



Athletes Attend
Summer Leagues

» Page 14



Shakespeare On
The Severn Returns
To Ben Oaks

» Page 33

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AUGUST 2026

Board Of Appeals Rules Against Proposed Chick-fil-A

By Meredith Winter

For five years, community members have spoken out about the construction of a new drive-thru-only Chick-fil-A along southbound Ritchie Highway in Arnold. Following preliminary plan approval granted by the county last year, the Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals held nine hearings for public testimony in late 2025.

Last month, the Board of Appeals issued a memorandum of opinion, voting 4-3 in the appellants' favor. It reads: "For the reasons set forth in the foregoing Memorandum of Opinion, it is this 16th day of July, 2026, by the County Board of Appeals of Anne Arundel County, ORDERED, that the Petitioner's request for Preliminary Plan approval for the construction of a 2,852 square foot Chick-fil-A restaurant with a two-lane drive-thru, and associated parking and landscaping, and approval of modification requests to Article 17-6-306(c), Retention Below the Threshold, and to Article 17-6-303(b), Priority Retention Area are hereby DENIED."

Community members in opposition to the construction of a Chick-fil-A at 1500 Ritchie Highway just south of the CVS Pharmacy and Sunoco gas station raised concerns regarding traffic, pedestrian safety, environmental impact and the removal of specimen trees.

The protestants included two

» Continued on page 6

Electric Bike, Scooter Safety Questions Arise As Devices Grow In Popularity

By Zach Sparks



E-bikes and e-scooters are a familiar sight on trails around the county.

Not every bike or scooter is created equal. Electric bikes (e-bikes) and e-scooters are allowing riders to travel at faster speeds than traditional bicycles, but with that convenience comes great responsibility.

Health and data firm Truvela analyzed over 12,000 emergency room visits in the U.S. and found a 671% increase in cases related to e-bikes and e-scooters from January 2023 to May 2026.

E-bikes are bicycles equipped with operable pedals and an electric motor of 750 watts or less. They are separated into three classes with some being pedal assisted and some being throttled assisted, and they range in top speed from 20 to 28 miles per hour. E-scooters are two-wheeled devices with an electric motor and handlebars that help operators stand. These are limited to 20 miles per hour on level ground.

Then there are electric motorcycles and mopeds,

» Continued on page 8

New Cape St. Claire Fire Station Will Continue To Serve Annapolis, Arnold Communities

Modern Two-Story Station Will Include Four Drive-Through Bays, Improved Accommodations For Staff

By Meredith Winter

After 70 years of operation, the Cape St. Claire fire station has been identified for replacement, and following a groundbreaking ceremony in late April, construction is underway.

Station 19, located at 1411 Cape St. Claire Road in Annapolis, is staffed by a combination of career firefighters and volunteers, with five career firefighters present 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year according to Captain Michael Mayo.

Mayo serves as captain at the station and is a public information officer within the Anne Arundel County Fire Department (AACFD).



A new Cape St. Claire fire station is under construction adjacent to the existing building. It will include four drive-through bays and improved health and wellness features for career and volunteer firefighters.

He shared that in addition to 20 career firefighters, there are about 25 active members of the Cape St. Claire Volunteer Fire Company (CSCVFC) who respond to calls with the career staff, engage the community through events, and staff an ambulance they put into service.

AACFD public information officer Jenny Macallair shared, "No matter where you are in the county, all 31

stations besides Ferndale are staffed 24/7/365 by tax-paid, full-time career firefighters, so you're going to get the resources you need for your emergency in the county."

According to the CSCVFC website, Station 19 serves approximately 25,000 people in a roughly 64-square-mile area. Mayo noted that beyond Cape

» Continued on page 12

In This Edition

Community..... 1 Arts & Entertainment ...33
Sports 14 Business 37
School & Youth..... 28



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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.

Lise Crafton Wants The Magothy To Thrive

By Zach Sparks

Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and a jack of all trades for the Magothy River Association (MRA). When it comes to environmental stewardship, Lise Crafton is all in.

She and her husband, Jim, moved to Severna Park from the Harford County community of Jarrettsville in 2008.

"We live on a piece of property that has been in Jim's family for over 100 years, so I kind of married into the Magothy," she said.

She married into the Magothy and moved onto the land where she and Jim were married. Growing up in Jarrettsville, "there were not a lot of limits as to where you could explore," Crafton said. "I would always be collecting rocks or bringing insects home."

That curiosity and love for the outdoors fit in naturally in Severna Park and with the MRA.

"The first thing was the floating garden project and working with Anne Arundel Community College, trying to figure out which emergent plants thrived in different levels of salinity," Crafton said. "We encouraged people to plant with the part of the river they were compatible in."

The MRA wanted to stop using Styrofoam and the floats became too expensive, so the nonprofit paused the project. That did not stop volunteers from educating homeowners about their human footprint.

"We've been trying to encourage people that what we do on land has an impact on the rivers," Crafton said. "Plant on the edge of your lawn to keep nutrients off the lawn from



Lise Crafton enjoys being outdoors and interacting with creatures in their natural habitat.

going into storm drains. Plant along the bulkhead to provide habitat, oxygenate and remove nutrients from the water. We also try to impress upon people that everyone has a storm drain or asphalt driveway whether you live on the water or not. With Bay-Wise, we have the same lesson we try to teach people: to keep the rain and water off their lawns."

Crafton is involved in Bay-Wise, a University of Maryland extension program that promotes sustainable landscape practices, and she volunteers with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

Her contributions are wide-ranging. MRA President Paul Spadaro has known that since the Craftons moved to Severna Park, two doors down from him.

"For more than a decade, Lise has

stepped up time and time again to support MRA programs and activities," Spadaro said. "She is currently planning our 80th anniversary celebration on September 20 and is coordinating the MRA road show, where we are reaching out into the watershed to focus on friend-raising and increasing membership."

Crafton has worked with her fellow volunteers to secure a location and caterer for the anniversary, which will feature music by Ginger and the Other Dave. Justen Garrity will help attendees compost their crab shells.

The anniversary is the latest task in a busy year for Crafton. She and another MRA volunteer visited Whitehurst residents to discuss the Magothy River's health.

"Bob Royer talked to people about what we can do," Crafton said. "Bob had this horrible graph of oxygen levels and how quickly they degraded over the summer."

At the end of spring, she and Brad Knopf represented the MRA as community stakeholders for Broadneck High School's Signature program, which has an environmental literacy focus.

"The teachers and kids are just so enthusiastic and help us build floating gardens," she said.

Other students serve as interns for MRA members Charles and Andrea Germain, using drones and gathering footage for MRA videos. No matter the role of students, Crafton enjoys seeing them supporting their environment, just as she has for so many years.

"They don't necessarily have to be a kid who wants to get their feet wet or their hands dirty," she said. "There's something for everyone."



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Changing Lives One Bike At A Time



Over 20 years ago, Ann Jackson partnered with Pedal Pushers owner Rod Reddish to hold the first bike collection in Severna Park. In memory of Jackson, family members and friends have continued the annual collection and donors have given over 2,100 bikes to the cause.

cles available to low-income people in developing countries. These donated bikes provide better transport for work, education and healthcare appointments. In addition, the donated bikes seed bicycle repair and maintenance businesses providing skilled employment.

Over 20 years ago, Ann Jackson partnered with Pedal Pushers owner Rod Reddish to hold the first bike collection in Severna Park, establishing a long-running collaboration with biannual collection events. In memory of Jackson, family members and friends have continued the annual collection with over 2,100 bikes donated to the cause.

Donations of any repairable bike, including those with flat tires or missing seats and pedals, are acceptable. In addition to bicycles, scooters, adult tricycles, unicycles, trail-a-bikes, and most spare parts and accessories are needed. Anyone donating a bike is asked to donate \$10 to cover shipping costs. Donation receipts will be provided for the bike's value plus any cash donations. For more details, visit www.bikesfortheworld.org.

The unused bikes in your garage or basement can become valuable transportation for people in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and South Pacific through a simple donation to Bikes for the World. Volunteers will collect used bicycles at Pedal Pushers bike shop in Severna Park on Saturday, August 15, from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Bikes for the World is a registered nonprofit organization with headquarters and a warehouse in Rockville, Maryland. The organization makes affordable, good-quality, used bicy-

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10th Annual Do Your Best 5K Slated For September 13

Hosted by Stef Ripple, the Stefanie Ashdown Memorial "Do Your Best" 5K Run & 1 Mile Walk will pass its 10-year milestone this fall. The race is planned for Sunday, September 13, at Anne Arundel Community College.

The event serves as a day to come together to honor loved ones, support ovarian cancer warriors, and live out Ashdown's mission: Be thankful. Be helpful. Be kind.

Ashdown was a Severna Park native, wife and mother of three who battled ovarian cancer for two and a half years. Her energy and kindness were contagious, and their impact became known as the "Stef Ripple." The nonprofit founded in her memory continues that ripple effect by spreading the principles that guided her life.

The 10th annual race will also honor the life of Katie Filling, a devoted member of the Stef Ripple community. Filling met Ashdown while they both underwent chemotherapy and attended every race.

To learn more and register for the race, go to www.stefripple.org.

Magothy River Association Celebrates 80 Years Of Improving The Watershed And Quality Of Life

In 1946, the U.S. Navy announced plans to build an air station and seaplane base near Cape St. Claire. Concerned about the disruptive noise from jet and seaplane operations, residents along the Magothy River organized to challenge the proposal. Their unified effort was so effective that the Navy abandoned the Magothy site and instead constructed the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. From that victory, the Magothy River Association (MRA) was born.

The Magothy River Association is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization representing more than 300 individual members and 30 Magothy community associations. The MRA is dedicated to preserving, protecting, defending, and improving the quality of life along the Magothy River and throughout its watershed. Its initiatives are powered by passionate volunteers committed to making a lasting environmental impact.

Since 1994, the MRA has achieved significant milestones, including litigation to prevent harmful development that contributes to polluted stormwater runoff, protection of marsh and wetland habitats, securing environmental organizational standing, and estab-

lishing mean high water rights to support public access.

The MRA's environmental advocacy includes oyster restoration projects that enhance aquatic habitat for yellow perch and other species, planting submerged aquatic vegetation to support marine life, and conducting ongoing water-quality monitoring to identify and address environmental concerns.

The organization partners with Anne Arundel Community College, the U.S. Naval Academy, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, the Oyster Recovery Partnership, and the Horn Point Oyster Hatchery to advance scientific understanding and improve water quality in the Magothy River — ensuring this vital natural resource can be enjoyed for generations.

Education and community engagement are central to the MRA's mission. The association offers programs that teach residents about the river's flora, fauna and the importance of environmental stewardship. These include student placemat activities, "Living History" videos on YouTube, reef-ball construction with high school students, and the annual circumnavigation of the Magothy River in

late summer or early fall.

The MRA's efforts have also expanded public access to the Magothy River, allowing more people to experience and appreciate its beauty. The association encourages community involvement through membership, donations and volunteer opportunities.

To learn more or support the Magothy River Association and its mission, visit www.magothyriver.org or follow the MRA on Facebook.

Join The MRA's 80th Birthday Party

Members of the MRA will mark the big milestone with a party at the Cape St. Claire clubhouse on Sunday, September 20, from 3:00pm-6:00pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Guests will enjoy steamed crabs, pulled pork, pulled chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, beer, wine, soda and water. Ginger and the Other Dave will perform will music.

Tickets are \$80 and include two drinks. The deadline for tickets is September 16. To purchase tickets or make a donation, visit www.givebut-ter.com/support-the-health-of-the-magothy-river-zfbh5q.

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Lord Of The Swings: Faith And Fun Converge On The Diamond In Church Softball League



Photos by Judy Tacyn

Above: Woods players (l-r) Andrew Wiley, the Rev. JC Austin, Josh Thompson, Joe Rose and Trevor Greenfield posed between innings on July 26 at Elvaton Park, where they defeated St. John the Evangelist 4-3. **Right:** The St. John the Evangelist and Woods teams bowed their heads in a prayer of gratitude and asked for the safety of all players prior to the July 26 game.



By Judy Tacyn

For more than five decades, local faith communities' Sunday worship in their churches has been followed by fellowship on the softball field.

"The ability to meet other churches in the area to have fellowship is great, and the ability to join a low-pressure league to play a softball game for pure fun is refreshing," Kevin Berard, team coordinator for St. Andrew by the Bay Catholic Church, said. "But what I love most about the league are the friendships that my family and I have made through the team, which without the softball team, would be unlikely to have made a connection."

Scott Wiley, league scheduler and member of Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, joined the Woods team in 1987, and estimates the league dates back to the mid-70s. The church league runs from April through August, and games are played at Cypress Creek and Elvaton parks through field permits obtained from the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. Teams pay a registration fee to cover the costs of the rented fields and carry their own insurance.

Each game begins with a prayer and ends with a handshake. Play follows basic baseball rules with some additions to make the game safer. Games are competitive enough to have fun but not enough to brew rivalries.

"It is important to start everything in prayer. Our league is Christian, and Jesus is called to be the linchpin of our lives," Berard said. "Starting the games in prayer, as for

everything in our lives, keeps in mind the tenants that we are called to live — love of neighbor, respect for others, and a sense of gratitude for God and the gift of his creation."

Lori Sexton, team coordinator for Severna Park United Methodist Church, said, "Prayer reminds us that the league is about more than softball. Prayer reminds us to be grateful for the opportunity to play, ask for everyone's safety, and that fellowship is more important than the final score."

"Prayer reminds us that the league is about more than softball. Prayer reminds us to be grateful for the opportunity to play, ask for everyone's safety, and that fellowship is more important than the final score."

— LORI SEXTON

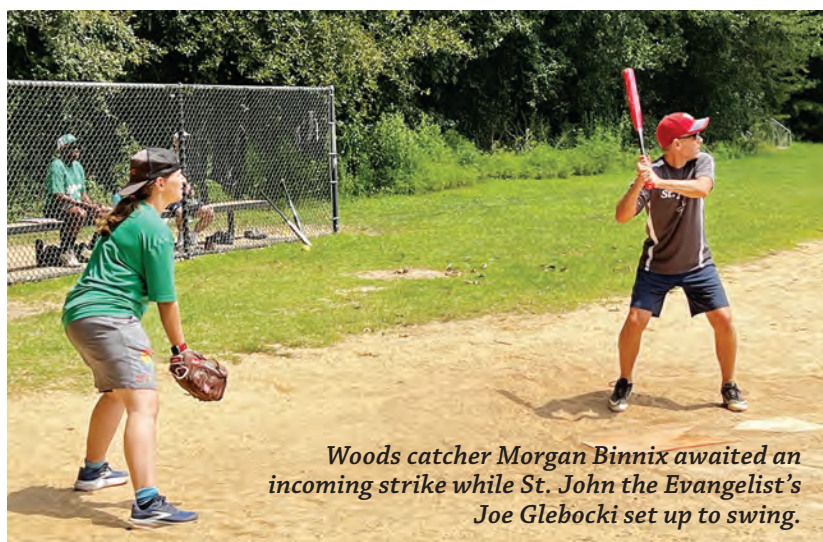
Teams umpire their own games and there are no playoffs or championships. The member-based rosters include students through players in their 70s. Some are former high school or college softball or baseball players, and for some, the league is their first time on the diamond.

