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» **Page 14**



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» **Pages
31, 33**

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Playing For The Cure: Severna Park Field Hockey Players Support Moms Against Breast Cancer

By Zach Sparks

zach@severnaparkvoice.com

**"The Best Protection Is
Early Detection."**

"Pink Ribbon Strong."

"Feel For Lumps."

Save Your Bumps."

Logos promoting breast cancer awareness have become increasingly popular over the years. Severna Park High School field hockey players showed their support for breast cancer patients and survivors not only with catchphrases but also by donning pink socks, glitter and hair bows during varsity and JV games against Southern High School on October 9.

The Falcons often host dedication games, including "Playing for the Cure" fundraisers during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but this one was special. Several girls were playing for their moms.

On the JV team, sophomores Millie Evans, Elle LaBrier and Addison Tetrault paid tribute to their moms, who are breast cancer survivors. Another sophomore field hockey athlete, Lucy Knoepfle, also has a mom who has battled the disease.

"It means a lot because cancer is something hard to go through, and especially seeing your mom go through it, it changes your whole perspective about everything that people go through," Addison said. "Being able to play for her was really nice because I know it meant a lot to her."

Breast cancer accounts for about 30% of all female cancers each year, according to the American Cancer Society. One in eight women is diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

With encouragement from Lucy's



mom, varsity field hockey player Kate Edwards spearheaded the effort to pair this year's dedication game with awareness efforts. The event also supported Leah Marks, a certified reading specialist at Severna Park High School.

"I wanted to do something for both of the teams," Kate said before her team took the field. "We gave them goodie bags, just to bring up spirits, and pink socks. The biggest thing I had to do was write a speech, which I'll be

giving before our game starts and then just having all the signs and posters made, decorating before the game, so we could get our message out to as many people as possible."

Signs around the stadium included QR codes for a #LeahStrong GoFundMe campaign that had raised \$965 for Marks as of October 24. The girls' message was simple.

"Part of our message is the importance of early detection and just

Photos by Zach Sparks

Left: Addison Tetrault fought for control of the ball during the JV Falcons' 9-0 win over the Southern Bulldogs. **Right:** (L-R) Addison Tetrault, Millie Evans and Elle LaBrier wore pink socks, glitter and other accessories to honor their moms on October 9.

knowing the signs, getting the screenings," Kate said. "Since we have had so many people impacted, we want to limit the effects of breast

cancer as much as possible."

Like Addison, her teammates feel strongly about the cause.

"It's definitely really important to play for my mom and the other moms out there because it's hard to see your mom go through something like that," Millie said.

Ella agreed, saying, "I think when you see someone you know go through this, it's more meaningful to play. It's

» **Continued on page 8**

Art In The Park Celebrates Talent, Gives Back

Music and art lovers gathered at Cafe Mezzanotte on October 5 for the fifth annual Art in the Park festival, a collaboration between the restaurant and the Severna Park Voice. Attendees enjoyed live art demonstrations, vendor offerings, a gourmet

picnic, a wine garden, and jazz music performed by Ahmed Warshanna's ISHTA, with special guest Gracie Jay.

The event was made possible by sponsors LaBarge Financial, Zeskind's and Park Hardware, Perilla Wellness and KMA Law Office, along with sever-

al vendors and art galleries that provided work for display. Event proceeds benefited the nonprofit Bello Machre, which is committed to providing a lifetime of loving care for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

See more photos on page 5.



Left: Representing event sponsor LaBarge Financial, Jason LaBarge (left) presented Art in the Park funds to Robert Ireland, president and CEO of Bello Machre.

Right: Local artists put their talents on display as they did live demonstrations during the event, including this painting of Art in the Park as it unfolded.



Inside

Community.....	1
Religion.....	10
Politics & Opinion.....	13
Sports.....	14
School & Youth.....	28
Health & Fitness.....	34
Arts & Entertainment.....	35
Business.....	41

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Margueritte Mills - Volunteer Of The Month

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

The Margueritte Mills Volunteer of the Month is proudly sponsored by Affordable Outdoor Kitchens.



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Theresa Rottman Helps Nourish Bodies And Hearts At ACAN Food Pantry

By Jaina Peveto

Though Theresa Rottman has spent much of her adult life moving, one thing has stayed consistent: her love of volunteer work. Now a resident of Arnold, Rottman has volunteered with Asbury Church Assistance Network (ACAN) for nearly five years, where she helps with the weekly food pantry and with reviewing and editing grants that help keep ACAN open.

"She is a very positive individual and always sees the good in the clients that come to the pantry," said Peggy Wilson, executive director of ACAN. "She often says there is no shame or judgment here."

ACAN's food pantry is open from 10:00am-noon on Mondays and Tuesdays. Rottman typically checks people in and completes paperwork for them. At the end of the line, people pick up a big box of food. Rottman explained that ACAN focuses on healthy food such as fresh vegetables and meat, while also giving access to things like desserts as they go through the line. ACAN holds the occasional baby pantry or elder pantry as well as the regular food pantries.

"It's opened my eyes to a new realm of need in our community," Rottman said. "Although you always know that there are people who are hungry, it's different when you stay at a food bank for a while and get to know the people who are coming through."

Rottman has volunteered since she



Arnold resident Theresa Rottman has devoted her time to serving those in need at the ACAN food pantry since relocating to the area.

was 22 years old. Though her years as an Air Force spouse meant frequent moves, Rottman always made time for giving back. In addition to wanting to help people, she also appreciates the way volunteering connects people with their community. Before her husband retired, she spent 30 years working with other Air Force spouses. She has also helped with Hospice and new moms learning how to breastfeed.

"I honestly feel that everyone should get their hands dirty," Rottman said.

When she's not volunteering, Rottman enjoys playing piano, reading and playing mahjong. Spending time with her family is also important to her.

Rottman and her husband moved to

"It feeds people where they are. And there's something very beautiful about that."

— THERESA ROTTMAN

the area from Northern Virginia and enjoy visiting their adult kids, who live with their spouses in Washington, D.C.

Rottman knew when she moved that she wanted to continue volunteering, and she's been working with ACAN ever since. Though she didn't have a specific type of service in mind when she started looking for a way to get involved in the community, she found that she appreciates the grassroots feel of working at the food pantry. Since she moved to Arnold, Rottman has made ACAN her focus.

"It feeds people where they are. And there's something very beautiful about that, so that appeals to me," Rottman said. "It's different to be at the food bank than it is to write a check to the food bank."

Rottman's favorite thing about her work at the food pantry is the way that it connects people. She has loved having the chance to get to know both her fellow volunteers and the people who come through the line. "I always say that we are theirs and they are ours," Rottman said.

To learn more about ACAN, go to www.acanfoodpantry.org.



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Gearing Up For Holiday Caring Program, SPAN Is Seeking Meal And Gift Sponsors

As the team at SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) is preparing for the nonprofit's annual Holiday Caring program, they are seeking volunteers to sponsor families in need with meals and gifts.

There are several opportunities to support the campaign: Community members can sponsor a Thanksgiving meal, Christmas gifts for children, or a holiday dinner. For Thanksgiving, SPAN is accepting either grocery gift cards or dinner boxes filled with canned goods for traditional sides and desserts along with a \$25-\$30 grocery gift card for meat. For Christmas meals, due to space limitations, SPAN can only accept grocery gift cards. Individual instructions for sponsoring Christmas gifts for a child are provided upon signing up.

Last year, SPAN provided holiday meals and gifts to 500 children and their families. Everyone supported through the Holiday Caring program is an existing client of SPAN who previously came to the organization in need of food or emergency financial assistance.

Maia Grabau, SPAN's director of operations, oversees the Holiday Caring program. She shared that many of the recipients are single mothers. Last year, two moms were not only facing financial challenges but also battling can-

cer. Grabau added that in 2024, SPAN was also able to help a single mother of six children, all of whom had developmental disabilities. She came to SPAN just before it closed for Christmas in need of assistance with a utility bill, and Grabau was able to offer her a few leftover presents and gift cards for her kids, which brought her to tears.

Some of the families SPAN hopes to support this year with the community's help are facing significant hardships. Sponsors who can "go the extra mile" may be able to help bless the parents with a gift or gift card as well.

"It is a huge blessing to be able to spread some joy to families like these," Grabau emphasized.

To participate in the Holiday Caring program for Thanksgiving or Christmas, email Grabau directly at spanhelps@yahoo.com for detailed instructions or to be matched with a family.

All holiday donations should be dropped off at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Severna Park. Thanksgiving meals and gift cards will be collected on Monday, November 17, and Christmas gifts and meal gift cards will be collected on Sunday, December 14.

Learn more about SPAN at www.spanhelps.org.

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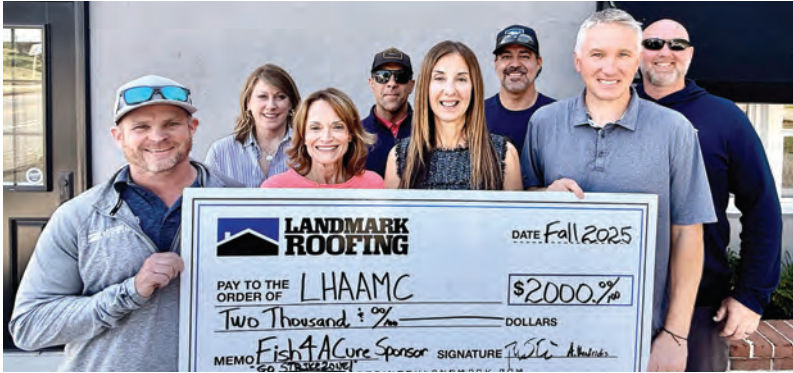


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Landmark Roofing Donates To Fish For A Cure



Through its navigator sponsorship, Landmark Roofing is donating \$2,000 to Fish For A Cure. The November fishing tournament and fundraising challenge benefits the cancer survivorship program at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center's Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Institute. Landmark Roofing's donation will be credited to Arnold resident Eric Milton, who captains the boat "Strikezone" during the tournament. To learn more about Fish For A Cure or donate on behalf of Strikezone, visit www.fishforacure.org.

Park Fitness Supports The Rapunzel Project During Anniversary Fundraiser



With an outdoor workout and music provided by a DJ, Park Fitness raised funds for The Rapunzel Project on October 4. (L-R) Park Fitness coach Vic Cantorna, owners Danny O'Malley and Joe Bocek, and coach Lucci Battitori were among the organizers. A nonprofit, The Rapunzel Project helps chemotherapy patients keep their hair by means of a cooling cap, an item that was helpful to a Park Fitness member. With the fundraiser, Park Fitness also recognized the business' eighth anniversary.



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Art In The Park Celebrates Talent, Gives Back To Bello Machre



Cafe Mezzanotte owner and executive chef Kosmas “Tommie” Koukoulis embraced a hands-on role during the event as he sliced meat and talked to guests.



Right: Guests enjoyed a curated selection of grilled meats, salads, vegetables, pastas and more at the event's gourmet picnic.



Severna Park Voice Publisher Dianna Lancione spoke about Art in the Park's mission of spotlighting local artists and giving back to the community.

Right: Vocalist and special guest Gracie Jay opened the event, entertaining Art in the Park attendees throughout the early hours of the live music and arts festival.



Photos by Zach Sparks and Meredith Winter



Modern jazz band ISHTA, a sextet led by guitarist and composer Ahmed Warshanna, headlined the event.

Below: Severna Park's Jodi Roberts, owner of Properly Kate Jewelry, was one of many vendors offering unique local wares for purchase.



Above: The staff of Cafe Mezzanotte worked hard throughout the afternoon to keep the food and beverages freshly prepared and flowing.

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GSPACC's Shoptoberfest Drew Festive Crowds, Showcased Local Businesses

The Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce held its annual Shoptoberfest, a shop local-themed event with a trick-or-treat twist, on October 11. Community members gathered at the Park Plaza shopping center to peruse vendors and exhibitors, participate in kids' costume contests, gather sweet treats, enjoy entertainment from a local dance group, and of course, to shop local.



The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company received two \$500 donations from Shoptoberfest gold-level event sponsors Prime IV Hydration & Wellness and Kitchen Tune-Up.



The Alzheimer's Association received a \$500 donation from gold-level event sponsor Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi.



Left: Gold-level event sponsor SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park donated \$500 to the Chrysalis House.



Right: Gold-level event sponsor Atlantic Blue Water Services donated \$500 to the YWCA.



Gold-level event sponsor Landmark Roofing presented a \$500 check to the Children's Theatre of Annapolis.

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Dr. Sok Recognized For Work With Green Hornets



The Baltimore Ravens team chiropractor since 1999, Dr. Alan Sokoloff (center), also known as Dr. Sok, was recognized this October for his eight years of support for the Greater Severna Park Athletic Association (GSPAA) and the Green Hornets sports programs. During those eight years, Sokoloff has educated parents and athletes about concussion awareness and the value of hydration. Senator Dawn Gile (left) and GSPAA executive board member and vice president of sports Larry Sells presented two citations, including one on behalf of Governor Wes Moore.

Playing For The Cure

» Continued from page 1

not a fun thing to go through."

Addison's mom, Meridith Tetrault, and Leah Marks can attest to the hardships caused by the cancer. By sharing their stories, they want to help other women.

The Power Of Love And Support

Meridith had no family history of breast cancer and had a normal 3D mammogram in August 2018. The following March, she felt a lump. A biopsy followed and she was diagnosed with invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC).

There are several types of breast cancer, with IDC falling under the invasive category, meaning the cancer has the potential to spread.

"I was estrogen positive and HER2 positive, and that means my cancer was feeding off estrogen and HER2," Meridith said. "It was a fast-moving thing, but treatable."

Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, or HER2, is a protein that helps cancer cells grow.

Surgeons presented her with options: a lumpectomy, which removes the tumor and surrounding tissue, or a mastectomy, which is used to remove the entire breast.

"I didn't want to go through this (process) and years later have the cancer return, so I did the double mastectomy and called it a day," she said.

Meridith endured surgery, followed by 12 weeks of chemotherapy and a year of Herceptin, a therapy treatment. Looking back, she said the journey went "as well as it could have," and that walking every morning became a key factor in her perseverance.

Marks also received caring guidance, and at 39 years old, she wants women to know that breast cancer affects adults of all ages.

"I am eternally grateful to Dr. Laura Amodei with Bay Radiology in Arnold; she literally saved my life," Marks said. "Similarly, Dr. Carol Tweed of Maryland Oncology Hematology in Annapolis — another incredible, no-nonsense woman — developed a comprehensive treatment plan for me, from genetics to chemotherapy. Her family is also local."

While undergoing treatment for breast cancer, Marks has continued to teach her students and has been "continually lifted by their empathy, encouragement, and concern and by the care of the Severna Park High School faculty and staff."

"Following my double mastectomy and lymph node removal, I was blessed to receive a 100% pathological response," she said. "While radiation may still lie ahead, I am deeply thankful for how far I've come."

No one should endure the fight alone. Meridith belongs to The Breasties, a support group meant for both current patients and survivors. People offer advice and donate items they no longer need.

"Anybody who is diagnosed, I think the biggest thing is don't go through it alone," Meridith said. "Reach out to someone who has gone through it or one of the breast cancer groups. No two breast cancer cases are exactly the same from diagnosis to treatment, but there's always similarities to talk about and relate to."

As for her daughter Addison and her teammates, it is heartwarming to feel the support.

"In the beginning of September, she had to pick two ribbons for her hair and she said, 'I want pink and white.' She's not a pink-and-white girl," Meridith said. "It means a lot of people are supporting women and supporting each other in the community, as well as the research and health and wellbeing for women. It makes me proud to see the girls learn and understand that at a young age."

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Severna Park Couple Collaborates On New Gospel Music Album

Severna Park resident Ron Ward Jr. is the minister of music at Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church and a longtime music producer. Most recently, he has collaborated with his wife, Dor'Ray Ward, and many talented community members to produce a gospel album that will come out in early 2026.



