so much about each person individually, and when it’s focused on just one or the other, the movie is firing on all cylinders, but when focusing on the couple, the story never really blossoms.

While not the main focus, there’s a clear intent for the movie to be experienced as a romantic comedy, but when the leading couple never develop further than feeling like friends, that final moment just falls a bit flat. This is Kogonada’s first feature film as a director to not credit him as writer and editor as well, and never is that more evident than this awkward introduction.

It’s an undeniably messy movie. While the main emotional crux of the movie lies in a grounded series of personal revelations, the framing leans fully into the absurd. It’s hard to remain fully engaged in Farrell coming to terms with his father’s influence in his own life when it’s presented via the medium of magic doors, supplied by a Bugs Bunny-esque Phoebe Waller-Bridge doing an intentionally terrible German accent. Whether the film wants to bring you to tears or render you speechless with laughter seems unclear, especially when the film itself is rarely that funny, but the inconsistency throughout is what really brings it down.

Because it can be fantastic at times. When the movie slows down, puts the fantasy to one side and really narrows in on tackling that universal fear of the past and the struggle to move forward despite it, it’s truly excellent. The scene in a café, in which both David and Sarah are forced to face the worst days of their lives and the decisions that led them there, is an easy high point of the movie, as well as

» Continued on page 44

Severna Park Filmmaker Makes Documentary About Asian Americans Breaking Through Stigmas Surrounding Mental Health



Photos courtesy of the Columbia Maryland Film Festival/Ruimin Hu/View Higher Films

Changfu Chang's film mostly centers on three families who deal with bipolar disorder, stress, depression and other mental health struggles.

By Alyson Kay

Filmmaker Changfu Chang's new documentary, "Silent War: Asian American Reckonings with Mental Health," follows Asian American families as they grapple with cultural and language barriers and stigmas surrounding mental health to help themselves and their communities on the path to mental wellness.

In 2020, community leaders and organizations asked Chang to make a documentary about Asian American mental health.

With the help of activists, community leaders and mental health organizations, Chang connected with people who have dealt with mental health struggles, as well as community leaders and experts in mental health in Asian and Asian American culture.

The film mostly centers on three families: Elaine Peng and her daughter Irene Wei, who struggled with bipolar disorder and stress after the loss of their husband and father to suicide; brothers Gurbinder Singh Nagra and Harman Singh Nagra and their mother, Jaswinder Nagra, coming to terms with their father and husband's mental health struggles that led to his death after being discriminated against and deported from the United States after 9/11 for being Sikh; and parents Jiange and Mier Chen learning to become more open and accepting of mental health in the wake of their daughter, Sandy Chen's, struggles with depression.

Also featured in the film is Michelle Li, co-anchor on "Today in St. Louis" and co-founder of the Very Asian Foundation, who talks about how a viewer responded to an offhand remark that she made on-air about how Koreans traditionally eat dumpling soup for the New Year with a racist voicemail about how she was "too Asian," and Amrinder Singh, who dealt with bullying and discrimination for being Sikh growing up and now helps members of his community as a psychotherapist.

Chang chose people from different Asian American communities to show struggles unique to a variety of groups. "We wanted to make sure these

stories are the vehicles for larger representative issues for our community," Chang said.

As a Chinese immigrant and a father, Chang found as he researched for the film that he could relate to some of the struggles faced by the families he interviewed as they described trying to understand what their other family members were going through.

"Take the parents: I was mostly playing the same role with miscommunications with my children," Chang said. "I feel like when I asked them the questions, I was asking my two kids questions, 20 years later or 10 years later."

He also related to some of the stories of discrimination. Li's story about facing racism over talking about dumpling soup reminded Chang of a complaint that someone made against him as a university professor.

"It was something like, 'When I walk in the hallway (basically across from my office), I cannot stand the smell,'" Chang said. "It's against me. There's really not that much smell, really. My wife packs for me. My wife is a professor. You're not talking about the university hallway smells because you said it was a complaint against me."

Many Asian American communities also suffer from the stresses caused by the "model minority" myth that frames certain minority groups as more successful and adaptable than other minority groups, as depicted in the Chen family's story. Chang found himself relating to how they dealt with the pressure to succeed.

"I remember when my son first came home with a B," Chang said. "I got so upset that I felt like the sky was falling. That's really crazy. He told me, 'I won't do that.' And later on, when I talk to my daughter, I say, 'Look, your life is more important.'"

Even though suicide is a leading cause of death among Asian Americans between 15 to 24 years old, they are 50% less likely to seek treatment for mental illness.

Part of the problem is caused by structural issues, including language barriers and lack of multicultural

services, but the community also faces a large amount of stigma and shame around mental illness and mental health treatment.

"There's the strong sense of belief that mental health is something overrated or is a sign of self-weakness and there's a lack of communication and understanding of resources," Chang said.

The stigma is even reflected in the languages in some Asian countries, some of which don't have words to describe relevant mental health terms.

"Many immigrant parents receive education and value systems, and it is very different from the kids who grew up here," Chang said. "They cannot even communicate because of language barriers."

The Asian American community faced unique stressors during the pandemic.

"The Asian Americans were actually fighting two viruses," Chang said. "One is, of course, COVID. The other is the alarming rise of anti-Asian hate crimes. I looked into how it is related to mental health. I feel like I was educated about it. Apparently, I wasn't seeing clearly, the connection between hate, discrimination and mental health, but then that became part of this documentary."

While interviewing documentary participants, Chang was mindful about how talking about their struggles and traumas could affect them.

"We have to make sure that their mental health will be the first priori-

ty," he said.

Despite the sensitive nature of the topic and the potential for re-traumatization, Chang was surprised by how willing the interviewees were to tell their stories once he'd built a relationship with them.

"They just want to help the community," Chang said. "They don't want to see another parent take the same path."

In the process of making the documentary, Chang and the documentary participants have grown close. He even attended Gurbinder Singh Nagra's wedding.

"Doing this really helped their family to understand the sense of guilt this family can grapple with," Chang said. "He called me and said we are almost part of the family. They all want me to go. So, I decided, yes. My wife and I went to Vancouver to attend their wedding, and we just feel like, wow. They were so happy. We're so happy. And I think we're like one big family."

Ultimately, Chang hopes to help foster understanding within the community and the general public.

