



Ward One Residents Association

March 2024
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Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 26
6-7 Social Hour
7-8:30 Meeting**

Metropolitan, West St.

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One Business**



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 3592
Annapolis, MD 21403
wardone.org

President's Message

Dear Members,

Well, it is beginning to feel like spring is coming, and not a moment too soon for many of us. There are more events and activities to attend and I look forward to seeing more people out and around town.

The Ogle Hall modifications at 247 King George Street has been approved by the City as an inn and museum with a number of provisions and conditions stipulated by Planning & Zoning, thanks in large part to the input and questions that were aired by the community. The WORA board the opportunity to have a very positive meeting with the City regarding WORA members' questions and concerns. The Director of Planning & Zoning, Chris Jakubiak, will be addressing the membership meeting at Metropolitan on March 26 to answer any questions that you may have. Vadim Rey, resident manager of Ogle Hall, which is owned by Fair Winds Productions, LLC, will also be attending. Ogle Hall is also a recent business affiliate member of WORA.

The ongoing series of construction projects in Ward One will be continuing throughout the year:

- The second phase of the Maryland Capital restoration, which includes insulation replacement, increased accessibility and brickwork restoration, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- The new Department of Legislative Services Building under construction that has closed a block of College Avenue is expected to be completed by the end of October.
- The NSA Annapolis, in conjunction with the USNA and the City, will be working on the Academy wall from the lower part of Hanover Street and part of Wagner Street. NSA Annapolis will be reaching out with more details regarding timeline, design, parking, etc. when they become available.
- Starting in April, BGE will be installing a new main gas line starting on West Street near Park Place to Southgate Avenue, down to Franklin Street then over to Cheston Street and then to the Cheston Park. We will be sending out a separate email with more details.

Continued on next page

President's Message cont'd

- City Dock construction on resiliency work is scheduled to begin this spring. You can sign up for email updates on the project [here](#).

Hopefully one of the biggest concerns on the minds of both residents and visitors will soon be allayed. On March 13, 2024, at 4:00 pm, the Transportation Committee will meet, focusing on Parking Operations as a follow-up to their continued meetings with Premium in response to the Resolution demanding improvement.

The Annapolis Ahead 2040 Comprehensive Plan continues to make progress, with an updated Draft Plan released around the middle of February. To view the plan, as well as see other updates, meeting dates, etc., [click here to visit the 2040 Comprehensive Plan page on the city website](#).

One of the signs of springtime in Annapolis is the many events that occur throughout the city. One of our most enjoyable and well attended events is the St Patrick's Parade which will be held this year on March 17, kicking off at one o'clock. This is the largest parade held in the city, with nearly 140 floats and bands - if you haven't been to it in previous years, I recommend getting your viewing position early, as it is very well attended. Other upcoming parades are:

April 13 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
May 27 Annapolis Memorial Day Parade
June 1 Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival
June 22 Annapolis Juneteenth Parade and Festival
July 4 City of Annapolis Independence Day Parade

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Craig Harrison
WORA President
worapresident@wardone.org

Social Committee

WORA March Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 26

The next WORA membership meeting will be on Tuesday, March 26 at Metropolitan Kitchen & Lounge on West Street. There will be a social hour from 6-7pm with a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres followed by our quarterly meeting from 7-8:30. We have invited Chris Jakubiak, the city's Director of Planning & Zoning, to be our guest speaker. Alderwoman Elly Tierney will also be in attendance and make some comments.

Contributed by John Fluhart
WORA Vice President

Community News

Ward One residents are accustomed to seeing tourists taking photographs around the Historic District, but Sue Steinbrook is a local resident and photographer that I met last summer at an event sponsored by Historic Annapolis who has spent the last 4 years creating a book on the Historic Homes of Annapolis, with the focus on homes with the HA historic markers. She has photographed and explored the history of many homes in Ward One, with an emphasis on early Annapolis from 1649 to the post Revolutionary War period. Many locals have been following her work on Instagram and Facebook ("Historic Homes of Annapolis"), as well as on her webpage steinbrookphotography.com. I highly recommend taking time to explore her photos of the interiors and exteriors of these architecturally and/or historically significant homes, and her notes about Annapolitans of the past. Her work repeatedly reminds me to appreciate our charming neighborhood through her lens.

Contributed by Marlys Sandve McDevitt,
WORA Secretary

Alderwoman's Corner



Dear Members and Constituents,
It has been some time since the last newsletter, but if you receive my Mailchimp emails, you are up-to-date with the legislation and policies the Council is working on. Here is a brief overview of the recent legislation I sponsored:

Resolutions:

R-56-23 Fines Schedule Update - Abandoned Vehicle: This increases fines for abandoned vehicles in Annapolis.

