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As summer comes to an end and the kids head back to school, I was so happy to be part of the grand reopening of West Annapolis Elementary School and celebrate this modern, cutting-edge school. The two year, \$24 million project is setting a new standard in Annapolis education, offering the best opportunities to the youth. This is a school with a proud tradition of academic excellence and was designated a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in

1999. On August 22nd, we come together to applaud the administration, the teachers, the students and the parents who have pulled our community together in support of this school.

As part of a new City of Annapolis initiative focusing on children, family, and community, I am inviting local male surrogates and fathers to be team leaders both on and off the basketball court. The program, *Family Hood*

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*Scores!*, utilizes the Annapolis Cluster and combines competition and education by creating basketball teams that will compete in two conferences, for ten regular season games and participate in a half time information session each game. The half time sessions are designed to give specific knowledge on topics including health, finance, employment, housing, voting, safety and other timely topics.

This is a successful program that Ward Three Alderwoman Rhonda Pindell Charles developed and organized in 2006 but the program was not continued. Because the program has so much promise, I am confident it will benefit families in our nine elementary schools, two middle schools and at Annapolis High School.

***A general information and expectation meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8 at the Eastport Terrace-Harbour House Recreation Center.*** Players on the 13 teams must be a male surrogate or father of a child attending a public school in the Annapolis Cluster. A 14<sup>th</sup> team will be added and will be composed of new dads with children in pre-school and younger.

All games will be played at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center, located at 273 Hilltop Lane in Annapolis, the Eastport Terrace-Harbour House Recreation Center, located at 1014 President Street in Annapolis, and the Stanton Community Center, located at 92 W. Washington Street in Annapolis. ***The first game is scheduled for September 15 with the registration deadline at the information meeting on September 8.*** For more information, contact Archie Trader at [443-569-9845](tel:443-569-9845), Leron Fisher at [443-336-3865](tel:443-336-3865) or Alderman Kenneth Kirby at [443-822-5046](tel:443-822-5046).

**It is my pleasure to welcome Mr. Larry Griffin, the city's African American Community Services Specialist.** Mr. Griffin has a tremendous familiarity and keen knowledge of this city and will help to connect Annapolis through initiatives, programs and policy. Larry has my respect as well as the respect of the community and I am confident he is the man for the job and will help our city accomplish great things.



His responsibilities include acting as liaison between the African American community and the City of Annapolis, acting as the city's representative with local agencies that serve the African American community, and establishing and maintaining extensive contacts with civic, social, business and related African

American organizations. To many, Mr. Griffin is known as the founder of We Care & Friends, which helps individuals who have nowhere else to turn. The organization provides people with short and long-term counseling in order to help them make improvements in their lives.

“This is an excellent opportunity to continue my outreach efforts to help the residents find the resources they need, the programs they want, and the unification that our city deserves,” Mr. Griffin said. The position is part time (20 hours a week) and will report to the city manager.



**I am pleased to announce that the Light House Shelter (Light House Inc.) will receive a total of \$128,371 from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).** I am glad to know this money will help the Light House Shelter achieve their mission’s goal of rebuilding lives by providing shelter and services that empower people as they transition toward employment, housing and self-sufficiency. The Department of Planning and Zoning, through a partnership with the Light House Shelter, secured the DHCD grant. The money is part of a Maryland DHCD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and will support homeless assistance administered by the Light House Shelter. The ESG was awarded to Annapolis, through a competitive application process, and is one of several Federal funding programs administered by the DHCD through the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization.



**In an effort to educate the public on new escalating fines for residential parking and increases on metered parking in the city, I have instituted a grace period for first time offenders through October 1, 2016.** During this time, residents and visitors can learn more about the new parking regulations and the city can gather public input to determine potential changes to the fine schedule and to parking districts.

**Effective Immediately:**

During the grace period, first time offenders for both metered and residential

parking will not receive a fine. Instead, they will receive a written warning that encourages the vehicle owner to explore alternative parking options at [annapolisparking.com](http://annapolisparking.com).

After the first warning has been issued:

- (Metered Parking) A \$40 fine will be issued for staying past the maximum time allowed at a metered space. Each additional violation will result in a \$40 fine
- (Residential Parking) Repeat offenders that illegally park in a residential area will continue to receive a \$40 ticket for each violation, rather than the escalating fines up to \$140.00, even if they have incurred multiple violations

**Effective October 1, 2016:**

- (Metered Parking) A \$40 fine will be issued for staying past the maximum time allowed at a metered space. Each additional violation will result in a \$40 fine
- (Residential Parking) Fines will be increased on an escalating schedule starting at \$40 and costing as much as \$140
- Fine for initial offense: \$40.00 (Two times the daily maximum garage fee)
- Second violation in a one year period: \$70.00
- Third violation in a one year period: \$105.00
- Fourth violation (or greater) in a one year period: \$140.00

SP+ is using new License Plate Recognition technology, which is mounted on two enforcement vehicles and will allow for a more accurate reading of license plates on vehicles that have been parked illegally in a residential district. For parking options, go to [www.annapolisparking.com](http://www.annapolisparking.com). For more information on the grace period or the new fine schedules, please contact [annapolisparking@spplus.com](mailto:annapolisparking@spplus.com).

**Meanwhile, The City of Annapolis Television Station produced a video that shows just how easy it is to use the new Multi Space Meters found around town.** [The short video](#) reminds viewers to keep their license plate information

handy, so they can use it each time they park in Annapolis. It also talks about Park Mobile as an option when parking in the city.

**I want to congratulate the six Annapolis businesses that made Inc.'s annual 5000 list.** Being on the list indicates that the company is growing quickly and is well prepared to expand in the coming years. The list ranks companies based on three-year revenue growth, in this case from 2012 through 2015. These businesses exemplify the inventive and progressive leadership of Annapolis and we are proud that they chose to invest in our city. This recognition speaks to the expert management of these companies, as well as the excellence of their employees. Below is a list of the six Annapolis companies that made the list, including the type of business and their three-year growth percentages:

**No. 24: Furniture Solutions Group (Large-scale furniture supplier)**

3-year growth: 7,800%

[www.furnitureolutionsgroup.com](http://www.furnitureolutionsgroup.com)

619 Severn Avenue, Suite 302 Annapolis, MD 21403

**No. 721: DATUM (Software)**

3-year growth: 545%

[www.datumstrategy.com](http://www.datumstrategy.com)

One Park Place, Suite 540, Annapolis, MD 21401

**No. 1,427: TRACE International, Inc. (Anti-bribery compliance support)**

3-year growth: 268%

[www.traceinternational.org](http://www.traceinternational.org)

151 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

**No. 1,686: Capital Teas (Specialty beverages)**

3-year growth: 220%

[www.capitalteas.com](http://www.capitalteas.com)

HQ - 1814 Margaret Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401

77 Main Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

**No. 1,688: Mavenspire (Data center services)**

3-year growth: 220%

[www.mavenspire.com](http://www.mavenspire.com)

53 Old Solomons Island Road, Suite H, Annapolis, MD 21401

**No. 2,259: SailTime (Sailboat rental)**

3-year growth: 161%

[www.sailtime.com](http://www.sailtime.com)

7082 Bembe Beach Road, Suite 204, Annapolis MD 21403

**A new concept of open air dining called Dinner Under the Stars, is an innovative and entertaining venue that you must try.**

Each Wednesday, through September 21<sup>st</sup>, the first block of West Street will be closed to traffic, allowing tables and chairs to fill the street and accommodate friends and families while they enjoy dinner under a canopy of lights. Dinner is served from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information go to their Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/29fRHNY>. Space is limited, so make reservations like I did last week!