"I hope that my film can help the conversation, help the community, help understanding each other to build a better, more inclusive community," he said.

"Silent War" has been selected for the Asian Pacific FilmFest scheduled for October 17-19 in California.

For more information about the film and screenings, go to www.silentwarmovie.com.

Earleigh Heights VFC To Host First Holiday Craft Fair

Save the date and get an early start on holiday shopping on Sunday, October 26. The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company is planning its first holiday craft fair, inviting community members to celebrate the season, support local makers, and find the perfect holiday gifts. Shoppers can peruse handmade goods and holiday decorations, enjoy food available for purchase,

and participate in hourly raffles and giveaways.

For crafters interested in selling their goods at the fair, spaces are 10-by-10 feet and table rentals are \$60.

The holiday craft fair will run from 9:30am-5:00pm at the fire hall, located at 161 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park. For more information, call 410-940-1001 or email hallcoordinator@ehvfc.org.

Celebrating
60 YEARS



**University of Maryland
Baltimore Washington Medical Center**
60th Anniversary

Gala

Saturday, November 8, 2025
The Hall at Live! Casino
6:30pm - 11:30pm

You're Invited

Join the University of Maryland
Baltimore Washington Medical Center
for a memorable evening of

CELEBRATION & COMMUNITY IMPACT!

As we commemorate six decades of exceptional care, we're inviting you to support the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation and our dedicated team members who have helped expand access to quality healthcare in our community.

The Hall at Live! Casino

7002 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover, Maryland 21076

Questions?

Contact us at:
bwmcfoundation@umm.edu
or 410-553-8560

BWMC FOUNDATION *Board Members*

Joseph Aiello
Brenda Barrett
Taren Butcher
Kevin Butler
Kathy Burk

Chirag Chaudhari, M.D.
Jennifer Chino
Scott J. Dunkel
Michael Hall
Garret King

Chris Mason
Kathy McCollum
LaToya Nkongolo
Jori Robinson
Martha M. Sidlowski, DDS

Paula Sidlowski
Jerray Slocum
Pete Smith
Debra Tate-Macey
Moke Wolfe

Diamond Sponsor:

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
BALTIMORE WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER MEDICAL STAFF**

Platinum Sponsor:

Live!
CASINO • HOTEL

Gold Sponsors:



**Dr. and Mrs.
Leo Courtney**



Scan QR Code to Learn More

Silver Sponsors:



**Chesapeake Oncology and
Hematology Associates**

Debra Tate-Macey

**Ron and Karen
Lowman**

**UM Baltimore Washington Medical
Center Emergency Physicians**





Save the dates for this holiday season at
HOMESTEAD GARDENS

Holiday Preview Party

Saturday, Nov. 1 • 6-9pm

Girls Night Out

Thursday, Nov. 20 • 5-8pm

VISIT US IN-STORE OR ONLINE:

522 Ritchie Hwy
 Severna Park, MD 21146
www.homesteadgardens.com

Photos with Santa Weekends

Sat & Sun, Nov. 29-Dec. 21

Pet Photos with Santa

Thurs, Dec. 4 • 4-7pm

Scan here to
 see updates for our
 upcoming events



Now ON STAGE!



TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST! • RESERVE TODAY!



call the box office **410-730-8311**
 or visit **[ticketmaster](https://www.ticketmaster.com)**

TOBYSINNERTHEATRE.COM



SEVERNA PARKS
Best

**BRUNCH &
 HAPPY HOUR**

The best brunch with our famous
 bottomless bloody mary, mimosa, and
 bellini bar! Best happy hour with great
 specials on drink and food!

**PARK
 10^{YRS.}
 TAVERN**
SINCE 2014

580 Ritchie Hwy | Severna Park, MD
www.parktavernsp.com

"Time Wasn't Wasted"

Katie Pruitt To Bring Acoustic Tour To Rams Head On Stage

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

Singer-songwriter Katie Pruitt is proof of the expression, "The truth will set you free." After growing up in Georgia, where her LGBTQ+ lifestyle clashed with the beliefs of her family and neighbors, she struggled with self-compassion and care. Yet by sharing her thoughts and fears through lyrics, she found a healthy way forward.

Through her 2020 debut album "Expectations" and 2024 follow-up "Mantras," Pruitt explored the ghosts of her past with raw emotion. The Severna Park Voice caught up with Pruitt before her "Time Wasn't Wasted" tour kicked off in September to talk about her Rams Head On Stage show on October 14 and her songwriting process.

SPV: Do you feel prepared for the upcoming tour?

KP: Oh yeah, I started preparing. My friend Jess Nolan is opening, and we've been friends for 10 years and we've already started rehearsing, and we're going to play a handful of new songs as well, so I've been practicing those and brushing up on my old songs. I'm going to try to play a sort of different set every night. I made these homemade tarot cards, and I basically assigned song titles to each card, so I'm going to have an audience member do a "Wheel of Fortune" thing where they pull a card and then we have to play whatever song they pull, so that will be fun and keep us on our toes.

SPV: Is that how your journey started, with an acoustic guitar? Your mom taught you some chords and then you played guitar for your friends?

KP: Definitely, that's how it started back in high school. I feel like lately, especially last year after I released "Mantras," it was pretty much all full-band stuff, and this year I have been getting back to me playing an acoustic again and it's fun. The song is kind of stripped away and it's only just me, my voice, the guitar and the lyrics, so I feel like that helps me get to know the song and the emotion behind it a lot better. It's nice to take all the other elements away sometimes.

SPV: Right, and Rams Head is an intimate venue that will allow your voice to resonate clearly and for the audience to connect with you. I'm sure most of the venues on the tour are the same way?

KP: That's exactly right, and I love Rams Head too. I've played there before, and I think I was with a band the last time I played. I'm excited to come back and play in that room. The room always sounds good, and people are extremely attentive and also engaged, so I'm excited.

SPV: I know you have to write for yourself and what you're feeling because the music has to be authentic, but it has to feel rewarding that you wrote these songs based on what you were experiencing and people have approached you at shows and said, "This has helped me." I think I read that was the case with you and the song "Georgia" where your mom understood what you were going through because of the lyrics in that song.

