

# Arundel Report

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ARUNDEL DIGEST

## Police get \$46,000 for anti-drug work

After working on four federal drug investigations, county police recently were given more than \$46,000 from drug-forfeiture proceeds.

The Justice Department gave county police a check in December, said Officer Randy Bell, county police spokesman.

The four cases were pursued in federal court.

In each case, county police were credited with a percentage of involvement in the probe and were given a corresponding percentage of the proceeds.

In the largest case, federal officials seized \$149,000 in assets from Steven Downey, who was arrested in October 1993 on drug kingpin charges. County police were given 28.33 percent of the assets for their involvement in the case.

The money can be used for any Police Department activity, Officer Bell said.

In May 1992, authorities seized a 36-foot fishing trawler from Daniel Linkey of Pasadena. Police received 22.5 percent of the \$65,000 value of the trawler, in which authorities found marijuana and a .32-caliber handgun.

Other seizures from 1992 involved cars and other property of lesser value.

## Edgewater traffic to be rerouted

State highway workers on Wednesday will shift all the lanes of Route 2 in Edgewater as construction continues to widen the roadway to four lanes.

At 9 a.m., workers will shift traffic from the current road east onto the newly constructed section of Route 2, between Pike Ridge Road and Central Avenue.

If traffic is heavy during the shift, southbound traffic could be sent onto Pike Ridge Road to the west, then back down Central Avenue to Route 2, said Chuck Brown, State Highway Administration spokesman.

The full shift may take five or six hours to complete.

Both directions will be shifted, unless weather forces a delay. The project was already delayed by snow last week.

Flagen, signs, orange traffic barrels and other direction equipment will be in place to guide motorists.

The improvements to Route 2 are being funded by the developer of the South River Colony subdivision, highway officials said.

## Survey finds shortage of Canada geese

Ruddy ducks are prolific this year, and the widgeon and green-winged teal are doing fine. But although snow geese have more than doubled their population, Canada geese have a way to go to meet state goals.

These were the findings in the Department of Natural Resources' annual waterfowl survey, which found a 18.5 percent increase statewide.

Total waterfowl grew from 549,800 to 651,300, according to the survey conducted Jan. 3 to 13 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Wildlife Division.

Ruddy ducks increased from 15,500 to 48,100, leading the overall increase in duck population from 128,100 to 156,300.

Among the dabbling ducks, widgeons and green-winged teal each jumped from 500 to 2,800.

Good weather in January, as opposed to freezing rain a year earlier, helped more ducks survive, said Bob Beyer, state chief of wildlife.

The snow goose population, which is expanding in Talbot and Cecil counties, grew from 53,800 to 124,800. Mr. Beyer said the geese are destroying their own breeding grounds. But hunters haven't figured out how to hit the birds yet.

"Whoever figures it out is going to be a wealthy man," he said.

The number of Canada geese remained stable at 250,200, but below the state's goal of 400,000.

Reducing the length of the hunting season and the number of birds a hunter can claim are tactics that could boost the population, Mr. Beyer said.

## State tax offices to be open Monday

All 19 state tax service offices will remain open to help residents with Maryland income tax questions on Monday, Lincoln's Birthday, and Feb. 20, Presidents Day/Washington's Birthday.

Internal Revenue Service offices also will be open Monday to answer federal tax questions, but will be closed Feb. 20. The offices are normally open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The toll-free statewide telephone number for state tax assistance is (800) MD-TAXES.

## A winner on and off the court

By DENNIS SULLIVAN  
Staff Writer

At 6-foot 8 inches, it's easy for Lenward I. Barber Jr. to stand above the crowd at Annapolis High School.

But most students and teachers also look up to the 17-year-old senior because of his friendly personality and a work ethic that has made him one of the school's most dedicated student athletes, teachers say.

"He gets along with everybody," said Sue Hersman, a substitute teacher. "It's hard not to like Lenny, and he's probably one of the most well-respected students."

Lenward, son of Lenward Sr. and Deborah Barber, also is considered one of the school's most well-rounded students.

He played the lead role in the school's fall musical, "The Phantom of the Opera," and performed in "Fame" last year. On Sundays he can be found singing at Union Memorial Baptist Church in Davidsonville.