Dor'Ray Ward co-leads worship at her home church and assists in the music ministries of other local churches as well. She is featured on the forthcoming gospel album as the singer of "Our God Is Here" and as a background vocalist for many other songs.

By Meredith Winter

Eager to follow his older sister in learning to play the piano, Ron Ward Jr. began to develop his ivory tickling skills at a young age. When Ron's sister quit her lessons, his teacher pulled Ron's parents aside and said, "Don't let Ron quit, because I think he has a gift."

Except for a short break during college, Ron has played piano ever since. For the past 14 years, he has used his gifts on the staff of Severna Park's Asbury Town Neck United Methodist Church as the minister of music, where he directs four choirs, rehearses for weekly services, and plays every Sunday. His father previously pastored the church beginning in 1987, and after graduating from Yorktown Business Institute, Ron moved to the area in 1990.

Ron has also worked as a music producer for over 20 years, released several jazz albums and a Christmas album, and played in bands including his own, Ron Ward Jr. and Friends. In 2020 he released an album with the same name.

His bride of seven years, Dor'Ray Ward, is a gifted vocalist. She shared that she learned nearly all that she knows from the women who led the music ministry in the Pasadena church of her youth. She now co-leads worship at LIFE Church Ministries in Brooklyn and assists with worship at Asbury Town Neck and a church in Gambrills.

Dor'Ray recently branched out into singing with local groups Rick and the Revolving Doors and Chosen Music, and she is focused on parenting and studying to become a certified personal trainer.

Reflecting on his musical career a couple of years ago, Ron realized that he had not yet produced a gospel album, and that doing so was "way overdue." For nearly two years, he has been collaborating with Dor'Ray and many other talented musicians from their churches and the community on producing a gospel album. Four singles have been released, and the full album will come out in early 2026.

Years ago, injuries sustained in the line of duty as a fireman jeopardized Ron's passion for playing the piano and the organ. He shared that he broke his neck, shoulder, ribs — everything on the right side of his body. Not only was his future as a musician called into question; initially, he was not even sure if he would be able to walk again.

"When I was in my recovery — of course you're praying every day — I just asked the lord if he would spare me. I would play for him each and every Sunday. Because I was playing some here and some there, in and out. And so, he spared me, and I haven't really looked back," Ron said. "And that's why I said this album is very special because it's my dedication to him basically sparing my life, and my ability to walk, and even my ability to play."

He added, "Sometimes my family will say, 'You've got to take a Sunday off, Ron,' and I'll say, 'No, I've got to be at church because I made that declaration.' And then when I lost my mom in 2020, I know that this was always her vision for me, to do what I'm doing now. I know ... she was very proud of my being the minister of music at Asbury Town Neck. (So) this album is kind of like a dedication to her as well."

Titled "The Order of Service," the album will include hymns, contemporary Christian music, gospel music, and original songs.

One of those originals, "Our God Is Here," features Dor'Ray as lead vocalist — at her husband's encouragement — and tells of God's comforting, constant presence. With the album originally slated for release on Dor'Ray's birthday in late July, Ron shared that it worked out in God's timing and was instead released on his birthday in October.

"I knew she had the talent to do it," Ron said. "I had this song that I knew fit her range and her style and her type of energy. So I asked her, would she do it?"

» Continued on page 12

American Guild Of Organists, Annapolis Chapter, To Host Hymn Festival In Severna Park

On Sunday, November 9, all are invited to take part in "A New Creation," a hymn festival sponsored by the Annapolis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Slated for 3:00pm at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, the celebratory event will be led by a choir comprising members of 10 area church choirs and directed by Daniel Aune, professor of organ at Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Festival attendees can look forward to singing hymns together including "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," "This Is My Father's World," "We're Marching To Zion," and "Now Thank We All Our God." "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" will be sung to a newer tune composed by William Bradley Roberts, former instructor of church music at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia.

The choir will perform several anthems as well: "Deep River" by Christopher Schroeder, "Look at the World" by John Rutter, and "Coronation" by Craig Courtney.

Participating churches include St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church, Severna Park United Methodist Church, Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church, and several others in Annapolis, Davidsonville and Bowie. A free-will offering will be received at the event.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church is located at 611 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard in Severna Park. For more information about the event, go to www.annapolisago.org/events.

Pamela Palumbo To Retire As CEO Of Wellspring Life Ministry

Wellspring Life Ministry (WLM), a nonprofit organization, has announced that Pamela Palumbo will retire as CEO in the spring of 2026. Since assuming leadership in 1982, Palumbo has overseen tremendous growth and impact, strengthening the ministry's role as a leader in women's life-affirming health care in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties and beyond with offices in Annapolis, Bowie and Severna Park.

"Leading Wellspring Life Ministry has been one of the greatest honors of my life and I give praise and glory to God for his work in my life and the lives of those we have served," Palumbo said. "Stepping away is bittersweet, but the ministry is in a strong position to continue amazing, lifesaving work. I look forward to more time with my husband, Joe, and our family, especially our 20 awesome grandchildren, while remaining a steadfast supporter of this incredible ministry."

Under her leadership, WLM has grown from one women's clinic office in Bowie-Crofton to three with the addition of the Severna Park and Annapolis women's clinics. Her tenure has been marked by a deep commitment to statewide leadership, serving as founder and president of the Maryland Coalition, representing 23 women's clinics across the state.

Palumbo's leadership expanded Wellspring's impact, beginning with being one of the first women's clinics in the nation to add medical services of ultrasound, STD/HIV testing and now Well Women Care, all offered at no cost. Her vision transformed the organization into a national model for compassionate, faith-based care.

"For over 40 years, Pamela's Christlike leadership has been a beacon, saving countless lives and mentoring generations of advocates for women and their children," said Derek McCoy, chair of the board. "We have all been blessed by her passion and heart to save lives. Her service is unmatched and we are deeply grateful."

The WLM board of directors has retained a search firm to lead a national search for Palumbo's successor. "Our priority is to find a leader who will build upon Pamela's extraordinary legacy while expanding WLM's reach to meet the growing demand for life-affirming services," McCoy said. "...In the meantime, Pamela will continue leading WLM with the same passion and dedication that have defined her remarkable tenure."

Interested candidates can learn more at www.slingshotgroup.org/jobs/wellspring-life-ministry-ceo.



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Woods Church To Host Auditions For "The Prince Of Egypt"

"The Prince of Egypt" is a sweeping musical and the next production coming to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in March. The creative team will begin assembling a cast of all ages, abilities and genders following auditions from November 11-12.

Audiences will enjoy familiar music and lyrics by Grammy and Oscar winner Stephen Schwartz, a book by Philip LaZebnik, and 10 new songs written by Schwartz, along with five of his songs from the DreamWorks Animation film, including the Academy Award-winning song "When You Believe." Journey through the wonders of ancient Egypt as Ramses and Moses, two young men raised together as brothers in a kingdom of privilege, find themselves suddenly divided by a secret past. One must rule as pharaoh while the other must rise up and free his true people; both face a destiny that will change history forever.

Show dates are March 13-15 and March 19-21. Woods is also seeking volunteers to help behind the scenes. For more information or to audition, visit www.wmp-cauditions.com.

Couple Collaborates On Gospel Album

» Continued from page 10

Dor'Ray shared, "He pushes me harder because he knows my capabilities, and like we said he's a producer so he's been doing this a long time ... so even if I said, 'I don't think I can do it,' he was like 'No, you can do it. You can do it. I know you.'"

Dor'Ray also contributed background vocals on about half of the other songs on the album, which features the talents of many local musicians spanning the ages of 30 to 82 years old.

Great effort has gone into producing the album, though the Wards agree their motivation has little to do with money or recognition. Instead, they care about the eternal impact of the message it celebrates.

"My hope is that somebody would be — if they're not saved through Jesus Christ — by



"Our God Is Here" is the fourth and final single to be released before Ron Ward Jr.'s complete gospel album comes out in early 2026.

listening to this album that somebody would feel (a) spiritual connection through the songs through this album, that somebody can relate to what we're singing about in this album," Dor'Ray said. "So I just pray that the words that we sing, maybe the chords that are being played, would penetrate somebody's heart so that they can come to Jesus."

She added, "Or, even if they do know Jesus, that they truly understand that whatever it is (they're going through), God is always going to be with you, he loves you, he will never leave you, he's there for you."

The single "Our God Is Here" is available on Spotify and Apple Music. Ron plans to make the full album available in the new year through his website, which is currently undergoing updates.

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Should Property Owners Be Fined When Snow Is Left On Sidewalks?

Amanda Fiedler

*Councilwoman
District 5*



Snow. We don't see it often, and when we do, it can come in many types and amounts, from the heavy snow to the light fluffy stuff, and variations in between. When snow is mixed with sleet, or sleet comes down in absence of snow, it makes matters worse.

The Anne Arundel County code has long considered residents responsible for the cleanup of sidewalks that are adjacent to residential proper-

ty and in the county right-of-way. Current law stipulates that residents have to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within six hours of the end of a snow event or risk a \$10 fine from the police department.

While there have been complaints to county agencies over the years about uncleared sidewalks, penalties and fees have not been issued, at least that was the statement from the county executive's office during the October 6 deliberation on Bill 76-25. The bill, as introduced, moves the enforcement of snow and ice removal from sidewalks out of the police department and into the Department of Inspections and Permits (I&P).

I support that move. I think our police officers have more pressing matters to contend with than sidewalk clearance after a winter weather event. Bill 76-25 increases the clearing time from six hours after a weather event to 24 hours after a weather event. I think this is more reasonable but also assumes that you are home and physically capable of clearing whatever snow/ice combination is awaiting you outside.

Understanding that this would be complaint-driven code enforcement, the bill sets out an enforcement schedule, whereby upon a complaint, I&P will inspect the property during daytime hours, and if a violation is found, will post a reminder notice about

snow and ice removal on the property, and will reinspect the property 24 hours later.

If there is still a violation upon the second visit, I&P will post a violation. If 24 hours later, the property is still in violation of removing ice and snow from the sidewalk, the original bill set out that the county has the authority to clear the sidewalk using a company contracted with the county, and will hold the property owner responsible for the cost of the clearing, through a bill to the property owner and then a property tax lien on the property, if necessary. The original proposed increased fines grew quickly, reaching over \$1,000 in just a few short days.

The impetus for this legislation, according to representatives for the county executive, was the number of complaints after last year's back-to-back storms, though none of the complaints were from our district. As you may recall, these were back-to-back snow events with nearly 14 consecutive days of temperatures below freezing, little daytime sunshine and lots of wind.

I was on the phone and corresponding with county contacts nearly around the clock about the road-clearing issues our district faced. County employees were on the ground in snow treatment and removal vehicles, working around the clock. But the wind was strong, blowing away road salt almost as fast as it was going down, and the roadway temperatures were far below the recommended temperature minimums for the road salt to work.

It was not an easy storm to clear, and if you were out there shoveling your sidewalk, you know there were layers of ice mixed with heavy wet snow. What the county learned from that weather event was that our existing plow contractor retainer fee was not competitive, leaving the county with a limited number of contractors to support county staff.

In the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, I was happy to support the increased retainer fee that will aim to improve the county's resources for roadway snow removal in the future. But, had we had those resources last winter, there would still have been many challenges due to the

dynamics of that event, and those challenges faced homeowners trying to clear their sidewalks too.

The bill only had one exemption based on age — property owners 70 years or older. But the original bill did not exempt someone with a disability, a physical condition, or a medical condition. I took issue with that during the council's October 6 hearing. The answer from the county was that it would be too hard to manage additional exemptions beyond age.

I shared this legislation in my biweekly newsletter, and it was covered in the local press. The response was immediate, large and overwhelmingly opposed. I agreed. While I had one failed amendment attempt during the October 6 hearing, I and other councilmembers introduced additional amendments at the October 20 hearing.

At that hearing, several amendments passed. One gives the county the discretion to waive or decrease the fine for any reason, including for someone who is disabled or has a medical condition. Another amendment caps the fines at \$50 for a sidewalk abutting a residential property and \$125 for a sidewalk abutting any other type of property (commercial, industrial etc.).

In a county of our size, with the fact that the number of complaints is relatively low, I think that most residents and business owners are good neighbors to one another and clear sidewalks in a timely fashion. We should consider the accessibility and safety of kids getting to school, pedestrians, and those living with disabilities who depend on sidewalks.

But no two storms are alike, and the county has never enforced the tools it has to inform and incentivize residents to clear sidewalks that abut their property. I believe government should give the good citizens of our county the benefit of the doubt, that not every uncleared sidewalk has a negligent, uncaring property owner, but rather they just may not know that the county requires private property owners to be responsible for clearing the walkways that abut their home, or there is a legitimate reason it is not an easy task to complete in the timeframe given.

Bill 76-25 is eligible for a vote or additional amendments at our November 3 meeting. Please share your thoughts with me on this, any other legislation, or constituent needs at amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org.

It is an honor to serve you and your family.

State Capital Funding At Work In Our Community

Dawn Gile

*Senator
District 33*



Each year, nonprofit organizations and local community institutions across Maryland have the opportunity to apply for state capital funding through what are known as legislative bond

initiatives, or LBIs. These grants are part of the state's capital budget and are used to support brick-and-mortar improvements — the kinds of renovations, safety upgrades, and infrastructure projects that help keep important community facilities open and accessible. Unlike programmatic grants, which fund staffing or services, LBIs are strictly for capital improvements such as construction, renovation or major structural needs that have long-term public value.

Although the funding is voted on during the 90-day legislative session each spring, the work begins months earlier. In the fall, organizations planning a project begin working through cost estimates,

demonstrating site control or ownership, and showing how the improvements will benefit the public. Only a legislator can submit an LBI request, so groups must first secure a Senate or House of Delegates sponsor to bring it forward. During session, the project is reviewed as part of the overall state capital budget, and if it is included in the final spending plan, the organization works with the state after session to finalize the grant agreement and begin the construction process.

Behind the scenes, the process is technical, but the outcome is very real, and I am proud to have brought meaningful state investment back into the facilities that keep our community strong, along with my House of Delegates colleagues who partnered with me to secure these funds. For example, the Severna Park Elks received \$120,000 to renovate its lodge with an Americans with Disability Act-compliant bathroom and wheelchair access, opening their doors more fully to neighbors who previously could not access the space.

The Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company has benefited from one of the most substantial investments in the area, with state funding supporting both the

construction needs of a new firehouse and the major reconstruction of the 67-year-old station itself, as well as the purchase of a new fire truck — a crucial investment in the infrastructure our first responders rely on to train, respond and keep our community safe.

We also delivered \$75,000 to American Legion Post 175 to modernize the facility inside and out, improving the indoor gathering space as well as the outdoor fields and lighting used for ceremonies and community events.

And at the Severna Park Community Center, \$125,000 is reinforcing the structural trusses above both indoor pools, a behind-the-scenes but essential safety improvement for a building used daily by families, older adults, swim teams and therapy programs throughout the year.

These projects are a reminder that state investments are not abstract

budget lines; they are improvements to the places where people gather, serve and take care of one another. They strengthen the institutions that anchor community life and allow them to remain accessible and safe for years to come. With the next legislative session right around the corner, now is the time for local nonprofits, community organizations, and service groups to begin thinking about whether a capital project in our area may be a good candidate for LBI support.

I will hold an informational session in December for groups interested in learning more about the process, eligibility requirements, and how to get started. If your organization is considering a facility upgrade or long-term infrastructure improvement and would like to attend — or simply wants more information — please feel free to contact me at dawn.gile@senate.maryland.gov.

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? Email your letters to the editor to spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com. Letters to the editor may be edited for space, clarity, grammar, spelling, etc. We look forward to hearing from you!

