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OCTOBER 2026

A Rock 'N' Roll Original Returns To SPHS To Take Directorial Helm

**"Legally Blonde" Sets
The Stage For Pete
Garvey's Homecoming**

By Judy Tacyn

Severna Park High School's (SPHS) 38th annual "Rock 'N' Roll Revival" (RNR) will have a new look thanks to an old friend this spring. Severna Park resident Pete Garvey, one of the original



Pete Garvey

organizers of the first production in 1989, returns behind the Falcon curtain as director of the legendary production. Garvey will settle into the Falcons' drama

program by directing "Legally Blonde," running November 6-14, before turning his attention to RNR.

Garvey graduated from SPHS in 1987 and was studying theater at St. Mary's College of Maryland when in 1989 he received a call from SPHS drama director Tom McKown, who wanted to talk about a "little" idea he was mulling.

"Tom called me and said, 'I've got an idea of doing some sort of rock and roll review, lots of songs, great choreography, etc. Do you want to be involved?'" Garvey recalled. "Unequivocally, I said yes!"

In the 1987 Falcon yearbook, Garvey noted in his senior super-
» **Continued on page 6**

Y'olk Bakery Dishes Scratch-Made Sweet And Savory Fare In Severna Park



By Meredith Winter

On the heels of a lengthy build-out and with great community anticipation, a new eatery opened its doors in the Park in September. Y'olk Bakery celebrated its

grand opening last month and was welcomed with much fanfare.

With co-owners originally from the Philippines and Turkey, Y'olk offers a curated menu rooted in traditional baking and French-inspired technique with

Photos by Meredith Winter

Y'olk Bakery is owned by Bas Mulgan (left) and Marie Cris Garay (center), pictured with staff members Bryan McFarland (center left), Donna Garay (center right) and Lance Miranda.

Filipino and Turkish flavors thoughtfully incorporated. Sweet — but not too sweet — treats range from macarons and cake pops to cinnamon rolls and brioche donuts. Savory offerings include biscuits and handcrafted sandwiches, and the menu is rounded out with a full slate of espresso beverages.

Owners Marie Cris Garay and Basaran "Bas" Mulgan met while working at a catering company and dreamed up opening a bakery together. Each brings a unique culinary background to the table.

Garay, who came to the U.S. in 2015

» **Continued on page 14**

Art In The Park Draws A Crowd At Cafe Mezzanotte



With a nor'easter churning off the Delmarva coast, Cafe Mezzanotte and the Severna Park Voice — organizers

of the sixth annual Art in the Park music and arts festival — had to pivot and move the event indoors. Rain didn't stop hundreds of guests from flocking to Cafe Mezzanotte on September 27 to enjoy live music, artist demonstrations and a bottomless picnic pavilion. Art in the Park was sponsored by KMA Law Office and headlined by Sweet Leda.
» **See more photos on page 12.**

Election Guide: Candidates Share Top Priorities Ahead Of General Election

Anne Arundel County has important races in the 2026 gubernatorial general election, with the Anne Arundel County Executive and County Council seats on the ballot. The election also will decide state senators and state delegates to represent voters in the Maryland General Assembly. With the general election set for November 3, the Severna Park Voice asked local candidates to share what their top priorities in office will be if elected or re-elected. Early voting will run from October 22-29.

» **Read the candidates' responses on page 16.**

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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.

Brendan Foerster Tees Up Support In Round Bay

By Laura Ascione

For Brendan Foerster, volunteering in Round Bay comes down to a simple idea: If someone doesn't step forward, some of the things that make a community special simply don't happen.

"If no one raises their hand to do something, something doesn't happen," he said. "People are busy, but at the same time, I've got a few extra minutes in my day to make time for things."

This year, Foerster raised his hand.

After supporting the Round Bay golf committee last year, he stepped into the role of committee chair for 2026, helping lead one of the neighborhood's largest annual fundraisers. The Round Bay Open golf tournament, now in its sixth year, brings neighbors together at Compass Pointe Golf Courses while raising money for the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company.

Since the Round Bay Open began in 2021, it has generated more than \$30,000 for the fire company. Last year, organizers presented the department with \$10,000, the tournament's largest annual donation to date.

For Foerster, who moved to Round Bay with his family three years ago, volunteering offered an opportunity to support an important local organization while becoming more involved in his new community.

"I think part of it is just exposure to more community members," he said. "We're not a big community, but at the same time, there are absolutely folks I haven't met."

Putting together the Round Bay Open takes plenty of work. This year's four-person committee coordinated registration and foursomes, worked with the golf course, organized tournament activities, solicited sponsors and gathered prizes and donations.

"The Round Bay golf tournament is our largest annual fundraiser, reflecting our community's commitment to supporting local first responders," said Round Bay resident Erin Gruver, who chaired last year's golf committee and who has a first-hand grasp of the time and effort it takes to organize the Round Bay Open. "We are grateful to Brendan for stepping up to lead the tournament committee – his leadership



Photo by Laura Ascione

Round Bay resident Brendan Foerster views volunteering to spearhead the neighborhood's annual golf tournament as one way to preserve community and tradition.

was instrumental to this year's success."

Much of the support comes from businesses owned by Round Bay residents, former residents and others with various affiliations within the community. Committee members also approach local restaurants and businesses for sponsorships, gift cards and other donations.

This year, nearly 20 sponsors contributed at varying levels. The committee also introduced new ways to raise money and involve residents who don't golf, including a silent auction featuring donated photography services, wine baskets and use of a rental property in Puerto Rico.

The tournament attracts a mix of longtime residents, newer families, serious golfers and people more interested in having fun with their neighbors. About 75 people participated in this year's event on September 11.

For Foerster, the tournament reflects something larger about the community where his family has put down roots.

Children play together and ride bikes around the neighborhood, while parents and neighbors keep an eye out for one another. It's a sense of connection he says doesn't exist everywhere.

As longtime Round Bay residents grow older and new families move in, Foerster sees volunteering as one way to preserve the traditions and relationships that have shaped the neighborhood.

He hopes to bring more residents onto the golf committee in coming years, both to share the workload and to introduce new ideas. He has also begun thinking about ways to expand fundraising efforts and potentially collaborate with neighboring communities.

For him, creating something meaningful doesn't necessarily require doing something enormous. The Round Bay Open is one example — neighbors spending a day together, businesses contributing what they can and volunteers finding a few extra hours to support the fire company that supports their community.

"There are so many micro-moments that contribute to something bigger. The Round Bay Open, that's just one piece of it," Foerster said. "It's just one component of how we preserve that (community)."



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Annual Turkey Trot Raises Support For SPAN

Runners and walkers can get a head start on the Thanksgiving season while supporting a local nonprofit during the 14th annual Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 7, at Kinder Farm Park. The event features a timed 5K run at 9 a.m., followed by a 1-mile fun walk/

run at 9:25 a.m. Participants of all ages are welcome, and both strollers and leashed dogs are permitted. Early-bird registration is available through October 12, and the race is limited to the first 250 participants. Participants who register by October 21 are guaranteed an event shirt. Race-day packet

pickup begins at 8 a.m. at Kinder Farm Park, and same-day registration will be available. The event benefits SPAN, a local nonprofit that provides emergency financial assistance and food to individuals and families in need. To register, visit www.spanhelps.org/span_turkey_trot.

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1 Million Cups Serves Up Practical Support For Entrepreneurs

By Judy Tacyn

There is a new coffee spot in town, and it won't cost you a thing. Since February, the Arnold chapter of 1 Million Cups, which meets at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), has served up an inclusive space for entrepreneurs to share ideas, get feedback, network and boost solutions to challenges that business owners and businesses face.

"1 Million Cups is a weekly conversation over coffee to support small businesses. This is not a pitch; it is an opportunity for small businesses to share their stories, challenges and goals to a community that provides feedback, resources and ideas," said Stephanie Goldenberg, who serves as 1 Million Cups Arnold Community Lead and academic chair of AACC's department of entrepreneurial studies. "Entrepreneurship can be a lonely business, but it does not have to be. This group supports one another and serves as a sounding board."

Founded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in 2012, 1 Million Cups (1MC) now boasts 110 national chapters, nearly 27,000 entrepreneurs, and more than 1 million cups of coffee served.

Every Wednesday, chapters gather to network and hear from new speakers who apply to present their business ideas, challenges and successes. Organizers of the 1MC Arnold chapter include Anne Arundel Community College, Anne Arundel County Public Library, Anne Arundel Economic



Members of the 1Million Cups Arnold chapter meet weekly at AACC.

Development Corporation, SCORE (a free mentorship program), the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship and local businesses.

"This organization is a perfect opportunity for students to connect with the community. It allows them to practice how to talk about their business ideas in a low-risk way," Goldenberg explained. "At the same time, it helps faculty and staff connect with other community members and businesses. It is an opportunity to gather for free to get real feedback and stay in touch with what is happening on and off campus."

The organization is not just for students, faculty and staff at AACC. Geoff Snavely is the vice president and general manager of MilliCare Floor and Textile Care, a company that has been in business for 37 years.

"I applied to present because I'm a believer in the difference this community

can make for entrepreneurs," Snavely shared. "I've observed so much support from attendees as they share their ideas and questions with presenters, and I've heard meaningful feedback that could help business owners impact their companies in positive ways."

He encourages all business owners and entrepreneurs to attend the weekly gatherings because it is an opportunity to leverage the experience and knowledge of others, expand networks, and make new connections.

"There simply are not many 'free' consulting services out there, and there is no cost to present at 1MC," Snavely added. "The thought process involved with presenting your company is invaluable. Putting the effort into how to discuss your business concept helps entrepreneurs think about their business strategically. And there's tremendous value in being able to articulate the specific help

you need from the community."

Presenters have six minutes to make their presentation followed by 20 minutes of questions and answers with attendees. The last question asked is always, "What can we as a community do to support you?"

"I was looking for impressions, feedback and suggestions on what I have created for my business. I have been a member of several other networking groups and had had all positive and supportive reception to my business and what I provide for my services," said Suzanne Hewes, owner of Hewes Health Consulting, LLC, and a recent 1MC presenter. "This was a new audience for me and having academics in the audience as well as other business owners, students, county representatives and library representatives was a new experience for me. I was well-received and had good conversations during the questions and answers."

The meetings are held every Wednesday from 8-9:15 a.m. in the CADE Building, room 207, at AACC. Everyone is invited, including students, faculty, staff, community members and small business representatives. Attendees are encouraged to come with an open mind and willingness to listen and help. The 1MC Arnold chapter is open to anyone in the greater Anne Arundel County area.

To learn more about 1 Million Cups, visit www.1millioncups.com. To learn more about AACC's department of entrepreneurial studies visit aacc.edu or email Goldenberg at slgoldenberg@aacc.edu.



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Magothy River Association Celebrates 80 Years



MRA President Paul Spadaro and County Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler cut a sheet cake at the MRA's 80th anniversary celebration on September 20.

On September 20, the Magothy River Association (MRA) marked its 80th anniversary with a celebration at the Cape St. Claire Improvement Association's clubhouse. MRA members and local residents gathered to enjoy dinner with steamed crabs, live music, a 50% raffle and more.

Established in 1946, the MRA is a nonprofit dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the water quality, plants and wildlife of the Magothy River and its watershed. The all-volunteer group represents over 300 individual members and 30 community associations. The MRA designs and executes projects that restore and protect the welfare of the river and its watershed. Learn more at www.magothyriver.org.



The Magothy River Association's efforts to preserve local waterways were on display for attendees to view at the 80th anniversary celebration.

New Ambulance Takes Shape On A Meaningful Date



(L-R) Captain James Michie, Assistant Chief Craig Blake and EMS Coordinator Richard "Craig" Lindsay traveled to Ohio to observe production of a new ambulance for the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company.

A new ambulance expected to arrive at the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company (EHVFC) next spring began its journey in Ohio on a significant date: September 11, 2026 - the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

EHVFC purchased the ambulance chassis through Bob Bell Ford in Glen Burnie and learned that it was scheduled to be built on September 11 at Ford Motor Company's Ohio Assembly Plant near Cleveland.

EHVFC's Assistant Chief Craig Blake, who is also a Ford employee, contacted the plant after learning about the timing and worked with plant leaders to recognize the occasion. Plant leaders welcomed EHVFC representatives to watch the chassis move through production.

Blake traveled to Ohio with Captain James Michie, the department's apparatus committee chairperson, and EMS Coordinator Richard "Craig" Lindsay. The group toured the facility and watched the chassis reach "body drop,"

the stage at which the cab is lowered onto and joined with the chassis.

They also followed the vehicle through a section of the assembly line known as "flat top," where workers make final connections and adjustments, add fluids, complete programming, and perform checks before the vehicle starts for the first time.

"When we were standing next to it there, it was probably about 15 minutes from firing up for the first time, which we did witness, and we saw it drive away and go out for all of the vehicle testing," Blake said.

The department also created commemorative stickers marking the occasion, distributing hundreds to plant employees. A larger 2-foot version is expected to become part of a "pride wall" at the Ohio facility. The chassis will next be sent to the Houston area, where the ambulance manufacturer will complete the vehicle. The department expects to receive the finished ambulance in March.

A Rock 'N' Roll Original

» Continued from page 1

latives that he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his hero, McKown. He was getting his wish.

McKown and Garvey recruited a handful of stage professionals and a choreographer and got SPHS faculty involved. Garvey built the 72-foot guitar stage, on top of his official role as tech director. Auditions drew 105 students, and every one of them landed a role.

"It was really exciting, very grassroots," Garvey said. "We had no idea what we were creating; we were just having fun. We went from 120 people the first night, to packed overnight, and we thought 'What is happening?'"

At the last moment, a student dropped out. Garvey stepped in and sang "Rock Around The Clock," the opening number for the very first RNR.

He returned to college and the rest was thought to be history, with the Rock 'N' Roll tradition on its way to becoming the community juggernaut it is today.

Garvey went on to excel in careers in information technology (IT) and

theater, while maintaining a pilot's license. Today he is the IT support specialist for St. John the Evangelist school and parish. He's held IT positions with several organizations including the United States Naval Academy, University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and Maryland Aviation Administration, and has launched his own consulting firm.

His extensive acting resume includes off-Broadway stage productions, roles in several Annapolis-area companies, television and film performances, voiceovers and commercials. When he's not acting, he's behind the scenes, having served in technical direction, design and stage management, writing and education.

After witnessing the immense acting talent of Severna Park Middle School (SPMS) students when his own children were students, Garvey and his wife Julie poured their combined experience into supporting the SPMS drama department before launching Stage & Screen Studios in 2017.

"We created Stage & Screen Studios because we were compelled to provide as professional of an environment as we could for these young actors," Garvey said. "Our focus is on teaching kids what is acting, what it's all about, and what are the techniques used to become a great actor."

Garvey expects to see former Stage & Screen Studios students audition for "Rock 'N' Roll Revival."

So, what is someone with 35 years of experience in IT and theater going to bring to "Rock 'N' Roll Revival XXXVIII"? The answer is simple.

"I am all about simplicity. I know that the core foundations of RNR are solid, they have to be for the show to become a Severna Park expectation," Garvey explained. "It's not about me or my resume. It's about the kids. It's about their moment on stage, and their moment to shine. My job is to work with the many exceptional Falcon Drama Booster volunteers to collectively make that happen for the kids."

As a Severna Park parent, Garvey has seen firsthand the phenomenal

talent of students, whether they are acting, singing, dancing or playing in the band. His goal as the new director is to highlight and promote the talent of every student in a production.

"I want the kids to own it and have fun. I want them to feel energized after each performance and feel that they achieved something special," Garvey said. "They will make audiences want to come back again and again."

Garvey remembers the old SPHS auditorium and recalled how the inaugural RNR had one wireless microphone rented from RadioShack, calling the sound raw.

"When we planned Rock 'N' Roll back in 1990, it was never imagined that we would be starting something that would still be going on in 2027," Garvey said. "Looking back at what I wrote in my yearbook in 1987, 'to follow in the footsteps of Tom McKown,' I may have inadvertently predicted that."

After directing "Legally Blonde" this fall and taking a short Thanksgiving break, his full attention will turn to RNR, which entertains audiences in early spring.



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Local Activities Promise Fall And Halloween Fun

It wouldn't be October without fall festivals and Halloween activities — and there's no shortage of either around town. From apple cider donuts and costume contests to spooky concerts and family-friendly trunk-or-treats, Severna Park, Arnold and surrounding areas offer a variety of ways for people of all ages to celebrate the fall season.

FALL FAMILY WEEKENDS AT HOMESTEAD GARDENS (DAVIDSONVILLE ONLY)

**Through November 1,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

743 West Central Avenue,
Davidsonville
fallfest.homesteadgardens.com

Hayrides, a pumpkin patch, a straw maze, live entertainment, farm animals and beloved apple cider donuts are just a handful of the attractions that await families at this annual fall celebration.

MARYLAND CORN MAZE

**Select dates through
November 8**

389 Gambrills Road, Gambrills
www.mdcornmaze.com

Find more than just a maze at this fall-themed favorite. In addition to daytime and nighttime flashlight treks through a corn maze (this year's maze theme is Toy Story), families can meet farm animals, enjoy a variety of food, and participate in activities including hayrides and a jumping pad.

PROVIDENCE'S HARVEST BASH: PASSPORT TO ITALY EDITION

Saturday, October 10, 7 p.m.

370 Shore Acres Road, Arnold
www.providenceofmaryland.org/events

Each year, this fall celebration features harvest traditions from different destinations. This year, attendees will experience autumn in the Italian countryside. Imagine fresh olive oil, Italian markets full of seasonal produce and treats, and beautiful scenery.

PUMPKINS AND CRAFTS AT KINDER FARM PARK

**Sunday, October 11,
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Kinder Farm Park
www.kinderfarmpark.org

Join the Friends of Kinder Farm Park for an afternoon of pumpkin carving and crafting to celebrate the fall season. Pre-registration is available online and is encouraged; tickets will be sold at the event while supplies last.

