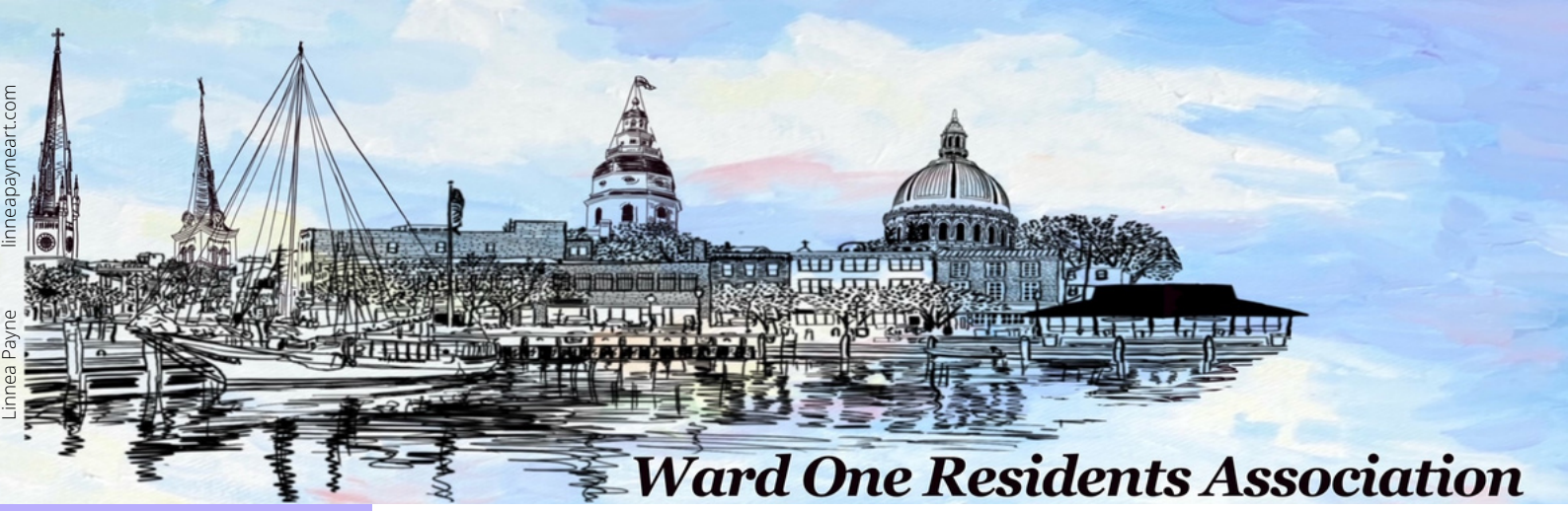

February 2021
In This Issue

February Membership Zoom Meeting

Thursday, Feb18 7-9pm

Register Here

Alderwoman's Corner

Small Business Spotlight

Opinion: Electric Vehicles

CDAC Update

Membership

Dues can be paid online at wora.org/join-renew or by mail to the address below.

Ward One Residents Association
worapresident@wardone.org
P.O. Box 175
Annapolis, MD 21404
wardone.org

President's Message

Hello WORA Neighbors,

We hope you've enjoyed the wintery weather lately, whether from the warmth of your home or walking about town. It seems that no matter the difficulties faced by our community, you can always count on a good snow fall to bring out neighbors and families to enjoy and play in (and of course plow) its beauty.

WORA's February Meeting is scheduled for February 18th at 7pm, and you can register here. Our guests will be Eileen Fogarty and the AMRP team, which has been contracted to rebuild Hillman Garage and redevelop the City Dock. After their update, we'll take your questions and comments. If you wish to have Eileen consider your questions about either project ahead of time, please pass those along to WORAPresident@WardOne.org.

Based on your feedback, we have adjusted the WORA President's email to WORAPresident@WardOne.org. Now your emails from us will come from "WORAPresident" instead of "President", which hopefully reduces confusion about which 'president" you're about to read a message from.

Thank you to those who attended our January Member Meeting, which finalized WORA's goals for the Annapolis 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Look for an email from us in the coming weeks with a means for WORA voting members to prioritize these goals, so that we can submit WORA's overall priorities to the city.

If you see Craig Harrison around town, please congratulate him on becoming WORA"s 2021/2022 Board Nomination Committee Chairman. It's no easy task, but I'm confident he will run a fair, inclusive, and professional process as WORA selects its next board members.