Sports alone cannot heal a divided world, but for these teams, softball forms a community and a commonality for people. Sam Sica, coordinator for the Pastorate of the Visitation, said, "I think sport is important because it shows we can have different views or religions but still come together as a team to play a game for fun, faith and fellowship."

Berard added, "Spreading love, respect and understanding comes from faith, and for us, this league is a faith grounded in Jesus."

League members include College Parkway Baptist Church, Heritage Baptist Church, Pastorate of the Visitation, Severna Park United Methodist Church, St. Andrew by the Bay Catholic Church, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church.

If your church is interested in learning more about the league, contact Scott Wiley at wilecoy2us@gmail.com.



Woods catcher Morgan Binnix awaited an incoming strike while St. John the Evangelist's Joe Glebocki set up to swing.

Board Rules Against Chick-fil-A

» Continued from page 1

businesses in Arnold Station, Traynham's Jewelers and Arnold Pharmacy; the Arnold Manor and Ashcroft homeowners' associations; an individual resident of Arnold Manor; and nearby resident Elizabeth Rosborg's LLC, 18 Severn Way.

"Our concern is that this is the first drive-thru-centric Chick-fil-A, not only in Anne Arundel County, but in the entire state of Maryland. And there have been no data collected for such a proposed prototype," Rosborg said. "And we in Arnold don't want to be the guinea pig, don't want to be the trial one, don't want to be the ones that are affected by such huge traffic impact."

Rosborg cited the environmental impact of clear-cutting steep slopes and bringing in fill dirt to make the parcel level, along with unsafe traffic maneuvers patrons would have to make to access the restaurant, among her concerns.

In a statement Rosborg issued on behalf of the protestants following the July 16 ruling, she said, "We appreciate the board's decision on this appeal. Their ruling affirms what residents, business owners, and traffic experts consistently stated throughout the public hearings: the scale and design of this proposed drive-thru-centric Chick-fil-A present serious, well-documented traffic and safety risks for this corridor."

Lee Wofford represented the Arnold Manor homeowners' association during the appeals process and appealed one of the modifications in a private capacity. He shared that Arnold Manor would be the development most affected by the Chick-fil-A, as residents' properties adjoin the parcel where the restaurant would be built. Wofford voiced concerns about traffic, child and pedestrian safety, property values and pollution, adding, "Of course it's broader than us. It's also about a neighborhood. It's also about a community that's much bigger than us."

"I have nothing against Chick-fil-A, never have," Wofford said, noting that he has two relatives who own three of the restaurants in other states. "They're a good citizen in the community. They're all over Maryland — you can't shake a burger without hitting one. But that being said, we don't think that this is the proper place, at the proper time, for a business that we know is going to be busy."

The three members of the Board of Appeals who dissented on the ruling stated in writing that the board's sole responsibility is to ensure that development proposals are compliant with county code.

"Over the course of multiple hearings, the Petitioner's expert witnesses presented careful testimony and voluminous evidence detailing compliance with the relevant County Code sections. The County then presented the professional comments of the various governmental reviewers confirming the application's compliance with the County Code. Together, the information received represents overwhelming evidence that the Petitioner's requests meet all standards to obtain Preliminary Plan and modification approval," they wrote.

Chick-fil-A has 30 days following the board's July 16 ruling to appeal the decision.



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Electric Bike, Scooter Safety Questions Arise

» Continued from page 1

or e-motos for short, which are treated as standard motorcycles under Maryland law. These generally exceed 28 miles per hour.

Both e-bikes and e-scooters are allowed on the B&A Trail and other paved areas as long as riders obey the 15 mile-per-hour speed limit and traffic laws.

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (Bike AAA) President Jon Korin has heard the community outcry for more e-bike and e-scooter regulations.

"There are already regulations for e-motos, which require a license, registration and insurance," Korin said. "We see kids going 25, 30 or even 40 miles. Those are not e-bikes in statute. Those are e-motos in statute and they have prohibited use on the trail."

Accidents can be caused by the operator of the electric vehicle or another vehicle, which is why education is paramount, according to Dr. Omoyemi Adebayo, an emergency medicine physician at the University of Baltimore Washington Medical Center.

"I think the part that people really underestimate about these types of bikes and scooters is that they really can travel fast and a simple loss of control can make them behave more like a small vehicle in a crash and cause injuries that are similar to those that you would see in a motorcycle accident or a collision in an actual car itself," Adebayo said. "The key issues boil down to a few things: speed, visibility, distractions and really if people are using the equipment or other equipment that is appropriate for the type and classification of device that they are using."

Stories nationwide have painted the issue with urgency. A 17-year-old died after his e-bike collided with an SUV in Manhattan, New York on July 29. In Florida, a 13-year-old boy had plans to buy flowers for his mom before a pickup truck struck him and caused fatal injuries in May.

"It takes a simple open car door, a patch of gravel, a slick spot on the road, a car making a turn unex-

pectedly to really change what was great preparation before your ride and lead to a serious and traumatic event for hours, days or even weeks to come," Adebayo said, emphasizing the need to limit distractions like cellphones and headphones. "It's important for people to understand that preparation for being safe starts well before the crash itself."

Advocates don't want the risks to prevent responsible riders from having transportation options.

Sandy Bishop runs a Cycling Without Age program that uses electric-assist trishaws, similar to pedicabs, to take seniors from assisted living and memory care for rides on the B&A Trail. She is also a BikeAAA board member and has two daughters, Lucy and Alice, who use electric transportation.

"Lucy rides the bike trail and Benfield from the high school to Safeway five to six days a week for her 6:00am-2:00pm shift," Bishop said. "She rides an upright three-trike. There are no public transportation options for her. Micro-mobility in the form of an e-trike gives her freedom and independence of movement she can't get with anything else. She travels on her own schedule."

Enforcement is usually the answer for people who break traffic laws, but the Anne Arundel County Police Department has a policy not to pursue riders because a chase could cause a greater public risk.

A spokesman for the Anne Arundel County Police Department said officers are focused on community engagement and education to ensure everyone understands the rules of the road. They encourage parents and riders to familiarize themselves with local regulations to ensure these devices are operated responsibly.

With the absence of enforcement, some people are turning their attention to legislation. New Jersey's new laws went into effect in July, with riders over 17 needing a driver's license and riders 15-16 needing a special e-bike or moped license. All e-bikes must also be registered with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

Korin thinks those requirements would be a step

too far in Maryland. "We want to make sure we don't over-legislate," Korin said. "We want people to be able to use these devices as long as there are safe routes for them and they are using it safely."

He sees legislation as a tool for education instead of banning the devices. "We're working on trying to get a requirement for sellers, online and retail, to make sure (electric devices) are labeled properly and there is disclosure about what they can do," he said.

Tips From UM BWMC's Dr. Omoyemi Adebayo

Safety

- Use a helmet that meets the manufacturer's recommendations
- Wear clothes that are reflective and avoid dark clothing at dawn or nighttime
- Use the bike's light feature if offered
- Avoid distractions including cellphone and headphone use

Signs And Symptoms Of An Injury, Beyond A Knee Scrape

If you or someone you know exhibits any of these symptoms, call 911 and seek immediate medical attention.

- Loss of consciousness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Unusual headaches
- Abdominal pain, with or without external bruising
- Head injuries

"Having a traumatic brain injury ranges from everything from a concussion to skull fractures and actual bleeding in and around the brain itself," Adebayo said. "And depending on the solution, the clinical picture in terms of the symptoms the patient has can be murky between those different diagnoses, so if you are experiencing confusion, if you are experiencing nausea or vomiting without an otherwise explainable cause for having that, having sensitivity to light, if you are having amnesia where you don't recall what happened right before or after the accident, those can be signs that something may be going on."

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GSPACC Cookout Attendees Donate Backpacks, Funds For Local Kids Through Walk The Walk Foundation

On Friday, July 31, the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce (GSPACC) held its monthly TGIF cookout for members and guests. The July cookout was sponsored by the Severna Park Voice on behalf of Walk the Walk Foundation (WTWF), the Voice's 2026 Nonprofit of the Year. Every summer, WTWF invites community members to stuff backpacks full of school supplies for a fee to bless Anne Arundel County children in need. In 2025, WTWF distributed 1,500 backpacks throughout the county. The July cookout generated \$1,675 in donations, which funded 47 backpacks. To learn more about WTWF, go to www.wtwf.org.



WTWF volunteers provided instructions for attendees to stuff backpacks with school supplies, a lunch box, a reusable water bottle and a personalized note.



Cookout attendees walked down an assembly line of supplies to stuff one of each item into their backpacks.



(L-R) GSPACC CEO Liz League welcomed attendees and introduced WTWF Executive Director Nicole Dolan and Voice Publisher Dianna Lancione.



The Severna Park Voice staff and Walk the Walk Foundation staff and volunteers gathered for a group photo.



Cookout attendees gathered to listen as WTWF Executive Director Nicole Dolan shared the nonprofit's mission and initiatives.

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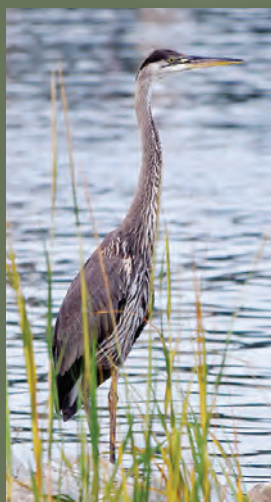
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Independence Day Parade Winners Receive Prizes

In the weeks following the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's annual Independence Day parade, businesses around town delivered cash prizes to this year's float winners.



BEST OVERALL

Linstead on the Severn again claimed the coveted title of Best Overall for its USS Linstead design, a 40-foot naval aircraft carrier flanked by four golf carts transformed into fighter jets. Parade sponsor Jing Ying Institute of Kung Fu & Tai Chi presented community members with a \$500 prize.

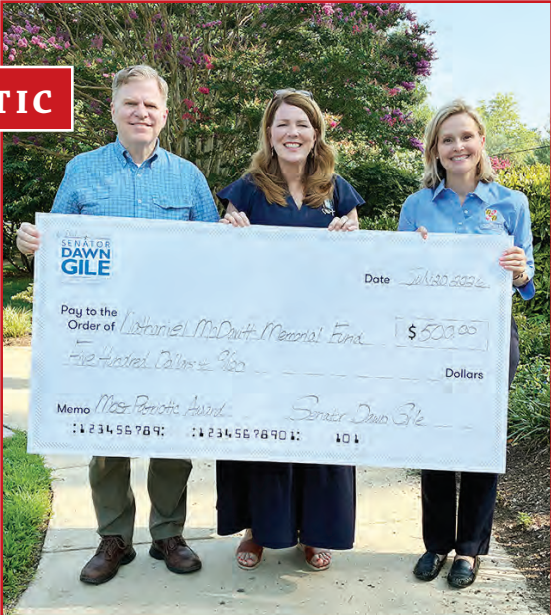


CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

With a float that showcased iconic American symbols including the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, the Liberty Bell and the Declaration of Independence, Olde Severna Park Improvement Association won the \$500 award for the category of Celebrating The 250th Anniversary. The prize was presented by parade sponsor Kitchen Tune-Up.

MOST PATRIOTIC

Airman First Class Nathaniel McDavitt Memorial Scholarship Fund's float featuring an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft was named Most Patriotic, and representatives received a \$500 check from parade sponsor Senator Dawn Gile.



BEST CLUB/NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Our Shepherd Lutheran Preschool was awarded the title of Best Club/Nonprofit Organization for its schoolhouse-themed parade entry. Parade sponsor Betty Batty, Hello Home of Compass, presented school representatives with a \$500 prize.



MOST ORIGINAL

A star-spangled float carrying a participant dressed as Betsy Ross earned Severna Forest the honor of Most Original. The \$500 prize was sponsored by the Severna Park Elks, and Severna Forest opted to donate the money back to the Elks.

BEST COMMUNITY



Members of the Round Bay neighborhood stepped right up to receive the prize for the Best Community entry, which they earned with a float themed after their longstanding tradition of the Round Bay carnival. They were awarded \$500 from parade sponsor Peake Speech Therapy & Consulting.

Fire Station Will Continue To Serve Communities



The new facility will be a 21,571-square-foot, two-story building with 17 bunks for staff, dedicated administrative offices, a community meeting room, and a lobby showcasing the history of Station 19.

» Continued from page 1

St. Claire, the station's first-due area encompasses Sandy Point State Park, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge (mutual aid with Queen Anne's County), one of Anne Arundel County's two fire boats, numerous Annapolis communities, and a portion of Arnold including Bay Hills, Whispering Woods, Dorado Hills and other neighborhoods.

"In my 25 years of being a career member of this department, the call volume has doubled. When I first got hired in 2001, we were around 50,000 calls a year," Mayo said of the AACFD, which recorded nearly 96,000 calls in its 2025 annual report.

Over the last few years, the Cape St. Claire station has averaged 3,500 calls annually, or about 10 each day. Macallair stated that the new station will provide for growth in the area and will be able to accommodate increased calls.

The new facility will be a 21,571-square-foot, two-story building with four drive-through apparatus bays, 17 bunks for staff, dedicated administrative offices, a community meeting room, and a lobby showcasing the history of Station 19.

That history dates to 1955, when Broadneck peninsula residents gathered and voted to organize as the Cape St. Claire Volunteer Fire Association, according to the CSCVFC website. Two months later, the association adopted its current name and purchased a 1936 Chevrolet fire engine from the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department for \$1,800. The existing station was completed in 1957, and additions were built in 1960 and 1962.

Today, the station operates a new fire engine, a pumper tanker, a paramedic unit staffed by career personnel, an ambulance put in service by the CSCVFC, a fireboat, and a truck for special operations equipment for the fireboat. All 20 of Station 19's career firefighters have qualifications to work on the 50-foot Metal Shark Defiant NXT Fireboat, which has a flow rate of over 8,000 gallons per minute — the equivalent of roughly five fire engines combined.

With an estimated total cost of \$18 million, the new county-funded station will include several features that not only make the staff and volunteers' jobs easier but also will improve their quality of life.

The drive-through bays will put an end to one of

Mayo's least favorite parts of the job: backing apparatus into the existing bays. They will also eliminate traffic delays on Cape St. Claire Road.

Health and wellness are prioritized in the design as well. "Some of the research that has come out, especially over the last five to 10 years, is firefighters getting cancers while they're still working or after they retire. And they're very rare cancers that they're attributing back to some of the hazards that they went into when they were performing the duties of the job," Macallair said. "So all of our stations that we've built in the last five years have cancer reduction (features)."

In the new station, these will include commercial washers and dryers so firefighters can wash their gear onsite rather than sending it out for cleaning, as well as a filtration system in the bays.