After Securing County Threeppeat, Falcon Girls Eye State Playoffs



Photos by
Fincham
Photography

Goals from Maria Bragg, Carlee Scott and Addison Murphy complemented Severna Park's stellar defense in a 4-0 county championship win over South River on October 18.

By David Bashore

All season long, teams have tried to defend against the Severna Park girls soccer team, hold out until halftime, and have a crack in the second half.

So far, it hasn't worked.

South River tried the opposite in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools county championship game on October 18. Different approach, same result.

The Falcons scored three goals in eight minutes either side of halftime and emerged with a 4-0 win to claim their third successive county championship.

They opened the scoring when a corner aimed for **Maria Bragg** sailed over her head and connected with freshman midfielder **Carlee Scott** instead. She was in the right place at the right time to direct her header looping over the keeper and into the net.

"I closed my eyes and hoped for the best and just kept my head there," Scott said. "I thought it went over, and then everyone started screaming and I was like, 'Wait, did it go in?'"

Bragg scored the second and third goals either side of halftime, the first on some interplay and the second on a through ball from **Ava Scott** that sent Bragg off in a footrace she would lose against very few athletes.

That goal finally broke South River's resistance and allowed the Falcons to make another statement victory.

"Ava gave me a perfect ball and I felt like I needed to get to it. Just wanted to finish it for the team," Bragg said. "They came out super strong and aggressive, and it took us a little while to get in our groove. We told

» Continued on page 23



Bruins Flip Script, Beat Falcons For Boys Soccer County Title

By David Bashore

Early in the second half of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools boys soccer county championship game, Broadneck junior forward **Wilson Banwell** sensed the moment. He flicked the ball into the penalty area, where it struck a Severna Park defender on the arm, and the referee pointed to the spot.

Not the Bruins' normal penalty taker, Banwell took the ball and smashed it low into the right corner of the goal. It rippled the net and Broadneck had the lead on

Severna Park for the first time in their two meetings this season. Half an hour remained in the game, but the goal felt decisive, if not poetic.

Broadneck would hold the lead from there, winning 2-1 to claim the program's first county championship since 2021 and avenging the Bruins' only loss so far in 2025.

That setback came by the same score in overtime when Severna Park scored a penalty kick to end the game, celebrating on Broadneck's home field.

"We wanted revenge against them," Banwell said. "They got the penalty (in September) and went to the corner and celebrated in front of our fans. We took that personally."

The county championship was a frantic, testy game that had two bizarre goals in addition to Banwell's conversion from the penalty spot. Severna Park opened the scoring on a **Stephen Bacho** rolling far-post shot that defender **Brady Miller** tried to clear but could only di-

» Continued on page 22

Photos by Dennis McGinley

Mason Kaline and the Bruin defense have conceded one goal or fewer in seven straight games and 14 goals overall in 15 games, as of the region final.



Braeden Kelly picked up goals 16 and 17 on the season in the county championship and region semifinals, respectively.



Joe Brenner made five saves against Bowie, including three highlight-reel ones to keep a clean sheet.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

KENNEDY SMITH

Broadneck High School
Volleyball

By Tom Worgo

Senior **Kennedy Smith** puts on a show every time she steps onto the court during a match for the Broadneck High School volleyball team. Bruins supporters give the 6-foot Kennedy a loud ovation when she jumps up two or three feet and spikes a ball for a kill. She does it often, averaging 11 kills per game through mid-October.

"Other kids score points, but she brings people to their feet," Broadneck volleyball coach **Tracey Regalbuto** explained. "A lot of times, kids from other teams will duck or cover their faces. I'm on the other side of the net during practice, and it is scary."

Her kills aren't just for entertainment. Smith, a two-year co-captain, helps the Bruins win — and a lot.

They got off to a sizzling 10-2 start this season, won the county championship behind Smith's team-leading 21 kills, and are coming off an appearance in the Class 4A state championship game, where Broadneck lost in three sets to two-time title winner Richard Montgomery. That's only the second time the Bruins have advanced that far in Regalbuto's 11 years on the job.



Photo courtesy of Lorene Redziniak

Kennedy guided Broadneck to the state final with a stellar performance (10 kills, four digs) in a sweep of Perry Hall in the final four.

Regalbuto, who also praised Kennedy for commitment to academics, volunteerism and coaching young volleyball players, considers Broadneck to be a more experienced team than last year's squad. The Bruins returned 11 of 14 players to the varsity, including five starters.

Of course, Smith figures to be leading the way if the Bruins reach

the state championships again. As of mid-October, she had 136 kills and was on pace to set the Broadneck single-season record with 236.

"It would be amazing," Smith said of winning a state championship. "Since I am a senior, we are more pumped and really trying to go after it. We are really connecting well this season."

Smith could play volleyball in college — and at a high level — if that was her goal.

"I think Kennedy could play Division I volleyball," Regalbuto said of Smith, who also had played for the Bay Area Volleyball Club (BAVC) for four years.

But Smith plans to play club volleyball and concentrate on academics in college. She wants to be a psychologist and open a group of mental health clinics in California.

"People ask me all the time, 'Are you going to play volleyball in college?' They are shocked," Smith said. "When I explain I want to go to a big college in California, they understand more."

The 18-year-old Smith carries a 4.25 weighted grade-point average and has a strong desire to attend college in California. She applied to eight schools from the state with University of Southern California; University of California, Santa Barbara; and Loyola Marymount topping her list.

Smith, who is also eyeing to earn a master's and doctorate from the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in California, will have taken 11 Advanced Placement classes by the time she graduates from Broadneck.

Volunteerism, exploring her career field and helping blossoming volleyball players is important to Smith, too.

Smith shows her character and willingness to give through her volunteer work. She prepares and serves food to the needy at the Light House shelter in Annapolis on the first Wednesday of every month. She collected 15 large trash bags of men's clothing from around her Arnold neighborhood as well as about 800 pairs of socks that were given to Light House.

With an abundance of enthusiasm, Smith tutors players at BAVC clinics as well as Broadneck summer camps.

She also focuses sharply on learning more about her career goal. Smith also participated in a forensic science course at UCLA, psychology course at University of California, Berkeley and an emergency medicine course at Georgetown. These courses were for select students from across the country.

"I definitely never had an athlete that does as much as her," Regalbuto said. "Like contributions to the community and the other things."

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Broadneck Repeats As County Volleyball Champs

By David Bashore

Even with all Broadneck's firepower clicking, the usual suspects weren't enough to put away Arundel in the 2025 county volleyball championships on October 18.

Instead, it was a freshman libero who proved to be the decisive force.

Alexis Luscomb served three straight aces in the fifth set, swinging a narrow lead into a four-point margin Broadneck would see to the finish. The five-set victory allowed the Bruins to retain the county championship against the revenge-minded Wildcats.

Luscomb, who also had 18 digs in the match, toyed with Arundel's defense by sending a short dipping serve, followed by a long one that just clipped the back line. A third successive ace left the Wildcats baffled and facing a deficit they couldn't rescue.

"I was trying to yo-yo them, serve short to trick them and then serve deep to make them really think about it," said Luscomb, a setter by trade and the third one on Broadneck's depth chart. "It just makes me happy that I can contribute in different aspects of the game beyond setting, with my defense and serve receive. I don't get to do those things a lot."

Kennedy Smith led Broadneck with 21 kills, while **Anna Graves** had eight kills and 20 digs, and **Camryn Bedell** had a 10-kill, 10-dig double-double.

Broadneck won the first two sets and looked poised to run away in the third set, but a small lead went by



Left: Broadneck right-side hitter Anna Graves received congratulations after blocking an Arundel attack. **Right:** The Bruins celebrated after scoring the final point to beat the Wildcats in the county championship for the second straight season.



Photos by David Bashore

the wayside and Arundel roared back to take the next two sets and level the match.

Despite Arundel having all the momentum, Broadneck remained unfazed and simply wrested it back when the chips were down.

"After set four, in our huddle, I told the team that they think they have all the momentum because they won the last two, but that doesn't mean anything. We know we can shift it and what our potential is," Graves said. "We came out extremely strong with our cheering and mentality. We flipped the switch right away."

The Bruins have lost just three times this season: to

Annapolis Area Christian, to Musselman (West Virginia), and in the last week of the regular season to Howard.

That will keep them at home for the first round of the regional playoffs against Annapolis, but road dates with Bowie and potentially Leonardtown beckon should the Bruins advance that far.

Nevertheless, the Bruins remain locked in on the next match, knowing going 1-0 in each remaining test will get them back to their goal.

"We are just seeing the mistakes we can improve on. Every game is a lesson, and there are things we need to learn from them," said senior setter **Sydney Lawrence**. "We fix those, and we'll be ready."



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Falcons Poised For Regional Volleyball Run

By David Bashore

After a thrilling match with Broadneck and a blip against Arundel, Severna Park's volleyball team has turned it on down the stretch.

The Falcons are competing at the top end of their region standings for the first time in a while, courtesy of a sizable win streak at the right time of the season.

The five-match string featured straight-set wins over Old Mill, Meade, Long Reach and McDonogh, along with a five-set nailbiter over Crofton. They closed the run out with a 3-2 loss against River Hill in their final regular season match.

During that stretch, the Falcons got quality attack play from **Lizzie Ranaghan**, who had 74 kills in the five matches, including 22 against Crofton. She was backed up by fellow pin hitters **Maggie Morgan** and **Hannah McKinstry**, who each posted double figures in at least one match during that stretch. Defensively, **Jennifer Hong** pulled up 59 digs in the five matches, including 21 against Long Reach.

With the late surge, Severna Park has guaranteed at least one home playoff game. The Falcons will be seeded second for the 3A East II region playoffs, and the road to the state playoffs goes through Arundel. The Wildcats swept Severna Park on their way to claiming the region's top seed.

Repsnakes Win Boys Lax Tourney In Delaware



The Repsnakes reeled off three consecutive wins before winning the championship over Brotherly Love Kraken, 5-4.

The Severna Park Green Hornets 2032 boys lacrosse team won the Legends fall kickoff tournament at the DE Turf Sports Complex in Frederica, Delaware, on October 19. Coaches **Brad Reppert**, **Derek Howells**, Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year nominee **Kim Bloomfield**, **Eric Wedemeyer** and **Marshall Feldman** led the team to a 4-0 record on field five. The Repsnakes reeled off three consecutive wins against the Northstars Lacrosse Club (11-0), Brotherly Love Kraken (5-2) and Coastal Lacrosse Academy (6-4) before advancing to the championship game, where they held off Brotherly Love Kraken 5-4 to claim the trophy.

During the tournament, the offense was paced by **Nathan Feldman**, **Liam Cooke**, **Logan Blair**, **Braxton Reppert** and **Ryan Berger** at attack, which complimented the well-rounded play of midfielders **Caden Howells**, **Mark Wedemeyer**, **River Baker**, **Connor Wild**, **Lawton Bloomfield**, **Brantley Masters**, **Landon Walsh** and **Liam Chaney**. Long-stick midfielders **Hunter Slater** and **Graeme McDowell** were ground-ball machines as the defense was anchored by **Aiden Cooke**, **Joey Blanchet** and **Grant Sim**. **Sammy Coleman** and **Jack Mihoces** combined to allow only 2.5 goals per game. **Henry Smith** posted in support of his teammates, while on the mend.

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With Shutout, Falcons Get Over Hump And Return To Boys Soccer Region Finals



Photos by Fincham Photography

Left: Severna Park played a physical match against Broadneck in the boys soccer county championship in Annapolis on October 18. **Right:** Braxton Barr, pictured here against the Bruins, had a goal in the Falcons' 4-0 region semifinal win over James M. Bennett on October 25.

By David Bashore

Two straight years, the Severna Park boys soccer team had nail-biting county championship games, only to lose in the region semifinals the next weekend.

The senior class wasn't about to let that happen for a third time in a row.

Behind a goal and an assist from **Garrett Moden** and further goals from **Braxton Barr**, **Caden Morris** and **Zephyr Elliott**, the Falcons put away James M. Bennett 4-0 on October 25 to advance to their first region final since 2022.

"I feel like everyone who's been on the team the last two years where we've lost this game on this same Saturday, we didn't want to lose again. We came out to make sure that didn't happen," Moden said. "Watching film and knowing our personnel, we were faster going in behind, especially being able to move the ball the way we do and getting through balls."

Moden opened the scoring in the first half by driving into the penalty area and drawing a foul. He converted from the penalty spot to put the Falcons ahead, but they had trouble generating sustained pressure despite carrying the bulk of offensive possession.

There was greater success in the second half. **Stephen Bacho** attacked from the right wing and drew both the keeper and the defense toward him, allowing him to pass the ball along the six-yard box to Barr, who tapped it into an empty net. Moden floated a corner kick that Morris powered in with a header not too long later, and JV callup Elliott finished the scoring shortly before the end with a breakaway effort.

"This game was everything to us, just to get over that hump. We know our final goal is that state ring and it's what we've been working for all year," Barr said. "We saw that they were playing back on us, so we just had to find the gaps and the holes."

Severna Park earned the No. 2 seed in the region playoffs on the back of a strong finish to the regular season: they won their last five games of the regular season and were unbeaten in their final nine. That forced both a coin toss with Bennett for the No. 2 seed and a coin toss with Crofton for the right to represent their division in the county championship. Severna Park won both tosses.

Though the county championship ended with a disappointing 2-1 loss to Broadneck, a team the Falcons beat in September on the Bruins' home field by the same score, they refused to let the loss hang over them and

lead to another home playoff defeat.

"We can dwell on (the county championship) for a week or whatever, but the reality is we're not going to have another county championship, and the end goal is a state championship," Moden said. "We had to just put it out of our mind and focus on the end goal."

The Falcons traveled to Stephen Decatur on October 28 for a spot in the state level of the playoffs, where they haven't been since reaching the 4A championship game three years ago. Follow @SPVoiceSports on X for updates.

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Bruins Wrap Season In Girls Soccer Region Semis

By David Bashore

Asked to summarize the Broadneck girls soccer season, and helping to lead a young squad to a destination perhaps beyond her time in the program, **Hadley Crooks** didn't need long to express her feelings.

"It's been an incredible season. It's been hard to have only three people that have the senior experience going into the season," she said. "A lot of new faces, a lot of nerves. Working to build each other up on the field has been huge, as well as team unity outside of soccer. You can see on the bench the girls cheering their hearts out to encourage those on the field and that means a lot."

As Broadneck came down the stretch of the season, a much improved but somewhat depleted squad delivered some memorable moments, and the seniors led the way.

Crooks had the game-winning goal in successive games in the team's final two victories: the only goal in a goalmouth scramble in a 1-0 overtime win at Crofton to close out the regular season, and the second goal in a 2-1 region playoff first-round win over North Point on October 22 (she assisted Raegan Milnes on the other).

The second of those goals came when her cousin, Natalie Crooks, received the ball in space on the right wing from Alyssa Watson. She then fired the ball across the penalty area with pinpoint precision, where



Left: Raegan Milnes possessed the ball and looked for a scoring option against North Point. She later scored on a header from a free kick. **Right:** The Bruins celebrated as Hadley Crooks, facing, scored the second and game-winning goal against North Point on October 22.



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Hadley Crooks was on hand to smash it into the goal for a 2-0 lead.

"It was a matter of making sure I got a good ball in, no matter who it was, but the cousin chemistry is real," Natalie Crooks said. "It was a perfect ball and a perfect finish. I don't know if we've had an assist-goal off of each other the whole four years we've been here, so it was pretty emotional."

That turned out to be the final goal Broadneck would score. The season ended two days later in the region semifinals for the second straight season, as the Bruins fell 4-0 in a revenge game at Crofton.

cousins and midfielder Chloe Phillips.

Those three were charged with leading the way for the younger players, and they did so with aplomb.

"We've been really pleased with how they've led the way," said Broadneck girls soccer head coach John Camm. "I'm happy with this group just in their entirety. They've worked harder than any group we've had since COVID. They train hard. We've maybe had two kind of flat practices the whole year, and they refocused, regrouped, and the practice after that was great. They're getting better, they're focused, and they're kind of on a mission, and I like what they're doing."

