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♻️ Please recycle this magazine.

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Welcome to 2026! I think it's safe to assume that between the holiday season and the new year, most of us compressed a lot of work and...okay, some play...within a little bit of time. I know I certainly did. And so, within this small strip of space available to make any sort of declaration about what this issue has for you, I'd like to, instead, offer sincere thanks to our teammates—the What's Up? Media staff and contributors—who did, indeed, work tirelessly through the holiday season to produce this magazine *and* those published before it and after. Our December, January, and February magazines (even March) have been keeping us very, very busy for the past couple months. Even our Weddings magazine—out now!—is produced at the same time as this one. And every bit of content is uploaded, formatted, and enhanced online by our digital team, then broadcast through our social channels. Of course, our dedicated clients were at the top of their game also, not only managing their own businesses, but participating in the production of what you're holding in your hands.

Altogether, we have one heck of a group that contributed to this product during the homestretch of the year. So...thank you all. Seriously. And an extended thanks to our readers, who make it all worthwhile and exciting. We look forward to making 2026 another unforgettable year with you!

James Houck,
Editorial Director

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Expert of the Month

Ramsey Moorman

Ramsey Moorman

Owner | Floor Coverings International® (FCI) of Bowie, MD

Ramsey Moorman is a former Verizon executive with more than 23 years of leadership experience—rising from a greeter to an associate director and overseeing \$53 million in annual revenue for the company. He is passionate about entrepreneurship, leadership, mentorship, and the power of local business to drive positive change. By leading with a customer-centric approach, Moorman and his team successfully identify and navigate challenges to find meaningful solutions.

What inspired you to transition from the telecommunications industry to home improvement?

After more than two decades in the telecommunications industry, I realized what I loved most wasn't the technology; it was the people. I've always had a passion for serving others and making a meaningful impact. Home improvement allows me to do that in a tangible, lasting way. There's something special about helping homeowners transform their most personal spaces into something they love.

What makes FCI stand out from its competitors?

FCI is the number-one-rated flooring franchise in North America. Locally, FCI of Bowie serves Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties and eliminates the task of shopping for flooring by bringing a state-of-the-art Mobile Flooring Showroom® right to your door. With more than 3,000 flooring options, including carpet, luxury vinyl plank, hardwood, laminate, tile, eco-friendly choices, and popular styles for busy homes with kids and pets, this approach allows you to view samples in your own lighting and décor, making flooring decisions so much easier!

During our in-home consultation, we take the time to understand what matters most to you: durability, comfort, water resistance, style, or ease of maintenance. We walk you through each product's features, advantages, and benefits, so your final choice doesn't just look beautiful; it performs beautifully for years to come.

How does FCI ensure that its clients receive personalized service throughout the entire flooring process—from consultation to installation?

FCI prioritizes clear and consistent communication from the first consultation to the installation and follow up. By taking the time to understand your day-to-day lifestyle and the vision you want to achieve, we can craft a tailored plan that delivers meaningful results. Our goal is to exceed your expectations and provide an experience that you genuinely deserve.

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fci.bowie@fcifloors.com | floorcoveringsinternational.com/locations/us/md/bowie



Arts & Culture

10 EVENTS

13 SOCIAL

15 BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHTING
ENTERTAINMENT,
COMMUNITY,
AND EVENTS

Maryland
Yuletide
Celebrations

PG. 10



BSO PRESENTS DISTANT WORLDS: MUSIC FROM FINAL FANTASY: CELEBRATING FINAL FANTASY XVI AND XIV

Legendary conductor Arnie Roth brings the world of *Final Fantasy* to life as he leads a full orchestra and chorus in a spectacular multimedia concert at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. On January 2-3, 2026, fans will be swept into the iconic soundscapes of the series—including music from *Final Fantasy XVI and XIV*—enhanced by stunning HD visuals from Square Enix. Featuring the unforgettable work of composers like Nobuo Uematsu, Masashi Hamauzu, and Yoko Shimomura, this immersive performance promises an evening of soaring themes, emotional depth, and pure nostalgia. Tickets range from \$49 to \$75. More info: www.bsomusic.org

Christmas at Gaylord National

Still holding on to the Christmas spirit? You've got a few days left to experience Christmas at the Gaylord, where dazzling displays, festive shows, tempting treats, and holiday activities turn the resort into a winter wonderland. Wander through ICE!, featuring breathtaking scenes from *The Polar Express™* carved into towering, colorful ice sculptures, then enjoy all the seasonal magic the Gaylord is known for. Whether you're visiting for the day or making it an overnight escape, it's the perfect way to wrap up the holiday season with unforgettable memories. More info: www.christmasatgaylordnational.com



MARYLAND YULETIDE CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate an entire weekend of winter whimsy at the Maryland Yule Ball festivities, beginning with the Friday Night Winter Fantasy Ball on January 9, 2026, followed by the 7th Annual Yule Ball on Saturday, January 10, both held at the Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley. Each evening begins with a 6 p.m. cocktail hour before guests sit down to dinner and dance the night away starting at 7 p.m., surrounded by enchanting décor and a magical atmosphere worthy of a storybook celebration. Saturday also features a lively Renfaire Marketplace sponsored by Regal Threads, offering artisan wares, costuming, accessories, and whimsical goods to complete your Yule Ball experience. It's a full weekend of fantasy, revelry, and immersive holiday fun—tickets are expected to sell quickly, so secure yours early. More info: www.mdyleball.com



Candlelight: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

Candlelight Concerts return to Annapolis on January 3rd with a stunning tribute to the music of Fleetwood Mac, transforming Maryland Hall into a glowing, multi-sensory experience illuminated by hundreds of candles. Across select dates this season, guests will be treated to a 60-minute performance that reimagines the band's iconic hits in an intimate, atmospheric setting where every note feels close and alive. Doors open 45 minutes before each show, and seating is first-come, first-served within each zone, ensuring a relaxed and welcoming evening for music lovers ages 8 and up. It's a beautiful way to rediscover the songs you love in a whole new light. More info: marylandhall.org/events



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Keyshia Cole: The Way It Is 20th Anniversary Tour

Keyshia Cole brings her unmistakable voice and heartfelt storytelling to The HALL at Live! on January 18 as she celebrates the 20th anniversary of her iconic debut album, *The Way It Is*. Fans can relive the emotion, passion, and soulful power that made the record an instant classic, all in a high-energy performance that honors two decades of chart-topping hits and R&B legacy. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and free parking makes the evening even easier to enjoy. More info: www.livech.com/Maryland



BIGKID DANCE: IF I DIE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

Led by visionary artistic director Mark Caserta, BIGKID DANCE brings its powerful, queer-centered contemporary works to the stage at Maryland Hall on January 24th with a performance that examines love, identity, grief, curiosity, and the complexities of navigating today's world. Based in Philadelphia, this movement community is known for its collaborative spirit and emotionally charged choreography that invites audiences to feel, reflect, and connect. With bold storytelling and intimate physicality, BIGKID DANCE creates an experience that resonates long after the final moment. Special student and group rates are available for this performance. More info: marylandhall.org

2026 POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

Dive into one of Maryland's most iconic winter traditions on January 23rd to January 31st. The Polar Bear Plunge, celebrating 30 years of bold bravery and big-hearted community spirit in 2026. Each year, thousands take the icy leap into the Chesapeake Bay to support the 25,000 athletes and Unified® teammates of Special Olympics Maryland. Every dollar raised goes directly toward year-round sports and leadership programs, all provided at no cost to athletes and their families. By registering for the 2026 Plunge, you're not just jumping into freezing water—you're fueling inclusion, empowerment, and joy across the state. Help reach this year's \$4.75 million fundraising goal and make a splash that truly makes a difference. More info: www.plungemd.com



Photo by Steve Ruark



Victims' Rights Gala

On October 3, the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. hosted its Annual Victims' Rights Gala to honor crime victims and raise awareness on their rights. The event brought together survivors, advocates, and community leaders to support the organization's mission of providing legal advocacy, resources, and emotional support to victims of crime in Maryland. For more information, visit mdcrimevictims.org.

1. Roberta Roper, Founder of Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., David Sanford, Co-Founder of Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight, and Kurt Wolfgang, Executive Director **2.** Laura Neuman delivers remarks at the event **3 - 9.** Attendees enjoy the evening gala

Mardi Gras Masquerade Gala

Laissez les bons temps rouler! On October 11, Opportunity Builders Inc. (OBI) hosted its 26th Annual Mardi Gras gala fundraiser at the nonprofit organization's Millersville campus. This festive event has become widely known for bringing the spirit, charm, and culture of New Orleans to Anne Arundel County. Attendees enjoyed an evening that featured Cajun-inspired food and drinks, an expansive silent auction, roaming entertainers a la Bourbon Street, fun games and prizes, dancing the night away to the incredible band Oracle. All funds raised directly benefit the youth and adults with disabilities who rely on OBI's services throughout the year. Learn more about OBI at obiworks.org.





Impact100 Greater Chesapeake Awards Annual Grant

Impact100 Greater Chesapeake awarded their annual grant in the amount of \$56,000 to Open Hands of MD, marking Impact100's eighth year of grant awards directly supporting nonprofits in Anne Arundel County. Open Hands of MD is a nonprofit organization that assists neighbors in need with free food and household items. Their mission is to address food insecurity in our neighborhoods by providing a fresh food pantry where neighbors can shop, completely free of charge, for their own food. They participate in food recovery efforts to reduce food waste

from grocery stores and warehouses averaging between 80,000 and 90,000 pounds of food distributed monthly. "We are elated to be the recipients of this generous grant! It is truly transformational in allowing us to serve more neighbors safely by increasing our freezer storage by 250 percent!" says Melissa Kurzmiller, Executive Director of Open Hands of MD. The Impact100 Annual Meeting was held on October 5th at The Golf Club at South River. Finalists for the grant delivered presentations about their project proposals to Impact100's membership, followed by a vote of the membership to award this year's grant. Impact100 is now seeking members for the 2026 grant cycle. Women interested in learning more about the organization and the benefits of membership are invited to visit the website at impact100greaterchesapeake.org.



RECHARGE WELLNESS OPENS IN ODENTON

Recharge Wellness recently cut the ribbon and opened in Odenton. The holistic "whole-body cellular recharging" studio offers more than 45 science-backed recovery and wellness therapies. Their business model centers on *unlimited wellness passes*, so clients can book as many sessions as they like while their pass is active—without long-term contracts. Wellness services include modalities like infrared saunas, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, red light therapy, EMS muscle recovery, biofeedback, and more. Recharge also offers consults, health scans, yoga, and retail wellness products. Learn more at rechargeodenton.com.

ICODE GAMBRILLS OPENS

In early November, iCode opened its newest location in Gambrills. The team celebrated with local dignitaries and the Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce by holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony. iCode Gambrills is a hands-on STEM learning center for kids and teens, focused on coding, robotics, game design, and AI. Their instructor-led classes use a gamified curriculum, and students progress through a "Belt Program" that builds technical skill and problem-solving. iCode also runs seasonal camps during summer and school breaks and offers partnerships with local schools to bring STEM education into classrooms. Learn more at icodeschool.com/gambrills-md.



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Indian Creek is the premier Annapolis-area independent school where kindness is currency, well-being is priority, and excellence in education is relentlessly pursued. Visit our beautiful, 114-acre wooded campus to learn more about our Early Childhood Outdoor Education Program, Middle School Project Based Learning Curriculum, Upper School STEM Program, Center for Community & Well-Being, and more!



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2026 PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

Welcome to our comprehensive 2026 Private School Guide! Selecting a private school that plays a critical *and* fitting role in your child’s education requires considerable time and research. The format of the guide allows you to easily navigate local private schools’ vital information (tuition, student/teacher ratios, key contacts, etc.) and quickly learn about their education philosophies, affiliations, student clubs, extracurricular programs, sports offerings, and more. **Please note:** This information was provided by each school, either directly by the administration or by researching available school resources. Because some schools have varying data, you may see differing configurations or “N/A” (Not Applicable) for categories that do not apply (or information was unavailable). If you have questions or concerns, please contact the school directly.

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RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION

PRINCIPAL/
HEAD OF
SCHOOL

GRADE
LEVELS

ENROLLMENT

GREATER ANNAPOLIS

Annapolis Area Christian School

Lower: 61 Gambrells Road, Severn; 410-846-3505; slsoffice@aacsonline.org Lower: 710 Ridgely Ave, Annapolis; 410-846-3504; alsoffice@aacsonline.org Middle: 716 Bestgate Road, Annapolis; 410-846-3506; mssoffice@aacsonline.org Upper: 109 Burns Crossing Road, Severn; 410-846-3507; upperschooloffice@aacsonline.org

AACS is an accredited K – 12 private, co-ed, school with four campuses in AA county. We provide an excellent, distinctively Christian education.

1971

Christian

Lower: Jennifer Elkins, Lower: Elizabeth Williams, Middle: Benjamin Peddicord, Upper: David Intlekofer

K–12

886

Book of Life Academy

913 Cedar Park Road, Annapolis; 410-263-2600; bookoflifeacademy.com; bookoflifeacademy913@gmail.com

Located in Annapolis, Book of Life offers a Christian education through various daily enrichment programs.

1982

Christian

Rebecca Lemus

K–5

118

Chesapeake Montessori School

30 Old Mill Bottom Road, North, Annapolis, MD 21409; 410-757-4740; admissions@chesapeake-montessori.com; Caroline Duffy (enrollment director): c.duffy@chesapeake-montessori.com

Using Montessori theory and practice of individualized learning in a whole-school community, we create rich and healthy environments that provide intellectual, academic, social, and emotional preparation for life.

1977

N/A

Robert Wirts

18 months–8

150

Chesterton Academy of Annapolis

31 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis 410-855-3216; chestertonacademyofannapolis.org; info@chestertonannapolis.org

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2018

Catholic

Thomas Thoits

9–12

43

The Harbour School at Annapolis and Baltimore

1277 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis; 410-974-4248; harbourschool.org; admissions@harbourschool.org

Our mission is to provide a supportive, caring, and individualized education to students with learning disabilities, autism, speech and language impairments and other disabilities.

1982

Non-Sectarian

Linda J. Jacobs, Ed.D.

1–12

358

Heritage Learning Center

1740 Forest Drive, Annapolis; 410-263-6680 ext 105; heritagelearningcenter.org Vickie@HeritageLOVES.com

Quality early learning experience in a loving, safe, inclusive environment where children develop a love for learning

1985

Non-denominational

Vickie Whitley

2 years to PreK 4s and 5s

50

Indian Creek School

1130 Anne Chambers Way, Crownsville; 410-849-5151; indiancreekschool.org admission@indiancreekschool.org

Located on 114-wooded acres, just minutes from Annapolis, this college preparatory school is known for its Evergreen Institute program focused on community engagement, advanced STEM program, outdoor education, and student-focused structure.

1973

Non-Sectarian

Booth Kyle

PreK–12

600

The Key School

534 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis 410-263-9231; keyschool.org

Annapolis families have long recognized Key School for its academic excellence, expert faculty and proven path to top colleges. From ages 2.5 through Grade 12, students develop the intellectual curiosity, leadership, and integrity that define lifelong success—here in the heart of Annapolis.

1958

Non-Sectarian

Matthew Nespole

Kee-Wee (2.5 years)–12

668

Maryland Curiosity Lab

461 College Parkway, Arnold; 303-909-4958; marylandcuriositylab.org

We believe school should spark curiosity and ignite a lifelong love of learning. Our Acton Academy program has grown to ages K-8. It mixes real-world projects with online learning and Socratic discussions in a multi-age classroom. Plus an adventure trip every week!

2022

Non-denominational

Roman Hardgrave

K–8

30

Maven Academy

1908 Forest Drive Suite 2J; 410-216-7070; themavenacademy.com

The Maven Academy is unique among Annapolis Area private schools. We are a small school offering core subjects and electives to students in grades 6 through 12, Tuesday through Thursday. While we strive to adhere to biblical and moral principles, we do not teach religion and we are respectful to all faiths.

2014

Christian

Gina Vogel

6–12

25

Montessori International Children's House

1641 North Winchester Road, Annapolis; 410-757-7789; montessorinternational.org; Kathy Sage, Education Director, ksage@montessorinternational.org

Anchored in Annapolis on Winchester Road, Montessori International Children's House (MICH) is an Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) accredited independent private school guiding the complete development of children from Toddler (18 months) through Upper Elementary (Grade 6).

1986

None

Megan Hubbard

18 months–6

150

Naval Academy Primary School

74 Greenbury Point Road, Annapolis 410-757-3090; napschool.org admissions@napschool.com

Naval Academy Primary & Secondary (NAPS) serves the Annapolis area as an independent school for preschool through 8th grade, fostering a nurturing environment for both military and civilian families. We are dedicated to the intellectual and emotional development of our students, providing a consistent, structured educational home for children navigating the unique circumstances of military life.

1946

None

Robyn M. Green

PreK (3 year olds)–8

322

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	15–20 or 18–25	11:1	Lower: \$17,159/year, Middle: \$20,190/year, Upper: \$25,625/year	Tours available at www.aacsonline.org/Visit	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French	Yes	Yes	N/A
	12	6:1	\$7,500–\$8,000/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Yes	0	N/A
	Varies	Varies	Please see website	Please reach out to enrollment director to schedule tour.	Coed	Age dependent	No	Yes	Spanish (Adolescent level)	After school clubs (soccer, dance, arts & crafts)	0	N/A
	10	3:1	\$11,700/year (Offer Sibling Discount)	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Latin, Spanish, Italian	Yes	Soccer, Volleyball, Tennis, Baseball, Ultimate Frisbee	Elective
	8	4:1	\$53,044.00 (200 day school year)	Rolling admissions	Coed	No	Dress code	No	English	Teen and tween clubs, alumni club, outdoor club, textile club, cooking club, performing arts, girls club	Intermural and intramural sports (flag football, basketball), running club	45 service learning hours & 30 senior project hours required
	10–15	6:1 to 10:1	See website for details	Call for Information	Coed	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	15	7:1	PK & K: \$23,550, Grades 1 through 5: \$28,000, Middle School: \$32,850, Upper School: \$33,750	Private tours available upon request	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin, Portuguese (virtual)	30+	25	75 hours recommended
	16	6:1	\$10,565-36,100/year	Come see for yourself why Key is more than just a school. Schedule a private weekday tour of campus.	Coed	Yes	No	Yes.	Arabic, French, Latin, Spanish	60	40	N/A
	10	10:1	\$14,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	13	7:1	\$5,900/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	No	Out-sourced	Varies	0	Encouraged, not required
	Varies	Varies	\$12,725–\$15,040/year	January 10th, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Coed	Yes	No	Current MICH students & siblings eligible for Tuition Assistance	Spanish	Before care, After care (various clubs available during after care: photography club, lego club, textile arts, chess club, art club)	0	No
	12–18	10:1 or 8-12:1	\$9,732–\$15,300, depending on grade and category	January 25th, 1–3 p.m.	Coed	Anyone can apply to NAPS, civilian families are always welcome	Yes	Yes	French (1st–8th). Spanish (6th–8th)	A variety of After School Enrichment Programs are offered throughout the school year	6th–8th Grade Fall: Cross Country and Soccer, Winter: Basketball and Cheer, Spring: Tennis	MS students will complete a of minimum 10 hours/year

Private School

Advertisers in RED

DESCRIPTION

YEAR
FOUNDED

RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION

PRINCIPAL/
HEAD OF
SCHOOL

GRADE
LEVELS

ENROLLMENT

Rockbridge Academy

680 Evergreen Road, Crownsville;
410-923-1171; rockbridge.org;
admissions@rockbridge.org

As a classical Christian School, we aim to graduate young men and women who excel both academically and spiritually, discerning what is true, good, and beautiful beyond the classroom, the university, or the office.

1995

Christian

Roy Griffith

PreK, and
K-12

460

St. Anne's School of Annapolis

3112 Arundel on the Bay Road, Annapolis;
410-263-8650; stannesschool.org; Point of
contact: Haley DeMaria, Director of Enrollment
and Advancement, hdemaria@st.annesschool.org

St. Anne's School of Annapolis invests in the intellectual and spiritual promise of every child. We are a project-based school, where the social curriculum is just as intentional the rigorous academic curriculum. Our graduates are well-prepared leaders who are highly sought after by all top high schools in the DMV area.

1992

Episcopal

Connie Coker

PreK-8

285

Sts. Constantine and Helen Preschool

2747 Riva Road, Annapolis; 410-573-2078;
sschschool.org; office@sschschool.org

Our mission is to provide a safe and loving Christian environment where children can grow and develop while being introduced to the Hellenic culture and tradition.

2015

Greek Orthodox
(welcome
children of all
faiths)

Gina
Amenta-
Granado,
PhD

PreK

59

St. Martin's Lutheran School of Annapolis

1120 Spa Road, Annapolis; 410-269-1955;
stmartinsonline.org

Our commitment to provide students with Christian instruction, exquisite education, and extracurricular activities to prepare them for God-pleasing and productive lives has not changed since our founding in 1963.

1963

Evangelical
Lutheran

Cyrkle Brent,
M.Ed.

PreK-8

135

St. Margaret's Day School

1605 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis;
410-757-2333, stmargaretsdayschool.org

St. Margaret's Day School is a NAEYC-accredited preschool and kindergarten program that provides children opportunities to explore, experiment, create, and learn, while developing relationships with others in a diverse, safe, and warm learning environment. The experiences we provide encourage children to become self-reliant, self-motivated, and self-assured individuals in our community.

1995

Episcopal

Jennifer
Feeney

2 years-K

125

St. Mary's School

111-113 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis
ES - 410-263-2869; HS - 410-263-3294;
stmarysannapolis.org;
admissions@stmarysannapolis.org

St. Mary's is a faith-centered school community grounded in tradition and excellence. Our caring teachers guide students through innovative programs including STEM, environmental studies, cybersecurity, and dual enrollment with Notre Dame of Maryland University - alongside exceptional athletics and performing arts.

1862

Catholic

ES: Meghann
Cannelli, HS: Melissa
Nisbett, School Presi-
dent: Megan Downs
Back, Pastor: Father
Patrick Woods

PreK-12

1,352

SEVERNA PARK/PASADENA

Divine Mercy Academy

8513 St Jane Drive, Pasadena;
410-705-0778; divinemercy.md

Divine Mercy Academy offers a Classical Liberal Arts Education in the Catholic Tradition to children in Kindergarten through Eighth grade. We are incredibly proud to provide this time-tested and highly successful curriculum paired with a thoroughly Catholic ethos at an affordable tuition.

2019

Catholic

Patrick
Sullivan

K-8

148

Severn School

Chesapeake Campus (Lower), Teel Campus (Upper)
1185 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard, Arnold;
410-647-7700; severnschool.com; Emilyn Chavez,
echavez@severnschool.com, 410-647-7701 x2267

Severn School students are challenged to pursue excellence in character, conduct, and scholarship; to marshal the courage to lead, and to contribute to the world around them.

1914

Non-Sectarian

Douglas
Lagarde

PreK-12

910

St. John the Evangelist School

669 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park;
410-647-2283; stjohnspschool.org;
Lynne Fish, LFish@stjohnspschool.org

Saint John the Evangelist School is a 2024 National Blue Ribbon award-winning school that serves students in preschool through eighth grade. Our school offers a nurturing environment that promotes living faith, academic excellence, leadership, and service within the church community and society.

