

WOMEN TO WATCH

2022

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Leslie J. Berg, a Maryland native, has been owner/operator of Calvert County's pet care facility, Interlude Pet & Spa for the last 23 years. A born animal lover, Leslie has been involved with animals all her life. She started in the industry over 37 years ago working for the founders of The American Boarding Kennel Association. As Leslie's passion for animal care grew, and with a lot of hard work, she began her journey toward owning a successful pet care facility. Among other positions, Leslie worked as a surgery technician, in pre and post operative surgery in a veterinary clinic. She was certified in canine dentistry through AVDA (American Veterinary Dental Association) Finally coming to her current career position of Owner/Operator of her own pet care facility. Interlude Pet Resort has grown with the industry to encompass all the many advances in the pet care industry, such as including professional groomers, dog trainers, dog daycare, and other related pet care services. She and her staff continue to take advantage of the many resources provided by leading experts by attending yearly seminars, continuing education, and certification courses including pet CPR/First Aid provided by the trade organization IBPSA (International Boarding Pet Services Association). But overall, she and her staff offer plenty of love for all of the pets in their care.

Owning Interlude has provided opportunities for her to partner with local rescue groups, giving back to the community through donation of much needed foster space, holding successful adoption events, saving healthy animals who would have otherwise been euthanized. Two of her three pets were rescues and each staff member has adopted one or more of Interlude pets as well.

Leslie encourages interested pet parents to stop in to take a tour at any time during business hours to meet the staff, discuss your pets like, dislikes, and special needs. **Interlude is located in St. Leonard right off Route 4 Calvert Beach Road.**



Evalyne Bryant-Ward,
MBA, DBA, CAPPm



Ivelisse Michel,
MD, Chief of Staff

Congratulations

Two of Southern Maryland's "Women to Watch"

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WOMEN TO WATCH 2022

We invite you to read about extraordinary women in our community and their accomplishments! This program spotlights the work, dedication, talents and community service of women in Southern Maryland who continue to lead in their respective fields and those who embody strength, vitality, leadership, and integrity for our community. We invited readers to nominate and vote for these women who exemplify excellence, both in navigating their career path and as community leaders.

Our portal that accepted nominations was open on SoMdNews.com from Friday, January 19, 2022 through Friday, February 9, 2022. During this 3-week period, we received 235 nominations of extraordinary women who work or reside in the Southern Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's. The Women to Watch committee ultimately decided to keep the nomination portal open for an extra week to accommodate the volume of nominations flooding in during the period the nomination portal was open.

An APG Media of Chesapeake internal committee and an external committee made up of community members met after nominations closed. They embarked on the extraordinarily difficult task of identifying women to interview for the 2022 Southern Maryland Women to Watch Magazine. The committee worked through a set of criteria for the nominees. The criteria includes nominees' community service, professional accomplishments and entrepreneurship as well as their work with mentoring and inspiring others.

As you can imagine, it was an exceedingly difficult decision. Each nominee had invaluable contributions indelible both in the community and workplace. The names within these pages represent women who are breaking stereotypes to positively impact our world today while inspiring future generations.

Each year, we anticipate the program to grow and develop even further. We will be augmenting our internal selection committee to include female leaders in several vital categories like education, health, philanthropy, and science. We would also like to develop mentoring opportunities from this program to pair the extraordinary women recognized within the magazine with younger girls in our communities for role modeling. So, enjoy, read on and join us in saluting the trailblazers featured within.

— The Women to Watch 2022 Committee

WOMEN TO WATCH 2022

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AMANDA PERETICH

Owner/Coach

A2O Fit: Home of CrossFit Panthera

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

I was so surprised! It's an absolute honor. I love what I do each and every day; I love working with people and I love giving back to this community.

WHAT IS SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT RUNNING A GYM?

I definitely don't get to just work out all day, every day. I have to specifically plan time in my day to get in a good workout when I'm not coaching a class. One aspect that is different about a CrossFit class versus your typical group fitness class is that we aren't working out with or at the front of the class — we are walking

around, modifying movements, interacting with members, correcting and adjusting form and weights, and encouraging and motivating folks. I am blessed with an amazing coaching staff that allows me to have time each day to take an hour for myself to get in a good workout in class with everyone else.

I don't have your typical "9 to 5" job either. We offer coach-led classes, which means they need to be offered at times when people are off work, so we have classes starting at 5 a.m. (before work), in the middle of the day (lunch breaks and stay-at-home parents), and evening classes (for after work), ending sometimes at 9 p.m., with "down time" in the middle of the day for the

business side of the gym. I absolutely love what I do, though, so it never really feels like working.

Most people also don't know how expensive all of the little things are that add up, along with the time and investment into the coaching staff and continuing education, leading to higher membership prices than a standard globo-gym.

WHO OR WHAT ENCOURAGES YOU?

My biggest fan was always my dad. He passed away from colon cancer in 2020, but he constantly encouraged me and continually told me how proud he was of the work I was doing from a very young age. He was involved in everything (volunteer firefighter, rescue squad, Air Force, public service, fire safety, softball and so much more) and always seemed to know everyone. I am absolutely my father's daughter because I love to be involved in things I'm passionate about (and I always stay super busy). Now, when I accomplish something new, I know he's looking down on me and smiling.

In addition, the people at the facility also encourage me on a daily basis. When they show up and give it their best, pushing a little bit outside of their comfort zone, they reach new goals and accomplish things they never thought possible. I'm a people person, so I love to be around people that want to be here and want to make this the best hour of their day.

“There's no magic pill for health and wellness.”

WOMEN TO WATCH

PROFILE 2022



WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF YOUR COACHING PHILOSOPHY?

It's YOU vs. YOU here. We don't care if you modify a movement or "scale" a workout. It doesn't matter if you run a 5 minute mile or walk half a mile in 20 minutes. You can deadlift 500 pounds or 55 pounds. We want you to be happy, healthy, and able to come back another day for another workout. We want folks to move well (mechanics) consistently before we increase weights or distance or movement difficulty (intensity). This is a fitness marathon, not a sprint.

WHAT IS SOMETHING PEOPLE CAN DO EVERYDAY TO BE HEALTHIER?

There's no magic pill for health and wellness. Move your body, drink water, eat healthy foods (especially protein and veggies), and sleep more. Find something you love to do and people you love to do it with to support you along the way. [W2W](#)



STACY HUTCHINSON

Associate Director of Administration
Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

It's an absolutely amazing feeling and I am so grateful to be recognized for the work I do. I am very proud of the group I work with who help me make a difference every day.

WHAT IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF WITH THE LAB?

The abrupt transition the pandemic caused in 2020 forced us to quickly become an institution that operated off-site while simultaneously ensuring that animal care and facility operations on-site were managed. For the past several years I have worked

diligently to develop business practices and lead our facilities and operations managers to work cohesively, effectively and efficiently and to empower the entire team to be innovative when developing practices and to remain open to change. I was very proud of the seamless transition we were able to achieve when faced with operating remotely with little notice.

For the few of us who needed to be on-site, knowing that the off-site functions were running smoothly allowed us to spend time researching and making campus modifications to bring everyone back to safe and healthy buildings. All of this happens when forward thinking is a part of the normal operation.

WOMEN TO WATCH PROFILE 2022

WHAT DRIVES YOU?

I am not a person who shies away from a challenge so overcoming obstacles is something that gives me a great sense of satisfaction. While I enjoy projects that put a quick check mark on the to-do list, it is the projects and issues that require thinking outside the box and, sometimes seem impossible, that give me a great sense of accomplishment. There are two quotes that I rely on:

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." Mother Teresa

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." Ruth Bader-Ginsburg

WHAT IS A COMMON MISCONCEPTION WHEN IT COMES TO THE ENVIRONMENT?

"I can't make a difference in this enormous environmental problem" is completely false. By taking responsibility for your personal carbon footprint, you will make a difference.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT YOU AND WHAT YOU DO?