Both Crooks cousins said they valued the team ethos and positive culture, which they all worked hard to build. Hadley Crooks cited deliberate intention to connect outside of the field, while Natalie added the trust and belief factor that helped foster.

"In prior years, I think we haven't had as much belief in ourselves, belief in each other. Everyone wants to win, everyone wants to be here, and I think that's also a first," Natalie Crooks said. "Regardless of what happens, just knowing we're leaving it out on the field is the best thing we can do."

Broadneck accomplished a 9-4-1 season with a roster heavy on freshman, sophomores, and juniors. They will graduate just three seniors: the Crooks



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SPHS Girls JV Soccer Team Continues County Champs Win Streak

The Severna Park High School girls JV soccer team repeated their success as county champions with a hard-fought victory over Chesapeake on October 18. In a tightly contested match, Lola Phippen scored the game's only goal with just six minutes remaining in the second half, securing the win for the Falcons. The team's strong defense and relentless effort throughout the match proved decisive in preserving the shutout and another impressive result for the season.



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Bruins Flip Script, Beat Falcons For Boys Soccer County Title

» Continued from page 14

vert it into the net. The Bruins equalized shortly thereafter when a Falcon clearance smashed off of Broadneck forward **Braeden Kelly** and into the goal from about 25 yards out.

After the Bruins took the lead, they leaned on their calling card — a defensive back line that has stymied opponents all season long. The Falcons had a couple of half-chances but nothing that severely threatened Broadneck keeper **Joe Brenner**.

"At the beginning of the game, everyone was nervous. It's just about being able to use those nerves to your advantage instead of letting it overtake you," Miller said. "In the first half, I let up an own goal but I didn't let that bring me down. In the second half, any run they had that came through, our back line was there to just clean it up so they couldn't get through."

That same defense cleaned up against Chesapeake in a 5-1 win, where **Wyatt Shaw** was charged with tailing Cougars star forward **Byron Klohr** all over the field for 80 minutes. Klohr had one half-chance early on but was otherwise kept quiet.

Having been in playoff mode already just before the county championship, courtesy of a similarly tense 2-1 win over Crofton, the Bruins parlayed their experience into a comparatively comfortable 3-0 win over Bowie in the region semifinals.

Kelly scored from a Banwell throw, and **Cooper Gaver** iced the game late with a counterattack goal, but it was sophomore

midfielder **Tate Quinton**, the smallest player on the field, who opened the scoring on a looping header from another Banwell throw.

"I usually sit in front of their (defensive midfielder), and I noticed I had a similar-height guy on me, so I tried to flick it on with my head and then I saw it float to the back post when it got in," Quinton said. "I was surprised a little bit because I don't usually win a lot of headers in the box."

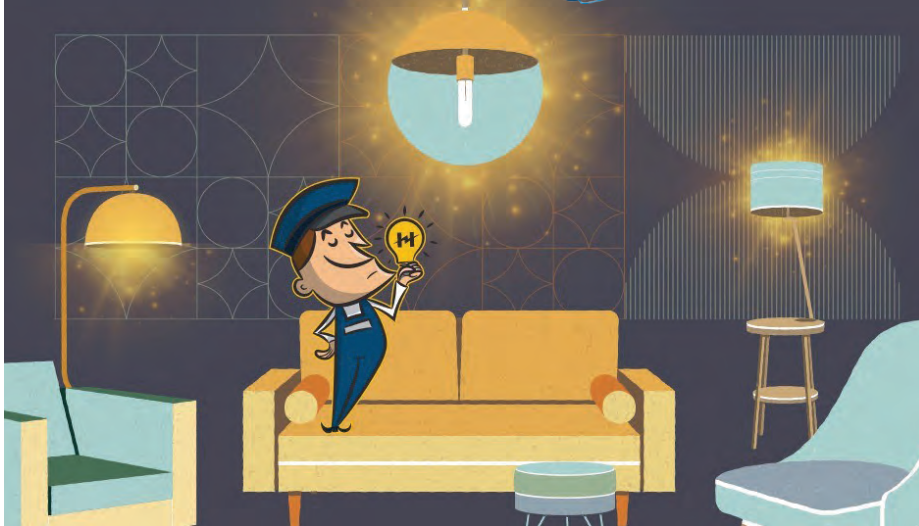
From there it was down to Brenner and the back line, which cleaned up most of the Bowie chances. For those that they didn't, Brenner rose to the occasion, including a diving low save on a free kick and a jaw-dropping flying save on a shot that was labeled for the top-left corner.

"Our back line stepped up when we needed and everyone kept their head, which allowed me to do my job. I'm proud of everyone," Brenner said. "Instincts, training — you've just got to get to the ball. I knew we couldn't let them back in the game or there'd be the potential for danger. Just had to jump up there and be Superman once, I guess."

Having advanced to the region final, Broadneck will return to Leonardtown for the third straight season. Last year in the region semifinals, they won 1-0, and two years ago, it was a 2-1 defeat in the region final.

"We need to keep our level and keep our heads," Quinton said. "We need to make sure that we're ready."

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Soccer Teams Claim Coppa Classico Championships

Several Green Hornets soccer teams won their respective divisions at the 15th annual Hershey Coppa Classico in Pennsylvania over the weekend of October 11-12.



2015 Girls

The 2015 Green Hornets girls Green team, the Thunder, won the championship division. According to coaches, this is the top division in one of the premier tournaments in Pennsylvania, drawing teams from across the Mid-Atlantic region. The team included coaches **Christina Giel** and **Jon Beam** along with players (top row, left to right) **Sienna Lee, Anna Giel, Abby McCarthy, Lily Rohe, Hartley Lippenholz, Mya Trippett, Riley Ordemann, Stella Rogers** and (bottom row, left to right) **Marin Alexander, Betsy Keller, Hannah Beam, Tess Cassilly, Parker Gilligan and Landrey Reppert.**

2015 Boys

The Green Hornets 2015 select boys soccer team went undefeated and won the U11 boys elite division. The team included (back row, left to right) assistant coach **Paul Madden**, coach **Michael Giles**, assistant coach **Jon Higdon**, assistant coach **Justin Truluck**, (l-r, middle row) **Mason Azevedo, Porter Madden, Lincoln DiBlasio, Victor Boyd, Eric Giles, Gavin Watley, Jack Brennan** and (l-r, front row) **Cullen Frees, Andrew Dammeyer, Bennett Truluck, Jack Demers, Davis Barr, Connor Higdon and Carter Strong.**



2017 Boys

Michael Giles also coached the 2017 boys team, which included (left to right) **Francis Cassilly, Reid Votaw, Tucker Nichols, Miles DiBlasio, Julian LaBarge, Colin Giles, Conway Sullivan, Logan Azevedo, Padraig Murray, Brooks DiBlasio, Patrick Cassilly and Blake Burns.**

Falcon Girls Eye State Playoffs

» Continued from page 14

ourselves, 'We can make a statement with this if we just focus on ourselves and play our game.'

Addison Murphy added the fourth goal later on to settle the scoring. It was also Murphy who opened the scoring in the Falcons' region semifinal game against Arundel, which put Severna Park on the cusp of a third successive state tournament appearance.

The teams played to a goalless first half, but Bragg

crossed a ball in from the left and Murphy was first to it to fire high and into the net to open the scoring.

"I just knew that it was tied and I had to make a difference. I saw the chance and checked to the ball, took the shot and it went in," Murphy said. "We were slow at the start, but we picked it up in the second half and it shows. We work together really well. (Other teams) always give their best effort toward us, but as a team we're ready for everything, no matter what a team puts to us."

The Falcons, who have conceded just once all season in their 13 wins thus far, are pushing for one more run with this senior class.

They stand four games from their third straight state championship, which could be the cherry on top to a magical three-year run.

"We don't really talk about the goal at the end of the season. We're trying to build each game to put ourselves in position to be playing at the end of the year," said Severna Park girls soccer head coach **Rick Stimpson**. "We have a lot of girls that were here last year, so they're able to draw from that experience, and they've stepped into the roles they've been given and flourished. It gets harder each year because you get a bigger target on your back, but they've risen to the challenge."

Falcons Football Flying High Ahead Of Broadneck Tilt



Photos by Fincham Photography

Left: Cole Cavanaugh reached for extra yardage during the Falcons' 17-14 victory over the Old Mill Patriots. **Center:** Roy Bowerman IV and the Severna Park offensive line have paved the way for quarterback Blake Howell to produce over 200 combined passing and rushing yards per game, while the team's rushing attack has amassed over 1,000 yards. **Right:** Noah Croghan applied pressure on the Old Mill offense. He led the Falcons with 12 sacks as of late October.

By David Bashore

On Friday nights this fall, Severna Park High School has become the place to be.

The Falcons football team, after years of struggling, has turned the corner and is threatening the upper echelons of the 4A/3A ranks. The team enters the final week of the regular season having won six consecutive games, including successive statement wins over Old Mill and Arundel.

The Falcons began the run with a

tough win over Crofton and then walloped Severn Run. Their last four games have been all at home, big wins over Meade (44-7) and North County (51-0) sandwiched around the victories over Old Mill (17-14) and Arundel (22-14).

The recipe for success has been simple: a dual-threat quarterback, a solid run game, a stud receiver, and a stingy defense.

Archbishop Spalding transfer **Blake Howell** is accounting for nearly 200 yards a game between his arm and his

legs, while the Falcons are well over 1,000 rushing yards as a team this season, led by **Jonathan Wark's** 75.7 per contest.

Cole Cavanaugh has just three touchdown catches and 41 yards receiving per contest, but the catches he makes are important or big time, or both. He recently was featured on ESPN's "You Got Mossed" segment during "Sunday NFL Countdown" for his highlight-reel grab against Arundel.

Defensively, the Falcons have been

stout. Four players have more than 40 tackles: **Landon Williams, Logan Moran, Lincoln Fox** and **Kamari Brown**. The ball-hawking secondary has 12 interceptions, led by Cavanaugh and **Michael Queen** with three apiece, and the Falcons have recovered 13 fumbles and posted 18 quarterback sacks, led by **Noah Croghan's** 12.

The Falcons closed the regular season at Broadneck on October 30, after the Severna Park Voice went to print. A win would likely secure a home playoff game.

With Everyone Contributing, BHS Football Surges Toward Playoffs

By David Bashore

Broadneck's football team is known for creative, high-flying offense. Defense has become more of a calling card in recent years down the stretch.

Against Old Mill on October 17, special teams entered the chat.

An 85-yard touchdown return from **Max Freesty** on the second-half kickoff gave the Bruins precious breathing space along the way to a 16-10 statement victory over Old Mill, winning a defensive slugfest against one of the better units in the state.

Freesty hadn't been the deep return man on kickoffs in a while, but he nearly broke for a touchdown twice against Arundel. With the Old Mill kickoff team eschewing angled kicks in favor of return coverage, Freesty was finally able to pop one and give the Bruins needed momentum.

"When I got the ball, I saw an alley, and it just opened up. I got my blocks, took the cut, and that was it," Freesty said. "It gives us a really big confidence boost. Old Mill is a great team, and we were able to rally together."

That made the game 13-3 after **Cordaro Foote** had scored a 2-yard run in the first half. Then, with the offense sputtering from both Old Mill's stout defense and self-inflicted negative plays, the Bruins defense rose up.

They forced the Patriots to largely abandon the run and take to the air, which was music to the ears of a quality secondary and pass rush. Broadneck had four sacks, two from two-way standout **Aaron Foote**, and multiple big plays from **Alijah Hawkins** to stop Old Mill in their tracks.

The performance was a far cry from a month

ago against Arundel, Broadneck's last loss where they scored 48 points and piled up nearly 500 yards of offense and still lost. But with the playoffs in view, the team is turning up a defense that has proved vital to their postseason runs of the last few years.

"We aren't backing down from anybody, and we're starting to play playoff football," Hawkins said. "Practice, tackling circuit, and all the tackling drills we do, we've been back in it and missing far less tackles."

With shutouts over Annapolis (35-0) and North County (49-0) sandwiching a 30-13 win over Glen Burnie, the Bruins got back to .500 ahead of Old Mill. After the statement win against Old Mill, they moved to 5-3 by rolling past Meade 42-7.

That leaves one more regular-season game, October 30, and perhaps the most enticing Broadneck-Severna Park game in years. Broadneck needs the game to vie for the No. 1 seed in the region, an improved statewide seeding should they reach the playoffs, and valuable momentum heading to the playoffs.

What's been the most impressive thing about this run is that it hasn't come from just one player, but many, with the contributors changing week to week.

"I'm excited because multiple people are stepping up, and that's what you need. Last year we were dependent on one or two guys, but this year when hopefully we have everyone back, it'll be good," said Broadneck coach **Rob Harris**. "We just need to stay consistent, listen to the coaches ... we are peaking. We're getting there, and I'm excited to see what we do."



Photos by Dennis McGinley

Top: Carson Pierce was one of many on the Broadneck defense to give a standout effort against Old Mill as they held the Patriots to 10 points. **Bottom:** Cordaro Foote scored the only offensive touchdown of the game for the Bruins against Old Mill.

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Bruins Finding Ways To Win At End Of Field Hockey Season

By David Bashore

An uneven season was perhaps to be expected. But after flirting with a sub-.500 season, Broadneck's field hockey team has come good at the right time.

The Bruins have won five straight games, including a tense 3-1 region semifinal win over Annapolis, to put themselves up against longtime regional foe Leonardtown for the region's lone berth in the 4A state tournament.

In that game, **Cate Imber** scored a little more than two minutes in, but unlike the game a week prior in which Broadneck blew Annapolis away, the Panthers tied it almost immediately.

That was when the Bruins knew they were in for a long night and had to dig their heels in and scrap for the win. They soaked up stretches of pressure defensively but didn't allow many good opportunities while waiting for a breakthrough at the other end.

"I think that everybody had to put on a big defensive effort tonight, because they were putting a lot of pressure on," said Broadneck goalie **Trish Maloney**, who allowed only the early goal on a seeing-eye shot from well out to her right. "They were moving the ball a lot differently down the field, and we were having trouble keeping them on their toes and keeping pressure on the ball."

Early in the third period, Imber scored her second from a corner to put Broadneck up for good. She pulled to her left in search of priceless shooting space, something Annapolis had denied the Bruins all night. As she fired, the Panthers flashed a stick at the shot and got a heavy touch on the ball — but not



Photos by David Bashore

Above: Cate Imber stickhandled through the Annapolis defense for two goals in the Bruins' 3-1 region semifinal victory. **Below:** Kherington Kulp surveyed the field for a passing option.



enough of it, as it looped up and over the goalie into the back of the cage.

After that, Broadneck defended for their lives in stretches. Annapolis' best chance in the remainder of the game came down the right wing, and when the ball came in low, Maloney laid out at full-stretch to deny both cross and shot. The Panthers wouldn't get another quality chance.

"I was just trying to put my best effort in. It's a playoff game, so you put everything out that you can," Maloney said.

Late on, with Annapolis in search of the equalizer, **Raelyn Soares** finished a counterattack by drawing the goalie out, going around her, and then shoveling the ball into the empty net to ice the game.

For Broadneck, it was a teaching moment but also one where the young Bruins could look back on the game with pride.

"We proved that we can overcome anything and stay strong. When they scored, it was a little surprising to us, because we were beating them 5-0 at one point last game, but we were able to overcome that and continue to work for the second goal," Imber said. "It really depended on who got the second goal, because that was going to shift the entire game."

That win was the fifth in succession for Broadneck, after a 4-2 loss to Severna Park. Before the region semifinal win, they beat Chesapeake 5-2, Annapolis 6-2, North County 4-0 and Winters Mill 8-0.