TRACTOR TREAT AT HOMESTEAD GARDENS

Thursday, October 15, 4-7 p.m.

743 West Central Avenue,
Davidsonville
www.homesteadgardens.com/upcoming-events

Celebrate local agriculture and farmers at this Halloween-themed tractor-or-treat. Children 12 and under can explore decorated tractors, learn more about farming and collect Halloween treats. Barnyard animals, rides on the Pumpkin Express and more will also be available. A \$3 per-family donation and advance registration are encouraged.

HIMMEL'S LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN CENTER FALL FESTIVAL

**Friday, October 16 - Sunday,
October 18, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

4374 Mountain Road, Pasadena
www.himmelsgardencenter.com/events

This festival features crafts, food vendors, a moon bounce, fall flowers, outdoor decor packages and more.

SCARECROW MAKING AT KINDER FARM PARK

**Saturday, October
17, noon - 3 p.m.**

Kinder Farm Park
www.kinderfarmpark.org

Join the Friends of Kinder Farm Park and ring in autumn by creating a festive fall scarecrow. Pre-registration is available online and is encouraged; tickets will be sold at the event while supplies last.

FALL FEST AT OUR SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Saturday, October 17, 2-6 p.m.

400 Benfield Road, Severna Park
www.ourshepherd.com/events

Along with food and music, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church's fall festival will offer a bounce house, a trunk-or-treat, a pumpkin patch and face painting for the whole family.

SPOOKYFEST 2026 AT CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF ANNAPOLIS

**Saturday, October 17,
4:30-8:30 p.m.**

1661 Bayhead Road, Annapolis
events.ticketleap.com/events/cta-md

Children's Theatre of Annapolis is pulling out all the spooky stops at its third annual Fall Festival. Friends, neighbors and family are invited

for a speCTacular night of spooky fun, community spirit, and seasonal magic at Bay Head Park. Fall Festival classics like a haunted house, Halloween movies and live karaoke are returning, and attendees can also enjoy face painting, upgraded craft activities and games.

SPOOKTACULAR STORYTIME (SEVERNA PARK)

**Friday, October 23,
11 a.m. - noon**

Severna Park Library
Community Meeting Room
www.aacpl.net/events

Children are encouraged to dress in costume as they attend a spooky storytime and listen to not-so-scary stories. The event also includes songs, activities and a Halloween parade around the library.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT SCHOOL OF ROCK ANNAPOLIS

Friday, October 23, 5-7:30 p.m.

1460 Ritchie Highway,
Suite 105-106, Arnold

www.schoolofrock.com/locations/annapolis

Bring the entire family to the back parking lot of School of Rock Annapolis for an evening filled with spooky fun, including a trunk-or-treat, a costume contest, Halloween activities and games, live music and plenty of candy to go around.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR AT THE SEVERNA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

Friday, October 23, 5-8 p.m.

623 Baltimore Annapolis
Boulevard, Severna Park
www.spcommunitycenter.org/family-fun-community-events

Come in costume and enjoy a family-friendly community Halloween event featuring games, crafts, a trunk-or-treat and a dance performance by Star Elite.

SHOPTOBERFEST WITH THE GSPACC

**Saturday, October 24,
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Park Plaza Shopping
Center, Severna Park
www.gspacc.com

Shop with local vendors during this free Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce family event, which features music, shopping, trick-or-treating, a costume contest and more.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT AND COSTUME CONTEST AT KINDER FARM PARK

**Saturday, October 24,
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Kinder Farm Park
www.kinderfarmpark.org

The Friends of Kinder Farm Park are hosting a trunk-or-treat and costume contest for families. Pop-up hayrides, farm education and crafts are also available. Pre-registration is available online and is encouraged; tickets will be sold at the event while supplies last.

SPOOKTACULAR STORYTIME

**Saturday, October 24,
11 a.m. - noon**

Broadneck Library
www.aacpl.net/events

Silly Halloween stories, a parade through the library, and spooky treats and activities await children as they celebrate the spooky season. Costumes are encouraged.

NAPTOWN PHILHARMONIC HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Sunday, October 25, 3-5 p.m.

St. John's College, Annapolis
www.naptownphil.org

Get ready for a spooky night featuring music from "How to Train Your Dragon," "Beetlejuice," "Wicked" and more.

HALLOW-STEAM

**Wednesday, October
28, 6-6:45 p.m.**

Severna Park Library
Community Meeting Room
www.aacpl.net/events

Participants can watch as mad alchemists cook up spooky potions, and then they can concoct their own. Wear messy clothes or a costume that can get dirty and see what creations await.

USNA HALLOWEEN/ALL SAINTS' DAY CONCERTS

**Friday, October 30, 7 p.m.
and 10 p.m. Saturday,
October 31, 7 p.m.**

United States Naval
Academy Chapel
www.usna.edu/music/signature/halloween.php

Held in the Naval Academy Chapel, the annual Halloween concert is a local favorite and one of the most popular events on the Yard. Featuring lights, music, drama and Chapel Organist Monte Maxwell, it showcases a variety of music spanning multiple genres. A shuttle will run for all performances.

For Ellie Foundation Reaches 10-Year Milestone

By Judy Tacyn

“Sometimes when I am working on the For Ellie Foundation year-end report, I have a moment when I think, ‘We’ve really done a lot,’” said Severna Park resident Ashleigh Wyble.

The For Ellie Foundation was established in October 2016 following the sudden death of her 86-day-old daughter, Ellie Elizabeth Wyble, in August 2016.

“The 10-year milestone this year hit me hard — harder than I expected. I took some time to grieve, but I quickly remembered that we’ve got more work to do, more people to help,” Wyble shared.

The hours leading up to Ellie’s passing were filled with a flurry of activity during which Ashleigh could not focus on anything other than her daughter. She had no time or mental capacity to think about what she should grab before racing to the emergency room at Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC). Luckily for the Wyble family, and for so many other families during a pediatric medical crisis, the pediatric intensive care staff was trained to support not only the child in their care, but their parents, guardians and even siblings.

Just days after leaving the hospital without their daughter, Ashleigh and her husband Matt Wyble looked for a way to thank the staff for their professional expertise and personal kindness. Learning more about what the child life specialists need, the Wybles collected donations for these angels in scrubs.

“We so appreciated the pediatric care staff, and we wanted to somehow help them be a bright spot in another family’s very dark place,” Wyble said. “Our family’s community was so overwhelmingly supportive of us in our grief. Donations of all kinds kept coming. Matt and I really felt that our experience was pointing us toward establishing a foundation to keep



The Wybles delivered supplies to pediatric nurses at AAMC shortly after their daughter Ellie’s unexpected passing.

this going, and the For Ellie Foundation was created.”

In the past 10 years, the For Ellie Foundation has taken in more than \$400,000 through donations and events, including cornhole, golf and pickleball tournaments, and online raffles, and has funded projects that support families in a medical crisis or in grief.

The For Ellie Foundation has donated to and worked with local medical centers and community service organizations over the last decade as well.

The foundation’s first official act was to establish the children’s garden at the Woods Counseling and Care Center, dubbed Ellie’s Moonflower Garden. The garden serves as an outdoor sanctuary for anyone looking for a safe place for reflection or prayer and is always open to the public. The garden is planted

adjacent to Woods Church’s labyrinth, which Ellie’s great-grandparents helped design for the community.

Ellie’s Cart of Hope soon became a cornerstone of the foundation’s work. These specialized mobile carts, offered at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center and the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC), are used by hospital child life specialists to provide patients with fun activities and therapy aids during treatments.

Through Hope Totes, an extension of Ellie’s Cart of Hope, the For Ellie Foundation fills tote bags with the simple comforts a family may need during the initial hours of a crisis, including a blanket, toiletries not supplied by the hospital, fresh snacks and more. To date, more than 2,400 Hope Totes have been delivered to AAMC and UM BWMC.

“Many of our initiatives hope to positively impact the patient and parent experience during their hospital stay,” Wyble said. “We really hope to make things just a little easier when dealing with the unexpected and scary.”

Ellie, the middle sibling between brothers Luke and Cooper, would be in fifth grade at Severna Park Elementary School. Luke is old enough to remember her smile, the twinkle in her blue eyes, and her coos when he held her. Cooper never met his big sister, but he talks about her in present tense, because she’s always with her family.

Ashleigh and Matt don’t want their grief to be the only chapter in their story. They know there will be bad days, but by keeping their daughter’s spirit alive through kindness and her foundation, their family heals a little bit every day.

The For Ellie Foundation is a nonprofit organization. For more information visit www.forellie.org.



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MPCP in Arnold Spotlights



Olivia Cook, MSN, RN, FNP-C

Olivia has been practicing in primary care for the past four years. Prior to becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner, she worked as a bedside RN in the ICU and as a hospice liaison. These experiences helped shape her compassionate, patient-centered approach to care. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Duquesne University and is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

What Made Olivia Decide To Go Into Medicine?

Olivia chose family medicine because she enjoys caring for patients throughout all stages of life and building meaningful, long-lasting relationships with them. Her background in critical care and hospice reinforced the importance of listening to patients, understanding the whole person, and providing compassionate care. She strives to create a welcoming environment where patients feel heard, supported, and involved in their healthcare.

Olivia's Favorite Things to Do:

Outside of work, Olivia enjoys staying active through hiking, biking and running. She loves spending time at the beach and, most importantly, making memories with her family.

One Fun Fact About Olivia:

Olivia grew up in Indiana and spent several years living in California before settling on the East Coast. She fell in love with the Chesapeake Bay and has chosen to make it home, raising her family here. She enjoys exploring the outdoors, staying active, and spending time with her family.

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

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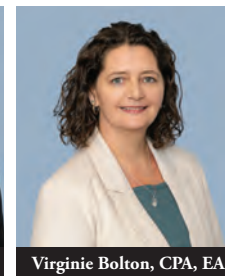
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Walk The Walk Foundation Shines A Light On Local Need During National Diaper Need Awareness Week



WTWF leaders and volunteers gathered at the nonprofit's Millersville warehouse on September 17 for WTWF's monthly diaper distribution.

During National Diaper Need Awareness Week, September 14-20, Walk the Walk Foundation (WTWF) helped highlight a basic need affecting families throughout Anne Arundel County: access to an adequate supply of diapers. Nearly one in two families with young children experiences diaper need, meaning they struggle to afford enough diapers to keep their babies and toddlers clean, dry and healthy.

WTWF's Diapers for Babies program distributes approximately 60,000 diapers each month, helping provide diapers to more than 1,000



On September 17, Beth Pagner (left), from County Executive Stuart Pittman's Community Engagement and Constituent Services office, presented Walk the Walk Foundation Executive Director Nicole Dolan with a proclamation recognizing National Diaper Need Awareness Week.

local children through a network of community partners.

On September 17, WTWF held its monthly diaper distribution at its Millersville warehouse, where community partner organizations pick up thousands of diapers to distribute directly to the families they serve. That morning, WTWF leaders received a proclamation from Anne Arundel County recognizing National Diaper Need Awareness Week.

Rising Sun Lodge No. 46 Continues Tradition Of Giving



Brother Junior Deacon Bryan Etheridge (left) and Brother Senior Warden Clifford Hopkins (right) delivered backpacks filled with school supplies to Jones Elementary School Counselor Heather Webster.

On August 19, the brothers of Rising Sun Lodge No. 46 continued a tradition that has become a defining part of their identity. As students headed back to school, the lodge delivered five backpacks to Jones Elementary School — each one filled with the essential supplies students need to begin their

academic year with confidence.

For Rising Sun Lodge No. 46, the donation wasn't an isolated gesture, but part of a longstanding commitment to community engagement. Each year, the lodge invests time, resources and heart into initiatives that uplift the neighborhood its brothers call home.

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Art In The Park Draws A Crowd At Cafe Mezzanotte

This year's Art in the Park music and arts festival got guests on their feet as Mama's Black Sheep and Sweet Leda serenaded a packed house at Cafe Mezzanotte on September 27. Local artists and galleries showcased their talent throughout the restaurant.

With a nor'easter churning offshore, event organizers Cafe Mezzanotte and the Severna Park Voice made the decision to move the festival indoors, but that did not deter attendees from packing out the venue. The restaurant's lounge served as the wine and beer garden, and guests enjoyed an all-you-can-eat picnic pavilion that included meats, fish, pastas, vegetables, salads, desserts and more.

Art in the Park was sponsored by KMA Law Office and benefited the Walk the Walk Foundation. The Millersville-based organization supports local children and families in need and is the Severna Park Voice's 2026 nonprofit of the year.



Shop Local, Celebrate Fall During Shoptoberfest

Celebrate the season while supporting local businesses at Shoptoberfest, a free, family-friendly fall festival in Severna Park. The event will feature local vendors, shopping, music, treats, prizes, trick-or-treating and plenty of Halloween fun. Children are encouraged to dress up for a costume contest,

while families can visit local businesses and vendors throughout the festival. Shoptoberfest combines a shop-local celebration with a Halloween and Oktoberfest theme. Shoptoberfest will be held Saturday, October 24, from 11 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. at the Park Plaza shopping center. For more information, visit www.gspacc.com.

Local Churches Offer Blessings To All Creatures Great And Small

Wagging tails, wet noses and whiskers are headed to church in early October. To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, area churches will hold blessings of the animals, giving families an opportunity to bring their beloved companions to church for a special blessing. This year's feast falls on Sunday, October 4, and local churches are welcoming four-legged, feathered and scaly friends to celebrate.

All are welcome as pets receive blessings at St. Martin's-in-the-

Field Episcopal Church's outdoor worship at 10 a.m. on October 4. Pets should be leashed or safely in carriers. Guests are encouraged to dress comfortably and bring a chair or blanket for seating.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church will hold its annual Noah's Ark Blessing of the Animals at the front of the church at 1 p.m. on October 4. All are welcome.

At 2 p.m. on October 4, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church will hold a Blessing of the Animals on Larsen Field. Attendees should bring a bag to clean up after pets.

Finding Joy In Giving Back

“We could all do with a bit more joy in our lives couldn't we? The wonderful thing is that when we start spreading joy, we begin to actually experience more joy in our lives too!” — STEVE GOODIER

Michele Sabean
Director of Development,
SPAN Inc.



A smile can be contagious. Think about the times that your mood has shifted simply because of the way someone responded. Words are powerful. At SPAN, people come to us during stressful and uncertain points in their lives. It is wonderful to be able to provide them with a little hope and relief. I'm fortunate to be surrounded by volunteers and community members who bring help, relief and encourage-

ment to others. Sitting at my desk, I have a great view of cars pulling up to the back porch. Whether people are picking up or dropping off food, I get to witness joy being spread. I have a notecard from a mother who shared how SPAN helped her provide for her children during a very difficult time. She described the food boxes as presents her kids were excited to open. Our small space is busy in the mornings as our volunteers chat happily while packing boxes of food. I see the stress our clients arrive with, and I am blessed to see some of that stress lifted before they leave. When asked to share a memorable moment, one of our volunteers said it was wonderful to be able to provide some help. She described “the gratitude of people, some even moved

to tears; the spontaneous hug that I have occasionally received; the relief on people's faces when they realize that they have found an avenue of support and information to help them go forward.” I am still buoyed by the energy of the Severn School middle school students who joined us last week for a day of service and the enthusiasm of students at the Meade High School service fair who were excited to find ways to help. A Severna Park High School student recently donated bags of food for our clients. When he dropped them off and I showed him around SPAN, he was eager to find more ways to help. SPAN is a small organization, but we helped more than 1,300 families last year with either food, emergency financial assistance or both. We can accomplish so much because of our generous community and because we have a dedicated group of volunteers who give their time to support our daily operations and our special proj-

ects and events. When I asked what keeps them coming back to help, they echoed the same sentiment: Helping others feels good. We can all use more joy in our lives. The good news is that by sharing a smile, offering kind words or helping others, we can help spread joy and experience more of it ourselves. Words and actions are powerful, and we all can brighten someone's day. Join us for a fun event and our big fundraiser, SPAN's Turkey Trot 5K. It is on Saturday, November 7 at Kinder Farm Park, and has both a timed 5K and a fun 1-mile option. 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.

Falcons Class Of 1996 Marks 30 Years

Severna Park High School's Class of 1996 will celebrate its 30th reunion on Saturday, October 17, from 7-10 p.m. at the Rumor Reel in Pasadena. Members of the 1996 graduating class and their guests are invited to attend. The reunion will feature an open bar for beer and liquor, and a cash bar will also be available. Pizza and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Advance-purchase tickets are required. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com.

Earleigh Heights Open House Is A Family Friendly Affair

Join the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company (EHVFC) for its 2026 open house on Sunday, October 4, from noon to 3 p.m. EHVFC will have fire apparatus displays with volunteers on hand to demonstrate how they use specialized equipment and give an automobile accident rescue demonstration. The open house will offer family friendly activities, including a squirt house where kids can squirt a fire hose, a kids' obstacle course, and a pint-sized house trailer where kids can learn about fire safety. Attendees can also enjoy a police dog demonstration and, of course, a visit from Sparky the fire dog.



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Left: The menu at Y'ollk features flavors from Garay's home country, the Philippines, including ube coconut rolls and donuts. **Center:** Smoked turkey and smoked salmon sandwiches are made from scratch. **Right:** Brioche donut flavors include strawberry shortcake and Tombul, a chocolatey spread made in Maryland using Turkish hazelnuts.

Y'ollk Bakery

» Continued from page 1

after meeting her husband in the Philippines in 2012, enrolled in cooking classes at Anne Arundel Community College but fell in love with decorating cakes during a baking and pastry class and never looked back. She resides in Arnold with her husband and two young daughters.

Mulgan, who is Turkish, has been in the states since 2012. He is an experienced culinary professional who was a chef at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman and has worked alongside French and Michelin-starred chefs. He and his family now live in Ellicott City, after moving to the Baltimore area to be near his wife's family.

"I wanted to (open) in Severna Park because we don't have a local bakery — like, artisan, where you make everything from scratch, intentional. Like you put your heart into it," Garay said. "I want ... every family to have a memorable experience here. When you come here, you feel welcome."

