



Mayor Mike Pantelides' Monthly Newsletter



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Interested in getting more involved in local government? I want to invite you to come to our city council meetings and be a part of the decision-making process here in Annapolis. Your opinion matters to me, and at the start of every City Council meeting, we have a time set aside for everyone to come to the podium and give public testimony on any topic that is important to you. We also have public hearings on specific legislative items and I urge you to participate in those as well. To learn more about our Council meetings, watch the short video at <https://youtu.be/vmrM8xS7Q94>, then call me or email me with any questions or suggestions.

In an effort to gain community consensus and foster stakeholder engagement on a series of very complex issues, Ward One Alderman Joe Budge and I proposed to withdraw of O-07-16 at the April 11 City Council meeting. Both of us feel confident that those most affected by the legislation will be best served by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Arts in Public Places Commission working to achieve consensus with the public on changes that fall within their established duties. We also agree that community consensus formed by these commissions will help create a foundation for future legislation. To read more, go to <http://bit.ly/242RMdT>

April was a great month to celebrate all things green in Annapolis! We celebrated the 25th anniversary of GreenScape, a beautification project that has



brought thousands of volunteers together over the years, all with the common goal of planting trees, bulbs, and creating new gardens in public places. On April 23rd, more than 300 volunteers partnered with the city of Annapolis to facilitate 60 beautification projects throughout the city, each one specific to its location.



Over the years

these projects have been initiated and adopted by individuals, community groups, and neighborhood associations. GreenScape takes place each spring with additional efforts in the fall during the national "Make a Difference Day." To that end, I proclaimed April 23rd GreenScape Day in the City of Annapolis during the Shiley Park Dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony in West Annapolis. It was a great day, and seemed appropriate to dedicate the park on the GreenScape anniversary, as volunteers have been beautifying that park for the past eight years. The serenity of the park, coupled with the benches and native plants make it an ideal place to sit, relax and enjoy nature.

I was also proud to help plant a tree during the city's Arbor Day Celebration at the Walter S. Mills Parole Elementary School. Ward Three Alderwoman Rhonda Pindell Charles helped plant the American dogwood tree, which was donated by BGE. As part of the celebration, students sang a John Denver song. Here's a fun fact: Arbor Day was first observed in 1872 with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska.

Speaking of beautification, don't forget May Day is just around the corner. Sunday, May 1, will mark the annual May Basket Competition, sponsored by the Garden Club of Old Annapolis-Towne. On May Day, garden club judges will be out and about at 10 a.m. selecting blue ribbon winners and rewarding children's efforts with pink ribbons and lollipops. Adult winners will be invited to a special May Day tea, hosted by Garden Club members at a home in the District. The event takes place rain or shine.



I want to invite everyone to the **City of Annapolis City Dock Grand Reopening** and ribbon cutting on Wednesday, May 4th at 11 a.m. at the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial. Join us as we celebrate the project that came in on time and under budget! I want to acknowledge the outstanding working relationship between the city and the project's contractor, Cianbro, as well as the projects engineering design firm, EBA Engineering. Both are local firms and were part of the project from start to finish. I also want to acknowledge Department of Public Works' Project Manager Lisa Grieco on a job well done, along with the Department of Natural Resources.

Finally, I want to showcase our Recreation and Parks Department and its marketing coordinator Dana Disborough Strotman for their ability to communicate and promote the value of public recreation and parks on the internet. The Recreation and Parks Department was recently awarded Best Website for a population under 50,000 by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association. All the entries were judged on content, design, ease of use, and currency of information. The Maryland Recreation and Parks Association provides an opportunity for Maryland's park and recreation agencies to emphasize their talent, share ideas, and recognize the best marketing and promotions materials in the state. Ms. Disborough Strotman accepted the award on behalf of the department. Congratulations!