The Bruins now head to Leonardtown on October 28 for the region final. To win that one and return to the state tournament yet again, it's going to take both applying everything they've learned this season and extracting everything that's left to learn.

"While we've been progressing and building a lot this season, we have girls that are still very young. Even though they're starting to play very well together, they're still inexperienced in terms of their age as varsity players," Broadneck coach **Shannon Hanratty** said. "We played well, but I also know I've seen us play better, and I know we can do more. We are certainly going to need to do that to keep the season alive."

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Falcons Field Hockey Poised For Another Run



Photos by Fincham Photography

Severna Park's only recent setback was the county championship game, which South River took 2-0 on the strength of two first-half goals.

By David Bashore

When she looked at the returning roster and saw no returning starters, Severna Park field hockey coach **Shannon Garden** expected there to be some bumps in the road.

County championship loss to South River aside, there really haven't been any to speak of. An undefeated run in the county, and only one loss outside of the county within the allotted 12 games for playoff seeding, has put the Falcons in the catbird seat for yet another state playoff run.

"For being so young, not having a returning starter, the progress has been incredible. To go undefeated in this county is incredible. I never had that on my bingo

card (for this season)," Garden said. "I was mapping out who we might lose to, and I thought we would learn all our lessons (through losing) and then go into playoffs experienced, but we beat everyone. So maybe (the county championship) is our lesson game."

Since a loss to Kent Island at the end of September, the Falcons have reeled off five wins — 4-2 over Broadneck, 1-0 over Southern, 9-0 over Glen Burnie, and 6-0 over Arundel before heading into the playoffs.

In learning how to work and play together, the Falcons have shared the workload across multiple players. **Addy Hill** and **Sophia Weber** have made the largest mark in the goal column, but nearly a dozen players have hit the back of the cage on the season.

The only setback in that stretch was the county championship, which South River took 2-0 on the strength of two first-half goals.

"I think if we would have played the first half the way we did the second, it might have been a different outcome. Their goalie was tremendous, and we had a lot of opportunities and just couldn't finish," Garden said. "We just came out flat, but they showed in the second half that they could rally, and that's what we have to take forward."

Severna Park got back on track with a 17-1 win over Meade in the region semifinals, leading 10-0 after one period and cruising from there. They were scheduled to host Crofton in the region finals on October 28, after the Severna Park Voice went to print.




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By Elsa Webster
Student Intern

Coming into the new school year, the Severna Park High School (SPHS) drama department had new leadership with program director Trevor Greenfield. With a program that is “so strong and so beloved,” Greenfield hopes to build upon the momentum of the department with its latest production, “Shrek the Musical” from November 7-16. As always, the drama season begins with the fall musical, which is gaining anticipation from cast and crew members as opening night approaches.

Last year, SPHS’s fall production was “Catch Me If You Can,” a musical geared toward more adult audiences. Greenfield’s goal with “Shrek” this year is to alternate productions to create a variety of art.

“Each year, we try to choose a show that contrasts with the previous season’s production,” Greenfield said. “We don’t want to do too many Disney or fantasy shows in a row, just like we don’t want to do too many ‘based on a true story’ shows. It’s all about keeping things fresh and exciting for both the students and the audience.”

“Shrek the Musical” is a heavy logistics show with many complicated set pieces and makeup, which has proven to be a challenge and a reward for those involved. This production boasts massive sets, heavy prosthetics and an all-student orchestra with 18 musicians. In addition to serving as program director, Greenfield is conducting the pit orchestra.

“Directing ‘Shrek’ has been such a joyful and creative experience. The process is full of laughter, imagination and collaboration — and this cast has truly



Photo by Elsa Webster

(L-R) “Shrek” cast members Reagan Scott, Owen Panitz, Jude McCallister and Jacob Young, who play Fiona, Shrek, Donkey and Lord Farquaad, respectively, filmed a promotional video for the show in October.

brought so much heart to the story,” said Kylie Sjolie, Severna Park’s ‘Shrek the Musical’ director. “One of the biggest challenges with a show like ‘Shrek’ is the scale of it — there are so many moving pieces, from the big musical numbers to the elaborate sets and costumes. But that’s also what makes it so rewarding.”

As opening night approaches, the cast is working hard to ensure that they are ready. This difficult work

“What drew us to ‘Shrek the Musical’ was the opportunity to escape into a wild, fantastical world full of beloved characters. I don’t think I’ve ever met someone who says, ‘Eh, I don’t really like those Shrek movies.’ They’re universally loved across generations, and the characters are just as iconic as the fairy tales that inspired them.”

— **TREVOR GREENFIELD,**
SPHS DRAMA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

is not met without excitement, as senior Reagan Scott explained. She plays Princess Fiona in the musical, alongside junior Owen Panitz, who plays Shrek.

“I think really just being able to be part of this community for one last time, with such a great role,” Scott said regarding her favorite part of being in the musical. “‘Shrek’ is such a classic movie and being able to know that kids are going to come and be like, ‘Oh, I love this movie. I love this character. Like, I love you now,’ it’s going to be really rewarding in a way.”

Since the show is character-driven and has already amassed a large fanbase of former children who grew up with the films, it gives the performers at Severna Park High School a chance to portray new roles.

“This is by far my favorite role I’ve ever done before,” Panitz said. “Just because it’s different, and also, I love just the unique songs that we sing in the show, and I love everything about ‘Shrek’ in general.”

The drama department welcomes families to Shrek
» Continued on page 30

Severna Park Siblings Publish Three Books

By Judy Tacyn

The Bellenoit siblings, Noor and Kian, became fascinated with books before they could walk. Their mother, Sara Vakhshouri, and father, Hayden Bellenoit, are both published nonfiction authors and read to their infant children in both Farsi and English. The young siblings wrote and published their own first books last year, and Kian’s second title was released earlier this fall.

“Reading different genres and learning about other people’s lives and experiences make books so interesting. Books are like magic doors to other worlds,” said Noor, a seventh-grader. “You can travel anywhere, meet new people, and live 100 different lives just by turning the pages.”

During the COVID pandemic, Noor read books to escape the monotony of sequestered school and family life. As was the case with many students, she found that the pandemic forced a different lifestyle that conjured many emotions

she had not yet experienced.

Isolation was the hardest part of the pandemic for Noor, who missed classroom learning. Although her family spent a lot of time together playing sports, going on bike rides and attending neighborhood parties, the slower pace sparked her interest in writing.

“When I had nothing to do and was bored, I just started writing,” said Noor, who ended up having lots of thoughts surrounding her COVID experience.

Her book “When Everything Changed,” released in December 2024, chronicles her fears and uncertainties from the moment she learned her school was closing due to the

pandemic. Noor’s story outlines how, with creativity and courage, it’s possible to stay connected with friends and have fun. Her book is appropriate for any young reader experiencing change, offering hope that a current difficult situation is only temporary.

Kian, a third-grade student, also has a passion for reading and writing books. His first book, “The Tale of the Warrior,” released in December 2024, now has a follow-up, “The Tale of the Warrior 2,” which came out earlier this fall.

“Books are fascinating because of the pictures and the ways words make you feel,” Kian said. “When you imagine the story, it almost comes alive around you, as if you’re part of it.”

Kian’s first “The Tale of the Warrior” book is about a boy who finds a dragon. On this adventure, he becomes a warrior and finds the hero inside himself, eventually becoming a dragon warrior. The second book is about a boy who leaves his town to find medicine for his sick mother. Along the way, he must face his shadow and overcome fears to fight for the truth about his father.

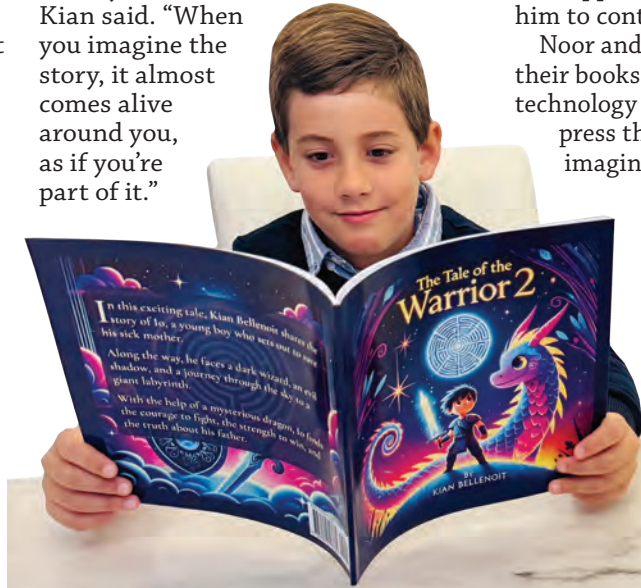
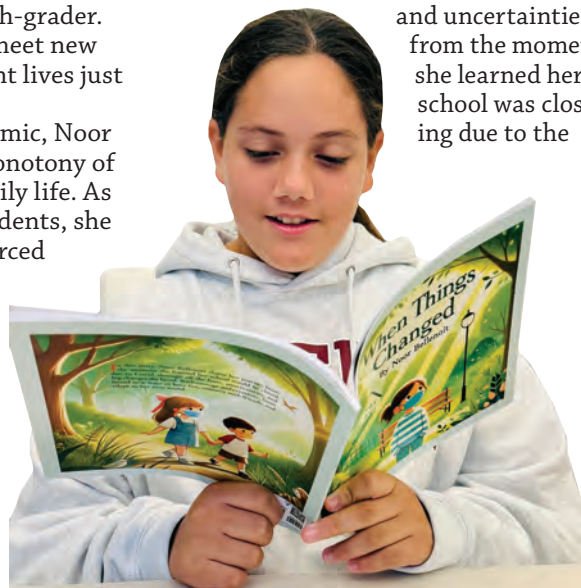
“I feel adventurous like the boy who becomes a warrior. I also like to help and take care of people,” said Kian, when considering how he relates to his protagonist. “People should always be curious and brave to find the hero inside.”

Kian said that his Oak Hill Elementary School classmates and teachers are supportive and are encouraging him to continue writing.

Noor and Kian used AI to illustrate their books. The use of the burgeoning technology allowed them to verbally express the exact pictures they were imagining to create a unique look.

The three self-published books are available on Amazon.

Seventh-grader Noor Bellenoit authored her first book, “When Everything Changed,” detailing her initial fears and the creativity and courage she found during the COVID pandemic.



Kian Bellenoit, a third-grader, has authored two books in “The Tale of the Warrior” series. The story follows young boys who overcome challenges and discover the heroes within themselves.

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Educators Of The Month

John & Michelle Mastandrea Oak Hill Elementary



By Judy Tacyn

For the past four years, John and Michelle Mastandrea have coordinated the Harvest for the Hungry: Kids Helping Kids drive at Oak Hill Elementary School. John is a fifth-grade teacher in his 15th year of education in Anne Arundel County and sixth year at Oak Hill. Michelle is a third-grade teacher who is in her 10th year of education in Anne Arundel County and fifth year at Oak Hill.

"It is such a joy to teach at Oak Hill. We live in the neighborhood. Our daughter is a student," John said. "So we are fully immersed in this community and we absolutely love it."

For the last 38 years, Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the Anne Arundel County Food Bank have partnered to hold the annual Harvest for the Hungry: Kids Helping Kids campaign in October. The program is the largest fundraiser for the food bank, bringing in about half of the yearly food and funds donated.

For many years, Oak Hill Elementary School has ranked among the top schools for total food donated. All of the campaign's proceeds go to the food bank, which reported \$47,684 raised and 71,741 pounds of food collected in 2024. At the time

of this printing, the 2025 totals have not been tabulated.

"It's really fun for the kids to see the donated food start to pile up," said Michelle, who noted that young children may not have a sense of money collected, but they see the physical food items. "When a student asks, 'Where does all the food go?' we get to explain to them that the food stays right here, maybe even shared with someone who attends Oak Hill. Many students are surprised that one in 10 Anne Arundel County families are food insecure, and that includes families in Severna Park, so educating them on the importance of community service is very important."

John said the students get excited to hear the updates as the campaign goes on, and they understand Oak Hill is one of the top donation schools. Michelle said when a student carries in a food item and drops it into a collection box or grocery cart, the campaign becomes very real. She also noted that some students fill their own suitcase with food and wheel it into school.

To keep the campaign fresh, the Mastandreas assign each week with a different theme, such as pajama week or sports jersey week, noting that students enjoy the spirit weeks.

"We don't just collect food and money. We talk about the campaign, the need, and how the food helps people, maybe even someone they know," John added. "We want the campaign to be the starting point of a lifelong awareness and spirit of giving and community service."

Michelle said students are also encouraged to go shopping with their parents to intentionally choose a food item, whether it be something that their family enjoys or one of their favorite foods, adding she hopes the campaign is a family activity.

Donations for Harvest for the Hungry: Kids Helping Kids can be made year-round via the Anne Arundel County Food Bank website at www.aafoodbank.org/aacps. Be sure to designate your school.



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SPHS To Perform "Shrek"

» Continued from page 28

Fest on November 2. The event serves as a character meet-and-greet where children can complete a variety of activities, such as crafts and games, with the characters Shrek, Fiona, Donkey and Lord Farquaad.

While standards are set high for Severna Park High School productions, shows are also about fostering a sense of community between everyone involved, which makes the

experience even more enjoyable.

"Every day brings something new to learn, and I see it as an incredible blessing," Greenfield said. "I constantly remind our creative team and students how fortunate we are to do what we love — especially in a community with such amazing support. I'm continually impressed by how our students treat one another and collaborate with the creative team. That sense of community is something I'm very proud to nurture."



Photo courtesy of Mary Beth Tubiolo
Nicholas Tubiolo (right) and Jason Jackson stood in front of the cabin and picnic table after the project was completed.

By Alyson Kay

After quickly moving up the ranks of scouting, a Broadneck High School sophomore completed his Eagle Scout project by helping a historic farm enhance its play space.

Fifteen-year-old Nicholas Tubiolo has been involved in scouting for 10 years, both in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. He is currently a member of Troop 382 based in Arnold.

"It's just a hobby I really enjoy doing, meeting every week and being able to see my friends and learn about how to lead," Tubiolo said.

He shared that the weeklong camping trips he goes on in the summer are his favorite part of scouting.

"We sleep in the tents and eat in the mess halls, do merit badge classes, and just have a really good time," Tubiolo said.

Growing up, Tubiolo visited Goshen Farm for school and scouting trips. He grew to appreciate the farm's value in teaching history and agriculture.

"I think it's a really great place for kids to go and learn about the historical farm and have a lot of fun," he said.

In the fall of 2024, Tubiolo returned to Goshen Farm and spoke with grounds chairman Roy Benner, who discussed a wide range of projects that Tubiolo could do to help improve the farm.

"(Benner) said that he really wanted to add on in the children's play space," Tubiolo said. "I thought, maybe a playhouse, as I've seen in other play areas. I just wanted to build a little cabin for the kids to play in."

Benner came up with the design, based on a cabin that he saw at a national park.

"He showed me some pictures, and I was able to kind of recreate what he saw," Tubiolo said.

Over the year in between the first meeting and the start of construction, he met with Benner several times to discuss the project and make adjustments. He also needed Benner's approval for the project proposal along the way.

Tubiolo's grandfather also helped him design the cabin. "Together, we were able to draw up the plans for each of the different parts of the cabin and then put it together," Tubiolo said.

Tubiolo added personal touches to the designs as well.

"The door was originally going to be the full height of the cabin, and I was thinking that when families visit the farm, I wanted the parents to be able to see their kids playing inside the cabin," Tubiolo explained. "So, I decided to shorten the door so there's a gap there and the parents can communicate with their kids that are inside the cabin."

To raise funds for the materials, Tubiolo set up a GoFundMe and shared it with friends and family. The J.F. Johnson Lumber Company also helped by offering a discount on materials.

The project happened in two phases. On September 6, Tubiolo and a few other scouts pre-cut the wood at his home so it was ready to be assembled at the farm on another day.