1959

Catholic

Dr. Glenna
Blessing

PreK-8

549

St. Martin's In-The-Field Episcopal School

375-A Benfield Road, Severna Park;
410-647-7055; stmartinsmd.org

Nestled on eight wooded acres in the heart of Severna Park, St. Martin's Episcopal School offers Preschool through Middle School students a nurturing environment where they grow as learners, leaders, and friends. Rooted in Episcopal values, our community embraces curiosity, compassion, and respect for all.

1957

Episcopal

Kathy Mahar,
Interim Head
of School

PreK-8

234

DAVIDSONVILLE/EDGEWATER

Chesapeake Christian Academy

377 W. Central Ave., Davidsonville, MD
21035; 410-798-1413; ccalions4thelord.org

Our goals at Chesapeake Christian Academy are to partner with your family to provide a faith-based education that exceeds public education standards, foster an environment where students can continue to form their faith in Jesus Christ, and create life-long relationships with their peers.

2020

Non-
denominational

Sherrie
Ridings

K-8

37

Shepherd's Flock Preschool

377 W. Central Ave., Davidsonville, MD
21035; 410-798-1413; ccalions4thelord.org

The goal of Shepherd's Flock Preschool is to equip these young ones so that they may be lights in their homes, communities, and future schools. Here at Shepherd's Flock children will learn how to live for God so that they can take His light from this place into the darkness of the world around them.

2005

Non-
denominational

Lari Brent

Ages 2-4

42

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT	
	15	8:1	\$14,000–\$19,100/year	Family tours available: calendly.com/rockbridge-admissions/family-visit.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Application required	Latin, Spanish	Rockbridge Academy Singers, Annual Musical or Variety Show, Sports, Lego Robotics, (Music, Art, are cocurricular)	Soccer, xc, volleyball, basketball, swimming, track and field, baseball, lacrosse	Service and mentoring built into the day; whole school service projects organized and run by House Leadership teams	
	14	8:1	\$4000–\$27,000/year	Call for private tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes (K–8th grade)	Spanish (PK-Eighth), French & Latin (Sixth-Eighth)	Chess, LEGO, Pokemon, Dance, Theater/Drama, Cooking, Knitting, Book Club	Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse, Tennis	Yes	
	8–12	8:1 (2s), 10:1 (3s), 12:1 (4s)	Half day program \$320–\$525/month (2-5 days); full program \$440–\$920 (2–5 days)	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	No	English and Greek	Music Classes (English & Greek), religion, Greek language class, and STEAM once a week.	No	No	
	13	10:1	\$7,875–15,600/year	January 23rd	Coed	See website	Yes	Yes	Spanish	All kinds of after-school clubs; STEM, Drama, Games, Art	MS students can try out to participate in: G/B Basketball, Co-ed Soccer, Volleyball, Cross-Country Track	20 hours per year (Grades 5-8)	
	Three Years-PreK (17); Twos- (12)	10:1	\$3,500–\$9,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Varies	Yes	Spanish	3–4	Soccer, Basketball, Cheer, Chess, Karate	No	
	20–27	Varies	Full-Day Pre-K – 5th: Catholic: \$10,952, Non-Catholic: \$12,172. 6th–8th: Catholic: \$11,692, Non-Catholic: \$13,276. Half-Day Pre-K: Catholic: \$7,944, Non-Catholic: \$9,129. HS Tuition: Catholic: \$18,784, Non-Catholic: \$21,032	HS Application Deadline: December 10th, ES Application Deadline: January 10th	Coed	HS: HSPT, ES: MAP Placement	Yes	Yes	English	Athletics, After-School Clubs, and Enrichment Programs	15 different sports, and 36 athletic teams	MS and HS students must complete service hours as part of their graduation requirement	
	15	7:1	\$9,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Latin	Dance and Self Defense	0	25 hours	
	15	9:1	\$26,580/year; PS–K varies; Upper: \$33,400/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lower: Spanish; Upper: French, Spanish, Latin	Lower: Multiple; Upper: 50+	Upper: 17 offered (53 teams including Middle School, JV, and Varsity)	10 hours per year (grades 9–12)	
	25	14:1	\$9,290/year	January 27th (advance registration required)	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Student council, bird watching, trivia, choir, band, drama, chess, service club	Soccer, lacrosse, ice hockey, basketball, cheer, cross country	Service projects done in school and parish	
	14–16 in PS & LS, 18 in MS	8:1	PS ranges between \$4,800–\$13,400, LS - \$14,750, MS - \$15,875	Wednesday, January 14th	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Seasonally after school for all grades, including yoga, art, dance, tennis, golf, EcoAdventures, chess, martial arts, coding, community service, high school test prep	Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Lacrosse	PreK–7th grade completed within school, 8th grade independent service projects	
	15	N/A	\$7,650 per year (K-8), \$6750 (Kindergarten)	January 13th, May 14th, June 1st; or call to schedule a tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3	No	No	
	N/A	6:1	\$825/month	Call to schedule a private tour	Coed	Must be potty trained	No	No	No	0	0	No	

Private School

Advertisers in RED

		DESCRIPTION	YEAR FOUNDED	RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	PRINCIPAL/ HEAD OF SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS	ENROLLMENT
GAMBRILLS/ODENTON	St. Andrew's Day School 4B Wallace Manor Road, Edgewater; 410-266-0952; standrewsum.org	Saint Andrew's Day School is a welcoming community that invites families of all religious traditions to join us in the important work of helping young people grow into responsible, caring young adults. From its founding in 1987 Saint Andrew's has embodied the Methodist credo: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.	1987	United Methodist	Mark Wagner	PreK–8th grade	202
	The Summit School 664 East Central Avenue, Edgewater; 410-798-0005; thesummitschool.org; Nancy Rhodes, nancy.rhodes@thesummitschool.org, 410-343-9273	Our program is specifically designed to educate and empower students with learning differences. When students come to Summit, we see an improvement in academic achievement, but we also see an overall transformation in their confidence and how they perceive school. The effects are long lasting and contribute to their success in high school, college, and life.	1989	None	Dr. Joan A. Mele-McCarthy, CCC-SLP	1–8	116
	Odenton Christian School 8410 Piney Orchard Parkway, Odenton; 410-305-2380; odentonchristianschool.org	Our purpose is to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures spiritual growth and academic excellence. By integrating faith into every aspect of education, we strive to prepare students to make a lasting impact for God's glory in their communities and beyond.	1977	Baptist	Brian Edmonds, Administrator; John Lacombe, Director	K–12	240
MILLERSVILLE	School of the Incarnation 2601 Symphony Lane, Gambrills; 410-519-2285; schooloftheincarnation.org	School of the Incarnation is a fully-accredited Catholic school that educates nearly 800 students in central Anne Arundel County on a beautiful 26-acre campus. The school is dedicated to cultivating and promoting academic excellence in an environment immersed in Gospel values.	2000	Catholic	Nancy Baker	PreK–8	785
	Elvaton Christian Academy 8422 Elvaton Road, Millersville; 410-647-3224; elvatonacademy.com	Elvaton Christian Academy combines traditional Christian teachings with solid academics to stimulate and inspire young minds in their formative years. Elvaton Christian Academy promotes academic excellence with caring teachers, spiritual leadership, field trips, parental involvement, small classes, affordable tuition, high academic standards, and strong Christian values.	PreK 1982 / K–8 1995	Non-denominational	Pastor Dallas Bumgarner	PreK–8	48
SEVERN/GLEN BURNIE	Archbishop Spalding High School 8080 New Cut Road, Severn; 410-969-9105; archbishopspalding.org	As a Catholic college-preparatory secondary school, Archbishop Spalding High School is committed to challenging our students to grow spiritually, academically, physically, and socially. The school community provides a caring environment that affirms the dignity of the individual and promotes learning.	1966	Catholic	President: Shannon Gilligan, Principal: Regina O'Hara	9–12	1,300
	Calvary Baptist Church Academy 407 Marley Station Road, Glen Burnie; 410-768-5306; cbcaknights.org	Calvary Baptist Church Academy is a Christian school in Glen Burnie, MD that focuses on excellence in education. CBCA has classes from K3 all the way through the 12th grade. Our students test higher than the national average. We have a good balance between teaching Christian principles and having a strong educational base.	1973	Baptist	George Kyrchuk, Administrator	K–12	375
	Granite Baptist Academy 7823 Oakwood Road, Glen Burnie; 410-761-1118; granitebaptistacademy.org	Granite Baptist School was founded as a ministry of Granite Baptist Church, and is located near Route 100 and Route 2.	1975	Baptist	Head of Academy: Pastor C.K. White Administrator: Philip Mahoney	K–12	273
	Monsignor Slade Catholic School 120 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie; 410-766-7130; msladeschool.com	Monsignor Slade is part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and is located in northern Anne Arundel County on a 10.5-acre campus.	1954	Catholic	Cameron Stehle	PreK–8	562
	St. Paul's Lutheran School 308 Oak Manor Drive, Glen Burnie; 410-766-5790; stpaulsgb.org	Located near Route 100, St. Paul's Lutheran School focuses on a Christian-based curriculum.	1950	Lutheran	Ken Coughlan	PreK–8	325
PRINCE GEORGES', HOWARD COUNTIES & BEYOND	Bishop McNamara High School 6800 Marlboro Pike Forestville; 301-735-8401; bmhs.org	As a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School with over 60 years of educating youth in the Washington, D.C. area and a legacy of over 15,000 alumni, we demonstrate our belief in the unique, God-given talents of every young person who walks through our doors.	1964	Catholic	Dian Carter	9–12	N/A
	The Boys' Latin School of Maryland 822 West Lake Avenue, Baltimore; 410-377-5192; boyslatinmd.com	At Boys' Latin, each student is known for who he is today, and all he can be tomorrow. Nearly two centuries of innovation in all-boys education have taught us what it takes to build a foundation of confidence, compassion, curiosity and character.	1844	Non-Sectarian	Christopher J. Post	K–12	635

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	13	8:1	\$10,990–\$15,990/year	Call to schedule a private tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple	4	No
	Varies	5:1	\$37,900/year	February 6th, 9 a.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	English	Crazy 8's Math Club, Financial Literacy Club, Taekwondo, Chess Club, Art Club, Cheer, and Afterschool Music Lessons, Volleyball	Soccer, Cross Country, Archery, and Basketball	No
	15	15:1	\$7,500/year	January 27th, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	French, Latin	STEM, Chess, Choral Club, Drama, Yearbook	Soccer, basketball, volleyball	No
	30	16:1	\$10,000/year	Open House January 24th, 8:30–11 a.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	MS Field Hockey, Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Ice Hockey, Basketball, Lacrosse, Baseball, Softball	Yes
	12	12:1	\$6253/year for PreK4; \$7200/year for K–8	February 1st	Coed	Yes	Yes (K–8th)	Limited	Spanish (grades 7-8)	Multiple	0	No
	20	16:1	\$21,650/year	Cav for a Day is now open - visit our website for more information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin	50+	30	60 hours of community service
	22	K3–K4 10:1; K5–12 22:1	\$8,500 preschool and \$7,200 K5–12th	Private tours-enrollment opens February 15th for next school year	Coed	Yes	Yes	No	Spanish language offered for HS	Art, computer, culinary arts, maths to calculus, band, chorus, ensemble (try outs), *STEM club, sign language club, robotics	6th & up: boys: soccer, basketball, baseball or bowling (depending MACSAC) girls: volleyball, basketball, soccer	No
	Varies	Varies	\$6,800/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	12; Little Braves (K5–6th)	No
	23	14:01	\$8,398/year (Catholic); \$9,302/year (Other Faith); Full Day PreK2 \$11,115; Full Day PreK3 \$9,843	February 2nd	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish (grades 4–8)	17	5	12 hours/family
	17	8:1	P4 (8–11 a.m. 5 days) - \$5,035/year, K–5 - \$9,547/year, 6-8 - \$10,558/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes (grades K–8)	Spanish	7	7	5 hours per family
	N/A	N/A	\$22,840+/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Arabic, ASL, French, Latin, & Spanish	50	35	N/A
	13	7:1	\$25,100–\$37,400/year, boarding \$55,900	Visit boyslatinmd.com/admissions/admissionsevents for upcoming events	Boys	Yes	Dress code	Yes	Latin, Spanish, French	35+	14	40 hours

Private School

Advertisers in RED

	DESCRIPTION	YEAR FOUNDED	RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	PRINCIPAL/ HEAD OF SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS	ENROLLMENT	
Calvert Hall College High School 8102 LaSalle Road, Baltimore 410-825-4266; calverthall.com	Calvert Hall College High School is an independent, all-boys Lasallian Catholic college preparatory school attracting students from more than 125 zip codes.	1845	Catholic	Dr. Andrew Moore	9–12	1,275	
The Calverton School 300 Calverton School Road, Huntingtown; 410-535-0216; calvertonschool.org	The Calverton School is an independent school that serves Pre-K3 to 12th-grade day students, as well as 8th-12th-grade boarding students. Boarding is available for 5 and 7 days a week. Calverton offers the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.	1967	Non-Sectarian	Adrienne Forgette	PreK–12	345	
DeMatha Catholic High School 4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville; 240-764-2200; dematha.org	DeMatha High School is a Catholic college preparatory school in the Trinitarian tradition that forms Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars.	1946	Catholic	Dr. Daniel J. McMahon	9–12	850	
Elizabeth Seton High School 5715 Emerson Street, Bladensburg; 301-864-4532; setonhs.org	Elizabeth Seton High School is an all-girls, college preparatory school, and is affiliated with the Archdiocese of Washington.	1959	Catholic	Dr. Lisa Grillo	9–12	550	
Glenelg Country School 12793 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City; 410-531-8600; glenelg.org	Our students discover an abiding sense of self, a deep appreciation for community, and a shared understanding of purpose. Small classes, passionate teachers, and opportunities for growth keep our students engaged.	1954	Non-Sectarian	Matt Walsh	PreK–12	780	
Gonzaga College High School 19 Eye Street, NW, Washington, D.C.; 202-336-7100; gonzaga.org	Founded in 1821, Gonzaga is a Catholic college preparatory school for boys in grades 9–12. The only Jesuit high school in the District of Columbia, Gonzaga draws inspiration from the spiritual vision of St. Ignatius Loyola and the apostolic and educational tradition of the Society of Jesus.	1821	Catholic	Britney Pugh-Crooks	9–12	960	
Grace Christian School 7210 Race Track Rd., Bowie; gcsbowie.org	This year, Grace Christian School celebrates 50 years as a light in the community where Faith and Learning connect. Grace Christian exists to ensure all enrolled students learn spiritually, academically, physically, and creatively from a biblical worldview.	1975	Christian	Lori Stevens	K–8	300+	
Holy Trinity An Episcopal School Primary School: 13106 Annapolis Road, Bowie; 301-262-5355; htrinity.org, The Daisy Lane School and High School Prep - 11902 Daisy Lane, Glenn Dale; 301-464-3215; htrinity.org	Faithful to our values of academic excellence, spiritual and moral formation, and inclusiveness, Holy Trinity will apply new thinking and best practices in education. Inside and outside the classroom, we will nurture, teach, mentor, coach, and inspire boys and girls of diverse backgrounds and abilities to become their best selves.	1963	Episcopal	DeAndre Calhoun	PreK–8	452+	
Maryvale Preparatory School 11300 Falls Road, Baltimore; 410-252-3366; maryvale.com	Maryvale, affiliated with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, provides an environment in which each student can reach her academic, spiritual, physical and civic potential in a loving, supportive, and diverse community.	1945	Catholic	Tracey Ford	6–12	450	
McDonogh School 8600 McDonogh Road, Owings Mills; 410-363-0600; mcdonogh.org	McDonogh is an independent, coeducational day and five-day boarding school providing life-altering educational opportunities that inspire joy in learning and promote personal and intellectual growth. The School's 800-acre campus provides countless opportunities for exploration, and the private fleet of 21 buses serves Baltimore City and surrounding counties.	1873	Non-Sectarian	David J. Farace	PreK–12	1,460	
Mount de Sales Academy 700 Academy Road, Catonsville; 410-744-8498; mountdesalesacademy.org	Mount de Sales Academy forms young women through a Catholic college preparatory education that nurtures the whole person and promotes academic excellence, lifelong learning, moral responsibility, service to others, and the dignity of the human person.	1852	Catholic	Sister Mary Raymond Thye, O.P.	9–12	460	
Mount St. Joseph High School 4403 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore; 410-644-3300; msjnet.edu	Mount Saint Joseph High School is a Catholic college preparatory school for boys sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers.	1876	Catholic	Brendan Donohue	9–12	800+	

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	17	11:1	\$20,500/year	Call for Information	Boys	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Latin, French, German, Spanish	60+	40	Varies
	14	7:1	\$7,900–\$26,540/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	French, Spanish	Model UN, Robotics, Green Team, Yearbook, Kaleidoscope, MathCounts, Geography, History and Science Bee, Musical Theater, Instrumental and Vocal Performance, Visual Arts, Pottery	10	Yes
	18	8:1	\$23,850/year	Call for Information	Boys	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin, Mandarin, Greek, French	40	15	55 hours
	19	14:1	\$19,077/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin, ASL	31	23	Varies per year
	13	7:1	\$12,710–\$32,630/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish	36	43 teams including 12 middle school	25 hours per year (grades 9-12)
	19	12:1	\$33,530/year	Call for Information	Boys	Yes	N/A	Yes	Chinese, French, Spanish	8	18: Number of sports offered 41: Number of athletic teams	N/A
	17	13:1	\$9,775 K–5, \$9,965 6–8/year	January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Drama, Debate, Cyber Robotics Coding Club	Cross Country, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, Track & Field, Cheerleading	MS - 2 hours Christian service each quarter
	15 (Pre); 20 (K–4); 21 (5–8)	Varies	\$13,429 (3 & 4 yrs old) \$14,686 (K) \$13,901 (Grades 1–4) \$15,713 (Grades 5–8)	January 10th, February 7th, April 4th	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple	6 (Grades 5-8)	15 hours/year (7.5 hours for single-parent families)
	13-14	8:1	Middle: \$22,300/year High: \$22,700/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes HSPT/ ISEE	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French	70+	30	No
	N/A	N/A	\$24,350-\$42,440 (includes transportation and lunch)	Visit mcdonogh.org/admissions	Coed	ISEE	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Latin	Visit mcdonogh.org/asp for more information	Visit mcdonogh.org/athletics for more information	Yes
	16	16:1	\$19,850/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin	35	21	75 hours by graduation
	19	10:1	\$19,495/year	Visit msjnet.edu /visit	Boys	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Italian	50+	17	60 hours

Private School

Advertisers in RED

	DESCRIPTION	YEAR FOUNDED	RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	PRINCIPAL/ HEAD OF SCHOOL	GRADE LEVELS	ENROLLMENT	
Notre Dame Preparatory School 815 Hampton Lane, Towson; 410-825-6202; notredameprep.com	Notre Dame Prep was founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It is a college preparatory school for girls, located in Towson.	1873	Catholic	Sister Patricia McCarron, SSND, PhD	6–12	813	
Oldfields School 1500 Glencoe Road, Sparks Glencoe; 410-472-4800; oldfieldsschool.org	Oldfields is an all-girls boarding and day school located on 140 acres in Maryland's horse country	1867	Non-Sectarian	Ansley Smithwick	8–12	30	
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School 17301 Old Vic Boulevard, Olney, MD 20832; 240-283-3253; olgchs.org	At Our Lady of Good Counsel, a Catholic high school sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers, we inspire our students to excel, serve, and love.	1958	Catholic	Edward Owusu	9–12	1275	
Roland Park Country School 5204 Roland Avenue, Baltimore; 410-323-5500; rpcs.org	At Roland Park Country School, the paths our students take are as varied and diverse as they are. Our students pursue excellence in their academic endeavors by exploring their passions, cultivating their curiosities and sharpening their analytical and creative abilities in an environment focused on learning, leading and thriving. Endless possibilities start here!	1894	Non-Sectarian	Joan Smith	K–12; coed preschool	600	
St. Augustine School 5990 Old Washington Road, Elkridge 410-796-3040; staug-md.org	St. Augustine School is affiliated with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and is located on the edge of Howard and Anne Arundel counties.	1857	Catholic	Joseph Miller	PreK3–8	265	
St. John's College High School in Chevy Chase 2607 Military Road NW, Chevy Chase; 202-363-2316; stjohnschs.org	St. John's is an independent, Catholic, coeducational college preparatory school in the Lasallian tradition.	1851	Catholic	Ian MacInnes	9–12	1300	
St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School 4610 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro; 301-627-4170; stmaryum.org	St. Mary of the Assumption School is a coeducational Catholic elementary school founded by St. Mary of the Assumption Church in 1925, to serve the Catholic families of the greater Upper Marlboro area.	1925	Catholic	Ashley Lewis	PreK–8	N/A	
St. Philip Neri School 6401 S. Orchard Road, Linthicum Heights; 410-859-1212; spnmd.org	St. Philip Neri School is part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and is located on a 15-acre campus in northern Anne Arundel County.	1965	Catholic	Kate Daley	PreK–8	485	
St. Pius X Regional School 14710 Annapolis Road, Bowie; 301-262-0203; stpiusbowie.org	2016 National Blue Ribbon School St. Pius X Regional School serves four regional parishes in the Bowie area. We seek to support the diversity of student needs and learning styles while nourishing its students' spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth.	1962	Roman Catholic	Ann Gillespie	PreK–8	500	
St. Timothy's School 8400 Greenspring Avenue, Stevenson; 410-486-7400; stt.org	Beyond instilling in each girl a passion for learning, we are deeply committed to the formation of character, spiritual growth, social responsibility, and respect for diversity.	1882	Episcopal	Randy S. Stevens	9–12	165	
St. Vincent Pallotti High School 113 St. Mary's Place, Laurel; 301-725-3228; pallottihs.org	St. Vincent Pallotti High School is a college preparatory school in the Archdiocese of Washington, and serves students from Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.	1921	Catholic	Jeffrey Palumbo	9–12	450	
Washington New Church School 11914 Chantilly Ln., Mitchellville; 301-464-5602; wncschool.org	60-acre campus, hosting two educational gardens, nature trails and outdoor classroom. A Christian school specializing in loving, personalized education. Blends traditional academic rigor with as much project-based learning as possible. Located in Mitchellville/West Bowie.	1970	New Church Christian	Brian Smith	PreK–8	35	

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	19	9:1	\$21,950/year	Call for Information	Girls	Yes; ISEE (MS); HSPT (HS)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Mandarin	50+ (upper level); 12+ (middle level)	15	20 hours a year starting sophomore year
	4	3:1	\$31,000/year Boarding - \$59,000	Visit website for open house dates	Girls	Test Optional Policy	Dress Code	Yes	French, Spanish, Latin	3+	Athletics & Equestrian Program	80 hours required
	20	13:1	\$32,650	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Latin, English	50+	28	N/A
	Varies	6:1	K -\$30,990; 1-8 - \$32,700-38,400; 9-12 - \$39,400	April 24th	Girls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Seven options	50+	15	Yes
	25	13:1	\$7,300/ year K-8th; \$4,380 Preschool 3 day Program; \$7,300 Preschool 5 day program	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple	4	No
	20	12:1	\$27,500/year	Call for Information	Coed	N/A	Yes	Yes	French, Spanish and Latin	70	29	N/A
	N/A	8:1	\$8,250-11,250/ year	Call for Information	Coed	N/A	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Varies every year	Basketball, Soccer, or Track and Field	Each family is required 20 hours of volunteer work
	22	20:3 (PreK); 24:1 (K-8)	\$7,175/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin	10	3	20 hours per family
	25; PK - 20	12:1; PK - 10:1	K-8 \$10,170, Non-Archdiocese of Washington: K-8 \$11,170, Non Catholic \$12,170, PreK4 Program \$11,200, PreK3 Program \$12,700	January 24th, 1-3 p.m.	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish	Multiple Clubs	Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Track and Field, Cross Country	\$500 Volunteer Service Program Fee or 20 hours of creditable work
	8	8:1	Day Tuition-\$39,900; Boarding \$69,900, Boarding-\$64,200	Call for Information	Girls	No	Yes	Yes	French, Mandarin, Spanish	18	12	Yes
	17	11:1	\$20,100-\$21,500/ year	April 24th	Coed	Yes (HSPT)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, French, Mandarin	20+	20+	80 hours over 4 years
	7	4:1	\$10,000/year	Call for Tour	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish enrichment	Varies	0	Yes

Private School

Advertisers in RED

DESCRIPTION

YEAR
FOUNDED

RELIGIOUS
AFFILIATION

PRINCIPAL/
HEAD OF
SCHOOL

GRADE
LEVELS

ENROLLMENT

CAROLINE COUNTY

The Benedictine School
14299 Benedictine Lane, Ridgely;
410-634-2112; benschool.org

The Benedictine School is an approved day and residential school, serving students with intellectual disabilities, autism, or multiple disabilities.

