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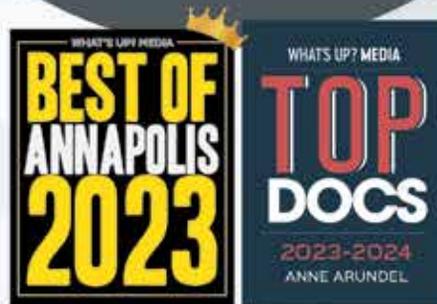


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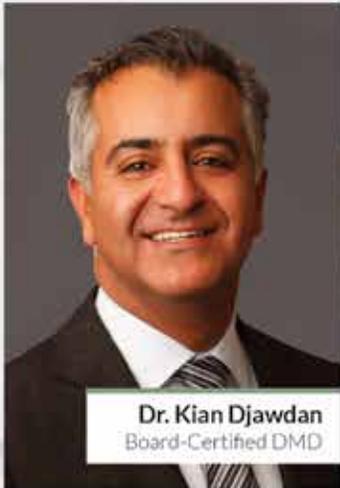


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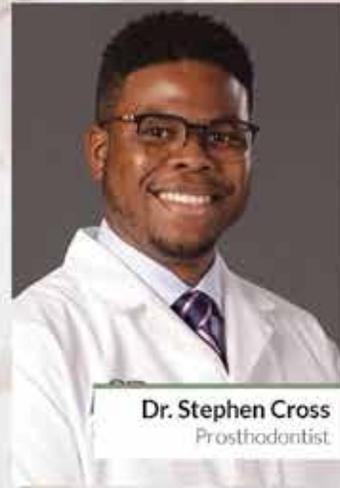
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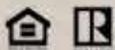
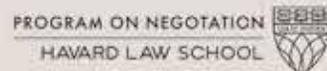
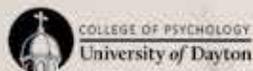
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On the Cover: Despite challenges, the U.S. economy continues to outperform expectations. Design by August Schwartz. Contact *What's Up? Annapolis* online at whatsupmag.com. ♻️ Please recycle this magazine.

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WHAT'S UP?
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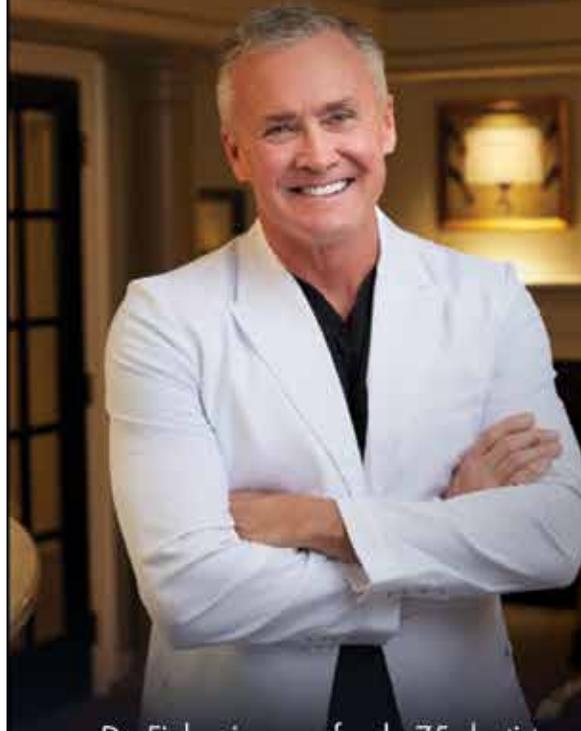


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February contents

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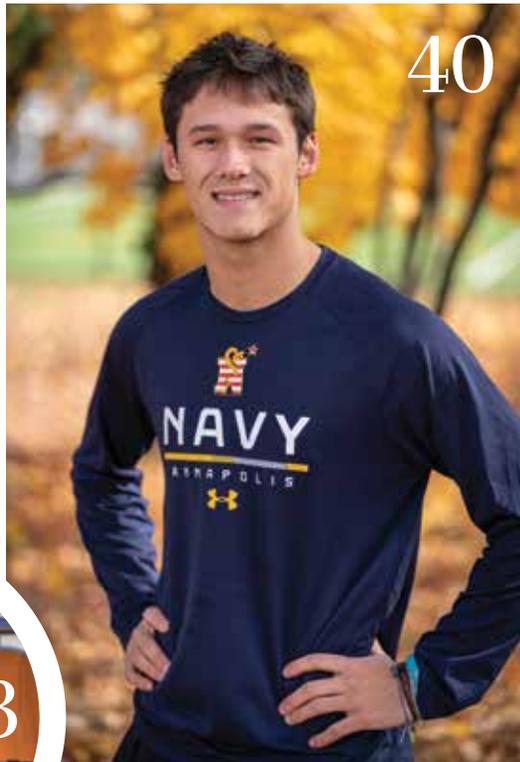
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Vote for The Best!

This is your reminder that the Best Of 2024 voting is live through the end of February. We know you can't wait to vote for your favorite restaurants, shops, and services, so cast your vote quickly!



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editor *From the*

February is my kind of month. We're smack dab in the middle of winter. Trees are bare and there's often a brittle stillness to the air. It's quiet. You can see your own life with each breath outside. Perhaps we'll get a dusting of snow. Maybe a snowstorm. We'll never know with certainty, no matter if the groundhog sees his shadow or not.

A sunny morning may begin warming the day a few degrees—perfect for a brisk walk to get some fresh air. I love exploring my neighborhood and the surrounding woods this time of year. A red-tailed hawk might fly overhead. Squirrels usually scamper at the sound of my footsteps. A dog barks, echoing in the distance. The congestion of the daily grind seems to be hibernating just a wee bit.

This can be a relaxing time to reflect on things. It is for me, at least. If only because this is also my birthday month. Entering year 45, I realize that I've been making this magazine for exactly half my life, beginning as an editorial assistant in June of '01. Feels like a lifetime ago, but obviously it's not. If I'm lucky, maybe a quarter. I started with *What's Up?* Media curating events for the print calendar, preparing the summer camp guide, restaurant listings, and writing more than a few articles. These elements have made our publication reliable for so many readers—as much back then, as they do today.

This February issue is a fine example of what we bring to your coffee table, which, I know, is increasingly full of ever-evolving media options, publications, and providers vying for your attention. We've been doing this for some time, though, so I like to think that we do know *what's up*.

We have some choice events and entertainment options to look forward to; we have the latest edition of the summer



I started with *What's Up?* Media curating events for the print calendar, preparing the summer camp guide, restaurant listings, and writing more than a few articles. These elements have made our publication reliable for so many readers—as much back then, as they do today.

camp guide (fams, book your kiddos now!); one of our state's leading economists offers his take on markets, financials, and more for the year ahead (also an election year!); and there's a nod to nature with a piece about birdwatching in winter (a most excellent time to view the migratory species that visit our region).

One of the most compelling and exciting features we offer all year also is in this issue. If you're a homeowner, in the market for one, or just fascinated by living spaces (who's not?), you're going to love this—the annual Home Excellence Awards winners are unveiled! Twenty-three outstanding projects have won architecture, interior design, critical area, construction, and other honors. This feature is the *pièce de résistance* of the magazine. And, I hope, serves as inspiration for your dream home. If anything, it offers plenty of concepts on which to reflect.

It's February, after all—the month to imagine what your upcoming spring (and, perhaps, life) may become.

James Houck,
Editorial Director



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MASTERWORKS VI

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MAY 10 & 11

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JAZZ/SWING



FEBRUARY 4
HIGH VOLTAGE
AC/DC TRIBUTE (MATINEE)



FEBRUARY 9
PAUL MECURIO
COMEDIAN



FEBRUARY 10
FOREPLAY
A TRIBUTE TO 70s ROCK



FEBRUARY 13
NAPTOWN BRASS BAND



FEBRUARY 14
CURTIS STIGERS
BLUE-EYED SOUL/JAZZ



FEBRUARY 15
THE POLICE EXPERIENCE
POLICE TRIBUTE



FEBRUARY 16
STEVE FORBERT & FREEDY JOHNSTON



FEBRUARY 17
COWBOY MOUTH
ROCK 'N' ROLL GUMBO



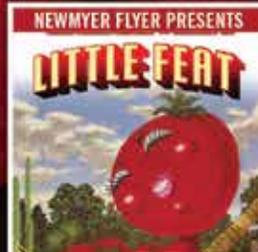
FEBRUARY 18
KENDALL STREET COMPANY
ALL AGES MATINEE



FEBRUARY 18
BIG HEAD TODD & THE MONSTERS



FEBRUARY 22
GLEN PHILLIPS & SHAWN MULLINS



FEBRUARY 23
TIME LOVES A HERO
A TRIBUTE TO LITTLE FEAT



FEBRUARY 24
WOLVES OF GLENDALE
MUSICAL PARODY



FEBRUARY 25
PAT MCGEE & FRIENDS
ALL AGES MATINEE



FEBRUARY 25
SECRET SOCIETY
DANCE FLOOR!



FEBRUARY 29
THE LINDA RONSTADT EXPERIENCE



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Momentum: A Mixed Bill

Ballet Theatre of Maryland is springing forward with “Momentum: A Mixed Bill” at Maryland Hall in Annapolis on February 23rd and 24th. This show will have world-premiering works by choreographers near and far, in the exploration of everything that classical and contemporary ballet have to offer. Reserve tickets at balletmaryland.org.



REVISIT/REIMAGINE

This year, with Black History Month coinciding with the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act being signed into law, the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis will launch the year-long special exhibition REVISIT/REIMAGINE: The Civil Rights Era in Maryland and Parallels of Today. The exhibition features historical photographs from the Afro Newspaper archive that chronicle the African American experience, civil rights leaders, and activities in Maryland. Artwork from Maryland Black artists are included to interpret the themes of the photographs. An opening reception will be held February 24th, from 12 to 4 p.m. Visit bdmuseum.maryland.gov for more information. Photo of Thurgood Marshall courtesy AFRO Charities and Banneker-Douglass Museum.

LIVE ARTS MARYLAND POPS GALA

Enjoy an evening with Paul Shaffer (pictured) as he shares symphonic renditions of his favorite pop, R&B, and jazz tunes at Live Arts Maryland POPS Gala.

The event is on February 17th at Maryland Hall in Annapolis. Shaffer, David Letterman's longtime musical director, will take you on a fascinating journey with his stories and anecdotes. Conducted by J. Ernest Green, the show will feature special guest vocalists joining the stage. Find more information at marylandhall.org.



Annapolis Restaurant Week

The 15th anniversary of Downtown Annapolis Partnership's Annapolis Restaurant Week will be February 24th through March 3rd. Participating restaurants will offer prix fixe menus for you to enjoy: two-course breakfasts, lunches, and three-course dinners. Many restaurants will have wine-lovers' specials, and so much more. Support your local businesses and see live music all week. Visit downtownannapolispartnership.org for a full list of participating restaurants, music schedules, and more.



Photo by Stephen Buchanan



THE HOME OWNERS EXPO

Your local everything-home expo will be held at the Byzantium Event Center in Annapolis on February 24th and 25th. Local and regional contractors and service companies will be on hand to help you imagine and start planning your dream home. Find inspiration and participate in educational seminars with local and national home experts, including renowned author and plant expert Hilton Carter (pictured). Find more information at thehomeownersexpo.com.



Maryland Polar Bear Plunge

This chilly winter tradition continues on February 3rd at Sandy Point State Park to raise money for Special Olympics Maryland and unified teammates. Jump into the ice-cold Chesapeake Bay for a great cause at the 28th Annual Polar Bear Plunge. The week's festivities and plunges will end with the large Maryland Plunge on February 3rd, which follows the Cool Schools plunge on February 1st and the Police and Corporate plunges on February 2nd. Donate or learn how to plunge at plungemd.com.

DISNEY ON ICE: FIND YOUR HERO

Discover your hero within at Disney on Ice this February! On February 8th through 11th, see Elsa and Olaf, Moana and Maui, and more of your favorite Disney characters take the ice at CFG Bank Arena in Baltimore. Disney stories will come to life through world-class ice skating. Find show times, character experience times, and buy tickets at cfgbankarena.com.

Photo by Tony Lewis, Jr.



Naptown Brass Band's Mardi Gras Celebration

Naptown Brass Band is taking the stage at Rams Head on Stage in Annapolis with their Mardi Gras Celebration on February 13th. The Naptown Brass Band is a New Orleans style street band that is taking Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., by storm. Naptown Brass Band blasts out high energy grooves for dancing in the street or wherever they are performing. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7:30 p.m. Get tickets and fine more information at ramsheadonstage.com.

TIMONIUM INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOW

From February 9th through 11th, the Timonium International Motorcycle Show will be held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. The country's most complete motorsports show will feature hundreds of bikes, on and offroad motorcycles and ATVs, flat truck point series races, beer, music, stunts, and so much more. Find more information, visit motorcycleswapmeets.com/timonium-international-motorcycle-show.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

What will happen when two hungry children lost in the woods stumble upon a house made of gingerbread? Come find out on February 10th at 11 a.m. when Annapolis Opera puts a sweet twist on this beloved fairytale at Maryland Hall. Enter an enchanted forest where fairies and angels appear, and a delicious candy-adorned house is just what two children dream of. Tickets available for Hansel and Gretel at annapolisopera.org.



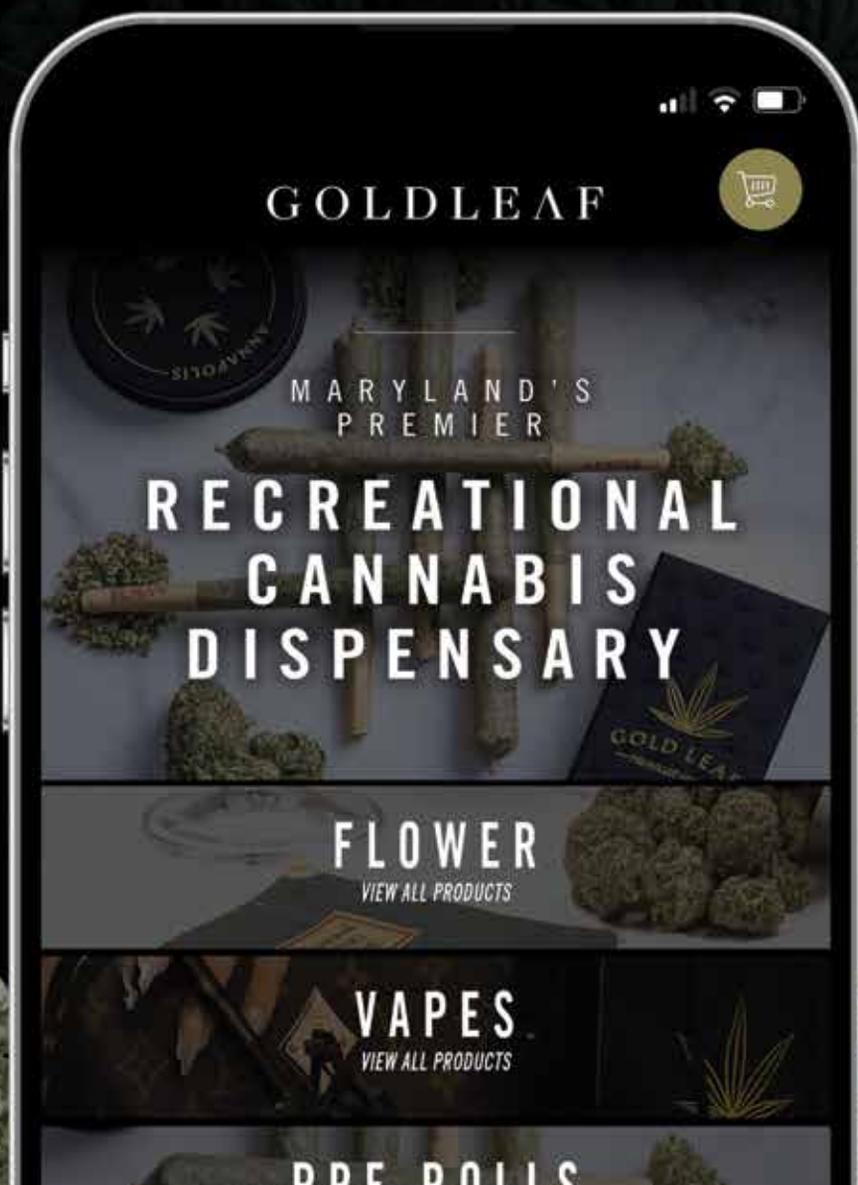
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Deli
Dessert
Ethnic Fusion Cuisine
Family-Friendly Restaurant
Farm-to-Table Menu
Fast-Casual
French Restaurant
German Restaurant
Gluten-Free
Grab & Go
Greek Restaurant
Happy Hour
Healthy Restaurant
Ice Cream
Indian Restaurant
Irish Restaurant
Italian Restaurant
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Korean BBQ
Maryland Crab Soup
Mexican/Latin Restaurant
Neighborhood Restaurant
New Restaurant
Outdoor Dining
Pizza (Chain)
Pizza (Local)
Ramen/Pho

Raw Bar/Oysters
Romantic Restaurant
Salads
Seafood Restaurant
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Wings

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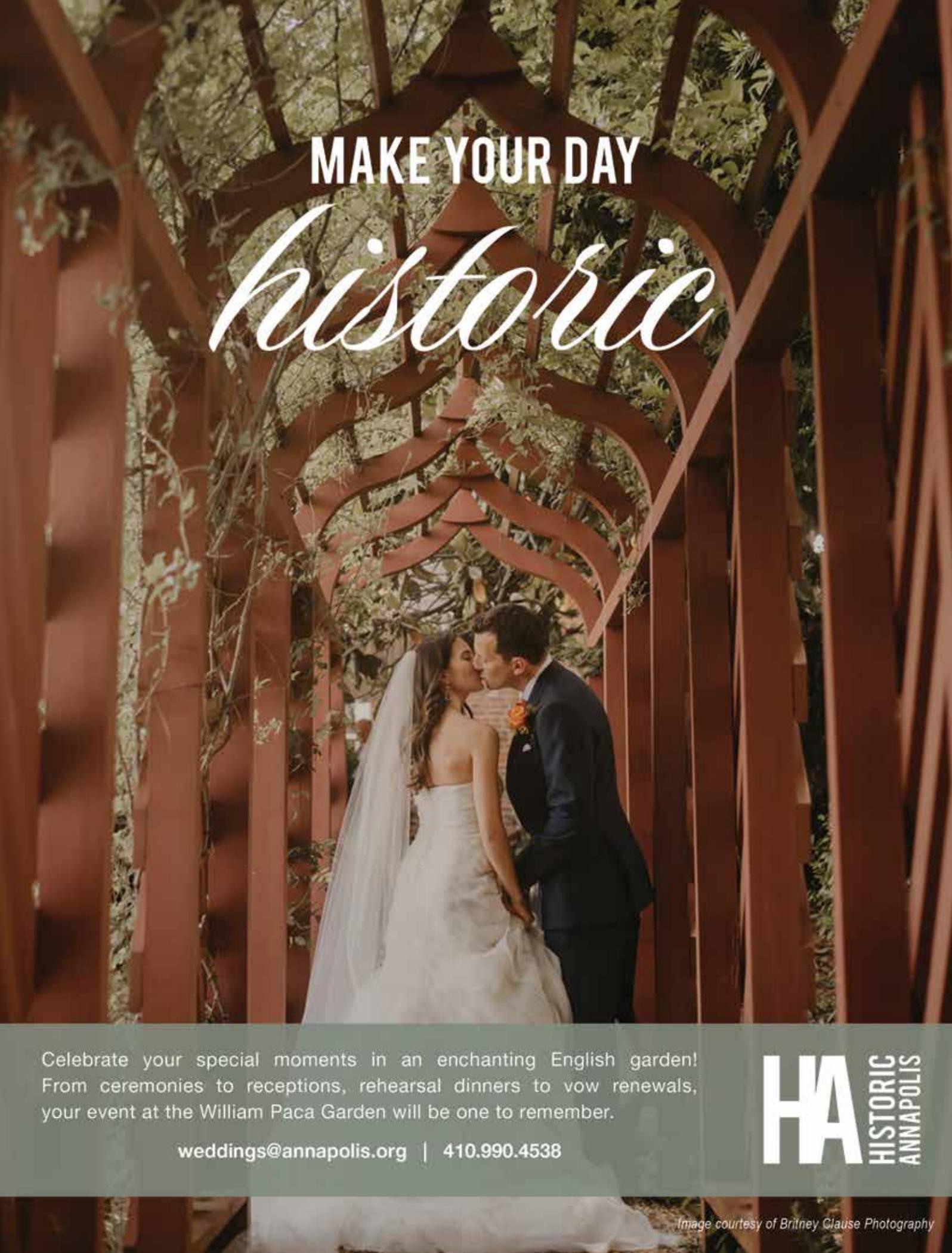
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Nonprofit Organization (Local or Local Chapter)
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Wedding/Reception Venue Outdoor
Wedding/Reception Venue
Waterfront

A bride and groom are shown in a romantic embrace, kissing under a wooden arbor. The bride is wearing a white wedding dress and a long veil, while the groom is in a dark suit with a boutonniere. The arbor is made of dark wood and is covered with green vines and leaves. The background shows more of the garden and trees.

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Image courtesy of Britney Glause Photography



TOWNE SOCIAL

Taste of Generosity

In late-September, the National MS Society Greater DC-Maryland Chapter hosted its inaugural Taste of Generosity fundraising event at Graduate Annapolis hotel, benefiting the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society. Guests enjoyed local food and beverages, an open beer and wine bar, and exciting raffle, silent auction, live steel drum music by Orlando Phillips, followed by the Flying Ivories dueling pianos.

Photographs courtesy National MS Society Greater DC-Maryland Chapter

1. Chris Braxton, Chartese Berry, Felis Andrade, Bernard Jones **2.** Front Row, L to R: Bernard Jones, Heather Kress, Jenette Young, Chartese Berry (President, National MS Society), Wendy Bordewisch, Jill Eisenberg, Joan Ohayon, Judi Singletary, Aaron Cline. Back Row, L to R: Bill Onufrychuk, David Raimist **3.** Black Tie Oysters shucked fresh bivalves **4.** Flying Ivories Dueling Pianos provided entertainment **5.** Food by Sarah B. Charcuterie **6.** Silent Auction items





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TOWNE SOCIAL

Twilight: Taste & Sip

The Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual holiday social and open house event, Twilight: Taste & Sip, on November 17th. The evening's festivities were hosted at Greenstreet Gardens in Lothian. Guests enjoyed scrumptious food, wine, and beer, surrounded by a festive ambiance to support the community and present Greenstreet's 2023 Christmas collection.