Then on September 27, Tubiolo, his friends, family and scouts from his troop arrived to build the cabin. Tubiolo helped manage the project and build the cabin.

"In each group, I gave an older scout the job of leading that group and it kind of worked out great, because the different groups were led by other scouts and I was able to oversee the project and kind of manage it," Tubiolo said.

Tubiolo's Eagle coach, Jason Jackson, was there to help him bring his project to life. He even built his own addition to complement the cabin.

"Jackson also donated the picnic table to the cabin to make it all come together," Tubiolo said.

As a finishing touch, the team put a little chalkboard on one of the outside walls for kids to write and draw on.

Tubiolo is looking forward to officially getting his Eagle Scout rank and completing his scoutmaster conference.



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Question of the month

ST. MARTIN’S-IN-THE-FIELD EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Each month, the Severna Park Voice poses a question to a local fifth-grade class. This month, students from Ms. Everett’s class at St. Martin’s-in-the-Field Episcopal School answered the question:

“If you could visit any historical time period, when and where would you go?”



I would travel to 1999 before Y2K to see how people were preparing for it.
Abigail Baldwin

I would go back to the Roaring Twenties because in that time, better technology was made and sold for much cheaper compared to modern day.
Emmett Bolinsky

I would like to be at the place where “Starry Night” was made because I like art and the “Starry Night” is my favorite painting ever.
Cormac Dickson

I would go to 1999 because that’s when people thought computers were going to stop working on January 1, 2000. I think it would be cool to find out the ways people thought it was going to happen.
Audrey Hammer

I would go to France in 1600 B.C.E. so I could see the relationship between our countries at the time.
Tommy Jeng

I would like to go back to colonial times because I like to fish, and I would like to face survival challenges and travel to different places like the colonists did.
Ethan Jung

I would go back to Bozeman, Montana, in 2015 to see what it was like 10 years ago and possibly find treasure from the Treasure State when everyone hadn’t already taken it.
Harper Kohlenstein

I would want to be in World War I because I want to learn more about what life was like at that time.
Wesley Larsen

I would want to go back to World War I because I’d like to see how different technology was then versus now and help my country.
Karim Mahfoudi

I would go back to when Harriet Tubman helped the enslaved escape slavery and ask her why she helped people escape.
Gabriela Mattia-Urbe

I would want to visit the World Wars to see what caused the wars, what they used to survive, how they built their battlefields, and the weapons they used.
Jonah Queen

I would go back to colonial times because I want to know what life was like when we didn’t have phones, computers or iPads. I would also like to learn how to hunt and make fishing rods and start my own colony.
Thomas Ritterpusch

I would go back in time to when the first colonists came to America so I could build my life how I wanted it to be.
Darcy Sullivan

I want to go back to World War II because I would want to see the machinery and the factories because it is cool that Buick was making tanks when they are a car brand.
Owen Villari

I would like to go back to ancient Egypt because I want to know how they made the pyramids.
Emily White

I would travel to the pyramids when they were first made to see how they were created and what everything looked like at that time.
Colton Williams

Eagle Scout Project Improves Access To Kinder Farm Park’s Cattail Pond

By Jaina Peveto

When time approached for 17-year-old Severna Park High School senior Harrison Klee to choose an Eagle Scout project, he reached out to Kinder Farm Park to see if he could have an impact there. After going back and forth about ideas for projects with Kinder ranger Cody Schell, Klee mapped out a plan to renovate one of the park’s paths, giving parkgoers easier access to Cattail Pond. Klee expanded on the idea by suggesting the creation of benches, so that visitors in that area of the park could sit down, enjoy the view, and maybe even fish.

“There was a path that was existent, but it needed some help,” Klee said. “We found this little fishing spot. There weren’t many benches, and I thought it would be nice to put some benches there so people could go fishing with friends (and) with family.”

The project took over six months to come to fruition. Prior to starting work in Kinder Farm, Klee built a practice bench as a model for the two that would be installed in the park. Schell prepared for the project by getting major branches and trees out of the way. Kinder Farm also provided mulch, bringing it to Klee’s worksite for him to use.

In late September, Klee and fellow Troop 993 members, his family and adult leaders from the troop helped complete the project. Over the course of two days, they spread the new mulch for the path, installed the benches overlooking the pond, and cleared up brush and sticks to make the path and clearing look nicer.

“Cattail Pond is one of the bigger ones in the park, but there hasn’t really been a good way to get to it,” Schell said, later adding, “All around for the enjoyment of the park and especially of that pond within the park, this project really benefitted us.”



(L-R) Scoutmaster Gary Tawes, Harrison Klee and Harrison’s father, Dave Klee, all played a part in the project.

Klee shared, “One of the scouts who participated ... actually goes on little fishing outings with his friends, so he told me ... sometime soon, he was going to come to the pass, go down and fish with his friends.”

Klee has always had a strong interest in the arts, especially in sculpting with clay, carpentry and woodworking. He hadn’t had many opportunities to explore his interest in carpentry outside of classes, so the project allowed him to get real experience.

Klee is hoping to go to University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and while he’s not certain what career path he wants to pursue, he is considering trying to become a detective, criminal investigator or law enforcement agent, or going into a trade like carpentry, welding or electrical work. Creating the benches for his project has helped grow his interest in pursuing a trade.

Klee began as a Cub Scout in 2015, and he has been a Boy Scout for six years. And he isn’t finished with his Eagle Scout journey yet: He has a few more steps to complete, but he hopes to be done by the winter Court of Honor ceremony, which will likely take place around his 18th birthday.

SPES Students Bike, Walk And Roll To School

Students at Severna Park Elementary School celebrated National Walk and Roll To School Day in early October. Principal Emily Abell shared that 229 students, or 64% of the student body, participated this year. Festivities at the school included bubbles, obstacle courses, prize drawings, and a raffle. Snacks were provided by the Parent Teacher Organization.



Photos courtesy of Erica Rodriguez



Above: Fifth-graders Stella Pinning and Elly Duncan posed for a photo with SPES’ mascot, Boone. Below: Principal Emily Abell (right) and Assistant Principal Cheryl Slack got in on the cycling fun.



How Do You Know Your Older Loved Ones Need More Support?

Lillian Banchemo
Luminis Health



November is National Family Caregivers Month, a time to recognize the love and dedication that go into caring for others. With the holidays approaching, it's also an ideal time to

check in with older friends and family members to ensure they're feeling well and supported.

According to the latest census, Maryland's population of older adults is growing faster than most of the country. Many people, including your loved ones, may need extra help managing their health. Here's how to know when to step in, and how to care for yourself if you become a caregiver.

RECOGNIZING WHEN IT'S TIME TO HELP

It can be difficult to tell if your loved one is struggling. Watch for these common signs:

- **CHANGES AT HOME:** Is their space clean and safe? Are they eating well and taking medications as prescribed?
- **MEMORY PROBLEMS:** Occasional forgetfulness is normal, but regular confusion or poor decision-making may signal a larger issue.
- **MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS:** Look for signs of depression, anxiety

or hopelessness — and seek help promptly if needed.

- **OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS:** Difficulty walking, falling, poor hygiene or significant weight changes can all indicate the need for more support. Isolation is another red flag.

SUPPORTING THEIR HEALTH AND INDEPENDENCE

If you take on a caregiver role, be specific about how you can help. Offer to drive loved ones to appointments, cook together on weekends, or plan regular social activities.

You can also strengthen their care by:

- **BEING THEIR ADVOCATE:** Help communicate their needs to their health care providers.

- **COORDINATE APPOINTMENTS:** Schedule and provide transportation to medical visits.
- **TRACKING HEALTH INFORMATION:** Keep a list of medications, health changes and care plans.
- **MANAGE MEDICATIONS:** Use a pill organizer and create a schedule to prevent missed doses.

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF

Caring for an older loved one can be deeply rewarding but also demanding. To avoid burnout, focus on the four Ms of caregiving:

- **WHAT MATTERS:** Identify the goals that are most important to both of you. Share them with health care providers and set aside time for yourself.
- **MOBILITY:** Encourage your loved one

to stay active and make time for your own exercise and well-being.

- **MENTATION:** Report cognitive changes to their provider and protect your own mental health by connecting with friends or joining a support group.
- **MEDICATION:** Review prescriptions with your loved one's care team and ensure both of you eat well and stay hydrated.

Finally, don't hesitate to ask for help. Whether it's sharing tasks with family or using community resources, seeking support ensures you can care for your loved one — and yourself — in a sustainable way.

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Lillian Banchemo is the program coordinator for Luminis Health's Institute of Healthy Aging.

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Urinalysis In Dogs And Cats

Meghan Kapilevich
VCA Calvert
Veterinary Center



A urinalysis is an evaluation of the urine of a pet, which is a part of annual wellness testing. It can also be used to help determine the cause of any abnormal urination in a pet having changes in urinary behaviors. Urine can demonstrate early signs of internal organ disease, endocrine conditions, infections, cancers and more.

How urine is collected from pets

A urine sample can be collected by several methods.

- One possibility is a "free catch" sample. This means that as your pet is urinating, a tray or container is placed under their midstream to collect it.

- Another method of collecting urine from a pet is via cystocentesis. This is the practice of using a sterile needle and syringe to poke directly into the bladder, and this provides a sterile sample. This is most ideal for any pet with risk of a urinary tract infection, as it avoids contamination of the sample.

How the urine is evaluated

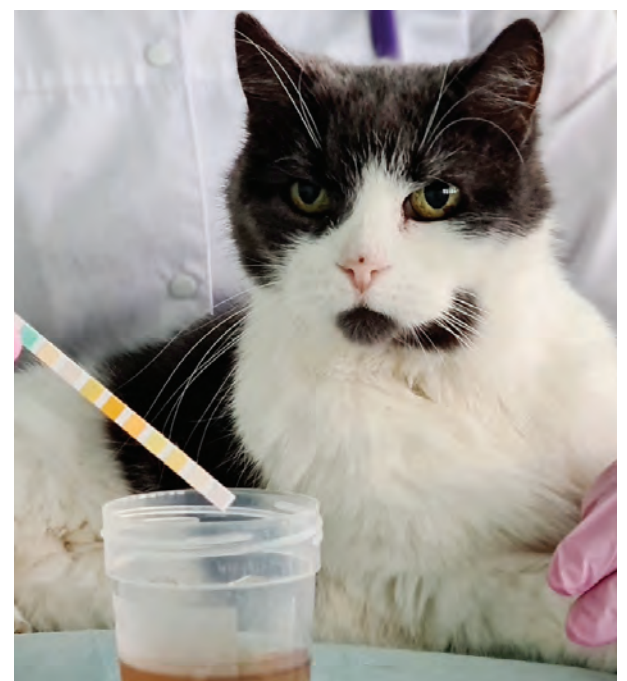
- The urine is evaluated first for color, clarity and concentration (also known as urine specific gravity). A low concentration and clear urine could be an early sign of kidney disease, whereas red urine could be suggestive of blood present in the urine.
- Next, we check the chemical analysis of the

urine. This includes several tests, including pH, protein, glucose, ketones, blood, bilirubin and urobilinogen. These results will help to screen pets for diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, toxicity, changes in blood pressure and more.

- Finally, we check urine sediment. This is the debris in urine that is spun down in a centrifuge. The most common things to be found in a urine sediment would be red or white blood cells, bacteria, crystals, or casts, although other cells such as tissue cells, sperm and more can be seen as well.

Signs of abnormal urination in pets

- Abnormal urination in pets can present with many possible signs. The most common signs of changes in urination for dogs are accidents in the house or asking to go out more frequently. They may also show increased thirst or may start to posture to urinate with little or no urine coming out.
- For cats, the most common signs of abnormal urination are urinating outside the litter box, or frequent visits to the litter box. They may also strain to urinate, leave blood in the litter box, or have increased thirst.



Many significant diseases can be detected early through a urinalysis, which is why it is an important part of wellness lab work in addition to an important diagnostic when a pet is having abnormal urination. If you have additional questions regarding urine testing in your pet, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to discuss it further.

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

Severna Park Author Awarded For Military Fiction

Rosalie Spielman Gives Comfort One Murder Mystery At A Time

By Margaret Bates

Rosalie Spielman was always interested in writing but never saw it as a viable career. First, she was in the Army, although briefly, and then traveled with her husband during his 24-year military career. The couple moved to Severna Park and Spielman started writing cozy murder mysteries in 2015.

"I had just turned 40 (in 2013). I told a friend of mine at the time I was interested in writing, and she encouraged me, reminded me I wasn't getting any younger," Spielman recalled. "Then, I showed what I wrote to my sister, and she loved my voice, even though I didn't know what that was yet."

She wrote three novels and submitted them to agents without success before switching to cozy mysteries, a book genre similar to the style of the 1980s show "Murder, She Wrote." Unlike thrillers, cozies don't have on-the-page violence, and the spunky sleuths always solve the case by the end. Since switching genres, Spielman has written five books in her "Hometown Murders" series, focusing

on retired military veteran Tessa Treslow. "At first, Tessa was going to be a mechanic, but my late agent steered me to making her military to broaden appeal," Spielman said. "It was the right choice."

And a personal one. Spielman incorporates her experiences as a military spouse as well as details from her sister's full tenure in the Air Force into that series. She set the series in Idaho, since Tessa's fictional town was inspired by Spielman and her parents' connection to a similar real-life hamlet in the Potato State.

Her other series, "Aloha Lagoon," is a shared world with other authors. Together, they set the rules, and each author takes turns creating new installments. However, it can be a challenge to pay attention to the continuity of the setting and collected cast of characters.

"If one of the other writer's characters guest stars, then we can ask them for advice," Spielman said. "If I have Samantha the surf instructor appear, then I just contact my friend Beth (her creator) about it," she added, although having a master document doesn't always keep it straight. The authors once created a duplicate coffee shop in town by accident.

» Continued on page 36



Since switching genres, Rosalie Spielman has written five books in her "Hometown Murders" series, focusing on retired military veteran Tessa Treslow.



Pasadena Theatre Company Presents "Narnia: The Musical"

By Judy Tacyn

This November, a lion and witch will be on the loose at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) when "Narnia: The Musical" takes the stage. While this version is being produced by the Pasadena Theatre Company (PTC), the original musical debuted in the mid-1980s as a dramatization of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," the first and most

famous of acclaimed British author C.S. Lewis' world-renowned series "The Chronicles of Narnia."

The story is set in England during 1940, when the four Pevensie siblings are sent to the countryside to live with an eccentric uncle to escape the height of World War II turmoil. Curiosity lands the children in the magical kingdom of Narnia, frozen under an

» Continued on page 38

Annie Awards Recognize Atticus Boidy For Work In Arts Education

By Jaina Peveto

Though Atticus Boidy is only 29 years old, his impact can be seen through directorial work, lighting design and theater education throughout Anne Arundel County. On October 15, his accomplishments were recognized by the Annie Awards, a ceremony hosted each year by the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County (ACAAC). Awardees are selected in nine categories in honor of their contributions to the arts in the county. Boidy received this year's Annie Award for Arts Education.

"I've been over the moon, honestly. I invited basically everyone who's worked with me within an education setting to come to the ceremony," Boidy shared prior to the event.

Boidy is a highly active member of the theater community. In addition to his full-time work as technical director at Children's Theatre of Annapolis (CTA), he also started his own theatrical consulting business, where he works with schools, consults on their drama programs, helps bring new participants to the programs, and assists with budgets. At any giv-

en time, Boidy might be working on seven or eight projects with different theater groups in the area.

Boidy was nominated for the Annie Awards by Amy Schropp, an executive director at CTA. Schropp didn't tell him that she was nominating him until partway through the process, after she had already received letters of recommendation for him. On the day the winners were revealed, Schropp heard from another friend of hers who won an award, causing her to think Boidy hadn't won.