1959

Non-Sectarian

Julie Hickey

K-12

55

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Countryside Christian School
5333 Austin Road, Cambridge;
410-228-0574;
countrysidechristianschoolmd.org

For more than 50 years, Countryside Christian School's purpose has been, and continues to be, providing students with a traditional Bible-based education in an academic environment that is challenging, yet attainable for all.

1974

Christian

Beverly Stephens Herbst

PreK-8

15

KENT COUNTY

Chestertown Christian Academy
401 Morgne Road, Chestertown;
410-778-5855; chestertownchristian.org
and admissions@chestertownchristian.org

We serve students from Kent, Queen Anne's, and Cecil Counties in Maryland as well as Kent County, Delaware. Our mission is to "Awaken a delight in learning by providing an atmosphere of encouragement and academic challenges that inspires students to reach their God-given potential".

1979

Baptist

Lynn Poore

K-12

214

Kent School
6788 Wilkins Lane, Chestertown;
410-778-4100; kentschool.org

Kent School is an independent day school located along the bank of the Chester River. The school incorporates Chesapeake Bay studies into their curriculum.

1967

Non-Sectarian

Nancy Mugele

PreK-8

150

Radcliffe Creek School
201 Talbot Boulevard, Chestertown;
410-778-8150; radcliffecreekschool.org

Radcliffe Creek School is an independent day school dedicated to neurodivergent students with language-based learning differences as well as neurotypical students. RCS provides a personalized education experience, with a focus on small class sizes, specialized instruction using Orton-Gillingham approaches, and a supportive community.

1996

Non-Sectarian

Dr. Jennifer Durham

K-8

72

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

The Gunston School
911 Gunston Road, Centreville;
410-758-0620; gunston.org

The Gunston School offers an intellectually rigorous, highly personalized, and nurturing college preparatory experience focused on environmental leadership and hands-on learning, complemented by a daily athletics program, convenient transportation options, and a generous financial aid and scholarship program dedicated to enrolling a strong, diverse student population.

1911

Non-Sectarian

John Lewis

9-12

257

Lighthouse Christian Academy
931 Love Point Road, Stevensville;
410-643-3034; lcademy.org

Lighthouse Christian Academy is a joyful Classical approach to education on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

2001

Christian

Nathan Bell

PreK-8

133

Wye River Upper School
316 South Commerce Street, Centreville;
410-758-2922; wyeriverupperschool.org

Wye River Upper School is a private, independent school which serves students with learning differences in a small, inclusive and safe environment. Transportation is available for several locations both east and west of the Bay Bridge.

2002

Non-Sectarian

Nicole Sophocles

8-12

50

TALBOT COUNTY

Chesapeake Christian School
1009 N. Washington Street, Easton;
410-822-7600; chesapeakechristian.org

Chesapeake Christian School is conveniently located near Route 50, and offers a traditional classroom setting with Christian values.

1999

Christian

Rhonda Kercheval

K-12

140

The Country School
716 Goldsborough Street, Easton;
410-822-1935; countryschool.org

We offer a challenging, enriching program in a nurturing environment with individual attention and outstanding teachers as our hallmarks. We help develop confident students to realize their highest potential. The Country School offers transportation from Cambridge to Stevensville

1934

Non-Sectarian

Jay Parker

PreK-8

320

Sts. Peter and Paul School
Elementary - 900 High Street, Easton;
410-822-2251; es.sspeaston.org
High - 1212 S. Washington Street, Easton;
410-822-2275; sspeaston.org

Saints Peter and Paul School is a Catholic elementary and college preparatory school located on 2 campuses in Easton. Saints Peter and Paul is the only Catholic, PreK through 12th grade school on the Eastern Shore

1955(ES)
1958 (HS)

Catholic

Sherrie Connolly (ES), Scott Wilson (HS)

PreK-12

425 (ES)
200 (HS)

	AVG. CLASS SIZE	RATIO	TUITION	OPEN HOUSE DATES	EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT	ENTRANCE EXAMS	UNIFORMS	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	LANGUAGES TAUGHT	EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS	INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS	SERVICE/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT
	5–7	3:1	Varies depending on services required	Tours and interviews available by request	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	No	Multiple	0	No
	15	8:1	\$4,800/year	Call for Information	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	Spanish, ASL	0	0	No
	15	15:1	\$4,690 (PreK and Kindergarten), \$4,990 (1–5), \$5,990 (6–12)	Call for information	Coed	Yes (grades 2–12)	Yes	Yes	Spanish	4-H and others that vary year to year	Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Cheerleading, Baseball, Cross Country	10 hours per academic year (grades 9–12)
	12	7:1	Little School: 4 days: \$9,700, 5 days: \$10,700; K: \$14,950; Grades 1 - 4: \$19,300; Grades 5 - 8: \$20,650	Contact School to schedule personal tour	Coed	Evaluation	Dress code	Yes	N/A	1	9	No
	6	6:1	\$34,580/year for Grades 1–8; \$31,122/year for Kindergarten	Rolling Admissions and Flexibility with "Your Time. Your Tour."	Coed	No	Yes	Yes	No	60 minutes everyday with revolving topics	3	No
	10–12	9:1	\$30,950 (includes tuition and lunch)	January 25th & April 26th, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Coed	Yes	Dress code	Yes	Spanish, others available online	24	21+	45 hours
	12	11:1	\$8,200–\$11,125/year	January 14th, February 11th, March 11th	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Latin	6	4	No
	6-8	5:1	\$36,980/year (Grades 9–12), \$32,130 (Grade 8)	Call School for Upcoming Dates	Coed	No	Dress Code	Yes	Spanish, Sign Language	Music, theatre, recreation, and clubs	Basketball and Cross Country	75 hours
	15	15:1	\$5,000/year	Call for Information	Coed	Yes	Yes	No	Spanish	0	6	100 hours
	15	9:1	PreK \$11,890; K \$18,070; 1–8 \$20,970	email admissions@countyschool.org	Coed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin	10	5	Not required, but part of curriculum
	HS is 14 ES is 18	11 is to 1	PreK \$8,900; K–8 \$10,500; 9–12 \$19,430	January 28th, 5:30 p.m.	Coed	Yes (HSPT for HS)	Yes	Yes	Spanish, Latin	13 (ES); 32+ (HS)	8 (ES); 18 (HS)	80 hours/four years (9–12), 20 hours per school year

WHAT DOES PRIVATE SCHOOL MEAN TO YOU?

We asked parents and students for their perspective and appreciation of private school experiences. Here's what they have to say:

“Roman is learning concrete life skills and we have a whole new perspective on the possibilities for him and his future. He is celebrated and seen at Benedictine!”

—**Parents of student, The Benedictine School**

“The Country School is more than a school; it's a family. The core values are seriously demonstrated by the staff, teachers, students, and parents. When we see the daily excitement in his eyes, it confirms that we made the absolute right decision.”

—**Sheila J., parent, The Country School**

“When my daughter first graduated from Gunston, she walked onto a college campus and was able to organize herself without any stress and enjoy that first semester, [and] she was comfortable advocating for herself, because Gunston had taught her how to be responsible for her work, as they have with all my kids.”

—**Derrika Baughman, parent to five alumni and current students, The Gunston School**

“Choosing Key School was one of the best decisions we've made for our child. As the parent of a recent graduate, I can say without hesitation that Key has exceeded our expectations—not just academically, but in preparing our child for life beyond high school.”

—**Sarah S., parent, Key School**

“There is something about Kent School that allows every child to find the spotlight. It might be academically, in the arts or athletics, at a bee or in an essay contest, or in a leadership role. With so many opportunities to shine, students feel comfortable there so it's a natural progression for them to continue on that path in high school.”

—**Anonymous alumni parent, Kent School**

“Lighthouse Christian Academy represents more than just a school—it's a place that helps me reinforce the values I'm trying to teach at home: faith, discipline, integrity, and compassion. It's comforting to know my son is surrounded by teachers and mentors who not only invest in his education but also in his character and heart.”


—**John Hozik, parent, Lighthouse Christian Academy**

“Severn does a great job of catering to a variety of student interests and passions. It's really easy and encouraged to get involved beyond the classroom, whether that's with a club, sport, or specific leadership position like Senior Prefect. Through different seminars offered each year, there's a focus on knowing yourself well so that you can be yourself and really pursue your passions.”

—**Olivia Jishi, senior student, Severn School**

“Wye River Upper School helped me realize that learning differently isn't a weakness—it's just who I am. Because the teachers focus on my strengths, I've gained so much confidence. I'm actually excited about my future.”

—**Anonymous alumna, Class of 2023, Wye River Upper School**



"Monsignor Slade offers an incredible blend of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and a warm, supportive community. We can't imagine a better place for our children to grow!"

—**Bianca H., current parent and alumna, Monsignor Slade Catholic School**

"Rockbridge Academy feels like an additional church family to us. It is such a blessing to see people young and old and from various walks of life come together. We have seen the administration and faculty do an amazing job at creating a sense of community that our children can't wait to be a part of on a daily basis."

—**Hannah E., parent of four current students, Rockbridge Academy**

"From the moment we stepped onto the St. Anne's School campus, we felt something different. There was a genuine sense of belonging, warmth, and intentionality that immediately resonated with our family. Our boys are not just students in a classroom—they are known, valued, and celebrated for who they are."

—**Chriz Rzepkowski, parent, St. Anne's School of Annapolis**

"When we first decided to enroll our son in preschool, we visited more than a dozen preschools in the area. Something about St. Margaret's felt different than all the rest. They offered STEM classes and promoted green initiatives and understood the value of balancing academics with outdoor play for small children. I often joked that it felt like the Ivy League of preschools."

—**Frank Bolinsky, parent, St. Margaret's Day School**

"The best decision was sending my son to Sts. Peter and Paul School. The transfer from public school to SSPP was seamless with the support from teachers and administrators. My son has learned academic responsibility and grown in his faith. The caring and safe environment has allowed him to focus on learning with no distractions. Words cannot express the gratitude we have."

—**Anonymous parent, Sts. Peter & Paul School**

"The school has been a phenomenal experience for both of my children. This school is a family. My children have grown in their education and in their faith, they have also learned to be helpful, kind people. The teachers, staff, and administration are likewise phenomenal."

—**Wendy M., parent, School of the Incarnation**

"Our two neurodivergent boys (age 8) have truly found their place at Radcliffe Creek School. After two very rough years in a traditional school setting, we knew something had to change, and RCS welcomed us with open arms. The amount of resources and support they offer parents and families is equally impressive as the support they offer their students."

—**Anonymous parent, Radcliffe Creek School**

"St. John is an incredible school that has helped develop my academic skills and strengthen my faith. Every day the safe, helpful environment allows me to feel secure and engaged while I learn. I used to believe challenges were obstacles blocking the path to success, but my school has taught me to embrace them as opportunities for growth."

—**Madelyn G., grade six student, St. John the Evangelist**

"Pallotti was an awesome choice for my daughter. Their Arts Academy option is top notch. She received a sizable scholarship to the college of her choice due in large part to her academic experiences at Pallotti."

—**Maria H., alumni parent, St. Vincent Pallotti**

PURPOSE. EMPATHY. CHARACTER.

AN EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

HOLY TRINITY


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OPEN HOUSE

Thurs. February 5, 2026
Thurs. April 9, 2026

9:30-11:30 a.m.
Registration required
at htrinity.org/admissions

PS-8 Glenn Dale & Bowie htrinity.org 301-262-5355



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ONE IN CHRIST

 **ARCHBISHOP SPALDING**
HIGH SCHOOL

8080 New Cut Road
Severn, MD 21144

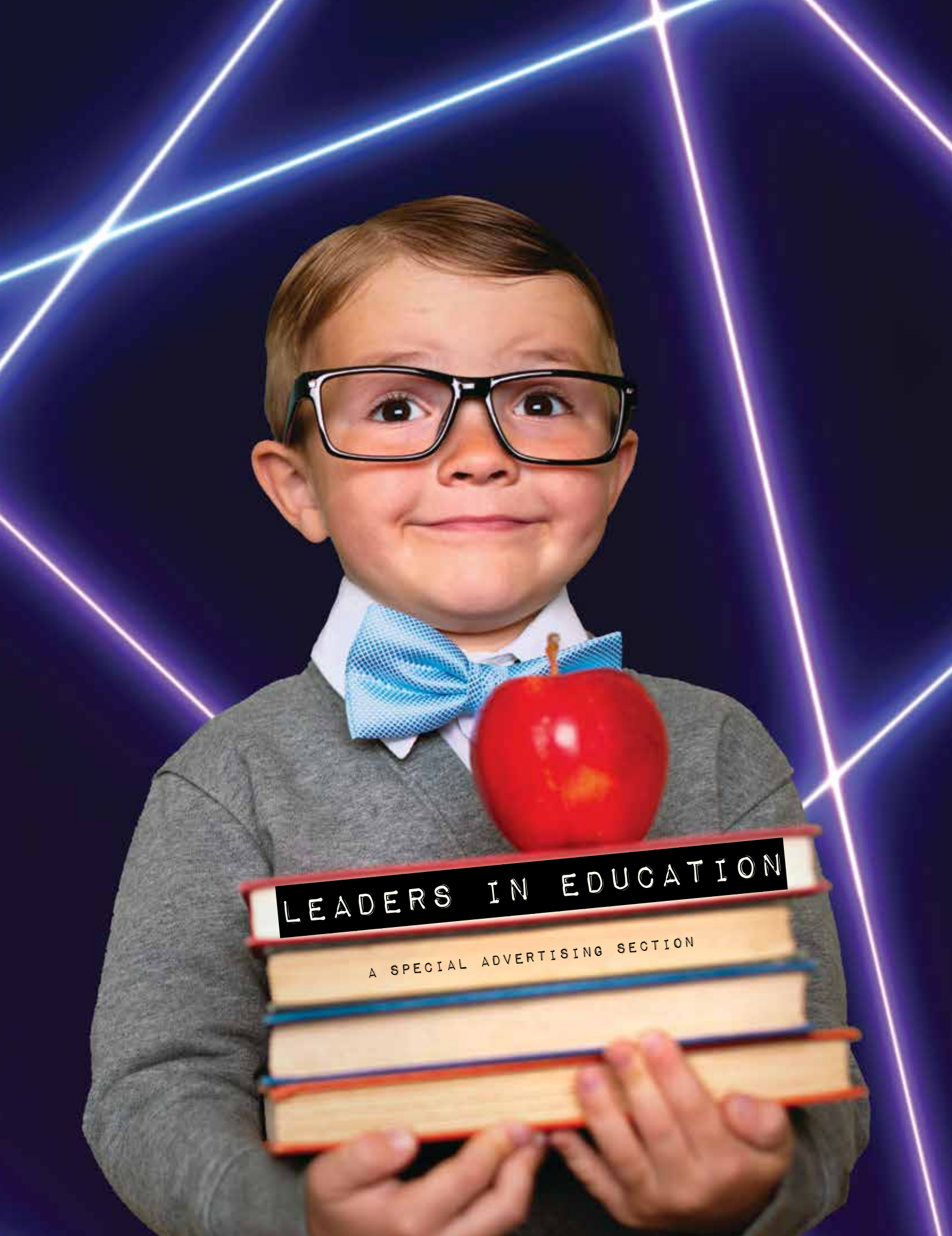
410-969-9105

Magazines are **more important than ever**, bringing trusted comfort and welcome advice to the table

52%
of women read or browsed magazines for entertainment during the pandemic

41%
say magazines are more important to them now vs. pre-pandemic

WHAT'S UP? **MEDIA**
DIGITAL MAGAZINES EVENTS



LEADERS IN EDUCATION

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Pre-K through
Grade 12

Year Founded:

1973

2025-2026

Enrollment:

595

2025-2026 Tuition:

\$23,550 - \$33,750

Campus Size: :

114 acres

Signature Programs:

Nature-based Early
Childhood

PK-12 Outdoor Learning
Curriculum

Middle School Gold-
Standard Project Based
Learning Curriculum

Upper School S.T.E.M.
Program

Evergreen Institute for
Leadership

Voros Thesis in the
Humanities



Indian Creek School

1130 Anne Chambers Way, Crownsville, MD 21032

410-923-3660 | indiancreekschool.org



Visit Indian Creek's beautiful 114-acre wooded campus, just minutes from Annapolis, and you will see why ICS families love coming to school. You may come across our youngest students exploring the campus trails in the Nature-Based Pre-K Program, observe Middle School students building roller coasters through their gold-standard Project Based Learning curriculum, discover Upper School S.T.E.M. students monitoring bat boxes, cheer for Creek athletes competing on the fields, dome, and courts of the Eagles Athletics Complex, and enjoy the music all around campus created by our performing artists. Everywhere you go, you will experience the sights and sounds of Indian Creek students discovering passions through authenticity, connection, and curiosity. We invite you to visit and learn what your pursuit of excellence can look like at a school where kindness is currency, well-being is priority, and excellence in education is relentlessly pursued!



16 Average class size

7:1 Student to teacher ratio

100% College Placement



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Twos - Grade 8

2025-2026

Enrollment:

285

Tuition Range:

\$6,000-\$28,000

Student to

Teacher Ratio:

8:1

Average Class Size:

13



St. Anne's School's podcast series, *The Satellite*, dives into today's most relevant educational conversations—from the outcomes of phone-free schooling and the Science of Reading to civic-minded learning and the transformative power of the arts.

Scan the QR code above to tune in and discover more about St. Anne's School, our academic approach, and the meaningful research and innovation shaping teaching and learning on our campus.

St. Anne's School of Annapolis

3112 Arundel on the Bay Road | Annapolis, MD 21403 | stannesschool.org
Instagram and Facebook @stannesschool | 410.263.8650

St. Anne's School is a research-informed, independent school that specializes in educating students through the Wonder Years: two-years-old through Eighth Grade. This small, progressive school makes a big impact and has an even bigger heart.



You Belong Here.

St. Anne's School is a caring community of educators with a guiding mission to invest in the intellectual and spiritual promise of each and every student.

Here, teachers learn alongside students, sparking joy in learning while also challenging students to think critically and creatively. Here, we celebrate diversity and foster belonging by upholding the dignity of every human being. Here, we stand for respect, responsibility, honesty, and kindness—core values that we uphold daily both on and off campus. Here, we inspire our students to lead lives of purpose, to fully know themselves as learners, and to govern their lives with confidence, compassion, and integrity. Here, we also know it's not just what students learn, but how they learn it, that makes a difference. All faculty is trained in Mind/Brain Education, Responsive Classroom, and Individualized Instruction, and everything we do is backed by research.

Families come for our small class sizes, personalized instruction, and research-informed curriculum; families stay for our warm and connected community, social/emotional and project-based learning, and signature service and leadership programs...all of which open doors to top Mid-Atlantic high schools.



Piquing curiosity through hands-on application is a key component of a St. Anne's School education and our project-based learning allows students to dive deeper into their areas of interest.



Education doesn't just occur in the classroom at St. Anne's School. Here students learn about the world around them and how they can be stewards of change from our Fourth Grade Oyster Harvesting Unit to our Seventh Grade Costa Rica Trip.



In our Reggio Emilia-inspired Program for Young Children, our youngest learners are viewed as protagonists in their educational journey and are encouraged to express themselves through words, movement, art, music, and more.



Nurturing minds and hearts are equally important at St. Anne's School. Social/emotional learning and both leadership and service opportunities are built directly into the curriculum.

\$750,000+

in high school scholarships awarded (2018-25)

30%

of our student body identifies as diverse, representing 28 zip codes

3

Science Labs

10

Outdoor Learning Spaces
Including a Ropes Course



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

2.5 yrs. - Grade 12

Religious Affiliation:

Non-Sectarian

Educational Environment:

Co-ed

2025-2026

Enrollment: 668

Financial Assistance:

Financial Aid & Merit Scholarships Available

Average Financial Aid

Award: \$14,000

Uniforms:

No

Student to Faculty

Ratio: 6:1

Average Class Size:

16

Advanced Courses

Offered: 6 AP,
14 advanced

Interscholastic Teams:

40

Languages Taught:

Arabic, French, Latin,
Spanish

Performance/Creative

Arts Offerings: 35+

Key School

534 Hillsmere Drive | Annapolis, MD 21403 | [keyschool.org](https://www.keyschool.org)

Instagram & Facebook @thekeyschool | 410.263.9231

Families have long recognized Key School for its academic excellence, expert faculty and proven path to top colleges. From ages 2.5 through Grade 12, students develop the intellectual curiosity, leadership, and integrity that define lifelong success—right in the heart of Annapolis.



More Than a School. The Key to What Comes Next.

At Key, students don't just prepare for college; they prepare for life. Through a blend of rigorous academics, relational teaching, and real-world learning, they develop purpose, confidence, and compassion. It's an education that shapes thinkers, doers, and problem-solvers ready to make an impact on the world.

That journey begins with curiosity. Academic mastery at Key is driven by students who ask bold questions, connect ideas across disciplines and pursue understanding that lasts far beyond a test or transcript. And learning doesn't stay confined to the classroom. From exploring the Chesapeake Bay to engaging in meaningful community service, students experience the world in ways that broaden their perspectives and strengthen their character.

Key graduates don't just check boxes—they chart their own course.

Experience the Key difference for yourself. Schedule a private weekday tour with one of our admission counselors today.



Creating opportunities for experiential learning through outdoor education is an integral part of the Key experience.



Key's Fusco Athletic Park is a 70-acre state-of-the-art facility that is home to the fields, courts and training spaces that fuel championship teams.



Key is renowned for its rigorous academic program, which emphasizes inquiry-based learning and interdisciplinary study.



#1

Private High School
in Anne Arundel
County

#1

Private K-12 School
in Anne Arundel
County

#4

K-12 Private
School in
Maryland



QUICK LOOK

President:

Shannon Gilligan

Religious Affiliation:

Catholic

Year Founded:

1966

2025-2026 Tuition:

\$21,650

Varsity Sports:

30 competing in the MIAA and IAAM

Archbishop Spalding High School

8080 New Cut Road | Severn, MD 21144 | 410-969-9105
archbishopspalding.org

Archbishop Spalding is a Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory high school that has been committed to serving our students in a caring environment since 1966.