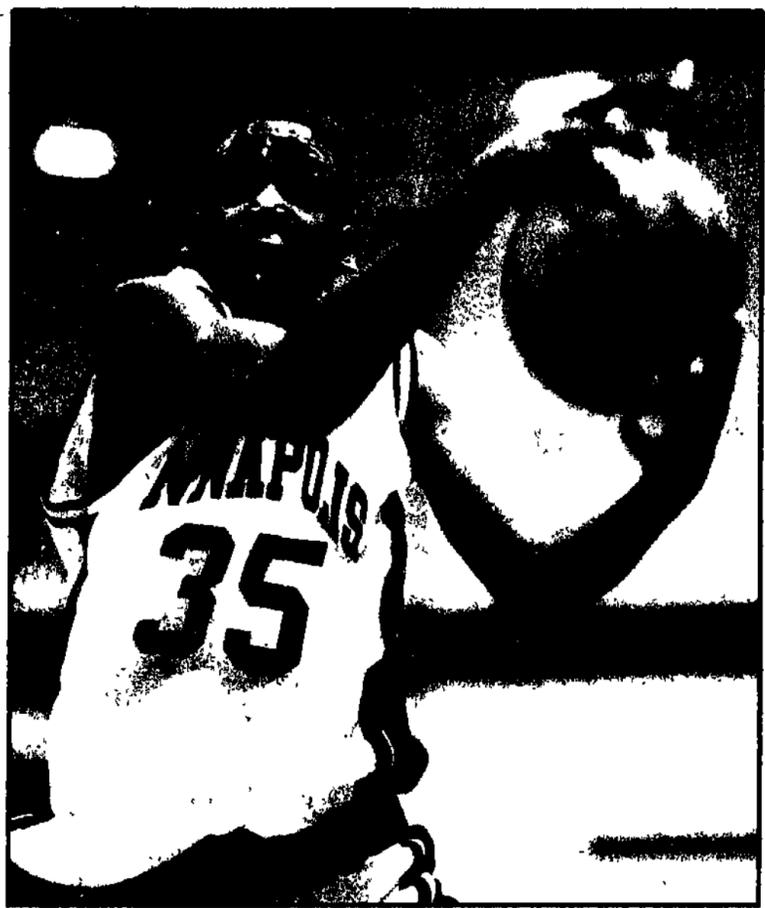
His voice also has put him at center stage at halftime during high school football games, singing the 1970s hit "YMCA" by the Village People.

He also has been known to sing the national anthem before basketball games and then take the court as the team's starting center. And when he's not on the court or near a microphone, he's behind a drum as the band's drum captain.

He has juggled all these activities while maintaining at least a C average. He also was the first county basketball player to sign with a college team this year. He'll attend the University of Maryland-Baltimore County in the fall.

"He's a well-rounded person and he's a team player," said John Brady, boys' basketball coach at Annapolis. "And the way things are going now, you find very few people, especially teenagers, who value being a polite person and being a gentleman to everybody."

Lenward also is considered one of the school's



Lenward Barber Jr. is considered one of Annapolis High school's friendliest students and hardest-working players. And that same work ethic can be seen in the classroom.

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"He is the kind of person who works hard at everything he wants to do," said guidance counselor Mike Codd. "He worked hard at basketball to be a better basketball player, and he works hard in the classroom to be a better student."

"He's the kind of person who knows what he wants to do, and he puts forth the effort to do what he has to."

For Lenward, though, it's just a matter of having fun and staying busy.

"Those are things I enjoy doing," he said. "And if I'm going to start on something, then I'm going to work at it and I'm going to follow all the way through."

He's planning to major in education at UMBC and hopes to someday combine his passion for history and working with children as a social studies teacher.

## Bill tightens screws on restricted clubs

By JEFF NELSON  
Staff Writer

Alderman Terrie DeGraff tried to get an application to a club in Annapolis last spring and was told, "No, honey, you can't join."

Now, a bill introduced by the Ward 7 Republican would prohibit that club and any others that practice discrimination on the basis of gender or race from holding a city liquor license.

When the City Council votes on the bill Monday night, it will revive a controversial debate going back to 1990, when a weaker measure prohibited discrimination only in bars.

Though weaker, the earlier measure forced the Annapolis Elks Lodge to move out of the city when its national organization refused to change bylaws, to allow women to join. Women can be auxiliary members of the Elks Lodge. The club had been on Rowe Boulevard since 1980.

## Youths help each other in Annapolis Gardens program

By JEFF NELSON  
Staff Writer

Snow is on the ground, a few hours of daylight are left, the streets of Annapolis Gardens are filled with kids, and Donte Eagleton, age 12, is studying math.

Every Tuesday through Thursday afternoon at 3:30 as many as 25 kids fly in the door of the Annapolis Gardens community center, sign in to a cheery greeting and get ready for work.