KP: That song, in particular, has been really powerful, not only in my career but in my personal life. I have heard from other people at my shows that it's helped them as well, and that's insane to me. When I sat my mom down and said there's this song on my record, this was my first record, I was referring to "Georgia." I was like, "It's kind of intense. I want you to know that I wrote it at a time when I was really hurting when you guys didn't accept me." I think by the time the record was coming out, they were turning a corner with it, so that also helped. But yeah, my mom was like, "I had no idea that you felt this way. And it's made me reflect on how I acted as a parent." It's crazy.

There was a guy also at the show recently, like older southern guy, and my dad was at the show and he leaned over to my dad and was like, "I was the dad in 'Georgia,' and my dad was like, 'Whoa, I guess so was I.'" It's wild. People still come up to me and tell me stories about that song. It was a painful song to write, but I'm so glad I did. It's an outlet for people, myself included.

SPV: Absolutely. Do you think you will have a favorite song to play during this tour? It could be a song from "Mantras," "Expectations" or even something new.

KP: Honestly, I feel like probably my favorites are going to be my new ones. There's a song called "Blackout" that isn't out yet that I've been enjoying playing, just me and an acoustic. It's like an end-of-the-world love song vibe, but I've been enjoying playing that one recently and I hope it gets people excited about the old songs also, gets them pumped for the new record that is hopefully coming next year.

SPV: A lot of unexpected things that can throw kinks into that.

KP: We don't know for sure, but we are aiming for next year.

SPV: It must be cool to see your trajectory so far. I don't know if you had a specific moment where it hit you? Like when you opened for Chris Stapleton at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

KP: I did have the crazy experience opening for Brandi (Carlyle) at Red Rocks — just me and my guitar and a friend, my tour manager, singing backup vocals. That was crazy because it was just the two of us singing to an entire

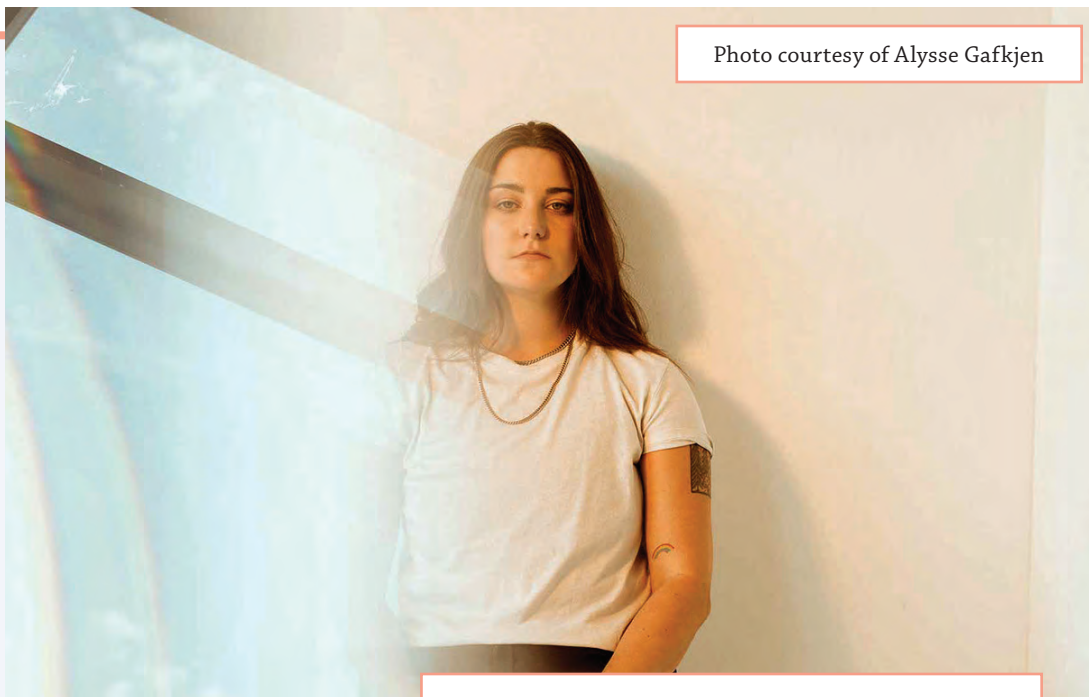


Photo courtesy of Alysse Gafkjen

Show Details

When: October 14 at 8:00pm

Where: Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis

Tickets: \$30-\$45

Ticket Link: www.ramsheadonstage.com/events

sold-out Red Rocks, and it felt like I was singing in a 100-cap club. It felt that zeroed-in and locked-in with the crowd. It was that cool.

Other than that, is truly those moments when people come up to me and are like, "Yo, 'Georgia,' I sent that to my parents and it helped me." That helps me be like, "Oh cool. This isn't in a vacuum. This is affecting people." You can always get caught up in the TikTok, Instagram ... of like measuring your success or your reach based off of that, which is so stupid, but it's the fact that people are being affected by the music in real life, and the music has a life outside of me, is the coolest part. So anytime I'm reminded of that, it's really rewarding and makes me want to keep doing it.

SPV: The way you write songs, like some of your influences — Brandi, Joni Mitchell, Jason Isbell — it's not just we have a verse, a chorus. It's tapping into how to structure the lyrics in an interesting way.

KP: Yeah, it's like the conventional first pre-chorus, chorus. It's good to have if you're like, "This is the song I want to write." But if the song wants to go in another direction, you have to listen. Jason is a good example of that. Also, Ruston Kelly is another person who has been a really important friend and mentor in my life. He's always breaking the rules of songwriting, which I admire. So yeah, I'm always trying to go to left field with it if I can.

SPV: Yeah, and I know you have collaborated with Ruston. What has that collaboration been like and with Jess Nolan?

KP: We've been friends for like 10 years. It feels like we're sisters. You know, people you've been friends with so long you're like, "You're family. We've passed the threshold of friends. You are family to me." That's Jess. I know people are going to love her music too, and she has inspired me so much through the years.

I want it to feel like people are walking into a living room where we are sitting, playing, talking and laughing. I want it to feel very interactive with the crowd, like they just came over for dinner and we're playing some songs. We're going to try to create that vibe.

SPV: Those are definitely good venues for it. I guess for anyone who is not familiar with Jess' music, what about her music do you hope audiences will come to love?