Spalding not only offers core academic courses but also embraces religious studies, fine arts, STEM education, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program, and physical education. This reflects the school's dedication to providing an environment in which students are encouraged to reach their potential academically, spiritually, and physically. Where each student will be cared for and recognized for the person they are and not the number they represent. Outside the classroom, our students participate in numerous award-winning athletic, fine arts, and co-curricular programs; each designed to inspire growth in the individual.



16:1 Student to teacher ratio

60,654 Service Hours completed by the class of 2024-2025



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

9-12

Total Enrollment:

445

Religious Affiliation:

Catholic

Tuition Assistance:

Scholarships and financial aid available

Tuition:

\$20,100 Variable Rate
\$22,600 Locked In Rate

St. Vincent Pallotti High School

113 St. Mary's Place, Laurel, Maryland 20707
301-725-3228 | pallottihs.org
admissions@pallotths.org

St. Vincent Pallotti High School offers a broad and challenging curriculum in a co-educational environment. Pallotti students receive a college preparatory education that reinforces critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving taught by an inspiring and innovative faculty. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of a wide range of students with diverse interests, learning styles, and abilities. We prepare all students to excel in college and beyond, and provide our students with an education integrated with the spiritual and moral truths that will guide them through their entire lives.

15 Average class size

1:13 Student to teacher ratio

Specialized Programs:

Accelerated Science, Engineering, Arts Academy, Learning Center





QUICK LOOK

Grades:

PreK4 - 8th

Religious Affiliation:

Catholic

Principal:

Ms. Nancy Baker

Year Founded:

2002

2025-2026 Tuition:

\$6,250-\$10,000

School of the Incarnation

2601 Symphony Lane, Gambrills, MD 21054

410.519.2285 | schooloftheincarnation.org

School of the Incarnation is a fully-accredited Catholic school that educates over 750 students in central Anne Arundel County on a beautiful 26-acre campus. School of the Incarnation is officially associated with the five Catholic parishes St. Joseph Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Fields, Holy Family Catholic Church, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. The School of the Incarnation embraces an inter-parish community of children with differing gifts. Through collaboration amongst the faculty, parents, and other professionals, the School is dedicated to cultivating and promoting academic excellence in an environment immersed in Gospel values. This commitment is woven seamlessly into the academic program and student life. We seek to provide a distinctive educational experience to a diverse body of learners and to cultivate our students' ability to think globally and behave ethically.

26 Average
class size

16:1 Student to
teacher ratio



2025 Open House

Saturday

January 24th

8:30-11:00am



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Pre-K2 - 8th

Total Enrollment:

583

Religious Affiliation:

Catholic

Principal:

Mr. Cameron Stehle

Licensed Preschool Offerings:

Pre-K2, Pre-K3, & Pre-K4 (Part-Day & Full-Day Available for All Ages)

Monsignor Slade Catholic School

70 years of forming the whole child to know, love, and be a disciple of Christ.

120 Dorsey Rd., Glen Burnie, MD 21061 | msladeschool.com
admissions@msladeschool.com | 410-766-7130

For more than 70 years, Monsignor Slade has provided a dynamic, faith-centered education for Pre-K2 through 8th-grade students. Rooted in strong Catholic values, our school pairs a rigorous academic curriculum with innovative educational technology, ensuring students are prepared to thrive in their future pursuits. A wide range of electives, extracurricular activities, and award-winning programs—including our renowned band and competitive athletic teams—gives students countless opportunities to discover their interests and develop their talents. At Slade, learning is active, hands-on, and designed to help each child reach their full potential. Just as important, our vibrant and welcoming school community fosters genuine connection, support, and involvement among families, faculty, and students. Schedule a visit today and discover why Monsignor Slade is a place where students thrive.

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE
FOR MORE
INFO** ▶



22
Average
class size

12:1
Student to
teacher ratio





QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Preschool – Grade 12

Total Enrollment

910

Sports Offered:

17 (54 total teams including Middle School, JV, and Varsity)

Tuition:

Kindergarten - \$24,410

Grades 1-5 - \$26,580

Grades 6-12 - \$33,400

Preschool & PreK

tuition varies

Severn School

Chesapeake Campus (preschool through Grade 5): 1185 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Arnold, MD

Teel Campus (Grades 6 thru 12): 201 Water Street, Severna Park, MD | PH: 410-647-7700

www.severnschool.com

Severn is more than just a school. It's a vibrant learning community where discovery, curiosity, and perseverance are celebrated in equal measure to academic success and where every student has the potential to be a leader. Here, students learn that education isn't solely about the facts you know but about discovering who you are and how you can make a difference with that knowledge.

"As a Severn student, I've been able to step out of my comfort zone and try new things that I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do and wouldn't have had the courage to try if I wasn't here."

– Marcus '26

9:1

Student to teacher ratio

15

Average class size

100%

Matriculation Rate



QUICK LOOK

Grades:

Preschool - Grade 8

Total Enrollment:

450

Religious Affiliation:

Episcopal

Head of School:

Mr. DeAndre Calhoun

Tuition and Fees:

\$14,229 - \$16,513,

\$1,050 - \$2,000

Holy Trinity: An Episcopal School

13106 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20720

11902 Daisy Lane, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 | 301-262-5355

Holy Trinity: An Episcopal School is ever faithful to its values of academic excellence, spiritual and moral formation, and inclusiveness as it educates over 450 students in Prince George's and surrounding counties. Holy Trinity is a Preschool through 8th grade independent school. Our expert faculty and staff seek to know and deeply understand students, so that students become their BEST YOU!

Students are encouraged to take thoughtful and bold chances in the classroom at Holy Trinity because this is where real learning takes place. Holy Trinity's distinctive integration of Music into the curriculum ignites a student's imagination, enhances problem-solving skills, instills self-discipline and patience, and furthers their ability to collaborate. Here, students learn more about: STEM; Friendship; Episcopalian Values; Spanish; Outdoor Education. Some prioritize rigorous academics. Holy Trinity prioritizes rigorous balance. Holy Trinity strives to graduate better students, but more importantly, better people. At Holy Trinity, students study Kindness, master Compassion, research Character and excel in Selflessness. Holy Trinity students shine inside and outside the classroom of the best private and public high schools in the region. Our graduates leave Holy Trinity and become great leaders, scholars, student-athletes, musicians, and good citizens.



18

Average class size

10:1

Student to teacher ratio



QUICK LOOK

Head of School:
Kathy Mahar

Grades:
Preschool - 8

2025-2026 Enrollment:
234

Average Class Size:
Preschool - 4th: 13-16
5th - 8th: 15-18



St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal School

375-A Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD 21146 | 410-647-7055 | stmartinsmd.org

St. Martin's is located on an 8-acre campus in the heart of Severna Park. We are proud to educate and nurture students in Preschool through 8th grade to be learners, leaders, and friends. We seek to create a welcoming educational environment, encouraging each individual to grow in Confidence, Compassion, and Character. In our inclusive community, every child is known and supported.

We offer an academically rigorous curriculum allowing for individualized instruction. Creativity and problem solving are fostered through active hands-on learning. Students participate in Music, Spanish, PE, weekly Chapel Services, Technology, Library, Art, Sacred Studies, and Service Learning. We offer after-school clubs and activities at all grade levels in addition to interscholastic sports teams and musical theater in Middle School.

Contact Kira Dickson, Director of Admissions to schedule a private tour or register for our January 14th Open House: kdickson@stmartinsmd.org.



Join us at our
Open House

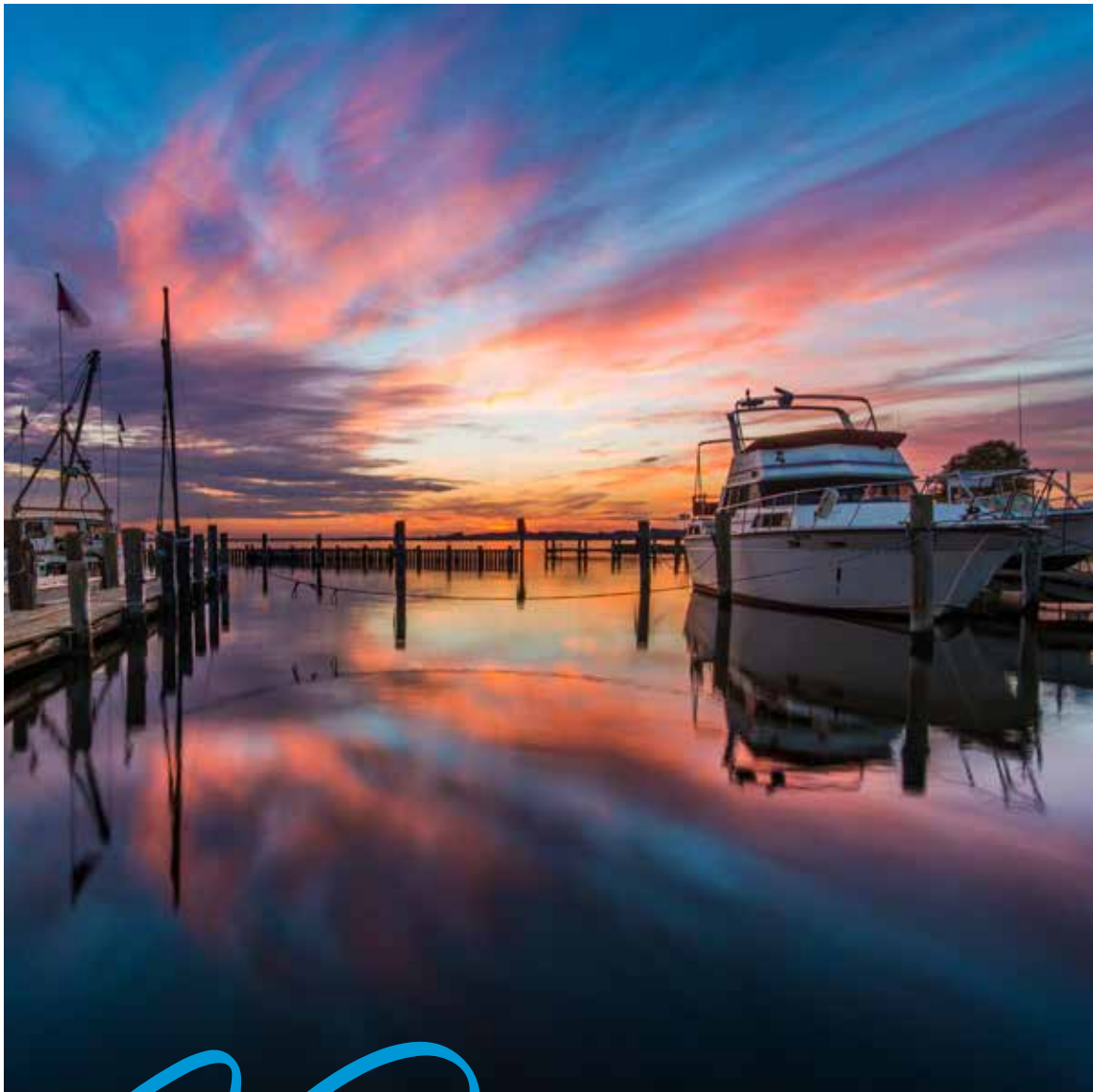
January 14th at
10:00 am-12:00 pm



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A WHAT'S UP? MEDIA PUBLICATION



Portraits

OF THE CHESAPEAKE

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CONNIE CADWELL
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ConnieCadwell.com



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HEATHER GIOVINGO
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301.643.3350
AshleyStanwick.com



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Portraits

OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, stories of dedication, vision, and craftsmanship unfold every day. What's Up? Media is proud to share these stories—of leaders and innovators whose work reflects the spirit of the region itself: steady, resilient, and ever-inspired by the water's edge.

In Portraits of the Chesapeake, we honor those whose talents and integrity have shaped our communities, celebrating the entrepreneurs and enterprises that keep the Bay's legacy vibrant and alive.

All photography by Bill Whaley, except ones credited otherwise.

WHAT'S UP? MEDIA

900 Bestgate Road, Ste 202
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-266-6287
whatsupmag.com

Portraits

OF THE CHESAPEAKE

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PROTECTION

1872 Betson Ave
Odenton, MD 21113
410-519-1900
www.fichtnerservices.com

At Fichtner Home Exteriors, every project begins with a personalized home consultation with one of the company's six estimators. Each consultation is designed to tailor a quote that meets the wants and needs of the homeowner, allowing them to feel confident in making the right investment for their home. Estimators bring a balance of technical expertise and genuine customer care to each appointment, focusing on identifying the best products, materials, and design options for every home. With years of hands-on experience and a genuine commitment to doing what's right for the customer, homeowners are supported every step of the way.

WISE WORDS:

"Treat every home as if it were your own - listen carefully, understand the homeowner's needs, and handle each project with care, respect, and genuine attention to detail."



BAYWOODS OF ANNAPOLIS

baywoodsofannapolis.com
7101 Bay Front Drive
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-268-9222 main ext. 2219
410-268-4165 fax
443-837-1208 direct dial

Roger Hitchner and Gail Poe from Bethesda Maryland area moved to BayWoods of Annapolis this summer. Gail and Roger are very active in the community lending their expertise to many ongoing projects. Roger and Gail enjoy being active and like to travel. They enjoy the amazing waterfront property overlooking the Chesapeake Bay as well as the convenience of being in close proximity to Washington DC, Downtown Annapolis and Baltimore. They enjoy the surrounding Marinas and watching the sailboat races on the Bay.

WISE WORDS: "Anchored by community, carried by the tide of new adventures."

SUSAN S. MAHAFFEE

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
PEOPLE RISE LLC

Severna Park
443-433-2042
peoplerisellc.com

At People Rise LLC, leadership starts with people—not paperwork. Founder and President Susan S. Mahaffee helps small to mid-size businesses turn workforce challenges into opportunities for growth. A former global HR executive turned entrepreneur, she partners with business owners to navigate tough employee issues, streamline and automate HR systems, and strengthen leadership through practical training and coaching. Over the past year, she has launched The Employee Help Desk podcast and two signature programs: the People Power Masterclass for business owners and BOOST™ for new and developing leaders. Next up, a collaborative book featuring trusted HR and business owner voices, coming in 2026.

WISE WORDS:

“Lead from the inside out. When you help people rise to their challenges, your business rises with them.”



JACK PAPALEONTI GRI

THE ANCHOR TEAM OF
ACADEMY REALTY, INC.

801 Compass Way #7

Annapolis, MD

410-263-9105

www.academyrealty.com



Jack Papaleonti has built his life around service — to his clients, his community, and now, to the city he loves. As managing partner of Academy Realty, he's guided over a thousand successful real estate transactions, earning a reputation for trust and integrity. Beyond business, Jack's heart lies in giving back. From leading the Annapolis Optimist Club's annual "Shop with a Cop" program to serving as President of the Annapolis High School Sports Boosters and on his church's Parish Council, Jack's commitment runs deep. Public service is the next passion he's eager to proudly add to his lifelong record of community service.

WISE WORDS:

"Serving others has always been my foundation. Whether through business, faith, or public service, I believe strong communities are built by those who give back."

— Jack Papaleonti



Faisal Magsi, CFP® | Ryan C. Herbert
Katherine M. Groce | Andrew Ashton | Lawrence Kiely

PROSTATIS FINANCIAL ADVISORS GROUP

7580 Buckingham Boulevard
Suite 180 • Hanover, MD 21076
410-863-1040
prostatisfinancial.com

Prostatis Financial Advisors Group focuses on accountable retirement, tax, and estate planning, paired with clear and consistent personal contact with clients. The Prostatis team emphasizes diversification and conservative long-term asset allocation strategies. Working side-by-side with clients, Prostatis develops comprehensive financial plans that provide peace of mind as they transition toward retirement. Prostatis aims to help clients implement investment strategies that allow them to maintain their lifestyle throughout retirement, ensuring a lasting income. Whether clients are approaching retirement or already retired, Prostatis provides sound plans to protect their investments, guide them through financial transitions, and achieve financial freedom.

WISE WORDS: “It’s not about how much you make — it’s about how much you keep, protect, and grow for the retirement you deserve.”



BURNETT INJURY GROUP

PERSONAL INJURY AND MEDICAL
MALPRACTICE ATTORNEYS

2661 Riva Road, Building 1000
Suite 1010
Annapolis, MD 21401
443-214-2600
burnettinjurygroup.com

Burnett Injury Group, founded by husband-and-wife team Andrew and Suzanne Burnett, is an Annapolis-based law firm devoted to helping people rebuild after life-changing injuries. The Burnetts and their team bring compassion, skill, and determination to every case—whether involving personal injury, car crashes, medical malpractice, or nursing home abuse and neglect. They understand that behind every case is a person, a family, and a story that deserves to be heard. With empathy and unwavering advocacy, they stand by their clients, fighting for accountability, recovery, and justice when it matters most.

WISE WORDS: “Lawyers for the injured—guided by compassion, driven by justice.”



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1906 Towne Centre Blvd
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410-339-0793
connectwealthgroup.com

Investment Advisory Services are offered through Mariner Platform Solutions (MPS), an SEC Registered Investment Adviser. Connect Wealth and MPS are not affiliated entities.

Connect Wealth was founded on the importance of relationships. Many of the advisors' bonds date back as early as elementary school here in Annapolis. The connection shared among the advisors and staff translates directly into the experience their clients receive. They believe that life's big decisions should not be made alone but in partnership with people you trust. The advisors walk side by side with clients, helping them navigate life's important moments with confidence. Connect Wealth offers to serve as a personal CFO, taking the time to understand each client in order to help them win both personally and financially.

WISE WORDS: "Trust is earned in the smallest of moments. It is earned not through heroic deeds, or even highly visible actions, but through paying attention, listening, and gestures of genuine care and connection."

— Brené Brown

MELISSA CORBIN

OWNER, FOUNDER, PA-C
CORBIN COSMETICS

410-372-4500
Annapolis, MD
Easton, MD
corbincosmetics.com

Melissa Corbin, PA-C, is the founder and visionary behind Corbin Cosmetics, a luxury aesthetics practice in Annapolis, MD. With over 14 years of experience, she is passionate about delivering natural, refined results that enhance confidence. Melissa combines advanced injectable techniques with a deep understanding of facial aesthetics to ensure treatments are highly personalized. Her philosophy is rooted in authenticity, helping patients look refreshed and lifted without ever feeling “overdone.” She has grown Corbin Cosmetics into a trusted practice where luxury, expertise, artistry, and compassion come together to create a welcoming environment where patients feel confident and cared for.

WISE WORDS:

“Aesthetic medicine should be seen as self-care; an empowering, modern way to prioritize ourselves, enhance confidence, and feel our best inside and out.”





Photo by Ksenia Pro Photography

CORBIN COSMETICS

LUXURY AESTHETICS TEAM

410-372-4500
Annapolis, MD
Easton, MD
corbincosmetics.com

Corbin Cosmetics was founded on the belief that aesthetic medicine should be approachable, natural, and patient-centered. Led by Melissa Corbin, PA-C, the practice enhances each individual's unique features while highlighting natural beauty with subtle precision. The Corbin Cosmetics team includes three exceptional aestheticians, an aesthetic registered nurse, and a microblading and spray tan expert, together bringing a century of combined experience. Services include injectables, collagen stimulation, medical-grade skincare treatments, chemical peels, spray tans, and semi-permanent makeup. Voted Best of Annapolis in 2024, Corbin Cosmetics is a premier destination where patients feel celebrated, supported, and naturally radiant.

WISE WORDS: "Our team's unparalleled depth of expertise in luxury aesthetic medicine ensures every patient receives safe, personalized, and exceptional care that enhances natural beauty."



LEEANN MENTZER

FOUNDER, APRN, CRNA
NOUDE AESTHETICS + WELLNESS

2112 Didonato Drive
Chester, MD 21619
667-358-0815
noudeaesthetics.com
@get.noude

Noude Aesthetics + Wellness, founded by LeeAnn Mentzer, APRN, CRNA, blends science, artistry, and compassion to help clients feel their most radiant and confident selves. With over a decade of experience as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, LeeAnn brings advanced medical expertise, meticulous attention to detail, and a deep commitment to patient-centered care. Noude offers medical aesthetics, IV hydration, customized facials, wellness treatments, and non-surgical vaginal rejuvenation—all designed to enhance, not change, your natural beauty. Through personalized consultations and thoughtful care, Noude empowers confidence from the inside out.

WISE WORDS: “Noude is where energy + injectables blend to create beautiful, natural results.”



CORNELIA C. HECKENBACH

Long & Foster Real Estate
105 S Talbot Street
Saint Michaels, MD 21663
PO Box 236
410-310-1229
www.stmichaelsmdwaterfront.com



Originally from Germany, Cornelia moved to Talbot County in 1989 and quickly became a leading real estate agent. Known for her warmth, expertise, and dedication, she excels in all areas, from starter homes to luxury waterfront estates. With 30+ years of international experience, Cornelia combines her natural listening skills with award-winning marketing strategies and skillful negotiation, helping sellers achieve top-dollar results and buyers find their ideal homes. Connected to the Forbes Global Network, Cornelia brings global reach to her clients, delivering unparalleled service and results across the Eastern Shore as a trusted advocate.

WISE WORDS: "Every house tells a story. Let's start yours."



Photo by Tony Lewis Photography

ANNE ARUNDEL GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES

820 Bestgate Road
Annapolis, MD
410-224-2116
aagastro.com

For over forty years, AAGA gastroenterologists have been leaders specializing in diagnosing, treating, and preventing all symptoms and diseases associated with the digestive tract: esophagus, stomach, small bowel, colon, pancreas, liver, and gallbladder. AAGA physicians have extensive experience using the latest endoscopic equipment and minimally invasive techniques to help patients with all digestive conditions. Their dedicated team comprises nine board-certified, fellowship-trained gastroenterologists and seven advanced practice providers, with a special focus on colon cancer prevention. Current guidelines recommend screening starting at age 45 for those with no high-risk factors such as a family history of precancerous polyps or colon cancer.

WISE WORDS: "Early detection saves lives. Screening prevents disease. Awareness empowers action. Know your history. Protect your future. Love yourself—get screened." —Dr. Melanie Jackson, MD, FACP

ELIZABETH BENNETT

CFP®, MBA
CHESAPEAKE FINANCIAL
PLANNING & TAX SERVICES, LLC

410-974-0410

71 Old Mill Bottom Road North
Suite #201 • Annapolis, MD
admin@chesapeake-financial.com
chesapeake-financial.com

Elizabeth is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and fiduciary dedicated to serving her clients' best interests. She takes a consultative, educational approach—listening, guiding, and creating a clear picture of each client's financial life. From defining goals to developing actionable plans, she collaborates with estate attorneys, CPAs, and other trusted professionals for a comprehensive strategy. Based in Annapolis, MD, and Boca Raton, FL, Elizabeth supports clients nationwide, combining expertise with genuine care to help them confidently take control of their finances and achieve lasting peace of mind.

WISE WORDS:

"A goal without a plan is just a wish. Handling money wisely enables you to do what you want, from giving generously to retiring comfortably."

And please make sure our disclosure is provided "Securities offered through J.W. Cole Financial (JWC) member FINRA/ SIPC. Advisory Services offered through J.W. Cole Advisors, Inc. (JWCA). Financial planning, insurance, and tax services offered through Bay Financial Planning and Tax Services, LLC DBA Chesapeake Financial Planning, a Registered Investment Adviser. Bay Financial Planning and Tax Services, LLC and JWC/JWCA are unaffiliated entities."





