

ENTERTAINMENT

Crustacean salvation!



SPORTS

Arnold native looks to make history B1



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Reef balls deployed for oyster habitat

Built by students in Anne Arundel and Carroll counties, concrete balls will be part of a reef off Tilghman Island



Crews deploy artificial reef balls at an oyster reef site off Tilghman Island.

\$15 million Odenton project underway

New stretch of road will serve as main artery to Odenton Town Center

By AMANDA YEAGER ayeager@capgaznews.com

Officials on Thursday launched construction of a stretch of road that will serve as a main connector for the rapidly developing Odenton Town Center.

The new portion of Town Center Boulevard will extend nearly a mile from Hale Street near Route 175 to Seven Oaks, passing under the Route 32 overpass to Blue Water Boulevard, and will be accompanied by a sidewalk and a trail for hikers and bicyclists.

It's the latest groundbreaking for Odenton, a west Anne Arundel County community near Fort George G. Meade that has recently seen an influx of new businesses and housing options.

"Today is another example of progress, bricks and mortar progress, here in Odenton," said County Executive Steve Schuh, who spoke at an event marking the start of work on the new road. "Odenton Town Center Boulevard is a crucial artery connecting residential and commercial areas throughout the area and bringing this community closer together as we build for the future."

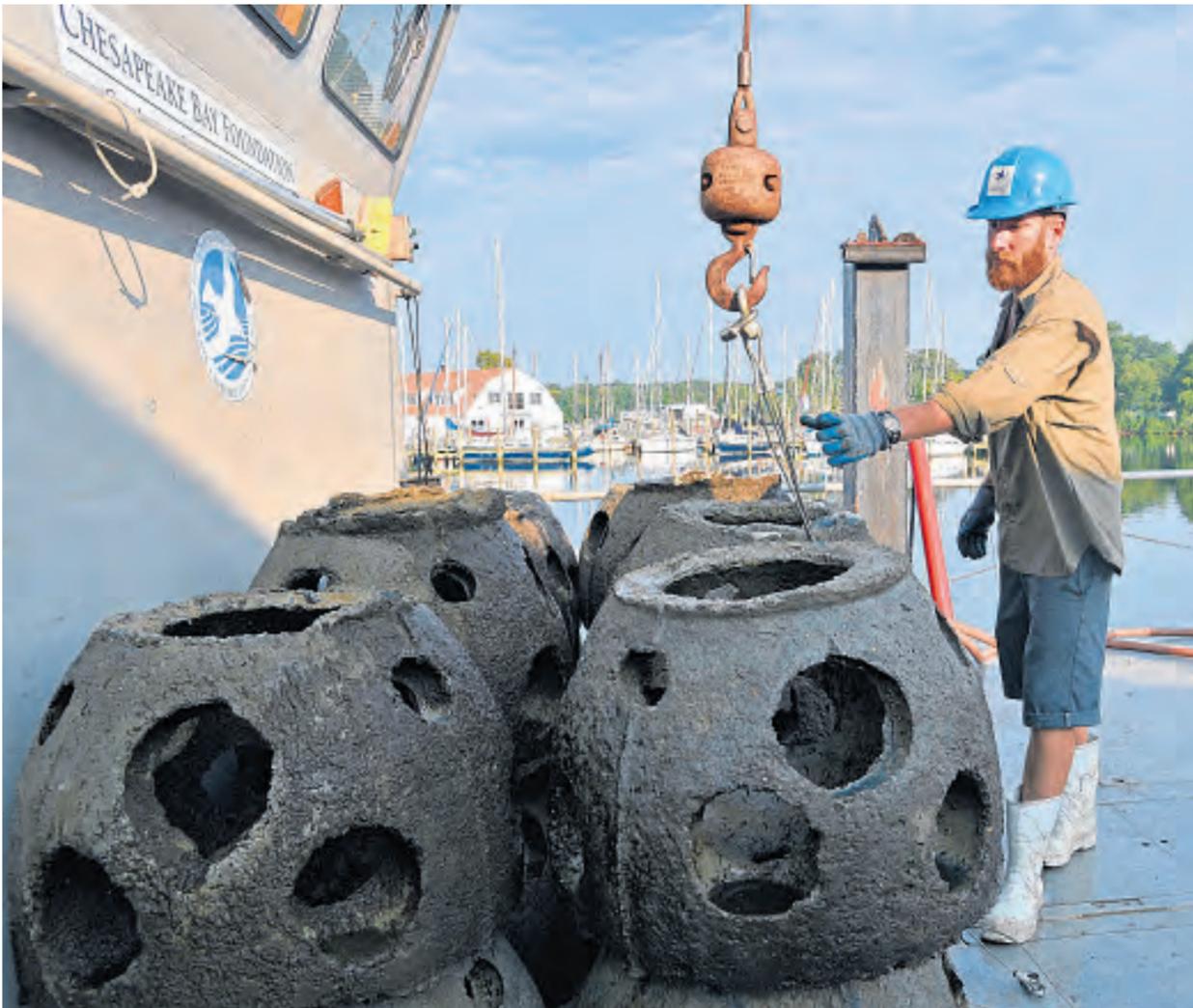
The \$15 million project is a public/private partnership between Anne Arundel County and Halle Development, which is also building two 150,000-square-foot office buildings and a parking garage in the center. The Silver Spring-based developer signed an agreement with the county in 2010 committing to build the boulevard, while Anne Arundel government pledged to contribute impact fee credits to help fund the road's construction. The county has already provided \$16 million for water and sewer upgrades in the area.