KP: Her voice is just so warm and inviting — that is the first thing I noticed about her when I heard her years and years ago. Her writing is truly incredible, and I feel like when I am listening to her song, I am going on a journey. It's not necessarily a linear journey. I'm getting pulled in so many directions, but I'm along for the ride, so she's also somebody who breaks the conventional rules of songwriting in a way that is like her own thing, kind of like a Joni Mitchell or a person who doesn't do the classic pop song structure. She's great, and I think people are going to dig what she does.

SPV: Is there anything else you want people to know?

KP: I had a song just come out, called "Risk." Other than that, I am really excited for this tour, and there's going to be a couple more songs that come out around that.

SPV: What inspired "Risk" and its lyrics?

KP: It's about that nervous, hesitant feeling that you get in the beginning of a relationship. I'm like a year in of a new relationship after a very long-term relationship in my 20s, so it's just about how falling in love is a risk, but it's one of those risks in life that, if you don't take it, you're going to regret it. It's like Wallace right in front of you; just do it for the experience and don't stress about the outcome. It's me talking myself into it, but I do like the song and it's definitely a positive song, and I don't write a ton of those, so it's a rare breed of Katie Pruitt songs.

This interview was trimmed due to space. Read the full version online.



Best In Show For Quilting

Arnold resident and Cottonwood shop owner Julie Antinucci took Best In Show honors for quilting during the Anne Arundel County Fair in September. The competition marked the first time she entered the county fair. Her quilt, "Geese of a Feather," features nine feathered star blocks, each totaling 450 pieces, and a flying geese border.

The project took about two years to complete, from cutting and piecing to quilting and binding. "The colors are my passion: orange and teal," Antinucci said. "Anyone who knows me knows that I love happy colors and cheerful — also complicated — quilts. This quilt is one of my favorites, and I'm very happy to have it hanging at Cottonwood for a while."

"A Big Bold Beautiful Journey"

» Continued from page 39 the director's career so far. Both characters learning to forgive themselves and understand their parents might feel a little disjointed from the core narrative, but as discrete moments, they're unmatched.

It's a film that lives and dies by the quality of its dialogue, and while it does frontload itself with some of the worst it has to offer, it makes sure to cap things off on a high note.

It's a great looking movie too. Kogonada has never been a slouch when it comes to breathtaking visuals, and "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey" is no exception — combining this quiet, understated aesthetic with a number of gorgeous sunsets and wide vistas. Despite being unapologetically fantastical, it's light on special effects, about as flashy and technical as something like "About Time," but it's anything but dull.

When it does commit to something a bit more "Avatar," a single scene around the midpoint that sees our two leads gazing down at the Earth below them, it hits like a bolt of lightning. Scenes walking through a deserted museum at night are given just as much reverence as a fully choreographed musical number, and at no point does it feel like any other movie seen before.



Photo courtesy of Matt Kennedy/Sony Pictures Entertainment

Margot Robbie and Colin Farrell star as Sarah and David, respectively, in "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey."

"It's a film that lives and dies by the quality of its dialogue, and while it does frontload itself with some of the worst it has to offer, it makes sure to cap things off on a high note."

If there's one thing that can be said about "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey," it's that it's unique. It's not going to be everyone's thing, and even the people who love it will take issue with some elements, but to suggest it's derivative or unimaginative is simply not true. Does it all work? Absolutely not, but it's a huge swing from a director who still has the juice.

**We nurture
independence so
you can live life
to the fullest.**

Discover for yourself why
seniors choose Spring Arbor.
Call to schedule a tour today.



Leading with Heart. Because it's Personal.

Spring Arbor of Severna Park
345 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park, MD 21146
410-544-7774

Scan the code to
visit our website.

SpringArborLiving.com



Annapolis Symphony Orchestra Appoints New Musicians

The Annapolis Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has appointed six new string musicians, whose artistry will deepen the ASO's vibrant sound and strengthen its role as a cultural leader in the region. The new musicians include principal harp Katherine Ventura; violinists Zoe Kushubar, Anna Luebke, Madalyn Navis and Glen Kuenzi; and violist Kunjing Dai.

Katherine Ventura joins the ASO after three seasons as acting principal harp with the Kansas City Symphony, with frequent appearances at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. She will serve as acting principal harp of the Pittsburgh Symphony during the 2025–2026 season.

The new violin and viola appointments bring an impressive range of experience: **Zoe Kushubar (violin)** is pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Maryland and has performed internationally, with solo appearances across the eastern U.S. and Europe.

Anna Luebke (violin) holds positions with the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, and Sarasota Opera Orchestra, and has held fellowships at Tanglewood and Spoleto USA.

Madalyn Navis (violin) performed with Virginia Symphony Orchestra and regularly performs with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra and Richmond Symphony.

Glen Kuenzi (violin) performs with the Great Falls Philharmonic. He is a former concertmaster of the National Orchestral Institute + Festival (NOI+F)

and an Eastern Music Festival fellow.

Kunjing Dai (viola), a graduate of Juilliard and Rice, has performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Colorado Symphony, and Ying Quartet, and serves on the faculty of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

"These musicians embody the artistic depth, talent and professionalism we strive to bring to the stage," said ASO's artistic director and conductor, José-Luis Novo. "At the ASO, we are committed to presenting concerts that are both emotionally engaging and conceptually appealing. By welcoming these new colleagues, we reaffirm our mission to share music as a living art form — one that reflects the diversity, resilience, and imagination of the human spirit, and serves as a powerful means for bringing people together."

ASO Executive Director Erica Bondarev Rapach added, "These appointments ensure that the ASO can continue offering extraordinary performances while deepening our connections with the community. We are especially proud that violinist Glen Kuenzi also teaches at the Annapolis Symphony Academy, where ASO professional musicians — all union-represented — mentor young students in lessons, ensembles and the Orion Youth Orchestra. This connection between the symphony and the academy is central to our mission: inspiring audiences today and nurturing the musicians of tomorrow. We are thrilled to welcome these new colleagues, and I know our patrons will give them a warm Annapolis welcome."