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WISE WORDS:

"Don't count the days, make the days count!"



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For over 35 years, Scarborough Capital Management has been seeking to help busy individuals make smarter financial decisions. With full-service financial planning and wealth management, we'll be there helping you work towards your financial goals....now and in the future. We offer personalized management of workplace retirement plans such as 401ks, 403bs and Thrift Savings Plans (TSPs). We regularly advise on corporate pension buyouts for those nearing retirement. In addition to managing client assets, we take pride in helping clients develop long-term retirement income plans to help them enjoy a comfortable transition into retirement.

WISE WORDS: "Your future starts today. Plan for it."



GREG FERRA

LIFF, WALSH & SIMMONS

**181 Harry S. Truman Pkwy
Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401
410-266-9500
liffwalsh.com
estates@liffwalsh.com**

Greg Ferra knows that estate planning is about far more than drafting documents – it is about protecting what matters most. As a Partner at Liff, Walsh & Simmons, Greg brings a wealth of experience and a calm, reassuring presence to every client he serves. He takes pride in helping families create thoughtful plans that protect their assets, carry out their wishes, and uphold their values for generations to come. Known for his depth of knowledge and practical insight, Greg makes even the most complex estate and trust matters achievable, guiding clients with clarity and care every step of the way.

WISE WORDS:

“Estate planning is about protecting what matters most – your family, your values, and your peace of mind..”

JESSE WALSH

LIFF, WALSH & SIMMONS

181 Harry S. Truman Pkwy
Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401
410-266-9500
liffwalsh.com
estates@liffwalsh.com

Jesse Walsh believes clarity and peace of mind comprise the foundation of effective estate planning and administration. As an Associate with Liff, Walsh & Simmons, she helps individuals and families craft personalized plans that safeguard their futures and honor their legacies. Jesse's background in public health and dedication to her community equip her with a holistic perspective, viewing her clients as more than the sum of their assets. Admired for her approachable style and ability to make complex legal concepts easy to understand, she ensures every plan reflects her clients' goals, values, and the people and causes they cherish most.

WISE WORDS:

"Thoughtful estate planning and administration ensure your loved ones are protected and your legacy endures through generations."





KOVACH CHIROPRACTIC AND WELLNESS CENTER

DR. ALICIA KOVACH, D.C.
DR. KRISTINA ANDERSON, D.C.

2108R Didonato Drive
Chester MD 21619
443-249-3179
kovachchiropractic.com

At Kovach Chiropractic and Wellness Center, Dr. Kovach and Dr. Anderson provide personalized care to support your health and lifestyle. Using chiropractic techniques like Diversified, Thompson, Webster, Gonstead, Activator, and Myofascial Release, along with physical therapy modalities including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, cold laser, and spinal decompression, they create individualized treatment plans. Dr. Anderson is also Dry Needling certified. They treat patients of all ages, from maternity and pediatric care to athletes, personal injury, and wellness care, and take pride in seeing positive changes in every patient's life.

WISE WORDS: "We don't even know how strong we are until we are forced to bring that hidden strength forward."

— Isabel Allende

LONDONDERRY ON THE TRED AVON

CHRISTINE HARRINGTON
& RACHEL L. SMITH

700 Port Street, Suite 148
Easton, MD 21601
410-820-8732
or 800-752-8732

At Londonderry on the Tred Avon, retirement is the beginning of something extraordinary. Nestled along the scenic Tred Avon River in historic Easton, Maryland, Londonderry is a 62+ independent living community. Led by CEO Christine Harrington, whose 17 years of senior living expertise and Eastern Shore roots shape all we do, we are committed to excellence. Rachel Smith, Director of Sales and Marketing, brings warmth and passion for helping older adults discover a comfortable, engaging, and carefree lifestyle. Together with a dedicated team, Londonderry has built more than a place to live—it's a true community where retirement is reimagined.

WISE WORDS:

"The best part of life is when you can slow down, savor the moments, and share them with neighbors who become friends."

Photo by Karena Dixon Photography





KEVIN MEAD

NOR'EASTER DIGITAL

443-926-4553

kevin@noreaster.digital
noreaster.digital

Kevin has spent the last decade producing digital experiences that stir audiences to action. As the owner of Nor'easter Digital, he and his team have brought websites, apps, games, and other custom interactive projects to life for businesses across the country. Kevin's education in the arts paired with his professionally-honed skills in user experience design offer a unique perspective for clients, ensuring that their stories are being told faithfully while keeping audience needs at the forefront of every decision.

WISE WORDS:

"Never sit still. Technology and customer needs are constantly evolving, and so should your brand's digital presence."



SINCLAIR PROSSER GASIOR

183 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Suite 104 - Annapolis, MD 21401
Offices in Annapolis, Bowie,
Columbia and Waldorf
410-573-4818 | spgasior.com

Sinclair Prosser Gasior is a premier law firm concentrating in Estate Planning, Elder Law, and Estate Administration. More than just document preparation, the firm delivers a comprehensive, full-service approach. Every estate plan is carefully designed to function seamlessly — aligning assets, minimizing probate exposure, and easing the administrative burden during times of grief. Recognized among the best in Annapolis, Sinclair Prosser Gasior continues to set the standard for excellence in estate planning — securing peace of mind for Maryland families.

WISE WORDS: “Plan early, review often, align assets, and communicate your wishes to protect your legacy and ease the burden on family.”



Left to right - Head of School, Nicole Sophocles, four WRUS students, Board Chair, Nikki Williams

WYE RIVER UPPER SCHOOL

316 S Commerce Street
Centreville, MD 21617
410-758-2922
wyeriverupperschool.org

Wye River Upper School is transforming education for bright 8th–12th grade students who learn differently. As a college-preparatory school, we serve students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD, and other learning differences—providing the tools, confidence, and support they need to thrive. With small class sizes, highly trained educators, and a strengths-based approach, students discover how to turn challenges into opportunities. Beyond academics, Wye River builds social skills, confidence, and resilience. Our Mission: Students who learn differently discover through innovation, develop with rigor, and celebrate their strengths here while preparing for success in college, career, and life.

WISE WORDS: “We believe every student can succeed—with the right environment, guidance, and opportunities, learning differences become learning strengths.”

MUELLER HOMES

P.J. MUELLER, JR.

202 Legion Avenue, Suite 4
Annapolis, MD
410-549-4444
MuellerHomes.com

Over the past 30 years, Mueller Homes has developed a unique approach to custom home building that includes a dedicated project management team, full-service interior design, and the finest craftsmen to create the home of your dreams. This seamless integration of services demonstrates why Mueller Homes is at the forefront of innovation when building luxury homes. The company now includes three divisions: Mueller Homes for custom home construction, Ella Lee Interiors for design, and Charles Henry Fine Woodworking for custom cabinetry. With this framework, Mueller Homes provides a more sophisticated approach to the entire custom home building process.

WISE WORDS:

"We believe in crafting homes that inspire your lifestyle. Our relentless dedication to quality, design, and communication allows us to provide truly memorable client experiences."

—P.J. Mueller, Jr., President





KENNETH FAGAN

OF LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Baltimore Regional Center
1312 Bellona Avenue
Lutherville, MD 21093
410-583-9400
LongandFoster.com



Countless buyers and sellers have shared their concerns about market conditions with Kenneth Fagan, senior vice president and regional manager for Long & Foster Real Estate in Maryland. His answer: “we create the conditions for success.” While interest rates, inventory and the economy all matter, working with a professional like those at Long & Foster is far more essential. With Long & Foster, you’re backed by a financially strong and ethically driven brokerage, which invests in its agents and clients. You get in-depth local expertise, plus access to industry-leading partners in mortgage, insurance, inspection, moving, property management and more.

WISE WORDS:

“You can’t control the outside world, but by putting in the effort and choosing the right partners, you can drive a positive outcome.”

- *Kenneth Fagan, Senior Vice President & Regional Manager, Long & Foster Real Estate | Maryland*



OMNIA REAL ESTATE

EXPERIENCE, STRATEGY, AND HEART

Main Office: 152 Ritchie Hwy #100-9692
Arnold, MD 21012
DC Office: 500 Connecticut Ave NW #500
Washington, DC 20036
202-430-6337
www.omniareal.com



At Omnia Real Estate, expertise meets authenticity. Founder and broker Claire Buchner brings years of legal and real estate leadership to guide her agents and clients with precision and integrity. Leslie Shafer, a lifelong Washingtonian, channels her hospitality-honed instincts into winning strategies and genuine client care. Ashley Sebastianelli, an MBA and entrepreneur, combines sharp business insight with a passion for helping families find home. Together, these three women deliver a boutique real estate experience built on ethics, responsiveness, and results—right here in the heart of Annapolis.

WISE WORDS: “If you don’t have a plan, any plan will take you there.”

— Paraphrased from the words of Lewis Carroll



COVINGTONALSINA

ANN M. COVINGTON, CFP®, CPWA®
FOUNDER & FINANCIAL ADVISOR

NICOLE MULEA, CFP®
ASSOCIATE ADVISOR

410-457-7165
67 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD
Info@CovingtonAlsina.com
CovingtonAlsina.com

Take control of your financial future with Ann M. Covington and her team, including Nicole Mulea and three other CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals. Since 2012, CovingtonAlsina has made it their mission to empower clients with the knowledge and tools to make informed financial decisions. Ann and her team aim to prioritize your needs and create meaningful connections—so that you can navigate today's challenges while planning for a secure tomorrow.

WISE WORDS: "Financial planning is not about the money; money is just a tool. Planning is about living the life your money enables."

— Ann M. Covington



SCOTT SCHUETTER

OF BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOME SERVICES
PENFED REALTY

1997 Annapolis Exchange Pkwy
Suite 100

Annapolis, MD

410-266-0600 (O)

410-900-7668 (M)

scottschuetter.com  

Personal and Professional ~ Scott Schuetter has always focused on people, not houses. Every transaction, whether buying or selling, involves a series of complex personal decisions layered with emotions, finances and stress. Scott's military background and training taught him to be calm in any and all circumstances. He states that when things are most chaotic, it is even more important to be the calm and guiding voice. Buying or selling a house is not as stressful as a stormy night carrier landing, but to his clients, it may feel like it. While marketing trends, advertising, community connections, staging a home, market expertise are a huge part of his business, he expresses that in the end it all comes back to people and being there for them when it matters most.

WISE WORDS:

"If you work really hard and are kind, amazing things will happen."

—Unknown



ARCHBISHOP SPALDING THEATRE

8080 New Cut Road
Severn, MD 21144
410-969-9105
www.archbishopspalding.org

The Archbishop Spalding High School Theatre Department consistently impresses with vibrant productions, talented performers, and imaginative storytelling that bring the stage to life year after year. With a proud tradition of excellence, students shine both onstage and behind the scenes, showcasing teamwork, creativity, and professionalism. This fall's production of *You Can't Take It With You* highlighted the department's signature mix of humor, heart, and artistry, celebrating love, family, and individuality. Through every performance, Spalding Theatre demonstrates the passion and dedication that make it a cornerstone of the school's creative community.

WISE WORDS: "Follow your passion, embrace creativity, and always leave your heart on the stage — that's where the magic truly happens."

— Archbishop Spalding Theatre



CHESAPEAKE BAY BEACH CLUB

180 Pier One Road
Stevensville, MD
410-604-5900
www.baybeachclub.com

For over 25 years, the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club has defined weddings, events, and hospitality on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Its award-winning service, culinary excellence, and waterfront setting have created unforgettable memories for guests and couples alike. In 2026, the Beach Club expands its legacy with Wilson's Cove, a boutique waterfront hotel, and Vue, a rooftop destination with sweeping Chesapeake Bay views. At the core of its success is an unwavering passion for people—its team, guests, clients, and couples—who inspire every detail. Experience luxury just over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

WISE WORDS: "Hospitality is not what we do—it's who we are. Every guest, client, and couple is at the heart of everything we create."

JOANNA DALTON

REALTOR®
COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Serving Anne Arundel County
& the Eastern Shore
3 Church Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401
O: 410-263-8686
M: 410-980-8443

Joanna.Dalton@CBMove.com  

Joanna is an award-winning, top-producing Realtor® known for her professionalism, market expertise, and genuine care for her clients. Tech-savvy and financially astute, she combines creativity, energy, and integrity to deliver seamless results from consultation to closing. A Maryland native, she grew up along the Wye River and later captained Loyola University Maryland's Division I Women's Lacrosse team, skills that honed her leadership and communication. Now rooted in Annapolis, Joanna leverages her deep local knowledge and powerful network to help clients achieve success.

WISE WORDS:

"Heart, hard work, and integrity drive my success. I'm grateful every day to work in real estate and help people, it's who I am."

— Joanna Dalton

COASTAL POOLS

SALES & DESIGN CENTER



COASTAL POOLS

500 Saddler Rd
Grasonville, MD 21638
410-873-8464
coastalpoolbuilders.net

Coastal Pools is redefining luxury outdoor living across Maryland and Delaware. Founded on a commitment to craftsmanship, innovation, and exceptional service, the company has grown into the region's premier custom pool builder and service provider. From concept to completion, Coastal Pools delivers tailored designs that transform backyards into stunning escapes, while their award-winning service team ensures pools are maintained and enjoyed for years to come. Recognized for excellence and trusted by families throughout the Chesapeake region, Coastal Pools continues to raise the standard—offering not just pools, but enduring spaces where memories are made and lifestyles are elevated.

WISE WORDS:

"Pools are more than water and stone—they're where families connect, laughter echoes, and memories last. We build spaces that enrich lives, one backyard at a time."

ERICA BAKER

VICE PRESIDENT AND ASSOCIATE BROKER
TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

209 Main Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
c + 410-919-7019
o + 410-280-5600
ericabaker.co



Erica Baker, Vice President and Associate Broker at TTR Sotheby's International Realty, represents a refined standard in luxury real estate, where strategy meets sincerity. Rooted in a lifetime along Maryland's waterfront, Erica blends deep market intelligence with an intuitive instinct for artful positioning, shaping each home's legacy with care. Known for her discretion, thoughtful presentation, and ability to translate complex markets into confident outcomes, she approaches every sale with integrity, intention, and the same precision and care she would give her own.

WISE WORDS:

"A home deserves representation rooted in clarity, strategy, and intention, where every move forward is guided by purpose."





WADE POOLS & LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Annapolis, MD
410-349-9507
WadeLandscapes.com

Imagine stepping into your backyard and feeling like you've arrived at a luxury resort. That's the experience Shaun Wade and his father Wayne have delivered for over 20 years across Maryland. Their family-owned firm, Wade Landscape Design, blends custom pools, elegant landscapes, outdoor kitchens, and tailored masonry into timeless retreats. Known for precision, creativity, and five-star service, the Wades bring each client's vision to life with care and craftsmanship—from concept to completion.

WISE WORDS: "A great space begins with listening—then shaping vision into something lasting."



MANOR TITLE, LLC

STEVE McCLUNG
CHRISTOPHE LOWTHER

111 Forbes Street
Suite 100
Annapolis, MD 21401
ManorTitle.com
443-440-5200

Attorneys Steve McClung and Christophe Lowther started Manor Title with the #1 focus being the client experience from contract to close. They believe that every home buyer and seller should be secure that their real estate transaction is being handled professionally and with care. Veterans of the title industry, Steve and Christophe have extensive knowledge of the intricacies of Maryland properties, and the experienced team at Manor Title provide all clients a closing experience tailored to their unique needs. Located in West Annapolis, we are your local title company now, and for years to come.

WISE WORDS: “Customer service should not be a department, it should be the entire company.”

COURTNEY CHIPOURAS

TTR SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

410-200-1224 Mobile



410-673-3344 Office

courtney@mychesapeakehome.com

mychesapeakehome.com

Courtney Chipouras has built a life and career around the place she loves most — Maryland's Eastern Shore. As Vice President with TTR Sotheby's International Realty, she helps clients find their perfect place by the water while celebrating the lifestyle that makes the Shore so special. A Rock Hall native and community advocate, Courtney pairs her business expertise with a deep local connection, championing both her clients and the region's small-town spirit. For her, life on the Chesapeake is about connection—between people, place, and purpose.

WISE WORDS:

"The most meaningful work happens when you love the place you serve and the people who call it home."





EWING, DIETZ, FOUNTAIN & KALUDIS, P.A.

16 South Washington Street
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-1988
ewingdietz.com

Ewing, Dietz, Fountain & Kaludis, P.A. is an “AV” rated general practice law firm based in Easton, Maryland—the historic capital of the Eastern Shore. For over 60 years, we’ve served individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and local governments throughout the Mid-Shore. Our attorneys focus on practical solutions, listening closely to clients, setting realistic goals, and working efficiently to deliver results. We take pride in our long-standing roots and commitment to the community. Ewing, Dietz, Fountain & Kaludis supports local businesses such as the iconic Trippe Gallery where this photo was taken. To learn more about our team and areas of practice, please visit the “Firm Profile” section on our website www.ewingdietz.com.

WISE WORDS: “Trusted legal guidance begins with listening. We help clients set realistic goals—and deliver results with integrity, experience, and a deep commitment to our community.”

TRICIA WILSON

WILSON REALTY & STAGING

3033 Kent Narrows Way S - Ste 4
Grasonville, MD 21658
410-304-2250
getthedaisy.com  

From waterfront estates to historic gems, Tricia Wilson has built a reputation for helping clients find their place on the Eastern Shore. After years as a top-producing agent, she launched Wilson Realty & Staging at Kent Narrows and is now celebrating her second year as broker and owner.

Known for her approachable style and sharp marketing expertise, Tricia blends creative strategy with market insight to deliver standout results. With over \$100 million in career sales, she continues to raise the bar—not only in real estate, but in the lasting personal connections she builds with every client.

WISE WORDS:

“Success is a journey, not a destination—walk forward each day with intention, gratitude and faith.”





DAVID ORSO

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
SERVICES PENFED REALTY

DAVID ORSO

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOME SERVICES
PENFED REALTY

1997 Annapolis Exchange
Annapolis, MD
8 Evergreen Road
Severna Park, MD
443.372.7171

David@DavidOrso.com  

With over 22 years in real estate, David Orso has earned a reputation for excellence as Anne Arundel County's #1 agent since 2013. With 1,000+ home sales and over 300 five-star reviews, his unmatched market knowledge, strategic marketing, and expert negotiation skills give clients a clear advantage. David's proven systems deliver consistent, superior results across all market conditions—not just the boom years. Whether you're buying or selling, trust an experienced professional with a long-standing record of success. You deserve the best—so hire the best.

WISE WORDS:

"When my clients win, I win.
Always in that order."

CHUCK MANGOLD

BENSON & MANGOLD
REAL ESTATE

31 Goldsborough St
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-6665 | Office
shoreluxury.com



With over 1,500 completed transactions and \$922 million in total volume as both a buying and selling agent, Chuck is recognized as one of the Eastern Shore's top real estate professionals. Since 2001, he has specialized in waterfront, inland, and commercial properties across Talbot, Queen Anne's, Caroline, and Dorchester Counties. A longtime Talbot County resident, Chuck supports local organizations including the Academy Art Museum, Habitat Choptank, and Talbot Mentors. His management background and customer service expertise sharpen his negotiation skills and commitment to clients, strengthening Benson & Mangold's nearly 60-year legacy.

WISE WORDS:

"Real estate is about more than transactions—it's about relationships, trust, and helping clients find the right home for the next chapter of their lives."



LANE NEIDIG, MD

MODERN DERMATOLOGY OF
MARYLAND

2568 A Riva Road #102
Annapolis, MD
410-216-0993
moderndermatologymd.com

Modern Dermatology of Maryland is a locally owned medical dermatology practice in Annapolis, founded by board-certified dermatologist, Dr. Lane Neidig, M.D. in 2023. Born and raised in the Annapolis area, Dr. Neidig recognized the need for a traditional physician owned dermatology office where patients, staff, and providers of care are valued and treated with respect and integrity. Our office offers the most advanced non-surgical skin cancer treatment available and a comprehensive surgical and phototherapy suite. Modern Dermatology offers an authentic and reliable haven for the dermatology patients of Annapolis and surrounding areas.

WISE WORDS: "Treat others how you want to be treated."



SARAH GARZA

FOUNDER AND PRINCIPLE AGENT
OF THE PCS HOME TEAM
MILITARY RELOCATION
SPECIALIST

www.thepcshometeam.com
@annapolispcsaleator
2077 Somerville Rd, Ste 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
Office: 410.429.7425
Mobile: 443-717-3631



Sarah Garza is your go-to PCS and relocation real estate expert in Anne Arundel County. A military spouse of 30 years with nearly 20 moves herself, she truly understands the journey of service families. As a Military Relocation Specialist and founder of The PCS Home Team, Sarah guides buyers and sellers with clarity, care, and strategic expertise. Her team serves military families stationed near the Naval Academy and Fort Meade, as well as those relocating to and from Anne Arundel and surrounding counties. Sarah combines personal experience, deep market knowledge, and a client-first approach to make every move seamless.

WISE WORDS: "It's not goodbye — it's see you soon."
— *Common Saying in Military Communities*

STEPHANIE ROSE TIPPETT

OWNER, CLINICAL DIRECTOR,
MSN, CRNP, FNP-C, CANS
BELLA ROSE MEDICAL
AESTHETICS & WELLNESS

2 Chester Plaza
Chester, MD 21619
443-249-3232
bellarosemedicalaesthetics.com

Stephanie Rose Tippet, MSN, CRNP, FNP-C, CANS, is the owner and clinical director of Bella Rose Medical Aesthetics & Wellness on Kent Island. With over 20 years of experience in healthcare and 16 years specializing in aesthetics, Stephanie blends artistry and science to help patients feel confident and refreshed, never overdone. Her holistic approach integrates advanced injectables, laser technology, skincare, wellness, and hormone therapy for transformative, natural results. Stephanie leads her team with compassion, precision, and a deep commitment to excellence in patient care.

WISE WORDS:

"Confidence begins when you invest in yourself, inside and out. Subtle, thoughtful care today creates timeless beauty for years to come."

Photo by Madison Berlin Photography





NOTHING BUNDT CAKES

LUXURY GOURMET RETAIL BAKERY

Annapolis - 443-775-7979

1901 Towne Centre Blvd, Ste 130

Crofton-Gambrills - 410-695-9197

1404 S. Main Chapel Way, Ste 114

Severna Park - 410-421-1250

580 Ritchie Hwy, Ste I

nothingbundtcakes.com

After living abroad for 18 years, Rhonda and Glenn Rogers repatriated to the US. Glenn, a pilot, and Rhonda, driven by her entrepreneurial spirit and passion for community, sought to build something meaningful. Bravely navigating the global lockdown, in December 2020, Nothing Bundt Cakes Annapolis was born. Together, with their son John and girl-wonder Samantha Colletti, they've realized a multi-bakery business. Nothing Bundt Cakes is more than just a bakery, it's a little "bundt'ique" of joy! Spreading smiles across Annapolis, Crofton, Severna Park, and soon Easton and more, Nothing Bundt Cakes is sweetening up their communities one bundt at a time.

WISE WORDS: "The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud."

— Coco Chanel

BECKY MILLER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

John & Cathy Belcher Campus
90 Ritchie Highway
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-987-2003
www.hospicechesapeake.org

At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we do more than provide care—we become part of each person's journey. Every story has a beginning, an end and meaningful moments in between. Our team walks alongside patients and families with compassion and clarity, helping them navigate challenges and find hope. We focus on what matters most: comfort, dignity and quality of life. Because when care is focused holistically, every day holds the potential for peace. We want every patient and family to be able to say, with confidence and heart, "I'm having a good day."