Thanks to all of you who've donated to our Impactful First Sunday food collection project: up until this past weekend, downtown residents have contributed 2,100 pounds of food, hygiene, and household cleaning products to the county food bank. This collection will continue through the state of emergency, so please make donations of 'things your family would want right now" each of the upcoming first Sundays. Than you Carolyn Patenaude and Noelle Richmond for your leadership and work to sustain this effort. If you want to give us a hand with this, or have ideas on how we can improve it, please reach out to WORAPresident@WardOne.org.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the WORA Newsletter. I want to thank Kate Stillwell for her efforts leading WORA's Communications Committee, which includes Marlys McDevitt, Paige Ferguson, and Lisa Fontaine. I want to give a special shout-out to Lisa for maintaining our website (WardOne.org) and producing this incredible newsletter.

Very Best,
Mark Mhley
WORAPresident@WardOne.org

Alderwoman's Corner

Dear Constituents, Neighbors and Friends,

In my letter today I want to talk about two things: Resiliency and the Comprehensive Plan.

They are separate but they overlap in applying to downtown and City Dock. At this month's membership meeting you will be introduced to the team responsible for the pre-development of rebuilding Hillman Garage and revitalizing City Dock.

One objective of this project is to focus on our infrastructure by building a new stormwater pump station, raising the sea wall and installing hydraulic, flip up storm surge gates. A new elevated green park with stormwater infiltration will provide additional defense against rising seas. The goal is having 'resiliency' against our rising sea level. This is a long-term view of resilience by investing in new infrastructure. The City has a responsibility to protect their citizens, so that resiliency can be seen here as a 'public good'.

But what I want to focus on is 'Social resiliency' which is the capacity of a community or society to cope with, and adapt to disturbances or changes. A resilient community is able to respond to changes or stress in a positive way, and to maintain its core functions as a community despite those stresses. Some would say we have been successful during this pandemic in achieving this. Others would say our efforts were more focused on restaurants and businesses, as residents were not involved to participate and make decisions. There were understandable reasons -one being the urgency of the situation and what was at stake-the survival of our downtown economic base.

But what I observed through this pandemic was that our downtown residential base was not enough to support the existing retail and restaurants as gallantly as we tried. The Market House closing during a pandemic was indicative of this imbalance. A local market house for serving locals couldn't justify being open without the visitors and tourists.

We are now at a critical time, where we can change this and create a more balanced relationship between our restaurants, businesses and our residents. I am working on legislation to assist in this effort. The proposition: more residents make us more resilient. This is what it's all about, as we can't have a resilient community without the input, and commitment of downtown residents. If you agree, then your participation in the Comprehensive Plan is very important.

And you have participated! Our Chief of Comprehensive Planning Eric Leshinsky told me he had 'so much fun' at your last monthly meeting. He will be presenting to the City Council in the next two weeks, so if you have anything to add, please contact him directly at ejleshinsky@annapolis.gov. The comprehensive plan is successful when it is a combined effort of individuals, communities, civic groups like yours, and the City government. So, thank you for your input during this potential tipping point of redefining our neighborhoods to be yes, more resilient.

Kind regards,
Elly Tierney
ellymtierney@gmail.com
aldtierney@gmail.com

Ward One Notecards

Annapolis artist Linnea Payne kindly created the newsletter logo for WORA, and is now selling similar note cards on her website. She has offered to donate 10% of all notecard profits to WORA! To order, go to linneapayneart.com/artwork-for-sale

Marlys McDevitt

WORA Membership Drive

If you need to review your WORA membership, please do via the WORA website (wardone.org) or via check, which can be made out to "Ward One Residents Association" and mailed to WORA, PO Box 175, Annapolis, MD 21404. Single memberships are $20/year (and afford a single vote), household memberships are $35/year (and afford 2 votes), and Associate memberships (non-voting) for businesses in Ward One or absentee-homeowners are $25/year.

If you renew a single membership, please provide us 1 email address. If you renew a household membership, please provide us 2 email addresses. We consider all of our amazing members our 'WORA evangelists', so please help us "get-the-word-out" about WORA and encourage your new and old neighbors to join, and help us grow the organization and its positive impact throughout our community.

Around Town

The Naval Academy is a frequent topic of conversation in Annapolis, so we contacted Jennifer Erickson, Director of Media Relations, in the Public Affairs Office for some renovation updates.

