



Ward One Residents Association

February 2025

**WORA April
Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 8
6-7 Social Hour
7-8:30 Meeting**

Metropolitan, West St.

President's Message

**Annapolis Film
Festival**

Alderman's Corner

Community Corner

**Annapolis Restaurant
Week and Spotlight
on 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,

Thank you the WORA members who attended the Holiday Party at Metropolitan on January 21st. The weather was not ideal for the occasion, but we had an enjoyable social two hours with a 20-minute break for our political leaders to make a few comments. Kudos to John Fluhart for working with Tom Hanna, the general manager, in arranging the logistics and Sandy Scott for the work she did to make sure that everything came together.

There have been several projects and events that WORA has been following and been providing input to the city council and to our Alderman Harry Huntley.

We have been working with Historic Annapolis CEO Karen Brown and Rachel Robinson on concerns about the City Dock Project. I think the residents appreciate that the resiliency and flooding mitigation must be addressed immediately, but the size of the Maritime Welcoming Center blocking the view of the bay is still being discussed. We are working on sending a questionnaire and survey to all members soliciting your thoughts so we have some tangible community concerns to discuss. We are planning on sending this out shortly, but it is challenging to ask questions without sounding biased or slanted. I and others from WORA have testified or spoken at multiple meetings on the project. In some instances, I have introduced myself as the President of WORA, but have noted that I am speaking on my own behalf, not WORA's if there had been no official WORA board vote.

The Naval Support Activity-Annapolis will be tearing down and rebuilding the Naval Academy wall from Gate 3 to Gate 4, which is Hanover Street to Wagner Street to King George Street. Parking will be affected on these streets as well as College Avenue (the block closest to Hanover Street). This project has a projected duration of two years and is causing parking questions for the affected residents. We notified Alderman Huntley and within a week there was a Zoom meeting with the Academy, the city, NSAA, and the residents to work on parking solutions. A number of spots have been reserved for District 1 resident parking in the 9-hour parking on King George Street, which will alleviate much of the problem. If you are a resident in that area, we welcome your feedback about the parking situation.

President's Message cont'd

Thank you to Mary Bannon who spent hours revamping the website (www.wardone.org) by providing more information and developing it to be more user-friendly and an excellent reflection of WORA. We should also give a shoutout to board member Bill Bray who has stepped up to be the editor of the newsletter, which he plans on publishing every quarter. It all depends on the input and comments from our politicians and residents who have ideas and concerns to share.

I am looking forward to spring weather, when we no longer have to hibernate, and when events such as the St. Patricks Day Parade on March 9th and the Annapolis Cup croquet match between St. Johns and the USNA on April 5th. We look forward to seeing our neighbors out and about again. The next membership meeting will once again be at Metropolitan on April 8th. I hope to see you there.

All the best,
Craig Harrison
WORA President
worapresident@wardone.org

Social Committee

WORA April Membership Meeting

The next WORA membership meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 8** at Metropolitan Kitchen & Lounge on West Street. There will be a social hour from 6–7:00 PM with a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres followed by our quarterly meeting from 7-8:30. We plan to invite Chris Jakubiak, the city's Director of Planning & Zoning, to be our guest speaker once again.

WORA Summer Social

The 2025 WORA summer social is tentatively planned for **Sunday, June 22** from 5:00–8:00 PM at The Paca House on Prince George Street.

John Fluhart, WORA Vice President

Annapolis Film Festival 27–30 March

The Annapolis Film Festival has grown into a premier cultural event, attracting filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences from across the U.S. and beyond. The festival is presented by the Brian and Patricia Giese Foundation. Over four days, we showcase more than 70 films, including thought-provoking **documentaries**, **independent features**, and compelling **short films**. Our programming includes engaging coffee talks, industry panels, and curated showcases—such as the Environmental Showcase, Black Experience Showcase, Jewish Experience Showcase, Latin Experience Showcase, and Student Showcase—all designed to foster meaningful dialogue and celebrate diverse perspectives.