Photography by Stephen Buchanan.

1. David and Lisa Miller, David Reilly 2. Jennifer Ripple, Loretta DeSantis, Jason Marshall 3. Christina Coffey, Nicki Palermo 4. Kristen Smiroldo, Rachel York, Barbara Smiroldo, Jeannemarie Smiroldo 5. Robbie and Anne Curry, Anthony Anastasia, Allison King 6. Karen and John Mulinari 7. Mike and Linda Kelley 8. Ray and Stacy Greenstreet



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www.annapoliswellnesshouse.org/wellness-on-the-water-2024-launch-party

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for sponsor and ticket information



SCAN ME



Ashleigh Wyble

For Ellie Foundation, Inc.

By Lisa A. Lewis

Welcoming their daughter, Ellie, into the world on May 20, 2016, was such a special occasion for Ashleigh and Matt Wyble—a day filled with love, happiness, hopes and dreams. But on August 14 a few days before Ellie would have turned three months old, the unthinkable happened, and she unexpectedly passed away under tragic circumstances. Seven years later the Wybles still don't fully know what caused Ellie's sudden death and probably never will.

But the couple refused to let their grief overwhelm them. They realized that the only way to move forward was to create a foundation to honor Ellie and keep her memory alive. So, in October 2016, the Wybles established the For Ellie Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with proceeds benefitting the pediatric units of Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) and University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM BWMC). The mission of the foundation

is “[to create] a more beautiful world through random acts of kindness.” And it all began with the idea of planting a garden.

“The groundbreaking of the Labyrinth at Woods Presbyterian Memorial Church’s Care and Counseling Center in Severna Park had recently taken place,” says Ashleigh, president of the For Ellie Foundation. “It was a project that Matt’s grandparents, Jerry and Elizabeth Wyble, had spent many years trying to complete. Almost all of the funds had been raised, but we started a GoFundMe with the goal of raising an additional \$5,000. We ultimately raised \$30,000, so we decided to create the For Ellie Foundation and pay it forward, which is how the foundation’s random acts of kindness theme originated.”

The Wybles used some of the funds to create the adjacent Child’s Garden. Attached to the Labyrinth, the garden is adorned with two benches and a child’s bench, where they grow moonflowers each year. A favorite of Matt’s grandmother, moonflowers bloom in the evening and represent light in the darkness. For the Wybles, they also symbolize beauty born of tragedy. A peaceful place for reflection, Ellie’s Moonflower Garden was dedicated on May 20, 2017. The date, which would have been Ellie’s first birthday, serves as a touching tribute to her memory.

During the months that the moonflower garden was being completed, the Wybles started creating programs to fulfill the mission of the foundation, including the Hope Totes program. Launched in January 2017, Hope Totes provides essential items to offer care and comfort to families with a loved one in the pediatric emergency department. The foundation also donates iPads, toys, books, and other items and supports projects that benefit the community, patients, and staff. Since its inception, the For Ellie Foundation has raised more than \$300,000 and delivered more than 2,100 Hope Totes.

SINCE ITS
INCEPTION, THE
FOR ELLIE FOUNDATION
HAS RAISED
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\$300,000
AND DELIVERED
MORE THAN
2,100
HOPE TOTES.

“It is hard to put into words how the For Ellie Foundation’s dedication to our community has touched so many lives,” says Meghan Siegel, Certified Child Life Specialist, Luminis Health AAMC, Pediatric Emergency and Inpatient Unit. “From donations of toys to supplies for staff, they continue to show up on a regular basis to support our patients and families. Over the past seven years, I have had the honor of handing off thousands of tote bags. Having a child emergently transferred to another facility can be scary and confusing. Being able to provide an Ellie bag is often met with a sigh of relief from a parent. The comfort items ease some of the challenges parents will face during

the next steps of their child’s care.”

“Ashleigh’s generous philanthropic support and spirit of paying it forward have benefitted UM BWMC and many of

its tiniest patients in countless ways,” adds Susan Iaquina, Director of Development, BWMC Foundation, Inc. “A member of BWMC Foundation’s Next Generation Committee, Ashleigh has helped UM BWMC create a library cart with books for our pediatric patients. She also donates over 100 Ellie Hope Totes annually and financially supports our infant safe sleep program for new families. We are very fortunate to have her as a partner to help us fulfill our mission of providing high quality healthcare to the communities we serve.”

In addition to its projects and programs, the For Ellie Foundation also hosts two fundraisers every year: a cornhole tournament and a virtual raffle. This year’s cornhole tournament is scheduled for February 17. To register, visit forellie.reg-fox.com/2024cornhole.

Ashleigh, a data scientist for the Nielsen Company, lives in Severna Park with Matt and their sons, Luke, 10, and Cooper, 5.

“The For Ellie Foundation gives us a way to continue to pay it forward,” Ashleigh says. “What we went through will always be tragic and sad, but being able to shine positivity in Ellie’s name makes it feel like she is still impacting the world. She may not be here physically, but she has touched thousands of families and will continue to do so. I hope her/our story will show people that you can get through the unimaginable and still find joy and kindness in life.”

To learn more about the For Ellie Foundation, visit forellie.org.

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Annapolis Yacht Club Foundation Awards Grants

The Annapolis Yacht Club Foundation, Inc. (AYCF) announced its last quarterly grants and scholarships to area sailors and 501(c)(3) organizations totaling \$26K, bringing the AYCF contributions to more than \$130K to close out 2023. Three local amateur sailors, all seeking to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics, received grants in support of their requisite training and participation in national and international level sailing competitions leading up to the Paris games: Leo Boucher, Casey Cabot, and James Golden.

The Foundation awarded non-profit organization grants to Warrior Sailing and US Patriot Sailing in support of their programs for wounded, ill, and injured military service members and veterans. AYCF also granted scholarships to two high school students so they can participate in their school sailing programs, held at West River Sailing Club. To learn more about AYCF, visit aycfoundation.org.



Perpetual Skin Opens in Downtown Annapolis

Founded by two nurse practitioners with more than 20 years combined medical experience and almost a decade of aesthetic focus, Perpetual Skin officially cut the ribbon at its grand opening in downtown Annapolis this past fall. Providers Beth Palmer FNP, ACNP, and Rachel Markow DNP, CRNP, offer customized services including Botox, fillers, Sculptra, microneedling, PRP, chemical peels, and more. Congratulations! Learn about the new skincare practice located at 151 West Street, Ste. 100, by visiting perpetual-skin.com.

Watershed Stewards Academy Celebrates 30 Program Graduates

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) recently celebrated its 15th Certification Course Graduation of 30 new Watershed Stewards on December 5th. The group of volunteers represents communities from Curtis to Herring Bay. Over 100 leaders, including County Council members, Directors from AA County and City of Annapolis, and representatives from our local watershed organizations attended the graduation.

Graduation is a major accomplishment, as it represents the completion of over 70 hours of field and classroom training. In addition, Stewards must complete capstone projects that encourage their communities to act and adopt best practices to support a healthier environment for all. Congratulations! To learn more about WSA, visit aawsa.org.



Liquefied Creative Rebrands

Liquefied Creative, an award-winning full-service advertising agency based in Annapolis, Maryland, announced its rebranding as Liquefied Agency this past November. The launch included a new visual identity, updated website, and evolution of the company's overall strategic direction. Now in its eighteenth year, the agency has garnered international praise and accolades for its advertising, marketing, creative, public relations, and web development expertise.

Liquefied's Marketing Director, Caitlin Wiggins, emphasized that the rebrand goal was to evolve Liquefied's identity in a way that encapsulates the company's evolution.

"As a creative marketing agency, our own brand sets the standard for what we can offer clients," Wiggins said. "Rebranding to Liquefied Agency encapsulates our redefined approach to creative communication services, all within a fresh and dynamic identity that retains our unwavering passion... We've updated our look to be just as ambitious as our clients, team, and partners." Learn more at liquefiedagency.com.



Hague Celebrates 30 Years

As 2023 drew to a close, Hague Quality Water of Maryland celebrated its 30th anniversary. The veteran and family-owned and operated water treatment company has served the Maryland, Delaware, and D.C. areas since 1993. What started out as a small business from the home of Colonel Ron Edwards and his sons has grown into a 25-employee company based in Annapolis with an office in Ocean City and run by his children Brian Edwards and Kathleen Bridgman. Hague also supports the local community philanthropically, partnering with organizations like Wreaths Across America, local schools and sporting events, sponsor of the Annapolis Blues professional soccer league, and numerous pediatric cancer foundations.

“We are proud of the work we’ve done for the community over these three decades,” Edwards says. “We believe that clean water is a necessity. We look forward to another thirty years of serving our community.” Learn more at hague-waterofmd.com.



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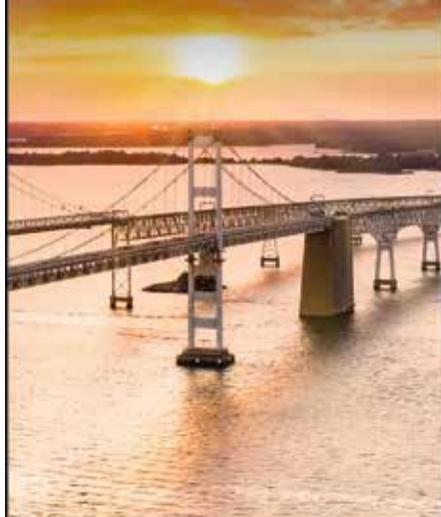
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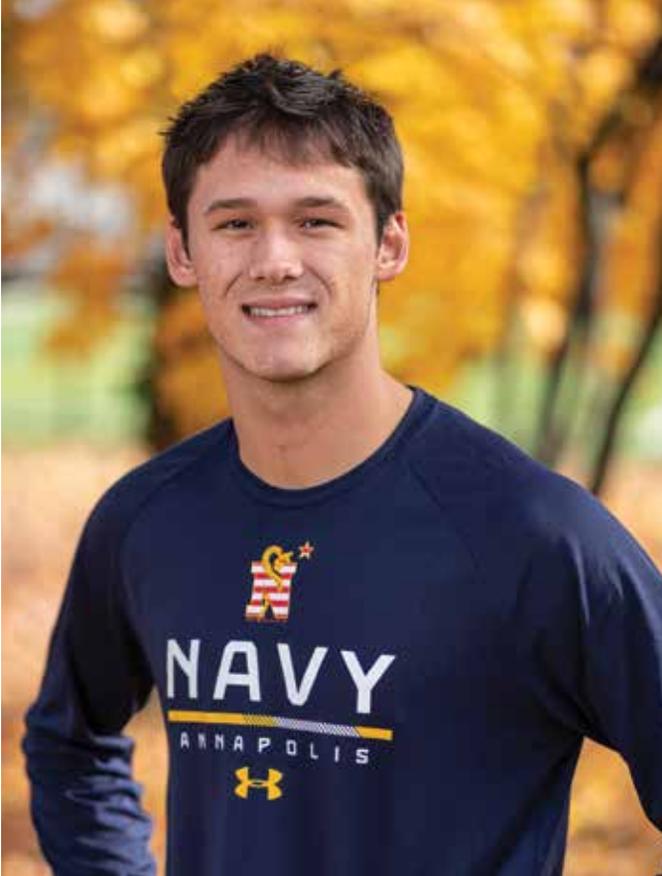
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Eli Harris

Broadneck High School Football, Lacrosse

By Tom Worgo
Photograph by Stephen Buchanan

Eli Harris took advantage of the early recruiting process in lacrosse. Harris, a Broadneck High School senior, received interest from about 12 schools when the official recruiting period opened up for high school juniors in September of 2022. At the time, Providence, Bucknell, and UMBC offered him scholarships, but he chose Loyola Maryland University.

“I was absolutely thrilled,” Harris says. “I thought it was smart enough to commit for lacrosse that early because that’s when I got the most money. I wasn’t thinking about football at all.”

“I am trying to be realistic with myself and I know I am not going to the NFL. I am going to go to the school where I can get the best education and great opportunities after school.”

But Harris started thinking more about football less than a year later, and he got a big, unexpected surprise from the Naval Academy coaching staff when they offered him a spot on the 2024 football team.

He thought it was just too good an offer to pass up when he visited the school July 3rd, the same day he received the offer.

“I am trying to be realistic with myself and I know I am not going to the NFL,” Harris says. “I am going to go to the school where I can get the best education and great opportunities after school.”

Harris might not have gone to Navy if it weren’t for his sister Kayla, a Broadneck and Naval Academy graduate, who played lacrosse for Midshipmen, and now works as supply officer on the ship USS Boxer in San Diego. Kayla’s twin sister, Brianna, played lacrosse at the University of Florida.

“She had a lot of impact on me,” he says of Kayla. “Seeing her go through all the things at the Naval Academy made me realize I could do it. I was weighing the good and bad. You have very little downtime [at the Academy]. For me, downtime will be football.”

Beyond football, Harris has his sight set on greater things. He wants to be a fighter pilot after graduating from the Naval Academy.

“Being a pilot would be so cool,” says Harris, who carries a 3.9 weighted grade-point average at Broadneck and took five advanced-placement classes. “I think it would be super interesting to learn about their lifestyle.”

What the 6-foot, 180-pound Harris accomplished for his high school football team over his last two seasons will give him more confidence heading into his freshman year at Navy.

His junior year proved to be his best as he helped Broadneck (10-2) reach the Class 4A state semifinals. He finished first in the state in receptions with 66 and third in yards with 1,100, while catching 11 touchdown passes in 12 games. He earned Baltimore Sun Second-Team All-Metro honors and Second-Team All-State honors. The four-year starter consis-

tently makes big plays, averaging 16 yards per catch. He runs the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds.

“His ability to track and get to any ball in the air is what makes him elite,” says Eli’s father Rob Harris, Broadneck’s Head Football Coach who doubles as the Bruins’ offensive coordinator. “He has a whole other gear that kicks in. It allows him to get balls that are out of the reach of other players. And he has crazy, soft hands. I think he had six one-handed touchdowns in his career.”

Harris had another stellar season in 2023. He produced some eye-catching games, hauling in 10 passes for 185 yards and three touchdowns in a 35-28 win over Annapolis. He also caught 10 passes for 145 yards in a 31-28 loss to Old Mill.

But the game that meant the most to Harris was his eight-catch, 80-performance against North West of Montgomery County that helped Broadneck (11-2) advance to the state championship game for only the second time in school history. (The Bruins played on December 1st against Wise of Prince George’s County, falling 21-0.)

“When you get players coming into high school, they have to build confidence,” Broadneck Wide Receivers Coach Kevin Brown says. “He had confidence the moment he stepped on the field for the varsity team. I think one of the reasons he is so good: he fears no one. Eli is a leader and he has been around football his whole life.”

Do you have a local athlete to nominate? Send What's Up? an email to editor@whatsupmag.com.



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Founder & Principal, Director of Private Client Services
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Bill Hufnell is a Certified Public Accountant with extensive knowledge of federal income tax laws and federal estate tax laws. He is also a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner, the most highly regarded designation within the financial planning industry.

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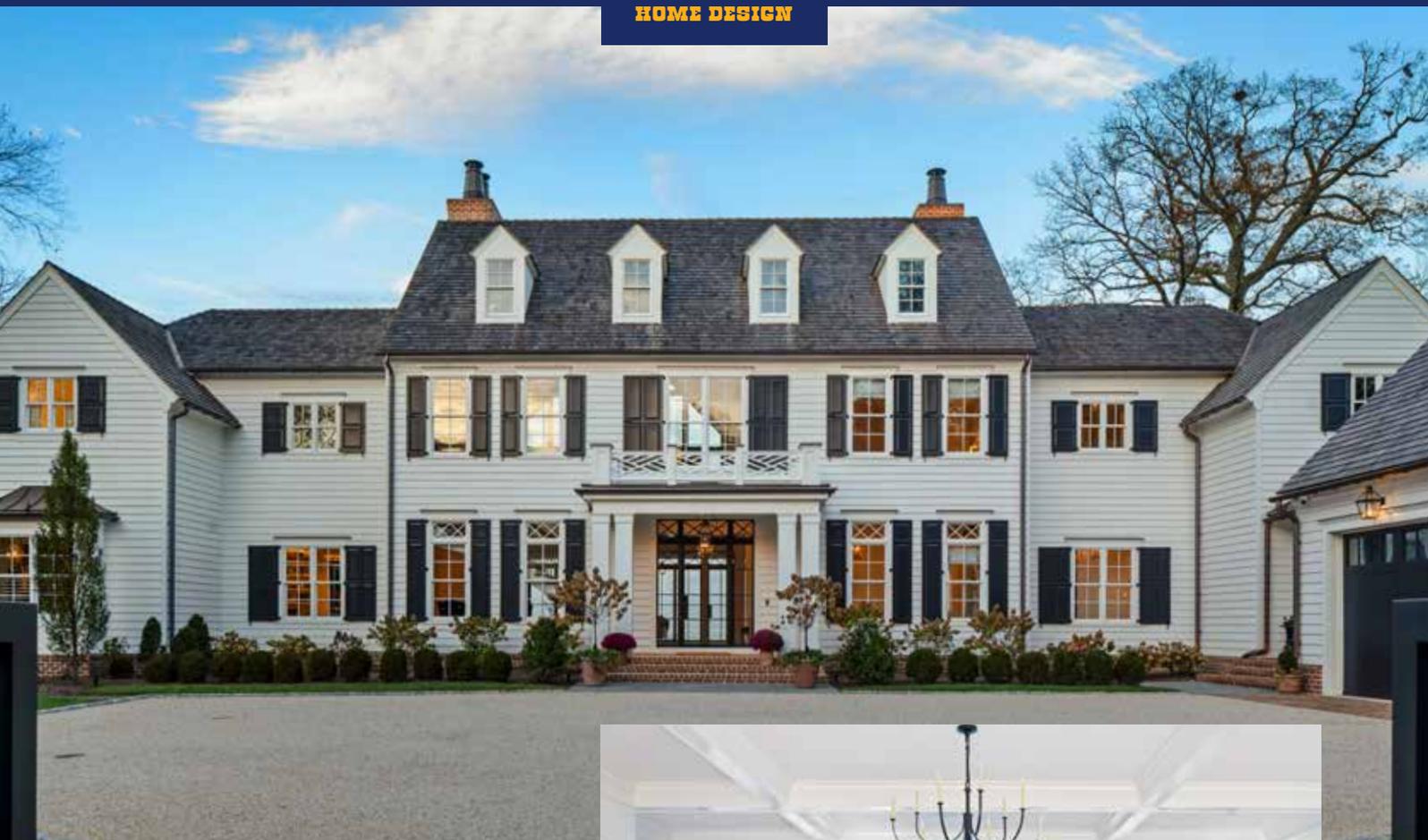
**Welcome to What's Up? Media's annual
showcase of elite home projects!**

The Home Excellence Awards program honors exemplary home builders, architects, designers, and professionals serving the greater Chesapeake Bay region. For two months, we solicited project entries in award categories inclusive of residential interior design, architecture, construction, and renovation. Entries consisted of photographs and a written description introducing the project, including structural/aesthetic intent, design/build concepts, materials used,

special features, permitting, and overall thoughts. The following list of winners represents the projects that earned accolades from our editorial judging panel. Of note, a few categories elicited many entries and, thus, feature the most winners by category. Other categories may have only one winner (or a couple). We offer descriptions of each project from the contractors themselves, as well as judges' notes. All photographs submitted courtesy by each company represented. Congratulations to the following companies and their award-winning projects!

To view
full photo
galleries
of each
project





ARCHITECTURE

“Beacon Hill”

by Purple Cherry Architects
purplecherry.com

A unique fusion of architectural styles. From the street, the home presents a classic, traditional façade, evoking the charm of coastal residences with its timeless appeal. However, the back of the home undergoes a stunning metamorphosis, revealing a sleek and contemporary exterior. This juxtaposition is an architectural tone that is carried throughout the rest of the home.

The editors said: “This residence gets high marks in every regard from its best-in-class craftsmanship, creation and execution of its floorplan design, visual ease of transitional spaces, use of materials, and joining together the owners’ request to marry their traditional and modern sensibilities.”



ARCHITECTURE**“Southern Grandeur”**

by **SPEIGHT studio architects, inc.**
speightstudio.com

A new “Old House” influenced by the graciousness and grandeur of southern manor houses complete with traditional details and materials. The project was designed to reflect construction over several generations in the hopes that it will acquire the soul of the past. The connected structures were intended to denote hierarchy as well as imply an order of historic construction to create a rich history for the home in spite of its modern provenance.



The editors said: “This home represents an inspired use of four-square architecture as a base and then innovates with an extended floorplan customized specifically to enhance the owners’ lifestyle and their needs as they go forward in the home. This project gets points for executing these goals by creating wings purposely extending from the main house in a manner that looks as if the original structure had been there all along and grew in size and stature, in the nature that grand old manor homes do.”





WATERFRONT/CRITICAL AREA ARCHITECTURE

“Modern Waterfront”

by SPEIGHT studio architects, inc.
speightstudio.com

Danish and Chesapeake influences in a modern palette. Clean lines and minimalist details allow the proportions and framed views to be prominent in this new waterfront home. The massing of the home consists of a two-story gabled cruciform with a major and minor axis and one-story flat-roofed elements on the street side that make up the required additional first floor footprint.

Complex site issues dictated the exact and irregular waterside footprint of the home. During the design process it was determined that, due to site features including topography, views, light, and even air flow, a better result would be had by flipping the footprint. This resulted in less mass toward the shoreline.

The editors said: “This brand-new build scores extremely well in the ‘wow’ category, as the elements of function and design so uniquely and creatively culminate.”



WATERFRONT/CRITICAL AREA ARCHITECTURE

“Coastal Low Country”

by Purple Cherry Architects
purplecherry.com

Nestled amidst the serene beauty of a waterfront location, this brand-new retreat seamlessly blends modern comfort with the timeless charm of the low country aesthetic. Inside the home, the great room, with its timber-frame vaulted ceiling and expansive windows, truly embraces the nature surrounding the home. Multiple interior spaces take advantage of the views and include a waterfront library, grand dining room, and a primary suite with ensuite bath, among others.

The editors said: “The build required working with a compact lot, waterfront buffer issues, and the desire to create as little impact as possible to the native environment around the home’s footprint. Achieving an exquisite coastal style home in every regard with the requested square footage, advantageous sightlines to the waterfront whenever and wherever possible, and the positioning of the home within its environment, make this home a standout in its category.”