R-47-23 Public Kayak Rack Pilot Program: A City of Annapolis pilot program to allow a public kayak rack in a street-end city park on the City's waterfront.

R-54-23 Noah Hillman Garage Parking Concession Agreement: To investigate problems with the Noah Hillman Garage parking contractor and find solutions to eliminate the overly complicated parking fee payment system, which is discouraging the use of the parking garage.

Ordinances:

O-32-23 Short-term Rental Licenses and Regulations: To clarify and limit local eligibility requirements for a short-term rental operator's license, provide definitions, make technical corrections, and generally relate to a rental operator's license.

O-31-23 Certain Street Parking Updates and Corrections: To eliminate outdated language and conflicts in the City of Annapolis code related to Chapter 12.20, and Chapter 12.32 - Special Residential Parking Districts.

O-30-23 Updates and Corrections to Special Residential Parking Districts: To move Bloomsbury Square from Special Residential Parking District 1 and into District 4, updating the district descriptions and maps.

O-28-23 City Noise Prohibitions and Enforcement: To update the Annapolis City Code noise prohibition section by banning specific noise (gas-fired leaf blowers) in residential areas, and expanding enforcement.

O-22-23 Business License, Taxes, and Regulation Creation of Art Establishment Beer and Wine License: To create a City of Annapolis beer and wine license for specific art venues such as Maryland Hall, as authorized per House Bill 353 and Senate Bill 472, signed by Governor Wes Moore on May 3, 2023.

More recently, I introduced a resolution for a moratorium on any cannabis dispensaries within the city until Planning and Zoning have ample time to review it with our current zoning and reconcile with State laws presently in discussion at the General Assembly.

Regarding specific issues, Ogle Hall's use as a museum has been approved by Planning and Zoning with substantial standards and the third floor is to be used as an office. It will now come before Historic Preservation. However, they do not review use. I have sent that approval letter, listing the standards, separately via email.

Moving on to more timely issues: the upcoming budget review and the draft Comprehensive Plan. The budget will be issued in April, followed by department presentations to the Finance Committee (which I chair). I will send out that schedule shortly, or perhaps it will be published in this newsletter. I implore you to listen to these presentations so that you understand what your tax dollars are paying for. There is also an upcoming work session where the City Council will be briefed by the Dept. of Public Works on all ongoing Capital projects.

Lastly, the Comprehensive Plan. On January 4, 2024, the City of Annapolis Planning Commission passed a resolution to approve the Draft Plan. The

Alderwoman's Corner cont'd

meeting was held in person at City Hall and can be viewed on the Annapolis YouTube channel. The updated Draft Plan was formally transmitted to the Annapolis City Council to begin an adoption process and will include additional opportunities for public comment. Hard copies of the plan are available in all libraries and at City Hall. It is recommended that you all visit the Comprehensive Plan page on the City website Annapolis.gov, where you will see the header 'Comprehensive Plan.'

Building on the 2009 plan, findings from a recent economic profile report, market analysis, and a five-year housing and community development plan, the City Comprehensive planner Eric Leshinsky, with consultants Stantec, developed land use recommendations, urban design concepts, and public engagement tools for community outreach. When COVID-19 impacts began affecting the area, they pivoted select in-person events to virtual events.

As you can see, a lot is going on that requires your attention and input. Thank you for your continued passion that brought you here to live and work. I humbly enjoy working for you and being your advocate and navigator of all city issues that affect Ward One.

Elly Tierney

ellymtierney@gmail.com
or aldtierney@annapolis.gov



March 2024

Budget Process Timeline for Fiscal Year 2025

April 8, 2024 Introduction of Mayor's Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 at Regular City Council meeting.

April 11, 2024 City Council Work Session – budget overview and review of the City Council budget binder.

April 15-May 3, 2024 Finance Committee budget hearings and deliberation.

April 25, 2024 Council Work Session for CIP presentation, debt affordability and other budget items. This will be a joint meeting with the Financial Advisory Commission.

May 13, 2024 Finance Committee budget report due at Regular City Council meeting.

May 15, 2024 Due date for budget amendment ideas and recommendations from City Council members to the Finance Department. Budget changes and amendments will not be accepted after this date.

May 23, 2024 City Council Work Session to discuss the submitted budget amendments created by the Finance Department from the ideas and recommendations submitted by the City Council members. This will be an extended meeting from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

June 3, 2024 Full day (starting at 10:00 AM) Special City Council Meeting for budget discussion and deliberations. There will be no other agenda items for this meeting.