Annapolis provides an intimate and welcoming setting for filmmakers and film lovers to engage with one another in a dynamic, festival-like atmosphere. From red carpet premieres and filmmaker Q&As to waterfront gatherings and afterparties, the festival offers an unforgettable experience in a city that beautifully blends history with modern creativity.

We hope that you will join us for this exciting event—this year's festival will be the best yet!

Patti White and Lee Anderson



Alderman's Corner



Dear neighbors,
It's my pleasure to introduce myself to those of you I haven't yet met. I've been representing Ward One on the Annapolis City Council since being appointed to replace Alderwoman Tierney in September.

I'm a native Marylander who's been living on Dean Street with my wife, Sara, and our corgi, Hobie, since we graduated from University of Maryland together. We both have dedicated our careers to environmental policy; she coordinates policy for nonprofits throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and I help governments around the country develop more cost-effective ways to pay farmers to clean waterways. In our free time, we love to kayak and sail on the Bay and its creeks.

My highest priority as your alderman is to support and strengthen our ward's vibrant, welcoming communities. I think one of the key ways to do that is by making it easier for people who love Annapolis to invest in Annapolis—buy a home, build a home, or open a small business. This strengthens our tax base and keeps more money in your pocket.

Here's a **sampling of legislation** I am working on:

Condemning the abandoned gas station: I inherited this legislation from Alderwoman Tierney and have been really excited to work on it. We can all agree that there's a better use for that space than the current eyesore near Westgate circle. This resolution is intended to create some urgency for the absentee owners. There is an agreement in principle for the property to get purchased by a local who will turn it into needed housing. But if that isn't done by early March, I expect the council will move forward with condemning and purchasing the property.

Maintaining Thompson street-end park: The "park" at the end of Thompson Street wasn't

getting maintained, because it's city owned land but not technically a park. It was falling to Public Works to maintain it, which is not really their specialty. My resolution to designate it as a street-end park—so that Rec and Parks can maintain it—is in committee now, and I expect it to pass.

Getting snow off sidewalks: During the most recent storm, there were too many sidewalks that went unshoveled. Many of these received citations, but that doesn't really solve the problem. This legislation, which will be introduced at the next council meeting, extends the authority the city already has for fixing broken sidewalks and billing the owner for shoveling uncleared sidewalks.

Limiting the density of new short term rentals: A commonsense reform to protect our communities is to stop issuing short-term rentals once a block hits a certain percentage. We've researched how other cities have implemented this and have most of the text ready, but are waiting on data to determine what the percentage should be. I do not intend for this to affect existing short-term rentals.

Ending pre-employment cannabis testing: I was proud to partner with Alderman Savidge on this legislation that will make it easier to fill open positions by aligning Annapolis' drug testing policy with Governor Moore's recent executive order. Nothing in the legislation allows employees to be intoxicated at work, and nothing supersedes federal or state law (meaning, police and some other employees will still have to be tested). But it will mostly get us out of the business of regulating what employees do outside of work. The ordinance passed at the end of January.

Reducing Hillman's overstay fee: You shouldn't be charged \$50 for staying two minutes over time in Hillman Garage. Council colleagues and I are working on exactly how to do it within the confines

Alderman's Corner cont'd

of the concession agreement, but the council does have the authority to change these fees, and I'm adamant that we need to.

The council is also rapidly approaching budget season. This year, at the suggestion of our budget staff, I decided to organize a work session for council members to share their top priorities. The idea was to find consensus goals the mayor may not have thought of so they can be included in the budget when it's presented, rather than scrambling to make amendments later.

The priorities I presented are (1) rebalancing our budget toward commonsense maintenance (of roads, sidewalks, parks) and away from novelties; (2) improving customer service for residents; and (3) making downtown feel safer and more welcoming. Some of the most common priorities my colleagues mentioned were better sidewalk maintenance, staff support for greater oversight of the administration, economic development, and public safety, including resiliency and road calming.

The mayor will present his budget April 14, and the council will then spend a month and a half debating and amending it. Please watch some of these hearings to see how your tax dollars are spent, and don't hesitate to share your thoughts with me. You can view the full budget timeline at HarryMHuntley.com/budget.

