



THE ARUNDEL PLANNER

News and Notes from the Office of Planning and Zoning

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From the Desk of
Steve Kaii-Ziegler, AICP
PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICER

I went on a camping vacation to Assateague Island in late May. Camping is fun and challenging: you can prepare with as much gear as possible, but you cannot control the weather (as much as I have tried!). What I like about camping is the experience of creating your own environment and preparing for the unexpected. With the right equipment and company, you can manage any challenge that comes your way.

At OPZ, we choose to do challenging work. We make decisions that impact communities and stakeholders, doing our part to make Anne Arundel County *The Best Place - For All*. Whether addressing a zoning violation reported by an upset resident or fielding questions about a proposed subdivision, this is not easy work. We do this work because of our commitment to service and the ability to persevere when we face the unexpected.

As we shift into the summer season, when the demands change but the pace remains the same, please know that your perseverance is recognized and appreciated. Thank you for all you do, and I hope you get as much adventure after hours as you do on the clock!

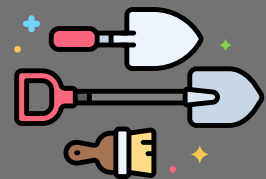
Steve Kaii-Ziegler



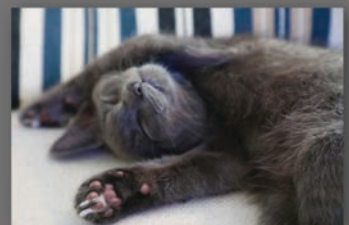
This issue: Uniformed Professionals in Zoning Enforcement



History: We Dig It!



Kitten Around on Page 6



Anne Arundel County Shore is the Best Place!

Did you know that Anne Arundel County has more shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay than any other Maryland county? OPZ staff joined staff from Inspections and Permits, the County Executive's office, and Arundel Rivers Federation to learn more about the science and engineering behind the protection for our shorelines and tidal wetlands. The morning included a tour of a successful living shoreline project installed to protect the Eastern-facing shoreline at South River Farm Park.

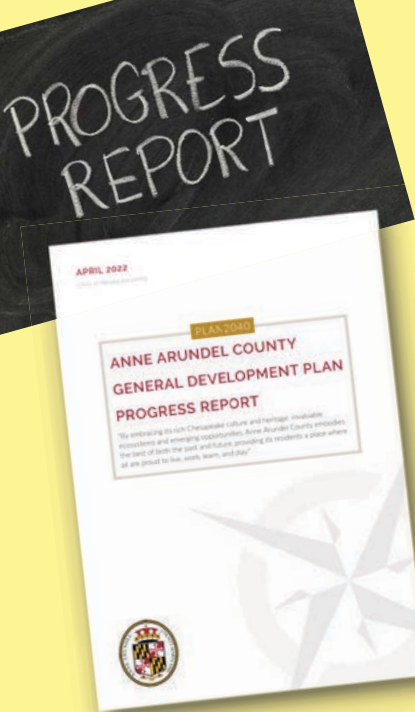
"We are working to change the public's perspective on the use of more environmentally sensitive methods for the protection of our shorelines and the first step is for staff to see them in action and learn about the installation, function, and benefits from the experts. We are very fortunate that Melanie Matthews was able to organize this for staff and share her passion for this effort," said Kelly Krinetz, OPZ's Planning Administrator for the Critical Area team in Development.

Living shorelines are a sustainable approach for addressing shoreline erosion and protecting marsh areas. Unlike traditional structures, such as bulkheads or seawalls that worsen erosion, living shorelines incorporate as many natural elements as possible to create more effective buffers, better for absorbing wave energy and protecting against shoreline erosion.

The process of creating a living shoreline is referred to as soft engineering, which utilizes techniques that incorporate ecological principles in shoreline stabilization. The natural materials used in the construction of living shorelines create and maintain valuable habitats. Structural and organic materials commonly used in the construction of living shorelines include sand, wetland plants, sand fill, oyster reefs, submerged aquatic vegetation, stones, and coir fiber logs.