WISE WORDS:

"Some people cannot be cured, but everyone can heal."





FELLO

TOGETHER, WE ARE FELLO.
TOGETHER, WE BELONG.

fello.org
410-269-1883
999 Corporate Blvd, Suite 300
Linthicum, MD 21090

Fello champions the rights of people with disabilities and invests in what matters most: real opportunities, strong relationships, and inclusive, equitable communities. At Fello, we believe in the power of choice and community. We partner with people with disabilities to provide support services, develop inclusive and accessible housing, and create spaces where people feel genuinely connected—not just accommodated. Founded in 1961, Fello continues to lead and create change, removing barriers, meeting people where they are, and addressing overlapping needs to make a lasting impact in our communities. Learn more at fello.org.

WISE WORDS: “Everyone deserves access, opportunity, and community, allowing each person to shape their own path.”



Pictured: Indian Creek School's Outdoor Education team (L-R): Upper School Humanities Teacher Mr. Garth Robinson, Director of Outdoor Learning Ms. Stephanie Chambers '00, Upper School Science Teacher Dr. Michael Roswell, Dean of Community & Well-Being Mr. Danny Haley; Not pictured: Sarah Allen '01, Anne Engles '97, Tyler Larkin, Jennifer Malachowski, Tricia Roth, Lindsey Seynhaeve;

INDIAN CREEK SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION TEAM

CHESAPEAKE AREA
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

1130 Anne Chambers Way
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-923-3660
indiancreekschool.org

At Indian Creek School, learning doesn't stop at the classroom—it thrives across the School's 114 acres of forests, fields, and gardens - and beyond. Creek's Outdoor Education team has designed a comprehensive environmental education program that uniquely integrates academics, wellness, and environmental responsibility across every grade. From daily, all-weather campus exploration in Pre-K, to Middle School cultivation of a 2,500 square-foot garden that nourishes local families, to Upper School outdoor adventure field trips and community partnerships, Indian Creek's outdoor learning program inspires confident, compassionate thinkers ready to make a difference.

WISE WORDS: "At Indian Creek, students don't just study nature—they learn from it, through it, and ultimately, for it."



BRAD KAPPEL

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
TTR SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

M: 410-279-9476

O: 410-280-5600

brad.kappel@sothebysrealty.com

bradkappel.com

Annapolis Brokerage

209 Main Street

Annapolis, MD  

Rooted in the Chesapeake Bay region, Brad Kappel has become a trusted leader in Maryland's luxury and waterfront real estate markets. As founder of the Brad Kappel Team, he combines local expertise with global reach to deliver refined, results-driven representation. The team's recent milestones—surpassing \$315 million in annual sales year-to-date—reflect both the strength of the market and their dedication to strategy, storytelling, and service. With more than \$1.5 billion in total career team sales, Brad remains focused on what matters most: guiding clients through every stage of the luxury real estate experience with integrity, precision, and care.

WISE WORDS:

"Our success stems from trust, precision, and purpose. We don't just sell homes—we curate the Chesapeake lifestyle for those who value it most."







THE JAKLITSCH LAW GROUP

THE BIG DOGS FROM
THE SMALL FIRM

Annapolis / Upper Marlboro
410-268-2801 | 855-Big-Dog1
www.BigDogLaw.com

The Jaklitsch Law Group stands as one of the most recognized personal injury firms in the country. Led by four distinguished attorneys - Rick Jaklitsch, Christine Murphy, David Jaklitsch, and Thomas Brimmer - the firm combines the resources and expertise of a large practice with the personal attention of a boutique firm. Having earned numerous national accolades, including "Best Personal Injury Trial Law Firm - USA," the Jaklitsch Law Group has built its reputation on handling the most serious catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases. Affectionately known as the "Big Dogs from the Small Firm," their long track record of substantial settlements and verdicts makes them the unmistakable Face of Personal Injury Law, as again confirmed by *What's Up? Media*.

WISE WORDS: "Be the Best — in every case, with every client, every day!"
— *The Maryland Lacrosse motto, and our mission at Jaklitsch Law Group*



Photo by Tony Lewis Photography

ANCHORED HOPE THERAPY

170 Jennifer Road, Suite 202
Annapolis, MD 21401
443-291-8090
anchoredhopetherapy.com
info@anchoredhopetherapy.com

At Anchored Hope Therapy, healing starts with the right client-therapist connection. Their team of trauma-informed providers understands that trauma impacts each person differently and believes in treating the whole person — not just the symptoms. With a focus on mind-body integration and community collaboration, they offer personalized, compassionate care. Anchored Hope partners with local professionals to support holistic healing and values accessibility, accepting Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance plans and working to expand care options. Their approach honors both individual and collective healing, creating a safe space where clients can feel seen, supported, and empowered to grow. Healing happens here — together.

WISE WORDS: “Trauma changes you, but it doesn’t define you. Healing is possible. You don’t have to do it alone. We’re here.”



COMPASS STUDIO TILE & FLOORING

302 Harry S. Truman Pkwy
Suites A-C
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-224-0700
cst-studio.com

For over four decades, Compass Studio Tile & Flooring has been a trusted name in Anne Arundel County and beyond. Built on a foundation dating to 1978, the partnership of CarpetBagger, Compass Stone & Tile, and Finme unites generations of craftsmanship. Led by Brian Dieterich, the company is known for integrity, attention to detail, and a customer-focused approach. Offering elegant hardwood, luxury vinyl, distinctive tile, and natural stone, Compass Studio delivers quality, creativity, and value—guided by expert design consultants who help clients achieve their vision with tailored solutions for every space and budget.

WISE WORDS: “We shape our homes, and then our homes shape us.”

—Winston Churchill



ICSI

International Computer Services
1612 McGuckian St
Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-280-3000
www.icsi.com

For over 35 years, International Computer Services (ICSI) has delivered trusted, enterprise-grade IT solutions to organizations in Maryland. Specializing in managed services, cybersecurity, and cloud infrastructure, ICSI empowers clients to operate securely and efficiently in a rapidly evolving digital environment. The firm's consultative approach, technical expertise, and commitment to responsive service have earned it a reputation for excellence. ICSI remains dedicated to helping businesses scale with confidence by aligning technology with strategic goals. We manage your IT. You manage your business.

WISE WORDS: "Technology is a powerful catalyst for growth; an investment that drives innovation, efficiency, and long-term success."



AMANDA S. DENISON, ESQ.

FOUNDER
SALLEE LAW

443-355-4200

www.annapolislawyer.com

adenison@annapolislawyer.com

Founder of Sallee Law, Amanda brings over a decade of experience in both litigation and legislation to her practice. A former prosecutor turned defense and family law attorney, she's known for her sharp advocacy and compassionate counsel. Beyond the courtroom, Amanda offers political consulting to organizations shaping meaningful change through policy. Her approach blends precision, empathy, and strategy—hallmarks of her boutique firm's modern edge. When she's not arguing a case or drafting legislation, you'll likely find this mom of four on the sidelines of a soccer field, cheering just as fiercely as she advocates.

WISE WORDS:

"I'm redefining advocacy by rewriting its standards."

— Amanda S. Denison, Esq.



Drs. Chris Chambers, Neil Sullivan,
Kurt Jones, Borek Hlousek,
Cliff Walzer, and Kenneth Kufta

ORAL SURGERY SPECIALISTS

Annapolis, Pasadena
Kent Island, Waugh Chapel
410-268-7790
annapolisoss.com

Drs. Walzer, Sullivan, Hlousek, Jones, Chambers, and Kufta are Board Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons dedicated to providing exceptional surgical care in a compassionate, patient-centered environment. Their expertise spans dental implant surgery, wisdom tooth removal, corrective jaw surgery, and facial reconstruction. Utilizing advanced technology and techniques, they achieve outstanding functional and aesthetic results while prioritizing patient comfort and safety. With state-of-the-art facilities and the ability to administer IV general anesthesia, they deliver comprehensive care under one roof. Their long-standing commitment to excellence, innovation, and integrity has earned them recognition as trusted leaders in oral and maxillofacial surgery throughout the region.

WISE WORDS: "Our focus is always on the patient, combining advanced surgical expertise with compassionate care to maintain comfort, restore confidence, and quality of life through every stage of treatment."



ELIZABETH ARENTZ

MILLENNIAL SPECIALIST
COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Cell 443-988-3495

Office 410-263-8686

Elizabeth.Arentz@cbrealty.com

SellingMarylandSunsets.com

3 Church Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401



Elizabeth seamlessly integrates her unique background in healthcare consulting and neurobiology with negotiating deals and helping people achieve their real estate goals. This unconventional foundation equips her with exceptional empathy, analytical skills, and an understanding of complex systems, all vital in navigating the nuanced real estate sector. Named an international Coldwell Banker 30 Under 30 and *What's Up's* Best Residential REALTOR, Elizabeth is taking the real estate world by storm. Raised in a REALTOR family, she now brings a blend of personal experience and academic expertise to her thriving career, alongside her husband, Jake, dogs, Jinx and Beretta, and bearded dragon, Mushu.

WISE WORDS: "We will get through this purchase or sale, together. One step at a time." – Elizabeth Arentz



BIANA ARENTZ

LUXURY PROPERTY SPECIALIST
COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Cell 410-490-0332

Office 410-263-8686

Biana.Arentz@CBMove.com

SellingMarylandSunsets.com

3 Church Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401



Biana Arentz is a recognized leader in luxury real estate, specializing in waterfront properties on the Eastern Shore and in Annapolis. With twenty-two years of experience and deep community involvement, she's known on both sides of the Bridge. Named Best Waterfront Realtor in 2024 and 2025 by *What's Up Magazine* and *The Shore Update*, Biana embodies luxury across all price points. Biana combines local expertise with dedication and personalized service, guiding clients through one of life's most meaningful decisions—buying or selling their dream home. Biana lives in Queenstown with her husband, Steve, and their dog, Harley. She is blessed to have their daughter Elizabeth share her passion for real estate.

WISE WORDS: "Don't wait to buy real estate. Buy real estate and wait."

— Will Rogers

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Photo by David Hartcom

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WISE WORDS: "Movement is not only key to both physical and mental health, it is a big part of what makes life fun."

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Judy Buddensick, founder of Frances Marketing Group, leads a full-service agency recognized for its personalized, results-driven approach. For nearly a decade, the firm has helped businesses grow through strategic marketing, branding, digital media, and sponsorships. Judy's deep community ties and hands-on leadership set her apart—she co-chairs the Annapolis Police Foundation and serves on the boards of the Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Annapolis Partnership. She also manages sponsorships for major U.S. Naval Academy Alumni events. Her creativity, integrity, and local insight earned Frances Marketing Group the title Best Marketing Agency in *What's Up? Annapolis!*

WISE WORDS:

"Named to honor my late mother, Frances — her values built its foundation, and her spirit still drives it forward."





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Kim McNew manages Hope Warehouse, a thrift store operated by Haven Ministries in Queenstown, MD. She has transformed the warehouse into a welcoming space, offering quality furniture at affordable prices. Hope Warehouse accepts donations of gently used furniture, home décor, small appliances, and tools and offers pick-up services for larger items. The revenue generated supports a seasonal homeless shelter, resource center, day center, two food pantries, and a voucher program assisting those in need with furniture and household goods. Haven Ministries also runs Our Daily Thread, a thrift store in Chester that sells clothing, jewelry, and books, with proceeds benefiting Queen Anne's County residents.

WISE WORDS:

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."



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WISE WORDS: “Buying a home isn’t just about numbers—it’s about finding your place. Plan smart, stay patient, and trust the process.”



CHARLOTTE POTTER KASIC

DIRECTOR
ACADEMY ART MUSEUM

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academy@academyartmuseum.org

Charlotte Potter Kasic is the Director of the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland, where she brings a rare blend of artistic vision, strategic leadership, and community engagement. An internationally celebrated conceptual artist and trained glassblower, her practice shapes her ethos as a museum leader. “As a glassblower, you’re always working in concert with others,” she says. “That spirit of collaboration guides how I lead—championing creativity, arts advocacy, and a broader understanding and appreciation of the arts.” Kasic previously held director roles at the Chrysler Museum of Art, the Barry Art Museum, and Yestermorrow Design/Build School.

WISE WORDS: “Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.”



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WISE WORDS: “Your story matters. It’s time to make your mental health a priority.”



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As Executive Director of Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers, Cristy Morrell is building on the nonprofit's 55-year legacy of high-quality childcare and educational excellence. With a passion for early literacy, she has introduced literature-based STEAM programs that spark curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning in children ages two through twelve. With five sites and deep roots in the Mid-Shore, Critchlow believes early education isn't just child's play, it's an investment in the community's future. Thanks to generous donors and foundation partners, every family—regardless of income—can access this enriching care. You can learn more at www.cacckids.org.

WISE WORDS:

"Books are mirrors and windows to the world—in them, children see themselves, their potential, and dreams, and explore far-off places, real or imagined."

— Adapted from Rudine Sims Bishop



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WISE WORDS: “Nothing makes us happier than helping you live well.”



Photo by Tony Lewis Photography

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Christina Janosik Palmer, Associate Broker with Keller Williams Flagship of Maryland, brings over 30 years of real estate expertise to Anne Arundel County and beyond. In 2016, she expanded her solo practice into a ten-member team offering more than a century of combined knowledge. Christina and her team are known for unique marketing strategies that sell homes quickly and secures strong prices. They lead with integrity and professionalism, guiding clients through traditional residential home purchases as well as land and site work, builders, engineers, and other complex transactions. Christina and her team protects her clients' interests to achieve remarkable results.

WISE WORDS:

"Work hard and with purpose, honor commitments, and care deeply for those you serve. Success is measured not only by results, but the impact you have on others"



MIKE NALLY

FOUNDER & CEO
NALLY VENTURES LEADERSHIP

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Mike Nally believes great leadership transforms organizations and communities. As founder and CEO of Nally Ventures Leadership, Mike partners with companies and nonprofits across the Chesapeake region to strengthen their leadership, refine their strategies, and develop purpose-driven cultures. Through personalized coaching, team development, and specialized consulting, his firm empowers leaders at every level to see more clearly, manage with confidence, and drive meaningful results. As a veteran, entrepreneur, and coach, Mike draws on real-world experiences to facilitate growth in all aspects of life. His comprehensive approach builds strong leaders who build stronger communities. *Serving Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and DC.*

WISE WORDS: "The most important person you will lead is you. Excellence in leadership is built one choice at a time."



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A graphic with a dark blue background filled with small white stars. At the top, a red banner with white text reads "WHAT'S UP? MEDIA'S". Below this, the words "BEST OF" are in large, white, 3D block letters with red outlines. Underneath "BEST OF" is the year "2026" in the same style. At the bottom, another red banner with white text reads "VOTING".

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Results will be revealed in our June 2026 issues of What's Up? Annapolis and What's Up? Eastern Shore and our July issue of What's Up? Central Maryland. What's Up? Media reserves the right to eliminate the least-voted categories, as needed, in the final published results.

CHESAPEAKE TRADITIONS ARTICLE SERIES

WILD FOWL *carving*

Celebrating one of Maryland's
cherished cultural traditions

BY LISA A. LEWIS

When Rich Smoker started making decoys to use for hunting along the Susquehanna River when he was in high school, he probably couldn't have imagined how wildfowl carving would impact his life. His father, who instilled in him a love of the craft, was an industrial arts teacher at the school and was well versed in woodworking. Smoker and his father would often work together in the woodshop. Throughout the years, Smoker, his father, and his younger brother, Ross, taught themselves how to carve decoys, and wildfowl carving became a beloved family tradition.

Although Smoker made decoys to hunt, he also admired the artistic aspect of the carvings. He later developed a greater appreciation for the aesthetics of wildfowl carving when he worked as a taxidermist. In this role, he learned about the anatomy of birds, which helped him improve his carving skills. During this time, Smoker continued to carve decoys for hunting while also expanding his work to include decorative carvings.



Rich Smoker carves intricate wildfowl decoys in his Eastern Shore shop. Photographs courtesy Rich Smoker.



“I love wildfowl carving; it’s my life,” Smoker says. “Making decoys is so rewarding because it involves two distinct disciplines: sculpture and painting. I start with a visual of the bird and draw it on paper before beginning to carve, which helps produce a truly realistic likeness. I have carved more than 5,000 birds, and I’m still plugging away. Using my hands to carve a piece of wood and create a bird is the most gratifying feeling. I never want to retire.”

A master carver and teacher, Smoker—now a resident of Marion Station, Maryland, near Crisfield—has participated in numerous competitions as both a contestant and a judge and has won several accolades. He has served on the board of directors for 29 years, including five years as chairman, and currently holds the title chairman emeritus at the Ward Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in 1968 that is “dedicated to promoting wildfowl art and preserving the legacy of Eastern Shore decoy carvers, Lemuel and Stephen Ward.” He has also been a volunteer at the organization for 43 years. In addition, Smoker is a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow, which is the highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

A guide prepares a decoy rig for hunting in Kent County Maryland, 1953. Photograph by Constance Stuart Larrabee. Collection of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, 927.748.



From Humble Beginnings

Like Smoker, avid Maryland wildfowl carvers are passionate not only about the historical significance of decoys but also the artistic contributions to our State’s cultural heritage. A centuries-old tradition, the craft of making decoys was passed down through the generations—beginning as utilitarian tools used for hunting and evolving into decorative, collectible folk art. Today, decoys are prized among collectors for their artistic value.

Decoy making also connects people to the land and water. Maryland is a critical part of the Atlantic Flyway, a major route for migratory waterfowl, and the Chesapeake Bay is a significant stopover area for a variety of species, such as canvasbacks, mallards, and redheads.

“The Atlantic Flyway funnels through the Chesapeake Bay, which abounds with marshes, grassy shallows, and [similar] environments that provide food and shelter for migratory waterfowl,” says Chief Historian Pete Leshner, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM). “That abundance of migratory birds attracted—and still attracts—thousands of hunters. And one of the essential tools for waterfowl hunting is a rig of decoys. The Chesapeake

Bay region fostered hundreds of decoy carvers who produced staggering quantities of decoys.”

According to CBMM, decoy-making traces its origins back to the early-19th century with its history rooted in distinct cultures of hunters, market gunners (commercial hunters who hunted waterfowl to sell for profit to restaurants and city markets), sport, industry, and, eventually, folk art. Early decoys were rudimentary in nature and served one purpose: to lure waterfowl within hunters’ range. Carvers were influenced by indigenous culture and traditions.

The rise of market gunning in the late-19th century created a high demand for decoys. However, this increase—along with sportsmen’s concern for the decimation of bird populations and advocacy for conservation laws—brought an end to market gunning in the early-20th century. By the 1950s, carving decoys from wood became less popular due to the mass-market production of paperboard, Styrofoam, and, ultimately, plastic decoys. At the same time, decoys were increasingly recognized as folk art, and many carvers began creating the decorative, more realistic decoys that are so popular today.



Master Carvers and Styles

At the height of its popularity, wildfowl carving dominated certain regions in Maryland, which became recognized as hubs for decoy making. As a result, prominent carvers emerged at the forefront of the tradition and gained acclaim for their work. Today, they are internationally renowned and celebrated for their contributions to decoy making.

Significant areas for decoy making abound throughout the Chesapeake Bay region, and especially the Susquehanna Flats located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River. Havre de Grace, known as “the Decoy Capital of the World,” is home to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, a private, non-profit institution established in 1986 “to preserve the historical and cultural legacy of waterfowling and decoy making on the Chesapeake Bay.” Other noteworthy areas for decoy making include Cecil County and Crisfield on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

Steve Ward carving the body of a decoy in his shop, 1972. Photograph by Peter C. Chambliss. Collection of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, 1296.82.

“Waterfowling and decoy making are woven into the cultural fabric of the Susquehanna Flats and the communities that surround it,” says Mike Tarquini, president of the board of directors, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. “The lore of this region is rich with history that should not be lost. Those within our community need to be aware of the folk art of [creating] decoys.”

Since Maryland’s close proximity to the Chesapeake Bay and its strong ties to waterfowl hunting created a need for decoys, some carvers developed their own unique styles and established a legacy that is still revered today by carvers and collectors.

According to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, John “Daddy” Holly (1818–1892), who is considered a pioneer of wildfowl carving, is credited with creating the Harford County or Havre de Grace style of decoy in the mid-to-late 19th century. His son, James (1855–1935), refined the style, and it was made famous by R. Madison Mitchell (1901–1993), who is known as the most prolific decoy maker in Havre de Grace.

“John ‘Daddy’ Holly gets much of the credit for the development of the body design used for almost two centuries by decoy makers on the Harford County side of the Susquehanna Flats,” Tarquini says. “John B. Graham (1822–1912) [one of the most famous decoy makers of the Upper Chesapeake Bay], gets similar status relative to the decoy body style used on the Cecil County side of the Flats. The bodies

of Harford County decoys tend to have a rounded bottom with an upswept tail and lack a neck shelf to mount the head. Cecil County decoys tend to have bodies with flat paddle tails and a raised neck shelf where the head is mounted onto the body.”

According to the Ward Foundation, Lemuel T. Ward, Jr. (1896–1984) and Stephen Ward (1895–1976)—collectively referred to as the Ward Brothers—are considered pioneers of the Crisfield style of wildfowl carving (ca. early 1900s). In particular, they are known for their work in making the transition from utilitarian hunting decoys to highly realistic, decorative works of art.

Unlike the Harford County or Havre de Grace style, Crisfield style decoys have flat bottoms, carved heads that exaggerate the bird’s features, and are often oversized. This particular style resulted in a highly visible, lifelike decoy that rode upon the water. The brothers’ father, L. Travis Ward, Sr. (1865–1926), was also a pioneer of the Crisfield style.

Smoker says he met the Ward Brothers and was greatly influenced by their work. In fact, they made a significant impact on his own wildfowl carvings.

“When someone is at the top of their game, they will be imitated,” Smoker says. “You can see the Ward’s influence in so many of the more than 80 recognized carvers in Crisfield. Their influence has spread to every part of the country. And many carvers and artists often include that they were influenced by the Ward Brothers in their bios.”

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum conveys the cultural significance and experience of wildfowl carving and decoys to visitors. Photographs by Mike Tarquini.





The annual Waterfowl Festival in Easton held each November offers exhibits of decoys, hosts renown artists, including painters, sculptors, and photographers, and features the World Waterfowl Calling Championship Competition, Dock Dogs, food and beverages, children's activities, and much more. Photographs courtesy Academy Art Museum, Ron Haddaway, Susan Fay Schauer, Pete Lupo, and Ross Smoker.

Wildfowl Carving Exhibits

Whether Marylanders are interested in decoys from the perspective of a carver, collector, artist, birder, or nature enthusiast, they can visit museums or festivals to view decoy collections and exhibits.

Every November, the community gathers in Easton for the Waterfowl Festival, a three-day celebration of the heritage, sporting traditions, and artistic expression of the Eastern Shore. The popular festival features exhibits of decoys—from traditional works to decorative, artistic carvings, which are on display and available for sale—as well as live demonstrations.

“For over 54 years, the celebration of our shared waterfowling heritage has been the cornerstone of the festival, which offers several opportunities to see carvers and their work and also promotes conservation,” says Deena Kilmon, executive director, Waterfowl Festival, Inc. “Every year, a grant program gives generously to local, regional, and national organizations that submit projects that will support wetlands restoration or promote con-

servation education. Our program has donated over \$100,000 in 2025 alone to specific projects through this program and about \$6 million since 1971.”