As your alderman, I will always listen and respond to your concerns, questions, and needs. If you see something that needs to be fixed in the ward, I want to hear about it. Residents can tell you that when I get these requests, it's not unusual for me to roll up my sleeves and take care of them myself, even late at night or in the rain. You deserve excellent service. Contact me any time at Harry@HarryMHuntley.com or aldhuntley@annapolis.gov.

I hope you'll sign up for my biweekly newsletter, in which I share all the legislation before the council and my thoughts on it, as well as other news relevant to the ward. You can do so at HarryMHuntley.com.

Sincerely,
Harry

Community Corner

Our Brick Sidewalks

The Historic District of Annapolis is well known for its extensive brick walkways. Unfortunately, our local orthopedic and physical therapy providers know these as a frequent source of patients who have tripped on misaligned bricks and utility access plates. The City is responsible for our brick sidewalks and we are told they have been sued occasionally by those who have tripped and fallen. Please do our neighbors, visitors, and the City a favor by reporting these trip hazards here: www.annapolis.gov/2025/Report-an-Issue.

We have also discussed this with our new Ward One Alderperson, Harry Huntley, who has taken great interest in the issue and in seeing our streets and sidewalks become better maintained. We would suggest you send him a note at harry@harrymhuntley.com or aldhuntley@annapolis.gov noting the issue. Our brick sidewalks will never be perfect and that is part of the "charm" of living here in the Historic District, but if you see something that is a blatant hazard, please report it.

Rick Lober, WORA Board



Annapolis Restaurant Week: A Culinary Celebration in Maryland's Capital

Annapolis Restaurant Week 2025 presented by the Downtown Annapolis Partnership will delight food lovers from near and far with a celebration of the region's best dining establishments. From **February 22 to March 2**, this event will showcase the diverse culinary talent that defines Annapolis, offering the opportunity to experience exceptional meals at discounted prices.

Now in its 17th year, Annapolis Restaurant Week is a highly anticipated tradition, attracting thousands of diners eager to indulge in special prix-fixe menus and exclusive offers at restaurants throughout Annapolis. It's the perfect opportunity to explore Annapolis' culinary arts, with restaurants featuring a wide variety of cuisines—from seafood and farm-to-table fare to international flavors and classic American dishes.

This year brunch is being added to the mix to complement the longtime offerings of breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Around 35 restaurants are expected to participate, including some of your longtime favorites and a few new restaurants. Reservations are highly recommended during restaurant week.

As Annapolis also has a vibrant art scene, diners are encouraged to book a dinner and a show experience. Local bands can be found at some of the downtown restaurants, and regional and national bands can be found at Rams Head On Stage. Performing arts events during Restaurant Week are being hosted at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, the Classic Theatre of Maryland, and Colonial Players of Annapolis.

Restaurant Week includes prix-fixe menus, exclusive discounts, and special promotions at participating restaurants for breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner.

Visit www.AnnapolisRestaurantWeek.com to see participating restaurants, menus, private dining options, and to make reservations for restaurants throughout Annapolis, Maryland.

Erik Evans, Executive Director of Downtown Annapolis Partnership

Spotlight on Ward One Business

Reclaimed of Annapolis (129 Main St.) and **The Boathouse MD** (36 Market Square)
www.reclaimwoodworks.com

Mark (pictured below) and Tracey Miller opened these two shops downtown within the past two years. After 10 years in St. Michaels, the husband-and-wife team felt Annapolis would give them great visibility and they hope to be here for at least 20 years!

Reclaimed on Main Street features antiques and rustic wood and metal pieces made of materials they reclaim from across the country (they also ship nationwide). **The Boathouse** at Market Square offers more modern "coastal-inspired" items along with salvaged maritime treasures. They build much of the furniture themselves and do custom work for businesses, restaurants, and homes—they just completely outfitted the new Sea Salt restaurant on West Street. They have been featured in many magazines and shows and sell more than 400 reclaimed antique gas pumps every year!

Strolling by you will often see Mark and Tracey cheerfully greeting all visitors, and if you hear the live music played every Saturday at Reclaimed, stop in for a complimentary beer or glass of wine!

Rick Lober, WORA Board