Work on reducing that big carbon footprint. Humans are very social and we all like to fit-in with others. Your actions are noticed and will influence others. Find ways to conserve energy and water (LED light bulbs are great.) Reduce your trash and recycle (remember, all waste has a negative impact.) And, reuse and re-purpose whenever possible. Conserving and educating doesn't have to be gigantic or painful to make a difference. Start with small changes and take it from there. W&W

Conserving and reducing doesn't have to be gigantic or painful to make a difference.



Located in Solomons, CBL is the founding laboratory of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. We congratulate Stacy on this well-deserved recognition. Stacy joins a distinguished group of CBL women whose achievements have been applauded this past year, including:

- Dr. Lora Harris, who has been awarded the University of Maryland's Wilson H. Elkins Endowed Professorship & named a Fulbright Scholar
- Dr. Carys Mitchelmore, who serves on several National Academy of Science's Committees & authored 2021's most downloaded research paper (sunscreens & corals) in the journal *Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry*
- Dr. Christina Goethel, a recent graduate who has been named a Fulbright Scholar & received the UMCES Student Service Award
- Amber Fandel, a master's student who has received a prestigious John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship
- Members of CBL's American Association of University Women chapter, who worked with partners to create *Through Ebony Eyes*, a digital story that documents the history of African Americans in Calvert County

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory celebrates Stacy Hutchinson, one of our Women to Watch



Congratulations to all of the Women to Watch Nominees!

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Thank you for nominating our owner
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Thank you to all the
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Special congratulations
to Corae Young,
a 2022 Woman to Watch!

“...It’s more
blessed to give
than to receive.
— Acts 20:35

CORAE YOUNG

Assistant Director
Lifestyles of Maryland

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

I feel honored and grateful. It was an unexpected surprise! I appreciate those that have seen my work in the community and felt it valuable enough to not only be recognized, but to be selected as one of the top nominees in the midst of such successful and inspiring women around Southern Maryland. I’m humbled.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART ABOUT WORKING FOR LIFESTYLES?

I love seeing how the services LifeStyles offers become transformational in the lives of others. Those that we serve are more than just a number, or an application, or a referral. They are individuals that come to us, many times in crisis, who entrust us with fulfilling the services requested to help them overcome obstacles they face. It’s a powerful experience to have every day, knowing that what we do allows us to pour into someone else. Success varies for each household we serve; this is their journey and it’s rewarding when we are part of the process of them accomplishing their goals.

IN ALL YOU DO YOU SEEM TO BE HELPING OTHERS. WHERE DOES THAT COME FROM?

Helping others comes from my relationship with God. He has gifted me the ability to not only see where there’s a need but be solutions-driven on how to address it. I thrive off building relationships with various community and government partners that look at the overall needs of those less fortunate. I am passionate about service and servanthood.

What we do at LifeStyles is not a “9 to 5,” but it’s part of who I am. It drives me daily. It gives me a sense of purpose. It humbles me. I saw my parents, who have served in pastoral ministry for years, give of themselves to help others. They instilled those same values in me. I am reminded of the scripture, “...It’s more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)



HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS?

We need the community to advocate for the needs of those that may not be able to fight for themselves. This is done partly by understanding the daily crisis that those who are homeless face: The crisis of finding somewhere safe to lay their head each night; the lack of vital records that will allow them to obtain employment and other services; the inability to provide nutritious meals for their families; the limited access to transportation; and, the rising cost to live.

The reality is that this pandemic has shown our community that most households are one paycheck away from being homeless. Homeless persons deserve more than shelters — they deserve affordable housing. They deserve to live in a community where they can work and also afford to live. They deserve to find jobs that offer livable wages to meet the increased cost of living. We need to push our elected officials to better understand and implement effective policies that support this philosophy.

Safe and affordable housing is deserved by all.

WHAT IS A GOAL YOU HAVE IN THE FUTURE?

To expand my personal business, Young Consulting Services, to provide consulting and technical assistance services for faith-based and nonprofit entities. This pandemic has shifted what society sees as valuable and necessary and I want to be a change agent to help support these entities in meeting the holistic needs of people. More than ever, people need relationships. People need solid foundations. People need to find peace. I want to help equip these organizations to be this solution for those they serve. [WAV](#)



CPL. JEN BROWN

Criminal Justice Program Instructor
Charles County Sheriff's Office

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

It feels amazing to think that someone has been paying attention to what I'm doing and felt strongly enough to nominate me out of the many wonderful women in Southern Maryland. I am truly grateful to be acknowledged!

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART ABOUT BEING A POLICE OFFICER?

The most rewarding part about being a police officer is building relationships with people from all walks of life. Many times when I am off duty, people will recognize me from a situation and will update me on their lives since our interaction. It is rewarding knowing that I had

an impact on their life. More recently, I ran into a person who I met when she was going through a tough time managing her mental illness. She recognized me off duty and said she wanted to share that after that day, she got the help she needed and is now doing well. Knowing that I may have helped her, even the slightest, is extremely rewarding and reassuring that I am doing the right thing.

HOW DO YOUR STUDENTS RESPOND TO YOUR TEACHING?

I believe my students respond well to my teaching. We have an open dialogue in the classroom where students can express their interests and ideas in criminal justice and social issues in the world today. I genuinely enjoy listening to their thoughts regarding law enforcement while also sharing my own ideas based on my experiences on the job. This opportunity to be in the classroom is helping bridge the gap between the youth and law enforcement.

WHY IS ESTABLISHING INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS SO IMPORTANT IN YOUR JOB?

Establishing interpersonal relationships is so important to my job because this is where success in the classroom stems from. Getting to know these students and listening to them is the foundation to knowing how to best support them. Every day I work hard to show them that I not only care about their success but want to be a role model in their lives. I enjoy extending my support outside of the classroom and love attending their sporting events, concerts and plays to boost our relationship and build trust. Not only does it help build relationships with my students, but these relationships

often extend to students that I don't personally teach. This helps to increase the trust throughout the school and this trust between law enforcement and students is what facilitates a safer environment.

WHAT IS SOMETHING VALUABLE YOU'VE LEARNED BEING A CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTRUCTOR?

Through this experience I have learned to be open-minded. As an adult, you can become accustomed to your way of thinking; however, being a teacher has taught me that generations continue to change, and that I can learn from them as much as they can learn from me. The differences between our generations are often extreme and our experiences are so different, even though both my students and I are products of Charles County. They have taught me so much that has enhanced my way of thinking and operating, and I can only hope that they are growing as much as I am. W2W

“ This is where success in the classroom stems from. ”



Heather Maertens

Owner/Operator

Maertens Fine Jewelry

Story by Morgan Miller
Submitted photos

Maertens Fine Jewelry is owned by Chesapeake Beach native Heather Maertens. Maertens has been in the jewelry industry for almost 30 years and has progressed her career to a custom designer. Maertens Jewelry opened in 2002 and since has been considered one of the most unique jewelers in the Chesapeake Bay region. Maertens Jewelry is a traditional

jewelry store selling everything from silver to diamond jewelry as well as custom designs. Maertens Jewelry can be found in stores from Maine all the way down the East Coast to Key West. Maertens Jewelry is known to have multiple collections.

Her jewelry consists of seashells, seahorses, horseshoe crabs, crabs, jellyfish and more. "Jewelry is sentimental and each

piece has its own story attached," said Maertens. "I create pieces that will be passed down and cherished for generations to come."

Maertens said there is a misconception that the jewelry industry is female-dominated, when in fact it is not. It is often thought that women are involved in jewelry design, while men are involved with making the jewelry. Maertens is involved in all



aspects of making jewelry including design, creating, setting the jewelry and more.

Maertens attended one of the oldest jewelry schools in the country, Gem City College in Quincy, Ill. During her time at Gem City College, she learned to make tools, sketch jewelry designs with pencil and paper and hand graving.

"When we first opened the store and would go to shows, we would be among tons of men in suits," Maertens said. "When I would first take classes, I would look around and I was not only the only woman but I would be one of the youngest in the room. So it is definitely more rare for a woman to own a jewelry store."

Before the store opening, Maertens said she was always making jewelry and had a booth at the Artsfest at Annmarie Garden. Annmarie Garden held the Seahorses by the Bay program where 25 seahorse statues were placed around the county and local students would paint the seahorses. Maertens was soon asked if she could make a replica of the seahorses, sell them and then donate the profit back to the project. This then evolved into a collection of jewelry which is what Maertens Jewelry is known for. Clients often come in to see what has been added and then collect each year's new pieces.