Those desires are evidenced by the name Y'ollk: It is

a play on words that combines egg yolks, a foundation of baking, with the colloquialism y'all, illustrating that the bakery is for everyone.

Along with a welcoming atmosphere, the experience is made memorable at Y'ollk by quality ingredients and unique flavors. Garay shared that she grew up eating ube almost daily in the Philippines. A subtly sweet purple yam native to Southeast Asia, ube is paired with coconut in rolls and donuts at Y'ollk. Tombul, a spread created by Mulgan and Garay that is made in Maryland and marries Turkish hazelnuts with cocoa, is also used in one-of-a-kind confections.

Garay and Mulgan take pride in making everything from scratch in small batches using quality ingredients. Pastries are made fresh every day; nothing is frozen. Garay said she plans to source produce from the Severna Park farmers' market and is limiting preservatives and food dyes. Sweetness is curtailed as well, allowing natural flavors like yuzu to shine.

Mulgan praised Garay's attention to detail, noting that it seemed as though this was not her first time opening a bakery. The two collaborate on developing menu items and Mulgan anticipates bringing more Mediterranean flavors to savory dishes. "But in general, she's running

the show — and doing it very well," he said of Garay.

Opening day for Y'ollk Bakery did not arrive without difficulty. Mulgan oversaw construction, which he said was also from scratch since the storefront was previously a retail space. It was a long journey, Garay said, but family and friends believed in her vision and were there to help.

"It's very stressful and challenging, but I would do it again now that I can bake (and) share the baking," she said. "It feels very good."

Garay shared that the front-of-house staff are mostly students, and that's by design. "As a woman, I want to be a good role model to 'Go for it!' You know, if you dream big, you can do it," she said. "The students — I would love to learn from them, and I hope that they will learn from me."

When fully staffed, Y'ollk will employ about 16 people. The bakery is still hiring, and Garay said she is looking for more bakers to join the team. Currently, Y'ollk is operating with a temporary schedule and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Y'ollk Bakery is located at 489 Ritchie Highway, Suite 101. To learn more, follow the bakery on Facebook or Instagram.



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Election Guide: Candidates Share Top Priorities Ahead Of General Election

With the general election set for November 3, the Severna Park Voice asked local candidates to respond to the following question:

If elected or re-elected, what will three of your top priorities be in office?

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dave Crawford Republican



For eight years, the same county council majority approved rezonings, took developer checks, and sent residents the bill.

Development and traffic: I take \$0 from developers. Approvals will

be tied to roads, schools and utilities that already exist — not promises made later. Every zoning vote and the donors behind it will be published in plain language.

Public safety: Our police department runs more than 400 officers below the level the county and the Fraternal Order of Police agreed we need. That is a retention failure, and it is fixable through competitive pay, lateral hiring, take-home vehicles and expanded academy classes. Sworn officers come before new administrators.

Taxes and fiscal responsibility: This council taxes and spends. The county budget has grown 62% since 2019, from \$1.6 billion to \$2.58 billion, and more than 1,000 positions were added to the payroll. Family paychecks did not. I will hold the line on taxes and work to lower them by auditing every department for duplication, bloat and padded vacancies.

Anne Arundel County needs a manager, not a politician.

Allison Pickard Democrat



Councilwoman Allison Pickard is leading the charge to move Anne Arundel County forward. From building new schools and strengthening infrastructure to investing in first responders and protecting our environment, Allison has a proven record of delivering results for families and communities.

As county executive, Allison will make affordability a top priority. She will expand affordable housing options, work to lower the tax burden on working families, grow our local economy by supporting small businesses and attracting new investment, and champion policies that make it more affordable to live, work, and raise a family in Anne Arundel County.

Allison will also prioritize public safety by fully staffing our police and fire departments, strengthening emergency response systems, reducing response times, and meeting national staffing standards.

Finally, Allison believes every resident deserves a fair shot at success. She will improve transportation connectivity, strengthen public education, expand workforce development and job training,

and strengthen the county workforce so your local government can deliver responsive, high-quality services to every resident, every day, effectively.

COUNTY COUNCIL

DISTRICT 5

Amanda Fiedler Republican



(Incumbent)

Affordability: The county budget is built on your tax dollars; I have opposed tax rate increases because keeping Anne Arundel County affordable is a priority.

Government needs to make tough budget decisions just like your family does.

Opposing Overdevelopment: It has been an honor to serve the district I grew up in, which gives me a unique perspective of where we were and the direction we are going. This is why reasonable growth and development is one of my top priorities. In my time on the council, I have opposed legislation that increases density in residential areas by 50% or even more, because I know the impact it has on our roads and quality of life.

Infrastructure: Investments in critical infrastructure continue to be a priority. I have been a strong advocate for projects that improve our infrastructure, including additional pedestrian sidewalks in our communities and the completion of the Broadneck Trail that connects Severna Park to Sandy Point, and I have testified before the General Assembly for the restoration of roadway maintenance funds.

Natalie Ogilvie Democrat



Responsible growth, infrastructure and affordable housing: Growth should come with the infrastructure to support it. I will work to modernize our adequate public facilities standards, align

development decisions with Plan2040 and our region plans, and prioritize transportation, school capacity, roads, utilities and other infrastructure. We also need more affordable housing so working families, seniors and individuals can afford to live in the communities they call home.

Public safety: Our firefighters, emergency medical services, law enforcement and other first responders deserve the staffing, resources and support they need to keep our communities safe. I will advocate for responsible investments in public safety while pursuing sustainable funding solutions.

Strong public schools and a strong workforce: Our schools are foundational to our

county's future. I will support investments in Anne Arundel County Public Schools, our educators and school staff, and the resources students need to succeed.

Together, these priorities will help Anne Arundel County grow responsibly while keeping communities safe, protecting our quality of life, and making it more attainable to live and thrive here.

SHERIFF

Jim Fredericks Republican



Having more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, I am the only candidate to serve their entire career protecting Anne Arundel County communities. I had the privilege to serve as the elected sheriff from 2018 to 2022. If elected back to office, my priorities will be:

To once again prioritize community safety by stopping the ever-increasing number of unserved criminal warrants. I will reinstitute successful efforts that reduced warrants by more than 10%.

Reduce the wasteful spending that has ballooned the size of senior staff and appointed positions at the sheriff's office, while there were no increases in deputy positions in the last four years.

Restart plans and programs to greatly enhance the safety and security of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court. Prior to leaving office in 2022, I had plans in place to institute a regional gunshot detection system that would have benefited the court and its surrounding businesses and Annapolis neighborhoods.

Everett Sesker Democrat



(Incumbent)

If re-elected to a second term, I will continue building on our first-term accomplishments. Our primary focus remains expanding the sheriff's office through fiscally

responsible growth that maximizes taxpayer dollars while meeting the evolving needs of our community.

We are proud to partner with the Anne Arundel County Police Department, whose officers do outstanding work keeping our streets safe. Over the past 25 years, as our population increased by 22% that department grew by 170 officers to meet demand. Yet, during that same period, the sheriff's office saw a net growth of only six deputies.

We process thousands of warrants annually, resulting from the excellent,

proactive work of the county police. Our current understaffing is unsustainable. I will continue advocating to elected officials for the resources needed to support our police partners and protect our county's quality of life.

I am deeply proud to lead the phenomenal sworn and civilian staff at the sheriff's office who serve you every day.

STATE'S ATTORNEY

Anne Colt Leites Democrat

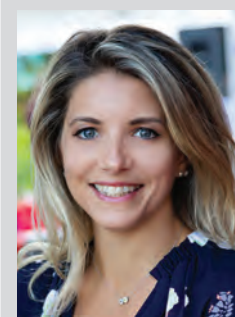
(Incumbent)

The Voice could not reach Anne Colt Leites before the deadline.

SENATOR

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 30

Jessica Haire Republican



I will focus on practical solutions, fiscal responsibility and delivering bipartisan results. That's the kind of leadership residents of District 30 deserve in Annapolis.

Affordability: Maryland families are feeling the pressure of rising costs. I will fight for responsible budgeting and policies that lower costs and give families more room to thrive.

Economic opportunity: Maryland should be a place where small businesses can grow, entrepreneurs can succeed, and families can build a future. I will work to improve Maryland's business climate, reduce unnecessary barriers, and support the job creators who make our communities stronger.

Transparency and responsiveness: Government should work for the people it serves. I will make accountability and responsiveness hallmarks of my service, listening to constituents, returning calls, explaining decisions, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly.

Shaneka Henson Democrat

(Incumbent)

The Voice could not reach Shaneka Henson before the deadline.

DELEGATE

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 30A

Dylan Behler Democrat

(Incumbent)

The Voice could not reach Dylan Behler before the deadline.

Dana Jones Democrat (Incumbent)

The Voice could not reach Dana Jones before the deadline.

» Continued on page 19



Re-Elect



SENATOR
DAWN GILE

DISTRICT 33

Leadership that delivers.

As our State Senator, Dawn Gile is focused on the issues that matter to District 33 families — lowering costs, keeping our kids safe, protecting taxpayers, and delivering results for our communities.

- **Lowering Costs:** Wrote the law lowering prescription drug costs, fought predatory utility rate hikes, and voted to stop corporate price gouging on groceries.
- **Protecting Our Kids:** Strengthened protections against sexual abuse in schools, increased transparency for parents, and expanded counseling and support for students.
- **Standing Up to Higher Taxes:** Was one of only five Senate Democrats to vote against tax increases that would make Maryland less affordable and opposed automatic gas tax hikes.
- **Protecting the Chesapeake Bay:** Worked to restore our waterways, hold polluters accountable, and protect the Bay for future generations.
- **Delivering for District 33:** Secured millions for local schools, public safety, nonprofits, and community projects.

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Re-Elect



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WHEN I FIRST RAN FOR OFFICE IN 2018, I MADE A PROMISE THAT, IF ELECTED, I WOULD NEVER FORGET WHERE I CAME FROM OR WHO I SERVE. WE MIGHT NOT ALWAYS AGREE BUT I WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE FIGHTING FOR YOU. FOR EIGHT YEARS I'VE KEPT THAT PROMISE TO YOU EVERY DAY.

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HEATHER BAGNALL. LUKE
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» Continued from page 16

SENATOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 31

Nic Kipke Republican



For the last 20 years, I've built a reputation of being a bipartisan legislator who is present in the community and an elected official who prioritizes helping people in the community solve problems. Whether it's a dispute with an insurance company, repairing a pothole, helping a parent find treatment for their child, or other issues, this has always been my top priority and that will continue.

Our utility bills are the highest in the nation because Annapolis politicians continue to penalize affordable energy production in Maryland. I will continue to fight for more affordable energy and not be controlled by special interest groups.

I have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge and will not violate my commitment to oppose all new taxes. Maryland taxpayers are among the highest-taxed people in the country. Marylanders are fleeing at an alarming pace to places like Florida, but also to nearby states that have more affordable taxes like Delaware or Pennsylvania.

Brent Mulrooney Democrat



I have three priorities as your future representative in the state legislature. First, we need to lower electricity prices. I have a clear plan to get us there that will be bipartisan.

This plan will have minimal cost for the state of Maryland and will continue to protect our environment while increasing electricity production in the state. Secondly, I want to work with our teachers and department of education to improve education in Maryland and enable success for our young people as they join the workforce. Lastly, but certainly not least, I want to show that our elected officials can and should be servants to the people by limiting corruption. As a veteran and longtime service member, I believe we can bring integrity to the state legislature and use prudence in the spending of any dollar.

DELEGATE

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 31

Joan Barone Cole Democrat



Affordability: Marylanders are facing rising costs for housing, healthcare, food, utilities and transportation. I will fight for practical solutions that help families stay rooted in

their communities — including expanding affordable housing, protecting renters and homeowners, supporting well-paying jobs and workforce development, and delivering targeted tax relief. I support closing corporate tax loopholes and making essential goods and services more affordable.

Education: Strong public schools are the foundation of Maryland's future. I support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future while ensuring every dollar reaches classrooms, students and teachers. My priorities include teacher retention, smaller class sizes, early childhood supports and preparing students for college, careers and skilled trades.

Public Safety: Keeping District 31 safe requires more than enforcement. I support safer roadway design, traffic calming and pedestrian protections, especially along dangerous corridors like Mountain Road and Fort Smallwood Road. I also support community-based violence prevention, secure firearm storage, mental health resources and meaningful accountability that builds trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Brian Chisholm Republican (Incumbent)



If reelected in November, my top three priorities will remain focused on making Maryland more affordable for families, seniors and businesses.

First, I will continue fighting to reduce energy costs by expanding reliable, affordable power generation and rolling back failed policies that have driven utility bills higher.

Second, I will work to lower taxes, fees and unnecessary regulations that make it more expensive to live, work and raise a family in Maryland. Government must live within its means rather than continually asking taxpayers to pay more.

Third, I will promote small-business growth by removing barriers, encouraging investment, and creating an environment where entrepreneurs can start, expand and create well-paying jobs.

Marylanders and District 31 deserve an economy that provides greater opportunity and a government that works to make life more affordable, not more expensive.

Mike Jacobs Republican



Affordability: Prices have increased recently in Maryland, including utilities and registrations. I would work on relief.

Traffic: Ever-growing communities and commercial development have put a major burden on our roads. We need to be more responsible and not build on every parcel of land.

Safety: We are seeing more and more crimes in our communities that are not being addressed. Our first responders need our respect and support.

LaToya Nkongolo Republican (Incumbent)



I am honored to serve as state delegate for District 31. When I retain my seat in November, my priorities will remain focused on lowering the cost of living, strengthening education,

protecting our communities, and ensuring government works for the people.

First, I will continue to fight to lower the cost of living. I sponsored and passed HB606, providing a tax deferment for eligible public health service workers in Anne Arundel County. I will also propose an angel investor tax incentive to attract investment, create jobs, and grow Maryland's economy.

Second, I will champion education, including financial literacy at every grade level. I am proud to have awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to District 31 students. I also supported legislation to increase the scholarship amount for our student member of the Board of Education.

Third, as deputy minority whip of the House Judiciary Committee, I will continue to fight for safe communities by supporting law enforcement and addressing behavioral health challenges.

Heidi Buchanan Schmidt Democrat



If elected, my top three priorities will be:

Fighting for quality education for every student: We need policies that offer real support for teachers, rather than those that undermine

them, and that support access to services that meet kids where they are, especially our most vulnerable learners.

Supporting our small business community by cutting red tape and fees so it's easier for businesses to start, grow and stay in Maryland: As an entrepreneur, I know small businesses are the backbone of our economy and a key driver of Maryland's future.

Finding practical solutions to make Marylanders' lives more affordable, including lowering taxes and lowering the cost of childcare, housing, electricity and healthcare for working families and our retirees: Families shouldn't have to choose between opportunity and stability as the cost of living increases.

Ryan Shaban Democrat

The Voice could not reach Ryan Shaban before the deadline.

SENATOR

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 33

Dawn Gile Democrat (Incumbent)



If re-elected, my top priority will be making Maryland more affordable for working families. That means continuing to fight rising utility costs, lowering healthcare and insurance expenses, address-

ing the cost of housing and childcare, and making Maryland a more affordable place to raise a family and retire.

Second, I will continue working to strengthen our public schools and keep students safe. As both a parent and legislator, I have fought for strong school funding, supported our educators, and passed legislation to improve how schools respond to allegations of child sexual abuse. Every child deserves an excellent education in a safe environment.

Third, I will continue working to protect the Chesapeake Bay and the quality of life

we value in Anne Arundel County. That means reducing pollution, protecting our waterways, preserving open space, and ensuring Maryland remains a leader in restoring the bay for future generations.

District 33 is politically diverse, and I will continue listening, working across party lines, and focusing on practical solutions that make a difference in people's lives.

Amy Leahy Republican



After 35 years in Severna Park and serving Anne Arundel County in budgets, recreation and parks, and constituent services, I've seen how government burdens families.

I'll fight to roll back massive fee increases on vehicle, boat and trailer registrations, and will oppose new burdens like the FAMILI Act's mandatory payroll tax that takes effect January 1, 2027, and forces both employees and employers to fund a paid-leave account through every paycheck.

If elected, my top three priorities will be to Make Maryland Affordable Again and account for how the government spends your money. I will work to fix Maryland's energy policy. Instead of green energy mandates that require billions in new power lines to import electricity from Pennsylvania, I'll push to invest in nuclear and in-state fossil fuel production, so reliable, lower-cost energy is something Maryland controls, not imports.

I will work to restore honest representation in Annapolis. I've testified against the governor's bill to eliminate Maryland's only Republican congressional seat, which Democrats — including Dawn Gile — prioritized over legislation to lower electric bills. I'll hold Annapolis accountable.

DELEGATE

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 33B

Chuck Cook Democrat



We have watched as Route 3, Benfield Boulevard, General's Highway and I-97 have become jam-packed with no relief in sight. I plan on working with our federal partners and

local officials to improve traffic flow, build pedestrian walkways, and upgrade our infrastructure so we aren't stuck in traffic twice daily.

Our energy costs are through the roof. As your next delegate, I want to rein in BGE, reverse rate increases, and force data center developers who want to come to Maryland to pay for their own energy supply and transmission costs. Their costs should never show up on our electric bills.

Drug costs are out of control. The creation of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board was a good start, but now we need to push the board to add upper payment limits on more prescriptions in Maryland. We need to change the law so that if Medicare has established a maximum price for a drug, then that price should also apply to everyone in Maryland, whether they are on Medicare or not.

» Continued on page 20

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Stuart Schmidt, Jr. Republican
(Incumbent)

Affordability, especially housing, is my top priority. As a licensed, practicing Realtor, I see firsthand what Maryland's younger working families face.

They struggle to afford rent or purchase a home and get ahead, leaving them without a clear path to homeownership and the American Dream. When Annapolis pushed sweeping housing policies, I fought to ensure school capacity and impacts on existing communities were not ignored. We can build more housing without overwhelming communities with already-overcrowded schools.