KATHERINE VENTURA
Principal Harp

KUNJING DAI
Viola

GLEN KUENZI
Second Violin



ZOE KUSHUBAR
Second Violin

ANNA LUEBKE
Second Violin

MADALYN NAVIS
Second Violin



MEZZANOTTE

REAL FARM TO TABLE
REAL ITALIAN

WWW.CAFEMEZZ.COM

ALL FRESH PASTA

Taste the Difference... of Fresh Pasta made daily with the finest flours and ingredients!

NEW FALL MENUS

New Fall Food and Drink Menus in October at Mezz!
Enjoy the return of Seasonal favorites and Explore our Brand New Creations, New Wines and Cocktails, and more!
Complete Menus and Updates Online

CATERING & BANQUETS

Celebrate your holidays and occasion with Mezz!
On-Premises Banquet Rooms for up to 100 guests, and
Off-Premises Catering Packages for any size...
Email banquets@cafemezz.com



New Seasonal Menus!



GRAZIE
FOR VOTING US
BEST OF
SEVERNA PARK!

THANK YOU FOR
Voting us Best Restaurant,
Best Dinner and Best Italian,
Best Service, Special Occasion,
Best Dessert, & Gluten-Free!
Your Support Fuels Us!



Open A New Door.

Innovation. Experience.
Results.

Dorian Keydash, an accomplished Associate Real Estate Broker, has left an indelible mark on the Baltimore and Anne Arundel County real estate landscape with his unique blend of expertise in real estate and construction. With over two decades of experience, Dorian has not only excelled as a top-tier realtor but has also brought a wealth of construction knowledge to the table.



Dorian Keydash
Associate Broker

dorian@doriankeydash.com
office 410.823.0033 cell 410.908.5758
www.doriankeydash.com

Warfield & Darrah, P.C.

Attorneys at Law
Paula J. Darrah

All Family Law Matters

Divorce ~ Property Division
Custody ~ Alimony ~ Child Support
Protective Order Proceedings

Voted
Best Lawyer
2020, 2021,
2022, 2023



Offering Free ½ Hour consultation. Remote Conferencing.
Schedule Yours Today!

Severna Park II, 838 Ritchie Highway, Suite 2, Severna Park, Maryland 21146
(410) 544-1020 www.darrahfamilylaw.com

Connect With Us!

www.severnaparkvoice.com

f facebook.com/severnapark

X SPVoice



P.O. Box 608, Severna Park, MD 21146 • 410-647-9400
spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com • www.severnaparkvoice.com



Where Pets Are Family!

NEW PATIENTS ACCEPTED

- ULTRASOUND
- IN-HOUSE LABORATORY
- PHARMACY ON SITE
- DIGITAL X-RAY
- LASER SURGERY



410-987-8300 | 401 Headquarters Drive, Millersville, MD 21108
MillersvilleAH@Gmail.com | MillersvilleAnimalHospital.com
f facebook.com/MillersvilleAnimalHospital @millersvilleanimalhospital

local expertise you can trust



Alex Schwab
410-255-3200
517 Benfield Road Suite 202
Severna Park
aschwab@allstate.com

Allstate

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Ins. Co & affiliates: 2775 Sanders Rd Northbrook IL 60062. © 2021 Allstate Insurance Co.

You love living in Severna Park as much as I do. But, are you doing everything you can to protect the life you've built here? As your local Allstate Agent, I can help you make informed decisions to help ensure that everything you love is well protected. Contact me to get covered.

Voted Best Insurance Agent by the readers of the Severna Park Voice.



The Value Of Staying Active In Your Community In Retirement

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



ington Medical Center Foundation, or BWMC Foundation, to promote the “Retire Well — Health and Peace of Mind” seminar, which will provide free estate planning and wealth well-being support for the public.

This is intentional, and it is important to me and everyone at LaBarge Financial. Our vivid vision is to transform the lives of the families we serve,

You may have noticed that we have a different advertisement on the back page of this newspaper. We have donated the page to the University of Maryland Baltimore Wash-

our staff and our local community. That last note matters to me.

It is UM BWMC’s 60th anniversary, and in the spirit of its decades of dedication to the public, I want to discuss how you can remain active in supporting your community in retirement.

As a retirement planner, I work with people nearing retirement who suddenly have a lot of time to do what they would like. They want to dedicate time to activities that they may not have had the freedom to do during their working years. That’s a perfect opportunity to support your fellow neighbors. It keeps you engaged in your community and helps make the world a better place. Find something you are passionate about and support the mission.

One cause that is close to me is supporting patients with Alzheimer’s disease. I assist families with their

» Continued on page 48

Zeskind’s Marks Major Milestone With 100th Anniversary



The company’s fourth-generation owner and president, Rick Miller Jr., celebrated with his family, team and loyal customers during an event on September 20 at Park Hardware in Severna Park.

Zeskind’s earned its positive reputation with excellent customer service. That all started with founder Sam Zeskind.

Sam Zeskind opened Zeskind’s Hardware at 222 South Payson Street in Baltimore in 1925. He ran the business successfully for nearly 50 years before selling it to his grandson and successor, Rick Miller Sr., and his wife, Debi, in 1973. Rick Miller Sr. was born to parents Miriam Zeskind and Irvin Miller in 1953 and worked at the store as a teenager — stocking shelves, repairing windows and screens, and assisting customers. So, he felt prepared to take over and grow Zeskind’s into a local staple for roofing materials and specialty hardware.

By Zach Sparks

Only an estimated 1,100 family businesses in the United States have lasted for 100 years or longer. Only 3% of businesses reach the fourth generation or beyond, according to the Family Business Institute.

Having reached both of those marks, Zeskind’s Hardware & Millwork has joined rare company.

The company’s fourth-generation owner and president, Rick Miller Jr., celebrated with his family, team and loyal customers during an event on September 20 at Park Hardware in Severna Park, where the Zeskind’s door and window showroom is located. Guests enjoyed food truck offerings, product demos and raffle prizes. They also learned about the company and how it has endured and thrived over the last century.

Today, Zeskind’s specializes in manufacturing and supplying residential, multi-family, and mixed-use millwork products including windows, interior doors, exterior doors, fine hardware and custom trim.

Like any longstanding business,

“My dad did roofing and flat-roof projects,” Rick Miller Jr. explained. “In the ‘70s, there were not a lot of those places. He went to landlords and property management companies and offered them locks and screen and glass repair.”