All employees of the store are friends and family members of

Maertens. Although a few men have worked at the store, a majority of the employees are women. Along with running her own business with the help of her friends and family, Maertens has many community efforts within the county.

Maertens also created a 501(c)3 which she holds annually at Sniffany's. This fundraiser is held for people in the community and their pets. During the fundraiser there is an auction, brunch, various contests, music and a dog treat buffet. All of the money raised at the event is given back to local Southern Maryland animal rescues.

“Rescue is something I like to

support because the people work so hard and they love animals,” said Maertens.

For years, Maertens was the chair of the decorating committee for the Calvert County Mardi Gras Ball. In this position Maerten would come up with a theme, form a committee and then make the decorations for the event. For several years, Maertens would donate the Razzle Dazzle Raffle for one guest to win. The winner would receive a selection of jewelry and gifts from her company.

With the help of her friends, family and clients, Maertens has grown her business into a well-known company

throughout more than just Southern Maryland. Her focus on locally handmade jewelry is something both community members and tourists look for when in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Here is what her nominator wrote about her: Heather has been in the jewelry industry for nearly 30 years. She began her craft in the fine jewelry industry as an apprentice, progressing her career to a custom designer of fine jewelry. In addition to helping Calvert's nonprofits through auction donations and sponsorships, Breakfast at Sniffany's raises thousands of dollars for animal shelters and rescue groups in Southern Maryland. [w2v](#)



“ I was not only the only woman but I would be one of the youngest in the room.
— Heather Maertens

Thank You

for nominating our Cofounder & CEO
Tammy L.S. Wright
as one of Southern Maryland's
2022 Women to Watch!



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LORI HERON

Executive Director
Project ECHO

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

Knowing that my community has nominated me for the Woman to Watch title because of the work I do with the homeless, is truly an honor.

HOW DO YOU MAKE PEOPLE FEEL SAFE THROUGH PROJECT ECHO?

I feel that every person deserves a place to feel safe and comfortable and this is what ECHO does. I work to enable the homeless residents in the Shelter to feel this way by giving them a place, out of the elements, to lay their heads. We provide residents with essentials, such as showers, all meals, items they may need for personal care, and most of all, peace of mind, knowing, with structure, guidance and hard work, they can overcome their current situation and move forward toward new goals of becoming self reliant.

Most of our residents understand how they got into this position and they are looking for guidance to better themselves. I am here to listen to their stories, offer them possibilities and encourage them to use the 90 days to work on themselves and their goals. We also send them to the appropriate agencies offering help.

Something as simple as a smile or an "I am proud of how you can alter someone's day. Everyone's situation is not the same and the reasons that lead them to Project ECHO will differ, but offering them a moment to take a breath and feel safe, is one of my main priorities as Executive Director of Project ECHO.



WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

At ECHO we work hard to move our residents toward their goals of positive self esteem and independence.

Everyone deserves their own private place to call home. My challenge is helping them build that self care that allows them to go out and find places in the county they can afford.

However, with COVID many landlords are not renting but selling. So that brings a lack of affordable rentals in our community along with the high cost of the rentals is another problem.

So, having said that, the lack of affordable housing in the county is a strong point of frustration for me and for those I am trying to help and support as they work toward success.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT YOU?

Volunteer - Volunteering time to work directly with people experiencing homelessness is one of the best ways to learn about and help meet the immediate needs at the same time.

There is a lot of "behind the scenes" work (helping in the office, filing, sorting clothes, providing a meal, making cookies, etc.) being done at the shelter. The ECHO Thrift Shop is always in need of volunteers.

Volunteers can sit on a committee helping with fundraising for our Turkey Trot and Empty Bowl Supper. These are two of our major fundraisers.

Advocate - Talk to your churches neighbors, friends and organizations about the needs of the shelter. Bring awareness that the homeless are here.

Help change the way people see the homeless. They are not the TV version of a homeless person. They are your neighbors. They are men, women and children, families who lost their homes during COVID, friends who lost their jobs, they are human.

Working with and understanding those experiencing homelessness will help bring about positive changes in policies and programs on the local, state and federal levels.

Contribute - While the concern and support demonstrated by volunteer work and advocacy are essential, monetary and material assistance is a necessity. The smallest donation can make a difference. We as a community can make a difference.

Continue to educate yourself, your family and your community about homelessness.

Continue to educate yourself, your family and your community about homelessness.

WHAT IS ENRICHING ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

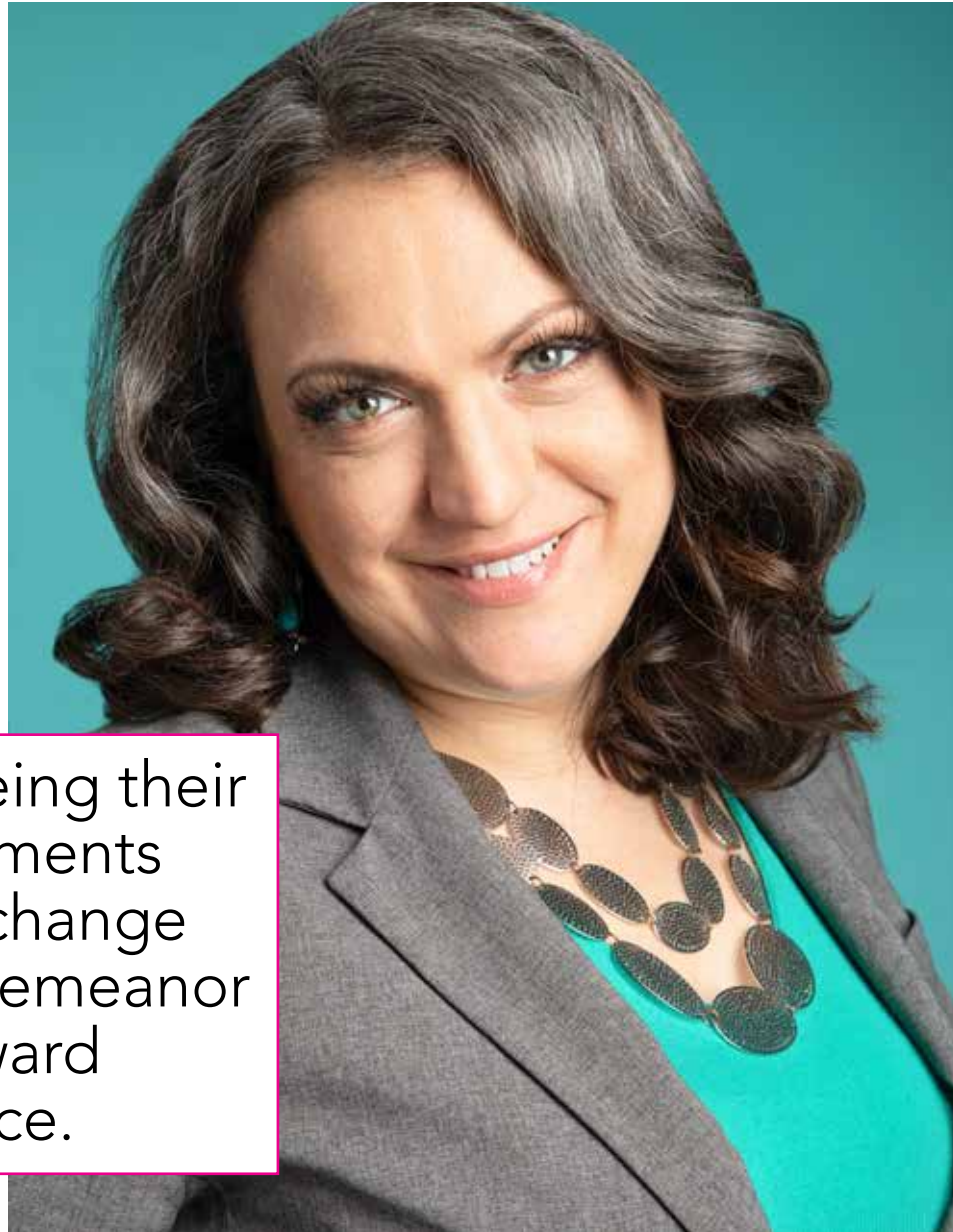
Knowing that my everyday work makes a difference in the lives of those who are experiencing homelessness and offering hope when they have none.