Accountability matters. Government agencies must be transparent about where taxpayer dollars are spent and what results they produce. We should manage government with the same discipline as a small business, with people in mind and a clear, measurable bottom line.

Unaffiliated voters deserve a voice. I co-sponsored legislation (HB496) allowing unaffiliated voters to participate in primary elections, and I will continue advocating for it. Their numbers are growing because many are tired of the two-party system. Giving them a voice will encourage more candidates to represent Maryland's political middle, not the extremes of either party.

DELEGATE
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 33C
Heather Bagnall Democrat
(Incumbent)

Recently appointed chair of the Health Committee, when re-elected I will continue the essential work we have done to improve our behavioral health

system, to further provide access to patient-centered, quality healthcare that puts patient and provider needs ahead of profit, and to attract and retain world-class health providers while keeping the residents of District 33C at the forefront of my work.

My top priorities are health, public education, and traffic mitigation and safety. Health: Ensuring the stability and sustainability of our healthcare network, which serves Marylanders at every age and stage of life while incentivizing innovation and rewarding better health outcomes. Education: Make the Blueprint for Maryland's Future sustainable while delivering a greater return on our investment and providing flexibility for counties to address the unintended consequence of oversized classes. Traffic: Address congestion on Route 2, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Route 50; address unsafe crosswalks and intersections; and fund and support our emergency services.

Serving our community is a privilege I don't take for granted.

Kristin Norris Republican

The Voice could not reach Kristin Norris before the deadline.

REGISTER OF WILLS**Jasmine Jackson Democrat**
(Incumbent)

I am the current Register of Wills for Anne Arundel County. I have proudly served in the Register of Wills office for 18 years. Before my appointment in 2024, I gained

valuable experience working in every department within the office, including serving in upper management positions. This experience has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the probate process, the needs of our community and the importance of providing efficient, compassionate and professional service.

The Register of Wills office is an administrative office within the judicial branch of government, responsible for assisting families with the administration of estates after the loss of a loved one.

If re-elected, my priorities will be to continue modernizing the office, strengthen ongoing staff training to ensure the highest level of customer service, and expand community outreach. I want to help residents better understand the probate process, the role of the Register of Wills, and why thoughtful estate planning is an important part of protecting their families and honoring their wishes.

Jason Lambert Republican

If elected Register of Wills, my top three priorities will be:

Providing excellent public service: The Register of Wills office should be

professional, responsive and accessible to every resident. I will work to ensure that families navigating probate and estate matters are treated with respect, patience and compassion during what can often be a difficult time.

Improving efficiency and accessibility: I will support modern technology and streamlined processes that make it easier for residents, attorneys and families to access information and conduct business with the office while maintaining the security and integrity of important records.

Responsible leadership and accountability: As a business owner with a background in finance and public service, I understand the importance of managing resources responsibly. I will work to ensure taxpayer dollars are used wisely, operations are transparent and the office continues to serve Anne Arundel County with professionalism and integrity.

My goal is simple: to lead an office that is efficient, accessible, compassionate and accountable to the people it serves.



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By Authority: Friends of Dave Crawford; William P. Flinter, Treasurer

CLERK OF THE COURT
MK Fowler Democrat



I am an attorney with over 30 years of experience in the Maryland court system. For the past seven years, as chief deputy clerk, second only to the Clerk of Court, I have provided access to justice to the community and as clerk I will continue to provide world-class customer service to all who come to the clerk's office. As clerk, my top three priorities will be:

Customer Service: I have been a clerk's office customer during my time as an attorney. I know how important it is to have a knowledgeable and compassionate clerk when dealing with the court system.

Access to Justice: As clerk, I will ensure that your papers and documents are quickly and accurately processed.

Efficiency: I will strive to make the process of obtaining business licenses, marriage licenses and land records as quick and seamless as possible.

Douglas Finbar Graham Republican



The Clerk of the Court is a public servant. My goal is to make the office more public service-oriented.

I will explore ways to make the office more responsive to public

requests — whether from members of the legal community, the general public or the media. I want to reduce red tape and complication to speed up responses, reduce operating costs, and improve security. I want people to be able to more easily access their records when needed, yet at the same time, prevent unauthorized access to that personal information by bad actors.

JUDGE OF THE ORPHANS' COURT

Maureen Carr-York Republican

The Voice could not reach Maureen Carr-York before the deadline.

Tony McConkey Republican

The Voice could not reach Tony McConkey before the deadline.

Loni Moyer Democrat

The Voice could not reach Loni Moyer before the deadline.

Matt O'Connell Democrat



I'm running for Judge of the Orphans' Court to serve our community, help my neighbors, and give back to the place that has been so good to me and my family. If elected, my

top three priorities will be competence, fairness and civility. Our orphans' court

sits two days per week in Annapolis. As a non-partisan judicial body, the court hears and decides contested matters in the Register of Wills. Because the court sits as a three-judge panel, having people on the court who are civil, respectful and open-minded is vital. When we're dealing with sensitive issues involving families, a judge must determine the facts, apply the law, and make a fair and impartial decision. A bit of compassion isn't a bad idea, either. With our current register and the dedicated staff, we have the foundation to become one of the best and most respected orphans' courts in Maryland.

Alan Rzepkowski Republican



I served as a Judge of the Orphans' Court from 2014 to 2018, and if re-elected I will bring to the bench that past experience and knowledge of Estates and Trust

Law. There are issues that exist within the orphans' court that will be improved with a new set of judges. My priorities upon election include a return to professionalism, principled integrity and honorable service that have been lacking in the past four years with the previous judges and previous Register of Wills. Another priority is to work with the Register of Wills office to reduce the number of estate cases awaiting a hearing and court decision. Third, I will bring back

formal court decisions that were abandoned by past judges. Families deserve better from our orphans' court judges.

Stacey Scott Democrat



(Incumbent)
If elected to continue serving on the orphans' court, my top priority will be to ensure that estates are administered fairly and according to the law so that

heirs and beneficiaries receive what they are legally entitled to receive. Families often come before the orphans' court during some of the most difficult and emotional times in their lives, and they deserve confidence that their loved one's estate will be handled with care, integrity and fairness.

Second, I will continue to listen carefully and respectfully to every person who comes before the court. Every party deserves to be heard, treated with dignity, and given a fair opportunity to present their concerns.

Third, I will work to ensure that the orphans' court remains accessible, efficient and responsive to the families it serves. My commitment is to approach every case with preparation, patience, compassion and impartiality while faithfully applying the law.

My goal is simple: protect estates, listen to families, and administer justice with fairness and integrity.

Families are feeling the squeeze

Taxes, high energy and gasoline costs, inflation, housing costs, and congestion are making it harder to get ahead.

But District 5 has someone fighting to make things better, focusing on what is essential for your family: funding for education, public safety, and local infrastructure - and opposing increased taxes!

"Amanda Fiedler grew up here, and her sons are the fourth generation of her family to call District 5 home. For her, public service is personal. That's why Amanda works across party lines to get things done. Our priorities are her priorities. And while she works to create more affordable housing, she's not afraid to stand up to high-density development that hurts our neighborhoods and strains our infrastructure."

- ELIZABETH ROSBORG, ARNOLD



"Amanda Fiedler has been extremely responsive to all our inquiries and requests related to County matters since she was first elected to the County Council. She has worked tirelessly and effectively across the aisle to improve the lives of our County residents and we very much need her continued expertise and service on the County Council."

- JIM R., SEVERNA PARK



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Broadneck Girls Soccer Serving Notice



Photo by David Bashore
Mia Orso and Avery Katzen (2) celebrated Orso's long-range goal against the Falcons.

By David Bashore

The first 30 minutes of Broadneck's girls soccer battle with Severna Park were as cagey as a rivalry game would predict: It felt like the first goal would be the decisive one.

Either Severna Park's aura of inevitability would remain intact, or Broadneck would be buoyed by belief that they finally were again the Falcons' equals.

A freshman, with no history with the rivalry, settled it.

Rory Terhune reacted first to an errant clearance, nodding the ball into an open net with 10 minutes left in the first half to put a strong wind in Broadneck's sails. The goal settled the Bruins' nerves and they stepped on the gas, eventually pulling away for a statement 4-0 victory.

"I was really excited because it's my first real game (that counts in the standings)," said Terhune. "Header goals are one of the biggest things that can change the momentum of the game so I always try to get on the end of it, especially in a game like this."

Shortly before the opener, older sister **Cameron Terhune** kept the game scoreless by denying Severna Park on three straight breaks, on the way to the junior goalkeeper's third clean sheet of the season.

» Continued on page 29

Falcon Football Focused On Grinding Out Results

By David Bashore

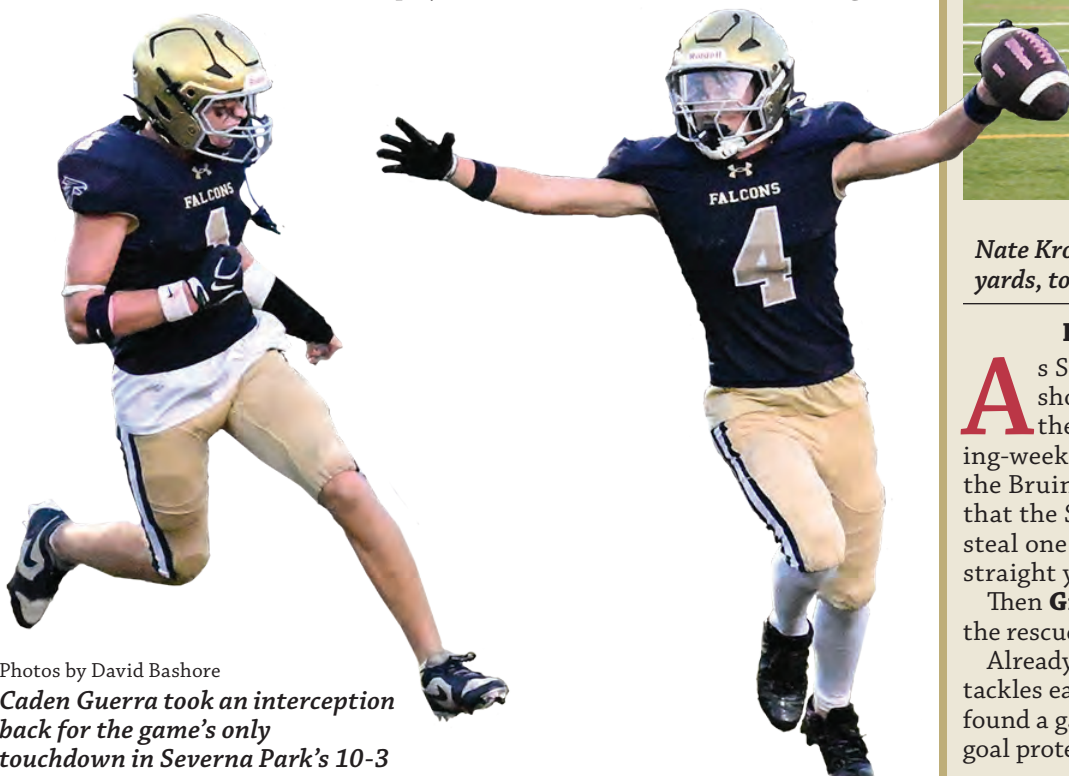
Early on, the Severna Park football team figured out this wasn't going to be as high-scoring a team as 2025.

These Falcons will win games their own way, even if it means winning ugly.

That's what they did in their first win of the season, a 10-3 decision over Northeast in a game that featured two penalty-aided field goals, a defensive touchdown, six punts, seven turnovers and three possessions lost on downs.

The decisive moment came on the first series of the third quarter, where Falcons defensive back **Caden Guerra** played center

» Continued on page 30



Photos by David Bashore

Caden Guerra took an interception back for the game's only touchdown in Severna Park's 10-3 victory over Northeast.

Bruins Ride Offense To Fast Start



Photo by David Bashore

Nate Kropkowski evaded the St. Mary's rush to pass for some of his 204 yards, to go with three touchdowns, in the Bruins' 29-27 win over the Saints.

By David Bashore

As St. Mary's lined up for a short field goal attempt in the final minute of the opening-weekend clash with Broadneck, the Bruins hoped against hope that the Saints weren't about to steal one from them for the second straight year.

Then **Grayson Whitney** came to the rescue.

Already with a sack and several tackles earlier in the game, Whitney found a gap in the St. Mary's field goal protection and shot through it,

getting a paw on the kick to send it down to the turf. The Bruins erupted, mobbing Whitney as the timely block resulted in a 29-27 victory to start a run that has the Bruins 3-1 as the calendar turns to October.

It was an instant impact for a senior who missed all last season with serious skull and brain injuries sustained in a freak off-field accident.

"No one plays harder than Grayson Whitney. When he was hurt last year it stunk, because he could have had a role for us, but nobody

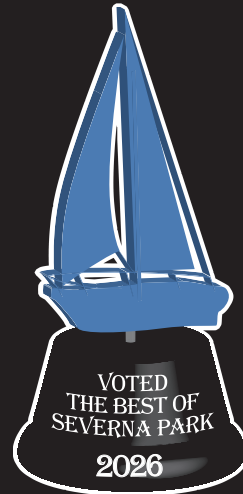
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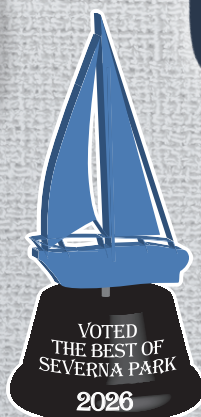
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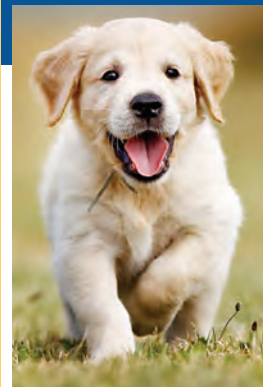
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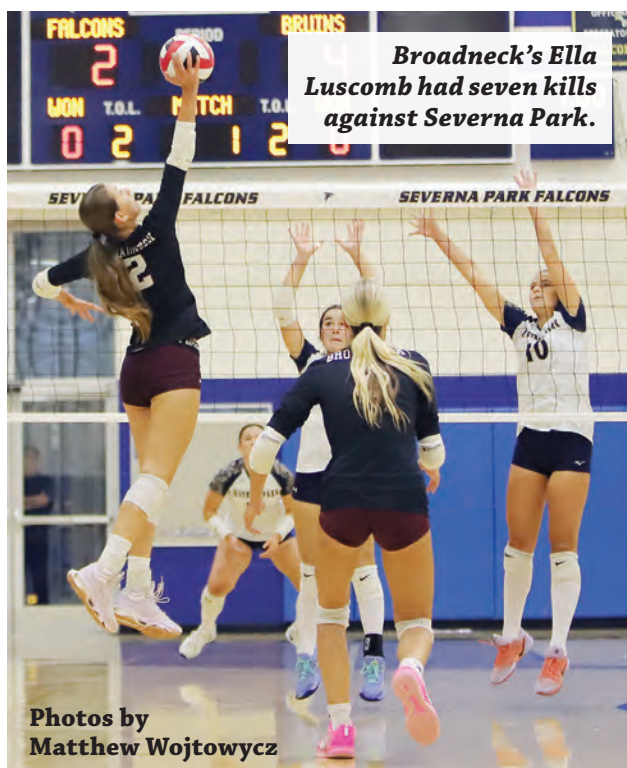
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Bruins, Falcons Show Volleyball Promise



Photos by
Matthew Wojtowycz

By David Bashore

Having graduated so many seniors from last season's state championship team, and with two key returners missing due to injury, many wondered what the Broadneck volleyball team would have in store for 2026.

Though they are expected to be much better at the end of the season compared to the beginning, early returns are promising.

Broadneck sits at 3-1 in the early part of the season, with a four-set loss to West Virginia's Musselman High as the only blemish on the Bruins' slate.

Other than that, they've made quick work of their opposition, including straight-set wins over Archbishop Spalding, Severna Park and Meade.

Chloe Hays, Barrett Bolter, Molly Robison and Neely Olish have led the charge in attack, giving Broadneck a multi-pronged offense to keep defenses guessing.

That could prove handy as they hit the teeth of their schedule, with a four-match stretch that includes Severn Run, Arundel and Academy of the Holy Cross.

Over at Severna Park, that straight-set loss to Broadneck is their only blemish on the season. The Falcons have won their other three matches in straight sets as well, defeating Spalding, St. Mary's and South River.

Hannah McKinstry has paced the offense, while the defense has been charged with keeping balls up as the Falcons' block gets creative against a height disadvantage.

The Falcons are looking ahead at a three-match stretch that could determine the course of the rest of their season: They play Severn Run, Arundel and Crofton in succession in early to mid-October.



Falcons (l-r) Sydney Hamilton, Jennifer Hong and Hannah McKinstry celebrated after scoring a point.

Bruins Poised For Bounceback In 2026

By David Bashore

After a tough end to the 2025 season, the Broadneck field hockey team looks to have its groove back.

Broadneck emerged from a front-loaded heavy schedule with a 6-1 record to end September, headlined by a public-private battle and two reigning state champions coming to town.

They opened up the season with a 2-1 win over defending 2A champion Glenelg, before falling by the same scoreline to reigning 1A champ Liberty.

In the win over Glenelg, **Cate Imber** and **Raelyn Soares** netted for Broadneck, while goaltender **Trish Maloney** had 16 of the team's 21 saves to deny the Gladiators.

The Bruins bounced back from the narrow setback with a 4-2 win over Kent Island, led by two goals from **Vera Shaklee**. Imber and **Lizzie Hall** also found the back of the cage for Broadneck, which scored the first four goals before conceding a pair of late tallies.

Broadneck then played in a tournament hosted by Archbishop Spalding on September 19. They handled Westminster 4-0 before battling to a 1-1 draw against the hosts in the event's marquee matchup.