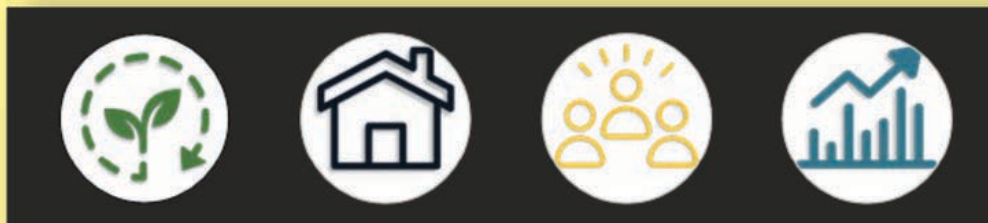


Anne Arundel County Staff joined by community members on a shoreline stabilization tour.



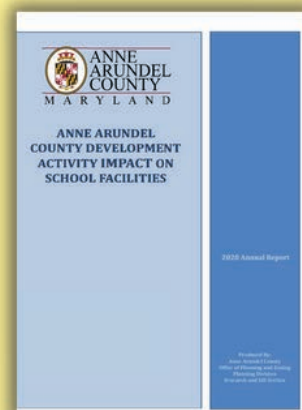
Plan2040: How are we doing?

The Long Range Planning team released the inaugural Plan2040 Progress Report to answer that question. The Plan2040 Progress Report provides an annual overview of progress through calendar year 2021 on implementation of the General Development Plan. Featuring key performance indicators such as the natural environment, built environment, healthy communities, and healthy economy, you can learn more [by clicking here.](#)

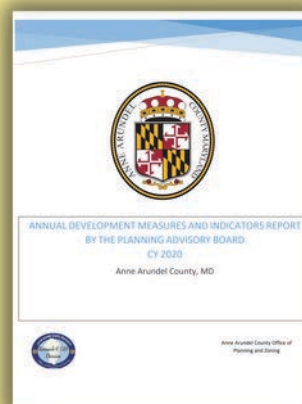


Research and GIS - Two Report in the Works:

The **Development Activity Impact on School Facilities** report evaluates the subdivision and building permit activity between November 9, 2020 and November 8, 2021. The data includes approved major and minor subdivision and residential site development plan projects, age restricted projects, and building permits issued/completed (among other categories). This report is under review and will be distributed to the County Council for the next step.



Another report is measures **Annual Development Measures and Indicators**. The annual report is required under the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The statute requires local planning commissions to prepare an annual report that addresses growth and development by reporting comprehensive plan and zoning changes, growth-related infrastructure improvements, and development in various stages of completion in relation to the Priority Funding Area. This report is in the review stage and is planned to be presented to the Planning Advisory Board in June. The next step will be to file with the County Council and the Maryland Department of Planning.



If you are interested in previous years reports, [please visit the Annual Reports web page.](#)



Archaeology Month Wrap Up

Can ya dig it? In April, Cultural Resources led a 10-day excavation at Whitehall, a National Historic Landmark, where volunteers assisted us in exploring the property's colonial landscape, and delved into the history and legacies of those who were enslaved at Whitehall. OPZ welcomed 39 volunteers over the course of our six "public dig days" contributing a total of 417 volunteer hours. Our volunteers included local residents who can trace their family lineage back to African Americans who worked at Whitehall both pre- and post-Emancipation, including our newest volunteer R. Ann Green Fountain, featured to the right.



Zoning Enforcement: A Uniform Profession

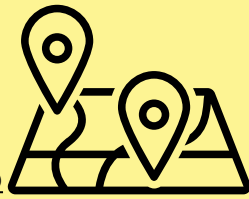
"Uniform" is defined as "unchanging in form or character," as well as "distinctive attire" in reference to a job or sport (among other things). This is an appropriate definition for the great people on the Zoning Enforcement team, who adhere to the Zoning Ordinance and its processes. We are proud of their new uniforms and of their ongoing commitment to making Anne Arundel County *The Best Place - For All!*