Yes, sometimes it is hard. But I have invested 29 years at Project ECHO and I am not giving up.

One of my greatest joys is seeing a former resident return and share with me that they are okay. When they tell me what they have been doing with their lives and how they have been working toward success, they often share something my staff, a volunteer or I said to them that encouraged them and had an impact on their lives.

This is my reward. ECHO has made a lasting impact.

This makes me feel fulfilled and grateful. *WAW*



“ I love seeing their ‘aha’ moments and the change in their demeanor and outward confidence.”

MARYANNA LANHAM
Executive Director
Dream Queen Foundation & Athena Financial Services

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?
 I feel honored. There are so many great women in our community that I am surprised and grateful to be recognized. I have made such a large leap over the last few months in taking on the role of executive director of the Dream Queen Foundation and it is nice to see that my efforts are working.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART ABOUT YOUR WORK WITH THE DREAM QUEEN FOUNDATION?
 The most rewarding part of working with the Dream Queen Foundation is when I get reports from our clubs that show the progress of the girls. We are currently hosting Gals Lead, our teen mentorship and leadership program, at Westlake, Leonardtown, and Great Mills.



When I receive updates on increased confidence and decreased absences, I know we are making a difference. I am also a facilitator (mentor) at Leonardtown High School and every meeting with them is rewarding. I love seeing their “aha” moments and the changes in their demeanor and outward confidence.

WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF BEING A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG WOMEN?
 Young women today are bombarded with information while also being isolated. It is strange to think you can be in your room surrounded by so much information that you can’t process and still be so alone. When I was younger, I could go home and let go of the bullies until the next day. This barrage of information and self-doubt is hurting their minds. Giving these girls (she/her they/them) a safe space within the club and teaching them our lessons helps them to free their minds and learn to think for themselves, which are all great tools to battle mental health issues. We give them space to express their feelings while covering the curriculum. We work through the four pillars of success (1) Dream Big (2) Dream Big (3) Overcome Obstacles (4) Take action.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS WITH EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS?
 The community is paramount in reaching the girls and furthering exposure. The best way we have found to disseminate the materials is through weekend experiences and in school programs. I would like to have a club in every middle and high school in Southern Maryland by fall of 2024. I feel the best way to make



this happen is word of mouth, introductions, and referrals. If a mother, teacher, father, counselor, therapist, etc. wants a club in their community, they will be the first served. Spreading the word, donating, attending events, or volunteering are other ways to get involved.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE REACHING FOR IN THE FUTURE WITH THE DREAM QUEEN FOUNDATION?
 My goal is to have steady predictable funding to support our clubs over the long term and to start more women’s networking groups and Gals Lead clubs throughout Maryland and nationally. I have seen the positive results. I know what we can accomplish, and I am dedicated to finding a long-term solution to keep the Dream Queen Foundation moving forward. [w2w](#)





Cameron Errington

Owner/Operator

Maryland Roots LLC

Story by Morgan Miller
Photos by In His Grace Photography

Valley Lee born and raised, Cameron Errington has always had a passion for working outside, landscaping and lawn care. She has been involved in both for years.

Errington attended Leonardtown High School. As she went through school and other jobs, she soon learned she did not prefer an office job but rather liked to work on the go, outside. Today, Cameron is 25-years-old and the owner of Maryland Roots LLC.

"I really just enjoyed working outside," Errington said. "Throughout my high school years, I would cut grass for people on the weekends and family members just to earn extra money. I also worked other office and administrative jobs because I did not know what I wanted as a career."

Errington took Maryland Roots more seriously in 2015 when she filed for an LLC. She was also in school earning her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

After a full year of Maryland Roots as an official business, she added a good friend of hers in the summer while taking on jobs she could handle. As the business grew, she was able to hire more employees. Errington has had two employees working with her for the last year and she is currently in the process of hiring a third employee.

Lawn care is known to be a predominantly male-operated industry. Errington spent the first couple of years proving herself and learning as a female owner

in the landscaping industry. She has strived to be honest and work hard which has led her to build up a clientele. Errington continues to learn and seek advice from people within the industry.

"I have definitely gotten looked down upon at first because people don't take you seriously," said Errington. "But over time when you establish great relationships with clients, residential and commercial, people realize that you are legit and before long they are calling you."

Errington focuses on pride, quality and customer satisfaction when it comes to her work. She has also expressed her love for the creative and design aspects of her job.

"I really like the landscaping, designing and installing sides," said

Errington. “I really like the design side because you can step back and see what you started with, and what you have in the end.”

Errington was very involved in the community growing up. She is one of four siblings and often played sports within the county. The relationships she developed from growing up in St. Mary’s has helped spread the word about her business.

“Knowing a lot of people has opened a lot of doors and it has helped with resources,” said Errington.

Along with word-of-mouth advertising, Errington stays very active on social media. She has found positive reviews, Facebook, Instagram and Google ads have helped her build trusting relationships with people in the community. Errington expressed that investing more money and time in those types of advertisements has made a significant impact on her customer base.

Errington holds social media giveaways every month. On the first of every month, Errington will post a giveaway basket which followers

can then share on Facebook. The month of March was a dog giveaway basket. The basket included dog treats, toys, accessories and more. All followers who share the post on Facebook are entered into the giveaway.

Another way Errington stays involved with the community is through sponsorships. She often sponsors little league teams and more recently she sponsored a men’s softball team.

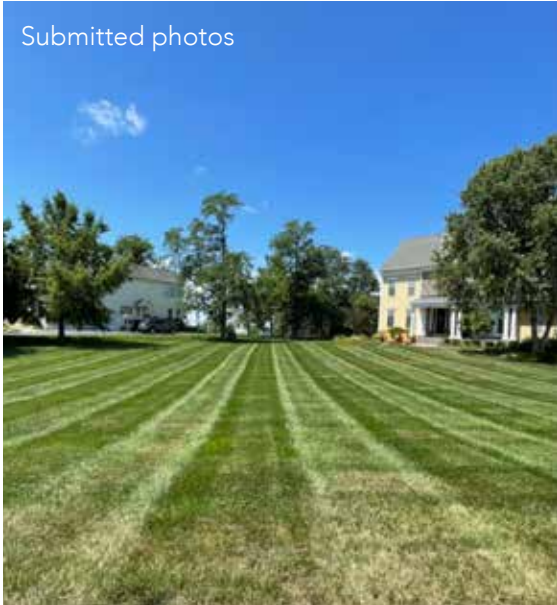
The Maryland Roots website holds multiple pages of five-star reviews which compliment

Cameron and her team’s hard work. Along with her many positive reviews, Maryland Roots was voted #1 Lawn and Landscaping Company in St. Mary’s County in 2021. There were over 100,000 votes across all categories from people in the community.

Errington has always enjoyed serving the community in which she has grown up. She continues to grow her business and continues to aspire to provide the best lawn care services to the Southern Maryland community. [W&W](#)

“Knowing a lot of people has opened a lot of doors and it has helped with resources

— Cameron Errington





WOMEN TO WATCH

PROFILE 2022

MINDY SOWELL

Owner

Assisted Living at Hawkins Gate

“ The goal is to provide the best quality of life and feels great to be able to impact someone’s life for the better.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

It feels great and I appreciate the recognition!

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART ABOUT RUNNING AN ASSISTED LIVING BUSINESS?

It is rewarding knowing you are helping and making a difference in the lives of others. The goal is to provide the best quality of life and feels great to be able to impact someone’s life for the better.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR WORK?

Death and loss of residents. They become like family and even though it is expected, it’s never easy to say goodbye.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT IS MISUNDERSTOOD ABOUT YOUR INDUSTRY?