June 10, 2024 Regular City Council meeting – Approval of Budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

Embracing History: The Ogle Inn and Museum Project

Dear Ward One,

On behalf of Ogle Hall's ownership group, I thank you for welcoming us into the association as a business affiliate member. We are honored to be part of the positive changes that you are driving in the heart of historic Annapolis.

We are also honored to have full zoning approval with conditions to operate the inn and museum in a way that respects and improves the historic community we share.

The Ogle Hall Inn and Museum is poised to become a cornerstone of Ward One's cultural landscape, offering residents and visitors alike a glimpse into the rich tapestry of Annapolis and Navy history. Led by a dedicated ownership group primarily composed of Navy officers, including several from the esteemed Class of 2006 at the United States Naval Academy, alongside our families, the project represents a collaborative effort to open Ogle Hall's doors to the wider community.

At the heart of the project lies a commitment to providing public access to Ogle Hall for education and appreciation of its storied past. With roots predating the birth of our nation, Ogle Hall has stood witness to significant events and influential figures, including the Ogle Family, General Lafayette, and Naval Academy alumni. The planned exhibits will showcase these historical narratives, offering a comprehensive look at the property's role in shaping Annapolis and Navy history.

Moreover, the project extends beyond preserving history; it aims to contribute actively to the community's enrichment. Plans are in place to reinvest some of our budget and leverage influence to support physical improvements in the neighborhood, guided by the input of Ward One residents. By fostering partnerships and collaborations with Visit Annapolis, Historic Annapolis, the Belair Mansion, national and local Lafayette commissions, and various local museum experts, the project seeks to enhance the quality of exhibits, programming, and visitor experiences in a very modern way.



Engagement with Ward One residents has been a priority from the outset. In conjunction with our lawyer Phil Dales, we have hosted presentations and solicited feedback through multiple venues, incorporating resident input into the project's business plan from day one. Specific concerns raised, such as traffic, noise, and event scope, have been addressed through mitigation plans, including an incentivized valet and garage parking program, strict adherence to the city's noise ordinance, and a focus on the museum's mission of serving the community with limitations on events codified through the conditional zoning approval.

Looking ahead, the Ogle Hall inn and museum project represents an opportunity to celebrate and share Annapolis and Navy history with the broader community. Scheduled events, including a December 2024 bicentennial celebration honoring General Lafayette's visit, promise to offer engaging experiences for visitors of all ages. With a commitment to being great neighbors and stewards of the community, we are dedicated to ensuring that Ogle Hall remains a valued asset for Ward One and beyond.

In conclusion, the Ogle Hall inn and museum project embodies a shared vision of preserving, celebrating, and sharing the legacy of this historic property. By opening our doors to the public and engaging with the community, we aim to create lasting connections and enrich the cultural fabric of Ward One and Annapolis as a whole.

With gratitude,

Vadim
vadim@fwcinvestments.com
757.206.2868

Spotlight on Ward One Business



Welcome Home at 64 State Circle is a culinary treasure chest. The store contains every kitchen tool imaginable to help you prepare the meal and an incredible selection of beautiful tableware in which to serve it. Co-founders Jennifer and John Baker quit their management consulting careers and turned to the ever-challenging retail business, opening Welcome Home in May of 2021. Nothing like a pandemic and a city garage closure to add to the fun. Why choose Annapolis' Ward One as their location? As Jennifer shared: "Annapolis has the nicest and gentlest people. I felt at home immediately". It is no surprise she felt at home because Jennifer's effervescent personality makes all of her patrons feel welcome. The Bakers also believe for local retail to flourish it needs not just the tourist driven weekend business but also a vibrant neighborhood of local residents. The Bakers product selection supports both the local home chef and the out of town visitors. Jennifer mentioned her hope for more local "boots on the ground" on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to not only help the bottom line but also to help "create a special relationship" with the local customer. Take a swing by Welcome Home to peruse the fine goods and get to the know the Bakers.

*Contributed by JD Derderian,
WORA Board*

Community Corner

Purple Streetlights?

BGE installed a batch of defective bulbs in our area and the street lights are starting to fail by turning purple. You can report them to BGE here and they will usually replace the bulb in 7-10 days <https://bge.streetlightoutages.com/public/default.html> (To report: Zoom all the way into your street using the map shown and then click on the light symbol).

Sidewalk, Street or other city infrastructure issues?

Report the issues using the City's website here: <https://www.annapolis.gov/2025/Report-an-Issue>

Wondering about crime in your area?

The Annapolis police e-mail a daily report on all serious crime in the area. You can receive the report by signing up here on the city's website: <https://www.annapolis.gov/list.aspx> (There are also many other notifications, such as City Council meetings, that you can elect to receive at this site.)

*Contributed by Rick Lober,
WORA Board*



Jennifer Baker, of Welcome Home
Photos by JD Derderian