The new stretch of boulevard will be four lanes wide, with a median, and will be flanked by a 5-foot-wide sidewalk. It will pass through an undeveloped wooded area.

Halle Development also plans to build a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail on the eastern side of the road, as well as a bridge and 16-foot arch culvert crossing over an existing flood plain.

The project is expected to be complete in about a year, the developer said.

Representatives from local community and business groups that have advocated for development in Odenton said the new road is a harbinger of accelerated change in the area. This spring, the County Council approved a new master plan that outlines goals for See ODENTON, page A7



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW COLE, STAFF

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Patrick Beall guides the reef balls as they are loaded Thursday afternoon onto the Patricia Campbell before heading off to an oyster reef site off Tilghman Island.

By CHRISTINA JEDRA cjedra@capgaznews.com

Teamwork from Maryland environmentalists — from elementary schoolers to nonprofit workers — could result in new oyster habitat, and consequently cleaner water, for the Chesapeake Bay.

Maryland Coastal Conservation Association members and partners dumped 70 concrete reef balls into the bay Thursday,

the first deployment for the organization's Living Reef Action Campaign.

Reef balls, gumdrop-shaped concrete structures with holes in their walls, are designed to be a foundation for oysters, which filter pollution from water. Each ball was covered with about 1,700 spat, or baby oysters. Oysters often grow on the shells of other oysters, but when populations and reefs decrease, it's harder for the next generation.

"The goal is first to improve water quality to filter out excess nutrients," said Rick Elyar, president of the central region chapter of CCA. "It also creates habitat for marine life and creates an amazing fishing spot for recreational watermen. There's so much life there."

Program organizers aim to place 200 reef balls and more than 250,000 oyster shells on an 84-acre site off the western See REEF, page A8

Auction to benefit Brooklyn Park girl badly burned in fire

By PHIL DAVIS pdavis@capgaznews.com

During the early morning hours on Father's Day, then-3-year-old Jade Schwinn was caught inside her parents' house while a fire tore through the structure on Ball Park Drive in Brooklyn Park.

While her siblings and parents were able to escape with minor injuries and burns, Tiffany Sosnowski said Jade, now 4, suffered severe burns and injuries all over her body.

"At first, (they) didn't think Jade was going to make it (the first) 48 hours," said Sosnowski, a sister-in-law of Jade's

father.

Jade survived the fire and has continued to recover. She underwent her 11th surgery on Tuesday.

But with Jade facing more procedures, and then months of physical therapy, the Glen Burnie Moose Lodge is looking to raise money for the Schwinn family to go toward Jade's recovery.

Organizer Darlene Royal said an Aug. 1 fundraiser and auction planned at the Moose Lodge on Crain Highway will give all its proceeds to the Schwinn family.

"Anyone who comes in the door and says 'We're with See BENEFIT, page A6



COURTESY PHOTO

Four-year-old Jade Schwinn was severely injured in a June house fire in Brooklyn Park. An auction is being held Aug. 1 to raise funds for her family.

WEATHER

TODAY

86 | 73

HIGH | LOW Not as hot, but humid. A4

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