That moving into assisted living is giving up independence. One of the goals of assisted living is to help promote one’s independence. While help is available when needed, an assisted living environment lets seniors and the disabled lead normal lifestyles for as long as possible.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED IN WHAT YOU DO?

By volunteering at a facility. Having the support of volunteers is welcomed for the benefits it gives to residents and brings the community into the facility. W2W



“ We can be passionate, exemplary, fierce and dedicated together.

RENEE LAFAYETTE

Owner/Attorney

LaFayette Law Office, LLC

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

When told I was selected as a Woman to Watch, I reviewed what this nomination means in Southern Maryland. I found myself reading words such as passionate, dedicated, inspiring, committed to service, exemplary and fierce. I was engulfed by the feeling of humility as I contemplated that colleagues or friends had nominated me to be included in such a list. I feel very grateful.

HOW DO YOU JUGGLE ALL OF YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS?

Because my children are grown, it is much easier to juggle my career and community involvement. As many parents, I went with little sleep for years attempting to “do it all.” Looking back, it was only my faith and my religious community that kept me going. I have finally found a balance and my faith continues to lead me toward community involvement.

WHAT IS ENRICHING ABOUT YOUR WORK IN LAW?

First, I find that helping individuals who are often at an extremely vulnerable place in their lives is the most rewarding part of being a lawyer. They are often in a dark place and do not have the ability to fight for what they are entitled to. Having grown up just outside of Detroit, I always fancied myself as a street fighter. The problem was that I was absolutely terrible at physical fighting. Thus, at an early age I had to learn to fight with my brain. My “street fighter” mentality often takes over for myself and my client. Seeing the clients gain back self-confidence and grow to do things they never thought possible is the best part of my job. Often, clients become my friends and are like family to me. I feel blessed to be able to know and help most of those individuals that I represent.

Second, working with other lawyers is very enriching. The Associate Lawyers at my office are smarter than I can ever hope to be. They constantly challenge me. Though there are some bad apples in every profession, I have found most lawyers to be ethical, caring, civil and involved. I could not ask for a better peer group.

WOMEN TO WATCH PROFILE 2022

WHAT IS SOME ADVICE THAT YOU WOULD GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN WHO WANT TO OR ARE PURSUING CAREERS IN LAW?

While there are many types of law in which one may be involved, make sure there is an area which you are excited to embrace. If you cannot find any specialized type of law in which you may be passionate, find a different vocation. Just because one has a law degree, one does not have to practice law. If you cannot love the law, do what you love. Every job has worth.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN BUT HAVE NOT YET?

I have sometimes been politely criticized for being too involved and overly passionate about issues concerning my neighborhood, state, nation and world. My current passion is the resettlement of migrants. Having come from a family wherein at least three languages were spoken at family dinners, I am greatly moved by and empathetic to the difficulties which our current immigrants face. I have personally seen the contributions offered to our nation by immigrants. Many of the current wave of immigrants who still have not been sponsored served beside our military in Afghanistan and many saved American lives.

Soon, we will be seeing migrants from Ukraine. St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick has agreed to work with the Episcopal Migrant Ministries (EMM) to assist in the resettlement of migrants. Anyone who shares this concern in their heart, may call me at my office. We can be passionate, exemplary, fierce and dedicated together. **W2W**

“ I am always finding ways to uplift those who need it and did the same for me.

SYDNIE CHANDLER MONET' COLLINS

Entrepreneur and podcast host

The Perfect Timing Podcast and Live Your Future Educated – LYFE

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SELECTED AS A WOMAN TO WATCH?

I feel honored and empowered to be selected as a young woman to watch. I've spent so many years hiding behind the books I read and the people I thought deserved the spotlight more than I did. As I've matured, it becomes easier for me to be myself and speak publicly in front of people. I've overcome hiding behind the story and now I am the story. My timid past kept me silent and hidden in darkness. I am proud to be a ballet dancer, motivational speaker, philanthropist, and facilitator, who uses her voice to educate, inspire, and empower. I do not wait for opportunities, I pursue them. Raising my hand has allowed me to be a part of the conversation. I often ask myself, what was I afraid of? The answer was me. Leaders leave legacies for those to follow, and I want to do the same.

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO START A PODCAST?

It was April 2020 during the pandemic, my mother challenged my sister and I to take on an initiative that helps our community. I started to ponder over the idea, and with limited access to organizations and outreach programs due to the COVID restrictions, I decided the first step was to find a problem to create a solution. While doing so, I noticed the growing negativity on the news and social media platforms. So, I had to define my "why" to be a part of the solution and not the problem which motivated me to establish Perfect Timing Podcast.

WHAT IS THE PERFECT TIMING PODCAST ALL ABOUT?

It was early June 2020, I kicked off Perfect Timing Podcast, which is ushering in a new generation of young influencers, celebrities, innovators, entrepreneurs, scholars, authors, activists, and nonprofits on social impact projects by offering a safe platform for them to bring youth positivity to topics of kid empowerment, social justice, and personal development. In response to the digital divide spotlighted throughout the pandemic for youth in underserved communities, Perfect Timing Podcast features Gen Z's who are taking risks to build a business that they could thrive in while making an impact on the world by uplifting and empowering youth with tools to improve themselves by believing that they can overcome all obstacles. To date, 81 episodes have been released on the International Platform iHeartRadio, Spotify, SoundCloud, Apple Podcast and Elite Conversations Life Talk Radio.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GROW AS A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR?

As a Social Entrepreneur and Purpose Driven Influencer and the Founder/CEO of The Perfect Timing Podcast and Live Your Future Educated – LYFE; I am passionate to continue to build on my platform that is inclusive to everyone's needs by providing entrepreneurs and leaders a voice to inspire confidence, empowerment, and inspiration. I plan on doing this by tapping into their desires and learning their "whys" and what I can

WOMEN TO WATCH PROFILE 2022

do to support them because I've always learned that "if you want to go far, go together," as I am always finding ways to uplift those who need it and did the same for me.

As a motivational speaker, I provide inspiration to captivate audiences by delivering multi-platform messages on topics related to empowerment, overcoming obstacles, entrepreneurship, mental health, and mentorship at conferences, seminars, and workshops. I aspire to stretch my platform in a multitude of areas that build love, hope, and opportunities.

WHAT IS A GOAL YOU HAVE IN THE FUTURE?

I am a firm believer in speaking life into existence. As crazy as it may be, or unreachable as it may seem, I feel that I truly wanted what I was striving for, I would get it. I am still learning and growing every day and I plan to take advantage of opportunities that are aligned to my core values, my gifts, and talents. My passion will not box me in, it will make room for other aspirations, such as being a motivational speaker, talk show host, and other occupations that relate. I am open to many opportunities in my career path that could be through the arts, communications, the sciences, politics, and more. My bookmark is leaving footprints wherever I go. In doing all of this, I pray that I learn to be patient, with myself and others, celebrate the little things, and to give myself grace. W&W



Photo by Lindria Dockett Photography

Marilyn Weimer Steele

Owner/Operator

RXBSA Properties, LLC and Clarity Coffee House

Story by Morgan Miller
Photos by Eli Wohlenhaus

Marilyn Weimer Steele and her husband Mark have focused a majority of their time on renovating the town of Indian Head. Steele began RXBSA Properties, LLC and Clarity Coffee House.

About four years ago, Steele acknowledged that the town of Indian Head could benefit from a number of businesses and opportunities. This is when she decided to start the program, RXBSA Properties. Steele buys properties in Indian Head that need to be turned around and fix the properties themselves. RXBSA Properties' business plan is to offer

high quality, great value, at very affordable prices.

Steele and her husband opened Clarity Coffee House in January of 2018. There are two locations: Indian Head and the CSM La Plata campus, which has offered students not just a coffee shop, but also job opportunities.

Steele and her husband are also working on opening a grocery store, called Oasis Fresh Food Market, in 2023. The grocery store will be located close to Clarity Coffee and to Naval Support Facility Indian Head.

Along with Oasis Market, there will be other retail stores added, including an ice-cream

shop. Oasis Market will be an employee-owned venture. Steele encourages the community to use this as an opportunity to grow and has received many supportive responses from residents in the town.