⚓ Some of the scaffolding around the chapel dome, which went up in the spring of 2019 was removed in December 2020, and according to Ms Erickson, the rest of the dome scaffolding will come down in March.

⚓ The chapel bells used to toll at noon and 6pm, though they have been silent for the last couple years for repairs. She reports they will chime again once the workers are no longer in the dome, which may not be immediately after the scaffolding comes down, but when the project is closer to completion.

⚓ Gate 2 on King George Street is undergoing a full historic restoration similar to the work that was performed on Gate 3 several years ago. The project is in the investigation and design phase now. Completion of the restored gate is anticipated in the fall of 2021. In the meantime, the gate opening is secured with a temporary fence that will be removed after the historic gate is re-installed.

⚓ Finally, Ms Erickson reinforced that the USNA appreciates the community's continued interest and support of the Academy and especially through the necessary renovations and ongoing construction projects. They look forward to seeing the more customary views of the Annapolis skyline over Ward One and the safe return to opening the gates to visitors as soon as possible.

-Marlys McDevitt
WORA Communications Committee

Next WORA Zoom Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 18
7-9pm
Register Here

Please mark your calendar's for WORA's February Meeting at 7pm on Thursday February 18th. Our guests will be Eileen Fogarty and the AMRP team, which has been contracted to rebuild Hillman Garage and redevelop the City Dock. If you have questions regarding either project, please send them ahead of the meeting to WORAPresident@wardone.org so we can pass those to Eileen. Please register for the February Member Meeting here.

Small Business Spotlight

Did you know that when Francis Nicholson laid out Annapolis in 1695, the Baroque urban design was similar to that of London's? The narrow streets in his design are perfect for the 4-1/2' wide electric carts used by Annapolis Eventours! The tour and special events company, owned by husband and wife team Craig Harrison and Lisa Fontaine, has been in the business of teaching visitors and residents alike about the history of Annapolis since they purchased the company in 2018. The couple is passionate about the future of electric transportation and love this environmentally-friendly way to show off the town. Their most popular tour is "Explore the Heart of Annapolis" which focuses on the history of Annapolis, much of which is in our own Ward One. Other tours include the "Original Annapolis Seafood Crawl" combining local favorites with history, and there are plans for a craft beer tour in 2021. Lisa and Craig also use the electric carts for events such as Navy football games, weddings, and fundraisers. Annapolis Eventours is a great way to show your guests around Annapolis and Ward One residents receive a **10% discount** when you call to book a tour.

Did you know that the brick building at the corner of Maryland Avenue and State Circle was once home to a grocery store and later a naval uniform shop and haberdashery? It has been home to Cezanne Jewelers since 2016. Owned by the Baghdadlian family since 1990, the store had been located at a couple of addresses on Main Street but say this is their favorite location because of the beauty of the State House and the energy of Maryland Avenue. This fourth generation business specializes in developing relationships with their customers and they love to see the new generations coming in for their own special events. Genie Baghdadlian says that engagement rings are the most popular item and the busiest time is during the Christmas season but that everyday wear is popular all year round. She shared that the pandemic has brought in new clients who have come to appreciate their significant other during these days cooped up inside. She also told me that custom design and repairs are all done on the premises.

This column is focused on highlighting small businesses in Ward One – do you have a favorite small business? Would they be interested in joining WORA? Let me know so that they might be featured in future newsletters!

Thanks and stay safe,
Paige Ferguson
WORA Communications Committee
paigecferguson@gmail.com

ArtFarm

Lisa Fontaine

Lisa Fontaine

Giving Back

Thank You! The February Impactful First Sunday brought in 115 pounds of food and supplies.

Next Impactful First Sunday:
Sunday, March 7 from 10am-6pm

Drop Off Locations:
Acton Landing Park, Lafayette Park, Fleet Street Park, Presidents Hill Community Park

Volunteer Needed:
To pick up bins Sunday, March 7, at 6pm and bring the donation to the AA food bank on Monday, March 8.
Contact Carolyn: carolynpatenaude@gmail.com

Total Donations to Date: over 2,100 pounds! That's over a ton!