Boidy got the call from the ACAAC on his way to work. "So, then I cried, naturally, on the phone with this poor woman," Boidy said. "I couldn't believe it. I told her at one point — she was asking me questions — I was like, 'I am speechless.'"

Though Boidy has been part of award-winning productions before, this is his first time winning an individual award honoring his work. Boidy's aunt, former Severna Park High School theater teacher and director Angela Germanos, received the same award last year to recognize her

» Continued on page 36



Atticus Boidy

The Comedy “Good Fortune” Explores The Question, “What Makes A Good Life?”

By Audrey Ruppert
Film Critic

“Good Fortune” is a modern day “The Prince and the Pauper” tale, with Aziz Ansari playing Arj, the “pauper” (a gig economy worker with a useless college degree struggling to make ends meet), and Seth Rogen playing the “prince,” Jeff (a venture capitalist with an ownership stake in multiple gig economy businesses).

Keanu Reeves plays Gabriel, a low-level guardian angel who, much like Arj, is lacking fulfillment in his life as a “texting and driving” angel — he longs to guide lost souls like more important angels he admires. Gabriel oversteps his bounds as an angel to swap Arj and Jeff’s lives, in an attempt to show Arj that his own life has meaning; this has unintended consequences for all three characters, and hijinks ensue.

For a moment, I thought the film was going to go for the classic message this type of story tends to convey: That on one hand, the wealthy could do with seeing how the rest of us live, but on the other hand, being wealthy isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. I was prepared to be very annoyed, because defending multimillionaire or billionaire venture capitalists as “having problems too” would be very out of touch in 2025. This appears to be Gabriel’s intent when switching Arj with Jeff — to show Arj that Jeff has his own demons.

But thankfully, this is not the approach the film takes. It doesn’t attempt to sugarcoat or hide the worst aspects of the zero-hour contract gig economy, in a world where robots are slowly replacing us. Jeff’s life is just better than Arj’s, and if anything, the most entertaining parts of the film come from having to watch Jeff suffer through short-tempered reviewers, cheap tippers, and the other familiar pitfalls of late-stage capitalism designed to keep people in pover-



Photo courtesy of Eddy Chen/Lionsgate

Arj, played by Aziz Ansari, struggles to cope with the power wielded by large corporations. Meanwhile, a guardian angel Gabriel, portrayed by Keanu Reeves, is discouraged by the human condition but finds joy in small things.

ty indefinitely — pitfalls people like Jeff designed and continue to enforce.

Instead, the film takes a more modern and healthy approach to answering the question of what makes a good life in the society in which we find ourselves. Arj learns that it may seem hopeless having to fight against impossibly large multimillion dollar corporations, but that doesn’t mean there is nothing you can do or that fighting isn’t worthwhile. And Gabriel, human for the first time in his existence, finds himself extremely discouraged by the human condition — but also finds joy in the small things we take for granted as human beings.

It’s hard to remember at times that even the poorest humans today in the United States have a higher standard of living than the majority of other humans on Earth, better even than many of the kings of old (castles were cold and smelly, spices cost a fortune, and

diseases were everywhere).

It’s possible to balance anger at the unjustness of our society with gratitude for the small joys of the human experience — a chat with a friend, a dance with a partner, a tasty meal. We can be grateful that we live in a world with penicillin while being enraged at the lack of affordable health care. Two things can be true at once.

“Good Fortune” is a feel-good romp that’s played rather straight — sometimes the message is literally spelled out rather than shown - but that’s just fine. It’s not particularly memorable but perfectly charming. Reeves is a delight as a fish-out-of-water human who has to suddenly navigate dish washing, nicotine and tacos, and Rogen rarely fails to amuse me. What’s offered is less of a riotous laugh and more a series of relatable chuckles, but the film is well worth watching.

Severna Park Author Awarded

» Continued from page 35

Spielman is also a member of the Military Writers Society of America, a group that focuses on supporting veterans with their writing. It started to assist them with focusing on journaling to work through their service experience in a therapeutic way. The organization has since evolved to foster fiction writing via an annual contest.

In 2024, Spielman submitted “Welcome Home to Murder,” book one in her series, for award consideration and won the gold. This year, the second book, “Home is Where the Murder Is,” took home silver while book three, “Murder Comes Home,” earned her a repeat gold. Spielman explained that the contest works by assessing each book at the individual level, on its own merits, and not necessarily against others within a given category.

“As a result, you can have multiple gold or silver medal winners that year,” she said.

Still, it comes as a sweet reward as Spielman has tried for a while to earn larger recognition. Since her books are put out by a small press, they haven’t always been noticed by awards committees like books that are traditionally produced by larger New York publishers.

Readers and fans can meet Spielman at the Severna Park Community Center pop-up holiday market on November 14. Fiction-wise, Spielman will complete the final book on her “Hometown Murders” contract and will write a proposal for a new series in hopes of attracting an agent. Even with new writing on the horizon, it’s likely Spielman will continue crafting cozy mysteries.

“My readers call them ‘comfortable,’” she said. “There’s no violence, sex or cursing, like a palette cleanser for them, and I like giving (readers) that comfort.”

To follow Spielman, go to www.rosalie-spielman-author.com or explore her Facebook page, *You Know the Spiel*.

Annie Awards Recognize Atticus Boidy For Work In Arts Education

» Continued from page 35

over 20-year career in arts education. Germanos played a significant role in Boidy’s interest in theater, and she was happy to learn of his recognition.

“I’m the only other person in our family who is really interested in theater,” Boidy said.

Boidy keeps in touch with many of his former students, some of whom have begun to work in the theater industry with him.

“It is so rewarding ... watching these kids interact with each other, learn from each other, grow as people, have a good time, make new friends, and the fact that I can be someone that they can trust to try new things, talk about their ideas, be excited about their ideas and their artistry,” Boidy said.

Boidy’s first theater experience was acting, but he directed a show for the first time when he was 16. He learned lighting design later while working on a show in Annapolis with Joey Guthman, who has recently worked as a lighting designer for popular theater company

StarKid Productions. Boidy observed that Guthman was working long hours and offered to help.

“I was like, ‘I don’t know a lot about lighting, but I’d love to learn,’” Boidy said. “And he said, ‘If you don’t mind getting up on ladders, I’ll teach you about lighting.’ And I hated ladders, by the way. I was actually really afraid of heights. I said OK, and he taught me everything.”

Boidy believes an important part of finding ways to get involved in the theater community is to be willing to try new things and talk with new people. “I think the most beautiful thing about theater is that you can learn the skills,” Boidy said. “Try new things. If you don’t make the first show you audition



(L-R) The 2025 Annie Awards chair, Pamela Gentry, ACAAC president and chief executive officer April Nyman, Arts Education Annie Award winner Atticus Boidy, and ACAAC board of directors chair Jerry Slocum posed for a picture at this year’s award ceremony.

for, try again. Just keep trying to reach out for help. Find people like me who you can say have a lot of connections in theater. Find more opportunities and just put yourself out there.”

Boidy is currently involved in a long list of productions. At CTA, he is the

technical director, set designer, light designer and scenic artist for the teen group’s production of “West Side Story.” He is also the director for Theater in the Park’s “Beetlejuice JR.” and “Madagascar — A Musical Adventure JR.” at Broadneck Elementary School, as well as the lighting designer for “Shrek the Musical” at Severna Park High School. Additionally, Boidy is working with Key School in Annapolis on its productions of “Little Shop of Horrors,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” and “Charlotte’s Web,” and consulting for Pasadena Theatre Company’s “Narnia: The Musical.”

He’s also started preparing for projects that will take place in 2026, and has been teaching acting classes at Woods Church.

“I love being a stepping stone. I’m part of their journey,” Boidy said of the young performers with whom he works. “It just makes me so happy to watch them just succeed and live their lives, and even if they don’t end up still doing theater, I’m just so happy that I’m a part of a good experience for them.”

Children’s Theatre Presents “West Side Story”

“**W**est Side Story” is playing at Children’s Theatre of Annapolis (CTA) now through November 9. From the first notes to the final breath, “West Side Story” is considered one of the most memorable musicals and greatest love stories of all time. Highlighting the talents of a youth ensemble cast, CTA’s show includes 28 students ranging from 12-18 years of age. The production is led by director Michelle Bruno, music director LeVar Betts and choreographer Katherine Sheldon.

Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” is transported to 1950s New York City as two young, idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the “American” Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks. Their love will change everything in this innovative, heart-wrenching and relevant musical drama. “West Side Story” is the first show in CTA’s 2025-2026 season of SpeCTacular Stories.

Showtimes are 7:00pm on Fridays (except October 31), 11:00am and 4:00pm on Saturdays, and 2:00pm on Sundays.

The November 1 show at 11:00am is a relaxed performance with subtle adjustments made to make the show more enjoyable for audience members who have sensory sensitivities, and a chill-out space for those who need it during the show. At 4:00pm that day, CTA will have a show that is American



Photo courtesy of Wendy Hickok Photography
Leila Bennett (left) portrays Maria and Jeremiah Gilbert plays Tony in “West Side Story.”

Sign Language (ASL) interpreted.
Children’s Theatre of Annapolis is located at 1661 Bay Head Road in Annapolis. Tickets are \$20 for adults (ages 13-59) and \$18 for youth (age 12 and under), seniors (age 60 and up) and military members. Group discounts are available. Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketleap.events/tickets/cta-md/wss.

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Friday - \$5 Drafts & \$12 Burgers
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Saturday - Brunch—10am - 3pm

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

County Native Paapa-Berchie To Perform At Live Arts Studio

Known for blending melodic hip-hop, contemporary R&B, Afrobeats and pop musical styles, Paapa-Berchie will take the stage at Live Arts Studio in Annapolis on November 22 at 7:30pm.

Paapa-Berchie moves seamlessly from smooth lyricism to dance-ready grooves, with plenty of space for audience connection along the way. His show will open with “TiDal Wave” (from the 2020 album “O.P.E.R.A.”), a track full of layered synths and harmonies that ebb and flow. From there, the energy will shift through the intimate, late-night vibe of “Mindless Talk” (2024); the bright, chantable rhythms of “GLOW” (2022); and the motivational bounce of songs from the “No Turning Back” EP (2021). Fan favorites like “Queen” (2021) and “Hometown” (2020) round out the set with soulful R&B textures.

Live, Paapa-Berchie is all about warmth and participation. Expect call-and-response hooks, head-nod tempos perfect for light movement, and dynamic shifts that carry the audience from reflection to celebration. With roots in choral and church-choir traditions, Paapa-Berchie possesses vocals that shine through stacked harmonies, precise ad-libs, and a clarity that favors live connections.



Paapa-Berchie moves from smooth lyricism to dance-ready grooves. He will showcase those talents in Annapolis on November 22.

Live Arts Studio is located on the Bestgate Road side of Annapolis Mall. Use the entrance between Offenbachers and The Container Store, turn left at the main corridor, and find the studio on the right side of the hallway next to LOFT.

For more information, visit app.arts-people.com/?show=300268.

Pasadena Theatre Company

» Continued from page 35

evil spell cast by the White Witch, but hopeful for the return of the great lion, Aslan, the rightful ruler. Aslan has been absent for so long that some residents have begun to doubt his existence. The children, believed to be part of a prophecy signaling Aslan’s return, are soon caught up in a fierce struggle of good versus evil.

Theatrical stalwart and Severna Park resident Angela Germanos has taken the helm as director of PTC’s production, and she promises this rendition will add some magic to delight even the most experienced theater enthusiast.

“I am really excited about this production,” Germanos said, noting that the C.S. Lewis novel was released 75 years ago in October 1950. “The cast is simply amazing, and of course, there is the beautiful story.”

In a first for Germanos, the stage will come to life, in part, through projection technology. “Narnia is a grand kingdom. The digital technology allows for very quick set changes (and) makes the stage appear larger with much more depth,” she explained. “The cast is thrilled to work with projections, and I’m really excited to bring a new experience to the audience.”

Severna Park resident Beth Acton portrays the strict child-disapproving Mrs. McCready, the head of house in the uncle’s mansion, Marbleton Manor. Acton enjoys

her character because their dispositions are complete opposites, making the role both challenging and exciting.

“This story alone is worth seeing for its wonderful lessons and fantastic plot,” Acton said. “Most of all, this cast is full of amazing talent who are bringing these characters to life so splendidly. I am sure our audiences will feel like they have been transported right into Narnia alongside the Pevensie siblings.”

The epic battle of good versus evil onstage required the cast to work with fight choreographer Tyler Heroux to

learn how to safely wield bows, arrows and swords, and to make the conflict as realistic as possible. And if projections and physicality of the cast aren’t enough visual stimulation, the costumes should be spectacular.

Iz Taylor plays the evil wolf Fenris Ulf, the head of the White Witch’s secret police. Even though the wolf is cunning, he’s completely loyal to the witch.

“People should come see this production because it’s a fun and magical story about friendship and love, and it’s a great show for kids,” said Taylor, an Arnold resident.

“Narnia: The Musical” runs November 14–23 at AACC’s Humanities Building Lecture Hall, located at 101 College Parkway in Arnold. Tickets are available at www.ptcshows.com.

“People should come see this production because it’s a fun and magical story about friendship and love, and it’s a great show for kids.”

— IZ TAYLOR, ACTRESS



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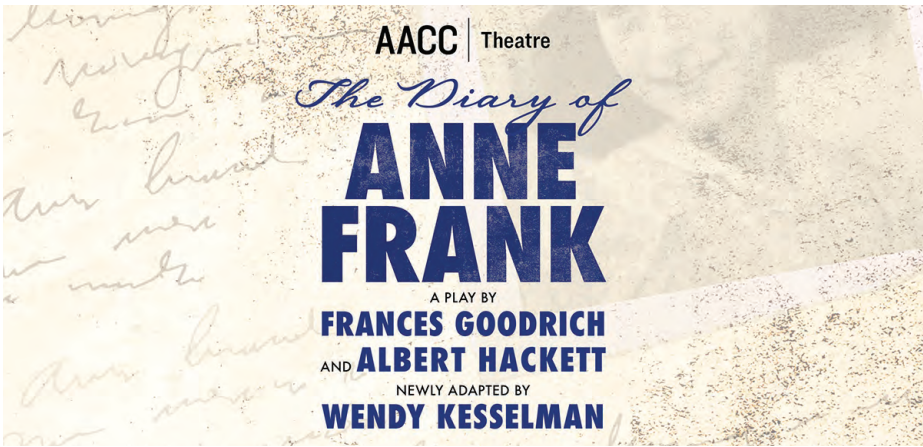
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AACC’s Fall Theater Production, Concerts And Dance Performance Take To The Stage

By Meredith Winter

Arundel Community College (AACC) Chair of Theater and Dance Sean Urbantke emphasized that the school’s fall mainstage production is “going to be really powerful.” Alum Liz Fall, social media manager for the theater department, echoed that sentiment by stating that audiences should bring both a sense of joy and a supply of tissues. Tissues will be necessary as the true story of Anne Frank, a Jewish Dutch teenager who was forced to hide with her family for two years during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, unfolds onstage at AACC.