WATERFRONT/CRITICAL AREA ARCHITECTURE

“Pasadena Waterfront”

by Locust Grove Studios
locustgrovestudios.com

Located in Pasadena, Maryland, this home’s architecture and interiors were designed by Locust Grove Studios of Kennedyville. The build was completed by Delbert Adams Construction Group, with custom steelwork by Blacksmith Sawyer. Styling of the home by Kristen Alcorta and photography by Peak Visuals.



The editors said: “This exquisite home is truly in a class of its own and stands on its own on a private, waterfront point in Pasadena. This is a ground-zero critical area situation, and the task of this team of architects and builders was no doubt formidable considering the square footage requirements and the residence’s obvious level of sophistication. An architectural model of best-in-class contemporary waterfront living only somewhat captures the luxury and innovation of this home.”



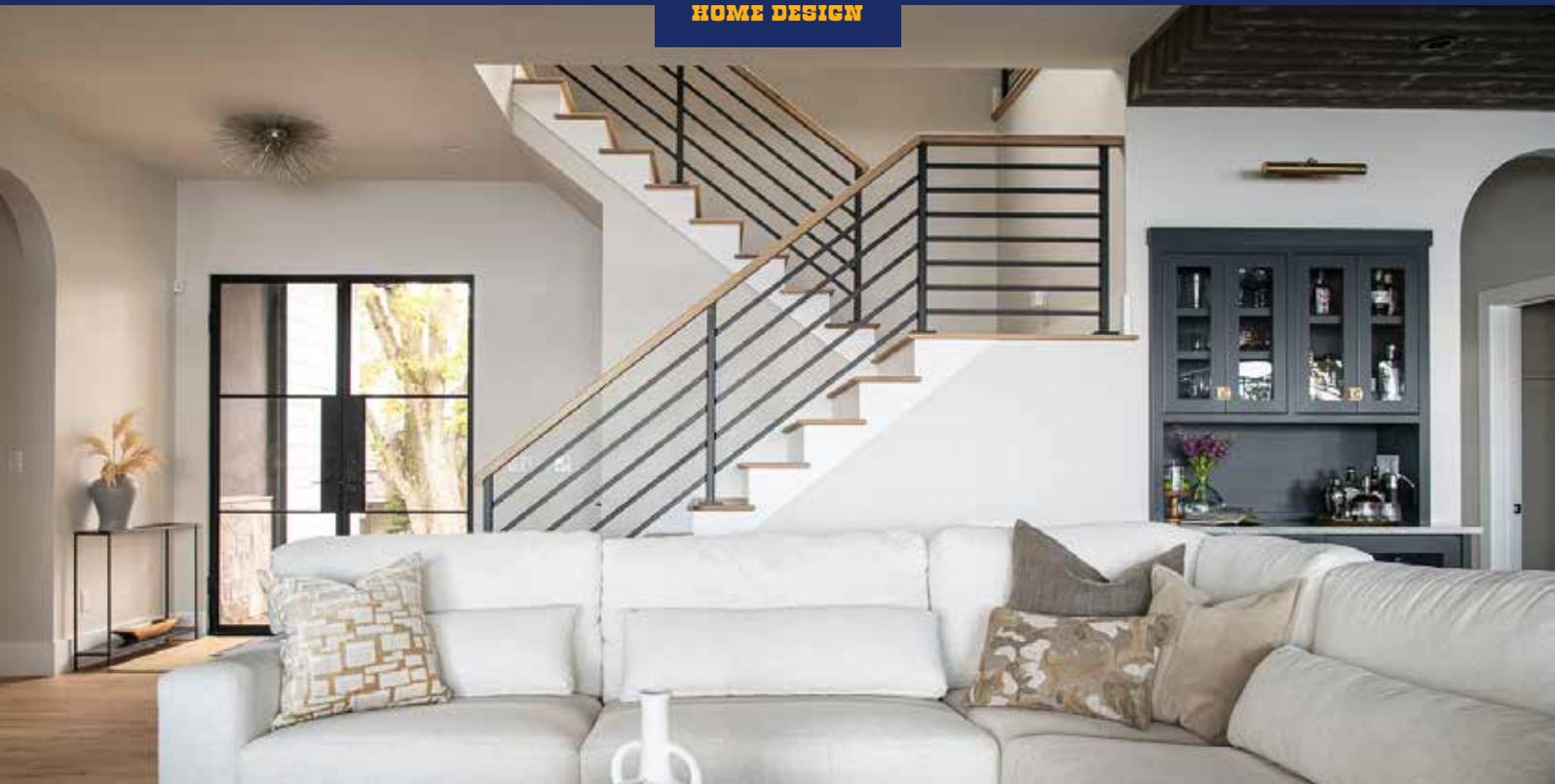


INTERIOR DESIGN

“Rehoboth Retreat” by Gable Interiors gableinteriors.com

This complete re-build features a ton of incredible design elements including a custom built bunkroom for kids complete with sailboat wallpaper, a pool house kitchen, living room, and bathroom for a private outdoor oasis. Custom millwork and beams add to the beach house charm. Bold wallpaper and lots of lighting are elements that help take this new build to the next level.

The editors said: “We love its beachy light hardwoods, curated use of woods throughout, and an intentionally calming palette of natural and neutral colors with some serendipitous splashes of lighter blues and navy mixed in for good measure. Textures and textiles also play a starring role in the balancing of structured pieces and serving as a resting place for the dwelling’s ample natural light.”



INTERIOR DESIGN

“South River Retreat”

by Taylor Hart Design
taylorhartdesign.com

A new open floor plan with expansive water views was a priority, including a modern kitchen with a large island, walk in pantry, laundry, and mudroom. All while executing their minimalist yet transitional esthetic. Special details can be found at every turn in this kitchen including beautiful custom cabinetry, luxurious white oak floors, a plaster range hood, multi-tonal backsplash tile, iron glass doors, outdoor pass-through window, honed countertop surfaces, fabulous lighting, and a soft and sophisticated color pallet.

The editors said: “Lifestyle is duly noted throughout the home with the visual ease of its transitioning spaces and paths accentuated with gorgeous and rich material choices. We’re especially loving the kitchen backsplash of tiled stone with an ever so clever reflective coating that banter with room’s natural light. And the understated (and well-integrated) cocktail cabinet gets high marks for effortlessly introducing a new hue and visual interest into the open-plan living scenario.”



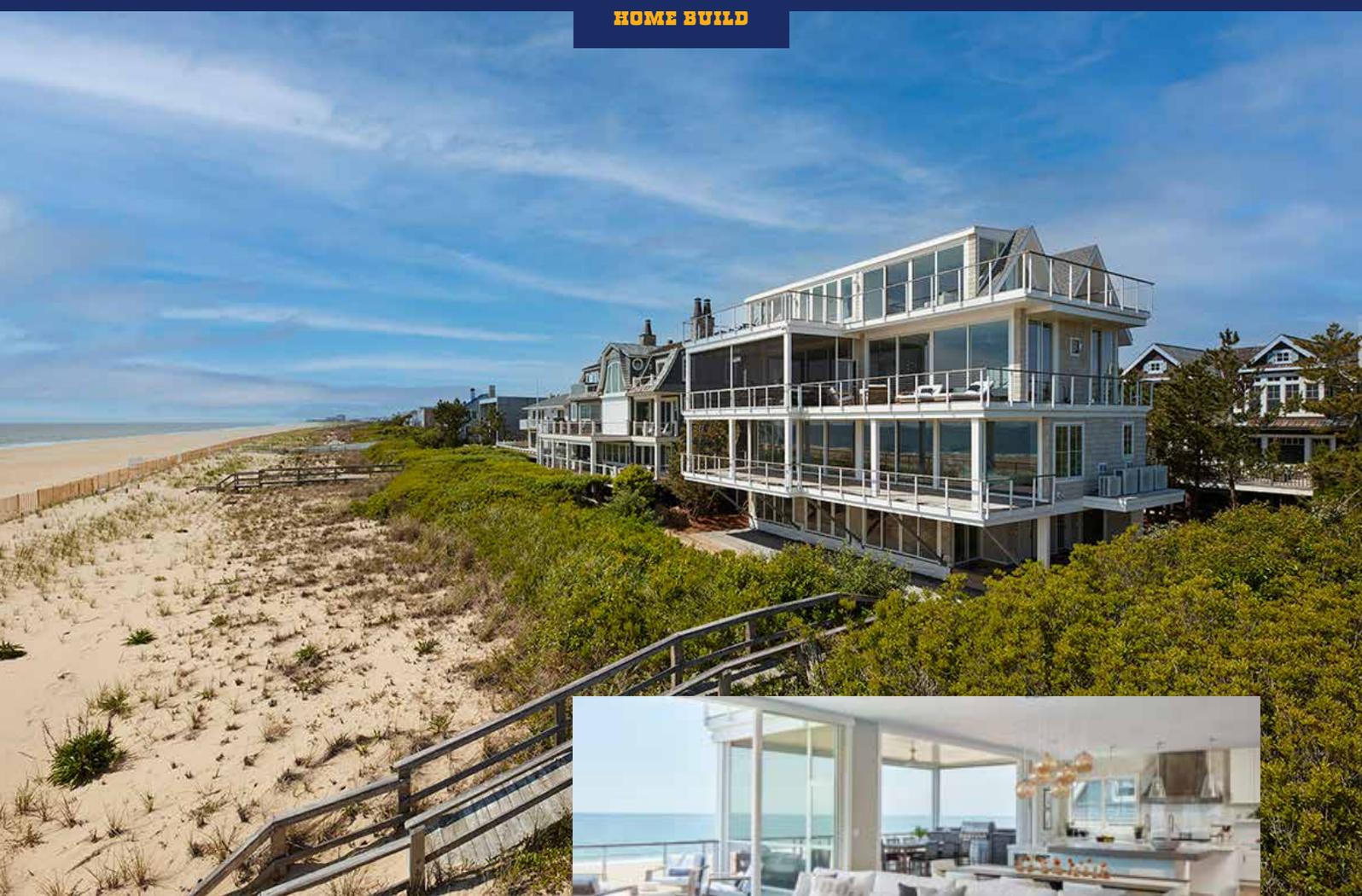
INTERIOR DESIGN

“New Kitchen”
 by Cabinet Discounters
cabinetdiscounters.com

This kitchen was done in a newly constructed home. The cabinets are from Brighton Cabinetry. The perimeter (lighter) cabinets are Wide Rail Shaker door style with Maple Iceberg color. The darker cabinets and pantry area are Madrid door style with Walnut Gunpowder finish.

The editors said: “Exceptional kitchen with a variety of finishes and materials that complement each other creating a cohesive, clean whole.”





WATERFRONT/CRITICAL AREA CONSTRUCTION

“Sea Glass”

by Marnie Custom Homes
marniehomes.com

Sea Glass is a North Bethany complete oceanfront tear down and custom rebuild boasting breathtaking beach views from literally every angle. Spanning over 7,800 square-feet, the home was thoughtfully designed to capture the waterfront setting from each space within the four-floor home. When constructing on this oceanfront lot, compliance with evolving FEMA and DNREC regulations were crucial factors.

The editors said: “This four-level beachfront stunner wins big for its sound and responsible construction practices and materials, as well as a design that embodies the sense of taking in all that waterfront living affords.”



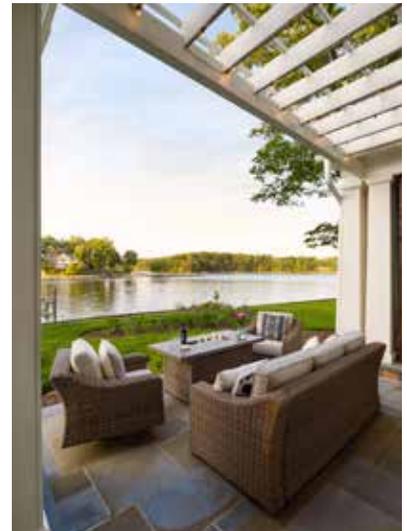
WATERFRONT/CRITICAL AREA CONSTRUCTION

“A Family Heirloom”

by Mueller Homes

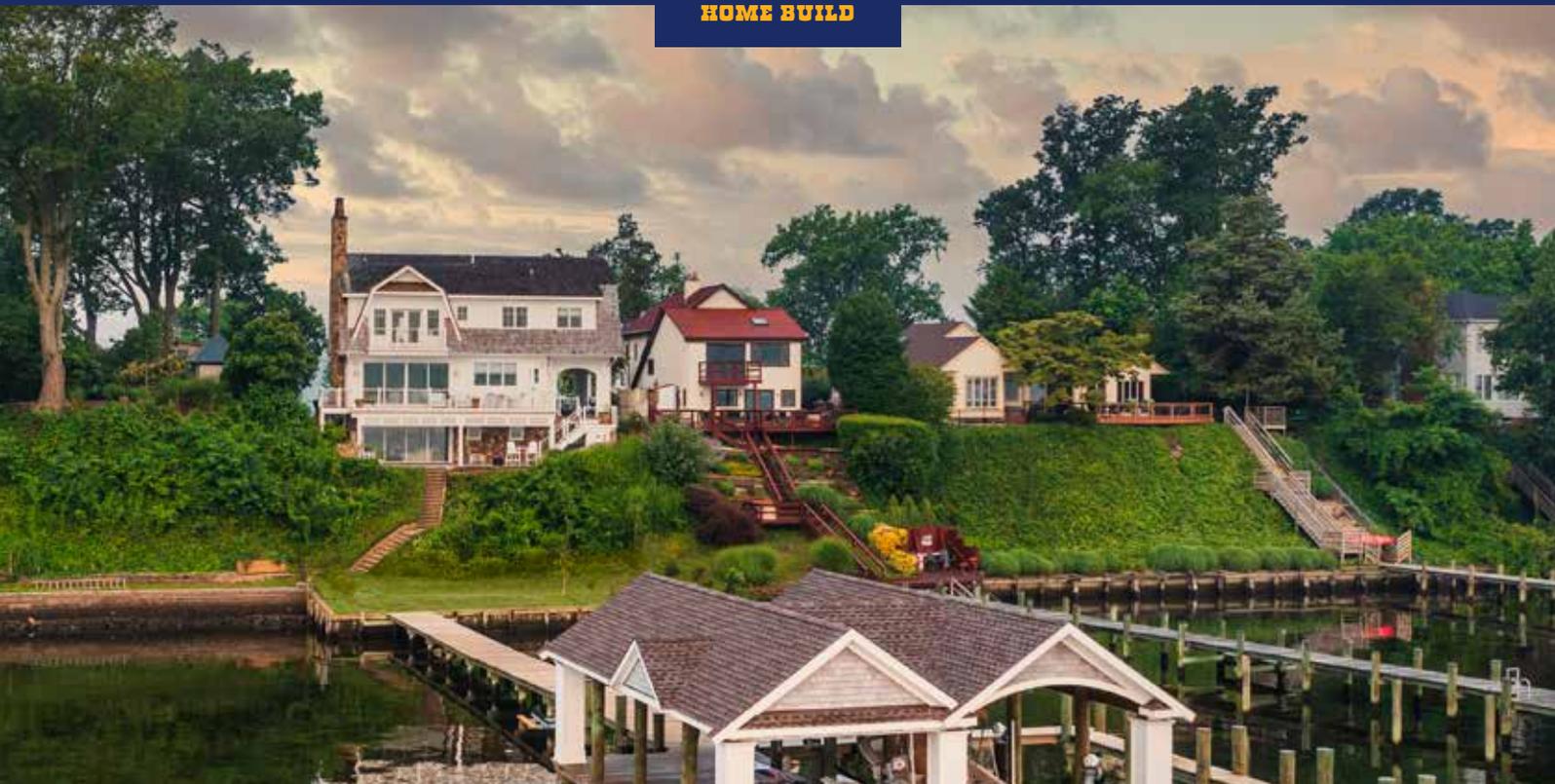
muellerhomes.com

Mueller Homes worked collaboratively with the client, Speight Architecture, Kitchen Encounters, Charles Henry Woodworking, and Absolute Landscaping to build this beautiful home on a family lot located on the Magothy River in Severna Park. While the property was located in a designated critical area, it was not located in a flood zone. This was a huge advantage that the builder and architect could maximize to expand the footprint and create a more modern home, designed to suit the family’s needs. The decision was made to do a complete tear-down and rebuild on the site. As is the case with many critical areas on the Chesapeake Bay, they would be required to plant a variety of native vegetation, trees, and micro ponds for runoff, but these accoutrements would allow them to expand the footprint.



The editors said: “This gorgeous, coastal farmhouse-style residence wins big for meeting and exceeding the needs of the growing young family that now calls it home. This mission was accomplished with a floorplan that allows for ease of interaction and thoughtful touches like fine, millwork treatments throughout, and special spaces such as the various areas created for gathering, indoors and out, that are all visually connected to the water.”





WATERFRONT/CRITICAL AREA CONSTRUCTION

“Long Point Rebuild”

by Procopio Homes
procopiohomes.com

Along the narrow drive of Long Point on the Severn in Crownsville, Maryland, you’ll notice this standout one-of-a-kind home. Meant to draw complete appreciation of the Severn River, with Round Bay on the front and Little Round Bay on the rear of the home. As a complete tear down, this home was rebuilt with waterfront entertainment in mind.

The editors said: “This home proves that a small footprint does not need to limit the imagination when it comes to fine design and sublime function. This residence is a stunner from the curb, through its peek-a-boo carport to the water, and to its expansive outdoor living spaces. This home also scores big for ingenuity of design and depth of materials and finishes chosen. Some of our favorite features include engineered European white oak floors, bead board ceiling detail, wrap-around fireplace mantles, and built-in, ratan-faced storage units.”



NEW CONSTRUCTION

“Dream Home” by Nielsen Development Group ndg.solutions

The house seamlessly integrates with the gently sloping Millersville wooded landscape, showcasing a public face of refined Bungalow or Craftsman-styling at the front and a modern, expansive design at the rear to capture the breathtaking southern views.

The editors said: “This brand-new build is a great example of using a time-honored base structure and applying the layers and individual aspects that turn a house plan into a dream home.”





NEW CONSTRUCTION

“Live Lucky”

by Marnie Custom Homes
marniehomes.com

The new construction project initiated on an empty lot where only a boat house previously stood and is now a sanctuary inspired by Florida-style living and designed for a resort-style experience featuring a pickleball court, putting green, pool, hot tub, outdoor kitchen, boat house with two boat slips and three decks, including a rooftop deck with ocean views, all nestled on the tranquil shores of Fenwick Island’s canal.

The editors said: “When you’re building brand new you’re inclined to think big, and this luxurious home off a canal on Fenwick Island scores points for being the epitome of an entertainment dream house come true.”





EXTERIOR RENOVATION

**“Colonial Turned Modern Farmhouse”
by Fichtner Home Exteriors
fichtnerservices.com**

The home was built in 1971, and the homeowners, who purchased the home in 2018, decided it was time for an update. For roofing, a Charcoal GAF Timberline roof was chosen and black standing seam steel on the garage and right-side bump out. In keeping with the modern farmhouse look, white Certainteed Board and Batten siding was installed with new black trim and aluminum gutters. Fichtner also built a new portico to bring an inviting feeling to the front door of the home. The new structure was built with a steel standing seam roof, cedar for the posts, ceiling and trim and stonework by local mason, Larry Rupp, of Chalk Point Masonry.

The editors said: “This transformation of a classic ’70s-era colonial gets our vote for most improved curb appeal, which is really what exterior renovation is all about! While not the largest of properties, this home shows a thoughtful modern approach.”





INTERIOR RENOVATION

“Nilsson Bathroom”

by Design Solutions, Inc.
dsikitchens.com

This bathroom is 6.5' x 9' and needed to provide lots of storage in addition to the usual functions. To make the room feel bigger, all finishes went up to the ceiling and are massed as large segments of color or pattern. No door is used for the shower; you simply walk into the wet area. The vanity sink area, designed to be narrower in depth, continues into the open end of the shower. This gives lots more counter and storage. A 6" deep tall cabinet give needed storage and the perfect stepped transition into the room. Storage continues with shallow wall storage and a deep drawer under the sink. A large linen closet fills the corner next to the toilet, offering a sense of privacy from the door.

The editors said: “This bath remodel embodies the perfect execution of everything a smart designer and knowledgeable builder knows about turning a physically small space into a something much bigger in terms of function, scale, and aesthetic.”





INTERIOR RENOVATION

“Kitchen for Family & Entertaining” by Paquin Design Build paquindesignbuild.com

Full kitchen and eat-in area renovation in waterfront home in Queenstown, Maryland. Clients focus was to incorporate an oversized multi-purpose island for family meals and entertaining.

The editors said: “This complete kitchen remodel caught our eye for its bright and bold approach to how families use their kitchens today. The older iteration, while still open-plan was dark, heavy, and choppy. A better sense of flow and utility has now been addressed in the form of an enormous, T-shaped center island topped with gorgeous white stone. The island provides copious amounts of storage, has an attractive cook-top, prep sink, and a clear sightline to a media wall.”



INTERIOR RENOVATION

**“Total Renovation”
by Procopio Homes
procopiohomes.com**

The original home was closed off and did not allow for any natural lighting throughout the house or any way to appreciate the views. The architect (Three B Architecture) was able to design the renovation meticulously to enhance livability while seamlessly blending functionality and aesthetics.

The editors said: “A meticulous renovation that made the house feel bigger and brighter, started with enlarging existing windows and re-designing the entire first floor. Wide-plank white oak hardwood floors were added throughout, and the entire kitchen was relocated to the back of the house in the revised floorplan so it would face the water. Other highlights of this timeless, total re-build include the home’s custom-crafted fireplace and built-ins, a gorgeous dining room overlooking the water and the patio and pool area, and its large set of French doors that lead from the dining room into a spacious family room, creating a totally new lifestyle experience for its owners.”