The Bruins closed September with a come-from-behind 3-2 win over Crofton, where they scored twice in two minutes in the fourth quarter to overturn a 2-1 deficit, and a 3-2 overtime win against the Severn School, where **Laurie O'Leary** netted the game-winner.

Next up are three tests in four games: October 1 against South River, October 6 against high-flying Arundel, and then the October 13 showdown with rival Severna Park.



Photos by Meredith Winter

Above: Cate Imber drove through the midfield and scored for Broadneck against Kent Island. **Below:** Caroline Miller protected the ball amid double coverage.



Falcons Gearing Up For Another Run



Photos by David Bashore

Above: Kelsey Begin made a save in the second half of Severna Park's win over Kent Island. **Below:** Izzy Scarfo took a shot during the Falcons' victory against Kent Island on September 9.



By David Bashore

The first half of Severna Park's field hockey schedule was nothing short of brutal.

That they sit at 3-3-1 at the midway point bodes well for the team poised to challenge at the business end of the season.

Severna Park started the season with a 5-0 win over River Hill aided by two **Piper Desjardins** goals, followed by a narrow 4-3 victory over Kent Island in which **Grace Redmond** netted twice from close range and the Falcons held onto victory.

From there it was off to the annual MAX Field Hockey high school national invitational tournament, where the Falcons split with out-of-state opposition. They lost 5-1 to New Jersey's Clearview Regional then beat Virginia's Stafford High 2-1. For her efforts, **Sophia Weber** was handed second-team all-tournament honors.

The Falcons ended the month with a bumpy three-game stretch as far as the win-loss column, losing 2-1 to longtime power Manchester Valley and then a humbling 6-0 loss to South River. They righted the ship against Notre Dame Prep, however, rallying from behind to earn a 2-2 draw. But all of those tests will pay dividends in November when the Falcons chase another state championship.

Two big tests remain ahead of the postseason: The Falcons are at Crofton on October 1 and host Broadneck on October 13.

Golf Teams Showing Promise Ahead Of Playoffs

By Dan Elson

Ahead of the high school golf season's stretch run, things are looking rosy for the Severna Park and Broadneck squads.

The teams will play in the county championship on October 6, districts on October 12, and, if they qualify, the state finals October 26 and 28.

The county championship match will take place at Compass Pointe Golf Course in Pasadena. The District Championship will take place at the Timbers at Troy in Elkridge, and the University of Maryland will host the state finals.

Severna Park, Broadneck, Chesapeake, Crofton and South River high schools play in the County A Division for the regular season county competition. For the county championship tournament, six qualifying golfers per team will split into four-somes on the course. The lowest four scores per team count toward the team championship.

Severna Park has placed first in four out of their six tournaments this season. In their wins, the Falcons scored 152, 149, 149 and 155 as a team.

Severna Park has 24 play-

ers — 16 boys and eight girls. Coach **Joshua Dean** said new talent has elevated the team.

"We've had **Davis Balderston**, freshman, that is shooting right around an even to one under par every round," Dean said. "I got sophomore **Chase Connell**, who is also averaging (35.8) through nine holes."

Colin Barry, KJ Flanagan, Jack Peery and **Chris Jenkins** have also cracked the top 10 at events this season.

The Falcons have played at The Preserve at Eisenhower in Crownsville, Renditions in Davidsonville and Compass Pointe this season. The familiarity of the golf courses will be huge in order to repeat as county champions, according to Dean.

"When there's a lot of pressure on you as a golfer and at the county championship, you want to play well," Dean said. "Once you come across that 13th or 14th hole that you've seen six, seven or eight times, that comfortability might set in, and they know exactly what they need to do, and anxious feelings go away."

Dean shared there is a hunger in the team to go back-to-back.

"(They) have a little chip on their shoulder saying we can go out there and we can really compete, and let's go and try to be the big dogs in the county now," Dean said. "It's more of an attainable goal that they have put upon themselves to go and win these districts."

"I have no worries about them being prepared and working hard and getting ready to perform in the postseason when the lights are the brightest."

— BHS COACH DEVIN GARDNER

Connell and Balderston brought consistency to the tournaments this year.

"I always preach our mental toughness, and those two just do it right from the get," Dean said. "Typically, you got to coach up the mental toughness to kind of let those breaks go. But those guys coming in year one on the team, they've been fantastic."

Over at Broadneck, coach **Devin Gardner** said the Bruins are determined to win in districts and states this season.

They have the determination and grit to not let any of the tournaments get out of control. A player could get a bogey on one hole and come back with a par on the next, Gardner said.

"That's hard to do in high school golf because you got nine holes ... for these matches," he said. "One hole is not the determining factor, and I love how much they compete and they never give up. It's a testament to them and the captains and the program over the years."

Seniors **James Jonker** and **Caroline Viscardi**, as well as junior **Michael Peterson**, are the captains for the Bruins.

Broadneck won their first tournament on September 10 at the Naval Academy Golf Club and finished in second place in four other matches, losing by a combined 15 strokes.

"I have no worries about them being prepared and working hard and getting ready to perform in the postseason when the lights are the brightest," Gardner said.

Gardner said to count on Jonker and fellow senior **Max**

Harada, Peterson and sophomore **Micah Gossard** to come through for the Bruins. This season, Jonker has averaged 37.1 strokes, Peterson 39.4, Harada 41.5 and Gossard 39.8.

Gardner said the game plan for the Bruins to win in districts and states is for the players to familiarize themselves with each hole on the golf courses.

"Everything is not a driver hole," Gardner said. "You need to put yourself in play to go and then attack the green and give yourself the best chance to walk off there with a par. If you get a birdie, that's a plus. Hole seven at Compass Pointe, you can't play driver; you need to lay it out and know it's a par five, and you got an extra shot."

The 4A/3A District 5 meet will be contested by Broadneck, Severna Park, Annapolis, Arundel, Chesapeake, Crofton, Glen Burnie, Meade, North County, Old Mill, Severn Run, South River, Atholton, Centennial, Guilford Park, Marriotts Ridge, Oakland Mills and Reservoir.

For the district and state tournaments, five qualifying golfers are entered per team, with the four lowest scores counting toward the team total.



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STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

EVAN WHITFORD

Broadneck High School | Cross Country
By David Bashore

When Evan Whitford was cut from soccer tryouts at Broadneck in his freshman year, it was jarring, but not a complete surprise. He had seen the writing on the wall, having had the same experience at club tryouts a few months before. What he didn't see, though, was that all of it was actually a redirection into something else. "I started looking at backup plans, and I looked at cross country, but I only had a couple of days before I wouldn't be able to join the team because the roster was final," Whitford said. "I emailed (then-coach Akeem) Forde and asked if I could do a late tryout. I was running for tryouts while everyone else was getting ready, and before long I was on the bus going to my first scrimmage meet. I'm thankful they let me do the late tryout."

So is Broadneck. Whitford showed promise almost immediately, and three years later he is a captain of the cross-country team and a distance specialist on the track team, where he won the 2025 indoor 3,200 region championship. That included a monster final 300 meters where he outkicked the field and set a new personal record by more than 10 seconds. "I was just hoping to qualify for states that day; I never dreamed about winning the event. You know when you're having a good day or a bad day, and I knew it was a good day for me, but I had no idea about the time," Whitford said. "At about two laps



Photo by Dennis McGinley

(400 meters left) we started to kick and we passed the guy who had been leading, and that's when I started to think I could maybe win it. To win a region championship in an individual sport like that is amazing." Though the placements have varied since, in both sports, the marks are continuing to get faster. In Broadneck's most recent cross-country

meet, a 3-mile course, he cracked 16 minutes for the first time, a signal that he is ready to tackle his senior year. When he's not stacking AP classes and running laps, Whitford serves as the president of Broadneck's National Honor Society (NHS) chapter, after holding an officer position last year. He liaises with community organizations and events to see how Broadneck NHS members can get involved with service time and other ventures. Currently he is taking two AP classes and a calculus class at Anne Arundel Community College, a lighter load than last year's stacked schedule but still challenging enough to keep him on his toes. While he used to be more interested in computers and building, he has shifted his college focus to either mechanical or aerospace engineering. "I found out that I really like the math side of engineering more than the coding side, and that's where a lot of mechanical engineering ends up is with the math side," he said. "I also really enjoyed taking my physics classes, which are more (math-based)." He also spends summers working on, or being on, his family boat — something he took all summer to fix this time around — and volunteering with the Cape Track summer program, where he helps middle school distance runners hone their technique. "They run up to a mile at Cape. It's just a great opportunity for me to help the middle schoolers out with some of the things that I've learned about running that can also help them get better," Whitford said.



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Fueled By Broadneck Win, Falcons Surge To Unbeaten Start

By David Bashore

Severna Park's boys soccer team got an early chance to exorcise one of their 2025 demons.

The way they did it showed they might be ready to extinguish the other when the time comes in November.

Behind a stingy defense and clinical finishing, the Falcons are sitting at 7-0 as they head into October, setting themselves up as potential state championship contenders for a second successive season.

Their first opportunity to make a statement of intent came September 15 against Broadneck, where they avenged a county championship loss a year ago with a 4-1 drubbing of their near rivals.

After a cagey first 20 minutes, the Falcons stepped on the gas as they repelled Broadneck's attack and repeatedly caught them in transition.

"We know how they want to play. They're Broadneck, and they like to go long," said Severna Park midfielder **Gavin Cliffe**, who assisted the first goal and scored the third on a 30-yard free kick into the top-right corner. "We talked to the guys from last year, where they got us on a penalty kick and a lucky deflected goal. We didn't think we should have lost that game, so we let the guys know that we had them today."

Caden Morris, **Ethan Ribeiro** and **Nathan Oehling** also netted in the win for Severna Park, who have gotten goals from all corners of the roster.



Photo by David Bashore

Ethan Ribeiro controlled the ball ahead of Broadneck's Dylan Katzen during their September 15 game, which the Falcons won 4-1.

In seven wins, they've scored 30 goals and conceded just four. Ribeiro leads the team with five goals, while Morris, Cliffe and **Adrian Mesa** all have four,

and 11 different players have found the back of the net. A baker's dozen have assisted, with 18 players finding their names in goal involvements.

The Falcons started the season with a 2-0 win over Oakdale and a 3-1 victory over Linganore in a two-day tournament. Then they beat Crossland 10-0 and Dundalk 3-0, sandwiching the Broadneck victory. Their most recent results in the run were another pair of 4-1 wins over Severn Run and South River.

Though the Falcons have scored for fun, they rely on sound defense and capable goalkeeping. Though he hasn't been put to a stiff test other than making five saves against Broadneck, senior **Henry Bauer** is making the most of his chance between the sticks.

"I love the big games, and especially this game. I know I have the ability to prove myself against the big teams," Bauer said. "It felt great to get the start and do well out there."

There's the back half of a county schedule, and what they hope is a county championship ahead of a seemingly fated rematch with Stephen Decatur for the region's lone berth in the state quarterfinals.

The Falcons battled Decatur to a scoreless deadlock last season before losing on penalty kicks, then watched as the Seahawks rolled to the 3A title.

This year, Severna Park hopes it's finally their turn again.

"It's just the first game of the county and we're looking for more," Cliffe said. "But it's been 14 years (since a state championship), so hopefully we can bring it back."

Despite SP Setback, Broadneck Focused On Big Picture

By David Bashore

After a stellar preseason and two comfortable tune-up games, Broadneck's boys soccer team was feeling bullish about their long-term chances in 2026.

The lofty goals are still within reach, but a 4-1 humbling by Severna Park showed the Bruins they are not yet the finished article.

Still, they rebounded from that setback and put things right immediately in an attempt to get back on track in the county and region races.

The Bruins sit at 4-1 heading into the first week of October, after beating Glen Burnie and St. Mary's by identical 3-0 scorelines, though the games could not have been more different.

In the season opener at Bowie's invitational tournament, the Bruins withstood an early push from Glen Burnie before netting 10 minutes in to restore order and build from there. Against the Saints, though, the opening goal didn't come until well into the second half, by which time St. Mary's had sensed an opening and begun to apply pressure. Three quickfire goals squelched that momentum, however, allowing the Bruins breathing space.

Against Severna Park, the team

was flat and couldn't match the Falcons' pace and tenacity, but they bounced back against Meade and in the in-county contest with Glen Burnie the following week. They handled the Mustangs 4-0 on the road before topping the Gophers in a thrilling 2-1 double-overtime win in their first home game of the season, with **Wilson Banwell's** 96th-minute penalty kick finally settling matters.

Though they scored for fun the last two seasons, these Bruins have netted 13 goals through five games. Banwell, **Cooper Gaver** and **Henry Cukor** have each hit the net three times, while **Erik Akhtar** leads the team in assists with three.

The goalkeeping team has posted three clean sheets, with **Dalton Bashore** posting 20 saves, including eight in the rematch with Glen Burnie. **Jonas Encarnacion** and **Cameron Kreisel** have also seen spot duty between the sticks and added two more saves.

Broadneck continues its road ways for the next three games, at Annapolis, South River and Arundel, as they play eight of their first nine games on the road. They close with four of their final five at home.



Photos by David Bashore

Top: Broadneck midfielder J.J. Herrera turned a defender during their game.
Bottom: Broadneck goalkeeper Dalton Bashore cleared the ball upfield.

BHS Girls Serving Notice

» Continued from page 22

Broadneck kept building pressure in the second half, and the dam broke when senior **Mia Orso**, who returned to Broadneck from McDonogh after two years, let fly from 35 yards out and put it just under the crossbar to double the Bruins' lead. **Alexis Ball** and **Lola Banks** added late goals to complete the rout.

It was the first win for any of the Broadneck players against Severna Park, who had last lost to the Bruins in the 2022 playoffs.

"We lost here my freshman year 2-1 and it was devastating, so getting the first goal was awesome and we just kept going. Everyone played so hard the entire game," Orso said. "The more you increase that lead, the more everyone feels confident, plays better, and connects more. It built us together better."

Broadneck opened the season with two tournament wins, 10-0 over Bowie and 3-0 over Howard. After Severna Park, they beat St. Mary's 2-1 on a second half goal from Banks. Then they topped Meade 8-0 and Glen Burnie 5-0 to keep their perfect record intact.

Through six games, the Bruins have scored 32 goals, 19 of them coming from three players: Terhune and **Raegan Milnes** each have a team-best seven goals, while Orso has added five. Orso leads the team with six assists, while Terhune has four. Seventeen players have at least one goal contribution on the season.

The depth in attack and the fact it comes from up top, out wide and in midfield means that, unlike previous seasons where the Bruins were figuring opponents out and adjusting, they get to put their stamp on the game.

"We needed to get back to doing what we've done well, which is be fast on the ball, physical and win tackles, and we did a really good job of setting that tempo (against Severna Park)," said Bruins coach **John Camm**. "Rory and Raegan are so good, and you add a third person (Orso) into that attack, it's going to be hard for teams to stop. ... You just have to put as much pressure as you can on (opponents), and we feel like we are going to be hard to play against for anyone."

Falcon Girls Soccer Plugging Away



Izzy Burleson is one of the holdovers from the string of state championship teams charged with leading the new-look Severna Park girls soccer team.

By David Bashore

After three straight state girls soccer championships, the expectations at Severna Park have settled at sky-high.

These young Falcons, though, are finding their way as the midway point of the 2026 season nears.

Their lengthy win streak, and their four-season string of victories over Broadneck, are both gone, but that is the only blemish on the season as Severna Park sits at 3-1 with eight regular-season games to play.

They opened the season with a 2-1 victory over Winters Mill on goals by **Delaney Jones** and **Eva Jones**. But then came a 4-0 loss against Broadneck, snapping a string of victories over the Bruins that had dated back to the 2022 regular season and ending their 30-game win streak overall. The four goals were the most Severna Park has conceded since 2019.

The passages of play and the tempo were similar, but with so many new parts playing a championship contender in the first pair of games was always going to be a challenge.

Despite the setback, the Falcons got back to work and dispatched Severn Run 4-1 and South River 3-1 to right the ship ahead of this week's measuring-stick game against Crofton.

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Falcon Football Focused On Results

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field on a deep pass and didn't repeat his mistake from a week prior on his way to a 66-yard pick-six that was the final scoring in the game.

"We studied film all week and we knew they were running verts. It was third and deep so we were sitting back, and I just saw it," Guerra said. "Against Severn (in the opener) I had an interception and I ran it back right when I had a hole left, and I wasn't going to make the same mistake. We knew that it was going to be one of those types of games, and we needed playmakers to make plays."

Guerra, **Lincoln Fox**, **Brett Hudson** and **Stephen Agboli** took turns anchoring the defense through big plays, stifling Northeast at almost every turn as they grinded out the victory.

It was a far cry from the 36-10 outing in the opener against Severn, in which the Admirals had their way offensively.

"We've just been bringing energy. Severn is not happening again — we're full go every day, getting our bodies prepared. When you can take those hits in practice, you can take them in the game," Fox said. "Against Severn, it was



Jack Marshall ran the ball upfield against Northeast.

soft, and we promised ourselves that you're never seeing that from Severna Park again."

Though they couldn't quite hold down Crofton the following week, falling 21-11 after leading at halftime, the recipe is clear. Tough defense and efficient, ball-control offense is the way forward.

That resolve was further tested in the Falcons' 21-14 loss to Severn Run, which dropped them to 1-3 on the season. Again it was a defensive touchdown that gave

Severna Park hope, this one a **Charlie Cavanaugh** pick-six just before halftime, but the Wolves returned the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown to restore their lead and never looked back.

Down two scores in the fourth quarter, the Falcons tried to rally but simply ran out of time. Severna Park now hopes to bounce back with games against Meade, Arundel and North County, sandwiched around a tough home game against Old Mill.

Bruins Ride Offense

» Continued from page 22

works harder than him. He didn't come out on defense, played every snap. That's the kid I expect to make a play like that."

Though the Bruins stalled offensively in the second half, they put up enough points in the first half to hold on for the win.