Outside, the replacement project includes 23 parking spaces for the fire department and a 24-space lot for use by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, which ceded property to the fire department in exchange. Stormwater management measures will include sheet flow and a step pool stormwater conveyance system.

CSCVFC President Randi Beavers also expressed excitement for the new station.

"In 1957, dedicated volunteers built the original station brick by brick, creating not just a building but a foundation of service, dedication and pride that has carried forward for nearly 70 years. Throughout that time, volunteers have worked side by side with the county fire department to make Cape St. Claire a true model of a successful combination department," she said. "As we look ahead, the new station represents a critical investment in the health, safety and improved quality of life for all members — career and volunteer alike — ensuring that this legacy of service continues for generations to come."

It is anticipated that the new Cape St. Claire fire station will be operational by the winter of 2027-2028. The existing station will remain fully operational throughout construction.

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Making Summer Memories Through Helping Neighbors In Need

Michele Sabean
Director of
Development
SPAN Inc.



Summer memories often include vacations, cook-outs, beach days, family gatherings and a slower pace of life. As we head into August, I've also been reminded of something else that makes summer special: the many ways people in our community take time to help others.

Recently, I watched a group carrying bags of food walk up to SPAN. I immediately thought of "Camp Gigi," a tradition where one grandmother, as part of the family weeklong camp, takes her grandchildren shopping to buy food for SPAN. Sure enough, it was them — this year with another cousin old enough to join. It's a simple tradition that's teaching generosity to the next generation.

In July, I visited Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible

School. In our discussion about food insecurity, we were talking about how everyone needs help at times and everyone can help in some ways. The children gave great examples, such as cards they had made for others, and proved how this concept is true no matter one's age.

Young people make a lasting impact at SPAN in many ways. A group of teens started our gluten-free and allergy-friendly pantry shelf, which continues to help families who, in addition to not having enough food, have special dietary needs. More than once, clients have taken the time to tell us how much it means to receive handmade greeting cards along with their food. Throughout the year, teens donate an amazing amount of food through community drives, such as S(o)UPER Bowl food drive, Scouting for Food, their school, neighborhood or a drive they organize themselves.

None of SPAN's work would be possible without the generosity of our community. Together, volunteers, businesses, churches, schools, civic organizations, and neighborhoods help us provide food and emergency assistance to about 4,000

people each year. Thank you!

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday this year, we're inviting the community to join SPAN's 250 Challenge. Collect 250 food items, donate \$250, raise \$2,500, or find another creative way to support neighbors facing food insecurity or financial emergencies. Baldwin Memorial United Methodist Church is already working toward raising \$2,500 this summer, and two volunteers have each donated \$250 in honor of America's birthday. We look forward to celebrating the groups that join this challenge.

One of the wonderful benefits of summer is the fresh produce we receive to share with the families we serve. Community members contribute surplus vegetables from their gardens. Diehl's Produce continues its generous "Round Up for SPAN" program, allowing customers to round up their purchases to provide grocery gift cards for our clients. We are also thankful for our partnership with Langton Green Community Farm, which donates fresh vegetables weekly.

For many families in our commu-

nity, summer is one of the hardest times of the year. Children are home from school, grocery bills rise, and household budgets are stretched even further. At the same time, summer is traditionally SPAN's slowest season for food and financial donations. While donations often decline, the need does not.

Helping others doesn't have to be complicated. Small acts of kindness — sharing vegetables from your garden, volunteering, organizing a food drive, donating money, or simply adding a few extra items to your shopping cart — can make a lasting difference. As you enjoy the rest of summer, we hope you'll create one more meaningful memory by helping a neighbor in need.

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

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Spring College Report

Weisshaar Sets Towson Marks, Moves On To PLL

By David Bashore

Archbishop Spalding graduate and Arnold resident Mikey Weisshaar had quite the spring. The Towson senior punctuated his lacrosse legacy by putting his name atop the program's goals and points record charts, equaling or breaking decades-old marks while also leading them to a regular season Coastal Athletic Association title and a top-16 national ranking.

Weisshaar led Towson in all three scoring categories, netting 47 goals and 29 assists for a total of 76 points. His final collegiate goal was his 154th for Towson, which equaled the program record set by Glenn Smith in 1991. He leaves as one of three players to eclipse the 200-point mark during his time at Towson, and his 234 career points are 13 better than previous record holder Bob Griebel, who held the record for 51 years.

Not only did Weisshaar become Towson's all-time leading scorer this season, but he also continued his ascent to the top of the sport, being selected second overall in April's Premier Lacrosse League draft by the Boston Cannons. He scored his first pro goal on May 15 against the Carolina Chaos, and through nine professional games, Weisshaar has 15 goals (tied for second-best on the team) and one assist.

Weisshaar was one of 139 local athletes competing at the collegiate level this spring whose participation and accolades were reported to the Severna Park Voice.



Photo courtesy of John Bowers, Towson Athletics
Arnold resident and Archbishop Spalding alum Mikey Weisshaar finished his Towson lacrosse legacy with 234 career points, 13 better than the previous record.

BASEBALL

Nick Cicale

Broadneck – *United States Military Academy*

A freshman catcher, Cicale appeared in two games for the Black Knights, singling in his only plate appearance and driving in two runs.

Adam Clark

Severna Park – *Beloit*

A freshman utility player, Clark appeared in six games, logging one hit in three at-bats.

Calvin Cook

Broadneck – *Middle Tennessee*

A redshirt freshman, Cook appeared in five games, getting two hits and an RBI in his three at-bats.

Brad DeMoss

Indian Creek – *Valley Forge*

A senior pitcher, DeMoss appeared in seven games, recording 16 outs.

Matt Dove

Severna Park – *Anne Arundel Community College*

A sophomore first baseman, Dove appeared in 30 games, logging 19 hits in 59 at-bats for a .322 batting average and one RBI.

Garrett Drish

Broadneck – *Wilson*

A freshman, Drish started in all 31 of his appearances for the Phoenix, posting a .306 batting average with a team-high 34 hits and six doubles.

Chase Hannon

Broadneck – *Anne Arundel Community College*

A freshman pitcher, Hannon appeared in four games for the Riverhawks, posting one win in 3.1 innings pitched.

Charlie Hartman

Severna Park – *Salisbury*

A freshman, Hartman appeared in 11 games, logging four hits and three RBIs.

Nathan Murphy

Severna Park – *George Washington*

A sophomore, Murphy logged five innings in eight appearances, striking out two.

Sean Murphy

Broadneck – *Catholic*

A junior, Murphy made eight relief appearances, striking out 11 batters in 12.2 innings pitched and logging one save.

Jackson O'Brien

Severna Park – *Beloit*

A sophomore, O'Brien appeared in 15 games, primarily as a pinch runner. He scored three runs during the season.

Kody Phillips

Severna Park – *Lebanon Valley*

A sophomore, Phillips played in 37 games, posting a .320 batting average and .903 OPS with 14 doubles and a team-leading 30 RBIs.

Carver Salazar

Archbishop Spalding – *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

A sophomore infielder, Salazar appeared in 16 games for the Retrievers, starting six. He posted three hits, including a double, a home run, and four RBIs.

Angel Santiago-Cruz

Severna Park – *Richmond*

A sophomore pitcher, Santiago-Cruz made two starts and 14 over-all appearances, logging 20.1 innings and striking out 21 batters.

Cade Schuetter

Broadneck – *Colorado State-Pueblo*

A freshman, Schuetter made one appearance on the mound, striking out two batters in one inning pitched.

Cody Sharman

Archbishop Spalding – *Frostburg State*

A sophomore pitcher, Sharman tossed 15.2 innings in his 10 relief appearances, picking up one win and striking out nine.

Nick Stergiou

Broadneck – *Bluefield*

A senior, Stergiou started 45 games, batting .222 with 13 RBIs.

Mike Swick

Broadneck – *Frostburg State*

A freshman, Swick appeared in 13 games, logging one hit and two RBIs.

Jacob Williams

Severna Park – *Lebanon Valley*

A freshman outfielder, Williams appeared in 20 games, posting a .261 batting average with two RBIs.

Sean Williams

Severna Park – *Gaston College*

A sophomore transfer from Penn State, Williams made 13 relief appearances, posting a 2-0 record with 24 strikeouts in 17 innings pitched.

» Continued on page 20

What Offseason?

Prep Teams Use Summer Leagues For Growth



Photos by David Bashore

Above: Josh Simons scored for Broadneck during their home passing league event in June.

Below: Blake Coard drove the lane during one of Severna Park's games at API in June.



By David Bashore

Summer leagues are not a new phenomenon in high school sports, at least at the football and basketball levels. But their proliferation into a variety of sports, combined with schools looking for creative avenues to develop their own programs, has led to many options taking up the summer schedule.

The old reliable has been the football passing league, which has played effectively 7-on-7 without linemen for countless summers. Broadneck and Severna Park are both involved in local passing leagues, which travel to high schools and college campuses throughout the summer.

Broadneck hosted an event with Severna Park and

» Continued on page 24



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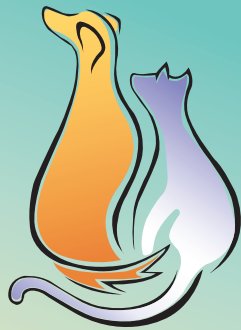
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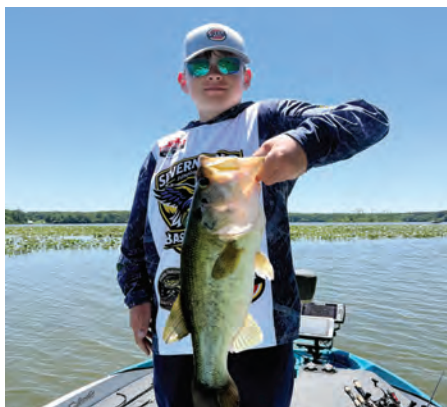
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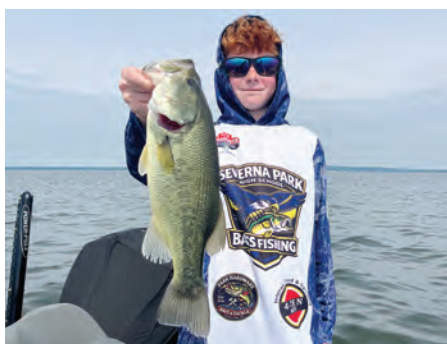
Severna Park Adds Another State Championship

A Bass Fishing Team Is The Latest To Capture A Crown



Photos courtesy of Steve Shaffer

Connor Shaffer displayed one of his huge bass he caught during a fishing tournament held on the Potomac River.



Will Sandel proudly posed with one of his big catches during a spring tournament. He and Connor Shaffer won the junior division of the Maryland state bass fishing championship.

By Kevin Murnane

For the last several decades, talented Severna Park athletes have blended their individual superlative skills to achieve numerous county and state championships.

Boys and girls lacrosse, field hockey, cross country, and track and field teams have achieved statewide notoriety.

This year, Severna Park has added another state championship to its history books as two residents won the state championship for bass fishing.

Last fall, organizers approached Severna Park High School's (SPHS) athletic department and wanted to explore if there was interest in forming a bass fishing club. SPHS Assistant Athletic Director Jacob Derlink liked the idea and gained permission to begin organizing the club.

Six students — four from the high school, one from Severna Park Middle School and one from St. Martin's-in-the-Field — joined the club to begin competing with other Maryland schools in bass fishing tournaments.

The bass fishing team was divided into a high school team and a youth division for the middle school students, who will be going to SPHS.

"We received great cooperation from the high school as well as local businesses such as Park Hardware and 4-TEN Baits," said club parent sponsor Dan Sandel. "The goal of the program is to improve their fishing skills, honing communication techniques, working as a team of two and respecting the waterways of the area."

The team participated in numerous tournaments throughout the spring, and the youth division of Will Sandel

and Connor Shaffer placed in every event, culminating by winning the state junior division championship at a tournament that was held on the Potomac River the last weekend in May.

The anglers are strictly on their own during the tournament and they need to make quick decisions on what bait to use, what areas to fish, utilizing technology for depth of the habitat, and when to move to other locations as the day continues.

"It's a great deal of science and using technology that goes into fishing that people aren't aware of," Will said. "You really need to use different instruments to find drop-offs in the water and what baits may work in different depths of the water. My favorite bass fishing technique is using top-water lures."

They won the state championship by bringing in bass that totaled 10 pounds, with the largest being 3.5 pounds. That fish was caught in the last hour of the tournament. Anglers could only submit five fish.

"I couldn't believe we won," said Connor, who caught that last large fish. "I definitely felt it on the line."

The students are allowed to go to the tournament sites the previous day to get acquainted with the body of water and see what baits or lures may attract fish.

Both Will and Connor started fishing at an early age with their dads and have been known to place their fishing rods in their backpacks and ride their bikes to ponds in the area.

"I just love to be on the water and love the feeling of catching a fish," Connor said.

One of the futuristic aspects of competing in these fishing tournaments is the exposure these anglers receive from universities that have fishing teams, such as colleges from the Southeastern Conference that offer scholarships.

SPHS students Grant Hall, Jack Gursel, Jack Gianvittorio and John Luke Price also participated in these tournaments. The adult boat captains who volunteer their time and boats to navigate the bodies of water are Justin Talbot, Ken Gaudioso and Steve Shaffer.

This fall, the team will compete with other Maryland schools at a tournament at Deep Creek Lake in Western Maryland.

Kids Learn Rugby Skills During Annual Clinic



Photos courtesy of MNC Photo

The Severn River Rugby Football Club partnered with Green Hornets for a youth rugby clinic held in July at Kinder Farm Park.

The Severn River Rugby Football Club and Severna Park Green Hornets connected during an annual youth rugby clinic on July 16, ahead of the Green Hornets hosting the Maryland Youth Rugby Festival later in the month.

Severn River's club, comprised of men's and women's teams and coaches, introduced young players to running an effective defense, defending one on one, proper passing technique, and drop-kicking.

Green Hornets participates in touch rugby from May to July and is open to youth players, ages 3 to 16, of all skill levels. This fall, the organization will partner with the Annapolis Valkyries to offer a contact program for boys and girls ages 11-18. Email greenhornetsrugby@gmail.com for more information.

Severn River Rugby runs touch rugby sevens during the summer and participates in rugby union during the fall and spring. The organization fields both competitive and social teams and welcomes men and women of all skill levels. The club practices Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00pm at American Legion Post 175 on Manhattan Beach Road in Severna Park.



Green Hornets Player Has A "Golden Arm"



Liam Walklett displayed his Golden Arm trophy after scoring a decisive victory during the skills challenge in Cooperstown, New York this July.

A Green Hornets baseball player got a golden opportunity this summer and he took advantage.

Liam Walklett traveled to Cooperstown, New York, with his 12U baseball team in July. During the Cooperstown Dream Park tournament No. 7, not only did he go 14-for-17 at the plate with nine home runs and a grand slam but he also finished first out of 104 competitors in the Golden Arm contest.

Each tournament includes four skills competitions. For the Golden Arm, one player from each team gets three throws from center field, which is 125 feet from home plate. Throws are scored by their accuracy and distance.