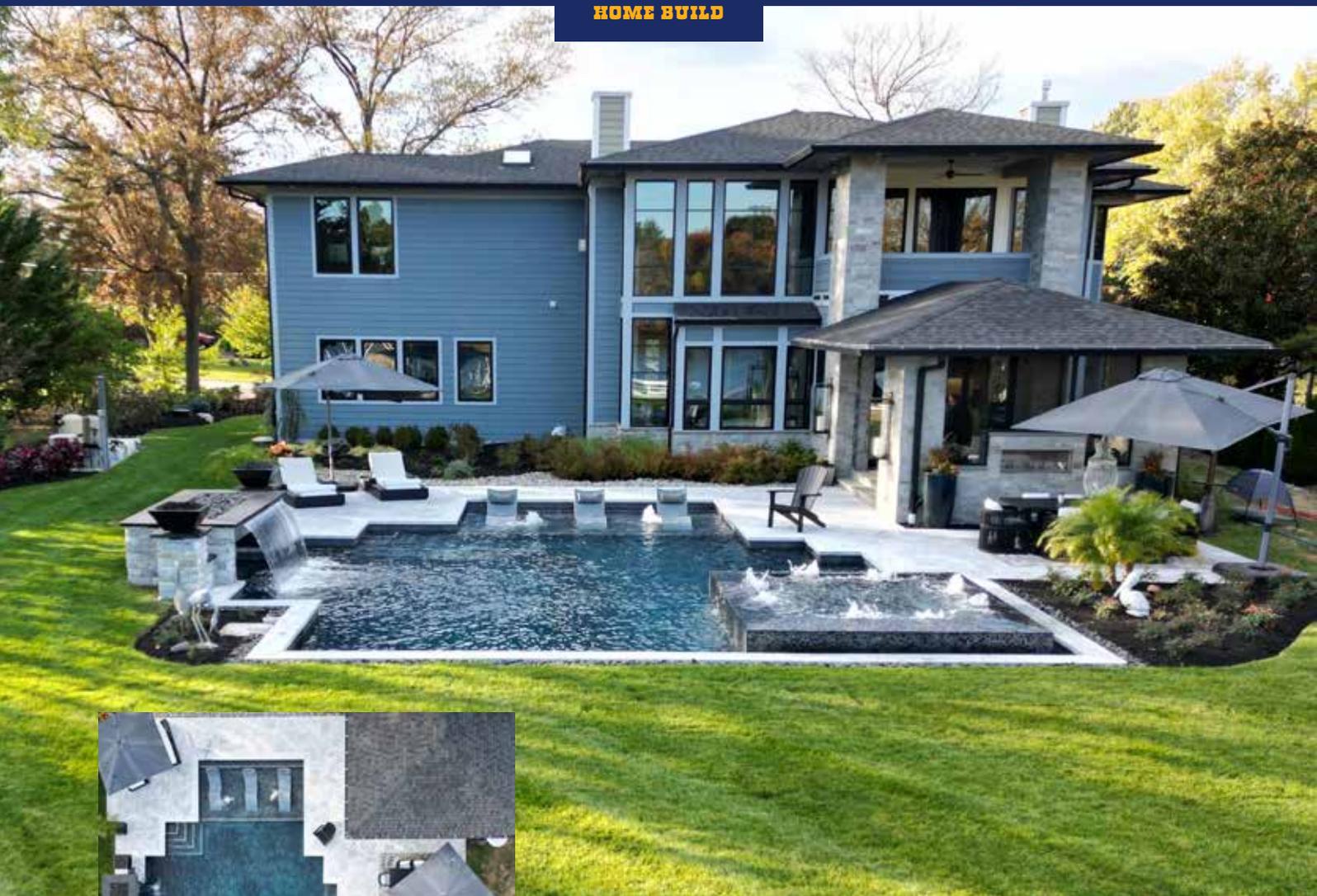


PROPERTY ADDITION**“Rancher Transformation”
by Adrian Development
adr-dev.com**

A multiple addition/gut renovation project transforming a 1960s rancher into a beautiful and functional home for a family of five. The design saw a complete re-work of the entire floor plan from the basement to the second floor. In order to accomplish the need for two added bedrooms and two bathrooms to the floor plan, two distinct additions were crafted.

The editors said: “One addition located above the garage became the home’s primary suite, and the other required the construction of a shed dormer in the home’s upper mid-section to provide the property with a new guest room and ensuite bath. Well done. This project also received accolades for the entirely new eat-in kitchen design that features modern Wood Mode cabinetry, professional grade appliances, a dual-basin 60-inch, custom metal sink, a separate eating nook, and beautiful Caesarstone Primordia Quartz countertops.”





POOL DESIGN/BUILD

“Geometric Pool”

by Coastal Pools
coastalpoolbuilders.net

Located in Kent Island, Maryland, this geometric pool features perimeter overflow spa and a grotto with LED sheer descent.

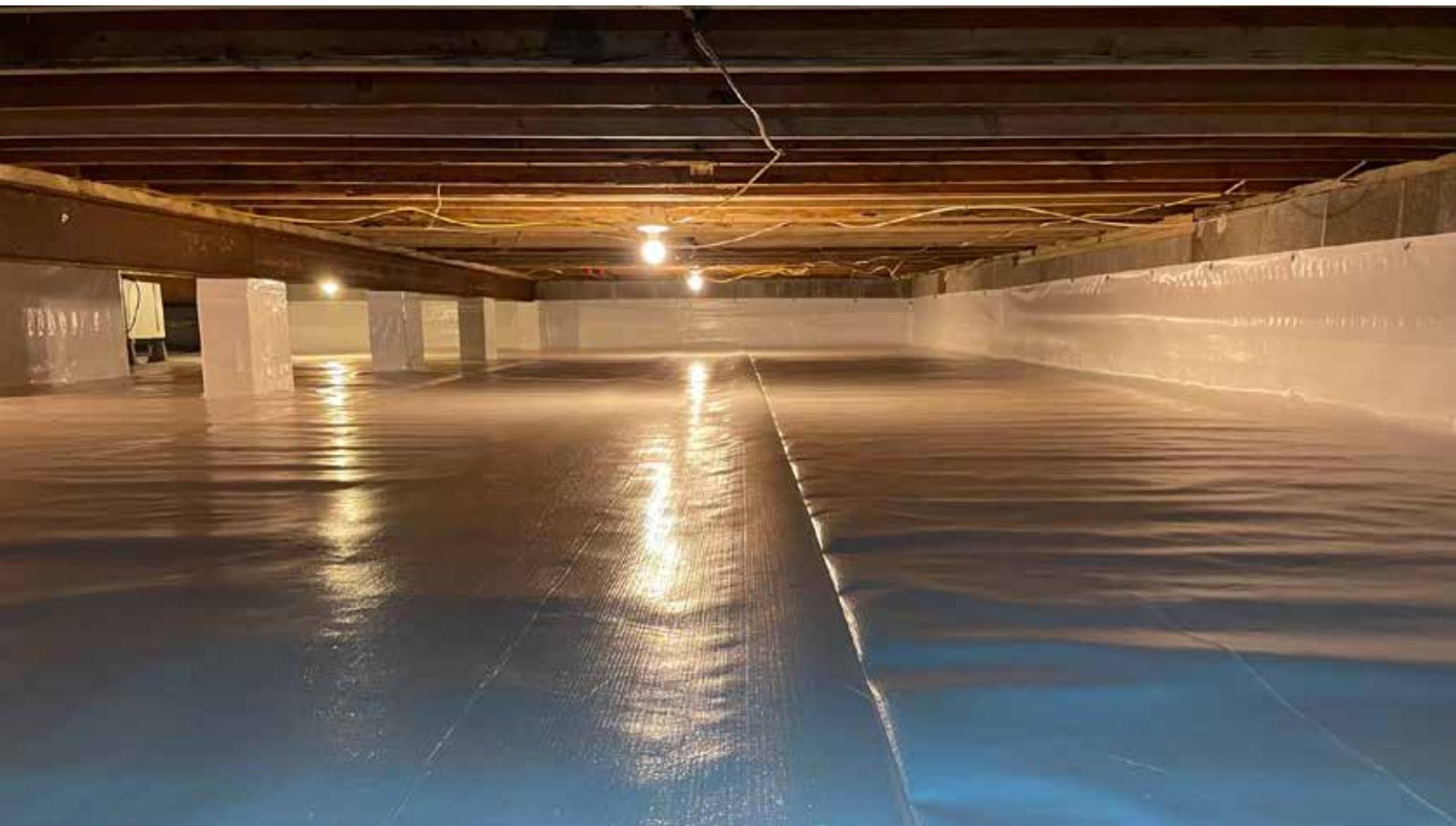
The editors said: “This stunning geometric pool design offers an edgy twist to basic pool shapes and provides not just a place to make a splash, but an upscale, pool apron surround that employs a sleek combo of white and misty gray stone.”



GREEN/LEED CONSTRUCTION**“Crawl Space Encapsulation”
by Total Home Performance
totalhomeperformance.com**

The crawl space received a total encapsulation. Once all existing mold was removed, a high-performance vapor barrier was installed, which effectively air seals the area to prevent any moisture from entering the now conditioned space. This means that mold, moisture, and pests are no longer a concern. Additionally, the area was equipped with a French drain, sump pump, custom access door, and a dehumidifier to ensure optimal conditions.

The editors said: “We were pleased to see the innovation taking place in this home’s crawl space. We gave this project extra points for equipping the space with extras to ensure optimal conditions for a healthy, comfortable, and energy-efficient home.”





GREEN/LEED CONSTRUCTION

“Waterfront Rebuild”

by Adrian Development
adr-dev.com

This home is 8000 square feet and features an abundance of luxury and custom features. The scope of this project was to demolish an existing waterfront home while leaving the foundation and a small amount of 1st floor framing. The existing foundation was reinforced, and many new footings were added in the crawl space. Best practices were utilized for all the building wall envelope and building science details, all of which provides excellent energy efficiency, low future maintenance costs, added sound deadening, and improved indoor air quality with a full Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) system tied into the 2-zone HVAC system, which gradually exchanges indoor air for fresh exterior air. The current average monthly utility bill for the new 8000 sq. ft. home is the same as it was for the old 4000 sq. ft. home.

The editors said: “This total home rebuild gets great marks for being an incredibly large home that is mindful of its footprint and efficiency standards.”



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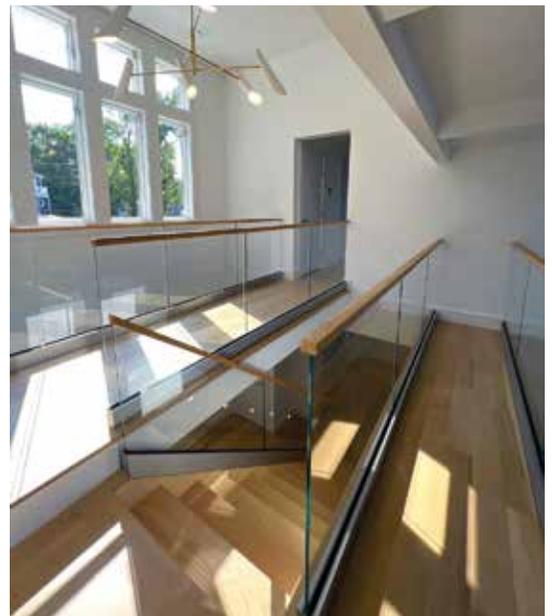


Adrian Development

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Q: What is often overlooked in the custom building marketplace?

A: What is not seen is as important as what is seen. In other words, be careful not to just look at the finish aesthetic to judge quality. True quality is when the best practices in building science are amalgamated with thoughtful and creative design. A recent 2nd story addition project we completed now enjoys energy bills that are half of what they were prior – except now with double the living space!

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Q: What do people forget to budget for when designing a kitchen or bathroom?

A: Most clients do a great job budgeting for the tangible things they know they want and need, like tile, lighting, and accessories. Often, however, they are so excited to get the project going that the planning and design phase are overlooked. There are so many decisions that come into play with building, which is why having professional help with the design stage is so imperative to a successful build.

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WHAT'S UP? MEDIA'S
SUMMER CAMPS
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Our region is rich with diverse summer camp options, but also a vast number of families, children, and teens to fill them up! So, parents must plan ahead and start the enrollment process now. Each February we put together our summer camp guide, which has plenty of options for both educational and athletic camps in our area. Check out more than a few of our favorites to help plan your summer!

AACS Summer Programs; Location: AACS Upper School, 109 Burns Crossing Rd, Severn, MD 21144 & AACS Middle School, 716 Bestgate Rd., Annapolis; Contact: summer@aacsonline.org; Ages: 3 1/2 - 18; Dates/Times: June 17-Aug 2; Cost: Variable; The AACS Summer Program offers over 50 camp options, including sports camps, Academic and STEM camps, creative arts, and so much more. Eagles Exploration camps fill fast, so be sure to register early. Early bird discount through March. Registration will open on Jan. 22. Go to aacsonline.org/Summer to register.

Archbishop Spalding Summer Camps;

Location: Archbishop Spalding High School, 8080 New Cut Road Severn; Contact: communications@spaldinghs.org; Ages: Will vary depending on the camp; Dates/Times: Will vary depending on the camp; Cost: Will vary depending on the camp; Archbishop Spalding High School offers a variety of summer camps from June through August. Camps' focus areas are academics and athletics and will vary in dates/times, pricing, and age range. Academic camps include SAT/ACT Prep, Robotics/Engineering, and Skills for Success Classes. Thirty athletic teams at Spalding and will offer summer camps in most programs. To learn more about our summer camps and how to register, please visit archbishopspalding.org/campus-life/summer-camps.

Ballet Theatre of Maryland Summer

Intensive; Location: 1981 Moreland Parkway, Building 4A, Bay 4, Annapolis; Contact: Emily Carey, btmschool@balletmaryland.org; Ages: 11+ (3 or 5 Week Programs) and 8-11 (1 Week Program); Dates/Times: 5 Week Program: June 24-July 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 3 Week Program: July 8-27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 1 Week Program: July 29-Aug 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Cost: 5 Week Program \$2,450, 3 Week Program: \$1,275, and 1 Week Program: \$425. At Ballet Theatre of Maryland's Summer Intensive, dance students will be immersed in dance with classes in a range of styles to further their technique and artistry including ballet, pointe (if applicable), variations, modern, contemporary/improvisation, jazz, acting, character, Pilates, choreography, and more. General information can be found at ballet-maryland.org/summer-intensive.

Bowie Baysox Baseball Camp; Location:

Prince George's Stadium 4101 Crain Highway, Bowie; Contact: Dani Fox dfox@baysox.com; Ages: 6-13 years old; Dates/Times: June 18-20, July 1-3, August 6-8, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Cost: \$209 per session. Pizza party included on final day. Also receive box seat ticket to a Baysox game; Have your child learn from future Baltimore Orioles at a Baysox Baseball Camp this summer. Instruction is led by Baysox players and staff.

Calvert Hall Summer Camps; Location:

Calvert Hall College High School, Baltimore; Contact: Brian Rowe, roweb@calverthall.com; calverthall.com/school-life/summer-program; Ages: 6-15; Dates/Times: June 17 through August 9; Cost: Varies by camp; Spend your summer at The Hall. There are 12-day camp opportunities including Baseball, Basketball, CHC Kids Camp, College Application Bootcamp, Debate, Fishing, Football, Lacrosse, Robotics, Soccer, Theatre, and Volleyball. There is something for everyone.

Capital SUP Grom Camp; Location: Cap SUP

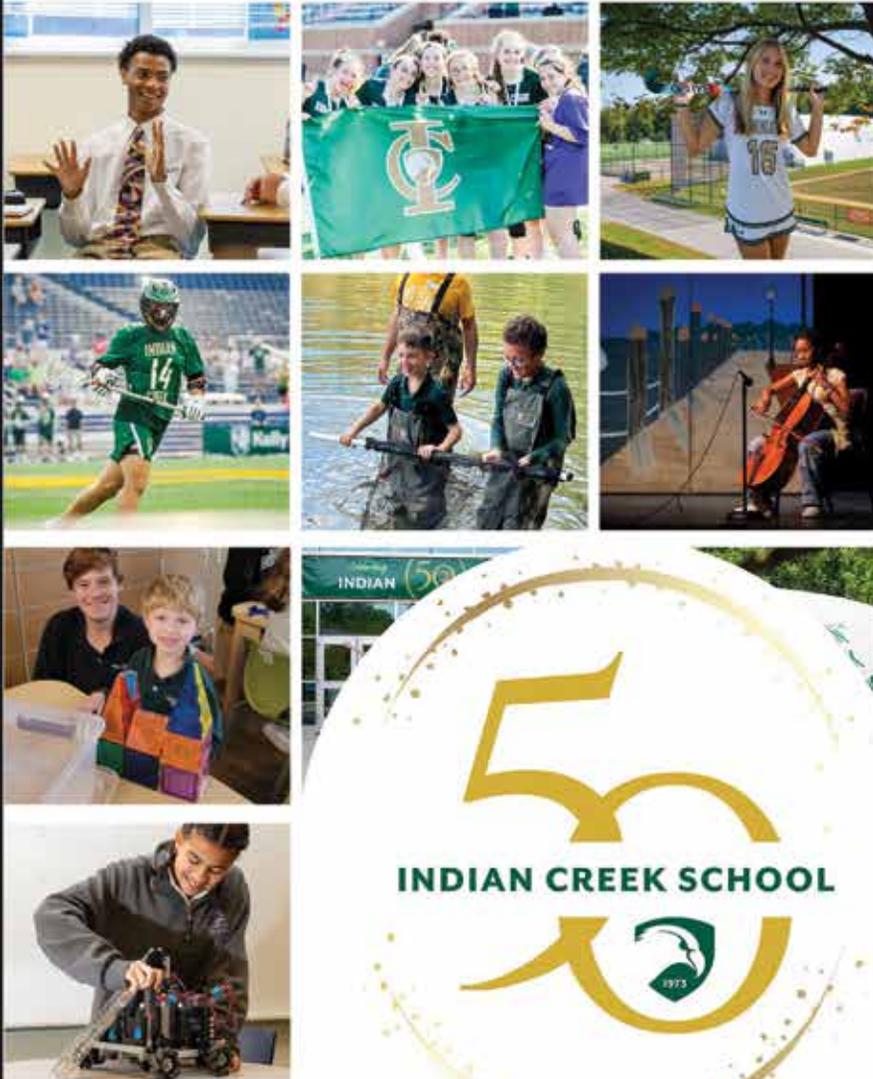
Boathouse at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis; Contact: capitalsup.com; Dates/Times: June 17th through August 26th, 1PM-4PM (PM Session), 9AM-12 PM (AM session), 9AM-4PM (Full Day - 10 yrs+ only); Ages: 7-14 Cost: \$339 (half day) \$605 (full day); Kids will learn to paddle, enjoy Standup Paddleboard games, party barge rides, on-water trampoline, paddleboard fitness (yoga and racing), nature walks, and explore Quiet Waters Park. All kids are required to wear life jackets while they are in the water.



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Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Middle School Bay Eco-Camp

Location: CBF's Port Isobel Island Environmental Education Center; Contact: cbf.org/ecocamp; 800-445-5572; Ages: Rising 6th–8th grade students; Dates/Times: July Camp: July 15 through July 19; August Camp: August 12 through August 16; Cost: \$1,000 per student – includes meals, lodging, activities, and ferry transport; Explore and learn with CBF this summer! Investigate habitats by boat, study critters from canoes, build a sense of wonder, and create memories with friends during a 5-day island adventure in the heart of the Bay. Monday drop-off and Friday pick-up will take place in Crisfield, Maryland.

Summers at Seton

Location: Elizabeth Seton High School 5715 Emerson St, Bladensburg; Contact: Brittney.Wagner@setonhs.org; Ages: 9–17; Dates/Times: June 24 through August 2 (camps vary); Cost: \$175 +; Summers at Seton is designed to unlock, unleash, and cultivate the creativity, confidence, and critical thinking of young girls. Girls enrolled in our summers at Seton Program will be encouraged to identify and cultivate their interests, enhance their athletic ability, improve their interpersonal skills, elevate their independence as well as self-expression, and learn to lead and serve others in a diverse and safe space.

Holy Trinity Camp

Location: Holy Trinity, Glenn Dale; Contact: [Ms. Becky Williams](mailto:Ms.Becky.Williams), Director; summercamp@htrinity.org; Ages: Pre/K–9th Grade; Dates/Times: June 17–August 9 (1st–9th Grade), June 17–July 26 (PK–Kindergarten); Cost: Varies.

Indian Creek School Summer Program

Location: Indian Creek School, 1130 Anne Chambers Way, Crownsville; Contact: [Bob Laffey](mailto:Bob.Laffey@indiancreekschool.org), blaffey@indiancreekschool.org; indiancreekschool.org/summer; Ages: PK–12; Dates/Times: Six Weeks beginning the week of 6/17 and ending the week of 7/22; Ranges from \$350–450 depending on camp; Indian Creek will offer a variety of options for children of all ages. We are excited to offer full days of arts, academics, service, and athletics. Our hope is to provide opportunities for young people to discover passions, cultivate skills, and most importantly have fun!

Maryland Hall Summer Camps

Location: Maryland Hall, Annapolis; Contact: marylandhall.org; Ages: 3 and up.; Dates/Times: Week by week dates throughout the Summer, June 17 through August 30; Cost: Varies; Explore a world of creativity this summer at Maryland Hall with a diverse array of camps in art, dance, theater, ceramics, jazz music, digital art, jewelry, fashion, and fiber arts. Whether you're aiming to refine your existing talents or embark on a new artistic journey, our camps provide the perfect opportunity to connect with others and enhance your skills!



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Musical Theatre Summer Camp; Locations: Baltimore at Mercy High School 1300 E. Northern Pkwy; and Annapolis at The Key School, 534 Hillsmere Drive; Contact: Lauren Engler, Camp Supervisor at 443-422-2605, MusicalStages.org or info@musicalstages.org; Ages: 6-15; Dates/Times: Baltimore: July 8-19, Annapolis: July 22-August 2; Cost: \$495; Musical Theatre Summer Camp provides your child an inclusive experience of all aspects of this great American art form. Classes in singing, dancing, acting, costumes, and stagecraft are taught by a staff of musical theater professionals. Campers are organized into small groups by age. Each group is guided by an experienced counselor, giving every child constant attention, personal assistance, and advice. Learning musical numbers from classic and contemporary Broadway shows, campers are taught healthy vocal techniques, develop poise and coordination while practicing their choreography, explore acting skills and improvisational games, rehearse their scenes, make their costumes, and design and create their set. All the activities emphasize having fun, making friends, and working together toward presenting their final public performance.

Naptown Sings and Plays Summer Music Camp; Location: 141 Gibraltar Ave, Annapolis; Contact: Sophia Hardesty, naptownsings.com/summer-camps-and-classes; Ages: 3-11; Dates/Times: 10:00 - 3:00 PM Before Care Available at 7:30 AM; \$75 per week After Care Available until 5:30 PM; \$75 per week, June 17-21, June 24-28, July 1-5, July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26, July 29 - August 2, August 5-9, August 12-16, August 19-23; Cost: \$350 per week; What keeps kids coming back year after year? Our Summer Music Camps are jam-packed with music, more music, and fun! Students, ages 3-11 of all levels and abilities (no experience necessary), will have the opportunity to learn to sing in our pop glee clubs, drum their hearts out in world drumming class, play various instruments, and participate in fun musical activities! In addition, our older kids (6-11) will learn an instrument: piano or ukulele. Our younger students (ages 3-5) will be immersed in a world of music exploration, from instrument playing, to rhythm and melody, and of course, fun! We have highly qualified instructors on staff to ensure a well-rounded educational experience and an exciting week. In addition to group instruction in voice and instruments, students will make friends, play games, and have an all-around musical good time! Camps will be held indoors at the Naptown Sings and Plays! studio. Campers will be grouped into groups based on age and instrument selection. Considering multiple weeks? Each week we will have new music, new genres, and new themes for a full immersive experience!

