



**Land Wise - Future Strong**

## Work continues despite heat and vacations



**Water access by boat** was addressed by a meeting on August 19 hosted by the Anne Arundel County Waterman's Association and GAN member SACReD (South Arundel Citizens for Responsible Development) protesting the County's defunding and termination of the lease agreement for a boat launch at Discovery Village.

Almost 100 people attended the meeting, about two dozen of whom spoke passionately about the need for the county to purchase the Discovery Village parcel, not just for access to the boat ramp but to create a community center which could be used by artists, citizens groups, and community gatherings. CE Steuart Pittman explained the county's history with an unfavorable lease contract signed before his term that burdened the county to pay for any repairs demanded by the owners. Councilmembers Shannon Leadbetter and Pete Smith explained their votes, and Director of Recreation and Parks Jessica Leys said Parrish Creek Landing Marina reached out to the county to offer its help when the DV lease was cancelled. Their agreement to provide boaters access continues through the end of this year. Meanwhile, the county is continuing to look for additional water access and boat ramp capacity in South County. GAN chair, Matt Minahan, has discussed this issue in a [recent op ed in the Capital](#).

**Feasibility of water access for non-vessel uses** in 14 County parks is discussed in a [recent report](#) from the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works (DPW) in partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP). The study was conducted to determine potential water-based recreational activities other than launching of vessels at water bodies associated with County parks. Numerous possibilities were identified, and layouts and implementation costs of each are presented.

**The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation has released its strategic plan for 2025-2030.** The full document can be viewed at [this link](#). The plan, which is intended to guide the AAEDC efforts over the next five years was developed through guidance and input from a national consulting firm and nearly 70 community

stakeholders. It is a well-thought-out approach to routes that can be taken by the County to promote economic development.

The reader will notice, however, that the question of how much development is desirable is not addressed. In a county with low unemployment, a housing shortage, and traffic problems, it may be desirable to target a stable economy with adequate formation of new business to compensate for attrition of older enterprises, but not excessive economic growth that would cause workforce and population growth that would negatively impact the quality of life of current residents.

**“Death on the Chesapeake”** features Gerald Winegrad in a documentary that explores the serious challenges facing the Chesapeake and follows the people who've spent their lives fighting to protect this national treasure. A trailer for the movie can be seen at <https://simian.me/5gvcs>. The sold out movie premiere is Wednesday, August 20 , 5:00 PM at the Annapolis Maritime Museum After the screening, public radio personality Marc Steiner will lead a Q&A with Patuxent Riverkeeper, Fred Tutman, and GAN Chair, Matt Minahan. It seems very likely that other opportunities to view this timely production will soon avail themselves.

### **Coming Council meeting**

Following its August hiatus, the next County Council meeting will be September 2, at 7 pm.

*Next GAN Board meeting August 27, All members are welcome to observe and comment. See calendar for link.*

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