Players are awarded five points when

a throw goes through the center hole of the target in the air, three points when a throw hits the red circle of the target, and one point if a throw hits outside the red circle on the target in the air or if the throw hits the ground and then hits anywhere on the target.

With five points, Winklett finished three points ahead of the next best effort. Overall, his team capped the tournament with a 4-1 record, yet the Golden Arm competition serves as the highlight of his Cooperstown experience.

"It was pretty cool to win Golden Arm," he said. "I was a little nervous with all the great players out there but was happy to win the competition for our team."

Broadneck Bruins Win 11U Baseball Championship

With wins against Lake Shore, South River and Severna Park, the Broadneck Bruins became 11U champions at the end of June.

The Broadneck Bruins 11U travel team capped a rewarding season from June 19-21 by hoisting the Anne Arundel Baseball Cooperative (AABC) championship tournament trophy, going 4-0 against squads from Lake Shore, South River and Severna Park.

The Bruins rode a flawless defense, potent offense and the four-hit pitching of **Davis Tankersley** and **Caleb Wolf** to open the tournament with a 13-3 win over the Severna Park Green Hornets. After a tight first inning that saw the Bruins take a 3-1 lead, **Brooks Young**, **Charleston Chelius** and **John Kime** opened the bottom of the second with consecutive singles and **David Thompson** delivered a stinging double to right field. The Bruins plated five in the inning and never looked back. Chelius collected three hits and **James Rader** tallied four RBIs in the win.

In the second game, the Bruins went up 7-1 after two innings and coasted to an impressive 13-5 victory over a tough Lake Shore Blue Sox team. Though the defense stumbled a bit, the pitching quintet of **Graeme Cloud**, **Sean Anderson**, **Dylan Gwaltney**, **Kime** and **Thompson** held the slugging Blue Sox to only two hits. Thompson and Cloud each had two hits for the victors, and Rader, Thompson and Kime drove in two apiece.

Looking to avenge their first-game loss, the Green Hornets came out firing in the semifinal contest,

taking a 6-3 lead after three innings. As they have done all season, however, the Bruins refused to fold. Rader again notched two RBIs as his team fought back, but they entered the bottom of the final frame trailing 8-6. Wolf led off by golfing a two-strike pitch to left for a single. A single by Young and walks to Anderson, Chelius and Kime knotted the score. With the bases loaded and one out, a Tankersley pop-up resulted in an infield fly rule call. The ball got loose on the play, and third-base coach **Michael Tankersley** seized the moment, sending the speedster

Every Day,' and these boys proved that consistent effort, commitment to each other, and small but continuous improvements over time lead to meaningful results. What makes this tourney especially rewarding is that every single player contributed to the team's success and had a lot of fun doing it. Our coaching staff couldn't be prouder of this team. We're excited to see where their character, work ethic and love for the game take them in the years ahead."

Kime was assisted by **Michael Tankersley**, **Dan Gwaltney**, **Kevin Kirby** and **Don Harrison**.



Young home for the winning run in a thrilling 9-8 walk-off victory.

Pitching dominated the championship game against the South River Seahawks. Tankersley was again superb, hurling five innings of one-run ball, and Gwaltney snuffed out a late Seahawks comeback attempt to close out a 5-3 victory. Cloud and Thompson doubled.

Throughout the four-game run, **Hank Kirby** showed grit, skill and toughness, quietly turning in one game-changing performance after another behind the plate. After a late-season change of residence took catcher **Cullen Ruef** off the roster, Kirby stepped up, catching every inning of the final three games, and as one of the coaches put it, blocking almost every errant pitch "like a stone wall."

Tankersley and Thompson were named to the all-tournament team.

Bruins head coach **Jay Kime** summarized the weekend, saying, "This is a special group of players, coaches and families. Our team motto is 'Better

local expertise you can trust



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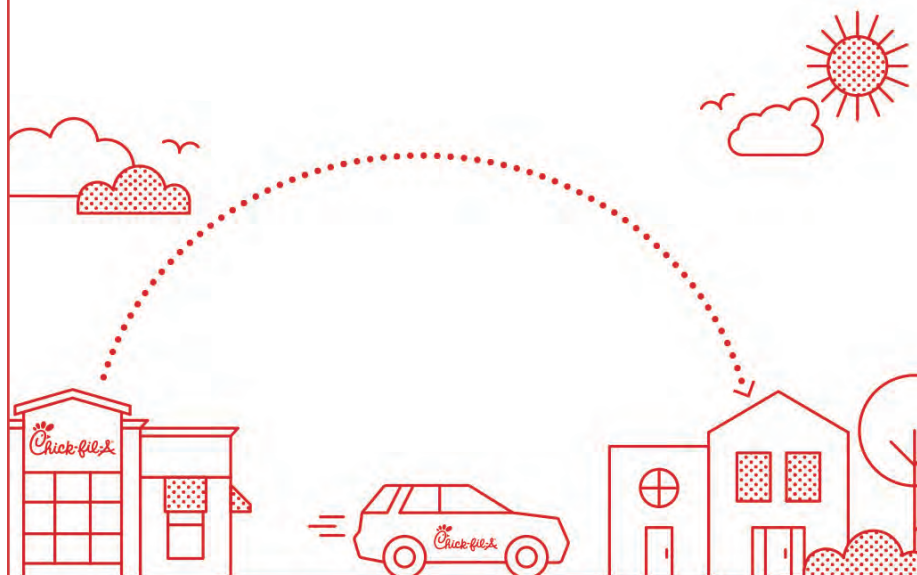
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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

CARSON PIERCE

Broadneck High School | Lacrosse, Football

By David Bashore

When Carson Pierce was asked to play a more forward role on the Broadneck boys lacrosse team, he didn't hesitate. Likewise, when approached to yield his offensive output to become an important linebacker on the football team, he didn't blink. "I kind of think of myself as an AC unit on the field: nobody notices unless it stops working," Pierce said. "I'm happy to be a part of other guys' successes."

Though he didn't show up in headlines or in many box scores, he earned the respect of his teammates and coaches for unselfish play and doing what the team needed of him.

His play also helped land him an offer to continue his lacrosse career at Division I Mercer University in Georgia. There, he'll move further back to his more accustomed short-stick defensive midfield position.

During his time at Broadneck, Pierce completed seven AP classes, participated on the school's athletic leadership council, and discovered his chosen career path.

"The AP calculus class was probably my favorite, even though it was hard. It helped me learn more about the basics of what I'm interested in, which is civil engineering," said Pierce, who hopes to parlay the engineering degree into a career in construction management. "I love going into a city and going past



Photos by Dennis McGinley

As a Bruin, Carson Pierce completed seven AP classes, participated on the school's athletic leadership council, and discovered his chosen career path.

When he's not playing lacrosse, teaching lacrosse, working at The Point Crab House & Grill, or working on a LEGO build, Pierce likes to contemplate the vastness of space. "It's just endless and mesmerizing," Pierce said. "We've gone out with a star app on the phone, and we've been camping at Yellowstone. There's just so much to it, and there's no explanation for where it ends. It's so interesting."



all the buildings, just to look at them and think about how interesting they are."

Pierce owes that interest, he says, to a lifelong love of LEGO. His favorite build so far is that of one of his favorite superheroes, Spider-Man, with the build set comprised of nearly 1,000 pieces.



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Soccer Standouts Earn Scholarships

Each year, the Anne Arundel Youth Soccer Association (AAYSA) awards scholarships to graduating high school student-athletes planning to continue their education through an undergraduate degree program or certification from an accredited college, university or technology school. This spring, AAYSA awarded \$2,000 scholarships to seven Green Hornets soccer players: **Gray Gardner, Ava McPhee, Colin King, Tanner Strom, Emma Ritter, Dash Havens** and **Logan Jones**.

Gray will attend Anne Arundel Community College. His favorite soccer memory was scoring both goals against Chesapeake High School to win the county championship.

Ava will attend Binghamton University and major in psychology and will eventually head to medical school to become a psychiatrist. Her favorite soccer



memory was winning the Green Hornets championship on penalty kicks as an eighth-grader.

Colin will attend the University of Maryland and major in operations management and business statistics. His favorite soccer memory is meeting lifelong friends he has made while playing the sport.

Tanner will travel to Tucuman, Argentina, for a mission trip before attending Brigham Young University. He will always remember this past soccer season not because of the poor record but because he still had a lot of fun and learned that life isn't always about winning.

Emma will attend Emory University and will double major in East Asian studies and neuroscience. She will always remember winning the county championship as a sophomore, and soccer taught her to be resilient and hardworking.

Luke Miller

McDonogh – **Notre Dame**

A sophomore attacker, Miller had a breakout season, scoring 34 goals and adding 12 assists and 17 ground balls as he started all 16 games. He had six hat tricks, including a five-goal effort in the first round of the NCAA Division I tournament, as the Fighting Irish reached the national championship game.

Tristan Newhouse

Severna Park – **Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham**

A junior midfielder, Newhouse played in all 17 games, snagging 51 ground balls and forcing eight turnovers.

Ben Nocerito

Severna Park – **Coast Guard Academy**

A senior midfielder, Nocerito started in eight of his 15 appearances, scoring once and assisting once while collecting 26 ground balls.

Jed Pellicano

Broadneck – **Christopher Newport**

A sophomore defender, Pellicano played in 20 games, scoring his first collegiate goal against Gettysburg and adding in 15 ground ball scoops.

Kyle Pierce

Broadneck – **Mercer**

A senior, Pierce played in 14 games, scooping 16 ground balls and scoring his lone goal against Bellarmine.

Jackson Roberts

Archbishop Spalding – **Navy**

A senior, Roberts started in all 14 of his appearances, notching one assist and scooping 15 ground balls.

Parker Sealey

Severna Park – **Lynchburg**

A senior midfielder, Sealey started 15 of his 17 appearances, scoring 10 goals and adding five assists to go with 36 ground balls.

Colin Shadowens

Severna Park – **Navy**

A senior draw specialist, Shadowens played in 14 games, winning 109 draws and coralling 53 ground balls. He scored his first collegiate goal on April 18 against Lehigh.

Jackson Shaw

Broadneck — **Christopher Newport**

A junior midfielder, Shaw appeared in 19 games for the Captains, scoring 13 goals

» Continued on page 22

College Report

» Continued from page 14

MEN'S GOLF

Will Maddox

Severna Park – **Anne Arundel Community College**

A sophomore, Maddox went back-to-back as the NJCAA Division II Region 20 medalist, leading the Riverhawks to their third straight region title. He finished tied for 22nd in the Southeast District meet.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Tanner Boone

Broadneck – **Mary Washington**

A sophomore attacker, Boone started in 15 of his 17 appearances, scoring 27 goals and adding 15 assists.

John Burkhardt

Severna Park – **Bellarmine**

A sophomore midfielder, Burkhardt appeared in 11 games this season.

Jameson Coffman

Archbishop Spalding – **University of Maryland, Baltimore County**

A sophomore defensive midfielder, Coffman made 12 appearances (one start), scoring seven goals.

Ganon Cope

St. Mary's – **Mercer**

A sophomore attacker, Cope played in 13 games, scoring five goals and assisting on five others.

Ryan Della

Broadneck – **Salisbury**

A junior attacker, Della played in 19 games with two starts, scoring 35 goals and adding four assists as the Sea Gulls reached the third round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

Matthew Dryer

Severna Park – **Hampden-Sydney**

A junior goalie, Dryer played in eight games, making 15 saves and logging three ground balls and two forced turnovers.

Teddy Evans

Severna Park – **Randolph-Macon**

A freshman defender, Evans played in six games this season.

Hastings Fava

Severna Park – **Hampden-Sydney**

A freshman goalie, Fava played in seven games, making 11 saves and scooping two ground balls.

Jack Fish

Severna Park – **University of Maryland, Baltimore County**

A freshman midfielder, Fish made 12 appearances, scoring six goals.

Davis Fisher

Broadneck – **York**

A senior, Fisher started all 22 of his appearances and logged a point in every game, notching 21 multi-point games. His 46 goals and 51 assists extended his own program single-season record for points, as York reached the NCAA Division III national quarterfinals. He leaves the program holding the all-time career assists mark and is third in all-time points.

Colin Gray

Broadneck – **Washington College**

A junior goalie, Gray appeared in three games, making nine saves.

Graham Hartman

Broadneck – **Mercer**

A sophomore face-off specialist, Hartman played in 14 games, winning 21 draws and scoring seven ground balls.

Tyler Hicks

Broadneck – **Virginia Military Institute**

A sophomore, Hicks made 13 appearances, scoring three goals and assisting on three.

Charlie Hilgartner

Severn School – **Randolph-Macon**

A freshman, Hilgartner appeared in 18 games, starting seven. He scored 20 goals and added 12 assists.

Will Hopkins

St. Mary's – **Bucknell**

A senior midfielder, Hopkins captained the Bison and started 13 of his 14 games, scoring eight goals and adding eight assists.

Robbie Hopper

Archbishop Spalding – **Virginia**

A freshman defender, Hopper played in 16 games for the Cavaliers, scoring three times and adding four assists. He scooped 47 ground balls and forced 13 turnovers, helping Virginia win the ACC championship and advance to the NCAA Division I national tournament.

Brett Hussey

Severna Park – **St. Mary's College**

A junior defender, Hussey started in all 19 games, scooping 36 ground balls and causing 15 turnovers to help the Seahawks to the United East conference championship.

Paul Isenberg

Severna Park – **Hampden-Sydney**

A senior defender, Isenberg played in six games, getting one ground ball and forcing two turnovers, and scoring his lone collegiate goal on April 22 against Averett.

Blake Levicki

Broadneck – **Christopher Newport**

A freshman, Levicki played in eight games this season, scoring his lone goal against Gettysburg and adding in three ground balls.

Joey Matassa

Archbishop Spalding – **Bucknell**

A freshman attacker, Matassa appeared in four games, logging one assist.

Braden McCassie

Broadneck – **Jacksonville**

A sophomore midfielder, McCassie saw action in five games.

Logan McGill

Broadneck – **Hampton**

A sophomore midfielder, McGill played in 13 games, logging 12 ground balls and two caused turnovers.

Liam McNulty

Severna Park – **St. Mary's College**

A senior attacker, McNulty made 15 appearances, scoring six goals and adding five assists.

Jack Meehan

Broadneck – **Virginia Wesleyan**

A sophomore, Meehan played in three games, scoring his lone goal against Southern Virginia and adding an assist and three ground balls.

Logan Meighan

Archbishop Spalding – **Towson**

A junior defender, Meighan played in eight games for the Tigers, notching one assist, three ground balls, and three forced turnovers.

Russell Melendez

Archbishop Spalding – **Ohio State**

A graduate transfer from Johns Hopkins, Melendez started in six of his eight appearances for the Buckeyes, scoring four goals and logging seven assists.





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College Report

» Continued from page 20

and adding six assists, and scooping 12 ground balls as the team reached the NCAA Division III national quarterfinals.