In addition to wildfowl carvers, the festival also features artists from around the world, including painters, sculptors, and photographers, the World Waterfowl Calling Championship Competition, Dock Dogs, food and beverages, children's activities, and much more.

Tarquini says the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum collects, documents, preserves, and interprets waterfowl decoys as a unique folk art that is a distinctive element in the cultural landscape of the Lower Susquehanna River and the Upper Chesapeake Bay. The museum focuses primarily on working decoys that supported the hunting activities that took place on the famed Susquehanna Flats. The works of prominent local decoy makers are featured, including both vintage and contemporary decoys.

“The museum highlights the stylistic differences between decoys made in Cecil County and Harford County,” says Tarquini. “These two counties surround the Susquehanna Flats, and residents

fashioned the majority of decoys that were used there. The earliest decoys likely started out in a similar vein in terms of size, style, and construction. But over time, the carving styles on the two sides of the river diverged—not markedly so, but enough to be distinguishable. The exhibits contain decoys that represent the styles that were characteristic of the regions from where they originated.”

Although the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, which was located near Salisbury University, closed in 2022, items from the collection can be viewed at the Museum of Eastern Shore Culture at Salisbury University (museumofeasternshorecultureatsu.org).



And CBMM is excited to open a new exhibit, *Stories from the Shoreline*, in July 2026. Located in the Welcome Center, the exhibit will showcase the local perspectives and connections to the Chesapeake Bay. Inspired by oral histories, manuscripts, memoirs, and documentary and historic photographs, as well as tools, fine art, and folklife artifacts, the exhibit will provide an understanding of several beloved cultural traditions. In addition, *Stories from the Shoreline* will feature the museum’s world-class decoy collection.

“Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum boasts a comprehensive collection of more than 200 waterfowl decoys from all parts of the region—representing the breadth of carvers and carving styles,” Leshner says. “Since waterfowl hunting is just one of the many ways that people interact with the Chesapeake Bay shoreline—along with trapping, recreational fishing and crabbing, dining, beachcombing, artmaking, and more—the tools for these activities, including decoys, feature prominently in the forthcoming exhibition.”

Carrying on a Legacy

Wildfowl carvings—whether they are created as hunting tools or decorative works of art—underscore the importance of passing down cultural traditions to the next generation. Not only do the carvings preserve Maryland’s rich history and cul-

ture by leaving a record of the past, but they also establish an enduring legacy for pioneers, such as Holly, the Ward Brothers, and many others. Their work inspired a new generation of carvers who took up the mantle and carried on the tradition.

Whether decoy making is passed down from one family member to another or taught by a master carver to a student in an apprenticeship or classroom setting, wildfowl carving keeps Maryland's cultural heritage and identity alive for all generations to appreciate and enjoy.

"In today's increasingly digital world, hands-on [opportunities], such as the Waterfowl Festival, bring our traditions to life in an engaging and entertaining way," Kilmon says. "The [wildfowl carving] community is supportive, positive, and committed to helping the next generation of carvers and waterfowl enthusiasts learn in an accessible and friendly atmosphere. You can't replace that interaction with a video, a book, or a website. Keeping our traditions alive involves human-to-human relationships that transmit emotion and joy across the generations."



UPCOMING WILDFOWL *festivals*

55th Annual Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition & Art Festival

April 24, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., April 25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,

**April 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Roland E. Powell Con-
vention Center, Ocean City.** Presented by the Ward

Foundation, the Ward World Championship is the most prestigious wildfowl carving competition in the world.

In addition to the competition, the event features a festival with exhibits showcasing a variety of decoys—from functional hunting decoys to highly decorative works of art. About 1,200 different wildfowl carvings representing more than 150 species from around the world can be viewed. The event also features seminars and classes by master carvers, vendors, and children's activities. For more information, call Kristie Clattenburg, director, Ward Foundation, at 410-339-0668 or e-mail kclattenburg@wardfdn.org. wardfdn.org

44th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

**May 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., May 3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. STAR
Centre, Havre de Grace. Honorary Chairman: Chad
Tragakis.** The festival, which is expected to attract

approximately 1,000 attendees, features 50–60 exhibitors, including decoy makers, decoy resellers, decoy collectors, wildfowl artists, and collectibles resellers, from the New England area to the Carolinas. In addition to exhibits and children's activities, the event also includes three distinct carving competitions: • Floating Working Decoys Competition (hunting decoys) • Decorative Decoys Competition (decoys not designed for hunting) • Old Decoy Competition (vintage decoys, generally 50 – 75 years old or older). Festival tickets include admission to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum and its world-class collection of decoys and wildfowl art. For more information, call Mike Tarquini, president of the board of directors, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, at 410-459-8487 or e-mail president@decoymuseum.com. decoymuseum.com

Your Financial Health Checklist

11 SMART TO-DOS FOR A STRONG, STRATEGIC 2026

As 2026 sets in, you have the opportunity to refine your financial strategies and ensure your wealth is working as efficiently as possible. Beyond basic budgeting and saving, this is the time to strengthen long-term plans, optimize tax advantages, and revisit investment allocations that may have shifted over the past year. Whether you're planning for major purchases, legacy building, or simply enhancing your overall financial resilience, consider consulting fiduciary, tax, and estate planning professionals for the most up-to-date industry advice and legal responsibilities. The following checklist offers talking points for your household and with your advisors.

Revisit Your Budget With Updated, Realistic Numbers. Even high-income households benefit from a refreshed, intentional budget. Review last year's spending and identify where lifestyle choices may have quietly expanded monthly obligations—subscriptions, dining, entertainment, travel, and convenience services often increase without notice. Updating your numbers ensures that your discretionary income flows toward meaningful goals such as investment expansion, charitable giving, or long-term planning rather than slipping into unnoticed categories.

Strengthen or Rebuild Your Emergency Fund. Aim for a robust emergency reserve that covers six months or more of core expenses, especially if your household relies on variable income, equity compensation, or business revenue. A well-funded reserve also protects long-term investments by reducing the temptation to sell assets in down markets.

Refresh Savings Buckets for Short- and Mid-Term Goals. Set intentional savings targets for 2026: travel, home renovations, education funding, charitable giving, or upcoming major purchases. Higher-income families may find value in a multi-tiered approach—segregating savings into short-term, opportunity funds, and large-goal buckets.

Maximize Retirement Contributions. High earners often have access to advanced retirement strategies such as backdoor Roth contributions and options, deferred compensation plans, and higher-tier employer benefits. Review updated annual limits for 2026 and increase contributions proactively. Revisit your risk allocation and long-term projections to ensure they still align with your family's goals, anticipated future income, and desired timeline to financial independence.



Review Employer Benefits for Overlooked Value. Your compensation package may include substantial benefits beyond salary—equity grants, ESPPs, HSAs, FSAs, childcare benefits, legal services, and wellness reimbursements can all contribute meaningful value. During open enrollment, re-evaluate which plans best support your lifestyle and whether higher premiums or upgraded options could offer enhanced long-term protection.

Check Your Credit Reports and Monitor Your Score. High credit limits, multiple cards, travel rewards accounts, and business expenses increase exposure to fraud. Reviewing your credit reports annually helps you catch inaccuracies and protect your credit standing, which affects everything from interest rates to insurance premiums. Strong credit also ensures flexibility for opportunities such as real estate acquisitions and large financed purchases.

Update a Debt Paydown Strategy. If debt exists—whether mortgages, HELOCs, auto loans, or revolving balances—take time to evaluate your payoff approach. With interest rates shifting in recent years, refinancing or consolidating certain debts may offer attractive savings. High-income households often benefit from prioritizing high-interest obligations while allowing lower-rate debt to coexist with an aggressive investment strategy. A clear, data-driven plan ensures that debt remains a tool, not a burden.

Evaluate Insurance Policies for Proper Protection. Your insurance needs may grow as your assets grow. Review home, auto, renters, life, disability, and umbrella policies to confirm the coverage appropriately reflects your current net worth and lifestyle. Regular reviews also help identify potential premium savings through bundling or updated property valuations.

Update Your Will, Beneficiaries, and Estate Planning Documents. Estate planning is essential for those with investment portfolios, real estate, or family-owned businesses. Revisit your will, trusts, beneficiary designations, powers of attorney, and guardianship assignments to ensure they remain current. Consider whether your situation warrants more advanced strategies like revocable trusts, donor-advised funds, or tax-efficient gifting to family members or charities.

Rebalance Your Investment Portfolio for the Year Ahead. Market fluctuations can significantly shift your allocations over a single year. Rebalancing ensures your portfolio remains aligned with your goals, risk tolerance, and timeline. High-income investors may also consider strategic rebalancing in taxable vs. tax-advantaged accounts to minimize tax exposure. Staying disciplined prevents emotionally driven investment decisions and maintains long-term portfolio health.

Align Your Investments With Your Long-Term Goals. Higher-income families often juggle multiple complex goals: retirement, college funding, legacy planning, philanthropic initiatives, real estate acquisitions, or early financial independence. Review your timelines and risk tolerance for each objective. Long-term goals can tolerate more volatility, while short-term goals require protection and liquidity. Aligning investments with life timelines ensures every dollar is working intentionally toward its purpose.



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Home & Garden

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**Color Trends
2026 Edition**

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Color Trends 2026 Edition

By Lisa J. Gotto

G

et out your fabric swatches, paint samples, and mood boards! It's a new year and a fresh collection of hues and palettes has dropped for your interior design pleasure.

What's most surprising about this year's crop of colors is the one that seems to be leading the way—Brown. Not since the 1990s have we leaned toward this Earth Mother of all colors. But with sensibilities still trending to richer, more grounded colors and away from cooler impersonal shades, it does make sense.



THE CASE FOR WARM, GROUNDED NEUTRALS

It is anticipated that we will be seeing mid-tone browns like chocolate and walnut everywhere from furnishings, to paneling, to accent pieces, as part of the popularity of a warm, grounded neutral palette.

And when we say everywhere, we're even including kitchens in that statement. Why? Experts say that brown is the color that is currently bringing the depth, warmth, and a sense of lived-in comfort that people are craving right now. Brown's earthy qualities link us back to the natural world in a manner that feels restorative. Conveniently, brown is also a classic color that can work its way into many styles of interiors, as well. As a result, we're seeing iterations of the hue popping up in annual forecast palettes including that of paint manufacturers like Sherwin-Williams, who this year bestowed Universal Khaki with its Color of the Year designation.

Interiors experts recommend a color such as this (which is described as a sun-warmed, mid-tone tan) be used as the



foundational neutral backdrop to which complementary hues can be added by way of furniture, rugs, and artwork.

Among the complementary colors in the coordinating Universal Khaki palette are Henna Shade, a creamy rust, Tarragon, a dense neutral with a blue undertone, and Dark Auburn, the warming brown in this palette.

Experts suggest finishing your room by layering in natural materials such as wood floors, woven textiles, and warm metals, such as bronze and brass.



Universal Khaki
SW 9001-10



White Snow
SW 9001-10



Cream and Sugar
SW 9001-10



Lemon Cheffin
SW 9001-10



House Shale
SW 9001-10



Dark Auburn
SW 9001-10



Limestone
SW 9001-10



Garden Gate
SW 9001-10



Terracotta
SW 9001-10



Honey
SW 9001-10



Special Walnut
SW 9001-10

Application tips for the new neutrals

It's not just about which colors we are choosing but how we are using them and where we are applying them. Case in point, the no-contrast trim trend in interior painting. The smartest application approach for your new earthy colors and creams is to carry them through from base board to ceiling trim and molding—for one continuous look and visual line. This is all a part of the new “drenching” practice in color application. Note, while this practice is becoming increasingly popular, it works best with these neutral applications. For darker colors, experts recommend rooms and spaces with generous amount of natural light for the best results.

Experts suggest sampling the neutrals you are considering under differing light conditions to see how they work throughout the day in morning, afternoon, and even artificial light. Each shade will have a specific undertone that you will want to consider.

When applying to open-plan spaces, you will want to carry your neutral shade throughout to create flow, and then you can anchor individual areas with deeper accent colors.

THIS YEAR'S ACCENT & OTHER HOT COLORS

In every year's palette there is a smattering of colors with which you can imbue personality in not large, sweeping ways, but in targeted applications, such as color treatments for ceilings, built-ins, feature walls, and alcoves.

This year the experts are loving these shades for those special spaces:

- ◆ Velvety plums and rich purple shades which offer a luxurious, moody touch
- ◆ Poppy reds that exude energy and boldness
- ◆ Dusty teals and atmospheric blues that help create calming yet statement-making spaces



THE GREENS GRABBING THE SCENE

If a color can indeed have a moment, the winner this year would go to a couple of shades in the green family: pistachio and avocado skin green. These greens range in vibe from evocative to playful for the innate connection they conjure with nature.

Behr paints has chosen a smoky jade version of the later green as their Color of the Year remarking that it embodies an air of mystery and sophistication.

Pistachio, or more playful green, actually began creeping into palettes late last year but continues to come into its own in fashion, fabric, and as a stand-out, stand alone color for homeowners of distinction in 2026.



When it's time to let go

Alas, all good things must come to an end but who's to say that the one-dimensional gray walls we've been seeing for the better part of the last decade are officially over. The experts actually are saying that. In fact, a majority of designers say this color's lack of warmth and layering makes a room feel too dated and sterile for 2026.

Also on the downward trend are bright, overly saturated primary colors—unless they are being used intentionally—as the shift is toward nuanced, layered color rather than bright and flat colors.

In closing, it is always prudent to note the following when it comes to color trends: Always consider your space's textures, materials, and light scenarios before applying any trending color, lest you be mistaking what is popular for what is proper.

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Translating the Language of Flowers

HOW TO INTERPRET WHAT YOUR PLANTS ARE SAYING

By Janice F. Booth

We've all heard of the Victorian's fascination with "the language of flowers," *floriography*. Carnations speak of "mother's love," irises are "wisdom," and roses say "I love you."

Perhaps they're not merely mirroring our feelings but expressing their own. Maybe our flowers and plants may have something to say for themselves. Let me review with you 12 important messages your plants may be communicating, if we pay close attention.

There are three common problems we gardeners usually look for: (1) Dryness or Overwatering, (2) Aphids, and (3) Excessive or Insufficient Sunlight. Whether we're looking at our houseplants or the flowers in the garden, we are accustomed to watching for these problems. But, how do we figure out that our begonia is getting too much sunlight or our peace plant needs less water?

HERE ARE SOME BASIC PLANT-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION TOOLS:

If a plant begins to **drop leaves** or the **leaves may curl and darken**, and the **soil may appear gray and arid**—the message may be "Give me a drink." (Be careful not to drown the dear; a good soaking and more regular waterings are probably needed.)

If the plant's **leaves wilt**, perhaps **turn yellow**, and the **soil is spongy** or even soggy, **root rot** usually caused by **overwatering** or poor drainage may be the problem.

Looking at the underside of a plant's leaves, if you see something resembling **white powder** (the aphids' secretion) and/or you might see **webs**, or if a plant has tiny spots on the leaves, **Aphids** have attacked your plant. The old home remedy of a few weeks of regular wipe-downs with **soapy water**, particularly on the underside of the leaves, usually gets rid of them.

If your plant in the garden or house seems to **shrivel** and the **soil feels hard** to the touch, the message may be "I'm getting sunburned; give me a bit of **shade**." Start digging.

Does the **foliage appear pale and dull** or are the leaves displaying **pale patches**? That plant is asking for **more sunlight**.

Following are other useful messages you can discern from reading the leaves of your plants.

Over time, if a particular plant seems to **stop growing** or appears smaller than would be expected, the problem may be **stunted growth**. Loosen the soil, give the plant a bit of gentle fertilizer, and consider whether the light satisfies this plant's needs.

Are your plant's leaves looking like someone took a hole punch to them? Lots of **holes and tears in the leaves** may mean **pests** are having this poor plant as a buffet lunch! Look for beetles, slugs, or caterpillars. You can simply pick off the bugs, or if you're a bit squeamish, apply some gardener's **Neem Oil**.





If your plant is waving its leaves laden with **white powder**, even on the tops, the plant's probably suffering with **mildew** caused by our region's high humidity and crowding of your plants. Try **pruning** the plant to give more air and room to breathe. (Don't leave the mildewed cuttings in the garden.) If you've been sprinkling these plants, switch to a **soaker hose** to keep the water off the leaves.

If there is **mold** forming on the soil around the plant, **overwatering** and/or **poor drainage** may be the culprits. You will probably need to **remove the top half inch of soil** around the affected plants, then adjust the drainage and watering plan.

You can recognize an even more specific plant message if you take a close look at your plant's **curling leaves**. If the leaves are **curling UP**, the plant is probably suffering from **heat-related stress** or an **infestation** of bugs, such as aphids. However, leaves **curling DOWN** is usually due to **chemical damage**, perhaps over-fertilizing or the wrong fertilizer mix.

Are your marigolds and daisies **failing to flower** or flowering less? Your plant may be telling you of one or more problems. Check sunlight first; is there a **lack of sunlight**—always essential to showy flowers? Another problem may have been some heavy-handed **pruning** that cut off the buds and stunted the plant's development.

The third problem could be incorrect fertilizer. **Too much nitrogen** will give you lots of green but few flowers. Treat that sweetie to a good dose of phosphorus-rich fertilizer.

Finally, if your favorite columbine or that clump of echinacea you love seems to suddenly collapse, like a fainting Victorian lady, the problem may be moles or voles—those furry, little varmints. The best remedy I've found for these little critters is diluted castor oil—yup, that icky, gooey stuff. Pour some of the castor oil into any little holes in the lawn or garden. You can also spray the mixture around and beneath plants and shrubs. Close to the ground is best. The advantage of this remedy, unlike those horrid spikes and gassing pellets, is that the voles and moles will leave! You're not really killing them, only insisting they leave your garden!

So, we can try to apply our skills in observation to the garden's residents. The language of flowers requires some translation, but the effort is worthwhile.

True Traditional Charm

By Lisa J. Gotto

Characteristic Southern charm and an approachable sense of grandeur combine to provide this traditional, colonial home with an abundance of curb appeal.

Located on a corner lot in a desirable Annapolis neighborhood just minutes from the historic downtown, this three-story home with its light brick façade, many arched front-facing windows, second-story balcony, and attractive architectural columns, provide a gracious welcome for guests.

A lovely front porch with wrought iron railings leads into the light-filled, two-story foyer with its gorgeous marble floor and sightlines above to this home's second story. Enhanced architectural details, including boxed columns and crafted wood trim abound.



Primary Structure Built: 2003

Sold For: \$945,000

Original List Price: \$920,000

Bedrooms: 5

Baths: 4
Full, 1 Half

Living Space: 3,294 Sq. Ft.

Lot Size: .11 acres



An elegant living room is soon revealed and offers handsome hardwood floors, a gas fireplace with formal style surround, and an incredible two-toned tray ceiling. A formal dining room is located on the opposite side of the entry and leads to the home's spacious kitchen with its classic wood cabinetry. A large center island topped with granite takes center stage and offers a gas cooktop, prep and storage space, and breakfast bar seating for four. All stainless-steel appliances and a charming, sunny eat-in area combines plenty of utility and light.

An expansive family room is located adjacent to the kitchen and is also flooded with natural light. This room offers access to the property's attractive two-tiered patio at the rear of the home, and an attractive gas fireplace feature wall.

This home features four bedrooms which includes a handsome primary suite on the second floor. This room is large and features an opulent tray ceiling, attractive wall paneling detail, and a huge *en suite* bath with a large jetted tub, dual vanities with rich, quartz countertops, and separate shower.

There are three additional bedrooms on this floor, one with access to the front-facing Juliette balcony. A fifth bedroom can be created in the home's finished lower-level bonus room, which also features a dedicated office, a huge, recreation room, and a gym.

Located in one of the most desirable communities in Annapolis, this home has access to a community pool, two children's rec areas, walking trails, and water access to Church Creek, which includes a dock, kayak launch, and kayak storage.



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Two Century Gem

By Lisa J. Gotto

This stunning and recently updated historic townhome in the heart of downtown Annapolis offers one of the best upsides a home in the city can have, private parking!

Built in 1800, this 1,800 square-foot residence exudes historic charm and a pride of place among homes of its stature with its prime location within walking distance to the seat of government and a wealth of cultural and recreational pursuits.

Three stories of colonial curb appeal combine with refined preservation on the interior to create a truly distinctive place to call one's own. A classic, nautically-themed foyer alludes to what guests can expect to experience throughout the home.

Primary Structure Built: 1800

Sold For: \$1,150,000

Original List Price: \$1,100,000

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 3
Full, 1 Half

Living Space: 1,806 Sq. Ft.

Lot Size: .3 acres





A set of charming antique parlor doors conveys entry to the home's lovely living room and extended dining space. This area is sunny and bright from the light of two large front-facing windows. A handsome central fireplace with Federal style mantel is flanked on either side with classic built-ins and original hardwood floors flow throughout.

This space is adjacent to the home's sunny eat-in kitchen with custom cabinetry painted in a rich deep sea blue and an integrated center peninsula gas cooktop with prep space and breakfast bar seating for two. The charming eat-in area has an incredible wall of custom built-ins and an integrated desk for anyone working from home. A lovely brick courtyard is accessible from this room, and perfectly situated for a family's outdoor grilling pleasure.



The second floor of the home features two bathrooms and two, large bedrooms, including the primary suite which also has those awesome original knotty wood floors. This room offers custom built-in cabinetry and a gorgeous all-white primary bath with a huge walk-in shower and gorgeous stone vanity.

The third floor is a midshipman's paradise with a triple bunk bed and an additional bed for sleeps-four convenience, as well as a full bath, completing this quintessential Annapolis-centric living experience.



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Health & Beauty

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The Science of
Moisturizing

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Clearing Up Confusion About “Clear Protein”

By Dylan Roche

When you think of protein powder, what comes to mind? You probably think of a supplemental powder that you mix into liquid to create a thick, creamy vanilla- or chocolate-flavored shake packed with the nutritional building blocks of muscle. But not everyone has the appetite (or the digestive tract) for a chocolate shake every day.

This explains why clear protein has become the latest trendy nutrition supplement, even though it's hardly a new product. For many years, health care professionals have used so-called clear protein in hospitals to help patients get enough protein when their food intake is limited. Now the supplement has entered the mainstream, and people are searching for clear protein products they can incorporate into their regular diet.

Why? Clear protein's benefits over typical protein supplements is pretty clear:

- ◆ As the name suggests, it's clear. And it's a lot thinner and more easily drinkable. When you mix it with water or juice, that **liquid keeps its same color and consistency** instead of becoming the thick (often chalky) drink you'd get with other protein powders. This is because typical protein powders are often made from whey protein concentrate, whereas clear protein is made from whey protein isolate, which is processed even further to remove more of the fat and carbohydrates that give whey protein concentrate its thicker consistency.
- ◆ Removing the fat and carbohydrates doesn't just change the consistency—it also changes the nutritional makeup (clearly). About 80 percent of the calories in whey protein concentrate usually come from protein, with about 20 percent coming from fat and carbs. With clear protein, there are fewer calories from fat and carbs, and sometimes as much as **all of the supplement's calories come from protein**. For somebody watching their calorie intake, getting the same amount of protein with fewer calories from fat and carbs could be helpful.
- ◆ **Some people just find it more palatable.** It's lighter, and usually comes in fruitier flavors like lemon-lime or strawberry instead of chalky vanilla and chocolate.

BUT DO I NEED TO SUPPLEMENT MY PROTEIN INTAKE?