2023 Navy Athletic Summer Camps; Location: U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis; Contact: 410-293-5845; navysports.com. (click on "Camps" tab); Dates/Times: June-August; Ages: Varies by camp and program; Cost: Varies by camp and program; Please visit website for information.

Peabody Preparatory Summer Programs in Music and Dance; Location: Baltimore; Contact: peabody.jhu.edu/prepsummer; Ages: Various; Dates/Times: June 17 to August 9; Cost: Dependent on the program; The Peabody Preparatory offers a variety of weeklong specialty music and dance programs designed to provide a fun yet focused opportunity to hone your craft or try something new. From ballet to guitar virtuosity, our camps offer extraordinary artistic experiences. Craft your own beats, master the piano, explore the world through dance, or simply have a blast with your new friends. With programs for students of all ages and skill levels, there is something for everyone this summer at the Prep! Visit our website today at peabody.jhu.edu/prepsummer to learn more and register.

2024 Safe Harbor Annapolis Junior Tennis Camps and Program; Location: Safe Harbor, Annapolis; Contact: 410.268.8282; annapolis@shmarinas.com; Times: Spring/Summer; Ages: Varies by Program; Cost: Varies by Program

St. Anne's Day School Explorers Summer Camp; Location: St. Anne's School of Annapolis; Contact: Tracy Edlich, Tedlich@st.annesschool.org; Ages: 3.5-5 years old; Dates: June 17 through August 9; Cost: \$375; Ahoy, Explorers! Welcome to St. Anne's School's 2024 Summer Explorers Summer Camp. Our camp is for adventurers aged 3.5 to 5 years old and includes eight separate weeks of fun, themed explorations. Special "Expert Explorers" join us each week to help us dive further into the week's theme. We break out our water toys on Fun in the Sun Fridays for some extra splashin' around. Summer Explorers camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday (unless noted) with optional before and after care add-ons. Camp is \$375 per week and multi-week discounts are available.

St. Margaret's Day School Summer Camp; Location: 1605 Pleasant Plains Road Annapolis; Contact: Taylor Pазienza, Aleshia Marshall stmargaretsdayschool1605@outlook.com; Ages: 2-6; Dates/Times: June 17-21 Animal Planet; June 24-28 Unmask the hero in you!; July 8-12 Dinosaur Adventures; July 15-19 SMDS Summer Scientists; July 22-26 Build it, Design it LEGO; July 29-Aug 2 Welcome to the Summer Olympics!; Aug 5-9 St. Margaret's Pirates on the High Seas; Cost: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F is \$300 (ages 4-6); 9 a.m.-3 p.m. MWF is \$250 (3s); 9 a.m.-1 p.m. MWF is \$200 (3s); and Tu/Th is \$100 (2s); Join us for a summer of fun with weekly themes. Each week the counselors will create a variety of engaging hands-on activities, crafts, and lots of outdoor time to learn, explore, and have fun with their friends. Learn more about our camps by visiting stmargaretsdayschool.org/summer-camps.html.

St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School/ Club SciKidz MD; 375-A Benfield Road, Severna Park; 410-647-7055; clubscikidzmd.com/programs/camp-locations/#location-127; email: sciencecamps@clubscikidzmd.com; Full-day (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) and Half-day (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) camps available. Before- and after-care available. Prices vary; week-long science and technology camps for children in grades PreK-6th grade.



St. Vincent Pallotti High School Summer Camps; Location: St. Vincent Pallotti High School, Laurel; Contact: Aneisha Felton, afelton@pallottihs.org; pallottihs.org; Dates/Times: July 8 through August 2 (9 a.m.-3 p.m. Day Camps with 3-5 p.m. aftercare option, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Evening Camps); Ages: Rising 1st Grade to 10th Grade; Cost: \$225/week (Day Camps); \$125/week (Evening Camps); Pallotti Summer Camps are back and bigger than ever! With four weeks of camps for various ages, skill levels and sport/subject, we have something for everyone.

Summer at KEY; Location: Key School, 534 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis; Contact: Jane Flanagan, jflanagan@keyschool.org; Ages: 3 1/2 and up; Dates/Times: June 17 through August 2 (Closed June 19, July 4 and 5) Half-day and full day options, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Key offers After Care until 5:30 p.m.; Cost: Cost varies by program; Located on Key School's beautiful fifteen-acre campus, the setting provides access to ample space for outdoor exploration and play, in addition to kitchen facilities, science labs, music rooms, and gymnasiums. Fusco Athletic Park is located just two miles from the campus. This seventy-acre property provides space for our sports and adventure camps. More than 150 fun and enriching camps, from themed traditional camps for the youngest campers to specialty STEM, cooking, art, adventure and athletic camps. Average camper to staff member ratio of 8:1. The Summer at KEY staff comprises veteran teachers and experienced counselors, and is licensed by the State of Maryland.

Summer at Saint Andrews; Location: Saint Andrew's UM Day School, 4B Wallace Manor Road, Edgewater; Contact: summer@standrewsum.org; Ages: Rising PK3 to rising 9th; Dates/Times: June 17 through August 9, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily; Cost: Varies; Continue the joy of learning, playing, and discovering this summer at Saint Andrew's. Our summer programs offer campers of all ages opportunities to explore and grow in a fun and exciting environment. From time traveling on prehistoric adventures to space and beyond, your camper is in for an unforgettable summer of fun!



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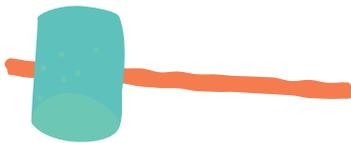
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Summer at Severn; Location: Severn School (Teel Campus at 201 Water Street, Severna Park and Chesapeake Campus at 1185 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd, Arnold); Contact: Olivia Eggstein, o.eggstein@severnschool.com or 410-647-7701 x2054 or visit severnschool.com/summer-at-severn; Ages: Preschool through rising 9th graders; Dates/Times: Camps run weekly starting June 24, and running through July 26; Cost: costs vary; Summer at Severn has something for every camper. Kids entering preschool to fifth grade can choose from traditional day camps with a different theme each week or fun specialty camps focused on photography, art, dance, theater and more. For tweens and teens, the Teel Camps offer an immersive experience in a variety of specialized interests, allowing them to explore their passion. Severn also offers a variety of sports camps (ages vary, see descriptions on website) and for younger campers there are jumpstart academic camps to help students prepare for the upcoming school year.



Camp Summit, Executive Functions Camp and EmPOWER Writing Camp; Location: The Summit School, 664 E Central Avenue, Edgewater; Contact: thesummitschool.org/summer-programs, camp@thesummitschool.org; Dates/Times: Camp Summit July 1-26, Executive Functions July 15-19 or July 22-26, EmPOWER July 15-19 or July 22-26; Specialty Camps July 17-28; Ages: Camp Summit Grades 1-8; Specialty Camps Grades 6-9; Cost: Camp Summit \$2,400 (4 weeks), specialty camps \$480; Camp Summit is for bright children entering grades 1-8 who struggle with reading, writing and math. Morning academics are followed by afternoon recreation. Executive Functions: This week-long course will help your student develop strategies to plan, organize, strategize, manage time, pay attention to and remember details. EmPOWER: This camp will teach students how to use the EmPOWER writing process to launch them on the road to writing success. The EmPOWER writing process helps students connect oral language, organization of thoughts, and writing.

Washington College Summer Camps; Location: Washington College, 300 Washington Avenue, Chestertown; Contact: washcoll.edu/admissions/visit/upcoming-events/summer-conferences; Ages: Students entering Sophomore through Senior year of High School; Dates/Times: Varies by camp; Cost: Varies by camp; Does your dream summer include meeting living writers, discovering the ecosystems in your own community, exploring the world through technology, or investigating history beyond the printed word? If so, you have come to the right place!



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TAKE FLIGHT

From its western mountains to the Chesapeake Bay and onward to the Atlantic coast, Maryland boasts a wide variety of habitats that attract an impressive array of bird species. In this article, we'll explore the vibrant world of birdwatching in Maryland, including the essential equipment needed and the thriving birdwatching communities that make the experience even more enjoyable.

Birdwatching is a popular and rewarding hobby for nature enthusiasts and bird lovers alike. To get started with birdwatching, you don't need an extensive array of expensive equipment or in-depth scientific knowledge. In fact, the basics are quite simple, making it accessible to anyone interested in observing and appreciating the avian world.

First up are binoculars; a good pair of binoculars is the most essential tool for birdwatching. They allow you to get a closer look at birds without disturbing them. When selecting binoculars, consider factors like magnification and field of view. A magnification of 8x to 10x is generally suitable, and a wider field of view is helpful for tracking birds in flight. In addition to binoculars, you may want to invest in a spotting scope for long-distance observation, especially for waterfowl or birds in open habitats. Tripods can also be helpful for stabilizing your optics.

**WINTER
BIRDWATCHING
CAN OPEN YOUR
SENSES TO THE
MARYLAND'S
NATURAL
WONDERLAND**

BY TYLER LEWIN

Wherever you go, make sure to have a field guide. Field guides provide detailed information on bird species, including their plumage, behaviors, and habitats. These guides help you identify and learn about the birds you encounter. Keeping a birdwatching journal is a great way to document your observations. Note the date, location, weather conditions, and any interesting behavior or characteristics you observe. Over time, your notes can help you track bird migration patterns and changes in bird populations. While not strictly necessary, a smartphone or a camera with a decent zoom lens can be handy for capturing photos of birds. These images can serve as a visual record of your sightings and assist with identification. Remember to prioritize the welfare of the birds and avoid disturbing them for the sake of a photo.

Make sure to dress appropriately for the weather and terrain you'll be exploring, especially during winter. Neutral-colored, heavyweight clothing (lightweight in warmer months) and comfortable, waterproof footwear are essential for prolonged birdwatching excursions. Wearing camouflage or earth-toned clothing can help you blend into the environment and minimize disturbance to the birds. A small backpack or field bag is useful for carrying your equipment, field guide, notebook, and snacks. Look for a bag with multiple pockets and compartments to keep your gear organized.

Finally, make sure to be patient and persistent. While not tangible, these qualities are perhaps the most important for successful birdwatching. Birds can be elusive and will likely require time and effort to locate. Patience and persistence are key to honing your observation skills and building your birdwatching expertise.

Mary Huebner is president of the Tri-County Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, which covers the lower Eastern Shore counties of Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset. She views birdwatching as an inclusive community of folks who are passionate about enjoying the beauty of, and being in, nature. "I think we are a special group because of our diversity," Huebner says. "We have very experienced birders, as well as those just 'getting their feet wet,' so to speak, in becoming more knowledgeable about what we see, and what we hear." Huebner says that club field trips generally begin early in the morning, at about 7:30 a.m., and last until mid-afternoon.

BIRDS CAN BE ELUSIVE AND WILL LIKELY REQUIRE TIME AND EFFORT TO LOCATE. PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE ARE KEY TO HONING YOUR OBSERVATION SKILLS AND BUILDING YOUR BIRDWATCHING EXPERTISE.



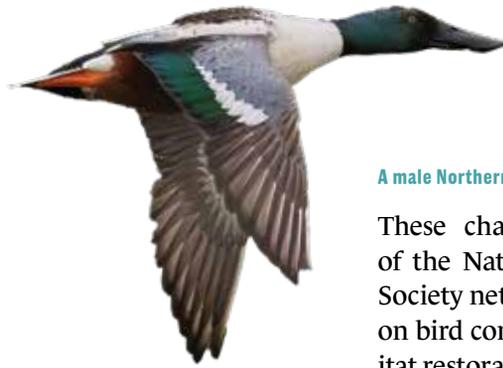
The Eastern tundra swan population winters on the Atlantic Coast in the Chesapeake Bay of Maryland and North Carolina. By summer, the swans will travel to the Arctic tundra areas from the Seward Peninsula of Alaska, east to Hudson Bay and Baffin Island to nest. Photograph by Sara DeRosa.

A mature male Bald Eagle perching on a snow fence along the beach at Assateague Island National Seashore looking out to sea.

Birdwatching clubs play a vital role in fostering a sense of community among bird enthusiasts, providing opportunities for shared experiences, education, and conservation efforts. Maryland is home to several active birdwatching clubs that cater to both seasoned birders and beginners. These clubs offer a range of benefits, making them an integral part of the birdwatching scene in the state. Let's meet a couple:

The **Maryland Ornithological Society** (mdbirds.org) is one of the most prominent birdwatching clubs in the state, with 15 local chapters (e.g. Tri-County Bird Club, The Anne Arundel Bird Club, The Patuxent Bird Club, The Kent County Bird Club). MOS serves as a hub for bird enthusiasts of all levels of expertise. They organize regular field trips, workshops, and meetings to facilitate learning and networking among members. MOS also maintains a comprehensive checklist of Maryland's native bird species, supports important conservation initiatives, and publishes the quarterly journal, "Maryland Birdlife."

Several local **Audubon Society chapters** (audubon.org/about/chapters) can be found throughout Maryland, including the Audubon Society of Central Maryland, Audubon Society of Maryland and D.C., and others.



A male Northern Shoveler.

These chapters are part of the National Audubon Society network and focus on bird conservation, habitat restoration, and public education. They often host bird walks, bird counts, and educational programs.

In Maryland, we are fortunate to have a vast amount of both native and migratory bird species. "We go from the ocean to the Nanticoke River," explains Huebner, of the region she personally enjoys birding within. "This affords us the opportunity to see Bald Eagles, Osprey, Kingfishers, and Great Blue Herons, all more or less in our back yards!"

"We'll also look for Hermit Thrushes, Junco, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Loons, Gannets, Northern Shovelers, Ruddy ducks, and the Brown Creeper, in addition to a wide variety of beautiful ducks that visit our area in the winter."



Piping plovers are an endangered species that nest on Assateague Island when spring arrives. Photograph by Sara DeRosa.

A small group of Northern Pintail Ducks flying within Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.



TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THESE SPECIES, AND MANY OTHERS, HERE ARE SOME OF THE TOP BIRDWATCHING LOCATIONS IN THE STATE:

Assateague Island National Seashore

This pristine barrier island on Maryland's Eastern Shore is a birdwatcher's paradise. Known for its migratory birds, including waterfowl and shorebirds, Assateague is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA).

Patuxent Research Refuge

Located in Laurel, Maryland, this refuge offers over 12,800 acres of protected wildlife habitat. Birders can spot a variety of waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors in this area.

Conowingo Dam

A few miles north of the Susquehanna River's mouth sits the massive Conowingo Dam, opened in 1928 to provide hydroelectric power to the greater Baltimore region. Below the dam is the pool, full of fish and wildlife and especially popular for predatory species such as bald eagles—plus the birders who flock to the dam to observe them.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Just south of Rock Hall, the island refuge was established in 1962 as a sanctuary for migratory birds. The refuge offers wonderful wildlife viewing and expansive views of the Chester River and Chesapeake Bay along seven different trails. Over 240 bird species visit the refuge.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

Situated on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, this 32,000-acre protected land and water is famous for its wintering population of bald eagles. It's also home to a multitude of waterfowl, herons, and shorebirds.

Catoctin Mountain Park

This park, nestled in the Catoctin Mountain range, is a prime destination for forest birdwatching. Its diverse habitats support a range of woodland species, including warblers, thrushes, and woodpeckers.

Allegany County

The western mountains of Maryland are a great spot for observing mountain birds like the Blackburnian Warbler and the American Woodcock.

Maryland's geographic diversity, ranging from the Appalachian Mountains in the west to the Atlantic Ocean in the east, provides a wide range of ecosystems, making our state excellent for birdwatching. Whether you're an experienced birder or a novice, Maryland offers something for everyone.



Building a Legacy:

The Journey to Becoming a Third Generation Financial Services Firm in Annapolis, Maryland

Take a peek below to discover why CEO, Brion Harris, is buying a building and moving his headquarters to West Annapolis.

In the heart of Annapolis, Maryland, a city steeped in history and tradition, lies the story of Premier Planning Group and one family's unwavering commitment to be the most trusted for financial advice. As the torch bearer of a legacy that spans over 50 years, the aspirations to become a **third-generation financial services** firm in this vibrant community is both a challenge and an opportunity. This article delves into the journey of the Harris family, their dedication to serving their clients, and their vision for the future.

The foundation of any successful business lies in its roots, and for Premier Planning Group (PPG), it all began with a vision. The founders (Dan Harris and his 3 sons, Chris, Brion and Greg),

driven by a passion for helping others achieve financial confidence, established a firm that would become a trusted name in Annapolis. Their dedication to personalized service, integrity, and a client-centric approach laid the groundwork for future generations to build upon.

As Chris, Brion and Greg took the reins from their father, they faced the challenge of adapting to a rapidly evolving financial landscape. Technological advancements, changing regulations and shifting client expectations demanded a forward-thinking approach. With a commitment to staying ahead of the curve, the three brothers embraced innovation, expanded their service offerings, and fostered a culture of continuous learning. This adaptability allowed them to not only survive but thrive in an ever-changing industry.

Now the time has come to begin to lay the groundwork to carry the torch forward. Armed with the wisdom and experience of their predecessors, PPG is poised to build upon the strong foundation laid before them. As CEO of PPG, Brion felt that owning his own building was of immense importance and serves as a strategic decision

By putting our clients' needs first, we aim to create a lasting impact on their lives.

that will shape the long-term success and sustainability of PPG. Owning our own building will allow us to customize the space to align with our brand identity and create a welcoming environment for our clients. From designing a layout that enhances productivity and allows us to do educational workshops in house to incorporating branding elements that reflect the firm's values, owning a building provides the freedom to create a unique and memorable client experience. "The journey to becoming a third-generation financial services firm in Annapolis is not just about continuing the family legacy, it is about embracing the responsibility of guiding clients toward financial success in an increasingly complex world," says Chris Harris who is CFO for the firm.

At the core of the Harris family's aspiration lies an unwavering commitment to their clients. They understand that financial planning is not just about the numbers and investments; it is about building relationships, understanding individual goals, and providing tailored solutions. "By putting our clients' needs first, we aim to create a **lasting impact on their lives**, helping them navigate the financial challenges they face and achieve their dreams," says Greg Harris, Planning Assistant for the firm.

Annapolis, with its rich history and close knit community, holds a special place in the hearts of the Harris family. "They recognize the importance of giving back and actively engaging with the community they serve," says Talia Grover, Brion's Executive Assistant and Head of Marketing for the firm.

Whether it is through the 24 educational workshops that Brion hosts at local restaurants every year or the philanthropic initiative through Gradient Gives Back Foundation (started in 2009), which finds a local family/or families that are on the verge of losing their home and we pay their mortgages for a year (to provide a hand up not a hand out), we strive to be an integral part of the fabric that makes Annapolis thrive.

As Premier Planning Group looks toward the future, they envision a legacy that extends far beyond their own family. They aim to create a lasting impact on the lives of their clients empowering them to

achieve financial freedom and confidence. "By embracing innovation, fostering a culture of excellence, and staying true to their core values, PPG is ensuring its place as the go-to financial services firm in Annapolis, trusted by generations to come," says Office Manager, Julie Harris.

"Becoming a third-generation financial services firm in Annapolis, Maryland is not just a dream, it is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Harris family to their clients and community," says Charlie Gunn, Administrative and Marketing Assistant to Brion Harris. With a rich history, a client-centric approach, and a vision for the future, the Harris family and PPG are poised to build upon the legacy established by their predecessors.

The move to own our own building is not just a practical decision, it is a strategic investment in our future. Owning our own building becomes an integral part of our legacy and succession planning. "As the firm passes from one generation to the next, the building serves as a tangible symbol of our family's commitment to our clients and community. It provides a solid foundation for future generations to build upon, ensuring the continuity of the firm's mission and values," says Dan Harris, Founder and former Senior Managing Partner for Premier Planning Group.

"As we navigate the ever changing financial landscape we remain steadfast in our dedication to helping individuals and families achieve their financial goals," says Jennifer Posdziech, Head of New Business. This is about more than a mission. It's a movement; and its bigger than any one of us. In an increasingly complex world where people are starving for someone they can trust, we stand for something simple; **always put the client first**. We do well by doing good for those we serve. It's the ultimate measure. We believe in providing **value beyond a doubt** and in the notion that time will either expose you or promote you, based on your willingness to **embrace change**. The building is expected to be finished by July of 2024. Please join us for our Open House to celebrate this exciting endeavor!



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A Modest Forecast

The economic outlook for the year ahead is highlighted by cautious optimism for a U.S. economy that, despite all its challenges, continues to outperform expectations

BY ZACHARY FRITZ,
SAGE POLICY GROUP





In October 17, 2022, Bloomberg published a story with the headline, “Forecast for U.S. Recession Within Year Hits 100% in Blow to Biden.” While Bloomberg’s model was uniquely certain about a downturn, they were hardly alone in predicting an economic contraction. That same month, the average respondent to the Wall Street Journal Economic Forecasting survey put a 63 percent chance of the economy entering recession within the next year.

Of course, those forecasts were wrong. Not only has the U.S. economy avoided recession in 2023, it has outperformed even the most optimistic expectations. Despite the effects of high interest rates on certain segments, like homebuying, employers continue to hire, consumers continue to spend, and inflation has subsided without causing a large uptick in unemployment.

As the federal reserve tries to navigate an elusive soft landing, risks remain, including in the form of a frozen housing market, still above-target inflation, labor shortages, and emerging signs of household financial stress.

The Housing Market

While most economic segments have, somewhat surprisingly, shrugged off the effects of higher interest rates, the housing market has been virtually paralyzed by the impact of extraordinarily elevated mortgage rates. This has been especially true for the existing home market which has been hampered by low inventory levels; October 2023 existing home sales were down more than 38 percent compared to the prevailing level in 2021.

New homes, on the other hand, are selling at roughly the same rate as in the months leading up to the pandemic, largely because of the dearth of existing homes on the market. Even with the relative increase in market share for new construction, however, overall home selling activity is close to the lowest level this century.