Ashby Shepherd

Severna Park – *Towson*

A redshirt sophomore goalie, Shepherd made nine saves in his lone appearance of the season, April 11 against Hampton.

Bryce Stevenson

Severna Park – *Salisbury*

A senior defender, Stevenson started all 21 games for the Sea Gulls, pulling 53 ground balls and forcing 37 turnovers. He also scored four goals and added two assists.

Joaquin Villagomez

Severna Park – *Towson*

A redshirt junior, Villagomez was second to Weisshaar in goals, assists, and points for the Tigers, netting 40 goals and dishing out 22 assists for 62 points. His single-game bests of seven goals against Villanova and 10 points against Hofstra were both team high marks.

Merric Warren

Severna Park – *Randolph-Macon*

A freshman midfielder, Warren played in eight games, logging one assist.

Brendan Watson

Archbishop Spalding – *Flagler*

A senior defender, Watson started 17 of his 18 appearances, scoring twice and adding three assists. He also scooped 37 ground balls and forced 19 turnovers.

Jamison Wildt

Severn School – *Coast Guard Academy*

A junior defender, Wildt started in all 11 of his appearances, logging one assist and 29 ground balls.

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Collin Fitzgerald

Broadneck – *St Mary's (Maryland)*

A junior sprinter, Fitzgerald claimed victory in the 400 at the United East conference championship meet, also helping the Seahawks win the 4x400 to go with five overall top-five finishes.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Andrew Byrne

Broadneck – *Juniata*

A junior defensive specialist, Byrne played in 26 matches, pulling 220 digs and handling 68 assists as Juniata reached the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

Michael Schwob

Broadneck – *Penn State*

A junior setter, Schwob appeared in 30 matches, dishing out a team-high 571 assists while tacking on 87 digs, 36 blocks (one solo), 17 kills, and 18 aces as the Nittany Lions reached the NCAA Division I tournament.

SOFTBALL

Addison Bianco

Severna Park – *East Stroudsburg*

A freshman, Bianco was used as a pinch runner in her nine appearances, as she scored three runs and stole a base.

Abby Favazza

Broadneck – *Franklin and Marshall*

A freshman catcher, Favazza started 19 of 22 games, batting .271 with a home run and nine RBIs. She was named first-team all-conference at the catcher position.

Isabella Herrera

Broadneck – *Eastern*

A freshman third baseman, Herrera played in 31 games with 24 starts, batting .182 with 12 runs and two RBIs.

Grace Purdum

Broadneck – *Wilson*

A freshman, Purdum started in seven of her 13 appearances, batting .211 with six RBIs.

Sally Trent

Severna Park – *Charleston*

A sophomore, Trent started 14 of her 23 games, batting .182 with two home runs and six RBIs.

WOMEN'S CREW

Sammy Madarang

Severna Park – *Drexel*

A freshman, Madarang was a fixture on Drexel's third eight-person boat, earning a victory in their division of the Jefferson Dad Vail Regatta and helping the team to a third-place finish at the Coastal Athletic Association meet.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Ela Simpson

Broadneck – *Stevenson*

A junior, Simpson competed in eight events for Stevenson, highlighted by a top-five finish in a dual with Goucher on April 15.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Alexis Abe

Broadneck – *Tampa*

A graduate student, Abe started 18 of her 19 games, scooping 23 ground balls and causing 19 turnovers as the Spartans made the second round of the NCAA Division II tournament.

Delanie Abere

Severna Park – *Rollins*

A senior, Abere started 13 of her 15 appearances, scoring 24 goals and adding seven assists.

Elia Alewine

Indian Creek – *Jacksonville*

A sophomore goalie, Alewine made 11 appearances, logging 40 saves, including six in a near-20-minute shutout appearance against Florida.

Sophia Bordone

Severna Park – *Embry-Riddle*

A junior defender, Bordone started all 18 of her appearances, scooping 13 ground balls and forcing four turnovers as her team made the first round of the NCAA Division II tournament.

Stella Bordone

Severna Park – *Lafayette*

A junior attacker, Bordone appeared in six games, logging two assists.

Theresa Bragg

Severna Park – *Florida*

A senior defender, Bragg started all 19 of her appearances, scooping 20 ground balls and causing 19 turnovers to go with one assist. She helped the Gators reach the Big 12 title game and the NCAA Division I tournament, picking up a unanimous All-Big 12 selection and multiple All-American nods.

Alyssa Chung

Severna Park – *Navy*

A sophomore, Chung established herself as one of the most feared attackers in the country, scoring a program single-season record 84 goals and adding 34 assists. Her three-goal tally in the fourth quarter and overtime helped Navy come from six goals down to stun Syracuse in the national tournament. Chung was named a Tewaaron Award finalist, the first for Navy, and an All-American, as Navy reached the NCAA Division I tournament national quarterfinals.

» Continued on page 23



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College Report

» Continued from page 22

Lexi Dupcak

Broadneck – Maryland
A junior midfielder, Dupcak started all 22 games, posting career-best marks with 15 goals and three assists. She also won 43 draws and 19 ground balls, to help the Terapins reach the NCAA Division I tournament national semifinals.

Kate Evans

Severna Park – Gettysburg
A sophomore, Evans played in eight games this season, scoring four goals and adding five assists.

Ryn Feemster

Severna Park – Virginia Commonwealth University
A sophomore defender, Feemster started in all 17 games, scooping 22 ground balls and causing 16 turnovers as the Rams made the Atlantic 10 tournament championship game for the first time.

Kaylee Gerber

Severna Park – Bridgewater
A freshman goalie, Gerber played in six games, logging seven saves and posting four shutout stints in rotation with other keepers.

Maddy Goger

Severna Park – Columbia (New York)
A junior midfielder, Goger started in all 15 of her appearances, snagging 16 ground balls and causing six turnovers.

Abby Goodman

Severna Park – McDaniel
A junior defender, Goodman started all 17 of her appearances, scooping 18 ground balls and forcing 10 turnovers.

Lily Hayes

St. Mary's – Xavier
A junior midfielder, Hayes played in all 17 games, scoring six goals and corralling 15 ground balls.

Payton Jeffers

Severna Park – Tampa
A freshman attacker, Jeffers appeared in two games, notching both of her assists in her collegiate debut.

McKenna Keefer

Severn School – Dickinson
A freshman midfielder, Keefer started all 17 games, securing 13 ground balls and forcing 15 turnovers.

Lilly Kelley

Broadneck – James Madison
A junior midfielder, Kelley appeared in 14 games, scoring twice against Virginia and adding five assists on the season.

Ella Killian

Broadneck – University of Maryland, Baltimore County
A senior defender, Killian started in all 15 of her appearances for the Retrievers, securing 25 ground balls and forcing 15 turnovers. She scored her first collegiate goal against La Salle on February 18.

Karli Kirchenheiter

Severna Park – Louisville
A junior defender, Kirchenheiter started all 15 games for the Cardinals, securing 11 ground balls and causing 12 turnovers.

Sarah Kreis

Severna Park – Charlotte
A sophomore midfielder, Kreis started in seven of her 13 appearances, scoring four goals and adding two assists.

Regan McDonnell

Severna Park – Salisbury
A junior, McDonnell started in 19 of 20 games this season, scoring 34 goals and adding five assists, to go with 27 ground balls and 26 caused turnovers, as the Sea Gulls reached the NCAA Division III national semifinals.

Sophia Miller

Severna Park – San Diego State
A third-year sophomore, Miller started in all 16 of her appearances, scoring five goals and adding an assist, to go with 14 ground balls and 12 caused turnovers.

Mary Moore

Broadneck – Villanova
A redshirt sophomore, Moore scored a team-high 30 goals and added 21 assists in her 14 appearances (13 starts), scooping 19

» Continued on page 24

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College Report

» Continued on page 24

ground balls as well. Moore was a unanimous all-Big East first-team selection.

Olivia Orso

Broadneck – *Ohio State*

A sophomore attacker, Orso appeared in four games this season, scoring three goals and adding an assist.

Mia Putzi

Indian Creek – *Lafayette*

A senior attacker, Putzi appeared in five games, scoring her lone goal against Bucknell.

Allison Schiavone

Severna Park – *Wilmington*

A sophomore goalie, Schiavone started 11 of her 22 appearances, posting 105 saves as Wilmington reached the second round of the NCAA Division II tournament.

Lilly Spilker

Severna Park – *Penn State*

A third-year sophomore, Spilker started 18 of her 19 appearances, scooping 35 ground balls and causing 33 turnovers, as the Nittany Lions reached the NCAA Division I tournament.

Sarah Stefancik

Severna Park – *Mercer*

A sophomore midfielder, Stefancik appeared in eight games this season, scoring twice.

Olivia Tramontana

Severna Park – *San Diego State*

A junior defender, Tramontana started all 16 games, logging 14 ground balls and 14 caused turnovers.

Lily Trout

Broadneck – *High Point*

A sophomore attacker, Trout started in all 18 of her appearances, scoring 24 goals and adding 21 assists, to go with 14 ground balls.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Elicia Aponte

Broadneck – *Albright*

A junior, Aponte went 11-5 in singles and 15-4 in doubles, earning all-conference honors as Albright won the MAC Commonwealth for the third straight year.

Olivia Mellynchuk

Broadneck – *United States Military Academy*

A freshman, Mellynchuk went 14-6 in

singles and 28-6 in doubles over the season, earning a conference nod for doubles team of the season.

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Avery Arizzi

Broadneck – *St. Mary's College*

A junior, Arizzi earned first-team all-conference honors for the 800 and 4x400 meters, as she won the conference championship in the 800.

London Best

Broadneck – *St. Mary's College*

A freshman sprinter, Best made a splash by winning the 100 and 200 meters at the United East Conference meet, to go with wins in both sprint relays and a third-place finish in the 400.

Natalie Bowman

Severna Park – *Flagler*

A freshman distance runner, Bowman ran in four outdoor events, highlighted by a 15th-place finish in the 1,500 at Embury-Riddle.

Breanna Brown

Broadneck – *St. Mary's College*

A freshman thrower, Brown progressed in all three of her disciplines over the course of the season, highlighted by a sixth-place finish in the hammer throw at the conference meet.

Charlotte Crabtree

Broadneck – *St. Mary's College*

A freshman distance runner, Crabtree finished 10th and 11th at the conference meet in the 1,500 and 800, respectively.

Ava Zimmerman

Severna Park – *Johns Hopkins*

A freshman middle distance runner, Zimmerman participated in four meets, highlighted by a second-place finish in the 800 at Widener University.

Jillian Zukley

Severna Park – *St. Mary's College*

A junior thrower, Zukley continued her dominance in the United East, winning the shot put and hammer throw at the conference meet, while finishing second in the discus.

Find the full college report at www.severnaparkvoice.com.

Prep Teams Use Summer Leagues For Growth

» Continued from page 14

other notable teams from around the area, including Flowers, North Point and Crofton. The Bruins won an event at the University of Maryland including wins over Quince Orchard (twice) and Mount St. Joseph, while they reached the quarterfinals at Virginia Tech.

While some summer programs and circuits have carried on for years, others have evolved or seen schools do their own thing.

Anne Arundel Community College hosted a high school boys soccer summer league in previous years but two years ago opted to discontinue staging the event. With several local schools desiring to continue their summer programs, Archbishop Spalding stepped in and has hosted the three most recent iterations of the summer league.

The biggest benefit from summer leagues is that they allow high school programs to practice outside of season. Maryland rules permit high school

teams to train together in the offseason provided they are part of an organized league. Per those same rules, the training is optional and attendance cannot be factored into tryout decisions for the school's official season, but it provides coaches an opportunity to work with prospective high school athletes and for players to build chemistry ahead of the upcoming year.

This may show a greater benefit for fall sports teams, which can use the summer league as a longer runway into their upcoming seasons. But there are also benefits for other teams, such as the Severna Park boys basketball team, which now runs their own league at API in Gambrills.

This keeps the team playing together more frequently and allows for a more seamless blending back into basketball once hoops season arrives in December.

The fall high school sports season begins with tryouts starting August 12.



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MPCP in Arnold Spotlights



Victoria Burden, PA

Victoria joined Maryland Primary Care Physicians, LLC in 2023. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Maryland, College Park. She received her Physician Assistant master's degree from Towson/CCBC Physician Assistant Program in 2023.

What Made Victoria Decide to Go Into Medicine?

Victoria hopes to be a safe place for her patients, allowing her to care for them in all aspects of life. She strives to build the kind of long-lasting relationships that truly embody the Family Medicine specialty.

Victoria's Favorite Thing to Do in Maryland:

Victoria enjoys checking out local farmers' markets, new restaurants, and unique coffee shops.

One Fun Fact About Victoria:

Victoria and her husband enjoy playing golf and traveling. They have a goal of visiting all 7 continents (5/7 so far)!

Victoria is open to seeing new patients ages 12+ for well visits.