Nate Kropkowski hit **Aiden Tupper** on a 50-yard touchdown bomb on the last play of the first quarter, after they had already gone over the top of the Saints' defense earlier in the game. Tupper had 116 yards and the two scores on four catches.

Then it was the defense's turn, and they answered the bell. Broadneck's pass rush totaled three sacks, and defensive end **Wyatt Hicks** had 15 tackles. Blitzes by **Dom Montgomery** and **Max Patten** kept St. Mary's off balance, and Whitney and Co. picked up the rest down the stretch to keep the Saints barely at bay.

"I came off a torn ACL and I knew I had one shot. I'm a confident player and I know what I can do," said Montgomery, a transfer from Severn School who missed last season. "Nate and our offense was getting it done which is great to see, and when they can't, we have a defense that can fill in the gap."

Even in a 48-25 loss to Milford Mill, the Bruins showed offensive prowess. Kropkowski accounted for 378 total yards and four overall touchdowns, rushing for 76 yards and two scores, and throwing for 312 and two more touchdowns. Tupper caught eight passes for 128 yards and a score, while tight end **Liam Sabo** grabbed six balls for 84 yards and a TD.

They played that game without **Max Freesty**, who left the St. Mary's game early when a violent hit in the second half sent him into concussion protocol. Freesty returned the following week against Arundel, though, scoring four times as the Bruins posted a 48-12 victory.

"If you win two out of three units, you're going to win the game usually, and that's what we're able to do," Kropkowski said. "We have six guys on offense who can get the ball at any time and make a play."

The Bruins rounded out the month with a resounding 41-0 win over Annapolis, in which Kropkowski hit Tupper for two TDs and rushed for one of his own. Broadneck holds the inside track to the No. 1 spot in their region and hopes to continue rolling when the Bruins suit up October 2 at home against Glen Burnie.




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Arnold Residents Proving Key For Spalding Football Team

By Kevin Murnane

When running back **Gabe Denius** gets comparisons, the conversation inevitably drifts to the same name.

“He’s our Christian McCaffrey,” said Archbishop Spalding head coach **R.B. Green**, when comparing Denius to other elusive and cerebral running backs.

Like the NFL superstar McCaffrey, Denius is a fast, hard-hitting back who is a threat not only while rushing but also when catching the ball out of the backfield.

“Gabe is a super talented, dynamic running back who is explosive and has great knowledge of the game,” Green said.

Denius started playing football in the eighth grade. He stood out at Broadneck his first two years before transferring to Spalding this year.

“My mom used to take me to the Spalding football games when I was in middle school,” Denius said. “I was always impressed by Spalding’s school spirit, and football is a big deal to the school’s administration, teachers and students.”

Green has known Denius since he was in elementary school because Denius’ parents were employed by the Naval Academy and Green’s wife works at the academy’s primary and secondary school. Denius attended Navy’s football camp while Green was an assistant football coach for the Midshipmen.

Denius transitioned to Spalding and made an impression during last summer’s strength and conditioning program and caught the eye of the offensive coaching staff during pre-season camp.

“When I came to camp this summer, I was at the bottom of the depth chart,” he said. “But I studied



Photo by Kevin Murnane

Junior running back Gabe Denius (left) and senior offensive lineman Alek Giddens, both of Arnold, are vital to the success of Spalding’s offense.

the playbook throughout the summer and worked very hard every day in camp.”

What caught the coaches’ eyes were his 4.5-second 40-yard dash time and 310-pound bench press, as well as his ability to slip tackles and catch the ball.

Denius credits Spalding’s strength and conditioning coach Scott Swope for pushing all of Spalding’s players to be stronger and faster so they could com-

pete against the area’s best teams.

So far this year, Denius has averaged nearly 100 yards rushing per game for Spalding, which is 3-2 heading into October.

Opening those running lanes for Denius is another Arnold resident in left guard **Alek Giddens**.

Giddens is a 6-foot-2, 290-pound lineman who has been on Spalding’s varsity for three years. Spalding’s offensive line averages 290 pounds, and the Cavaliers rely on that size to control the line of scrimmage throughout the game.

“Alek works his tail off,” said Green. “He’s a quiet but tough leader that gives his all every play,”

“I think our offensive line is the heartbeat of the team,” Giddens said. “We’re the glue for our offensive game plan and getting our team to the end zone.”

Giddens is also a focused student, maintaining a 3.9 GPA and taking multiple AP classes. He also plays the viola in the school’s orchestra. Giddens’ goal is to study either aerospace, civil or mechanical engineering, and has had interest from Yale and the Naval Academy to continue his athletic and academic careers.

Both Denius and Giddens, as well as their teammates and new coaching staff, are striving to have Spalding win its fifth consecutive Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association A Conference championship. But they realize the Cavaliers will get the opposing team’s best effort every game.

“We’ve learned that nothing will come easy with our tough schedule but we have many young players who are getting better every game,” Giddens said.



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Green Hornets Celebrate Summer Basketball Champions

The Green Hornets summer basketball program came to a close with the annual playoffs in late August. Players were grouped according to the grade they were entering in the 2026-2027 school year. Four teams each played in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade leagues, while six teams contested the combined seventh-eighth grade league.

Teams competed in a multi-week league play, followed by a single-elimination knockout bracket. Following are the winning teams and their players.



The winning fourth grade team was coached by Justin Martin and included Elin David, Claire Doot, Ashley Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Helin, Cova Lee, Tess Losh, Annie Martin, Walker Mundorf, Emily-Jane Robinson and Blakely Watson.



Coached by Adam Moyer, the winning seventh and eighth grade team included Harper Agee, Ainsley Bell, Emily Gallicchio, Stella Jarrell, Charlotte Kahn, Fareeda Kosakul Phohirun, Lucy Magnotta, Margaret Meredith, Marley Moden, Avery Collins Moyer and Brooke Obringer.



Coached by Andy Rohe, the winning sixth grade team included Katelynn Bauer, Aubrey Biermann, Teresa Cassilly, Hanna Chhabra, Greta Croteau, Quinn Nagowski, Lillian Rohe, Katie Sysko and Harper Toton.



The winning fifth grade team was coached by Megan Taylor and included Louisa Davis, Sydney Fletcher, Bonnie Ford, Alexandra Lang, Avery Miller, Savannah Rohe, Tessa Shettel, Rylan Taylor, Chloe Velasco and Savannah Watts.

Severna Park's Tinelli Transfers Talent To Coaching At AACC

By Kevin Murnane

Severna Park resident **Tina Tinelli** didn't want to continue her soccer career after being named all-county defense at Chesapeake High School. She thought that she could not balance work, school and sport.

Then she received a call from Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) women's soccer head coach **Jim Griffiths**, who persuaded her to come out for the team.

That leap of faith turned into an extraordinary experience that changed her life and impacted her future dreams of wanting to stay in the game she began playing as a young girl.

"My second year at AACC we went to the national championship tournament in Alabama, and we lost in the title game," Tinelli said. "But after a very quiet ride home, we arrived at AACC and the entire athletic department was there to greet us."

That school spirit resonated with her.

Tinelli and her teammates had one more meeting to wrap up the 2024 season and afterward Tinelli, who was out of eligibility, approached Griffiths and said, "I'll see you next year." She had decided that the game was still in her future.

"At first I was a little surprised, but I was hoping Tina would continue to be part of the program," Griffiths said. "We always got along, and I respected her work ethic on the field and being an outstanding student."

Tinelli was named All-American her sophomore year, but while playing soccer those two years she became a master of time management by balancing work, practice and classes. In addition to her standout performances on the pitch, she achieved a perfect GPA over her two years at AACC.

She had a packed schedule: a 4:30 a.m. wakeup call for her full-time job, followed by team practice, then going home to attend online courses and complete assignments. Her outstanding work in the classroom was rewarded: Tinelli was selected as AACC's valedictorian for the Class of 2025.

"There's not many college athletes who have been named All-American and valedictorian in the same year," Griffiths said.

Tinelli earned a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity from the University of Maryland and now serves as assistant coach for the AACC's women's soccer program.



Severna Park resident Tina Tinelli, who excelled in the soccer programs at Chesapeake High School and Anne Arundel Community College, traded shin guards for a whistle as an assistant coach at AACC.

She works with goalkeepers, organizes drills, and tries to create game-like situations for players who are adjusting to faster-paced college competition.

"I'm really enjoying coaching," Tinelli said. "It's exciting to be part of helping the players get better and being around the game that I love."

For AACC, having a player who had recently come through the system stay on as a coach added extra clout to the staff and earned immediate buy-in from the new faces.

"When Tina joined the coaching staff, she had instant credibility, and she also is a great role model for our incoming freshmen on the importance of doing well in the classroom," Griffiths said.

Although her playing days are behind her, Tinelli expressed a deep appreciation of what AACC meant to her as a student who was ready to stop playing soccer after high school.

"Playing at AACC was so beneficial to me as I established relationships that will last a lifetime; (I) had an opportunity to travel to many states, compete at a high level, and renew my love for the sport that I played for 17 years," she said.

Tinelli plans to coach for the foreseeable future and hopes one day to become a head coach at the high school or college level.

For now, she will pass along her knowledge, work ethic and passion for soccer to future generations.

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Sisters Use Grant To Return Kindness To Hopkins NICU



Anna (left) and Grace Chisholm, along with their mother, Rebecca Wilsman (right), delivered toiletry kits and blankets to The Johns Hopkins Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Nurse Christy Richter (center) coordinated delivery of the gifts.

By Sharon Mager

Rebecca Wilsman and her daughters, Anna and Grace Chisholm, recently visited the Johns Hopkins Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) bearing gifts — blankets for babies and toiletry kits for moms.

Anna and Grace, both students at St. John the Evangelist School in Severna Park, received Kid Kindness Grants and were excited to bring some happiness to the moms and babies. But the projects also had a special, personal significance for the family. The gifts were given in love and as an act of gratitude.

Grace, now a second grader, was born on October 7, 2018, weighing 1 pound, 4 ounces. Considered a micropreemie, she was lovingly cared for in the hospital's NICU for more than four months and received many special, often hand-made blankets.

"I was rich in blankets!" Grace said with a huge smile.

When Wilsman recently saw the announcement about the Kid Kindness Grant program, she was excited. She talked with the girls about project ideas, and they were all in. They worked together to complete the applications, and both girls were awarded grants. Grace made blankets for babies, and Anna assembled toiletry bags.

» Continued on page 38

Better Together: Unified Sports Program Builds Bonds At Area High Schools

By Laura Ascione

At Broadneck and Severna Park high schools, the Unified Sports program gives students a chance to compete, cheer on their teammates and represent their schools. But ask the coaches what makes the program special, and wins and losses are just a small part of the answer.

The friendships, confidence and sense of belonging students find along the way are just as important.

Unified Sports bring together athletes with disabilities and partners without disabilities to train and compete as teammates. At Broadneck High School, Jennifer Peacock coaches Unified tennis and bocce and serves as an assistant coach for Allied Bowling. At Severna Park High School, Nadine Hendler coaches the school's Unified programs and teaches Unified physical education.

Both have spent more than a decade combined watching students form connections that often extend well beyond practices and competitions.

"I love watching the friendships that they make together," Hendler said. "I think one of my favorite parts of Unified is seeing the kids realize all the qualities that each other has."



Broadneck's Unified tennis participants were recognized for their accomplishments.

Many athletes and partners might not otherwise cross paths during the school day, she said. But once they become teammates, those differences begin to matter less.

"They get to see that people are good at other things and that they have a lot more in common than they think they do," Hendler said. "A lot of them make great friendships off the court,

which is probably the most important part of the program."

A Place to Belong

Peacock's introduction to Unified Sports came through her daughter. She began working at Broadneck in 2018 as a one-on-one teaching assistant for a student with cerebral palsy. That

» Continued on page 36

Marine Corps Colonel Gives Severn School A Clear Charge On Anniversary Of 9/11

By Meredith Winter

Twenty-five years to the day after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks changed the landscape of the nation and the trajectory of U.S. Marine Corps Col. Lindsay Mathwick's life forever, she stood before students and faculty at Severn School to impart a message of leadership and character to high schoolers who were not yet born on 9/11.

Born into a U.S. Navy family, Mathwick attended high school at Severn School and graduated in 2000. She began at Penn State as a Navy option ROTC scholarship and vividly recalls the morning of 9/11. She had been in a physics lab and walked past a friend who said, "Hey, something's happened up in New York." Crowded around a TV in the ROTC building on campus, she and her peers had the sense that their lives were about to change.

The terrorist attacks and ensuing War in Afghanistan were the catalyst that led Mathwick to change her scholarship to be a Marine.

Over the last quarter century, Mathwick earned her commission through The Pennsylvania State University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program and attended The Basic School, Logistics Officer Course, Expeditionary Warfare School, the United Kingdom's Advanced Command and



Photo by Meredith Winter

Col. Lindsay Mathwick, a 2000 graduate of Severn School, spoke to students and faculty at her alma mater during the annual Academic and Community Codes assembly.

Staff Course, and the College of Naval Warfare. She holds master's degrees in leadership, defense studies, and national security and strategic studies.

Mathwick has been deployed several times, including twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and most recently to the Indo Pacific Area of Responsibility aboard the USS

Somerset, named for United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, on 9/11.

On September 11, 2026, she returned to her alma mater in Severna Park to speak to the student body during the school's annual Academic and Community Codes assembly.

Assistant Upper School Head Marc Buckley shared that Severn School has had an honor code for much of its history. Following the coronavirus pandemic, students felt the code no longer reflected the community.

"So the student council back then wanted to spearhead an effort to revise the honor code, and what they came up with were two separate codes," Buckley explained. "One was an academic code ... and the community code, which was separate from it, became more about how we treat each other."

The latter code emphasizes valuing diversity and interactions that are marked by respect above all else. At the beginning of each academic year, all new faculty and students attend an assembly that culminates with them publicly signing the codes in a book on stage.

Mathwick was the keynote speaker for this year's assembly, and she shared with students that the vow they would make that day was not unlike some rites of passage in the Marine Corps —

» Continued on page 40

Better Together

» Continued from page 35

student convinced Peacock's daughter, then a freshman, to try Allied bowling. Soon, Peacock was attending practices herself and eventually was asked to help coach Unified bocce.

"Both my kids are now in college, and I'm still in high school," she joked.

Peacock said some of the students who benefit most from Unified are not necessarily the ones people might expect. Some join looking for an activity. Others might struggle to find their place at school.

But then, something clicks.

"Whether it's (that) they find some friends or they find a community, high school is so, so big, and there's so much going on," Peacock said.

For a student who otherwise feels disconnected from school, being part of a team can provide an important reason to show up.

"Sometimes giving them that reason is enough to make them say, 'OK, well, I've got to go to school because I've got practice,' or 'I've got the team,' or 'They're depending on me,'" Peacock said.

Broadneck and Severna Park's programs include Alternate Curriculum Class (ACC) students as athletes alongside student partners. In Unified tennis, athletes and partners compete together in doubles pairs and are matched according to ability so everyone can participate meaningfully. Unified bocce similarly brings athletes and partners together on teams, with competition organized according to skill level.

Jacob Totah, a junior Unified athlete at Broadneck, said he most enjoys the game itself and has had fun learning the rules of the game.

"I enjoy hanging out with friends that I've made and playing the sports. I learned that everyone should be

included no matter what," said Connor Murphy, a sophomore Unified partner.

More Than a Competition

At Severna Park High School, Hendler sees relationships develop on the court and continue throughout the school and community.

Students attend their teammates' other sporting events. Some participate in Best Buddies together or spend time with one another outside of school. Unified athletes are also part of the broader Falcons community, including one student Hendler said has helped with the school's basketball and football teams.

Hendler works to make the Unified experience feel like any other varsity sports experience. There are team dinners, photos and traditions. Instead of the "sister bags" sometimes exchanged by girls' teams, Hendler's players make "buddy bags."

Hendler and Peacock collaborate on

events between Severna Park and Broadneck. Severna Park has also hosted Unified dances, initially inviting Broadneck and Crofton students before expanding the event to additional schools.

Making Memories

Both coaches are excited to welcome new students this year.

Broadneck has a number of new tennis players, including students who previously participated in soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. Peacock said her goal is to create a strong team atmosphere while continuing service projects that encourage students to help others in their community.

At Severna Park, Hendler is also welcoming new athletes after graduating a large group of seniors last year. She is looking forward to watching another round of friendships take shape.

To learn more about the Unified Sports Program in Anne Arundel County Public Schools, visit www.aacps.org.

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Q.

Question of the month

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

"If you could invent a holiday, what would it be and how would we celebrate it?"

My holiday would be called Alf Appreciation Day. We would celebrate by taking two days off work or school to go to a silent retreat or something tranquil like that.

Alfrun A.

My holiday would be called Amigos Day. It would be celebrated by every friend of yours and you having a party together.

Britzy A.

My holiday would be called Lacrosse Game Day because I love playing lacrosse and I love challenges. We would celebrate by playing lacrosse for a day with our family.

Ella B.

My holiday would be called Poké Day. We would get free booster boxes and everyone would wear a Pikachu costume all day.

George B.

My holiday would be called Sleep Day. You would stay in PJ's all day and read all day to celebrate.

Louise B.



Photo by Laura Ascione

Fifth-grade students at Broadneck Elementary School shared their ideas for new holidays.

My holiday would be called Dog Day. We would celebrate by giving everyone a free dog from the shelter.

Addie C.

If I could invent a holiday, it would be called Kids Day. It would be celebrated by kids getting to do whatever they want.

Hailey C.

My holiday would be called Hallo-cream. Everyone would dress up like Halloween but give each other presents like Christmas.

Asher D.

My holiday would be called Fairy Week. There would be fairies in people's houses just like Elf on the Shelf. You would plant a big sunflower in your living room and get presents under it just like Christmas.

Hannah D.

My holiday would be called Lax Day because I love lacrosse and have been playing for a while. We

would celebrate by playing lacrosse all day on that day.

Reid D.

If I could invent a holiday, it would be called Piggy Day. We would celebrate by playing with piggies all day and not eat pork or bacon on that day.