What they're doing, says the man who brought them here, is actually getting ready for life.

Darius Stanton, who heads the Boys and Girls Club junior staff program at the public housing complex, believes he's found a way to help children help themselves. His young charges agree.

"It helps us get off the streets and do well in school so that we can go to college. We can look to the future," Donte said.

Robert White, a 15-year-old from the complex, helps Donte, Cleveland Sellers and others with their homework. A veteran of a summer grounds-keeping job, Robert said he works in the community center for the experience and to build his resume for better future jobs.

He's one of the nine actual staffers the Boys and Girls Club has hired and trained to tutor their fellow club members in homework, organize arts and crafts and games, and run a small store where sodas and snacks are available.

The \$36 weekly pay doesn't hurt, but it's the training and resume-building that bring the teens to the building.

"You'd be amazed what young people have the ability to do and what they want to do when the opportunity is there. When they are given the chance, they'll meet it," Mr. Stanton said.

Parents said the program is helping their children learn to get along with their peers and

the public.

"Parents are really into this," said Timmy Holland, Robert's father. "They'd rather have their kids going there to the center and doing something positive than being out on the streets."

The program began eight weeks ago and is only in the Annapolis Gardens complex, though the city Housing Authority offers similar programs in other communities.

The authority, however, is considering removing the program from the center because of complaints from a small number of residents of the public housing neighborhood. Most residents have supported the program.

Mr. Stanton said he wants to expand the club to other public housing complexes in the future.

With a federal grant and help from Anne Arundel Community College, the Boys and Girls Club began the program with computer and resume writing classes at the college.

Then jobs within the club were set up for participants so they can provide services for kids in their community and get work experience.

The nine staffers organize activities for as many as 75 young people at games nights in Annapolis Gardens.

In addition to the work experience, the program is designed to build self-esteem and responsibility.

"You learn how to respect one another and how to talk to people in different ways. You learn to be responsible and do your job," said Calvin Watkins, a shy 14-year-old.

Mr. Stanton hopes the program will ultimately yield responsible adults with a real interest in working in disadvantaged communities. He said it's already saving kids from making mistakes.

"When they come in here, their whole role changes. Where they might have been ringleaders in the negative, now they're ringleaders in the positive," he said.



Robert White, standing, helps Cleveland Sellers, left, and Donte Eagleton with their homework as part of his junior staff job with the Boys and Girls Club. Robert gets job experience and training from the program while helping his neighbors.

## Board votes on Parham plan

By DENNIS SULLIVAN  
Staff Writer

The county school board is scheduled to vote Wednesday night on Superintendent Carol S. Parham's \$437.7 million spending plan, which calls for dramatic increases in classroom materials and teachers.

To help fund the increases, the budget would eliminate 21 positions at the

### PUBLIC MEETING

**WHAT:** Board of Education  
**WHERE:** 2644 Riva Road  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday  
**KEY TOPIC:** Vote on the superintendent's \$437.7 million budget

school system's central office and cut a popular water safety course for fifth-graders.

Mrs. Parham describes her budget as the first step toward making academics a top priority while cutting other costs. Her plan amounts to an increase of \$28.6 million, or 7 percent, over the \$409.1 million budget for fiscal 1995, which ends June 30.

Early revenue estimates for the coming fiscal year show that the county can only afford about a \$13 million increase, which could force the school board to cut another \$15 million from Mrs. Parham's plan.

Highlights of her plan are:  
■ \$6 million for class materials and textbooks, a 66 percent increase over the current \$3.6 million.

■ \$13.9 million to run the central office — a \$1.2 million reduction. The savings would be spent on classroom materials.

■ \$2.6 million to hire 71 teachers and eight administrative trainees.

■ \$7 million for the Advanced School Automation Project, a plan to upgrade the computer labs in the Arundel High School feeder system and in all 12 high schools.

■ \$648,500 to hire 25 special education teachers.

■ Cutting the water safety course, which would save \$75,000 in busing costs to area pools and \$25,000 in salaries for four teachers.

Across-the-board employee pay raises are not included in Mrs. Parham's plan.

Also not mentioned is a cost-saving move that would keep some elementary and middle schools open until 3:50 p.m. instead of 3:30 so buses can be rerouted. Those schools would open as late as 9:35 a.m.

The affected schools haven't been determined, but up to 20 percent of the county's elementary and middle schools could open later in the next school year. The plan would save \$330,000.