Urbantke shared that AACC’s upcoming production of “The Diary of Anne Frank” will follow Wendy Kesselman’s 1997 adaptation of the original dramatization by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett that premiered on Broadway in 1955. Their stage production is based on the posthumously published book “The Diary of a Young Girl” by Anne Frank, which came out in 1947, two years after her death. The book comprises diary writings by Frank beginning when she was just 13 years old. It chronicles her experience of hiding with her mother, father, sister and another family in a secret annex space above her father’s office in Amsterdam. The true horrors of the Holocaust are exposed as Frank’s Jewish family hides to avoid being deported to their death by the Nazis but



are ultimately apprehended in 1944. At the age of 15, Frank died of typhus in a concentration camp. Only her father, Otto Frank, survived the war. More than 20 cast members, crew and designers have rehearsed for the AACC production for weeks. The company includes students — many from the school’s play production course — as well as alumni and community members. “Even at first read, oh my gosh, by the time the end of the play comes, we’ve invested so much, we’ve enjoyed the characters so much, and then — this is kind of like the Titanic, you know the boat is sinking — but you’ve just now lived a couple hours of the two years almost that these characters were in this isolated environment, hopeful and talking about how they were going to go about their day-to-day afterward,”

Urbantke shared. “And the end monologue is Otto Frank, the father, and he barely made it through just reading the monologue — his voice was cracking and things like that — and in the room that night, including myself, there were four other fathers. (We were) all just teary-eyed. You could have heard a pin drop when they finished the last words.” Though the set is minimal, Fall noted the lighting and sound are beautiful and help immerse the audience in the environment. “The Diary of Anne Frank” will run for two weekends in November. AACC also has several upcoming concerts, a dance performance, and a holiday music celebration on its performance calendar through the end of the year. Those details are listed to the right. Additional information is available at www.aacc.edu/calendar.

Performance Calendar

Fall Mainstage Production:
“The Diary of Anne Frank”
Fridays and Saturdays
November 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 7:30pm
Sundays
November 9 and 16, at 2:00pm
Robert E. Kauffman Theater in the
Pascal Center for Performing Arts

Symphony Orchestra Concert
Friday, November 21, at 7:30pm
Robert E. Kauffman Theater in the
Pascal Center for Performing Arts

Big Band Concert
Saturday, November 22, at 7:30pm
Robert E. Kauffman Theater in the
Pascal Center for Performing Arts

Concert Band Concert
Sunday, November 23, at 2:00pm
Robert E. Kauffman Theater in the
Pascal Center for Performing Arts

AACC Dance Company
Friday, December 5, and Saturday,
December 6, at 7:30pm
Robert E. Kauffman Theater in the
Pascal Center for Performing Arts

**AACC Concert Choir and
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Consider Your Overall Financial Picture When Making End-Of-Year Moves

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
LaBarge Financial



At LaBarge Financial, we value supporting our community through monetary donations and volunteer hours. On November 20, we're hosting an event with the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (BPMC) Foundation to educate other Marylanders on how to support the hospital, which will allow it to continue investing in its programs and innovating new ways to treat patients. It's a cause that I'm passionate about.

The fall season is a great time to consider supporting charities before the end of the year. The holiday season provides opportunities to benefit your local community, and charity can also be a tool to benefit others and your finances. As the 2025 taxable year nears its end, it's time to make our final moves before moving into 2026, but it's important to take a holistic approach to make the best financial decisions for you.

Tax Planning

Now is the time to make moves to impact the 2025 tax year before 2026 kicks in. Roth conversions are a tool to move money from tax-deferred accounts into Roth accounts, but they require a strategy.

Roth conversions add to your taxable income and allow you to pay taxes on your retirement funds, which is crucial as you balance taxes as 2025 winds down, but they also can impact your overall financial picture and move you up into a higher tax bracket.

It's important to balance the amount of money you are converting each year to avoid paying a higher tax rate than anticipated. You should also have a long-term strategy for this approach.

Required Minimum Distributions

Roth conversions can help manage the required minimum distributions (RMDs) that are needed later in retirement. RMDs are the minimum amount you are required to withdraw from tax-deferred retirement accounts after you turn 73. The exact amount is different for everyone based on factors like your age and

balance, but RMDs must be made before any Roth conversions.

If you haven't made your RMDs yet, now is a great time to consider using them to donate to a charity that you're passionate about. Contributions are tax-deductible and can offset your taxable income while also supporting nonprofit organizations.

Medicare

These decisions can not only impact taxes but also your Medicare costs. Medicare costs a base of \$185 per month, but that could rise due to an income-related monthly adjustment amount (IRMAA) for Medicare Part B and Part D premiums, which is the plan a majority of Americans are enrolled in.

The higher your income is, the more you may be paying in Medicare premiums. In 2025, it applies to Medicare beneficiaries with an adjusted gross income above \$106,000 for individuals and \$212,000 for couples, and can cost an additional \$70 to \$450 per month on Part B premiums in addition to the base of \$185, and up to \$85.50 on Part D premiums.

This is where the overall financial
» Continued on page 43

Chamber Update

Liz League
CEO
GSPACC



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

our directory at www.gspacc.com.

Severna Park Family Chiropractic

www.severnaparkfamilychiropractic.com

Dr. Michelle Herczeg became a chiropractor to help families achieve optimal health and provide adults and children alike with a way to improve their lives without medical interventions. Dr. Herczeg uses a natural approach and is committed to examining the underlying causes of disturbances to the nervous system, which disrupt normal body functions. She utilizes various chiropractic techniques to restore health and wellness to all ages.

Walk The Walk Foundation

www.wtwf.org

Walk the Walk Foundation (WTWF) focuses on making a difference in the lives of people and communities in need through the Backpacks for Kids, Christmas for Children, and Diapers for Babies programs. This organization partners with professionals, volunteers, donors and other nonprofits whose focus fits their mission of creating a cycle of giving within the community. Founded by David and Kimberly Mitchell and now led by Executive Director Nicole Dolan, WTWF is a faith-centered organization that exists to bless children in need by empowering individuals to serve through their time, talents and treasures.

The BeST Institute

www.bioenergetixtraining.com

BeST Institute's hands-on BioEnergetix Rebalancing Therapy training pairs evidence-based science with whole-person energetics for fast patient wins and undeniable practice growth. Unlike traditional schools that require costly travel and time away from your practice, the institute's mobile training model delivers accredited education right to your door all over the country, saving you money.

Fred Astaire Dance Studios In Severna Park (new silver member)

www.fredastaire.com/severna-park

In 1947, multit talented dancer Fred Astaire opened his first dance studio in New York City. Since then, studios have opened across the country, and we welcome the newest studio to Severna Park. Owners Ashley and Alex Ivashchenko believe that dance is more than just a series of steps — it's a way to connect, express oneself, and discover joy in movement. Whether you're looking to master the elegant waltz or groove to the lively salsa, this studio offers an inviting atmosphere for dancers
» Continued on page 42

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

KMA Law Office Welcomes Attorney Ryan Leeb

By Meredith Winter

Hailing from Bel Air, Ryan Leeb is a lifelong Marylander and part of a family of three generations of certified financial planners (CFPs). His family operated a small firm that served Baltimore County, and that has grown and evolved over the years.

Leeb began his career working alongside family for several years in an internal role focused on the areas of estate planning, succession planning and wealth management. His passions and giftings led him to earn an undergraduate degree in rhetoric from the University of Maryland, but he pivoted from the family career path of becoming a CFP and opted to pursue law school.

Leeb graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law, and he passed the bar exam in 2018. He initially opened his own office in 2019 before building a career while searching for a firm that aligned with his values where he could grow under a seasoned leader. Leeb found that home in Severna Park-based KMA Law Office, which he joined in April 2025.

"It was the one that felt right," Leeb said, explaining that he was drawn to the firm because he quickly observed that owner Karen Authement and her team treat clients in much the same ways as his family firm did, with respect and consideration. He also



Attorney Ryan Leeb joined KMA Law Office in April 2025 and practices in the area of estate planning.

recognized in Authement the characteristics of someone who could be a career mentor.

Over the last 15 years, KMA Law Office has served more than 2,000 clients in the greater Severna Park area and beyond. The firm's practice areas include personal injury, workers' compensation, and estate planning — Leeb's area of expertise.

KMA Law Office offers comprehensive guidance in organizing estates. The firm's thorough process includes gath-



ering detailed information, reviewing goals for the estate planning process, and discussing the best ways to achieve those goals through wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and advance directives.

"Proper estate planning involves looking at a client's financial picture and working or coordinating with their financial planner. Ryan has a unique background of having worked in a financial planning firm for several years, reviewing and assisting their clients with estate planning," Authement said of her firm's newest attorney. "Ryan's experience is a great addition to the KMA Law Office team and a great benefit to our clients."

KMA Law Office prides itself on providing "big firm services with small firm personal attention," taking the form of caring, efficient and experienced service for its clients. Like
» Continued on page 42

Chamber Update

» Continued from page 41

of all ages and skill levels. It specializes in ballroom and Latin dance classes for adults and children, offering both private and group classes.

Alpha Mentality Fitness

www.alphamentalityfitness.com

Alpha Mentality Fitness (AMF) is a personalized group training class focused on strength gains under time. Rooted in metabolic conditioning, AMF's workouts are designed to improve cardiovascular endurance, build lean muscle mass and reduce body fat. Each class is 40-50 minutes and pushes you to be mentally and physically stronger. The group training atmosphere is created to encourage the community to get stronger and have fun doing it.

KMA Law Welcomes Ryan Leeb

» Continued from page 41

Authement and the rest of the firm, Leeb strives to help clients feel comfortable and cared for, with an emphasis on establishing trust and setting right expectations.

He noted that with estate planning, discussing death or incapacitation can be emotional. Leeb endeavors to help clients navigate that challenge and arrive at good solutions for them.

"When you lose a parent, I want that

Aussie Pet Mobile of Severna Park and Glen Burnie

www.aussiepetmobile.com/severna-park-glen-burnie-md

At Aussie Pet Mobile of Severna Park and Glen Burnie, the team provides professional mobile pet grooming you can trust — with honesty, integrity and clear communication. Every pet is treated with the care they deserve, and the team builds lasting relationships with pets and their parents. Aussie's vision is to lead the mobile pet grooming industry by setting the standard for professionalism, trust and convenience. This business provides dog and cat grooming services.

Orthodontic Associates

www.orthodonticassoc.com

At Orthodontic Associates, your smile is the top priority. The staff strives to provide a beautiful smile. With 13 orthodontist

offices in the Baltimore area, Orthodontic Associates is prepared to provide you with convenient and friendly service. Doctors Jeffrey Miller, Heather Abrahams, Michael Pantos, Sara Soofian, Katelyn Owen and Claire Shults understand how important a straight, beautiful smile is, which is why they offer state-of-the-art orthodontic appliances and revolutionary services. The office will celebrate 30 years in business on Friday, November 7, from 11:00am-1:00pm.

The highlight of October was our **Shoptoberfest** shop local event with a trick-or-treat twist. The event was held at Park Plaza on October 11, and we had over 60 exhibitors. Six gold sponsors presented donations to their charities of choice. This included **Landmark Roofing** donating to **Children's Theatre of Annapolis**, **Atlantic Blue Water Services** donating to the **YWCA**, **Kitchen Tune-up** and **Prime IV** donating to the **Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company**, **SERVPRO of Annapolis** and **Severna Park** donating to the **Chrysalis House**, and the **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi** donating to the **Alzheimer's Association**.

Other sponsors were **Bayrise Builders**, **Park Modern Home**, **Delegate Heather Bagnall**, **Eco Adventures**, **Griswold Home Care**, **Fieldstone Animal Inn**, **Arundel Federal**

Savings Bank, Lean on Dee Senior Services and Kwon's Taekwondo.

Entertainment was provided by the **Priddy Music Academy**, **The Edge Dance Complex**, **Children's Theatre of Annapolis** and the **Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi**.

Our monthly chamber mingle was held on a beautiful evening at **Severna Park Taphouse**. Many thanks to owner Jessica Tinordi for making it special with delicious appetizers.

We had three ribbon-cutting celebrations over the last month. First was the 20-plus-one-year anniversary of **Higgins and Friends Pet Sitting**. Next was the five-year anniversary of **Vela Haven Sleep Consulting and Maternal Services**. Last was the grand opening of **Trillium Wellness'** new location in Annapolis.

Our Successful Women in Business Group was hosted by **BD Provisions** in Severna Park. The Wellness Business Connections Group's guest speaker was Carrie Chojnowski, owner of **Thrive 4 Life Holistic Health**. And our Business Bites Luncheon featured Tom Adams of **Zulumel Consulting** to present artificial intelligence concepts.

For more information about the chamber, visit www.gspacc.com. Remember to shop and support local!

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Financial Picture

» Continued from page 41

picture can come into play. If you convert too much money through Roth conversions or don't manage your RMDs properly, that could significantly impact your IRMAA surcharge.

These are all important decisions for retirees, and you need the right team of professionals to help navigate them. You may not think about your financial advisor when making Medicare decisions, but they can help navigate your holistic retirement plan to understand how each decision impacts the rest of your financial picture.

If you're considering supporting a local charity as part of your end-of-year financial decisions, I encourage you to support the BWMC Foundation and attend our two seminars at noon and 5:00pm on November 20. You can email events@labargefinancial.com for more information.

Jason LaBarge, financial advisor and president of LaBarge Financial
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Meet The General Manager
Tracey Gatdula — Park Hardware

When Tracey Gatdula learned that Park Hardware owner Rick Miller was searching for a general manager to oversee the Severna Park shop, it did not take much imagination to picture himself in that role.

Gatdula was a customer of the location's previous store, Clement Hardware, and he had 30 years of retail management experience.

Tracey Gatdula

"Rick was kind enough to pluck me out of retirement," said Gatdula, who has worked everywhere from JCPenney and CVS to neighborhood stores, including Arnold Farms and Greener Gardens. "I've run over \$30 million of retail and I've run \$2 million of retail."

Park Hardware presented a unique opportunity, though.

"After 35 years of running retail, I came here because Rick said that he would allow me to run the business and retail decisions would go through me," Gatdula said. "This was invaluable to someone who has run other people's businesses for a very long time and also owns and runs a very successful business myself. Rick doesn't look over my shoulder and makes me feel like I am a partner in the business."

Miller is a fourth-generation owner

and president of his 100-year-old family business, Zeskind's Hardware and Millwork, and now Park Hardware. Prior to Gatdula's arrival in February 2025, Miller already began a series of upgrades to the store layout and offerings. Among other services, Park Hardware added screen, glass and window sash repair; small engine repair; key-cutting and duplication; and assembly services — many of which are not often found at other hardware stores. It also brought the Zeskind's Hardware and Millwork showroom to Park Hardware.

Gatdula is also bringing his own ideas, such as a 24-hour bait machine that was installed in July. Park Hardware has a new fishing section inside the store, an idea Gatdula suggested and implemented. The closest bait and tackle stores are 15 minutes away in Annapolis and Pasadena, he said, so this is a real differentiator and fills a need in the community.

"He has the experience with operations, expenses, purchasing and merchandising," Miller said. "It's critical to have someone like Tracey to rely on (in those areas). My background is really in manufacturing, distribution and sales."

When it comes to the store, Gatdula has a simple philosophy.

"I believe retail has to move to keep things fresh. We have to get rid of things that aren't in high demand," he said. "My view is to have a clean store, where you are able to find everything you need, and the shelves are stocked."

New inventory is only part of the focus that Park Hardware has as it continues to grow. Another priority is customer service.

"Our 100-year history has a (reputation of being) very service oriented," Miller said. "I think we bring reliability and a modern selection."

Gatdula has plenty of service experience, which he also puts to use as an independent entrepreneur. He and his wife have owned the mobile catering business Glazey Days Donuts for 13 years.

As with Park Hardware, he gets to meet customers, listen to their stories and provide them with something they need whether it's a sweet treat or answers to questions about their homes and gardens.

According to Gatdula, the general manager job description for Park Hardware is not that different from a big-box store in terms of responsibilities, such as inventory and payroll, but its role in the community sets it apart. Park Hardware supports community organizations regularly, with the most recent examples being Stef Ripple's annual 5K, the Arnold Senior Center, and Art in the Park, a collaboration between Cafe Mezzanotte and the Severna Park Voice newspaper that supported Bello Machre this year.

Park Hardware also supports Severna Park High, Severna Park Middle, St. Martin's-in-the-Field and Indian Creek schools.

"I think we strive to embody what a hometown store is," Gatdula said. "Park Hardware is not a corporate giant. If you need hardware but you're not sure what you need, we're going to make sure you get what you came for and we're going to give you the best service."

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