Faith E.

If I could make a new holiday, it would be called Wear Blue All Day. We would celebrate by wearing all blue hats, clothes and even socks and shoes. Then we would party.

Michael E.

My holiday would be called Reunion Day. It would be a day where you can meet up with all your family and just be with them or spend time with just one member of your family.

Lillian F.

If I invented a holiday, it would be called Animal Safety Day. We would celebrate by letting shelter dogs out in a place where people can get a dog for a week for free.

Sammie F.

My holiday would be called Friends Day. We would celebrate by all our friends getting together and going somewhere and having a big sleepover.

Jack H.

My holiday would be called Help People Out Day because I really care about people and do not like to see them suffer. We would celebrate by giving things to people in need or sharing.

Trace J.

My holiday would be called S'mores Day. We would get to have s'mores and enjoy the outside all day.

Gesine M.

If I could invent a holiday, it would be called Who's Your Favorite Day. You celebrate it by dressing up as your favorite Pokémon and going to PokéPark. If you go to the park, you will receive free Pokémon cards. If you don't like Pokémon, you do not have to celebrate.

Liam M.

My holiday would be called Kid Day because the kids will tell the parents what to do on this day. We would celebrate by doing whatever we want.

James M.

My holiday would be called Duck Day because ducks are my favorite animal. We would celebrate by wearing duck gear. It would happen on March 10.

Colton O.

My holiday would be called Free Flight Day. You would receive a free flight to and from anywhere in the world that you wanted to visit.

Henry R.

My holiday would be called National YES Day. You would celebrate by having parents say "yes" to everything, so every child gets a "YES" day.

Oliver R.

My holiday would be called NFL Sports Day. We would celebrate it by giving every kid 18 and under a sponsored NFL jersey from their favorite team.

Brody S.

My holiday would be called Stage Day. We would celebrate it by having performances such as dance, gymnastics, plays, operas, musicals and many other performances of different cultures on that special day.

Elizabeth S.

My holiday would be called Take a Break. It would give you a day of rest and school would be off. We would celebrate by relaxing on the first day of spring.

Max T.

My holiday would be called Soccer Pro Retirement Day. It would be celebrated by announcing every retired famous soccer player so that they could be remembered.

Mason U.

Sisters Use Grant To Return Kindness To Hopkins NICU

» Continued from page 35

It quickly became a family project. Grace said she and her mother worked together on the blankets. "We bought different patterns for them, and they were different colors, like 'tealish' green, magenta and pink. My mom helped me tie them together. Some had designs, like hearts.

"I made the blankets for the babies because when they're born, they might be chilly and maybe their moms forgot them. This way, they wouldn't have to leave their baby there and rush back home. Some people have a long way to go to the hospital," Grace said.

Anna, now in fifth grade, remembers when Grace was born and in the NICU. When she and her dad, Adam

Chisholm, would visit, the nurses were kind to her and gave her stickers, books and little toys.

"They always had something special waiting for her — big-sister gifts," Wilsman said.

"I felt really good that I got accepted for the grant because I knew the moms would like the kits I made," said Anna, who made 20 toiletry kits. "I wanted to make the moms feel special and let them know that I was thinking about them. I put things in them that I thought they would really appreciate, like toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm and little notebooks."

She decorated the kits with kindness stickers. "They said things like, 'You can do this!' or 'You've got this!'" Anna said.

Lead Clinical Nurse Christy Rich-

ter, who was Grace's primary nurse during her NICU stay, has stayed in touch with the family and coordinated the delivery of the gifts. Richter was thrilled to see the family and Wilsman said it was a special time for them all.

"I hugged her," Grace said of Richter.

Grace even brought back the "Amazing Grace" blanket that Wendi Poole, a NICU nurse clinician, made especially for her during her stay.

"I was this tiny," Grace said, holding her hands several inches apart.

"What Grace and Anna and the entire Chisholm family have given back is immeasurable," Richter said. "As we deliver the gifted comfort items, with the Chisholm family's permission, we make sure to share that these items are a gift

from one of the families that was sitting in a room just like they are now and share their message of strength and possibility for their sick babies. I like to think the smiles the families share during this gifting show that they feel seen and supported."

Anna and Grace are already brainstorming other ways to show kindness to people around them.

Kid Kindness Grants are available to children in grades K-12 through Kindness Grows Here, a charitable organization based in Annapolis that encourages children to use acts of kindness to make positive impacts in their communities.

The deadline for grant applications is November 1. For more information, visit www.kindnessgrowshere.com.

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Arnold Christian Academy Marks 50 Years Of Faith, Family And Learning

By Laura Ascione

At Arnold Christian Academy (ACA), being a small school is part of the point.

With 54 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, classes are small enough that teachers know not only their students, but also their families - and sometimes, even their pets. Older students read with younger students, parents deliver school lunches and fill in as substitutes, and former students and parents often return to volunteer.

That close-knit community has become a defining feature of ACA, which is marking its 50th anniversary this school year.

"We are honestly a big family here," Principal Kelly Hurd said. "It really is this culture of love, support, family and, of course, education happens, but when there's a relationship, you can really teach."

Five Decades of Faith and Education

ACA was founded in 1977 through what was then New Covenant Church, when church members sought a place where their children could receive an education rooted in Christian values. The school, now a mission of CrossPointe Church, moved from its original location to its current home on College Parkway roughly 30 years ago.

"How faithful God has been these 50 years! In partnership with so many other pastors and churches in our area, we consider it a tremendous honor that ACA has been able to be a blessing to our community," said Scott Crook, lead pastor of CrossPointe Church. "I believe our greatest impact is not only prioritizing a quality academic education but also focusing on the spiritual growth of our students by keeping the gospel of Jesus Christ central."

The church and school work together on Vacation Bible School and service projects, including a food drive benefiting My Brother's Pantry.

Small Classes, Strong Relationships

For teachers and families, ACA's size is one of its greatest strengths.

ACA's middle school has about 30 students total, giving teachers the opportunity to work with the same students over several years.

"I know these kids," said Hurd, who also teaches English language arts to students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. "I know what's going on in their lives. I know how I can pray for them, and they know that if they need that, they can ask me for that."

Those relationships extend to parents, she said.

"We talk to their parents during dismissal. I know their dogs," she said. "The environment is what it's all about here."

Before coming to ACA, Hurd taught in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Her daughter initially remained in public school, but she transferred to ACA during Hurd's first year teaching at ACA.



Photo by Laura Ascione

(L-R) Leyfameh Rogers, Kelly Hurd and Shannon Phillips say Arnold Christian Academy's close-knit community is one of the school's greatest strengths.



Arnold Christian Academy opened in 1977 and was previously located on Windsor Road in Arnold.

"I pulled her out midway through the year because what we were doing here was so amazing," she said. "I was like, she needs to be here."

Hurd later became principal, her daughter continued at ACA through eighth grade, and today both her daughter and son teach at the school.

Teacher Leyfameh Rogers had a similar path. Her family was searching for a school that prioritized learning with a Christian foundation when they happened upon a church Easter event.

"We were looking for Christian faith and also a strong academic background," Rogers said. "We found it at ACA."

Her family has remained connected to ACA for 11 years, and Rogers went from parent to volunteer to teacher.

"As a parent, I love the close-knit environment," she said. "We have a strong foundation and a rigorous curriculum. It is a small school, but when we teach, we teach."

A Community Beyond the Classroom

ACA's traditions reinforce connections across grade levels. Through Reading Buddies, older students pair with younger children once a month. Students attend chapel three Wednesdays each month, sometimes hearing from pastors from other churches in the Broadneck area.

Although ACA is a Christian school and biblical instruction is part of its curriculum, Hurd said enrollment is not limited to Christian families.

"We've had a Muslim family come through. We had a Jewish family. We've had atheists come through," she said. "Anyone is welcome to come. They need to understand who we are and that we're going to teach the Bible. ... But if they're comfortable with that, everybody's welcome."

The school's size also gives teachers flexibility to respond to students'

interests and needs. Students can receive individualized reading or math intervention, while middle schoolers can meet with teachers for extra help.

Students also take ownership of school activities like morning announcement videos, talent shows and clubs.

Celebrating 50 Years

ACA plans to incorporate its milestone anniversary into existing traditions, including its annual fall bazaar and chili cookoff. Students help organize and participate in the event, even making their own chili.

Teacher Shannon Phillips said the bazaar helps students learn how to give back. "We want the community to come in and see what the kids are doing," she said. "Kids should be a part of what we're doing in the community. They should learn how to give back. A lot of kids want to (give back) but just don't know how."

The school is also discussing a special 50th anniversary event, a commemorative yearbook spread and a possible student musical performance at its spring bazaar.

For those who have spent years at ACA, the anniversary is about more than longevity. It's a chance to recognize the generations of families, teachers, church members and students who have sustained the school.

And while students eventually have to leave ACA after eighth grade, teachers say they remain part of its community.

"They do ask us to fail them," Hurd joked of eighth graders who don't want to leave. "They ask us to start a high school."

Rogers said she sends graduates off confident they are prepared academically, emotionally, spiritually and socially. "They're strong leaders," she said. "They're very much ready in every aspect."

To learn more about Arnold Christian Academy, visit www.arnoldchristianacademy.org.

Marine Corps Colonel

» Continued from page 35

though there's "certainly less mud, sweat and screaming," she joked.

Mathwick encouraged the students to develop career skills but to prioritize a skillset that she believes will constitute superpowers in the world ahead.

"What I also want you to work on is these other skills that I think will be extremely rare in the future," Mathwick said during the assembly.

"If someone can look into the eyes of one of their peers and have a really difficult conversation, if you can take ownership of your actions, if you can choose kindness over cruelty, I think you're going to separate yourself from the crowd in a big way going forward."

Her charge reflected the values outlined in the code, which new faculty and over 100 students signed following Mathwick's remarks.

Severn seniors Myles Goger and Jake Handy had the opportunity to ask Mathwick questions prior to the

assembly. Handy asked her what values a great leader would have. "Set the example," was her unequivocal response.

"I brought it into this assembly — when you sign the book, you're setting the example for everyone that comes after you," said Handy, who signed the code four years earlier as a freshman. "I know that 'set the example' will stick with me for the rest of my life now."

Goger noted that Mathwick's words about leadership will translate to the lacrosse field as well.

Her message to students on September 11, 2026, was clear.

"I don't need you to be rocket scientists. I don't need you to be the next Pat Mahomes or Caitlin Clark. I don't need you to launch seven successful start-up businesses. What this community needs from you and what the world beyond Severn School is going to demand of you is the courage to take ownership of your actions," Mathwick said.

Educator Of The Month

Dionne Harris Broadneck High School



By Judy Tacyn

In her 31 years in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), all of them at Broadneck High School, Dionne Harris has held numerous roles, with this school year marking her 21st as the English department chairperson. She has taught all high school grades and served as adviser for classes and clubs. In 2013, she was Broadneck's nominee for the AACPS Teacher of the Year.

"For 31 years, Dionne Harris has been a cornerstone of Broadneck High School," Principal Katie Smith said. "Her dedication to students, ability to build meaningful relationships, and leadership within the English department have helped shape the culture of our school and positively impact generations of Bruins."

Harris' commitment to education comes from her mother, also an AACPS teacher for 31 years. She said her mother's passion for teaching and the joy she experienced were the inspiration behind her own career choice, and it is a choice she's never regretted.

"My educational philosophy has always been to challenge, encourage, lead, inspire and teach, which is applicable to both my teaching and leadership style," Harris said. "My love for English developed from my early passion for reading and watching stories come alive on the page. The creativity of the plot and characters, as well as diving into the analysis of a text, was and still is exciting to me. Everyone enjoys a great story."

The technology explosion of the last three decades has shaped the way her students communicate. Text messages, emojis and tweets are how teens have grown up engaging with others.

"We do a lot of writing, which unfortunately has been derailed a bit due to texting," Harris said. "Getting the students to expand their thoughts and edit their responses is often a challenge, but as we prepare them for the 'real world,' we have to constantly push these skills."

She said her students can't escape interacting with one another every class period. She uses "turn and talk with your neighbor" practices, which include table sharing, group collaboration and class discussions to make sure all voices are heard and that students stay connected to one another.

"Sometimes they like it and sometimes they hate it, but I continually stress the importance of being able to communicate with one another in person," Harris explained.

Harris originally considered pursuing law school to become an advocate for social change. While that career didn't pan out, she feels she's fulfilling that goal through her students.

"Working with young people means that I am learning something new every day. That's the joy for educators and students — learning from one another. They keep me young," Harris said. "Even after 31 years, I still love what I do and enjoy coming to work every day. Many people can't say that!"



C A F E M E Z Z A N O T T E

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

Falcons To Host Marching In The Park Invitational October 17

An annual tradition returns to Severna Park High School (SPHS) this month as the Falcons host the Marching in the Park Invitational, a regional competition between high school marching bands. This year, USBANDS has lined up nine marching bands from Maryland and Virginia to compete at SPHS.

The Falcons will compete against the Broadneck Bruins and Riverside High School in Leesburg, Virginia, in their group. Awards will be given for best music, best visual, best overall effect,

best percussion and best color guard.

The invitational will open with the National Anthem played by SPHS and future Falcons from Severna Park Middle School and Benfield, Folger McKinsey, Jones, Oak Hill, Severna Park and Shipley's Choice elementary schools.

The competition begins at 5 p.m. on October 17. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors at the door. Cash and credit are accepted for tickets and concessions; merchandise is credit only.



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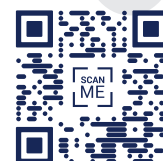
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REGISTRATION

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Direct Support Professionals Are At The Heart Of Loving Care

Dr. Robert Ireland

*President & CEO
Bello Machre*



Seven days simply isn't enough. Not when you're recognizing the people who show up every day to care for, encourage and support individuals with developmental disabilities. That's why, while September 14–20 was nationally recognized as Direct Support Professional (DSP) Week, Bello Machre dedicated the entire month of September to celebrating our DSPs.

For more than 50 years, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the difference that compassionate, dedicated support can make in someone's life. Our DSPs are at the heart of that work.

Being a DSP is much more than a job. DSPs are caregivers, job coaches, problem solvers, advocates and trusted companions. They help people develop independent living skills, find meaningful employment, participate in their communities, and experience new opportunities. They celebrate the good days, provide encouragement through the difficult ones, and show up each day with patience, compassion and loving care.

Most importantly, DSPs build relationships.

At Bello Machre, our mission has always been to provide a lifetime of loving care and opportunity for people with developmental disabilities. Our DSPs bring that mission to life every day. They help people become more independent, build meaningful relationships, discover new interests and feel connected to their communities. They create an environment where people can love and be loved.

That impact is felt by families, too.

Take Caryn's son, Douglas, who was hesitant and closed off due to past experiences when he came to Bello Machre a year ago. Through patience and care, the DSPs supporting Douglas broke through those barriers. Slowly, he opened up, started to trust them, and formed meaningful connections. Seeing Douglas thrive in his daily life has meant everything to Caryn and her family.

Douglas' story is just one example of what happens every day across Maryland because of direct support professionals.

Yet the people doing this important work need our support, too. If we want to continue providing high-quality services for Marylanders with developmental disabilities, we must make sure we are investing in the workforce that makes those services possible. That includes competitive wages, strong benefits, professional development and opportunities for DSPs to build meaningful, lasting careers.

As Maryland continues to strengthen our communities, we cannot overlook the people whose care and dedication make a difference every day.

So, in honor of DSP Recognition Month, I encourage you to thank a direct support professional in your community. Learn about the work they do. Support efforts that strengthen and invest in this essential workforce.

At Bello Machre, we are incredibly grateful for our DSPs, not only this month, but every day of the year. When we support the people who dedicate their lives to caring for our neighbors, we strengthen families, communities and the lives of people with developmental disabilities throughout Maryland.

Learn more at www.bellomachre.org.

Stefanie Ashdown Memorial "Do Your Best" 5K Generates Over \$40,000

Rain didn't stop 365 participants and nearly 100 volunteers from turning out for the 10th annual Stefanie Ashdown Memorial "Do Your Best" 5K and 1 Mile Walk at Anne Arundel Community College on September 13.

The event is hosted by Stef Ripple, a nonprofit formed in memory of Severna Park native Stefanie Ashdown, who died of ovarian cancer.

September's event was also held in memory of Katie Filling, a devoted member of the Stef Ripple community. Filling attended every race and met Ashdown while both were undergoing chemotherapy. This year's race honored her life while continuing the ripple of hope, compassion and support that she and Ashdown embodied.

The "Do Your Best" 5K generated nearly \$45,000 in funds that will help Stef Ripple continue to support ovarian cancer patients and their families. Next year's event is slated for September 12, 2027. Learn more at www.stefripple.org.



Roughly 365 participants and 100 volunteers braved the rain for the event, held on September 13 at Anne Arundel Community College.

Chartwell Golf & Country Club Hosts Play For P.I.N.K. Tournament



The sold-out ladies' nine-hole golf tournament included a luncheon and silent auction.

The fourth annual Play For P.I.N.K. tournament at Chartwell Golf & Country Club took place on August 13. The event was a Chartwell Women's Golf Association fundraiser to support breast cancer research.

Play for P.I.N.K. (prevention, immediate diagnosis, new technology, knowledge) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds for breast

cancer research through sporting and lifestyle events. Andrew Ewald, a researcher and director of the department of cell biology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, spoke to tournament participants about his personal experiences and how they inspire him to understand how breast cancer spreads and to identify preventive strategies to improve patient outcomes.

Kids' Triathlon Supports Water Safety

Young athletes spanning ages 3 to 14 ran, biked and swam their way to the finish line in this year's Karen Stevens Memorial Kids Triathlon, held September 12 at the Severna Park Community Center. The event drew 110 participants and generated over \$1,400 for the Karen Stevens Memorial Fund. The fund will provide swimming lessons that emphasize water safety for children with special needs.