The Zeskind’s showroom in Severna Park bears only a small resemblance to the Baltimore store, which served a different customer base.

“Our business before was centered on Baltimore rowhomes and older buildings,” Rick Miller Jr. said. “That was a niche and specialty store. We didn’t have grass seed because there were no lawns. There were no grills. We had no suburban retail items.”

Like his father, Rick Miller Jr. learned the ins and outs of the business as a teenager. He spent the early ‘90s helping while earning a degree from Salisbury University’s Perdue School of Business. He then worked for various domestic and international millwork companies, and by 2008, he decided to save his family’s legacy business by joining Zeskind’s full-time, with a vision of modernizing and

» Continued on page 48



Sam Zeskind opened Zeskind’s Hardware at this location, 222 South Payson Street in Baltimore, in 1925. The company purchased a large warehouse across the street at 207 South Payson Street in Baltimore in 2008, and that site remains the hub of manufacturing and distribution.

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



our directory at www.gspacc.com.

Chase Bank (Bronze Member)

www.chasebank.com

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. is an American national bank headquartered in New York City. It offers a comprehensive range of products and services that include free online bill pay and mobile deposits, 24/7 live customer service, low opening requirements, many checking options and more.

Forth & Forth Advisory

Founder Maria Carlton partners with brands and leaders who want to bridge the gap between strategy and execution — moving faster, collaborating better, and making transformation stick.

Community Title Network LLC

www.communitytn.com

Community Title Network is dedicated to delivering the ultimate settlement experience by providing proactive, streamlined and informative communication throughout every phase of your settlement. The team of seasoned real estate settlement attorneys and skilled residential and commercial title professionals focuses on delivering peace of mind for

all clients. The business serves Maryland, Washington, D.C., Delaware and Virginia.

IPM Pools and Patios

www.ipmpoolsandpatios.com

IPM Pools and Patios specializes in building high-quality swimming pools tailored to your needs. The experienced team ensures that every pool is crafted with precision and care, using the best materials available. From fiberglass pools to concrete pools, IPM has experts in it all! Your dream pool. Your dream patio. Built the right way, the first time. The team also installs outdoor spas.

Owner Matt Smith is the mastermind behind the chamber’s glorious tree that we light up in December.

Two Truths Solutions LLC

www.twotruthsolutions.com

The dynamic training and personalized coaching — whether one-on-one or in team settings — help clients uncover their role in conflict, break down barriers, and shift limiting mindsets. Two Truths Solutions emphasizes the importance of self-accountability, encouraging individuals to examine their own thoughts, emotions and behaviors before engaging in difficult conversations. Two Truths. No drama. Just better conversations. Veteran owned.

Mutual of Omaha Reverse Mortgage

www.mutualreverse.com/lo/david-wengernuk

Mutual of Omaha is the top provider of reverse mortgage options, including the home equity conversion mortgage (HECM) and jumbo reverse mortgages, allowing homeowners to borrow significant amounts against their home equity. Remember the four “nevers” of a reverse mortgage: 1. Never give up the title to your home. 2. Never owe more than the value of your home. 3. Never move out. 4. You never have to make a mortgage payment!

Iconic Desserts

www.iconic-desserts.com

Jamaica-born with a passion for music

» Continued on page 50

Zeskind's Marks Milestone

» Continued from page 47
expanding the operation.

The company acquired a large warehouse across the street at 207 South Payson Street in Baltimore in 2008, and that site remains the hub of manufacturing and distribution. Between 2015 and 2016, custom millwork began.

Rick Miller Jr. completed the buyout of Zeskind's and opened a showroom in Arnold in 2019. That showroom has since moved to Severna Park.

"Bringing in manufacturing millwork, cabinets, trim — that was my addition to the company," Rick Miller Jr. said. "My background was millwork. I wanted to grow the company doing what I knew I could bring to the table. That took us from three employees to about 45, and about 12 times the gross sales."

As part of his strategy, Zeskind's acquired Lamar & Wallace, adding a 70,000-square-foot facility while doubling its staff and vehicle fleet in 2020. And in 2023, the company saw an opportunity to expand access to its millwork showroom and move its retail operation closer to home by acquiring Clement Hardware in Severna Park. Rick Miller Jr. and his staff transformed the space into Park Hardware with the Zeskind's showroom inside.

The transition held a special significance for Rick Miller Jr., a Severna Park native who grew up in the Chartwell neighborhood and attended Benfield Elementary School, Severna Park Middle School and Severna Park High School.

"Our hardware store was a rowhouse in Baltimore. We would stop at Clement Hardware so we didn't have to drive to

Baltimore when we needed a nut or bolt," Miller said last year as Park Hardware was undergoing upgrades. "It's like a dream come true to be able to run this store."

The two businesses have been ingrained in the community as sponsors of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's Fourth of July parade and as wine bar sponsors of Art in the Park, the Severna Park Voice's annual fall event in partnership with Cafe Mezzanotte. Zeskind's and Park Hardware also support Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, schools and youth groups, and nonprofits including Stef Ripple and the Katherine's Light Foundation.

As a former Eagle Scout from Troop 855, based in St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church, Rick Miller Jr. makes sure to help the local scouting community.

"We thank the customers and employees. Without them, we wouldn't be here," Rick Miller Jr. said when asked why it's important to give back.

Just like Rick and his wife, Joni Miller, and the previous stewards of the corporation, the Miller kids are involved in the store, bringing the fifth generation into the fold. Their 15-year-old daughter spent time at Park Hardware over the summer, and their 13-year-old son is about to start helping around the store.

Miller does not see Zeskind's slowing down anytime soon. He hopes to refresh and expand the showroom, and work on Zeskind's installation program with windows and doors.

"We're going to keep streamlining, finding efficiencies and building the foundation for the next 100 years," he said.

The Value Of Staying Active

» Continued from page 47

finances in retirement, and whether it's a close relative who suffers from the disease or themselves, it can have a devastating impact on their lives.

Because of this, our team is participating in Baltimore's Walk to End Alzheimer's by walking a 5K to raise money for Alzheimer's research. Support for people with this disease is important to me and the people I work with every day, and that fuels our passion to support this mission.