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Event Coverage: Attend, photograph and cover events in the community

Social Media: Develop monthly schedule for social media posts; engage audiences by monitoring and replying to comments and messages

Other: Help plan and produce cover images for magazines; produce weekly calendars; help maintain website; assist with annual projects; assist with designing publications; and more

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- Self-motivated, deadline focused and teachable
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Fall High School Sports Schedules

BOYS SOCCER

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Sept. 8: at Archbishop Curley, 4:00pm
Sept. 11: Loyola Blakefield, 5:30pm
Sept. 15: at Calvert Hall, 4:00pm
Sept. 18: McDonogh, 4:00pm
Sept. 22: at Gilman, 4:00pm
Sept. 25: Mount St. Joseph, 4:00pm
Sept. 29: Concordia Prep, 4:00pm
Oct. 6: John Carroll, 4:00pm
Oct. 13: at Loyola Blakefield, 4:00pm
Oct. 16: Calvert Hall, 4:00pm
Oct. 20: at McDonogh, 4:15pm
Oct. 23: Gilman, 5:00pm
Oct. 27: at Mount St. Joseph, 4:00pm
Oct. 30: at Concordia Prep, 4:00pm
Nov. 6: at John Carroll, 4:00pm

BROADNECK

Sept. 5: vs. Mount Hebron (at Bowie), 11:00am
Sept. 5: vs. River Hill (at Bowie), 4:00pm
Sept. 8: at St. Mary's, 6:00pm
Sept. 15: at Severna Park, 5:00pm
Sept. 22: at Meade, 5:00pm
Sept. 24: Glen Burnie, 7:00pm
Sept. 29: at Annapolis, 5:00pm
Oct. 1: at South River, 7:00pm
Oct. 6: at Arundel, 5:00pm
Oct. 8: Chesapeake Science Point, 7:00pm
Oct. 13: North County, 5:00pm
Oct. 15: at Chesapeake, 7:00pm
Oct. 20: Old Mill, 5:00pm
Oct. 22: Crofton, 7:00pm

SEVERN SCHOOL

Sept. 1: St. Mary's Ryken, 4:00pm
Sept. 4: Concordia Prep, 4:15pm
Sept. 10: Arundel, 4:15pm
Sept. 15: Bullis, 4:15pm
Sept. 17: Mount St. Joseph, 4:15pm
Sept. 22: at North County, 5:00pm
Oct. 2: Indian Creek, 4:15pm
Oct. 6: at Park, 4:00pm
Oct. 8: Mt. Carmel, 4:15pm
Oct. 13: at Saints Peter & Paul, 4:00pm
Oct. 20: at St. Paul's, 4:00pm
Oct. 23: at Gerstell, 4:00pm
Oct. 27: St. Mary's, 4:15pm
Oct. 30: at Annapolis Area Christian, 4:00pm
Nov. 3: Boys' Latin, 3:00pm
Nov. 6: St. Vincent Pallotti, 3:00pm

SEVERNA PARK

Sept. 4: vs. Oakdale (at Chesapeake), 5:00pm
Sept. 5: vs. Linganore (at Oakdale), 5:00pm
Sept. 8: Crossland, 5:00pm
Sept. 15: Broadneck, 5:00pm
Sept. 18: Dundalk, 7:00pm
Sept. 22: at Severn Run, 5:00pm
Sept. 24: South River, 7:00pm
Sept. 29: at Northeast, 5:00pm
Oct. 1: Crofton, 7:00pm
Oct. 6: at North County, 5:00pm
Oct. 8: at Chesapeake, 7:00pm
Oct. 13: Arundel, 5:00pm
Oct. 15: Southern, 7:00pm
Oct. 22: at Old Mill, 7:00pm

FIELD HOCKEY

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Sept. 3: at McDonogh, 4:15pm
Sept. 9: Kent Island, TBA
Sept. 14: at St. John's College, 4:00pm

Sept. 19: Home Tournament
Sept. 21: Good Counsel, 4:00pm
Sept. 28: at John Carroll, 4:00pm
Sept. 30: at Bryn Mawr, 4:00pm
Oct. 7: St. Mary's, 4:00pm
Oct. 14: Severn School, 4:00pm
Oct. 21: at Notre Dame Prep, 4:00pm
Oct. 23: at Maryvale Prep, 4:00pm
Oct. 28: Mount de Sales, 6:00pm

BROADNECK

Sept. 8: Glenelg, 6:00pm
Sept. 10: Liberty, 6:30pm
Sept. 16: Kent Island, 6:30pm
Sept. 19: at Archbishop Spalding Tournament
Sept. 22: at Crofton, 6:30pm
Sept. 24: at Severn School, 4:00pm
Oct. 1: South River, 6:30pm
Oct. 6: Arundel, 6:30pm
Oct. 7: Southern, 6:30pm
Oct. 13: at Severna Park, 6:30pm
Oct. 15: Chesapeake, 6:30pm
Oct. 20: at Annapolis, 6:30pm
Oct. 22: at North County, 6:30pm

SEVERN SCHOOL

Sept. 3: Gunston, 4:00pm
Sept. 11: Roland Park, 3:45pm
Sept. 15: at McDonogh, 4:00pm
Sept. 24: Broadneck, 4:00pm
Sept. 30: at Mount de Sales, 4:00pm
Oct. 7: Maryvale Prep, 4:00pm
Oct. 14: at Archbishop Spalding, 4:00pm
Oct. 16: Notre Dame Prep, 4:00pm
Oct. 21: at St. Mary's, 5:30pm
Oct. 23: Bryn Mawr, 4:00pm

SEVERNA PARK

Sept. 8: River Hill, 6:00pm
Sept. 9: Kent Island, 6:30pm
Sept. 22: South River, 6:30pm
Sept. 24: at Notre Dame Prep, 4:00pm
Sept. 29: Annapolis, 6:30pm
Oct. 1: at Crofton, 6:30pm
Oct. 8: Chesapeake, 6:30pm
Oct. 13: Broadneck, 6:30pm
Oct. 15: at Southern, 6:30pm
Oct. 20: at Glen Burnie, 6:30pm
Oct. 22: Arundel, 6:30pm

FOOTBALL

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Aug. 28: at DeMatha, 7:00pm
Sept. 5: vs. St. John's College (at Under Armour Stadium), 3:00pm
Sept. 11: at Good Counsel, 7:00pm
Sept. 19: at Mount St. Joseph, 1:00pm
Sept. 25: Gilman, 7:00pm
Oct. 2: Concordia Prep, 7:00pm
Oct. 9: McDonogh, 7:00pm
Oct. 23: at Calvert Hall, 4:00pm
Oct. 30: at St. Mary's, 7:00pm
Nov. 6: Loyola Blakefield, 7:00pm

BROADNECK

Sept. 4: St. Mary's, 6:00pm
Sept. 10: at Milford Mill, 4:30pm
Sept. 18: at Arundel, 6:00pm
Sept. 25: Annapolis, 6:00pm
Oct. 2: at Glen Burnie, 6:00pm
Oct. 9: North County, 6:00pm
Oct. 16: vs. Old Mill (at Severn Run), 6:00pm
Oct. 23: Meade, 6:00pm
Oct. 30: at Severna Park, 6:00pm

SEVERN SCHOOL

Sept. 4: at Severna Park, 6:00pm

Sept. 11: at St. Stephens & St. Agnes, 4:00pm
Sept. 18: Annapolis Area Christian, 4:15pm
Sept. 25: at John Carroll, 7:00pm
Oct. 3: Boys' Latin, 1:00pm
Oct. 9: at Mt. Carmel, 7:00pm
Oct. 16: at St. Vincent Pallotti (at Fairland Regional Park), 7:00pm
Oct. 23: at St. Paul's, 4:00pm
Oct. 30: Archbishop Curley, 3:30pm
Nov. 7: St. Mary's, noon

SEVERNA PARK

Sept. 4: Severn School, 6:00pm
Sept. 10: Northeast, 6:00pm
Sept. 18: at Crofton, 6:15pm
Sept. 25: Severn Run, 6:00pm
Oct. 2: at Meade, 6:00pm
Oct. 9: Old Mill, 6:00pm
Oct. 16: at Arundel, 6:00pm
Oct. 23: at North County, 6:00pm
Oct. 30: Broadneck, 6:00pm

GIRLS SOCCER

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Sept. 2: at St. Mary's, 4:00pm
Sept. 4: at Calvert, 5:30pm
Sept. 8: at Bishop O'Connell, 4:00pm
Sept. 10: at Maret, 4:15 pm
Sept. 15: Urbana, 5:30pm
Sept. 17: at Georgetown Visitation Prep, 4:15pm
Sept. 19: at Crofton, TBD
Sept. 22: Northern, 6:00pm
Sept. 28: Bishop McNamara, 4:00pm
Sept. 30: Roland Park, 4:00pm
Oct. 7: at John Carroll, 4:00pm
Oct. 14: Maryvale Prep, 4:00pm
Oct. 16: at Mercy, 6:00pm
Oct. 21: at Notre Dame Prep, 6:00pm
Oct. 23: Severn School, 7:00pm
Oct. 26: at McDonogh, 4:15pm

BROADNECK

Sept. 5: vs. TBD (at Glen Burnie), 11:00am
Sept. 5: vs. TBD (at Glen Burnie), 3:00pm
Sept. 15: at Severna Park, 7:00pm
Sept. 18: at St. Mary's, 7:00pm
Sept. 22: at Meade, 7:00pm
Sept. 24: Glen Burnie, 5:00pm
Sept. 29: at Annapolis, 7:00pm
Oct. 1: at South River, 5:00pm
Oct. 6: at Arundel, 7:00pm
Oct. 8: Chesapeake Science Point, 5:00pm
Oct. 13: North County, 7:00pm
Oct. 15: at Chesapeake, 5:00pm
Oct. 20: Old Mill, 7:00pm
Oct. 22: Crofton, 5:00pm

SEVERN SCHOOL

Sept. 3: at North County, 5:00pm
Sept. 9: St. Paul's, 4:15pm
Sept. 11: at Arundel, 4:00pm
Sept. 15: at Bullis, 4:15pm
Sept. 17: at Bryn Mawr, 4:00pm
Sept. 25: St. Timothy's, 4:15pm
Sept. 30: at Maryvale Prep, 4:00pm
Oct. 2: St. Mary's, 4:15pm
Oct. 7: Roland Park, 4:15pm
Oct. 9: Severna Park, 4:15pm
Oct. 14: at McDonogh, 4:15pm
Oct. 16: John Carroll, 4:15pm
Oct. 21: Mercy, 4:15pm
Oct. 23: at Archbishop Spalding, 4:00pm
Oct. 26: Notre Dame Prep, 4:15pm

SEVERNA PARK

Sept. 8: Winters Mill, 7:00pm
Sept. 15: Broadneck, 7:00pm
Sept. 22: at Severn Run, 7:00pm
Sept. 24: South River, 5:00pm
Sept. 29: at Northeast, 7:00pm
Oct. 1: Crofton, 5:00pm
Oct. 6: at North County, 7:00pm
Oct. 8: at Chesapeake, 5:00pm
Oct. 9: at Severn School, 4:15pm
Oct. 13: Arundel, 7:00pm
Oct. 15: Southern, 5:00pm
Oct. 22: at Old Mill, 5:00pm

VOLLEYBALL

ARCHBISHOP SPALDING

Sept. 1: at St. Mary's Ryken, 6:00pm
Sept. 4: Good Counsel, 5:15pm
Sept. 8: Crofton, 6:15pm
Sept. 10: at Broadneck, 6:00pm
Sept. 15: at Severna Park, 6:15pm
Sept. 17: at Severn Run, 6:00pm
Sept. 19: at Crofton Tournament
Sept. 22: at Garrison Forest, 5:30pm
Sept. 24: at Annapolis Area Christian, 5:30pm
Sept. 26: at Bel Air Tournament
Sept. 28: Notre Dame Prep, 5:30pm
Sept. 29: McDonogh, 5:30pm
Oct. 6: at St. John's Catholic, 5:30pm
Oct. 15: Mercy, 5:30pm
Oct. 20: Maryvale Prep, 5:30pm
Oct. 22: at St. Paul's, 5:30pm

BROADNECK

Sept. 4: at Musselman (West Virginia), 7:00pm
Sept. 10: Archbishop Spalding, 6:00pm
Sept. 22: at Severna Park, 6:00pm
Sept. 24: at Meade, 6:00pm
Sept. 29: Severn Run, 6:00pm
Oct. 1: South River, 6:00pm
Oct. 5: at Academy of the Holy Cross, 6:00pm
Oct. 6: Arundel, 6:00pm
Oct. 8: at Crofton, 6:00pm
Oct. 15: Annapolis, 6:00pm
Oct. 20: at Old Mill, 6:00pm
Oct. 22: North County, 6:00pm
Oct. 27: at Howard, 5:30pm
Oct. 29: Reservoir, 5:30pm

SEVERN SCHOOL

Sept. 3: Gunston, 5:30pm
Sept. 8: at Key, 5:30pm
Sept. 10: at Indian Creek, 6:00pm
Sept. 15: Northeast, 5:30pm
Sept. 22: at Glenelg Country, 5:30pm
Sept. 24: at John Carroll, 5:30pm
Oct. 1: Gerstell, 5:30pm
Oct. 6: Mount de Sales, 5:30pm
Oct. 8: St. Timothy's, 5:30pm
Oct. 13: at Bryn Mawr, 5:30pm
Oct. 15: at Chapelgate Christian, 5:30pm
Oct. 20: Catholic, 5:30pm

SEVERNA PARK

Sept. 15: Archbishop Spalding, 6:15pm
Sept. 22: Broadneck, 6:00pm
Sept. 24: at South River, 6:00pm
Oct. 1: at Annapolis, 6:00pm
Oct. 6: Chesapeake, 6:00pm
Oct. 8: Severn Run, 6:00pm
Oct. 13: at Arundel, 6:00pm
Oct. 15: at Crofton, 6:00pm
Oct. 20: Meade, 6:00pm
Oct. 22: Old Mill, 6:00pm
Oct. 27: Long Reach, 5:30pm
Oct. 29: at River Hill, 5:30pm

WoodsWork Youth Mission Team Creates Homes In Richmond



By Judy Tacyn

After nearly a year of planning, the annual cavalcade of passenger vans filled with food, supplies, 100 youth and 40 adults from Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church departed Severna Park in late June and headed for Richmond, Virginia, where team members of the annual WoodsWork service project would support the local Habitat for Humanity.

"We reach out to many Habitat for Humanity locations, looking for the right fit for a group our size," Matt Murphy, a student project chair, said. "Obviously we need to make sure that there will be work for everyone, and we need a location within a reasonable driving range."

Left: Violet Thompson (left), WoodsWork youth chair, and Calvin Rawls know to measure twice and cut once while preparing lumber to be used in framing. **Below:** After a long day in near 100-degree weather, a WoodsWork crew finished laying sod at one of the home sites.



Last August, planning for 2026 began. Different committees and leads work on the many aspects of the project, such as construction leads, worship programming leads, work group formation and scheduling, tool training, meal preparation, and much more. The planning committees started working immediately to ensure the 38th WoodsWork mission trip was meticulously outlined down to the tiniest detail. The result was four homes raised from foundation to framing (three were two-story structures), along

with interior, exterior and landscaping projects.

Prior to departure, youth participate in fundraising to help defray the cost of lodging, food, transportation and group activities. All are required to attend workshops where they learn how to work with hand and power tools, and they discuss social awareness aspects like working in groups and how to effectively and gently interact with Habitat for Humanity families.

» Continued on page 30

SPUMC Youth Work To Make Life Better For Appalachians

By Judy Tacyn

Since 1969, the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) has helped families in parts of Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia live "warmer, safer and drier." Appalachia is one of the nation's poorest areas due to complex economic issues that have persisted for generations.

For more than 40 years, the youth of Severna Park United Methodist Church (SPUMC), along with college students and adult volunteers, have made it their mission to support the people in Appalachia each summer by repairing roofs, replacing flooring, building wheelchair ramps, or completing any interior or exterior project that is needed.

From June 27 through July 4, one of the hottest stretches of the summer, 63 members of SPUMC worked near Johnson City, Tennessee. SPUMC crews worked at several of 13 homes designated by ASP for improvements.

"Once you go on the mission, you are completely hooked and want to go again," said Zach Girton, a 2026 graduate of Severna Park High School (SPHS). "I love the entire experience. The people we meet. The people we help. All of it."

Girton's work crew removed the ceiling and did other demolition work for a homeowner.

ASP welcomes volunteers for 10 weeks each summer. The SPUMC team arrived for week four to pick up on projects started by other volunteers during weeks one through three.

Patrick McHale, a rising junior at Severn School, rebuilt a ramp for a

single woman who is an amputee. "The homeowner thanked us several times during the week," McHale said. "She was extremely grateful and came outside often to speak with us. That was really special."

SPHS senior Jordan Dill was on a work crew that repaired siding for an older couple who often care for their granddaughter.

"This mission trip brings me so much joy," Dill said. "I love spending some of my summer with friends who also love God and want to dedicate their time to spread his love and help others to give them a better life."