That's the big question—and for most people, the answer is no. Although the health trend of “protein-maxing” encourages people to consume as much protein as possible (and to get most of your calories from protein), this is unnecessary and can leave you deficient of other nutrients.

The average adult needs only **0.8–1 gram of protein per kilogram of bodyweight** per day. So, if you're 150 pounds, that's only about 54–68 grams of protein. Athletes, especially those engaging in heavy strength training, need more and will likely need to supplement, but most people get plenty of protein from whole food sources.

And speaking of whole foods, they can provide a nutritional balance that you don't get from a protein powder. Your body needs carbs, fats, vitamins, and minerals—which you'll get in addition to protein from a balanced, varied diet. To get the same 20 grams of protein you'd get from a protein powder, you could also have one of the following: 2 eggs • 1 cup of Greek yogurt • 1 cup cooked lentils, or • 3 ounces chicken breast

To be clear: Clear protein could help you supplement your protein if you have unique needs, but for most people, protein-rich food is still the best option.

Make It Gray

ANY SHADE OF THIS NEUTRAL IS PERFECT FOR WINTER

By Dylan Roche

It's not quite stately black, nor is it bright winter white, but gray can be both a subtle and distinctive choice for your winter wardrobe—and with a full range of shades, from dark charcoal to pale smoke, you can find the right gray for any occasion during this cold time of year. It's both versatile and sophisticated without ever being overwhelming.



If you need three solid reasons to wear gray this winter, consider this:

Gray reflects the natural colors of winter—it's subdued and cool, just like the cloudy skies, the bare trees, and the snowy landscapes.

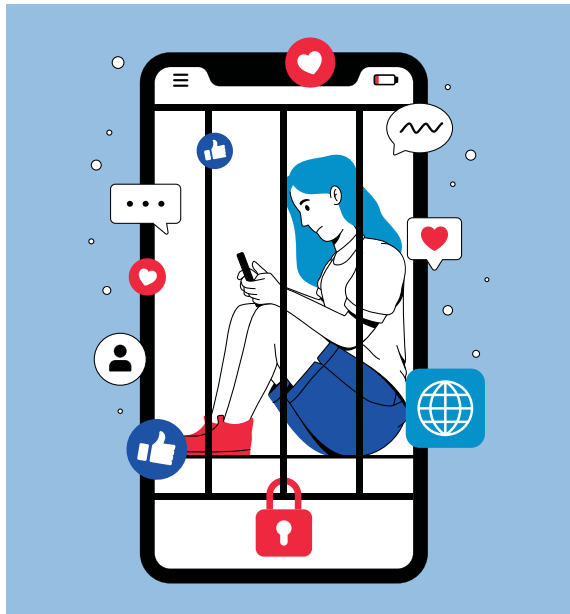
Gray highlights texture beautifully—when you're wearing those cozy winter fabrics like cashmere and wool, the texture of your clothes stands out best in shades of gray.

Gray works well for layering—whether you're pairing it with other shades of gray or with a bold color, you can't go wrong when you're layering up for a winter event.



SO, HOW DO YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THIS WINTERY COLOR? HERE ARE SOME STYLE TIPS ANYONE CAN PULL OFF FOR ANY OCCASION:

- ◆ Pair one brightly colored piece of clothing with an otherwise all-gray outfit, whether it's a vest, a scarf, a jacket, or something else entirely. The gray background will make the bright color pop.
- ◆ Layer your shades from darkest to lightest or lightest to darkest. Of course, you don't have to layer this way—your shades can be in whatever order you want them to be. But going darkest to lightest or lightest to darkest gives your outfit a sense of depth.
- ◆ Don't feel the need to go all gray. When you pair a colorful outfit with a single gray element—especially something in a striking shade of gray, like silver—you give the gray its chance to stand out.
- ◆ Wear metallics, whether its jewelry, statement buckles on jackets or belts, or buttons. Silver or white-gold metallics will enhance gray's cool undertones, whereas yellow-gold or rose-gold will warm it up.
- ◆ Wearing leather, like shoes or a belt? Black or brown leather works equally well with all shades of gray. (Just make sure your leather elements match!)



Is It Time for a Digital Detox?

By Dylan Roche

To some extent, we're all aware that we spend too much time on our phones, tablets, and computers. It's just a reality. Sure, some of us are worse than others, but very few people in the modern era can say they aren't overly reliant on some kind of device that beeps. (And if you're one of those people who can say that—congrats!)

But when is it actually a problem? When is our digital dependence so overwhelming that we need to address it in some way? Or even if it's not a problem (yet), how do we cut back on our screen time so we can live better lives?

Because even though most of our modern lives revolve around being connected via digital devices, they take a toll on our mental and emotional well-being. Taking some time off by doing a digital detox could be the healthiest thing you can do.

If you've notice that you...

...have trouble focusing ...aren't "present" or enjoying the moment ...feel stressed out because you're constantly fielding notifications

...then it might be time for a digital detox. According to the Cleveland Clinic, the average American spends about seven and a half hours a day on digital devices. Wouldn't it be great to reduce that number?

WHAT IS A DIGITAL DETOX?

A so-called *digital detox* is the intentional choice to step away from all your electronics for a set period of time. That means no smartphones, no computers, no tablets, no smartwatches. You don't browse social media, you don't check your email, and you don't have to worry about notifications 24/7. If you need a calendar, clock, or newspaper, you rely on their analog counterparts.

For some people, this isn't always practical—for example, most of us work jobs that demand we use digital devices. A detox will therefore vary based on the intensity or duration, and you can set the stipulations of your detox. The overall goals? 1. Reduce your stress 2. Improve your mental clarity 3. Focus on your relationships with the people who are around you in person Speaking of which...

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A DIGITAL DETOX?

The full benefits of a digital detox will depend on the stipulations of how you're detoxing. If you have the luxury of taking a week off from your devices because you're on vacation, you might get the full benefits. If you need to stay online for work and your only option is to be offline in the evenings when you go home, that's okay, too!

Benefits of a digital detox include:

Better mental health: According to the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges, social media can trigger a hit of dopamine, putting us through a cycle of highs and lows throughout the day—not great for our mental health. Additionally, being constantly connected makes us less productive, more stressed out, anxious, and feeling as if we aren't good enough. Getting away from our devices helps us move away from all of that.

Better self-care: When we give everything we have to our digital presence, we're less likely to take care of ourselves. If you let yourself

close your laptop, you'll have the chance to prepare a nutritious meal, get a nice workout, or go to bed at a reasonable hour.

Better socializing: We think of our phones as a social outlet because we're constantly messaging people or interacting with them on social media. The online world isn't a replacement for real-life interactions though. Not having this crutch will encourage you to get out and do more, enjoying uninterrupted face-to-face time with deeper, more meaningful conversations.

WHAT ARE MY WARNING SIGNS?

We all like to think we're not susceptible to digital dependence. "Being on your phone all the time isn't good, but I'm not that bad," we tell ourselves. But if you've seen one of these warning signs, it might mean you're due for a detox:

- ◆ You've gotten angry or upset about something you've seen on social media
- ◆ You've been the victim of cyberbullying and let it affect you
- ◆ You've engaged in cyberbullying
- ◆ You've felt lonely or isolated because you're comparing your life to what you see on social media
- ◆ You've neglected a responsibility because of work (or fun) you've been having on a device
- ◆ You feel an overwhelming urge to check notifications when you aren't looking at your device

Most of these situations will feel relatable to the vast majority of people—and they're all a sign that being digitally engaged is having negative effects on you.

TIPS & TRICKS FOR A GOOD DETOX

Your digital detox will depend on your personal needs and goals, but here's how you can get started.

Set your rules: Figure out exactly what you're giving up and for how long. Maybe it will be every evening after work for a full month. Maybe it will be the entire week you're out of town on vacation. You could give up all or some combination of: scrolling social media, reading the news, watching TV or other videos, checking email, or sending messages.

Find an accountability partner: Although this could be somebody who is doing a detox with you, it doesn't have to be—it just needs to be somebody who will remind you of your goals if you're having trouble staying offline throughout the process.

Be mindful of how you feel: Check in with yourself every day to assess your mood. Keep a journal or write down your reflections if you need to. Pay attention to what you've accomplished or what you've enjoyed in your time away from the digital world.

Change the rules if necessary: Maybe you need to be more relaxed or stricter in your rules. If it's just not practical to ignore emails after 5 p.m., give yourself grace to check at designated times (for example, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.). On the other hand, if you swore off social media but find yourself replacing your scrolling with playing Candy Crush, you're not achieving the goals you set—and it's time to set stricter rules.

WHAT DOES THE LONG TERM LOOK LIKE?

After your detox is over, you might be tempted to go back to your old habits. Don't. Obviously, it's not practical to be removed from your devices for the rest of your life, but you *can* go back to them with a much healthier relationship to them. Consider implementing the following long-term rules after a digital detox:

- ◆ Put your phone on airplane mode when you're with family or friends, especially if it's someone you haven't seen in a while.
- ◆ Give yourself a "digital curfew" to get off your devices in the evening, possibly one hour or two hours before bed.
- ◆ Take care of yourself first. Tell yourself it's acceptable to scroll if you've already prioritized exercise, a nutritious meal, or a mentally rewarding activity like reading a book or doing a puzzle.
- ◆ Plan sporadic but specific times for more digital detoxes, such as a Sunday afternoon or on holidays.

Happy detoxing!

The Science of Moisturizing

By Dylan Roche

As you read this, winter's cold, dry air might already be taking a toll on your skin. But don't settle for simply lathering up on lotion and hoping for the best—there's a specific science to moisturizing that can help you get the most out of this self-care practice.



HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE SCIENCE OF MOISTURIZING:

- ◆ Yes, winter air can be drying—but so can a hot shower. If it's your preferred way to warm up on a cold day, try to keep it short and not too warm. Hot water strips natural oils out of your skin. Use mild soaps, avoiding any cleansers that contain alcohol, which can remove even more oil from your skin.
- ◆ After a shower, always pat your skin dry instead of rubbing it. Rubbing will strip more oil and moisture from your skin.
- ◆ This isn't to say that cleansing isn't important. It is! Cleansing, such as during a shower, is an important first step that removes dirt and dead skin cells, so your moisturizers can penetrate the top layer of skin. You just want to make sure you replenish and lock in moisture immediately after cleansing.

- ◆ As soon as possible after cleansing (within three minutes), apply a **serum** for antioxidants your skin needs to be healthy, followed by a **humectant** substance, such as glycerin, hyaluronic acid, or lecithin, which will attract moisture and replenish the skin. Look for a moisturizer that contains these ingredients (Cetaphil, Pond's, and CeraVe are popular options). Finish up with an **occlusive** ingredient, such as petroleum jelly or lanolin, for serious locking in of moisture.
- ◆ On that note, remember the occlusive ingredient might protect your skin from drying out further, but it won't replenish your skin's moisture the way the humectant will. Hence, the order of application is important.
- ◆ It's not just about what you apply to your skin. Using a humidifier to moisten the air and drinking plenty of water will go a long way toward protecting you from drying out, no matter how cold and harsh the winter gets.



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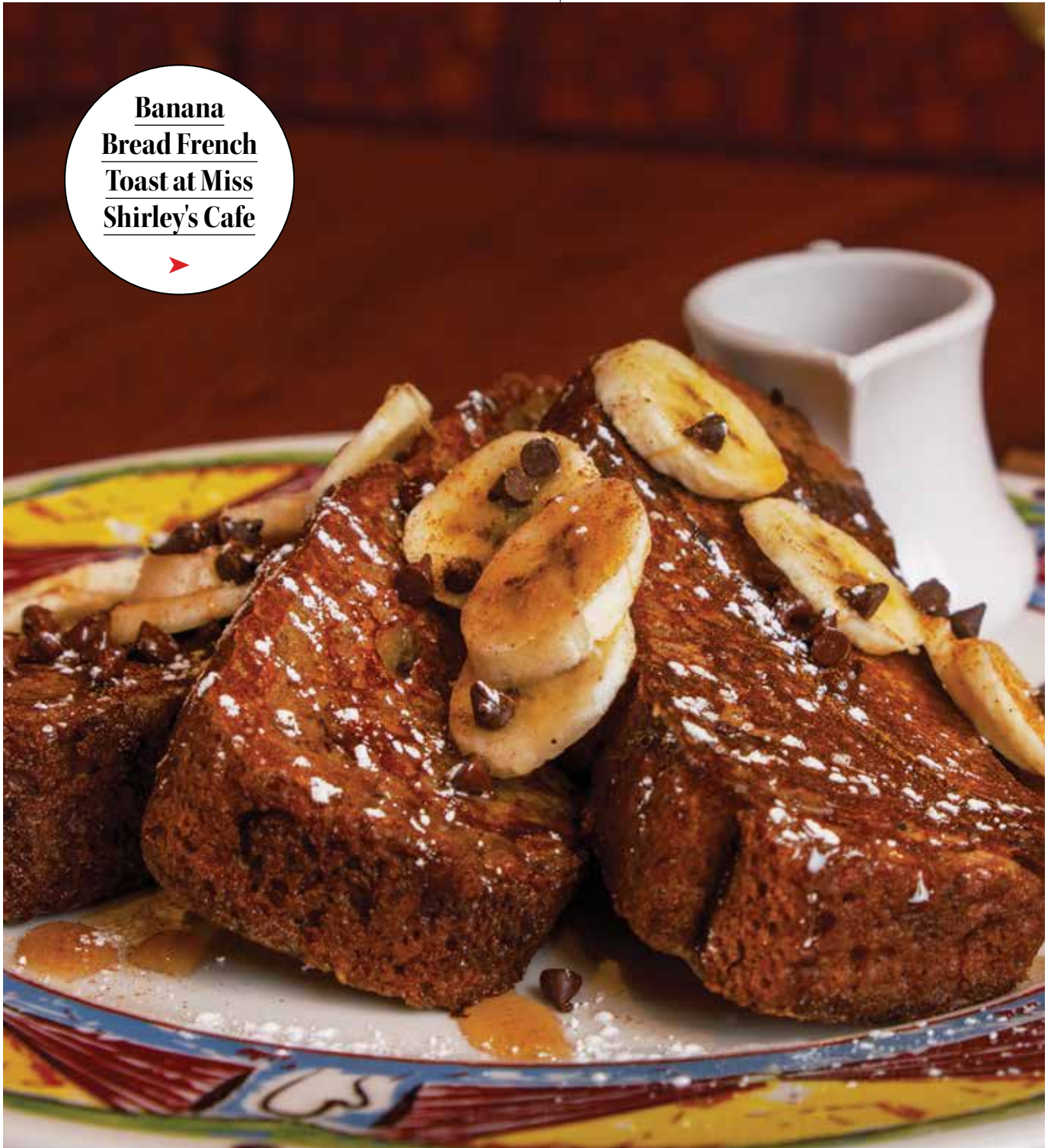


Food & Dining

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**Banana
Bread French
Toast at Miss
Shirley's Cafe**



Southern Comfort Cuisine

By Lisa A. Lewis

Strongly influenced by Southern culinary traditions, Miss Shirley's Cafe offers beloved dishes, such as shrimp and grits, fried chicken, and biscuits and gravy. But perhaps what makes the restaurant truly unique is its creative twist on these classic dishes—reimagining comfort food with a distinct Southern flair.

Conveniently located adjacent to The Westin and The Residence at Park Place in Annapolis, Miss Shirley's Cafe has become a highly sought-after dining destination for both locals and tourists. The family-owned and operated business serves breakfast, brunch, and lunch in a welcoming setting where guests feel at home.

“At Miss Shirley's, we take pride in our beautifully presented plates, flavorful aromas, festive cocktails and mocktails, and prompt and professional service,” says David Dopkin, managing member, Miss Shirley's Management Company. “We offer Southern hospitality, attention to detail, and an upscale-casual award-winning dining experience for our guests.”

In addition to Annapolis, Miss Shirley's Cafe also has locations in Roland Park, Baltimore's Inner Harbor, and BWI Airport.

To learn more, we spoke to Dopkin.



MISS SHIRLEY'S CAFE

1 Park Place, Annapolis • 443-4BRUNCH • missshirleys.com

What makes the Annapolis location special? It's ideally located in the heart of downtown Annapolis and offers Southern charm. I took the best elements from our Roland Park and Inner Harbor locations to help design an efficient operation that our team and our guests would want to experience on a regular basis.

Tell us about your background in the restaurant business. My mom says I was standing in a pack 'n play when I was six months old, lining up the canned goods on the shelves at The Beef Inn, our family's first venture into the restaurant business. When I was six years old, I traveled to College Park, Annapolis, Rockville, and D.C. with my dad [the late Eddie Dopkin, who founded Miss Shirley's Cafe in 2005] on weekends to help at The Bagel Place. At 16, I spent weekends working on the back of The Classic Catering People truck.

After graduating from the University of Maryland and teaching fifth grade for five years, I served as the Director of Food Service for the Baltimore Ravens with The Classic Catering People. When my father relocated the original 42-seat Miss Shirley's location in Roland Park across the street to a much larger footprint in 2007, my wife, Brandy, and I came on board to help grow our upscale, casual cafe and later expanded to the Inner Harbor in 2008 and Annapolis in 2011.

How did it feel to celebrate Miss Shirley's 20th anniversary this year? We felt a sense of pride in our creativity, consistency, and perseverance, as well as great appreciation for our loyal guests and for the dedication of our passionate team. The majority of our management team has worked with Miss Shirley's for over 10 years—and many are close to 20 years, such as Corporate Executive Chef Zuri Coles! We've been celebrating all year!



What are some of your top-selling dishes? One of our top-selling dishes is our Blueberry & White Chocolate Chip Pancakes, which are on our menu under our Griddle Cakes listing of Best Pancakes in the Country by Food Network. The Cy Young Omelet with egg whites, applewood-smoked bacon, spinach, and white cheddar is also a crowd pleaser. Gluten-free guests opt for our Fresh Banana, Pineapple, Strawberry, Blueberry, or Chocolate Chip Gluten-Free Pancakes, which were voted best gluten-free pancakes by *The Baltimore Sun*.

Which dishes truly showcase your Southern-inspired cuisine? Guests travel from near and far to try Get Your Grits On, which includes jumbo blackened shrimp on fried green tomatoes, stone-ground grits with diced bacon, tomato, and chives, and roasted corn emulsion, dusted with Cajun spice (as seen on Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*).

If I didn't have your attention at shrimp and grits, explore our other dishes, including Pimento Cheese Biscuits; Grandpa's Cornbread; Hot Honey Fried Chicken Deviled Eggs; Pineapple Upside Down Griddle Cakes; Fried Chicken, Biscuit & Gravy Omelet; Shirley's Gumbo; and our signature Chicken 'N Cheddar Green Onion Waffles (also seen on *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*).

What is one of your most popular cocktails? The Spicy Shirley, our version of a Bloody Mary, is made with our house-made Bloody Mary mix and vodka and garnished with a skewer consisting of a green tomato slice, green olive, lemon and lime wedges, peppadew, bourbon-infused pickled okra, and a jalapeño slice, along with a celery stalk and an Old Bay rim. It's like a drink and a salad all in one! The cocktail won "Best Bloody Mary" in *What's Up? Media's* Best of Annapolis.

Why is it important for Miss Shirley's to offer options for guests with food allergies? We want our guests to feel included at the dining table. We're proud to have peanut, tree nut, and sesame-free kitchens and "CONTAINS" statements on our menus to make the dining experience safer for our guests.



MISS SHIRLEY'S CAFE "GRANDPA'S CORNBREAD"

Yields 1 loaf or 8–10 each muffins

Ingredients	
2 large eggs	1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1.5 cups buttermilk	1 teaspoon kosher salt
4 ounces unsalted butter, melted	1 cup flour
2 tablespoons brown sugar	1 cup cornmeal
2 tablespoons granulated sugar	1/2 cup (4 oz) chopped peppadew
1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 tablespoon fresh chives, finely chopped
	2 each fresh white corn

Method

Remove husk from corn and remove corncob. Rub corn with tiny bit of olive oil and place on oven-safe sheet tray. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Bake in 350 oven for about 15–20 minutes. Remove from oven when cooked and slightly browned. Let cool and then cut corn off cob carefully. In large bowl place dry ingredients – cornmeal, flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Stir together to mix. Add eggs, buttermilk, sugar, and melted butter. Mix together until it just comes together—scraping sides of bowl well. Add chives, peppadews, and roasted corn. Stir just to incorporate evenly. Do not over mix. Heat oven to 350 degrees. If using bread loaf pan, spray with pan spray and scrape mix into pan. If using muffin pan, spray muffin pan or use muffin cups. Scoop batter into each hole about half full. For loaf, bake for about 40–45 minutes, rotating halfway through. Loaf is done when toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. For muffins, cook for 18–20 minutes, rotating halfway through. Muffins are done when toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Once removed from oven, let cool and serve. Bread will keep for 3 days covered at room temperature or refrigerated for 4–5 days (may also freeze for up to 1–2 months in sealed Ziploc bag).



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 editor@whatsupmag.com and let us know! And for the full guide, visit whatsupmag.com.

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1107 Turkey Point Road, Edgewater; 410-798-8338; harperswaterfront.com \$\$\$, Reservation Only ●●●●●

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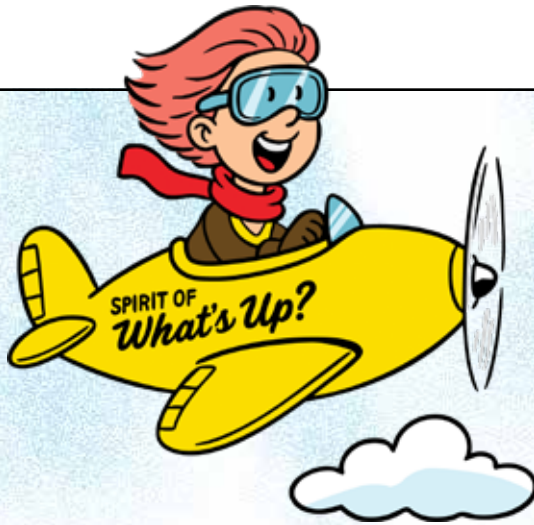
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Where's Wilma? ➤

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Brrr! Even though the Chesapeake Bay region is experiencing it's chilliest weather of the year, our fearless flying mascot Wilma still soars the skies in search of the best dining, shopping, and pampering. 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 Dottie P. of Odenton, who won a \$50 gift certificate to a local business.

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Entries must be received by January 31, 2026. Winner will receive a gift certificate to a local establishment and their name will appear in an upcoming issue of What's Up? Annapolis. **Mail entries to:** Where's Wilma? Central Maryland, 900 Bestgate Road, Ste. 202, Annapolis, MD 21401 or fill out the form at whatsupmag.com/promotions.

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Key School	36, LIE
Lime & Salt	158
Luminis Health AAMC	6
Mamma Roma	152
Mia Anderson, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Homesale Realty	141
Miss Shirley's Cafe	157
Monsignor Slade Catholic School	LIE
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F4AC
FISH FOR A CURE

THANK YOU!

Mark your calendars!

Fish For A Cure 2026 will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

We're deeply grateful to our sponsors, captains, anglers, volunteers, and community partners for making the 2025 Fish For A Cure Tournament, Paul C. Dettor Captain's Challenge, and Shore Party an incredible success! Thanks to your generosity, we raised more than \$1.2 million in 2025, bringing our total to over \$7.7 million in support of the Cancer Survivorship Program at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center's Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Institute.

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