Here are the details on this month's Small Businesses:

Annapolis Eventours
443.510.1348
annapoliseventours.com
Lisa@AnnapolisEventours.com

Cezanne Jewelers
79 Maryland Avenue
410-263-1996
Genie@cezannejewelers.com

Opinion

The growth of electric vehicles (EVs) is upon us and like the move from horse-drawn carriages to contraptions powered by internal-combustion engines, the migration from cars powered by fossil fuels to electric batteries will have a profound effect on personal transport. Covid-19 caused a 20% drop in global light-vehicle sales in 2020 but they expect pick up in 2021. And, led by China, the proportion of vehicles powered by batteries will grow quickly.

This shift will change the way people travel. Electric power requires a fundamental rethink of a car's internal architecture, turning it into a computer on wheels. An array of new electronic systems brings connectivity and produces data, making possible new business opportunities, better mobility services and, eventually, cars that are fully self-driving. During 2021 the companies in the electric-car manufacturing - Tesla and other newcomers, and established carmakers and tech giants - will be jockeying for position in the race to an electrified future.

Some of the benefits afforded by electric vehicles are:

- Health and environment benefits
- Outstanding value over the long term
- Fuel and maintenance savings
- Tax incentives
- Use of HOV lanes
- Increased time spent by consumers at stores and restaurants while charging

BGE has introduced the EVsmart program which has a goal of 300,000 zero emission electric vehicles in their service area on the road by 2025. Studies show that to meet this goal, approximately 125,000 electric vehicles (EVs) would need to be added to BGE's territory and about 27,000 public chargers would be needed. There will be a need for both public and home charging stations. Currently there are 748 electric vehicle charging stations within a 30 mile radius of Annapolis to include the Knighton Parking Garage off of West Street, the Pip Moyer Recreation Center, the new Busch Public Library and Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts. By offering the EVsmart program, BGE hopes to encourage more customers to adopt the EV lifestyle over the five years of the EVsmart program.

There are unique electric carts which you can see around Annapolis. Historic Inns of Annapolis have Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) which they use to move guests and their luggage from the check-in at the Governor Calvert House to either the Maryland Inn or the Robert Johnson House. Harry Browne's uses two GEM cars to move diners from parking garages to their restaurant. Annapolis Eventours utilizes ten GEMs for various tours of Annapolis. Since the GEM cars are only four and a half feet wide they can easily move through some of the narrower streets of Annapolis and Eastport. Thanks to the legislative efforts of Senator John Astle, the carts have Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) license plates and are street-legal on any roadway with speed limits up to 30 MPH.

If you have any questions on the programs offered by BGE's EV program, visit their website bge.com/SmartEnergy/InnovationTechnology/Pages/ElectricVehicles.aspx and for charging stations solvingev.com/charging-stations/zip/21401-annapolis-md.

- Craig Harrison
WORA Board Member

Your Opinion Matters

Have an opinion on something pertaining to living in Annapolis or community affairs that you'd like to share? Topics could include the Comprehensive Plan or the Recovery Zones established throughout town during the pandemic, but we're interested in hearing whatever is on your mind. Send your submissions to wora21401@gmail.com.

CDAC Update

City Dock: Predevelopment Phase

Dear Ward One Residents,

On behalf of Mayor Buckley and City Manager Jarrell, we would like to update you on the activities that have been underway as Hillman Garage and the City Dock resiliency project move forward. After a highly competitive bid process, the City has selected a nationally recognized consortium of firms, Annapolis Mobility & Resilience Partners (AMRP), to lead the planning, design, engineering and development for the new Hillman Garage and the redevelopment/resiliency project for Annapolis' waterfront.

AMRP will be joining us at the WORA meeting next Thursday, February 18 at 7 pm to share the project scope, their progress to date and the project schedule with you and to answer any questions you may have for them.

This past month, AMRP initiated the Pre-Development phase of their work which involves the research, data gathering and analysis necessary to confirm the project requirements. The design and development process for Hillman Garage and City Dock will be undertaken later this spring.

We look forward to working closely with WORA as we move forward together into this exciting next phase of designing Hillman Garage and the City Dock!

- Eileen Fogarty
Chair, City Dock Action Committee

The AMRP Team will be our Guests at the February Membership Meeting

Come meet the AMRP team at the month's WORA Membership Meeting. The Zoom call will be held at 7pm on Thursday February 18th. If you have questions regarding either the Hillman Garage or the City Dock project, please send them ahead of the meeting to WORAPresident@wardone.org so we can pass those to Eileen. Please register for the February Member Meeting here.

Thursday, February 18
7-9pm
Register Here

Photo Gallery

Kate Stillwell

Kate Stillwell

Kate Stillwell

Lisa Fontaine