The Rev. Lee Ferrell, SPUMC minister of Christian education and youth, explained that the entire team prepares for the trip by learning worksite safety and how to use tools. They also learn about the area they are going to, including its history and the current state of poverty.

» Continued on page 30



Above: Youth from Severna Park United Methodist Church spent a week of their summer serving people in need in Appalachia through building projects and sharing God's love. **Below Left:** Nathan DeVries and other students didn't shy away from wielding tools and getting dirty as they worked on home projects for people in need. **Below Right:** Adam Sexton and Jordan Dill worked on the exterior of a home.



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Middle School Parent Information Session
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Severn School

Maryland Tax-Free Week Scheduled For August 9-15

Program Provides Opportunity For Savings On Back-To-School Shopping

The second Sunday of August through the following Saturday is designated as Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week each year. During this week, qualifying apparel and footwear priced at \$100 or less per item are exempt from the state sales tax. The first \$40 of a backpack or bookbag purchase is also tax-free (accessory items, except for backpacks, are not included).

This year's Tax-Free Week theme focuses on savings for families, for local businesses, and for communities across the state.

Marylanders are encouraged to consider doing their Tax-Free Week shopping at Maryland businesses. Purchases made at local retailers help support neighborhood jobs and contribute to the strength of local economies.

For more information, go to www.marylandcomptroller.gov/programs.

Children's Theatre Of Annapolis Education To Present "Dare To Dream Jr."



For aspiring thespians ages 12-18, three weeks of production summer camp at Children's Theatre of Annapolis (CTA) will culminate mid-August as they take the stage for two showings of "Dare to Dream Jr.," a Disney musical review.

A mix of timeless classics, contemporary songs and new medleys, the production celebrates a century of Disney storytelling, with songs from "The Princess and the Frog," "Coco," "Encanto" and "Frozen II."

"Dare to Dream Jr." follows an eager group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio. The group explores the power of dreams to unite, inspire and make anything possible.

The CTA production will invite audiences into a theatrical celebration of music, creativity and the dreams that live inside all of us. Showtimes are 6:30pm on Friday, August 14, and

10:00am on Saturday, August 15. The show is appropriate for all ages and will run for 75 minutes with a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets are available online or at the door. Learn more at www.childrenstheatreofannapolis.org.

WoodsWork Youth Mission Team Creates Homes In Richmond



(L-R) Olivia Hilbert, Sophia Crivella, Patrick Cornwall, John William Martin and Sarah Kent proudly displayed a large piece of framing they built.

» Continued from page 28

A workday begins at 5:45am, with everyone on the worksite by 7:00am. Following dinner and a short unscheduled time, everyone gathers in small groups for worship and Bible study. The jam-packed day ends with lights out at 10:30pm.

"Yes, there is a lot we do in a day, but we never forget why we are doing it and who we are doing it for," student co-chair Anna Willis said. "We also form great friendships with each other and praise God together."

Murphy feels it's important for young people to experience an opportunity like WoodsWork.

"We are very fortunate living here. We don't really see people struggle ... really struggle," Murphy explained. "It's important to hear these families' stories. People are not homeless because they are not trying. We can't ever make assumptions, nor forget how fortunate we are."

To receive assistance from Habitat for Humanity, homeowners must provide the organization with a determined number of sweat equity hours, either on their own home or assisting another family. Murphy explained that the team members don't always get to meet

the homeowners they are serving, and WoodsWork intentionally doesn't return to a location for at least four years, so they don't always get to see their efforts come to fruition. Even so, he calls the entire experience "magical."

"It is truly amazing when, by chance, I see a family share their celebrations on social media in a home I know we helped build," Murphy said. "I cannot explain the incredible feeling of knowing that families are creating new memories in a home that we had the opportunity to help build."

Murphy plans to get involved with Habitat for Humanity in Wisconsin, where he will attend college, this fall. He recommends people, especially young people, further their faith in tangible ways and reminds everyone that spreading kindness and sharing God's love, even in the smallest of ways, have a far-reaching domino effect. Before he leaves for college, Murphy will spend his final weeks in Maryland by starting the planning process for WoodsWork 2027.

To learn more or to get involved in WoodsWork, contact Scott Wiley, chairman, at wilecoy2us@gmail.com. All youth, regardless of their faith denomination, are welcome to participate.

SPUMC Youth Work To Make Life Better For Appalachians



Kaelin Cservek assisted Ally Jones with cutting a piece of trim.

» Continued from page 28

"My first trip was very eye-opening. I got a better understanding of people you're working for and what you can do," Girton said. "It made me realize

that there are people in our area that need help, too, so I've started working at a local soup kitchen."

McHale shared, "It's really shocking to see the conditions some people live in. What we are able to accomplish makes a tremendous impact on people's lives."

What would inspire adults to take time off from work and youth to give up some of their summer (and countless hours of preparation and fundraising throughout the year) to work in impoverished areas of the country? Love. Love of God. Love of neighbor.

Ferrell said each day has "devo" (devotional) time built into the schedule, and each day has a scriptural theme.

"Talking about God and sharing their faith is an important part of ev-

ery day," Ferrell added. "We don't take on this mission trip for ourselves, or for each other. We do it for him."

She added that "love your neighbor" doesn't mean just in Tennessee; it means love your neighbors at home, too.

"The trip is important because we learn the material goods we have and that we think we need to have to be happy don't mean anything," Dill said. "Our perspective is completely altered to learn that happiness comes from within and we have to be grateful for what we have. These families are so grateful we are there to help them, and that's where their happiness comes from."

On August 9, the 29 youth, 11 college students and 23 adults who comprised this year's team will share their photos, stories and project updates with the SPUMC congregation during a special gathering.

To learn more about the Appalachia Service Project, visit www.asphome.org. To get involved in SPUMC's annual mission trip, contact Lee Ferrell at lferrell@severneparkumc.org.

Educator Of The Month

George Evans
*Bach To Rock
Severna Park*



By Abby Fontz

Music echoes through the halls of Bach to Rock in Severna Park. Some students come hoping to learn a favorite song. Others are simply looking for something new. To director George Evans, they're all beginning the same journey, one that often ends up teaching far more than music.

His own path to that lesson wasn't a straight one.

Evans picked up the drums at 14 before realizing a guitar was more practical in a college dorm room. After the switch, a classical guitar course introduced him to music theory and changed the way he thought about music entirely.

Although music remained a lifelong passion, he spent more than 20 years working in information technology before returning to it full-time. These days, he can often be found performing at local venues, including Severna Park Taphouse, while staying closely connected to the area's music scene. When Bach to Rock opened in Severna Park, the opportunity to teach felt like a natural next step, and he eventually became the school's director.

"It literally is living a dream," Evans said.

The years he spent performing continue to shape the way he teaches today. Experience taught him that mistakes are inevitable, but they are also some of the best teachers. It's something he tries to pass along to students as they develop confidence in themselves as musicians.

Children often arrive with a favorite song already in mind. Lately, Evans said, that usually means Taylor Swift. Adult beginners, meanwhile, are often more interested in un-

derstanding the theory behind the music they've listened to for years. No matter what brings them through the door, he enjoys watching students realize they're capable of more than they expected.

"It's just really cool to see students gain that confidence of wanting to perform in front of people, wanting to play a song for a spouse or wanting to play a song for mom and dad," he said.

That confidence often grows inside the recording studio, where students can listen back to their performances and hear how much they've improved. The experience also introduces many of them to recording, producing and sound engineering, opening the door to parts of the music industry they may never have considered.

For Evans, those recording sessions have become some of the most rewarding moments of the job.

"Seeing parents' tears of joy over what their kid is accomplishing is just one of the most amazing things of the job," he said.

While many of his students are children, Evans also teaches adults who are picking up an instrument for the first time. He enjoys watching those students realize there's no deadline for learning something new.

"I've yet to have someone who's a little bit older, just getting started, not thoroughly enjoy it," he said. "To a person, they have all really loved it."

That belief comes from his own relationship with music, one that continues to evolve after decades of performing.

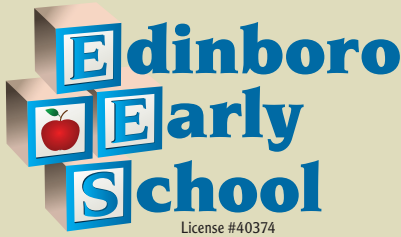
"Music is just a never-ending process," Evans said. "Even playing guitar for as long as I have, there's still something else I can learn every day."

Evans hopes more people discover that music isn't reserved for professionals or lifelong performers. Whether someone picks up an instrument at 10 or 70, he believes there's always something waiting to be learned. He also hopes students leave knowing there are many ways to be part of the music community, whether they're performing onstage, producing a recording or working behind the scenes.

After years as both a musician and teacher, Evans often finds himself thinking about something Keith Richards said about silence being like a musician's blank canvas.

"Maybe you fill it in," Evans said. "Or maybe not. Maybe you leave some of the canvas empty to breathe."

To Evans, music has always felt like more than notes and rhythms. "Music's a great metaphor for life overall. Oftentimes what you don't say is every bit as powerful as what you can say," he shared.



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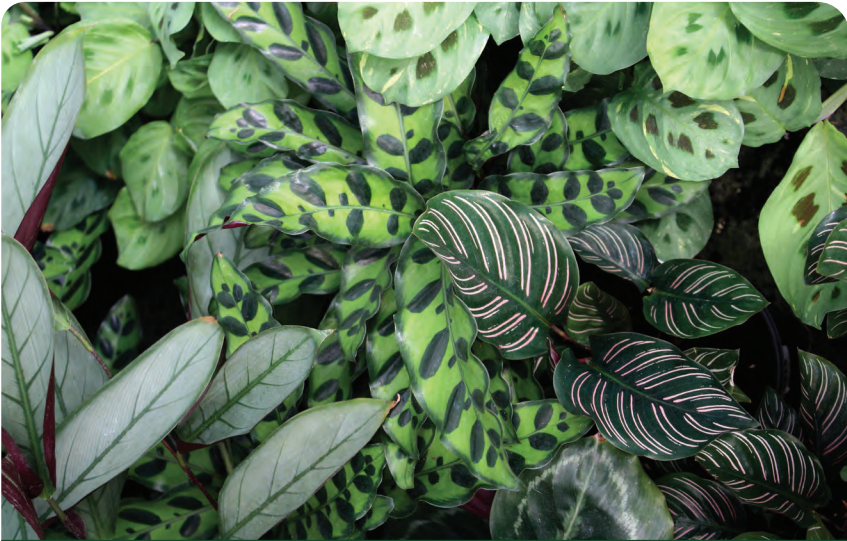
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Rekindling A Neighborhood Tradition: Shakespeare On The Severn Returns To Ben Oaks



Photos by Meredith Winter

Left: Neighborhood children played the role of fairies in Ben Oaks' production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." **Center:** Giving new meaning to "hopeless romantics," *The Lovers* were the center of confusion and conflict. **Right:** Joe Child, a longtime Ben Oaks resident, was cast as William Shakespeare and explained the complicated storyline before each act.



By Meredith Winter

On a breezy midsummer evening, an audience of over 150 people attended a showing of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." But instead of gathering in a theater to watch professionals perform one of the Bard's famous works, they congregated next to their neighborhood pond on August 1 and

sat in lawn chairs to enjoy familiar faces putting on a familiar show.

Neighbors in the Ben Oaks community have been working hard since spring to breathe new life into a bygone tradition: Shakespeare on the Severn. Ben Oaks resident Catherine Thomas, a trained Shakespearean actress, first organized the project in 1997. Each year, participation grew on

and off the grassy stage. Neighborhood thespians last gathered to perform in 2015, and after battling cancer, Thomas died in 2017.

The playbill for the early August performance informed attendees about why the tradition was reignited: "Shakespeare on the Severn, from its inception as directed by Catherine Thomas and her original shortened

adaptations of many of Shakespeare's original plays over her many years with us, was intended for the children and neighbors of Ben Oaks to feel the magic of Shakespeare. After an 11-year gap, and with Kevin Lyons' persistence, we hope to rekindle that magic."

Lyons' persistence paid off, and in April, two neighbors — and then

» **Continued on page 34**

The Ben Oaks Cast Of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

- Alex Medina as Theseus
- Kathy Powers as Hippolyta
- Mark Cervi as Egeus
- David Morris as Philostrate
- John Conley as Perseus
- Hannah Morris as Hermia
- Tessa Aubel as Helena

- Eric McPhee as Lysander
- Kevin Lyons as Demetrius
- Jane Opie as Titania
- Sienna McPhee as Peaseblossom
- Avery Kearney as Moth
- Molly McPhee as Cobweb
- Eliza Helin as Mustardseed

- Zinnia Manner as Foxglove
- Teddy Petrole as Bramble
- Ed Hirsch as Oberon
- Ev Holiday as Puck
- Vivian McPhee as Fern
- Maeve Helin as Snickleway
- Izzy Chase as Nicky Bottom

- Dave Morris as Quince
- Liam Morris as Flute
- Barb Gheewala as Starveling
- Cullin Quinn as Snout
- Nolan Lyons as Snug
- Joseph Child as William Shakespeare

Christopher Nolan Brings The Past Into The Present With Reimagined Telling Of "The Odyssey"

By Audrey Ruppert

Film Critic

Editor's note: This review contains minor spoilers for "The Odyssey."

My cousin and I have long texted the phrase "ride the wave" to each other after a particularly hard day. We're determined people who try to steer the ship, doing everything in our power to trim the sails and point the rudder in the direction we wish to go, but sometimes the forces around

us are just too powerful. You're better off letting go and discovering wherever the wave takes you, then starting anew, because fighting nature in those circumstances can mean drowning.

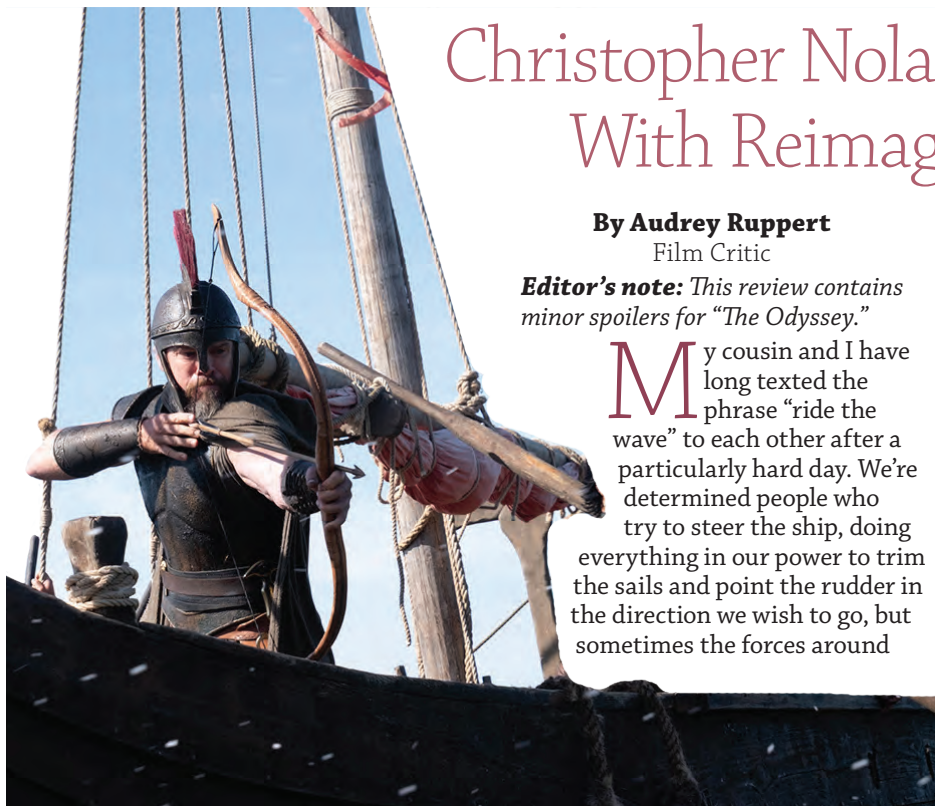
"The Odyssey" was the first of Christopher Nolan's films to touch me on a personal level because of this theme, and I doubt I am alone in this.