That may be about to change. Mortgage rates have declined in each of the past six weeks, falling from the two-plus decade high of 7.79 percent for a 30-year fixed rate to 7.03 percent. That’s still extremely elevated compared to the prevailing rates of the past decade, but it’s low enough to cause some pent up demand to be released. Mortgage applications, the most real-time indicator of homebuying activity, have increased in each of the previous six weeks, indicating just how sensitive homebuying is to rate declines.

Given the dramatic disinflation observed throughout 2023, mortgage rates will continue to decline in 2024. That will undoubtedly push home selling activity higher over the course of the year. For prospective homebuyers, there will likely be a sweet spot in early 2024 when rates have fallen to a palatable level, but the buying frenzy hasn’t yet begun.

◆
PERHAPS THE GREATEST REASON FOR OPTIMISM IS THAT INFLATION HAS SLOWED TO AN ABSOLUTE CRAWL IN RECENT MONTHS.



Rate Cuts

For much of the past twenty months, the question was “How high will the Fed raise interest rates and how long will they keep them there?” Given rapid disinflation and a slowly cooling labor market, the question has changed to “When will the Fed start cutting rates and how low will they go in 2024?”

The answer to this question varies wildly depending on who you ask. Goldman Sachs, for instance, forecasts three 25 basis point cuts in March, May, and June. Projections from the Federal Reserve are slightly more reserved, with the equivalent of three 25 basis point rate cuts projected for 2024. In either of

those cases, easing of monetary policy would support, among other things, a significant increase in construction activity and home-buying. The ultimate answer to that question, however, depends on data released between now and the Federal Reserve’s March meeting, with the most critical indicators pertaining to inflation.

Disinflation

Inflation has slowed dramatically over the past year and a half, with the annual rate of price increases plummeting from a catastrophic 9.1 percent in June 2022 to a far more manageable 3.1 percent in November 2023. Given that the Fed seeks to bring inflation back to a 2.0 percent annual rate, much of the battle has already been won.

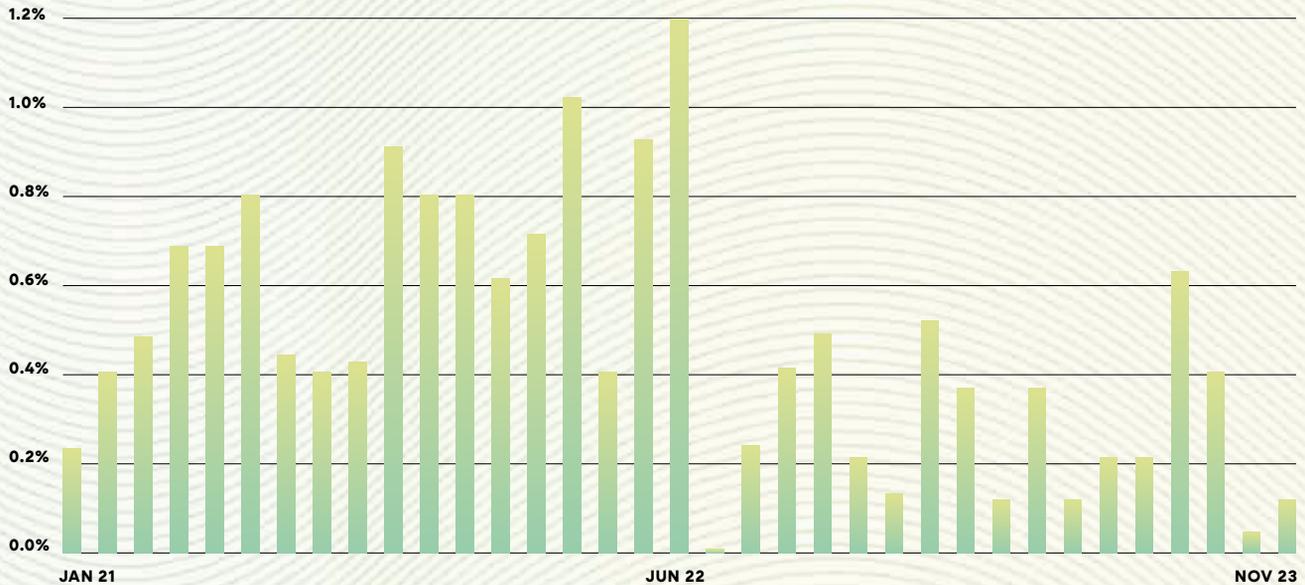
Perhaps the greatest reason for optimism is that inflation has slowed to an absolute crawl in recent months; the Consumer Price Index increased at a 0.9 percent annual rate over the first two months of the fourth quarter of 2023, with prices unchanged in October and rising just 0.1 percent in November.

To the extent inflation remains an issue, it is almost entirely due to shelter prices, which are up 6.5 percent over the past year. Excluding shelter, economywide prices are up just 1.5 percent over the past year, and economists expect the shelter component of CPI to decline over the next several months due to methodological issues.

The outlook for inflation is increasingly benign. The Fed expects it to slow to a 2.6 percent annual rate in 2024. That would be a welcome development for both consumers and businesses, especially with some economic segments set to slow.

MONTHLY INFLATION CPI-U: 1-MONTH % CHANGE

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



A Slowing Labor Market

Monthly payroll employment gains have weakened in the second half of the year, slowing from more than 300,000 per month in the first quarter of 2023 to 186,000 per month since June. This was always going to happen; the pace of job creation over much of the past few years reflected the recovery of jobs lost during the pandemic and was simply too fast to be sustainable.

Yet despite slowing, job growth is far from slow. U.S. employers have added more jobs from July through November of 2023 than over the equivalent period of each year from 2017 to 2019. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate fell to 3.7 percent in November, close to the lowest level in over 50 years.

Perhaps most importantly, the worker shortages that have defined the post-pandemic economy (at least for employers) are starting to improve, though there are still far too few available workers. To put this problem into context, there are currently 1.4 job openings per unemployed worker; even if the unemployment rate fell to 0.0 percent, there would still be a significant number of job openings.

Consumers Keep Spending

Despite high interest rates and a few years of elevated inflation, consumers keep spending. That's been a surprise for many economists and forecasters, most of whom thought spending would fall off a cliff due to difficult financial conditions.

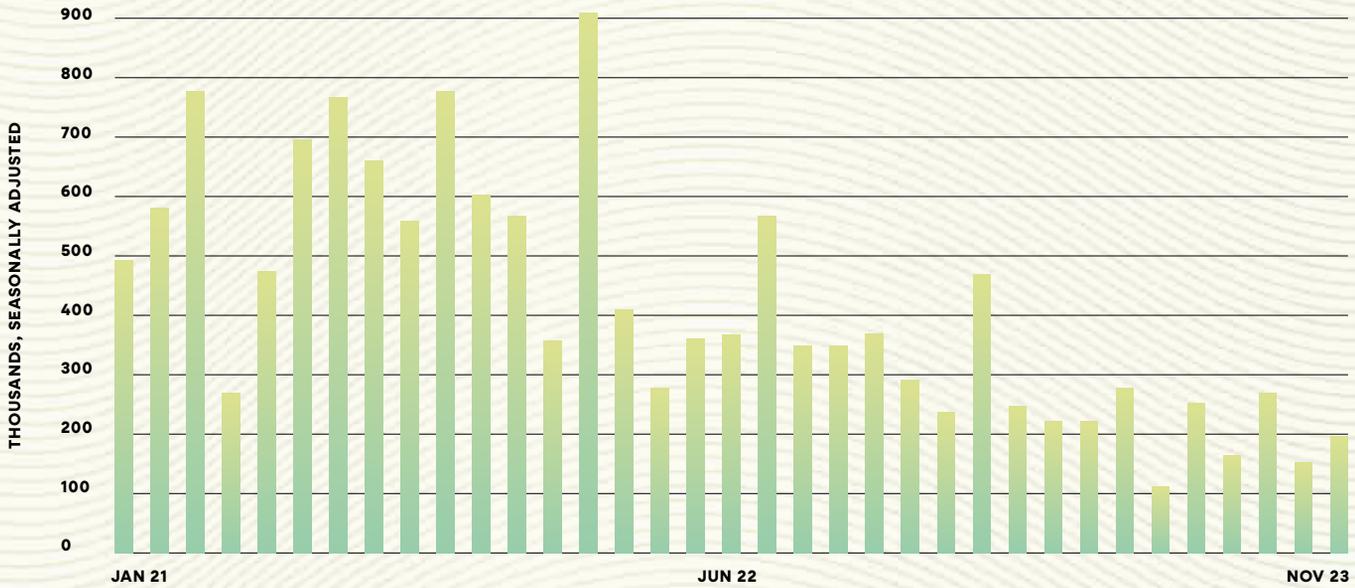
A few factors have contributed to the ongoing strength of the demand side of the economy. First, an unprecedented share of homeowners either purchased a home or refinanced in 2020 or 2021 and are, as a result, locked into low fixed rate mortgages. That has sheltered them from the impact of higher interest rates, freeing them to spend on other things.

Second, it's difficult to know exactly how much of the excess savings—the money households stashed away due to stimulus checks, expanded unemployment benefits, and an inability to spend due to lock downs and business closures—consumers accumulated during the early months of the pandemic remain, but the answer seems to be a lot.

Third, gas prices have plummeted due to record domestic oil production, and that

JOB GROWTH: 1-MONTH NET CHANGE

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Recession

has saved consumers hundreds of millions of dollars on a daily basis.

And finally, the unemployment rate remains near historical lows and wages have been rising at a faster rate than prices. If everyone who wants a job has one, and those jobs pay well, why would spending slow down?

Despite ongoing consumer momentum, minor signs of financial distress have started to emerge. Flows into credit card delinquency have sped up in recent months, and with the interest rate on credit card debt at the highest level since at least 1994, those who fall behind on payments will face particularly severe penalties.

That, along with the resumption of student loan payments in October and the cumulative effect of high interest rates and inflation, should put downward pressure on spending activity over the next several quarters. Of course, given the historical relationship between rate increases and economic activity, spending activity should have already slowed. That, to say the least, has not been the case.

A majority of forecasters anticipated a recession in 2023. Despite those projections proving spectacularly wrong, the consensus outlook still puts the odds of a downturn in 2024 at roughly 50 percent. Some say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. I say that's practice. Whether forecasters are insane or just extremely practiced at being wrong, the economy continues to outperform even the most optimistic expectations.

How long the economy can maintain that momentum is heavily dependent on when the Federal Reserve begins to lower rates; the difference between landing a plane and crashing it is all about when the pilot pulls up.

Zachary Fritz joined Sage Policy Group in 2013 and has led the firm's day-to-day operations since 2015. He specializes in economic and fiscal impact estimation and economic content creation, and his writing has appeared in the *Washington Post* and *Baltimore Sun*, among other publications. He is a regular columnist in *I-95 Business* magazine, and he founded and coauthors the Sage Economics newsletter.

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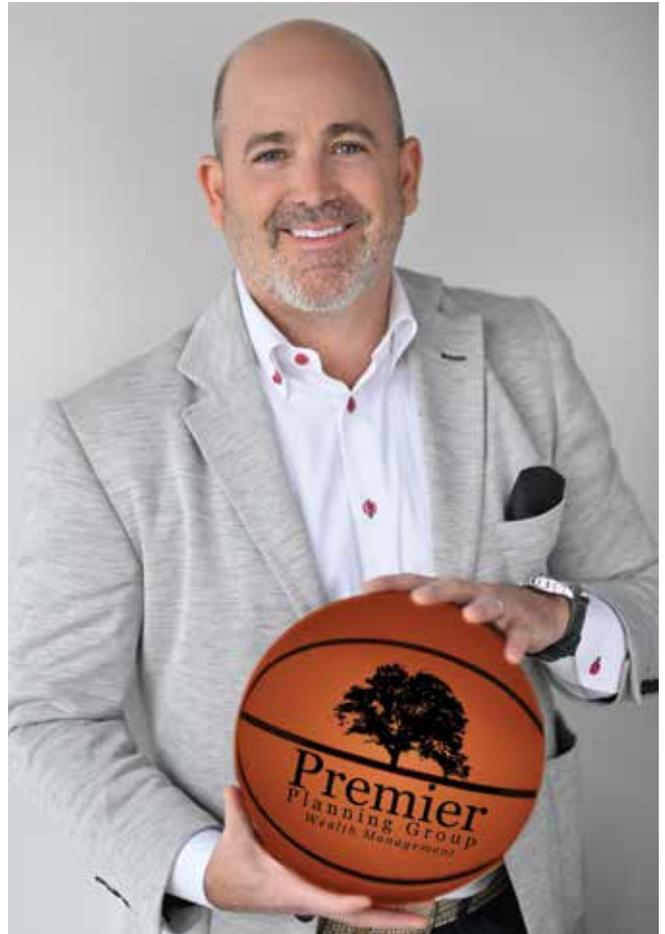


Brion Harris is on the move!

In the early years of his NBA career, Michael Jordan's individual prowess as a scorer was undeniable, yet championships remained elusive for the Chicago Bulls. It was the strategic assembly of players like Scottie Pippen, Horace Grant, and John Paxson that transformed good into exceptional – illustrating that the sum can indeed be greater than its parts.

Drawing from this playbook, Brion Harris, CEO of **Premier Planning Group (PPG)**, has formed his own dream team to design and build out the office building he just purchased in West Annapolis. Brion felt that owning his own building was of immense importance and serves as a strategic decision that will shape the long-term success and sustainability of PPG. The new office building will be a testament to what collaboration and collective ambition can achieve. It's where **Bayview Builders'** meticulous craftsmanship, **Hammond Wilson Architects'** visionary designs, and **Farnady Interiors'** combination of color, creativity and form come together to create a powerhouse of potential and performance.

“Owning our own building will allow us to customize the space to align with our brand identity and create a welcoming environment for our clients. From designing a layout that enhances productivity and allows us to do educational workshops in house to incorporating branding elements that reflect the firm's values, owning a building provides the freedom to create a unique and memorable client experience” Brion Harris.



Check out Brion's Dream Team on this foldout:

Chris Neumann*
Bayview Builders

Andrew Fishback*
Hammond Wilson Architects

Katalin Farnady*
Farnady Interiors



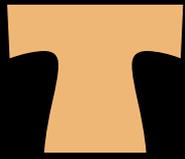
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BRION HARRIS

CEO, Founder and
Financial Advisor

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Never be afraid to take risks. It is often those unexpected elements that will keep things interesting and add a sense of surprise.



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- How can you ensure your wishes are carried out if you have a blended family?

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Q: What is the Corporate Transparency Act and who is impacted?

A: The Corporate Transparency Act is a new law, effective January 1st, 2024. This law impacts numerous small businesses, LLCs, corporations, and any other business entities in the United States.

The CTA requires all “beneficial owners” and “company applicants” to report their legal name, birthdate, address, and photograph ID to the Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. The entity’s legal name, trade name and d/b/a name, address, location where it was registered, and more are mandatory. Continued reporting is required when there are any changes. Noncompliance with the reporting requirements results in significant fines and up to two years imprisonment.

If you are a business owner, we strongly recommend reviewing your reporting compliance with an attorney to avoid penalties.

ALEXANDER PAGNOTTA, Attorney | Sinclair Prosser Gasior



Q: Are you sure it is a good time to Invest?

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going to capture the highs and the lows. It is better to consistently invest over a period of time as opposed to trying to time the market.

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ELIZABETH BENNETT, CFP®, MBA
Chesapeake Financial Planning & Tax Services, LLC



Q: Why is a Trust better than a Will?

A: Although not everyone needs a trust, it can be a very useful estate planning tool, depending upon your situation. Many people mistakenly believe a trust is only designed for wealthy people, but there are many advantages to

a trust such as privacy, flexibility, and avoiding probate. In addition, a trust often provides significant tax benefits and distribution of assets. It’s an especially important consideration for people with special needs, blended families, and family businesses.

TARA FRAME, Frame & Frame Attorneys at Law



Q: What do you think makes your firm unique?

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GREGORY OSTROWSKI, CFP®, CRPC®, BFA™
Managing Partner | Scarborough Capital Management



Q: What is wealth management? Do I need it?

A: Wealth management is the process of making decisions about your assets, sometimes with a wealth manager. This includes, but isn’t limited to, financial investments, tax planning, and other financial matters. The goal

of wealth management is to help you achieve financial security and grow and protect your wealth. Although financial planning services are something almost anybody can benefit from, more complex wealth management services aren’t usually required until individuals reach a certain net worth. Talking with a wealth manager can help guide you in the right direction and help you make informed decisions about your finances. The more information you gather, the better informed you will be for the future.

KATHLEEN A. WEBSTER, ChFC
Vice President, Financial Advisor | Wye Financial Partners



Q: What is the Corporate Transparency Act?

A: Effective January 1, 2024, the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) established new federal reporting requirements that work to enhance transparency in small businesses and their ownership to combat money laundering, tax fraud, and

other illicit activities in the U.S. The CTA requires certain businesses to share information about “beneficial owners” with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The registration of beneficial ownership will serve as a centralized database containing up-to-date information on the individuals behind each applicable entity (reporting company). The CTA will impact a significant number of businesses throughout the U.S., so it is critical that owners are aware of the Act’s implications and that they seek legal counsel to determine if their business falls within the CTA reporting requirements.

JONATHAN W. MCGOWAN, ESQ
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Q: Is the way retirees should invest to protect their portfolios changing?

A: Yes. Things are always evolving. Music has gone from vinyl to cassette to CDs to MP3 players to Digital Streaming. The telephone has gone from rotary to push-button to cordless to cell phone to smartphone. Investing has evolved similarly as well. The problem is many retirees portfolios look like the vinyl or the rotary phone. Being diversified* today means you need to be diversified by the company, by product, by tax benefit, by asset class and with real assets vs. paper

assets. This strategy is called Advance and Protect. Contact us today to look at additional options to diversify your portfolio! BrionHarris@PremierPlanningGroup.com or 443-837-2529.

*A diversified portfolio does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

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Q: How should people select a financial advisor?

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what services they offer. What's their approach? Their qualifications? Who stands to benefit from the products they're selling? If the answer is clients, then they're acting as a fiduciary, and that's what you want. That's how we operate at HF Advisory Group.

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In upscale kitchens today, cabinetry hardware combined with complementary materials and finishes become the “jewels in the crown” in this most popular room for gathering. In recent years, we’ve seen a proliferation of streamlined bar pulls because they bring that combo of sublime form and pair it with utility and ease of use. Iterations in finishes abound as well, which will keep this particular style at the top of options for the foreseeable future.



The Linden collection by Pottery Barn offers this accommodating modern option made of solid brass that has broad appeal with its range of fine finishes, including satin nickel and antique bronze. Have a modern farmhouse? Try matte black. The collection also includes coordinating knobs in the matching finishes.

Posh & Polished

THE BEAUTY & CARE OF HAUTE HARDWARE

By Lisa J. Gotto

Little things mean a lot. That said, some little things can really still pack a punch. Case in point, the hardware you choose for your kitchen. This one aspect of interior design is easy to overlook if you’re just thinking from the standpoint of function, but taking the extra step to combine sublime form with function always helps take a room’s aesthetic to the next level.

All Eyes on Design

Nothing rivals the kitchen when it comes to gathering space in the home, especially since the advent of the open-plan concept. This change in the way we live and entertain requires that this space be as visually appealing as possible, so the tone conveyed by the hardware you choose should be as distinct as the company you keep.



Rustic Inspiration

Cup pulls are the timeless statement maker in hardware that help put the exclamation point on a distinctive kitchen or mudroom. This Nostalgic Warehouse pull by Perigold is an optimal choice for its “Let’s-get-to-work, but-let’s-work-beautifully” vibe. Available in nine finishes, and with many other variations in its design, the cup style pull brings it all together for homeowners with impeccable taste who admire quality.



Going Big & Bold with Brass

Durable, easy to care for, and possessing natural anti-microbial properties, solid brass hardware in any style, is a discerning design option. In addition, because it is composed of copper and zinc, it is corrosion-, rust-, and tarnish-resistant. So, perfect for a humid environment like the kitchen and bath.

High-end interiors experts from coast-to-coast are employing bold hardware elements in brass to the most customized of kitchens, and we love, love, love this example by Rejuvenation Hardware that goes a bit beyond bold by layering in specialty brass hardware elements in this luxurious modern kitchen.



In Throwback Mode

For the restoration buffs among us, choosing just the right statement in retro hardware can be a creative and nostalgic journey in making what was once prominent, pertinent again. And nothing captures the luster and appreciation of a by-gone era in home interiors, more than crystal cabinet knobs. This knob from House of Antique Hardware is part of the aptly named Waldorf Collection. This particular manufacturer uses a proprietary process for its new brass hardware that provides a desirable, time-worn patina of authentic antiques that is superior to factory-applied antiquing techniques. It provides the rich, warm yellow tone uniquely associated with vintage finishings.



TIP:

Narrowing Down the Field

Having a hard time narrowing down a hardware selection online? Consider a trip to a showroom so you can spend some quality tactile time with the design options. Get a feel for how the handles operate and work in your hand so you can determine how comfortable and functional it will be over time in your daily scenarios.



Boutique Manufacturers

No hum-drummers wanted. Only those who march to their own drummers can truly appreciate the creativity that goes into a custom hardware collection.

1. If opulence is a must for you and you really enjoy putting your stamp on things, the Monogrammed Hardware collection by H. Theophile will help you do just that in an elegant and distinctive fashion. While more appropriate for a bathroom, we couldn't resist showing you this barrel knob based on a mid-19th century Neo Grec design. It comes in several custom finishes including burnished nickel and antique silver.
2. Specializing in pulls made of modern glass, Sietto sets itself apart in the luxury hardware market for consumers with highly customized interior schemes. Their Glacier collection applies an array of colors to tactile, textured glass.
3. If you are a lover of the natural world, you can easily bring that indoors with offerings from designers like Michael Aram whose handcrafted Butterfly Ginkgo collection includes hardware pulls of delicate looking intertwined twigs in oxidized brass. Its handcrafted nature ensures that, like snowflakes, no two pulls are exactly the same.

CARING FOR YOUR Investment

With a few moments of care every week you will ensure that the look and luster of your hardware will endure for many years to come. Nearly every type of metal employed in the design of hardware responds well to a gentle cleaning using warm water with a mild soap and a soft cloth like microfiber for cleaning. Dust prior to cleaning and then the trick is also dry the hardware by hand with a dry cloth. Otherwise, you may end up with a streaky or spotty surfaces.

Another gentle cleaning option you can try is a solution of white vinegar or lemon juice mixed with water, especially if you have any tarnish you'd like to banish. The standard measure is one Tablespoon of vinegar or juice to 4 cups of water and mixing in a teaspoon of salt.