(L-R) Ava Martinez, Kelsey Mehl and Olivia Iskow competed as Team Pretty Little Triple T and placed first in the 11-14 age bracket.



Severna Park Musician Finds Success In Local Music Scene



Photo courtesy of Light and Matter Studios

Kavoss is a mainstay in the music scene from Baltimore to Washington, D.C., playing several shows a week around Annapolis

By Judy Tacyn

Once he picked up a guitar at 12 years old, Charles Kavoss considered himself a musician. He formed his first band, Think, while attending Archbishop Spalding High School and played at numerous local venues in the early 2000s. His passion

took him from coast to coast before he returned to Anne Arundel County and settled in Arnold and Severna Park. Today his band, known simply as Kavoss, is a mainstay in the music scene from Baltimore to Washington, D.C., playing several shows a week in and around Annapolis.

Kavoss's music career began to take a more permanent shape in 2013 when he met Aaron Yealdhall, known as Skribe, a well-known Annapolis garage-folk artist who, for the last 15 years, has curated and hosted the monthly Backroom Sessions at 49 West Coffeehouse.

» Continued on page 48

Classic Theatre Of Maryland To Bring "Hamlet," Timeless Shows To Life

By Margaret Bates

The Classic Theatre of Maryland (CTM) will kick off its 2026-2027 season with a William Shakespeare classic, "Hamlet," running October 1-18.

Sally Boyett, CTM's founder and producing artistic director, said she is enthusiastic about the production, the first "Hamlet" she's directed in six years.

Considered one of the greatest plays of all time, "Hamlet" is Shakespeare's longest play. The tragedy depicts Prince Hamlet's ill-fated attempts to avenge his father's murder.

"Shakespeare was never meant to be read on the page ... it was meant to do the scenes," she said.

Shakespeare has the power to resonate with audiences because his works explore universal human emotions, and Boyett said she firmly believes Shakespeare's work "translate(s) through different decades and centuries."

However, the move to focus more broadly on works of the Western canon came because, as Boyett noted, "Shakespeare can be a little

» Continued on page 47



Keenan Pass (left) portrayed Hamlet and Tommy Dougherty as Horatio during a rehearsal of Classic Theatre of Maryland's upcoming production of "Hamlet."

A Taste Of Autumn: Pumpkin, Spice And Everything Nice



Park Tavern's Spice Spice Baby cold brew espresso martini is served over ice with pumpkin cream foam topped with pumpkin spiced coffee beans.

By Laura Ascione

Fall is on its way, and local restaurants, bakeries and coffee shops are embracing the season with flavors to match. From pumpkin and apple to cinnamon, maple and warm spices, seasonal menus offer plenty of ways to enjoy a taste of autumn. Whether it's a cozy drink, a sweet treat or a hearty meal, neighborhood spots offer fall favorites for every appetite.

Flavors vary weekly at Black Market Bakers (check social media for updates), but expect apple, chai, pumpkin, s'mores and all things warm and fall. Recent menu stars include a cinnamon crunch Danish, a pumpkin chocolate chip scone, a chai snickerdoodle, a s'mores cream bun and a Dutch apple cruffin. Gluten-free items are available.

Pumpkin, pumpkin pie and pumpkin spice latte are just a few of the tried-and-true seasonal flavors to expect from local favorite Always Ice Cream Company. Pumpkin Smith Island cake and apple cinnamon cookie dough add fun and unexpected twists to the ice cream lineup.

Customers at The Big Bean can snag apple pie scones to eat as they sip on coffee drinks topped with pumpkin cold foam. Other fall-inspired drinks include a snickerdoodle chai, a banana bread cold brew and a maple honey latte. Hot apple cider is another seasonal favorite as the mornings get just a bit chillier.

Garten's fall lunch and dinner menus offer savory flavors like butter-nut squash, pecan and apple. Oktoberfest runs through October 4 and promises hearty favorites like stuffed pretzels and sauerbraten Reubens. Don't miss the Harvest Basket, a beer cocktail made with Pherm Brewing Company's Thank You Mr. Marzen, orange- and clove-infused vodka, and honey crisp apples.

Looking for a little taste of fall at Garry's Grill? Top off a traditional

» Continued on page 47

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Love To Love Donna Summer At Toby's Dinner Theatre



Photo courtesy of Jeri Tidwell Photography

Disco Donna and Bruce Sudano, played by Aniyah Serrell Lee and Zachary Spafford, perform "Heaven Knows" in Toby's Dinner Theatre's "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical," on stage through November 1.

Summer isn't over at Toby's Dinner Theatre. The venue is turning up the heat with "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical," which celebrates the life and music of the legendary Queen of Disco. The production follows Summer's path from a young singer in a Boston gospel choir to an international music and disco icon, with more than 20 of her most-loved hits — including "Hot Stuff," "Bad Girls," "Love To Love You Baby" and "Last Dance" — providing the soundtrack. "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical" runs through November 1. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

Classic Theatre Of Maryland

» Continued from page 44
intimidating to audiences."

Boyett began her career as a ballet dancer trained at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York. She switched to musical theater, performing in her first professional equity show at the age of 18. Her career includes the Broadway national tour of "Crazy for You" and European tours of that same show and of "42nd Street."

After moving to Annapolis to start a family, Boyett realized she couldn't leave theater behind.

In 2009, she started a troupe that was formally recognized as the Annapolis Shakespeare Company in 2010. Its first iteration focused on educational theater, but by 2013, the organization pivoted to a nonprofit centering on high-quality professional productions featuring cast members who are equity actors, with many coming from New York to perform. The Annapolis Shakespeare Company rebranded as the Classic Theatre of Maryland in 2021.

Following "Hamlet" are alternating performances of "Holiday Inn" and "A Christmas Carol" from late November through early January. After that, the schedule includes "She Stoops to Conquer," directed by Donald Hicken, former head of the theater department at the Baltimore School for the Arts and a Tony nominee; "Dames at Sea," an homage to 1930s movie musicals; Molière's "The School for Wives," and "The Secret Garden."

"The Secret Garden" will be a triumphant, full-circle moment for CTM. During COVID, lockdowns prevented a

successful stage performance. The theater company created a filmed version of the performance, but this summer will be its first live staging of "The Secret Garden."

CTM's schedule is ambitious for any organization. Actors perform six to nine shows per year, averaging 200 performances in addition to monthly cabaret nights.

"We just keep swimming," Boyett said.

That's becoming harder with reductions in grant funding. "We're in a real lean period ... We have to rely on our donors and ticket buyers," Boyett added.

In turn, the theater serves the Maryland community by offering internships for students, pioneering programs to engage the elderly via communal play readings, and providing a place where aspiring young actors might find their first equity role.

Theater and the arts join people together. "The arts define civilizations," Boyett noted.

The theater's most recent cabaret night focused on 1920s songs. One of the attendees was born in 1929 and bonded with his daughter through that musical moment.

"(Those) tunes got passed down and were a way for generations to connect," Boyett said.

In this sometimes-lonely digital age, art can offer connection, and CTM is doing just that.

For more information about the Classic Theatre of Maryland and its performance schedule, visit www.classictheatremaryland.org. To learn more about internships or volunteer opportunities, email info@classictheatremaryland.org.

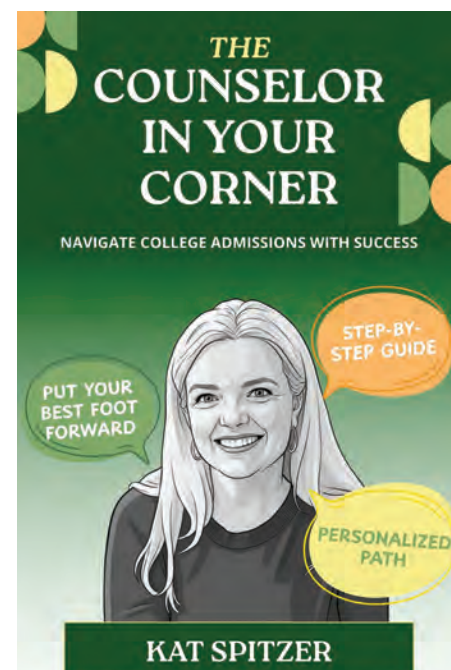
Local Author Kat Spitzer Releases "The Counselor In Your Corner"

Guide Helps Students And Families Navigate The College Admissions Process

Local independent college counselor and author Kat Spitzer announced the release of her latest book, "The Counselor in Your Corner," a comprehensive guide designed to help students and families confidently navigate every stage of the college admissions journey.

College admissions are increasingly competitive and complex. Many students and families find themselves overwhelmed by deadlines, expectations, pressure to stand out or not knowing where to start. While individualized college counseling can be invaluable, it is not always accessible due to cost or time constraints.

"The Counselor in Your Corner" brings the expertise of a professional college counselor directly to readers, providing practical guidance from the earliest stages of planning through final admissions decisions. The book walks students step by step through developing a college list, completing applications, crafting compelling essays, and making informed enrollment decisions. Throughout the process, Spitzer shares proven strategies, expert insights and actionable



tips designed to reduce stress and help students present their strongest applications.

Kat Spitzer has nearly 20 years of experience helping students successfully navigate the college admissions process. She is also the author of "The Happy Hypochondriac," "The Happy Hypochondriac Survives World Travel," and the novel "Florida Girl."

"The Counselor in Your Corner" is available through Amazon.

A Taste Of Autumn: Pumpkin, Spice And Everything Nice

» Continued
from page 44

breakfast with homemade pumpkin beignets or keep it simple and opt for a classic pumpkin muffin.

Oktoberfest runs all month at Park Tavern, with classic dishes including pork schnitzel, a bratwurst sandwich, braised sauerbraten and a cherry apple strudel. Don't miss the Spice Spice Baby, a cold brew espresso martini served over ice with pumpkin cream foam and topped with pumpkin spiced coffee beans. Or, opt for the Sip Your Heart Out, featuring Tito's vodka, lemon juice, scratch-made apple cider syrup and a salted bourbon caramel rim.

At Rise Up Coffee, hot and iced coffee shows up for fall in flavors like pumpkin bread, maple cream, s'mores, flannel (a pumpkin and maple combo), toasted marshmallow cold foam and Rise Up's fall seasonal drip coffee, Migration.



Always Ice Cream is debuting fall-themed ice cream flavors, including pumpkin pie.

Severna Park Musician Finds Success In Local Music Scene

» Continued from page 44

Yealdhall shared that to be successful, Kavoossi had to make the jump to full-time musician. Kavoossi, who at the time was also a successful chef, stepped away from his culinary career, quit working retail jobs to make ends meet, and started easing into the music industry full-time. By 2015 he was a well-known solo artist who would fill in for other musicians or bands who couldn't make their own gigs. Those connections proved invaluable as venues saw his rapport with audiences and started to book him directly.

During this time, Kavoossi reconnected with an old friend, Aaron Wold, a re-recording engineer and sound designer who worked at Mobtown Studios in Baltimore. Wold was interested in putting together an EP and asked Kavoossi to help out as singer, songwriter, guitarist and keyboard musician. The EP ended up being a full-length 12-song album called "Repent to Karma," which was released in 2016 and was the first album to come out under his last name, Kavoossi.

More inspired than ever, Kavoossi started putting together a band, which is now a trio, including Jeff Thompson and



Photo courtesy of Nina K Photography

(L-R) Jay D'Annunzio, Charles Kavoossi and Jeff Thompson are Kavoossi.

Jay D'Annunzio. Their band is heavily influenced by late '90s and early 2000s sound, which Kavoossi describes as melodic pop-rock alternative.

In 2017, Kavoossi joined Joey Harkum on tour and continues to play with him today. In addition to living his dream as a full-time musician and songwriter, Kavoossi also enjoys working in sound design, photography and videography creation and editing.

"After a lot of national touring, I came to realize and

appreciate just how closely connected the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County area arts scene is, especially for music," Kavoossi said. "People not from Annapolis would pass through and remark, 'What is going on here in Annapolis? There is something special going on here.'"

As an artist, he appreciates the supportive, non-competitive nature of other musicians, and how residents highly regard art, whether that is in music, theater, fine

arts or filmmaking.

"We live in an art culture-rich town, and that I am thankful to be a part of," he said.

After years of touring and traveling, Kavoossi encourages young artists to define success based on what makes them happy, not by what anyone else believes is success.

"At some point I realized that industry success wasn't what success meant to me," Kavoossi said. "When I was younger, I never really decided on my own whether

I thought 'industry success' was the same as musician success for myself." A definition of success could include worldwide fame, wealth or Grammy nominations.

But for Kavoossi? "I don't think I want any of that," he said.

Today he's happy playing with his band, making music and records, supporting other artists through his technical expertise and being recognized on the streets of Annapolis, but mostly he revels in the peace that comes with understanding what is truly important to him as a musician and a person. He loves being part of the community and warming up his culinary passion by cooking for his close family.

"There is an entire world in the music industry where you can make a good living," Kavoossi said. "Keep working on and fine-tuning your craft. There are so many opportunities for young musicians in this industry where you don't have to be famous to have a rewarding career. Walking around with an ego is the worst thing you can do."

Kavoossi regularly performs locally at places including The Point Crab House & Grill and O'Loughlin's Restaurant. For an upcoming schedule of events, visit www.kavoossi.com.



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Chamber Update

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the body's natural ability to release tension. Using light touch, the practitioner works with areas around the head, spine and sacrum to encourage balance and ease within the body. Many people find it a helpful option for reducing stress and enhancing their overall sense of well-being.

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AcARRE Beauty was created on the foundation of using plant and marine biodiversity to create innovative, bioactive treatment products that help balance the microbiome for healthy scalp and skin. Inspired by African and Pacific Islander ancestry, AcARRE uses natural ingredients crafted for products that work in sync with the skin's natural elements.

Toastique Severna Park

www.toastique.com

Toastique is where "beauty and all-day brunch-y goodness come together to break bread, and smoothies, and coffee and juices." Toastique is a fast-casual, modern concept for health-conscious diners. The staff craft high-quality, responsibly sourced ingredients into dishes that nourish the good, the bad and the chaos of everyday life. When you pop by, prepare to feed your best self and stay as long as you like.

Many thanks to Blendabowl for hosting our Successful Women in Business group. We were treated to a delicious buffet of açai and mango bowls with fruit and toppings. Blendabowl is a gluten- and peanut-free establishment in business for eight years.

Zen Leaf Pasadena hosted a chamber member mixer, providing members with an opportunity to connect, network and learn about their business in a welcoming atmosphere.

Our 2026 Driving Force for Business annual golf tournament was held at the beautiful Chartwell Golf & Country Club and was sponsored by Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland. Many thanks to additional sponsors, which included Chick-fil-A, LaBarge Financial, Chesapeake Hearing, SERVPRO of Annapolis/Severna Park, Alexander Animal Hospital, Landmark Roofing, Fieldstone Animal Inn/People Rise, Fairwinds Travel, Admiral Cleaners, Title Excellence, Phronesis Wealth Management, M&T Bank, Bank of Glen Burnie, Edward Jones — Brian Conrad, Criswell Infiniti/WRNR, Level Up Builders, Quinn Patton, Park Plumbing, the Severna Park Elks, Muñoz Estates & Trusts, Mid-Atlantic Deck and Fence, ICSI and Barranco Funeral Services. Thanks also to our

volunteers, players and Chartwell, who made it a wonderful day.

We held two Multi-Chamber Lunch and Learns in September. The first featured Wes MacQuilliam, chief operating officer of the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation. MacQuilliam provided an in-depth overview of major revitalization projects taking place in the county, along with stats on job growth and new business openings.

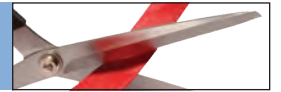
Next, we heard from Kirkland Murray, chief executive officer of the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC). Murray talked about ways AAWDC is strengthening talent pipelines and preparing job seekers for career readiness.

The Sisters Supper Club sponsored our September TGIF cookout and we had a chance to sample their delicious recipes. They offer homemade meals for families on the go.

Our Shoptoberfest with a trick-or-treat twist will be held at Park Plaza on Saturday, October 24 from 11 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. We will have vendors, food, entertainment, a costume contest for kids and much more. The event is free and open to all.

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

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Compass Direct Care Opens

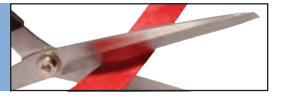
Accessible, convenient and high-quality — that's the kind of healthcare Compass Direct Care aims to provide. The new practice celebrated its grand opening at 273 Peninsula Farm Road, Suite D, in Arnold, on September 17 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Sean Duffy, Compass Direct Care's founder and owner, says the doctor-patient relationship is the cornerstone of strong healthcare and believes trust, confidence and compassion should play a role in that relationship. For more information, visit www.compassdirectcare.com.



Y'ollk Bakery Celebrates Long Anticipated Opening

Artisan pastries, custom cakes, sandwiches and thoughtfully brewed coffee have landed in Severna Park. Y'ollk Bakery business partners Marie Cris Garay and Basaran Mulgan celebrated the bakery's grand opening on September 19 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. The bakery, located at 489 Ritchie Highway, Suite 101, offers a blend of tradition, craft and community. To learn more, search for Y'ollk Bakery on Facebook and Instagram.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Toastique Celebrates Opening

Healthy food designed for busy, active lifestyles was worth celebrating on September 18 when Toastique owners, in partnership with the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce, marked the grand opening of the casual eatery's Severna Park location with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The restaurant, located at 580 Ritchie Highway, Suite K, is Toastique's second area location - franchise owners Allyson and Mo Jishi opened the Annapolis Toastique in 2024. For more information, visit www.toastique.com.



Severna Park Welcomes Foundation Fitness



Foundation Fitness, which specializes in one-on-one and small-group personal training and fitness, celebrated its grand opening on September 24 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. The new fitness center, located at 360 Ritchie Highway, Suite 348a, creates individualized workout programs based on specific goals. Workout plans address progress tracking, nutrition guidance, mobility work, functional movements and strength training. Learn more at www.foundfitpt.com/studios/severna-park.

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