Support doesn't have to include a donation. You can also donate your skills to stay active in your community. One way that people are doing so is through the Art in the Park event in October. The day will feature local musicians and artists showcasing their skills to entertain the audience, with some of the proceeds being donated to local nonprofit Bello Machre. This nonprofit provides loving care and support for children and adults with developmental disabilities. We are proud to be the sponsor of the event.

Even if you aren't a musician or an artist, everyone has an opportunity to help one another using their unique talents. Do you enjoy cooking and could volunteer time at a local meal center, or are you good at managing money and could help people create a budget?

If you can't think of a specific talent, organizations are always looking for people to support them through manual labor, like building homes for Habitat for Humanity. Even at the October

5 Art in the Park event, volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down.

Any task, big or small, can make a difference. At LaBarge Financial, I'm proud that we live up to our goal to support many local organizations by simply donating our time. If you can support the community through donations, I encourage you to do that as well.

As you enjoy flexibility in your retirement, consider how you can use part of your open schedule to support your neighbors. What are your passions, and how can you use them for good? You hold the power to make our local community a better place.

Jason LaBarge, financial advisor and president of LaBarge Financial
7 Riggs Avenue
Severna Park, MD 21146
443-647-4321
www.labargefinancial.com

Securities offered only by duly registered individuals through Madison Avenue Securities LLC (MAS), member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory products and services made available through AE Wealth Management LLC (AEWM), a registered investment advisor. MAS and LaBarge Financial are not affiliated entities.

BWMC Foundation and Art in the Park are not affiliated with LaBarge Financial or AEWM.

This branded content is brought to you by an expert in his or her respective field.

OUR FAMILY SERVING YOURS SINCE 1947
CALL OR TEXT US FOR AN APPOINTMENT
410-268-7191

Voted Best Plumber
In Annapolis/AACO
15 Years In A Row

Capital Gazette
BEST OF
ANNE ARUNDEL
2024
WINNER

- Plumbing Repairs
- Drain Cleaning
- Gas Fireplaces Installation & Maintenance
- Bath/Kitchen Remodeling
- Tankless & Traditional Water Heaters
- Water Treatment
- Gas Piping
- Boilers ... And more

HEIDLER, INC.

Serving the community since 1947
Plumbing & Heating Contractors

208 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401

410-268-7191

www.heidlerplumbing.com




ASSOCIATED PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT

**Commercial Space
Available in Severna Park**
410-421-5010

**836-846 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park**
Starting at \$17 per square foot

Brighten, Beautify, and
Fall in Love with Your Kitchen

Save up to
\$1,500*



Pegah Scotti
Woman-Owned Business
Locally Owned & Operated
410.604.8518
kitchentuneup.com/annapolis-md



Visit Me Online

kitchen tune-up®
Update. Upgrade. Uplift.

Schedule your **complimentary** consultation today!

At participating franchises only. © 2025 HFC KTU LLC. All Rights Reserved. Kitchen Tune-Up is a trademark of HFC KTU LLC and a Home Concepts Brand. Each franchise independently owned and operated. *Now through 10/31/2025 save up to \$1500 on your core service project, excludes countertops. Max at 10% of purchase price. Not to exceed \$1500. Valid on new purchases only, cannot be combined with other offers or promotions. Ask for details. Restrictions Apply

Capri Pizza Celebrates 35th Anniversary

Severna Park residents Joe and Karen Misuraca will celebrate their 35th year in business on November 19 at their store, Capri Pizza & Sub Express, located at 337 Hospital Drive in Glen Burnie.

Joe was born in Sicily, Italy, and moved to New York City. Karen is also from New York City. As a result, they brought a New York Italian style to Anne Arundel County through their menu offerings.

Capri Pizza & Sub Express specializes in providing a real New York style pizza as well as a full Italian menu of calzones, strombolis, homemade lasagna, meatballs, chicken Caesar salads and its famous homemade bread. Capri Pizza & Sub Express also provides catering for organizations, clubs and schools.

The Misuracas and their family have run this business since 1990. Their children — Rosie, Gina, Katie and Sal — have all grown up in and worked in the business and attended Severna Park schools. They also love giving back to the community by providing food to University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center doctors and nurses every Friday and by supporting nonprofit organizations including Katherine's Light Foundation and the Out of the Darkness Walk, to name a few. They also support local youth sports and schools.

On November 19, Anne Arundel County Council member Allison Pickard will present a citation honoring Capri Pizza & Sub Express' 35 years in business. At this event, the Misuracas will give away mini cannolis, specialty Italian New York cookies and other items.

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 47

and food, owner Stacey-Marie loves creating delicious treats in the kitchen and being able to make and share her creations with you. It brings her much joy to see astonished faces when customers receive their orders and to get positive feedback on how the treats were thoroughly enjoyed. Taste will never be sacrificed as she always bakes with love. As a proud Army veteran, she is deeply grateful for life's journey.

The Thrifter Chicks

Owner Heather McPhee curates and sells antique, vintage and preloved home decor, clothing and accessories, bringing new life to them by turning forgotten pieces into something fresh, functional and full of character. From upcycled garments and reimagined furniture to redesigned jewelry, every item is made with creativity and care. Rooted in sustainability and community, her work transforms the old into unique treasures you will love. Find The Thrifter Chicks on Facebook.

Sarah Brino, Counseling | Consulting LLC

www.sarahbrinolpc.com

Sarah's counseling philosophy is rooted in a fundamental belief that we are all wired a bit differently, a concept that's become a bit more popular since sociologist Judy Singer coined the term "neurodiversity" in the 1990s. The key is to learn more about who we are, where we come from, how we function, and what strengths and challenges arise, as who we are interacts with the rest of the world around us.

Kristen Dombrowski LLC

www.kristendombrowski.com

Kristen Dombrowski LLC is a woman-owned lead-

ership development and coaching/consulting business that creates spaces where leaders and teams feel seen, connected and empowered to grow — building stronger self-awareness, resilience and purpose-driven leadership in organizations and communities. Kristen partners with leaders and teams through coaching, consulting, self/team assessments, team development and workshops.

W.R. Flater General Contractor

www.wrflater.com

Are you ready to create your dream home? W.R. Flater General Contractor is one of the most trusted home remodeling companies in the region. Whether you are looking to renovate one room or are planning a whole house renovation, they will work closely with you to understand your vision and design and execute a remodel that exceeds your expectations.