There are also many commercial cleaners available for every specific type of metal, but most involve cleaning with chemicals and should be used sparingly after consulting the product's instructions and conducting a "swatch" test on a small, less noticeable part of the hardware first. To avoid scratching, never use harsh cleaners or abrasive tools such as steel wool or scouring pads on metal surfaces.



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Garden Design Trends for a Fresh Look in 2024

By Janice F. Booth

It may be cold outside, but it can be fun beginning plans for our spring gardens. Perhaps you're happy with last year's display and there's nothing you want to change. But just maybe you're a bit tired of that over-zealous cluster of rose bushes and the now-too-tall ornamental cherry tree.

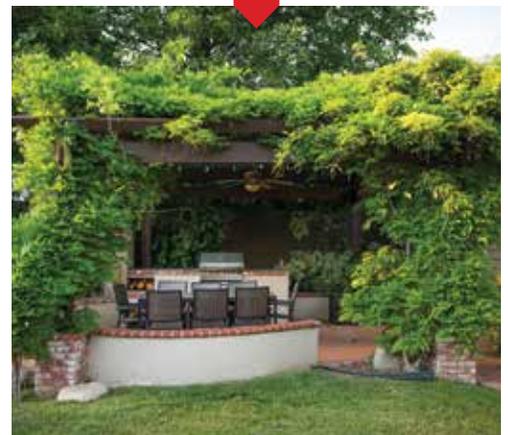
Let me offer you a few inspirational suggestions for ways to update your garden and (dare I say it?) transform your garden into a trendy Eden. Yes, I know *there's nothing new under the sun*, especially when it comes to gardening. But here are four fresh looks gaining popularity among landscape designers.

They are (1) Pleaching, (2) Mixed Planting, (3) Maximalism, and (4) Xeriscaping.

Pleaching:

I'll begin with pleaching because, if you like the idea, you'll want to set aside this magazine and rush right outside and start pleaching! Dating back to the Middle Ages, this creative approach uses your garden's trees and shrubs to create an environment, a space created from woven branches. Begin by tying and weaving pliant branches of shrubs and/or trees together to form a tunnel, roof, or hedge of greenery. Pleaching is particularly lovely when used in combination with arbors, trellises, and pergolas.

You'll need: (a) cotton garden twine, (b) a stepladder, and (c) patience. After you've decided where you're going to pleach and which trees or shrubs will lend themselves to the training, it's time to work. (Pleaching works best with deciduous trees.) Winter is the best time to do the weaving and tying of branches. In the spring, when those secured branches send out new shoots, they'll begin to intertwine with the neighboring tree or shrub. The new shoots are easy to train by gently tying them to mature branches. By early summer, you may already see lacy boughs shading your path or patio area. Throughout the summer trim the occasional random shoot or branch heading off in its own direction. By autumn next year, there'll be a lovely sculpture of vining branches overhead.





Mixed Planting:

Mixed Planting is a practical and sometimes challenging approach to garden design. Traditionally, one creates a flower garden and/or a vegetable garden. Mixed planting is a garden designed to mingle flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The two types are not customarily mixed because the vegetables are grown in quantities to be harvested, while flowers are raised for beauty and occasionally for bouquets.

The problems faced by this combined garden are (1) *location*: how to harvest the carrots without harming the daisies blooming nearby, or how to control the pea vines so they don't strangle the lilies growing majestically beside the vines. (2) *Maintenance* can be difficult too, if your asparagus needs to be treated for beetles with a spray the foxglove can't tolerate, or your tomato plant needs generous watering but it's drowning the dahlias. So, lots of planning is essential. A great project for the snowy days ahead.



Maximalism:

As a reaction to the Minimalism of the last decade, there's a trend now to Maximalism in garden design. One type of Maximalism is known as "*meadow scaping*." The New York City High Line, designed by Piet Oudolf, exemplifies this approach—a profusion of wildflowers loosely interspersed with ornamental grasses. Another type of Maximalism is the *Romantic Garden* popularized in the 19th century. Romantic gardens use a plethora of plants and bright, lush colors to create a panoply of sensory

experiences. There's lots of room in this design style for one's personal mark—applying color, texture, and volume to planting. To some degree, the Maximalist Garden responds to the deepening concern for pollinators in our gardens. The variety and lushness of plantings are exactly what bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators enjoy.

Xeriscaping:

The term "xeriscape" refers to planting with the intent of little or no artificial irrigation. The trend to decrease or eliminate lawns is an example of this movement's impact. Recently, there are two new approaches to xeriscaping: (1) Gravel Gardens and (2) Industrial Gardens.

Gravel gardening uses layers of pea gravel to provide a well-drained setting for sturdy, well-established plants. Laying down layers of small, clean pebbles is critical. Into this bed of gravel, reasonably mature, healthy perennials are settled—holes dug in the gravel allowing the established plant-roots to get deep enough to reach the ground beneath the gravel. While it takes careful planning, including clean, differentiated borders to hold the gravel in place, once established the gravel garden needs little attention—it looks after itself.

Industrial Gardens is an unusual direction in garden design. As the name implies, items we think of as used in industry are repurposed in the garden. For example, cement blocks can be filled with soil and used as planters. Metal rods and beams may provide interesting vertical designs and supports for vines. The challenge for the gardener is to see materials for their color, texture, and versatility. The garden becomes a modern, or even post-modern assemblage.



Whichever of these trends captures your imagination, you'll surely adapt them to your particular vision of a garden. And that is the true beauty of gardening, harmonizing the natural world with our cultivation and care of that world.

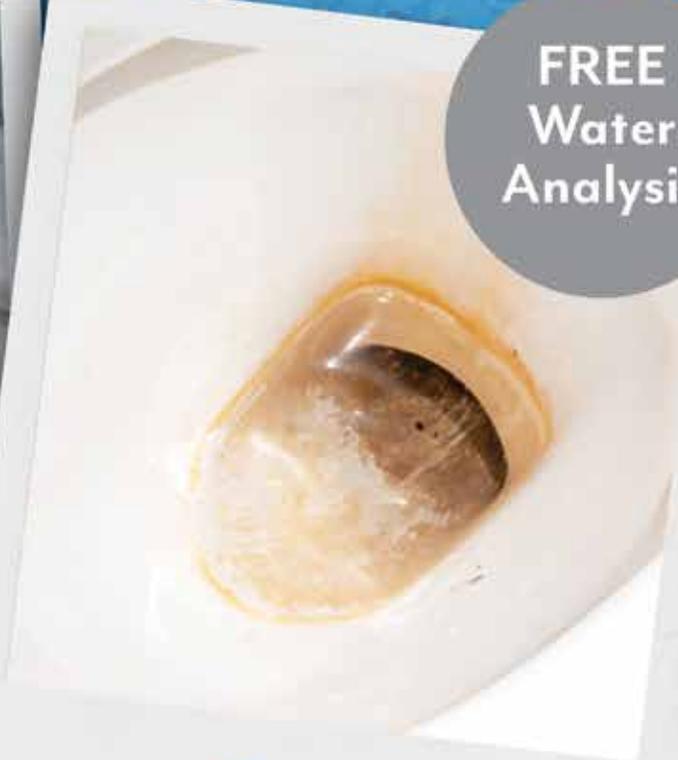
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Main & Carriage

By Lisa J. Gotto

One fantastic piece of property and two amazing living scenarios. What could be better? The new owners of this gorgeous Craftsman style home and its equally stunning modern carriage house no longer need to imagine, because they are living this dream on a beautiful street in Annapolis.

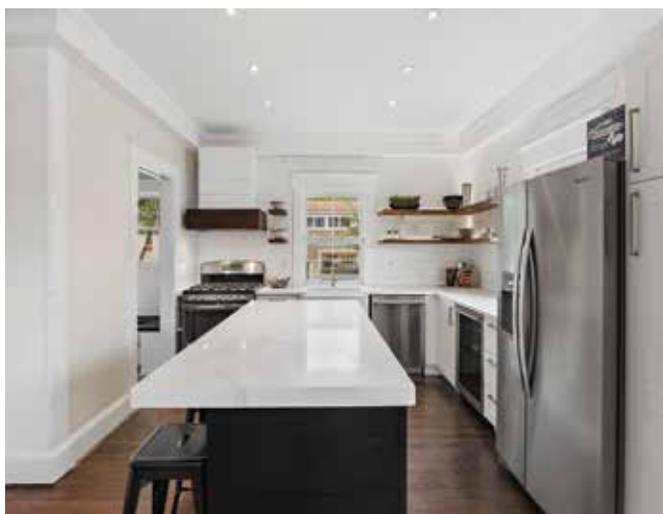
The main house on this property greets the visitor with a charming front porch complete with swing and the solid disposition of an early 20th century dwelling.

The front door opens to a lovely open floor plan with rich, dark hardwood floors and a generous main living area with accents of beams and the home's original brick chimney. Here, great old



bones blend marvelously with modern convenience and sensibility. An informal dining area is located just outside the totally updated kitchen. This space offers two accent walls of white subway tile with floating wood shelves, custom white wood cabinetry, and a sleek contrasting island of dark wood topped with a thick slab of quartz.

The upstairs offers a dreamy primary bedroom with a unique crisscross beamed ceiling and the continuation of the home's original brick chimney, adding a layer of drama and charm. The *en suite* bath features white accent walls of shiplap and subway tile, large soaking tub with rainfall shower, and dual vanity with curated brass fixtures. The cozy second bedroom also sports curated finishes including a dramatic pitched ceiling dressed with boards of dark wood.



Back downstairs, there's easy access off the kitchen and mudroom to the home's large deck and wonderfully landscaped back patio and firepit area, which seamlessly connect via path to the converted garage. This is the extraordinary jewel of the property with its exquisite wood and glass carriage doors and an interior that stuns with its architectural modern lines, two-story ceiling, and advantageous use of materials.

Listing Agent: Brad Kappel; TTR Sotheby's International Realty; 209 Main St., Annapolis; m. 410-279-9476; o. 410-280-5600; brad.kappel@sothebysrealty.com; ttrsir.com **Buyers' Agent:** Jeannie Berkinshaw-Dixon; Coldwell Banker Realty; 3 Church Circle, Annapolis; m. 443-995-2791; o. 410-263-8686; jean.b.dixon@gmail.com; coldwellbankerhomes.com

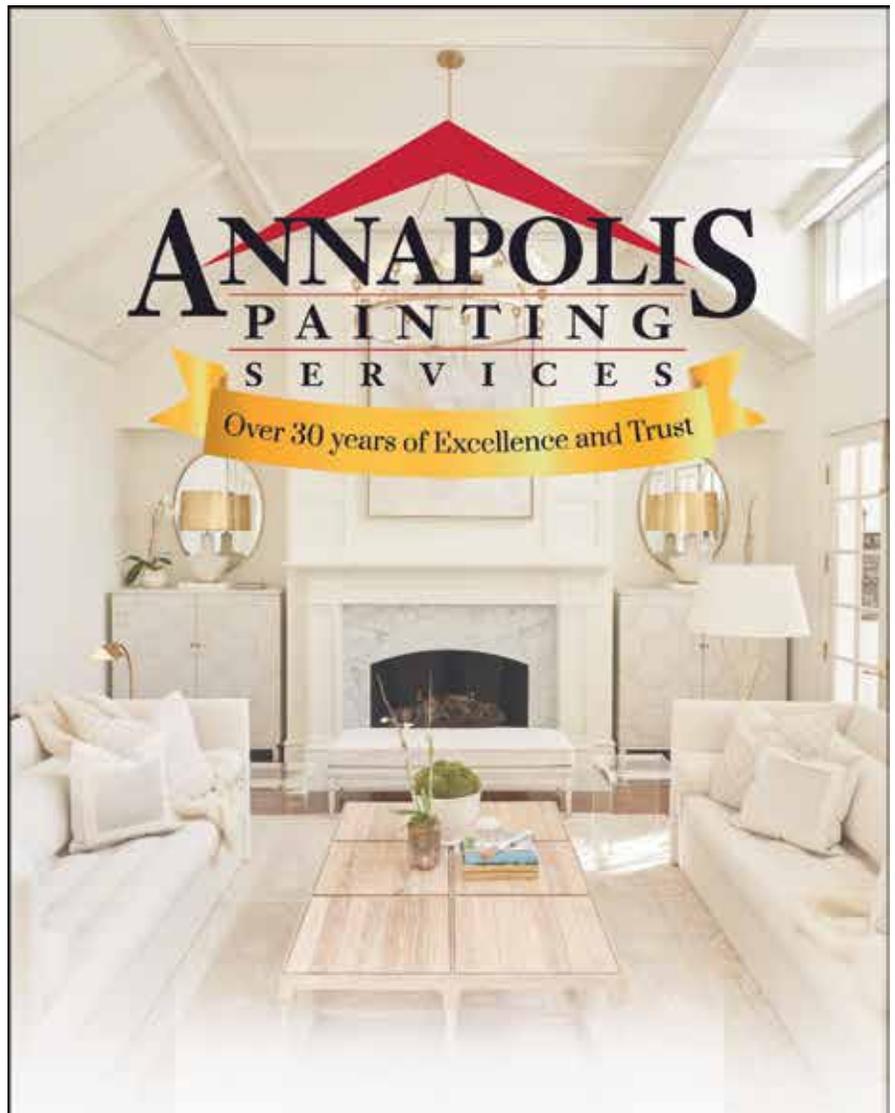
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Baths: 3 Full, 1 Half
Living Space: 1,936 Sq. Ft.
Lot Size: .18 acres

The spacious lower-level living room is punctuated with visual treats, such as its rich, sand-toned hardwood floors, a wood accent entertainment wall with gas fireplace feature, installed flatscreen, and a cozy, integrated bench to create an intimate conversation area.

The sleek, open-plan kitchen is all white and bright with modern custom cabinetry, a huge island, a warm-toned tile backsplash, and stainless-steel appliance package including a gas range with stainless hood.

Upstairs, there's an open-air loft perfect for working from home and a roomy modern bedroom with *en suite* bath, perfect as a home away from home for the extended family, or perhaps as a rental unit for passive income. A truly amazing find in a prime Annapolis neighborhood.

“This is one of those types of properties that rarely hit the market...a charming Craftsman home with a modern guest house...super versatile and the ideal setting to explore everything Annapolis and Eastport has to offer,” says Listing Agent, Brad Kappel.



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Farmhouse Nouveau

By Lisa J. Gotto

And now is a “wow” with this amazing 6,500-square-foot homebase built to answer every wish-list item a family could possibly have. A gorgeous farmhouse façade with attractive stone-front detail and crisp white boards accented with black-trimmed windows make this home a clear standout in its Edgewater neighborhood.

Blonde hardwoods abound upon entry and flow throughout the home, along with a floorplan fashioned for the ultimate in convenience for large familial gatherings. Just inside the entry to the right is a cozy sitting room with custom built-ins and window seat, and a



Primary Structure Built: 2023
Sold For: \$1,850,000
Original List Price: \$2,150,000
Bedrooms: 6
Baths: 6 Full
Living Space: 6,516 Sq. Ft.
Lot Size: 6.35 acres



center hall opening to a huge formal dining room to the left, and then straight back to the spacious main level living area.

The living room features a rustic, stone front fireplace with wood mantle and numerous large windows to enhance the space with natural light. There is a perfectly situated dedicated office tucked behind the main living area for quiet and convenience. The breakfast nook area off the living room is equally light and bright and features easy access to the home's enormous deck off the kitchen.

The kitchen is a gourmet's dream come true; spacious and outfitted with all top-of-the-line appliances including six-burner gas range with grill top feature. A herringbone pattern backsplash of classic white tile elegantly complements the brilliant, white quartz countertops. All-white custom cabinetry is off-set with a large, wood-tone center island offering lots of storage and breakfast seating for four.





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The upper level offers four large bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, including a four-star primary suite that is a respite all its own. Disengaging from the day is a given here with separate lounging quarters that features a wet bar with wine fridge, and a stunning, two-sided gas fireplace looking out on the opposite side to a free-standing soaking tub. Spa-quality finishes and materials define the *en suite* bath with an opulent wood-tone vanity with dual sinks quartz countertop and luxurious, white ceramic tile floors.

The sixth bedroom can be found in the entirely finished basement, offering congenial guest quarters with a full bath, and plenty of room to lounge or envision a theater and fitness room. The added convenience of a lower-level kitchenette makes this floor an entertainer's paradise.

With so much to offer and so commutable to nearby Annapolis and cosmopolitan D.C., this community-based residence is the ultimate example of what new looks like now.

Listing & Buyers' Agent: Agnes Kongas; RE/MAX Leading Edge; 2049 West St., Annapolis; m. 646-279-5551; o. 410-224-3200; agneskongas@yahoo.com; remax.com

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Health & Beauty

126 FRESH TAKE | 128 FITNESS TIPS
129 BREATHE FRESH | 130 NOTEWORTHY KNITWEAR





Mushroom and Pea Risotto

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups rice
 2 cups cremini mushrooms
 1 cup green peas, shelled
 1 small onion
 2 cloves garlic
 4 cups vegetable broth
 1 cup dry white wine
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 2 tablespoons salted butter
 1/2 cup grated parmesan
 1 teaspoon dried thyme

In a large skillet, warm the olive oil over medium heat. Chop the onion and mince the garlic, then add to the oil and allow to cook until soft and fragrant. Slice the mushrooms and add to the skillet, allowing them to release moisture and brown slightly. Add rice and stir, allowing the rice grains to toast lightly. Pour the white wine into the skillet and allow the rice to cook in it. Once the wine is absorbed, add the vegetable broth 1 cup at a time, stirring and allowing the rice to absorb the liquid before adding the next cup. Once the rice has absorbed the broth, stir in the peas, and allow to simmer for approximately 10–15 minutes or until the peas are soft. Add in the butter and grated parmesan, stirring until the risotto becomes creamy. Remove from the heat and keep warm until ready to serve.

Fresh Take

GREEN PEAS

By Dylan Roche

Give peas a chance. No, really—it will give you some peace of mind to know that peas are a great source of protein and complex carbohydrates, so adding these versatile legumes to your menu is a healthy choice you'll be glad you made, whether you decide to steam them, boil them, or add them to a soup, salad, or casserole.



Because of their versatility and nutrient density, peas have been a dietary staple for cultures throughout history, including ancient civilizations as far back as 10,000 years ago. Today's green peas come in many different varieties, including garden peas, sugar snap peas, and snow peas, though garden peas are what most people think of when they think of green peas, where the edible peas grow inside a non-edible pod. (By contrast, sugar snap peas and snow peas both grow inside edible pods.)

Peas may not be as rich in plant-based protein as other legumes, such as black beans or lentils, but they still deliver a hearty 8 grams per 1-cup serving. They are also full of complex carbohydrates to deliver long-lasting energy for your body, with 21 grams of carbohydrates per cup, including 8 grams of fiber for healthy digestion. Although peas do have a mildly sweet flavor thanks to their natural sugars, the fiber content slows down your digestion, making them a low-glycemic food and a good choice for people watching their insulin levels.

Active individuals will want to take note of the minerals in peas, which can help improve physical performance and recovery from intense training. Peas have iron, which your body uses to form hemoglobin and transport oxygen to all the cells in your body, plus potassium, an electrolyte mineral your body uses to maintain proper fluid balance and healthy muscle function.

Peas are also rich in vitamins C, K, and A, as well as several types of B vitamins. The vitamin C content will help your body absorb some of the iron content that peas contain, and vitamin K will benefit your bone health and blood health. Vitamin A, in the form of the compound beta carotene, benefits your immune function and skin health.

As for those B vitamins, peas specifically contain thiamin (B1), riboflavin (B2), niacin (B3), vitamin B6, and folate (B9), all of which are important if you're going to convert food to energy to fuel daily activities.

Although canned peas and frozen peas are popular options for many consumers, fresh peas—either still in their pods or shelled—will have the best flavor and texture. Look for peas or pods that have a vibrant, medium green color. Avoid any peas that are yellowish or dark green, or have splotches of gray on them. Ideally, the pod should feel smooth and firm, with the peas nicely filling out inside so there's no rattling sound when the pod is shaken. If you're buying shelled peas, you should use them as soon as possible (ideally, the same day). Peas still in their pod can be stored in a perforated bag in the refrigerator for up to five days.

Although peas make an appetizing side dish all on their own, you can make them the star of an enticing dish, such as mushroom and pea risotto or a type of curry known as aloo matar.

Aloo Matar

INGREDIENTS

2 cups green peas, shelled
2 large potatoes
1 large onion
2 cloves garlic
1-inch segment of ginger
1 can (14 ounces) diced tomatoes
1 can (14 ounces) coconut milk
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon turmeric
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon garam masala (Indian spice blend)

Begin by peeling and dicing the potatoes. Chop the onions and mince the garlic and ginger. Set aside. Warm the olive oil in a large skillet over medium

heat. Add the cumin seeds and let them sizzle before adding the garlic, onion, and ginger. Cook for a few minutes until soft and fragrant. Add ground cumin, ground coriander, turmeric, paprika, and garam masala to the skillet and stir to combine with the garlic, onion, and ginger. Slowly add the diced potatoes and coat thoroughly with the spiced oil. Let them cook for about five minutes so they lightly brown. Pour in diced tomatoes with their juice. Cover the skillet and allow the potatoes and tomatoes to cook for about 10–15 minutes. Remove cover and add the green peas. Allow the vegetables to cook for another 10 minutes, adding small amounts of water if necessary. Peas and potatoes should be tender but not mushy. Add the coconut milk and allow to simmer for five minutes. Serve hot alongside rice or toasted naan bread.





Fitness Tips

TEST YOUR BALANCE WITH SLACKLINING

By Dylan Roche

If you've ever thought about running away with the circus to test your talents as a tight-rope walker, then slacklining might be the trendy new workout you need to try. Beneficial for improving your balance as well as strengthening your joints and tendons, slacklining involves walking along a flat, flexible stretch of material pulled tense between two anchor points.

It's important to recognize that although slacklining sounds similar to tightrope walking (and maybe looks similar at first glance), these practices are not the same thing. According to the International Slacklining Association (ISA), slacklining is properly done on a piece of webbing—not a rope—about 2 to 5 centimeters wide and made from synthetic fiber. This

webbing stretches under weight, which means the slackliner has to react dynamically to the movement by constantly balancing themselves.

Slacklining is a fairly recent invention, with early recorded instances going back only to the early '90s on college campuses. Today it's done by people of all ages and abilities, and it can safely be done in a backyard or park. In addition to being fun, it provides more health benefits than you might expect.

SOUNDS COOL. BUT WHY?