Myths survive throughout the eons because they are universal and reinterpreted by every generation. Complete "accuracy" to the original is impossible for a mythical tale, nor is it really desirable, whatever people on the X social media platform might think. The film retains a lot of the themes of the original myth — "nostos" (homecoming) and "xenia" (care and consideration for strangers) — while reinterpreting the story and underscor-

ing the same modern themes Nolan loves to harp on in all of his films.

It is a spiritual sequel to "Oppenheimer" in a way — what happens when we open Pandora's box, and introduce evils into the world that we just cannot take back? What happens when the Golden Rule is perverted or disregarded, and we can no longer trust one another? When we are unkind to those who need our help, and when those who do not need help take advantage of the kindness of others? Agency, accountability and shame, separating what belongs with us and what belongs with others — these are all explored, and explored well. It even manages to give the women of a harsher past world a more developed voice without "wokewashing."

» **Continued on page 34**



Save The Date For Art In The Park 2026

Presented by Cafe Mezzanotte and the Severna Park Voice, the sixth annual Art in the Park music and arts festival will take place on Sunday, September 27. From 1:00pm-5:00pm, attendees can enjoy live music performances by Sweet Leda and Mama's Black Sheep along with displays from local artists, vendors and art galleries. The picnic pavilion will offer all-you-can-eat smoked and grilled meats, grilled vegetables, seafood, pastas, salads and more, and the event will include a wine and beer garden as well. This year's Art in the Park is sponsored by KMA Law Office and will benefit the Walk the Walk Foundation. Tickets are available now at www.cafemezz.com.



Nolan Brings Past Into Present

» Continued from page 33

I'll admit that I suspected "The Odyssey" might be Nolan's first flop and not for the X mob reasons. It just felt a bit gimmicky with casting choices like Travis Scott, and Matt Damon felt wrong for the wily Odysseus — Sean Bean really did seem to align better. With the huge emphasis on star power and a relative lack of mythic experience (this seems like Robert Eggers' wheelhouse), I was skeptical.

But this movie really, really works. Many of the billed stars hardly get any screen time — Helen is a minor character in the original anyways — and that limited time was used wisely. Rappers are modern bards, in a way, and while I wouldn't rate Travis Scott highly on lyrical prowess, his brooding and atmospheric tone was a solid fit for Nolan's signature grittiness.

The film combines elements from other mythic stories skillfully, and this is well within the tradition. The Trojan horse, for example, isn't actually in the "Iliad" and is barely mentioned in "The Odyssey." He takes from other sources, like the "Aeneid," to bring depth to the story. He combines certain elements, either to save time or to introduce new ideas — for example, having Odysseus being the one to eat the lotus drug, in an obvious attempt to symbolize disassociation, avoidance and the post-traumatic stress disorder that veterans often experience. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but it is all done in good faith.

The gods aren't absent from this story, as some claim — their effects on the physical world seem very real to our characters, and Athena is personified almost as an inner voice to Odysseus. It's more relevant to a modern audience, for sure, and almost feels Judeo-Christian at times. It acknowledges forces beyond the mythic as well; I really appreciated Odysseus' speculation that recovering Helen was likely just a pretext for Agamemnon securing trade routes from the Trojans — a reason historians suspect may have actually caused the conflict. How would one determine who is the "most beautiful woman in the world" anyways?

It was cool to see myths reimagined in ways I never visualized — seeing the horse without wheels, for example. Characters are reimagined as well, without changing the basic facts given from the myth. I enjoyed Menelaus as a dude bro chauvinist, rather than the regal, aggrieved king he is typically portrayed as. The extensive practical effects over CGI give the world a realistic feel, and the film is absolutely worth seeing in IMAX.

It's not perfect. Some of the dialogue choices are odd — Tom Holland calling Anne Hathaway "mom" is weird. The sound mixing has problems, again. While I like the classic Nolan grit, I think some of the levity and humor of the original could have been spared. Odysseus should have retained more of his trickster nature as well — his hubris and backfiring of his ploys would have fit the modern themes just fine.

Nonetheless, "The Odyssey" is worth watching more than once, and it might honestly be Nolan's best work so far. For now, keep giving the man blank checks!

Compass Rose Theater Announces Season

Compass Rose Theater, a professional theater and educational nonprofit in Annapolis, unveiled its 2026–2027 season — a celebration of friendship and inspiration — and announced a new partnership with Live Arts Studio at the Annapolis Mall.

The new season opens September 18 with the beloved family musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" based on Charles Schulz's iconic "Peanuts" comic strip.

"We're thrilled to share these inspiring shows and new venue with our audience. In addition to an exciting lineup, we're introducing a four-show flex pass subscription with discounted pricing, reserved seating, and Friday guest passes for opening nights," said Barbara Webber, executive director of Compass Rose Theater. "Our new partnership with Live Arts Studio creates an exciting opportunity to bring professional live theater to the Annapolis Mall, inviting audiences to enjoy an evening out — perhaps even dinner and a live show."

As part of its new collaboration with Live Arts Studio, Compass Rose will present three productions. Following the Charlie Brown opening musical are the heartwarming holiday favorite "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" and the poignant romantic comedy "Almost, Maine."

"Live Arts is happy to support and sponsor performances by Compass Rose Theater this season," said Ernie Green, artistic director of Live Arts Studio. "We are looking forward to an exciting season of vibrant and engaging performances together."

In March 2027, Compass Rose will return to Maryland Hall to perform "Godspell," closing the official 2026–2027 season on a high note. More shows may be added this spring and summer. For more information, go to www.compassrosetheater.org

Season Lineup (2026–2027)

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

Directed by Tracy Adler,
Music Direction
by Barrett Johnson
September 18 — October 4, 2026

Charlie Brown and the entire "Peanuts" gang explore life's great questions as they play baseball, struggle with homework, sing songs, swoon over their crushes, and celebrate the joy of friendship. Based on the comic strip by Charles Schulz. Book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesne.

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play"

Directed by Gary Goodson
November 20 — December 5, 2026

Bringing Frank Capra's classic film to the stage, this radio play adaptation tells the heartwarming tale of George Bailey as he reflects on his life on Christmas Eve. Adapted by Joe Landry. Based on the story "The Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern.

"Almost, Maine"

Directed by
Madeline Austin
January 15 — February 7, 2027

On a clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not what it seems in the remote town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. By Jonathan Cariani.

"Godspell"

Directed by
Tracy Adler
March 5–21, 2027

Prepare for the timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love, based on the "Gospel of St. Matthew." "Godspell" was the first major musical theater offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner Stephen Schwartz ("Wicked," "Pippin," "Children of Eden"), and it took the world by storm. Conceived and originally directed by John Michael Tebelak. Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz.

Rekindling A Neighborhood Tradition

» Continued from page 33

others — stepped up to help the Bard return to the Severn. Lyons directed the production, Carol Jones oversaw scenery, and Joe Child handled the sound and stage crews.

"We're doing it back in the saddle, 11 years later, and it's been interesting because there are only ... about six of us who have any recollection or dealings with the original run of the play, because so many neighbors have turned over," Child said. "So, a great majority of the neighborhood, particularly those who have moved in in the last 11 years, have no knowledge of what this is. It's

kind of like starting over again."

Members of the 154 households in Ben Oaks started over with gusto, with 27 participating as cast members and another 15 or so assisting with tech and behind the scenes. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" depicts multiple stories happening at once that ultimately collide in an enchanted forest. To explain the complicated storyline, Child, cast as William Shakespeare himself, set up each of the five acts as narrator.

Neighbors arrived on August 1 by foot, bike, golf cart and car, and friends and family of the cast came out to support them as well. In the end, a comedy

penned around 1595 brought a Severna Park community closer together in 2026.

"Something like this really crosses the generations. A lot of the cast and the fairies call me Grandpa Joe. And, that's kind of who I am now," said Child, a grandfather and 37-year Ben Oaks resident.

He added, "I've gotten to know neighbors that I never would have known. The younger people have gotten to know these old guys and gals who are still around, and the older people have gotten to know these 6-, 7-, 8-year-olds, and they're riding bikes and waving at you, and it's magic."

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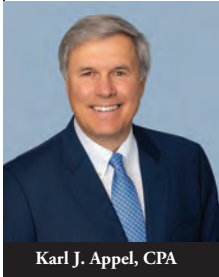


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Financial Lessons From The World Pitch

Jason LaBarge
Financial Advisor
and President
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Every four years, billions of people around the globe stop to watch the World Cup. It's a masterclass in strategy, high-stakes pressure, and execution.

While soccer might seem like a simple game on grass, the principles that guide the world's greatest soccer teams are identical to the rules of building a secure retirement.

Whether you are watching matches from your living room here in Severna Park or analyzing your investment portfolio, sports and finance share a common truth: winning requires a game plan. Here are five financial lessons we can take from the pitch to ensure your retirement strategy secures a trophy.

1 Champions Develop a Team

No single individual wins a World Cup. It takes an entire organization — coaches, analysts, scouts and trainers — working in unison. Your financial journey is no different. Trying to manage tax strategies, estate planning, investment allocations and retirement income completely on your own can become overwhelming. A championship financial strategy relies on a team of professionals looking at every angle of your wealth to create a seamless, cohesive plan.

2 Don't Rely on One Player

We all love the superstar strikers who score spectacular goals. But if a team relies entirely on one person, a single injury or an off night can eliminate them from the tournament. In the financial world, relying on "one player" looks like putting all your money into a single hot tech stock or one asset class. True financial security requires diversification. Spreading your assets across different areas ensures that if one sector has a bad game, the rest of your portfolio can keep you moving forward.

3 Defense Wins Championships

High-flying offenses grab the headlines, but disciplined defense hoists the trophy. In retirement planning, defense is your protection strategy. This means understanding the balance

between what I call "red money" and "green money." Red money represents growth assets like stocks that carry higher risk, while green money represents safer vehicles like fixed annuities or municipal bonds that shield your hard-earned savings from market volatility. A strong financial defense ensures that unexpected economic storms won't derail your lifestyle.

4 Adjust at Halftime

Even the best-laid plans run into unexpected challenges once the whistle blows. A championship coach evaluates performance at halftime and makes tactical adjustments to counter the opponent's strategy. Your life will have plenty of halftime adjustments — whether that means navigating shifting market conditions, tax law changes or personal health updates. Regularly reviewing your portfolio with a professional allows you to proactively adjust your strategy as your goals or the economic landscape changes.

5 All Roles Matter

From the goalkeeper making crucial saves to the substitute coming off the bench in extra time, every single role on a team matters, on and off the field. The same is true for your financial roadmap. It's easy to focus only on investment returns, but every small component — budgeting, long-term healthcare planning, legacy creation and minimizing hidden fees — plays a vital role in your success. Neglecting even one minor area can be the difference between achieving your retirement dreams or falling short.

At LaBarge Financial, the philosophy is that people come first, money second. Just like a coach cares about the success of their players, the LaBarge Financial team cares about helping their neighbors navigate their financial journeys through certain and uncertain times alike. If you want to make sure your financial game plan is ready for the world stage, contact LaBarge Financial to build a winning strategy together.

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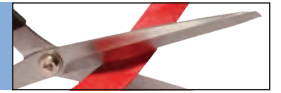
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We are so grateful to these businesses for choosing our community to bring jobs, goods and personalized services that support us and our local economy.

We held three ribbon-cutting celebrations in July. First was the grand opening of **Fox Auto Services Academy** in Glen Burnie. » Continued on page 38

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Ivory Stone Interiors Marks Opening Of New Location With Cutting

In June, Ivory Stone Interiors celebrated its new location and grand opening of its wallcovering and fabric studio, located at 674 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. Owned by interior designer Laura Bauer, Ivory Stone offers services ranging from space planning to project management, material selections to lighting, and more. Discover a complete list of services at www.ivorystoneinteriors.com.



Zokpia Business Financial Services Opens Severna Park Location



Financial confidence for growth-minded owners — that's what Zokpia Business Financial Services hopes to bring to the area. The company celebrated its new office at 86 Kennedy Drive in Severna Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in partnership with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce on June 25. Zokpia Olumese, founder and CEO of Zokpia, spent years at Deloitte auditing multi-million-dollar companies, where he saw firsthand how proper financial infrastructure drives confident decision-making. Learn more at www.zokpia.com.

Sweetbay Assisted Living Opens In Severna Park

An intimate, 10-resident assisted living home, Sweetbay Assisted Living celebrated its grand opening on July 16 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. Located on Leelyn Drive, Sweetbay offers a personal standard of care with individualized assistance tailored to each resident, home-cooked meals, private rooms and welcoming shared spaces in a small, residential setting. Learn more at www.sweetbayassistedliving.com.



Chamber Update

» Continued from page 37

Owner Salvador Vega created the academy to train community members interested in the car mechanic field.

Next was the grand opening of **Sweetbay Assisted Living**, a boutique assisted living home in Severna Park. It allows a maximum of 10 residents, making the facility truly feel like home.

Finally, we celebrated the eighth anniversary of **Blendabowl** and the fifth anniversary of the restaurant in Pasadena. The eatery offers a variety

of acai bowls and vegetarian creations, all in a nut-free space.

The highlight of July was our annual Independence Day parade, made unique by the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation. It was unfortunate to move the parade to July 11 due to the heat wave, but we still enjoyed a great turnout of both spectators and parade entries. Many thanks to the parade sponsors, volunteers, community supporters, judges, parade participants and you for keeping this wonderful event alive.

Finally, our TGIF cookout was held at the chamber and sponsored by the **Severna Park Voice** on behalf

of the **Walk the Walk Foundation**. Walk the Walk Foundation is a faith-centered organization that exists to bless children in need by empowering individuals to serve through their time, talents and treasure.

As always, we encourage you to patronize our local businesses. Supporting local businesses keeps more money, jobs and resources circulating within the community, strengthening its economic stability. It also preserves the unique character of the area, creating a vibrant, connected place that we are proud to call home.

For more information about the chamber, visit www.gspacc.com.

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