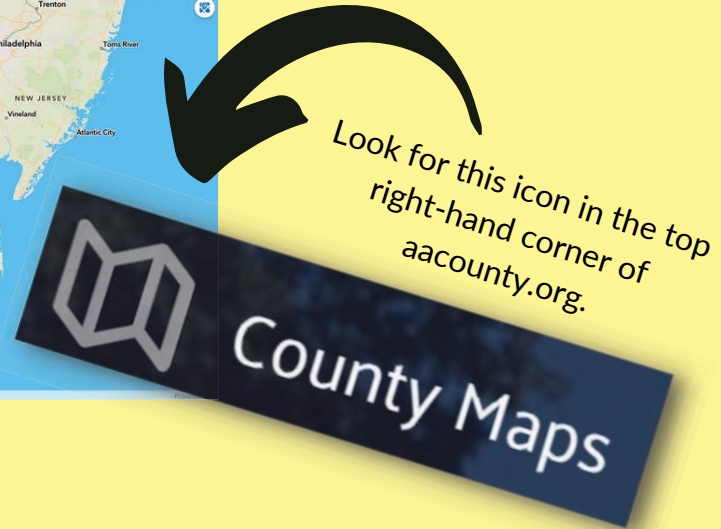
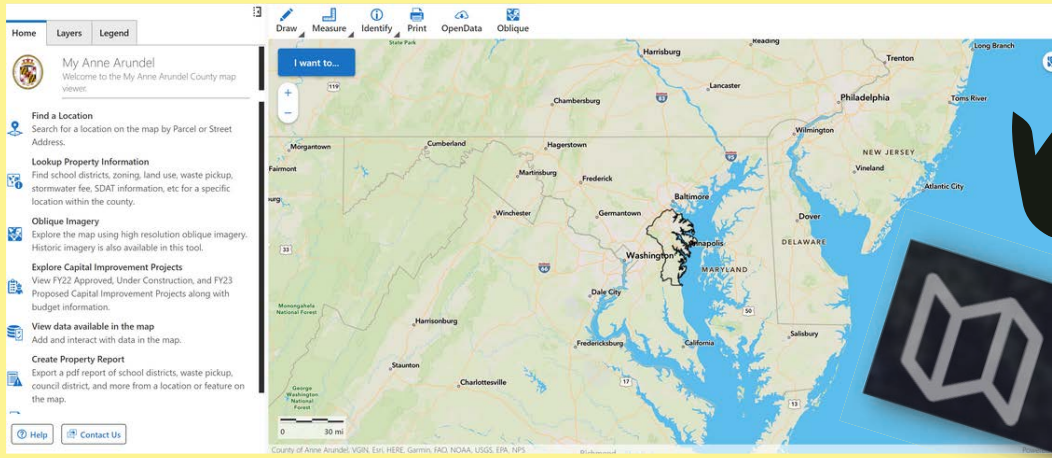
Left to Right: Tim Kingston, Krystyna Lane, Ashley McMillion, Michelle Panetta, Ulric Dahlgren, Dawn Holston, Ayda Klakring, Melissa Avenius, Keith Kernan



Zoning: There's a Map For That!



How is your property zoned? The My Anne Arundel map can be found at the top of all Anne Arundel County webpages. This is a great resource to prepare you for inquiries with the Office of Planning and Zoning!



Look for this icon in the top right-hand corner of aacounty.org.

Meet OPZ's New and Promoted Staff

Janet Busick, Secretary II



Janet Busick, Secretary II in the Long Range Planning Section, joined OPZ with over a decade of experience in administrative support. She worked for Anne Arundel County Public Schools and St. Mary's High School, performing high level executive support and operations coordination. Janet started with OPZ in late March. Welcome aboard, Janet!

Elizabeth Nardi, Planner II



OPZ is proud to announce a promotion for Elizabeth Nardi, Planner II on the Regional team. Elizabeth joined OPZ in November 2020 as a Planner I and rose through the ranks due to her diligent plan review and thoughtful customer follow up. We are excited to support her as she makes Anne Arundel County *The Best Place - For All*. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

Office of (fur+ human) Babies and Zoning



Mixi Hughes

Patrick Hughes, Senior Planner on the Long Range Planning team, welcomed Mixi the wonder kitten into his family in May!



Jordan Polino

Michele Polino, a Planner III on the Research/GIS team, welcomed Baby Jordan into her family at the beginning of May!



Vega Mastino Cruz

Lorenzo Mastino, a Senior Planner on the Long Range Planning team, welcomed Vega Mastino Cruz into his family at the end of March!



Quesito Mastino, Age 2

Not "new" but still important! Quesito Mastino, big brother to little Vega (pictured at left), in preparation for a cat nap.

Contact Us:

www.accounty.org/opz