"It has been overwhelmingly clear, they want this, they need this and they will support it," Steele said.

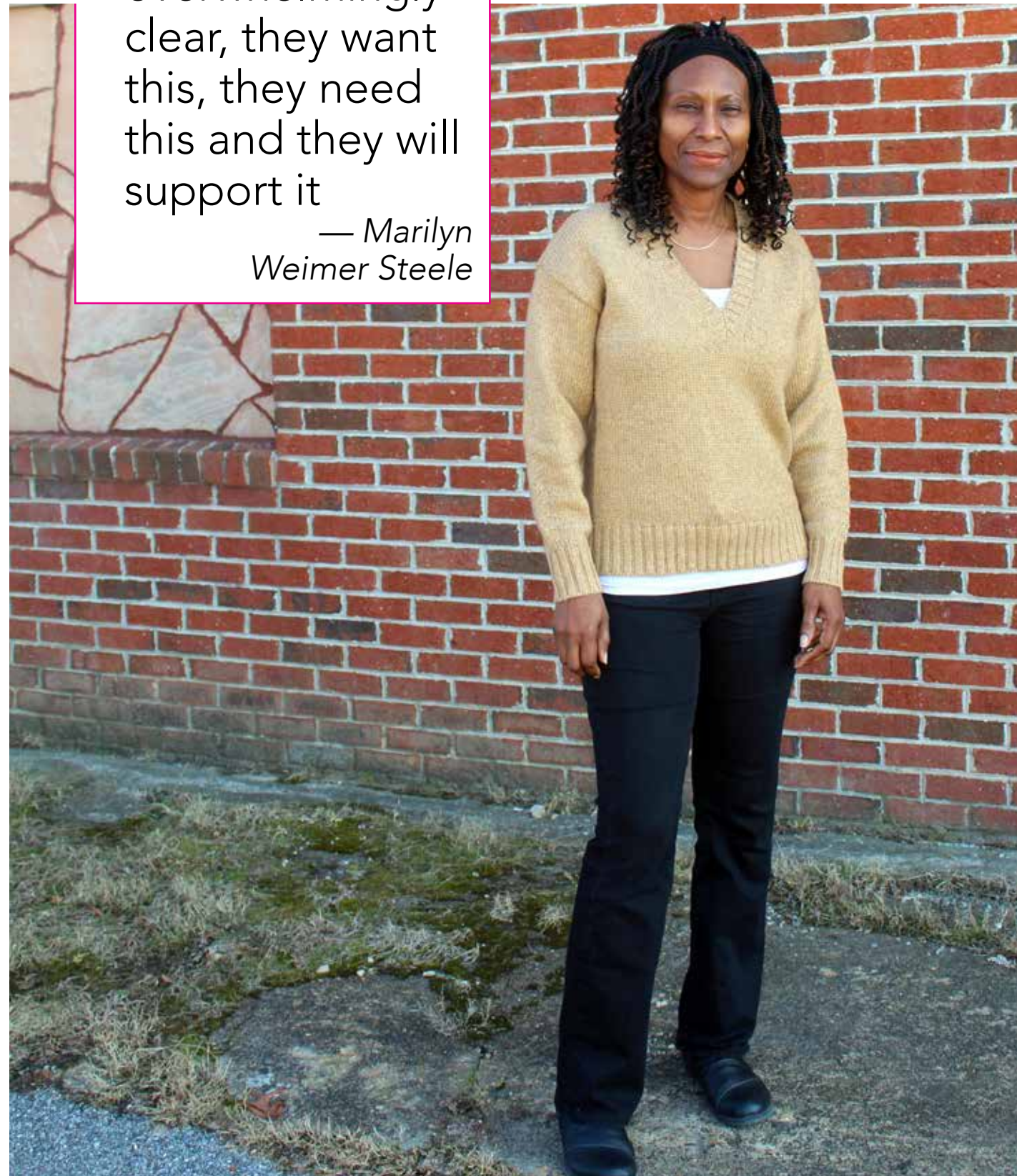
Steele has received an overwhelmingly positive response from the Indian Head community about the renovations of the town. She has received support from council members, the town mayor, commissioners and more.

"The town mayor [Brandon Paulin] has always been



It has been overwhelmingly clear, they want this, they need this and they will support it

— Marilyn Weimer Steele





enthusiastic about how to rebuild this town and a grocery store is central to that,” Steele said. “He came on board very easily and quickly.”

Steele expressed the Oasis Market goes beyond jobs and housing. Indian Head needs healthier people and children and they need better prosperity. She hopes that the Oasis Market will bring a healthier lifestyle

to people in the community.

Steele is also an Army Veteran and has expressed that although she does not have strictly veteran-owned companies or programs, everything she does is from that mindset. In terms of the Oasis Market, a major part of the establishment of the company is the Sailors and Marines at the Naval Support Facility in Indian Head.

She has taken into consideration many of her own experiences in the military when she does anything in the community.

“This has been one of the hardest things I have done, and still I think it is the right thing to do,” Steele said. “I don’t know if I would call it passion, I just know somehow, somewhere in the universe it is the right thing to do.” **W2W**

A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day

MARCH 14, 2022 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Equal pay is a matter of justice, fairness, and dignity — it is about living up to our values and who we are as a Nation. For over 25 years, Equal Pay Day has helped draw attention to gender-based pay disparities by highlighting how far into a new year a woman must work, on average, to earn what a man did in the previous year.

This year, Equal Pay Day falls on March 15, the earliest we have ever marked the occasion. The earlier that Equal Pay Day arrives, the closer our Nation has come to achieving pay fairness. But while we should celebrate the progress we have made, as I have said in the past, we should not be satisfied until Equal Pay Day is no longer necessary at all.

In 2020, the average woman working full-time, year-round, for wages or a salary earned 83 cents for every dollar paid to their average male counterpart. And once again, the disparities are even greater for Black, Native American, Latina, and certain subpopulations of Asian women when compared to white men. Disabled women also continue to experience significant disparities and make 80 cents for every dollar compared to men with disabilities. The pay gap reflects outright discrimination as well as barriers that women face in accessing good-paying jobs and meeting caregiving responsibilities — including a lack of affordable child care, paid family and medical leave, and fair and predictable scheduling — which often prevent women from joining and staying in the workforce.

Over the course of a career, the pay gap can add up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost earnings, particularly for women of color, significantly impacting retirement savings

and uniquely burdening households led by single mothers.

The Biden-Harris Administration has moved quickly to deliver results for women and working families and to dismantle the barriers that women face in the workplace. In our first full year in office, we saw the largest calendar year decline in unemployment. We also saw the strongest economic growth in nearly 4 decades, rising wages, and an estimated nearly 40 percent decline in child poverty. We have turned the tide on women’s labor force participation, which the COVID-19 pandemic had pushed to a more than 30-year low. In addition, my Administration has taken key steps to address pay discrimination, including issuing an Executive Order directing the Office of Personnel Management to take appropriate steps to advance equal pay at Federal agencies. And I have raised the minimum wage for Federal contractors, which has significantly benefitted women — especially women of color — who are disproportionately represented in minimum-wage and low-wage jobs.

We can be proud of that progress — but there is more we need to do. My Administration is fighting to ensure that women have the free and fair choice to organize and collectively bargain for the wages and benefits they deserve and to access training for good-paying jobs in sectors where they have historically been underrepresented. We are working to eliminate anticompetitive barriers that keep women from bargaining for better pay and demanding dignity and respect in the workplace. I have continued to call on the Congress to pass the Pay-check Fairness Act, which would help mitigate sex-based pay discrimination while ensuring greater transparency

and reporting of disparities in wages. And I am continuing to work with the Congress to pass critical legislation that would lower the cost of child care, elder care, home-based health care, and other major barriers to working families, while raising compensation for care workers, who are disproportionately women of color and who have been underpaid and undervalued for far too long.