We held two milestone ribbon cuttings in September. The first was for **Landmark Roofing** in celebration of its 10-year anniversary in business. Not only has Landmark Roofing become an incredibly successful business, but the team also has donated over \$250,000 back to community nonprofits.

The second was the 100-year anniversary of **Zeskind's Hardware and Millwork/Park Hardware**. We celebrated with Rick Miller, the fourth-generation owner, and his family, friends, staff and customers.

Our annual Driving Force for Business golf tournament was held at the **Chartwell Golf and Country Club**. It's always a fun event and a perfect day to enjoy the links.

For more information, visit the chamber website at www.gspacc.com.

MARKETPLACE

SEVERNA PARK VOICE
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

EXPLORE THE WORLD YOUR WAY



- PERSONALIZED VACATIONS
- EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES
- QUALITY ACCOMMODATIONS
- IMMERSIVE ACTIVITIES
- EXPERT KNOWLEDGE
- DEDICATED SERVICE



FAIR WINDS TRAVEL

WWW.FAIRWINDSTRAVELAGENCY.COM

WJ HEGARTY
HOME IMPROVEMENTS
Quality workmanship at affordable prices for over 30 years

NO JOB TOO SMALL

EXTERIOR
Siding | Roofing | Windows
Doors | Concrete | Repair
Additions | Porches and More!

INTERIOR
Kitchens | Baths
Drywall | Painting | Plaster
Repair and More!

ASK ABOUT OUR WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEE
LICENSED - INSURED

410-721-0633

From our family to your family for over 30 years

Exceptional eye care.
State-of-the-art cataract surgery.
Expert glaucoma care.



Allen Rutzen, MD, FACS



Jacqui Hanna, MD



Sara Francomacaro, MD



Celia Twigg, OD

All with an un-matched level of customer service. Right in your back yard.

RUTZEN
EYE SPECIALISTS
& LASER CENTER
410-975-0090 RutzenEye.com

PEAK POTENTIAL Chiropractic & Physical Therapy



Dr. Patricia Beall
Sports Performance and Family Chiropractor

650 Ritchie Highway, Suite 106
Severna Park, MD 21146
B: 410-421-5544
F: 410-421-5549
pbeall@peakpotentialchiropt.com
www.peakpotentialchiropt.com



BLAKE'S ASPHALT LLC

443-758-0067
www.blakesasphaltllc.com

ACE HANDYMAN SERVICES
An ACE Hardware Company



Home Repairs & Maintenance

Give Ace a call: **443-645-0991**
MHIC# 149074

HANDYMAN SERVICES
All Interior Repairs • Painting • Baths • Drywall • Complete Basements
(410) 647-5520
fnlconstructioncompany@gmail.com

Your trusted plumber since 1957.
410.647.3030
Dwyer Plumbing
Plumbing, Heating
and Backflow Prevention
8377-B Jumpers Hole Road, Millersville, MD 21108
DwyerPlumbingInc@gmail.com
Maryland License # 63813

JIM'S BODY SHOP
410-647-1178
Family Owned & Operated for 45 Years

• All work guaranteed for as long as you own the vehicle
• FREE estimates
• We accept all insurance

248 Keedy's Lane | Pasadena, MD
Owner - Jim Keedy | Fax 410-647-4231

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Zeskind's Reaches The Century Mark

Zeskind's started as a Baltimore hardware store before expanding into a hardware and millwork operation with a headquarters and showroom in Severna Park, along with a manufacturing and distribution center in Baltimore. Fourth-generation owner Rick Miller Jr. and his family members, friends, staff and customers celebrated the 100th anniversary in style on September 20 with food, product demos and raffle prizes at Park Hardware, which contains the Zeskind's showroom.



Attendance Was Through The Roof For Landmark Roofing's 10th Anniversary



Dozens of family members, staff, chamber of commerce representatives, customers and local partners joined Landmark Roofing as the company marked 10 years of operation during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 18. Co-owners Artie Hendricks and Rob Calhan talked about their purpose: using Landmark Roofing as a vessel to give back to the community through philanthropy. Located at 540 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park, the business shows no signs of slowing down as it continues to offer roofing, siding and windows.

WHAT MATTERS
TO YOU MATTERS
TO US.

BUSINESS | AUTO | HOME | CYBER | BONDS | HEALTH | LIFE

moraninsurance.com • 410.384.4884

696 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park

MUÑOZ
ESTATES & TRUSTS

GUIDING FAMILIES THROUGH
PROBATE WITH CARE

Losing a loved one is never easy. We simplify probate—managing the details so your family can move forward with peace of mind.

(410) 541-0269

TRUSTMUNOZ.COM

7 RIGGS AVE, SEVERNA PARK, MD 21146

Planting the Seeds for Tomorrow

A Financial & Legacy Planning Seminar

Proudly presented and sponsored by



Jason LaBarge,
Financial Advisor



Rachel Muñoz, Esq.

Hosted by



BALTIMORE WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
FOUNDATION

Thursday, November 20, 2025
12 p.m. or 5 p.m. (choose one session)

UM BWMC Outpatient Care Center

255 Hospital Drive, 4th Floor • Glen Burnie, MD 21061



In celebration of UM BWMC's 60th Anniversary

Join us for a thoughtful seminar focused on building your financial health, protecting what matters most, and continuing a legacy of care in our community.

Whether you're planning for retirement, updating your estate plan, or exploring ways to give back, this event will offer practical strategies for aligning your wealth with your values.

Lunch catered by The Grill at Quarterfield Station

Dinner catered by Two Rivers



SPACE IS LIMITED!

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each session to allow time for check-in and seating.

RSVP by contacting Amanda at LaBarge Financial at 443-647-4323 or email events@labargefinancial.com and indicate which session time you are interested in attending.

Ad space donated by LaBarge Financial. LaBarge Financial was not compensated for this ad. For full disclosures visit: www.labargefinancial.com

Securities offered only by duly registered individuals through Madison Avenue Securities, LLC ("MAS"), member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory products and services made available through AE Wealth Management, LLC (AEWM), a Registered Investment Adviser. MAS and LaBarge Financial. Munoz Estate and Trust are not affiliated with LaBarge Financial, MAS or AEWM. 3301203 09/25