Slacklining will engage your core muscles—including your abs, obliques, and lower back—to keep you steady, but you might not realize how much leg and foot strength is required to hold your balance on the slackline. You will need to use lower-body strength to maintain stability as you move from one point to another. You'll also put your motor skills to the test and, in time, you can enhance your proprioception, or your perception of the position and movement of your body in a certain space.

But on top of these physical benefits, slacklining can also be a great exercise for you mentally. You'll concentrate on your body's movements and be present in the moment. This type of focus helps teach mindfulness and improves your mental clarity. There's also a healthy social aspect to it, as many people who slackline seek out community from others who enjoy the practice.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

When slacklining gained popularity throughout the early 2000s, slacklining kits quickly became available, making it easy for people interested in trying the activity to get the webbing material they need, as well as ratchets and straps to stretch the webbing between anchors—usually two trees will make the best and easiest option. Slacklining tends to be an activity that carries little risk, but safety is always smart to consider—depending on your comfort level, you might opt to try it with a helmet and knee pads, and seek somebody to spot you for your first few attempts.

Keeping the slackline only a foot or two above the ground will keep risk to a minimum as well. Once you've anchored the webbing, you can begin by standing on the line until you're able to comfortably maintain your balance. Engage your core to help you stay steady. Once you are able, go ahead and take a few steps.

When you've mastered walking from one end of the slackline to the other, you can start to add different moves, such as turning around, jumping, or bending. The more you practice, and the more you challenge yourself, the better your balance will become.



Breathe Fresh

MAINTAINING GOOD BREATH
(AND WHY IT MATTERS)

By Dylan Roche

It's the classic checklist of things you might worry about when you want to make a good impression on someone: "Do I have a pimple on my nose? Is my hair out of place? Does my breath smell good?"

That last one might be more important than you realize, because even though it's completely normal to have bad breath from time to time, according to the American Dental Association, having chronic bad breath could be an indication that there's something bad going on inside your mouth.

SO, THAT LEAVES YOU
WITH A BIG QUESTION:

HOW CAN I MAINTAIN
GOOD BREATH,
AND WHAT SHOULD I
KNOW IF MY BREATH
ISN'T SMELLING
SO GOOD ON A
REGULAR BASIS?

Your mouth is home to all kinds of bacteria. These bacteria feed on food residue leftover in your mouth after eating (aka plaque), ultimately creating smelly waste in the process. This same plaque that causes bad breath can also cause other bad oral health problems, such as cavities and gingivitis. So, a person who always has bad breath may not be doing a good job of controlling the plaque and bacteria in their mouth—and it could be taking a toll.

If you're unsure, there's one self-test you can try: The Oral Health Foundation recommends licking your wrist and smelling it. If it smells bad, then it's very likely your breath smells bad too. You can schedule an appointment with your dentist, who will assess your breath—potentially going so far as to scrape the back of your tongue—to determine the most likely cause of the bad smell.

Barring any serious health conditions that need to be addressed, there are three main ways that the average person can maintain good breath:

1. PRACTICE GOOD ORAL HYGIENE.

That's right—all those healthy habits your dentist would encourage you to do anyway will go a long way in controlling the plaque and bacteria in your mouth. Brush your teeth twice a day (ideally in the morning and at night) and floss regularly to remove any food particles or plaque trapped between your teeth. An alcohol-based mouthwash can kill the bacteria in your mouth as a temporary fix, but it shouldn't be used as a substitute for regular brushing.

2. AVOID A DRY MOUTH.

The inside of your mouth is naturally a moist environment, and that's a good thing—this wetness helps rinse away bacteria and keeps everything clean. While saliva can often do a good job of keeping your mouth from getting too dry, staying hydrated will go a long way in boosting the moisture factor at the very start of your digestive system. You can also try chewing gum or sucking on hard candies—not only do these give your mouth a pleasant scent, but they can stimulate the production of saliva.

3. DON'T NEGLECT MENTAL HEALTH

In many ways, your mental health is tied to your oral health. Using substances, such as cigarettes or chewing tobacco, will pollute the inside of your mouth, making it smell bad. Chronic stress can upset your digestive tract, which can send gas and odors up through your esophagus into your mouth. Taking time to enjoy some deep breaths and relax (without the aid of a smoke break, of course) can cut back on some of the unpleasant smells in your mouth.

Still struggling? Even taking good care of your oral health sometimes isn't enough. You could still be stuck with bad breath, so schedule an appointment with your dentist to rule out any underlying health problems and get professional guidance on what you can do.



Noteworthy Knitwear

WINTER IS THE TIME OF KNIT CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES, SO STYLE IT UP!

By Dylan Roche

It's timeless. It's stylish. It's *warm*! Knitwear always makes the perfect addition to your winter wardrobe because it's as practical as it is attractive. It feels cozy and has character to it. Plus, there are so many ways to wear it, and so many articles of clothing and accessories that can be made from knitwear. Is it any wonder that the Fashion Institute of Technology offers knitwear as a course of study and even has it as a category in its annual signature fashion show?

When it comes to knitwear, every person might have a different reason for liking it. They might like the unique texture it provides, or the way it layers nicely to add so much interest to an outfit. They might like the comfortable softness of the natural fibers used for knitwear—cotton, wool, or even cashmere—or the variety of patterns that can be created through knitting, such as cable stitch, a rib stitch, a stockinette stitch, or many others.

So, if you want to incorporate knitwear into your winter wardrobe, what are some of the best ways to do it?

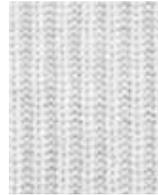
HERE ARE SOME TRIED-AND-TRUE CLASSIC IDEAS:



A classic sweater is the easiest piece of knitwear to pull off. A crewneck or turtleneck sweater, especially a thicker one with heavier stitch, can be worn over a simple T-shirt; if you go with a cardigan, you can layer it over an Oxford button-up shirt or a blouse.



Winterize a lighter outfit with a knit scarf or a knit beanie. A simple flannel shirt and jeans or a thermal henley with corduroys feel more autumnal than wintry, but as soon as you add knit accessories, they look and feel much cozier.



Let the texture speak for itself. If you want to pair your knit piece with articles of clothing the same color—whether it's black, white, gray, navy, etc.—the distinctive texture of the knitwear will break up the singularity and add interest, so you don't look too matchy-matchy.

Those are some classic options, but maybe you're interested in trying something a little more daring, something with an element of surprise that will make you stand out. **IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN TRY...**



Try an oversized cardigan for an especially cozy look. Just remember to pair it with a well-tailored pair of trousers to avoid looking sloppy.



A knit poncho or cape is good for achieving a bohemian look, especially if you incorporate statement jewelry into your outfit.



Mix the cozy factor of knitwear with something sleek, such as leather or silk, for an element of contrast.

Finally, invest in high-quality knitwear, as poorly made knitwear can unravel or lose its shape easily. Inspect all knitwear closely before buying to ensure that the stitching is all consistent and even, without any snags or pilling. All cuffs, collars, and hems are neatly finished, and seams are reinforced so there's no risk of unraveling. Finally, look for natural yarn—such as cotton, wool, alpaca—rather than synthetic materials such as acrylic.

Now bundle up, stay warm, and look good!

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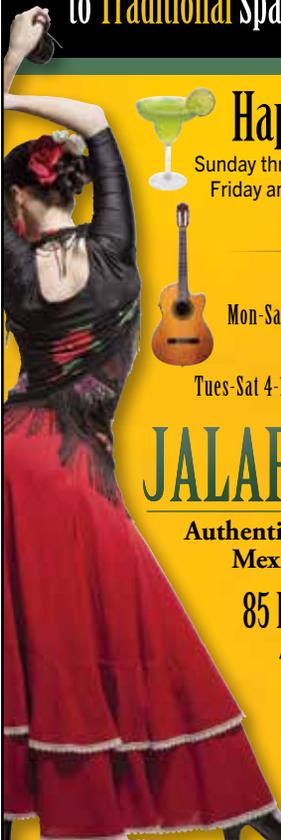


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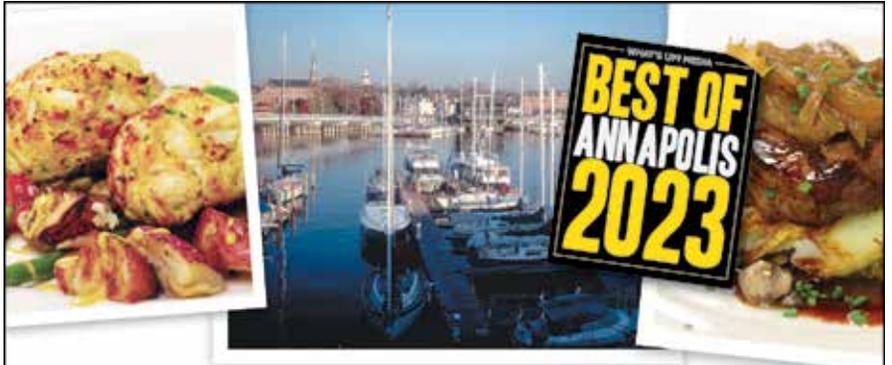
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Filipino Cuisine Elevated

By Tom Worgo

Photography by Stephen Buchanan



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QUIZA NICHOLS LOVES TO COOK—and for a large number of people. Her husband Neil served in the Army and Quiza often prepared meals for about 20 of his buddies.

“I used to say I was cooking for the Army,” Quiza says. “I just like feeding people, and I cook fast.”

Quiza, a Philippines native, would even cook for more people at parties she and her husband hosted: for up to 100 guests. It would take five hours to cook all the food on the same day for the event.

Those skills eased the way to opening Lasang Pinoy, a fine-dining Filipino restaurant in Westfield Annapolis Mall, which is located near the big food court and just inside entrance two.

Quiza, whose parents owned a restaurant in the Philippines she worked in growing up, owns the establishment and cooks about 25 percent of the time while Neil works as the general manager. A consistent presence in local media, with help from daughter Taylor, helps attract customers to a restaurant that opened in June of 2023.

To learn more, we sat down with the Nichols, residents of Bowie, to discuss Lasang Pinoy.

Quiza, what makes your place unique and how do you attract customers from around the region? I don't know of any Filipino fine dining place in Maryland. If we were going to open a place, it had to be something different and not a to-go shop. The restaurant is a brand-new concept and it had never been done here before, in Maryland. We are the first fine-dining Filipino restaurant. These are rare. We Filipinos are underrepresented in a way. Filipinos are very tight with their money. They are frugal. No one would go out and take the risk. Everybody is comfortable with the small to-go type of eateries.

“

I used to say I was cooking for the Army. I just like feeding people, and I cook fast.

You will find Filipino food places in the back of a grocery store. A customer from San Francisco came in and told us they have a lot of Filipino places there, but they are like to-go eateries. That's why we regularly get customers from Dover Downs and Pennsylvania because we are the closest fine dining place. We also had 30 people who came in from Deep Creek, Maryland.

Tell us about your emotions when the restaurant opened.

I was just so excited. It's my passion to feed people and I have always wanted to own a restaurant since I was little. I have been cooking since I was in grade school. We use my recipes. It's how we made things in the Philippines. These are all classic dishes. You eat them every day, so you have to know how to cook this stuff.



What is your No. 1 selling item? It is Pancit. It's a rice-noodle dish that is wok-fried with vegetables and your choice of meat. You don't have to have meat in it. It has oyster sauce, soy sauce, salt, and pepper in it. It tastes wonderful.

What else is popular with the customers? Adobo, which is one of our classic dishes. It's an entree and you can have it with pork or chicken. It's served over white rice. We cook it with soy sauce, vinegar, salt, and pepper. Sometimes, we use fish sauce to make it saltier tasting. A lot of people look for the sourness in it. It does explode in your mouth if you are looking for sweet and sourness. Other popular items are Piniritong Isda, a whole fried red snapper with mango sauce, and Chicken Inasal, which marinated in lemongrass and baked.

Neil, what was the search like when opening a new restaurant? We looked at places in Bowie and Crofton but couldn't find anything suitable. Annapolis just made sense with the concentration of active duty and veterans, along with the large number of Filipinos in the medical staffing field in the area. It just seemed like a great idea. And we were planning a more elevated restaurant. All those things played into it.

Talk about how you zeroed in on your location within the Westfield Annapolis Mall. We considered the old Applebee's building in front of the mall. There was another place—the old Brass Tap bar and restaurant—on the other side of the mall that just didn't seem to fit with what we wanted. With the place we are in now, it has the size and open-look kitchen concept we liked.

Bistek

Bistek is thinly sliced premium steak braised in a mixture of citrus, soy sauce, onions, and garlic.

Ingredients

- 2 pounds top round, sirloin, or flank steak, sliced thinly
- 2 lemons, juiced (about 1/4 cup) or use calamansi
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1 onion, peeled and sliced thinly
- 1 head garlic, peeled and minced
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons oil
- Water as necessary (1 cup water if you want some sauce)
- Salt to taste
- 1 additional onion peeled and sliced into rings

In a bowl, mix lemon juice, soy sauce, sliced onions, garlic, and pepper. Mix this marinade into the meat and marinate for about 30 minutes. In a pan over high heat, heat oil, add onions and garlic, and cook, stirring regularly, until softened. Add beef and cook for about 3 to 5 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Add water as necessary and season with salt to taste. Garnish with onion rings sauteed in the drippings from the bistek and serve hot.



Savor the Chesapeake

Restaurant news and culinary trends throughout the Chesapeake Bay region

By Megan Kotelchuck

Lots of change is going on throughout the region, already this year. Bars are opening, restaurants are closing, and plenty of people and businesses are being celebrated.



On the Dining Scene...

After patiently waiting and anticipating its arrival, beer lovers are rejoicing at the opening of **RAR Brewing** in West Annapolis! In addition to their tap room, RAR has opened Chessie's Wharf, the restaurant side of the production. Cambridge has loved RAR for many years, and now it's time for Annapolis to experience the hype! Find more information on their website, rar-brewing.com.

Since summer of 2017, we've enjoyed **Flamant** at 17 Annapolis Street in West Annapolis. But the Belgian eatery served their last meal New Year's Eve. Owner Frederik De Pue announced the closing in December, saying that "Since our doors opened, operating Flamant has been an incredible journey filled with joy, challenges, and countless cherished memories." De Pue thanked the community for their loyalty and

memories and hinted that the new owners of the space, which will become **InGrano Bistro**, have a "rich culinary background and plan to continue operations shortly after the new year with an exciting new menu."

An Anne Arundel County favorite is downsizing a bit this new year. **Rutabaga Juicery & Eats** had to close their Crofton doors last December. Rutabaga was unable to secure satisfactory terms with their lease renewal at their location in Carver Square. The Juicery still has a location at 4 Ridgely Avenue in Annapolis and is actively searching for their next space. Find more information and a menu for their Annapolis location at rutabagajuicery.com.

For the past year we've enjoyed the night life at Vibe in Annapolis, and now we can enjoy daylight there as well. **Board'em Café** has opened during the day in the Vibe space. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy a bite to eat, grab a drink, and play one of your favorite board games. Board'em is the first gaming café to open in Annapolis, offering about 200 board games, from the 1999 Pokemon Master Trainer game to Mousetrap, Catan, Yahtzee, Connect Four, and more. Board'em is working to order and source games they don't currently have. Find a full list of games offered right now at clubvibe.com/boardem.

In December, **Galway Bay** celebrated 25 years of business. In 1998, Michael Galway and Anthony Clarke brought a bit of their Irish homeland to Maryland Avenue in Historic Annapolis. They transformed the space previously occupied by The Little Campus into an authentic pub resembling the pubs in their hometown. Since its opening, Galway Bay has won numerous accolades and awards and has been a staple to many residents of Annapolis and beyond. Congratulations to Galway Bay!



Love the One You're With...

Love the one you are with, even if what you are with is a deliciously mixed cocktail. This Valentine's Day, celebrate your partner, friends, parents, and all the other loves in your life with one of the perfect cocktails below.



Love Potion

Ingredients

4 ounces White Rum
2 ounces Aperol
4 ounces Pineapple Juice
1 Egg White
1/2 cup Ice
Edible Rose Petals for Garnish

Instructions

Add rum, Aperol, pineapple juice, and egg white to a large cocktail shaker and vigorously shake until foam starts to appear—about 45 seconds. Add ice to the cocktail shaker and shake again, until the cocktail is chilled and a thick white foam appears. Strain contents of the cocktail shaker into two cocktail glasses and garnish with about six rose petals. Enjoy cold. Cheers!

Photo and recipe courtesy
of marleymenu.com



Strawberries and Champagne Margarita

Ingredients

Makes 4 margaritas
1 cup Strawberries, hulled
3/4 cup Champagne
3/4 cup Tequila
1/4 cup fresh Lime Juice
1/4 cup Triple Sec
Pink Crystallized Sugar

Instructions

Puree strawberries until smooth. Combine strawberries, champagne, tequila, lime juice, and triple sec and stir or shake until well combined. Rim edges of your glasses with pink crystallized sugar (or salt). Pour combined margaritas over glasses full of ice.

Photo and recipe courtesy
of pizzazzerie.com.com

La Sierra recently opened its second sister location, **Pitaya Mexican Restaurant**, at the beginning of the year at 497 Richie Highway in Severna Park. Both locations feature authentic Mexican cuisine. Find more information on La Sierra's Facebook page.

At the end of November, a new restaurant opened at 74 West Central Avenue in Edgewater. **100 Lots** is a fresh and local kitchen and bar where all of the dishes are made from scratch. The kitchen is making updated Americana food while working with local farmers, bakers, and breweries, as well as a local favorite, Annapolis Ice Cream! The family-owned business creates a friendly atmosphere to enjoy your next meal. Interested on how they got their name? Visit 100lotskitchen.com.

Have culinary news to share?

Send an email to the editor at editor@whatsupmag.com.

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Readers' Dining Guide

Welcome to your regional dining. We include many restaurants for many tastes and experiences.



Don't see your favorite on the list? Email mkotelchuck@whatsupmag.com or editor@whatsupmag.com and let us know! And for the full guide, visit whatsupmag.com.



Average entrée price

\$ 0-14

\$\$ 15-30

\$\$\$ 31 and over

📞 Reservations

🍷 Full bar

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Family Friendly

🌊 Water View

☀️ Outdoor Seating

🎵 Live Music

🍷 Grab and Go

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49 West Street, Annapolis; 410-626-9796; 49westcoffeehouse.com \$ 🍷

1771 G & T
26 Market Space, Annapolis; 410-280-8686; 1771gnt.com \$\$ 🍷 ☀️

Acme

163 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-280-6486; acmegrill.com \$\$ 🍷

Acqua Al 2

236 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-304-3424; acquaal2.com \$\$\$ 🍷 🍷

Annapolis Market House

25 Market Space, Annapolis; 443-949-0024; annapolis-markethouse.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Armadillo's Bar and Grill

132 Dock Street, Annapolis; 410-280-0028 \$\$\$ 🍷

The Big Cheese

47 Randall Street, Annapolis; 410-263-6915; tbcannapolis.com \$ 🍷

Buddy's Crab Shack

100 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-626-1100; buddysonline.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Café Normandie

185 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-263-3382; cafenormandie.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Carpaccio Tuscan Kitchen & Wine Bar

1 Park Place Suite 10, Annapolis; 410-268-6569; carpacciotuscankitchen.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷 ☀️

Castle Bay Irish Pub

913A Main Street, Annapolis; 410-626-0165; castlebayirishpub.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷 ☀️

Chick & Ruth's

165 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-269-6737; chickandruths.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

The Choptank

110 Compromise Street; 443-808-1992; thechoptank-restaurant.com \$\$\$ 🍷 🍷 🌊 🎵

Curate Annapolis

141 West Street; 410-907-0968; curateannapolis.com \$\$

Dock Street Bar & Grill

136 Dock Street, Annapolis; 410-268-7278; dockstreetbar.net \$ 🍷 🌊

Dry 85

193B Main Street, Annapolis; 443-214-5171; dry85.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

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24 Market Space, Annapolis; 410-268-2576; federalhouse.com \$\$ 🍷 ☀️

Fox's Den

179B Main Street, Annapolis; 443-808-8991; foxsden.com \$\$ 🍷

Galway Bay Irish Restaurant and Pub

63 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis; 410-263-8333; galwaybaymd.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Game On Bar + Arcade

114 West Street, Annapolis; 410-885-4589; gameonbararcade.com \$ 🍷

The Goat

137 Prince George Street; thegoatannapolis.com \$\$ 🍷 🌊 ☀️

Harold Black

236 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-304-3353; haroldblack.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Harry Browne's

66 State Circle, Annapolis; 410-263-4332; harrybrownes.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Iron Rooster

12 Market Space, Annapolis; 410-990-1600; iron-rooster.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Joss Café & Sushi Bar

195 Main Street, Annapolis; 410-263-4688; jossushi.com \$\$ 🍷

Latitude 38

12 Dock Street, Annapolis; 667-204-2282; latitude38waterfront.com \$\$ 🍷 🌊 ☀️

Lemongrass

167 West Street, Annapolis; 410-280-0086; lemongrassannapolis.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷 ☀️

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69 West Street, Annapolis; 410-268-0003; levelannapolis.com \$\$ 🍷 🍷

Lighthouse Bistro
202 West Street,
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tro.org \$ 🍷 🍴 🌟

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Where's Wilma?

FIND WILMA AND WIN!

Brrr! Frigid February is here, but our faithful flying mascot Wilma still takes to the skies above in her single prop plane. She's busy shopping for her loved ones (Valentine's Day!), dining out at cozy restaurants, and enjoying many select services that dot the region. Where will she land next?

Here's how the contest works: Wilma appears next to three different ads in this magazine. When you spot her, write the names of the ads and their page numbers on the entry form online or mail in the form below and you'll be eligible to win. Only one entry per family. Good luck and don't forget to submit your restaurant review online at whatsupmag.com/promotions for another opportunity to win a prize.

Congratulations to **Patrick B.** of Annapolis, who won a \$50 gift certificate to a local business.

Mail entries to: Where's Wilma? Annapolis, 201 Defense Hwy., Ste. 203, Annapolis, MD 21401 or fill out the form at whatsupmag.com/promotions



Please Print Legibly

I FOUND WILMA ON PG. _____ Advertiser _____
 _____ Advertiser _____
 _____ Advertiser _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

What is your age bracket? (Circle one) <25 25-34 35-44 45-54 55+

Would you like to sign up for our weekly eNewsletters, which brings you each weekend's best events and dining deals, as well as online-exclusive articles? Yes, please! _____ No, thanks _____

Entries must be received by February 29, 2024. Winner will receive a gift certificate to a local establishment and their name will appear in an upcoming issue of What's Up? Annapolis.

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