If we are going to continue our record-breaking recovery and build a truly strong and competitive economy for the future, we have to address the barriers that have long held women back from full participation and fair treatment in the workforce. The founding promise of our Nation is that all people are created equal — and my Administration is committed to ensuring that all Americans have a fair and equal opportunity to get ahead, so that one day soon we can render Equal Pay Day a relic of the past.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 15, 2022, as National Equal Pay Day. I call upon all Americans to recognize the full value of women’s skills and their significant contributions to the labor force, acknowledge the injustice of wage inequality, and join efforts to achieve equal pay.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

WOMEN TO WATCH 2022

Adrienne M. Somerville, Owner, Talent & Technical Solutions Corporation and Somerville Consulting Group, LLC
Alicia P. Hadley, Executive Director, Upward Thrive Academy, Inc.
Amanda Peretich, Owner/Coach, a2o Fit: Home of CrossFit Panthera
Amanda Stewart, M.Ed, Charles County Commissioner, District 3
Amy Lloyd, Musician, Music Teacher, Recording Artist, Wife and Mom
Amy Sater, Special Education Teacher, Captain Walter Francis Duke ES/SMCPS
Angela Lindsey, CFO, Abbey Services, Inc., Children's Book Author
Anna Jones, Real Estate Agent, EXIT Landmark Realty
April Ryan, Art Teacher, George Washington Carver ES/SMCPS
Arlene Dean, Loan Officer, First Home Mortgage
Ashley Herrmann, Owner/Coach/Personal Trainer, Coal Road CrossFit
Audrey Whelan, Founder and CEO, Audrey Whelan Creative
B. F. Glenn, Writer-Editor and CEO, Sixth Sense Publishing
Barbara Whipkey, Owner, Wild Birds Unlimited
Beverly Wiggins, Owner/Director, Victorious Kids Child Care Center
Brandee Izquierdo, Executive Director, SAFE Project
Brianna Bowling, Founder, Retreat & Learn
Brigette Morton, Manager, Huntington Learning Center
Britney Long, Pre-K Teacher, District Heights ES/PGCPS
Cameron Errington, Owner, Maryland Roots LLC Lawn and Landscaping

Carrie Holt, President, La Plata Youth Soccer Association, Govt IT Specialist
Cassandra Okwumabua, Retired Senior Program Analyst, Department of Treasury
Charlene Tsirigotis, Owner, Apple Basket Antiques
Cheryl Bare, Realtor, Century 21 New Millennium
Chris McNellis, Real Estate Broker, Chris McNellis Berkshire Hathaway
Chrissy Joy, Celebrity Dog Trainer/Manager, Bone-A-Fied Talent Group
Christine Gomes, Founder/Co-Owner, T.O.B. Apothecary LLC
Cindy Breck Bouet, President, Millennial Marketing Agency
Corae Young, Assistant Director, Lifestyles of Maryland
Corporal Jen Brown, Criminal Justice Program Instructor, Charles County Sheriff's Office
Crystal Tasker, Owner, Calvert County Tree Experts
Cynthia Schiavetto, Owner, Schiavetto Photography
Danielle Amster, Teacher, Windy Hill ES/CCPS
Darlana Ford, Director, Aunies Learning Center
Darlene Breck, Owner, Southern Maryland Business Center, Co-Founder, Big Hair Ball
Deborah Dotson, Owner, Meridian Fitness Club
Debra Davis, State Legislator, Maryland General Assembly and Lawyer
Dhyana Parker, Management Analyst Contractor, State Department
Diana Diggins, Owner/Stylist, Halo Hair Care Studio
Diane Roberts, School Administrator, Westlake HS/CCPS
Donna Padgett, Owner/Master Optician, Optical Shoppe of La Plata

2022 NOMINEES

Congratulations

Dr. Adeteju Ogunrinde, Pediatrician, Children's Health Care Center
Dr. Betty B. Siu, MD, Internal Medicine Specialist
Dr. CharlRe Slaughter-Atiemo, MD, Owner/Pediatrician, PM Kidz
Dr. Evalyne Bryant-Ward, Councilmember, Town of La Plata
Dr. Ivelisse Michel, Chief of Staff, University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center
Dr. Kadijah Campbell, Founder/Faith Based Counselor, Operation Jumpstart Legacy
Dr. Lynn Fenwick, Veterinarian, Breton Veterinary Hospital
Dr. Margot Geary, M.D., Physician, Southern Maryland Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Center
Dr. Maria Navarro, Ed.D., Charles County Public Schools Superintendent, Charles Co, MD
Dr. Meena Brewster, Health Officer, St. Mary's County Health Department
Dr. Rachel Cezar-Martinez, Adjunct Professor/Veterinarian, College of Southern Maryland
Dr. Rebecca Jahed, Owner/Audiologist, Freedom Hearing Center, LLC
Dr. Shannon Chapman, Dentist, Toothsome Dental
Dr. Trenace N. Richardson, Owner/Founder, Real Women Rock, Leading With Soul Community, Trenace Richardson Enterprises Dynesia Ganaway, Clinician, Compass Nova Counseling
Edith Patterson, Maryland State Representative, House of Delegates, Charles County
Ellen Flowers-Fields, Associate VP Continuing Education & Workforce Development, CSM

Erin Lewis, Founder, Dream Queen Foundation
Gabriela Agostinelli, Realtor, Re/Max 100
Gayle Kent Reid, Co-Owner/CEO, Reid & Reid, Inc.
Heather Maertens, Owner, Maertens Jewelry
Heather Neef, Owner, KNC Marketing, Inc.
Jaimee C. Holmes, Founder/CEO, Law Office of Jaimee C. McDowell
Jamie Reidy, Pediatric and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Owner, La Plata Pediatrics and Family Health
Jana Manifold, Attendance Clerk, Southern HS/AACPS
Jaymi Sterling, Assistant State's Attorney, State's Attorney's Office for Anne Arundel County
Jeannine James, Mayor, Town of La Plata
Jessyca Hart, Licensed Mortician, RMT Funeral Services of Charles County
Joan Hackett, Owner/Insurance Agent, Joan Hackett Insurance Agency, Inc.
Joi Bannister, Founder/CEO/Sign Language Interpreter, Joyful Signing LLC
Judith Derencin, Branch Director, Washington Adventist Home Health
Julia Sampson, Owner/Operator, Yard Card Genie LLC
Julie Call, Owner/Equestrian Master Instructor, Free Rein Equine, LLC
Julie Yowell, Teacher, William B. Wade ES/CCPS, Personal Trainer/Executive Support, Meridian Fitness Kapreche James, Founder/CEO, Stella's Girls Inc.
Karena Bennett, Teacher, McDonough HS/CCPS
Karla Matthews, President/COO, AM Pierce & Associates Inc.

WOMEN TO WATCH 2022

2022 NOMINEES

Congratulations

Kathleen Bocchi, Manager, Happy Harbor Restaurant
Kathryn "Kathy" Maney, President/CEO, Calvert County Chamber of Commerce
Katie Pierce, Owner, Grille No. 13 Restaurant
Kelly Schaefer, Owner, Quality Klean by Kelly
Kenna Pope Williams, Farmer/Pickle Maker, BoonDoggie Farm
Kimberly Rosenfield, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley
Kristen Johnson, Pre-K Teacher, Billingsley ES/CCPS
Kristen Paul, Early Childhood Specialist, The Parents' Place of Maryland Inc.
Kristin Carter, Pupil Personnel Worker, Thomas Stone HS/CCPS
Kristine Millen, President/Executive Director of St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen
LaNeta Roth, Owner, Scary Strokes Family Entertainment Center, Founder of the Southern Maryland Youth Flag Football League (SMYFFL), United States Postal Service Employee
Laura Behm, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner, International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant, Co-Owner, Milky Moms
Lea Lacefield, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner, International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant, Co-Owner, Milky Moms
Leigh Ann Keller, Owner/President, Travel Leaders/Action Tours
Leona Partis, Realtor, Century 21 New Millennium, Retired US Air Force Chief
Leslie Berg, Founder/Owner, Interlude Pet Resort & Spa
Lia McCabe, Autism Community Advocate/Founder, AutismWish and Host of the Embracing Autism Podcast
Lindsey Chroniger, Restaurant Manager, Neptune's Seafood Pub and Medical Admin

Lisa Bowling Barrett, Teacher, 4-H Leader, Ball Mom, Community Worker
Lisa Poe, Preschool Teacher/Owner, Little Bugs Family Daycare
Lisa White, Owner/Barber, By the Blade, LLC
Lisa Wills, Realtor, Re/Max One
Lori Basham, Human Factors Engineer/Lab Operations Manager, NAVAIR
Lori Heron, Executive Director, Project ECHO
Lum Butler, Registered Nurse, DC Government
Makeba Gibbs, U.S. Circuit Court Judge, Charles County, Maryland
Maribeth Ganzell, Athletic Trainer, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Marilyn Beeson, Music Teacher, Calvert ES/CCPS
Marilyn Shalash-Boswell, Owner, Hypnotique Ink and Hypnotique Gems
Marilyn Weimer Steele, Owner, Bolans-Darby Partners, Inc. parent company of RXBSA Properties, LLC and Mancuso Foods, LLC DBA Clarity Coffee House and soon to open Oasis Fresh Foods Market and Papaleo's Ice Cream
Maryanna Lanham, Executive Director, Dream Queen Foundation & Founder/Financial Services Professional, Athena Financial Services
Megan Twining, Owner/Trainer, Sonder Whole Fitness
Melissa Baldwin, Executive Director, Ventures and Innovations, Kaiser Permanente
Melissa Craig, Senior Information and Assistance Caseworker; SHIP counselor, St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Resources

Melissa Hawkins, Supervisor, LabCorp
Melissa Liggins, Bartender, Neptune Seafood Pub
Meredith Alvarez MacLeod, Owner, SnackBoard Social
Micaela Facchina, Kindergarten Teacher, Archbishop Neale School
Mindy Sowell, Owner, Assisted Living at Hawkins Gate
Monise Alexis Brown, Judge Designate, Charles County Circuit Court
Naughty'a Gray, Teacher, Billingsley ES/CCPS
Nicole Leech, Owner/Dog Groomer, Sudsy Mutt
Noelle Stickell, Owner, Garage Doors and More, LLC
Pamela Cousins, Cybersecurity Specialist, Homeland Security
Pamela Willey, Founder/Executive Director, The Connection Inc.
Rebecca Kloske, Energy Auditor, EmPower Programs Ambassador
Renee LaFayette, Owner/Attorney, LaFayette Law Office, LLC
Robin Marion, Owner/Certified Personal Trainer/Health Coach, Velvet & Steel Fitness
Robin Marshall, Owner/Insurance Agent, Marshall Insurance
Robin Windsor, Assisted Living Manager, Fenwick Landing Senior Care Community and President, Dentsville Volunteer EMS, Fire and Auxiliary, Inc.
Rochelle Johnson, Owner, Sirods Hair Gallery
Rose C. Crunkleton, Attorney, Law Offices of Rose C. Crunkleton, LLC
Sandy Dyson, Office Manager, Dyson Building Center
Shala Ford, Photographer, Shalaworks Photography
Shaneha Harvard-Lamb, Vice Principal, St. Charles HS/CCPS
Shannon Baldridge, Pediatric Nurse, Prince Frederick MD
Shannon Wang, Owner/Tattoo Artist, Shop 53 Tattoo Studio and Art Gallery

Shari Mackovyak, English Teacher/English Department Lead, Huntingtown HS/CCPS
Sharon Strand, Director, Calvert County Department of Finance & Budget
Sherrie Gibney, Teacher, Piccowaxen MS/CCPS
Shirl Hendley, President, Calvert Meals on Wheels, Inc.
Stacy Hutchinson, Associate Director of Administration & Facilities, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Stacy Taylor, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of State
Sue Davis, Owner/President, S E Davis Construction, LLC
Sydney Collins, Social Entrepreneur/Purpose Driven Influencer/Founder/Host, Perfect Timing Podcast
Tammi Evers, Owner/Aerial Arts Instructor, Vertical Dance Co. LLC
Tammy L.S. Wright, Co-Founder/Co-Owner, ABC Fitness Connection
Tara Strickland, Director of Communications, AVIAN
Teresa Schrodel, Owner/Gallery Director, Medart Gallery
Terri Jarboe-Farri, President/CPA, MBA, Buyer's Title
Terri Pesante-Close, Owner/CPA, Pesante Close LLC
Tiffany Barber, Executive Director, Poiema Movement
Toniere Lee, Investigator, Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County
Tracy Loyd, McKinney-Vento Homeless & Foster Care Liaison Specialist, CCPS
Trisha Hammett, Community Social Service Administrative Support Professional, University of Maryland Global Campus and Entrepreneur
Wynne Briscoe, Regional Director, Small Business Development Center, College of Southern Maryland
Zoa Conner, PhD, Owner, Zen and Vitality with Zoa

Congratulations

TO ALL THE WOMEN OF APG MEDIA

from APG Chesapeake



CHESAPEAKE
INFORM. INNOVATE. INSPIRE.
"your community connected"

HERE'S TO STRONG WOMEN.
MAY WE KNOW THEM.
MAY WE BE THEM.
MAY WE RAISE THEM.




Medicare

Assistance • Counseling • Information
State Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

Assistance for Medicare Beneficiaries:

- ✓ Beneficiaries New to Medicare
- ✓ Detecting Fraud and Abuse
- ✓ Medicare Beneficiaries in Rural Areas
- ✓ Medicare Beneficiaries Under 65
- ✓ Medicare Parts A and B

- ✓ Medicare Part C - Advantage Plans
- ✓ Medicare Part D - Prescription Drug Plans
- ✓ Medicare Savings Plans - Help for Low-Income Beneficiaries
- ✓ Medicare Supplemental Insurance/Medigap Plans


Calvert County Office on Aging
410-535-4606 / 301-855-1170 | OOAmailbox@calvertcountymd.gov
www.calvertcountymd.gov/OfficeOnAging | 450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678



Congratulations to all the wonderful "Women to Watch"! I am so honored to be nominated with you this year.

When my career in Real Estate began in 1995, I never dreamed I'd have so many amazing opportunities to contribute to this community where I live and work. The foundation of my business has always been gratitude and it drives everything I do. I've been fortunate to meet remarkable people who are doing great things.

Children's Hospital, Bears of Love, Spring Dell Center, and my very own Kindness Campaign, "I SEE YOU!" have all given me outlets to give back and show a small portion of my appreciation.

There's no end in sight! I will continue to find ways to make a difference with the support of my clients, family and friends!



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"GOD IS WITHIN HER,
SHE WILL NOT FALL"
PSALM 46:5



Terri prays that God lead her to missions in our community where she can truly make a difference. She sees a need and never hesitates to step-up, and she is thankful for the people around her for always being supportive and joining forces with her to make things happen. Over the years she has found herself drawn to the LifeStyles Food Drive, Nanjemoy Mission, and Christmas Bike Drive. She has also been a part of numerous events in support of those battling cancer, to include her own sister Tina M. Krahling who she lost in January of 2016.



Terri has been an entrepreneur for 20 years. She started her own tax and accounting firm at just twenty-six years old and has been thriving in the industry since. She loves coaching her clients to financial success and is passionate about constantly improving her business. She takes pride in continuing to further her education and never stops learning.



TERRI PESANTE- CLOSE, EA FIRM OWNER

I grew up in Southern Maryland in an exceptionally loving and giving home. I am now married with two kids and value family time more than anything. I knew from a young age that I enjoyed helping others and found a way to do that on a daily basis through my career.

I own a Tax and Accounting Firm in La Plata, Maryland. My firm offers Full Service Bookkeeping, Payroll, Business Coaching, Personal and Business Tax Preparation, and Tax Resolution. I am extremely passionate about helping my clients thrive and love to share in their excitement when they do. I value confidentiality, trust, customer service, and coaching small businesses. I am not an Accountant that only wants to be involved once a year, I want to be involved year-round right alongside you! I know first hand how hard it can be owning a business and if I make that easier on my clients from the services we provide then I am happy to do so.

Ever since I was a little girl my parents have been an inspiration to me and I can't thank them enough for shaping me into the woman I am today. My heart thrives on giving back to our community and getting involved to make a difference. I thank God daily for the blessings he has provided our family and our community.

