

Arundel Report

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ARUNDEL DIGEST

City needs 65 more election judges

ANNAPOLIS — Less than two weeks away from the application deadline, city officials said they are short 65 volunteers to serve as election judges this year.

The law requires the city to have 165 election judges to staff the 16 polling places from 5:45 a.m. to 9 p.m., said Rhonda Wardlaw, a city spokeswoman.

The city needs to fill all the openings by June 21 so the volunteers can be trained.

Election judges are the only contact the city Election Office has with residents during voting hours, and they administer voting procedures at each site.

The city primary election is Sept. 17; the general election is Nov. 5. The judges must be available to work on both dates.

Judges can be either Republicans, Democrats and independent, and they must be:

- A registered voter in Annapolis or Anne Arundel County.

- Fluent in English.
- Not a candidate, campaign manager or treasurer for a candidate or political committee.

- Not involved in any partisan or political activity during election duty.

Election judges are paid \$160, plus \$25 for the mandatory training classes. Chief election judges are paid \$208.

Potential candidates can get an election judge application from the Annapolis website, www.annapolis.gov, under the Election 2013 tab.

For more information, call 410-263-7929.

New venue for Rock of All Ages

PAROLE — The British are coming — to the aid of local teen bands.

Union Jack's, a British pub, will continue the Rock of All Ages concerts that have been going strong for two years. The series was in jeopardy because of the closing of The Whiskey on West Street in Annapolis later this month.

"I thought it was a good fit," said Rich Cutair, managing partner at the pub at 2072 Somerville Road adjacent to the Annapolis Towne Centre. "We have a big space ... and it brings in new faces to check us out."

Cutair and Rock of All Ages promoter Danny Mays worked out the arrangements. "It's as good of a situation we could have hoped for," Mays said.

There's still one more Rock of All Ages show at The Whiskey this Sunday. The series will then continue from 6 to 10 p.m. July 7 at Union Jack's. And concerts will be scheduled every Sunday after that until the end of the summer, Mays said.

Tickets will remain \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

In two years, the Rock of All Ages shows have attracted more than 10,000 people, showcasing bands from across the region. Most of the groups are comprised of high school students.

Panel on excellence sets first meeting

ANNAPOLIS — County Executive Laura Neuman's Commission on Excellence will hold its first public meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday in The Arundel Center, 44 Calvert St. in Annapolis.

The commission is reviewing county departments and how they run. Neuman put together the commission to review the operations, policies and procedures of all of the departments.

For more information, call 410-222-1821.

— From staff reports



Photos by Alison Bourg, Staff

Alex Pline, a West Annapolis resident and member of the citizens advisory commission working on the county's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, often bikes to the Annapolis Towne Centre. He says others would be more likely to do it, too, if there were a safe place for them to ride.

'We want safer routes,' bikers and hikers say

Final hearing on county's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

By ALLISON BOURG
abourg@capgaznews.com

Alex Pline's West Annapolis home is only about three miles to the Annapolis Towne Centre in Parole.

For an avid bicyclist like him, that's no big deal, and he'll hop on his Schwinn to make the trip.

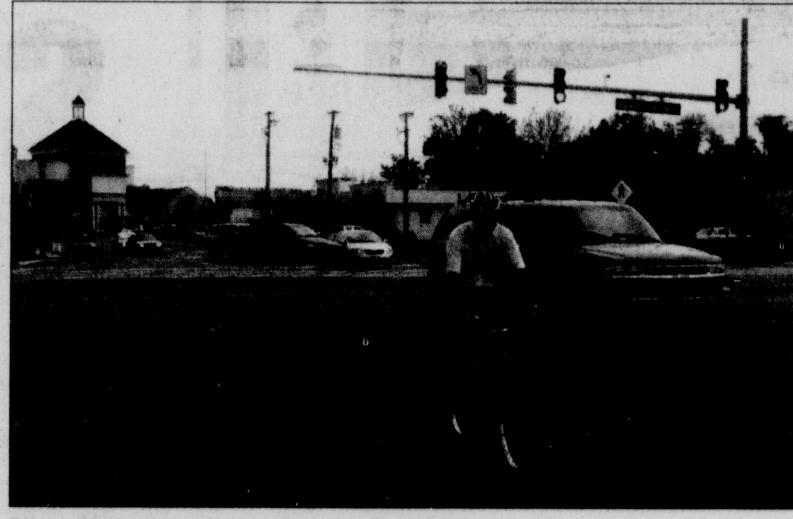
But few others will, he said, citing a lack of pathways for cyclists and pedestrians.

Pline, a member of the bicycle advocacy group Bike Annapolis/Anne Arundel, likened the Parole area to an island in the middle of central Anne Arundel County.

"The Towne Centre, the (Annapolis) Harbour Center and the mall — they're all within a half-mile. But if you've tried to walk from the Towne Centre to the mall, you physically can't do it," he said.

Pline is on the citizens advisory committee guiding the county's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, which is updated every 10 years.

The county Office of Planning and Zoning has held public meetings on the update over the last year, with the final one scheduled for Tuesday.



Pline rides across Route 2 on his Schwinn.

Susan Knisely, another member of the committee, urged bikers and hikers to attend the meeting at Broadneck High School.

"Come with specifics," said Knisely, who frequently walks on the Baltimore-Annapolis Trail. "Don't just say we need more sidewalks in Severna Park."

The plan, last updated in 2003, is

expected to be done in the next 18 months. County planners are trying to identify gaps in the network of walking and biking trails within Anne Arundel's urbanized areas, or the areas connected to the county's water and sewer systems.

Pedestrians could use more

(See PLAN, Page A6)

Abandoned motor home eyesore for homeowner

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ever want someone to growl on your behalf? The Watchdog wants to know about your consumer dilemmas and civic complaints. Each week she'll select one of your issues, take a bite through the red tape of bureaucracy, and bark up the trees of local government, institutions and businesses. Where there's a remedy, reason or recourse, there's The Dog.

Donna Feuchtenberger is trying to sell her waterfront home on the Broadneck Peninsula, but one obstacle might stand in her way.

It's the "dilapidated" motor home that a neighbor left parked partially on her property.

"I have sent two certified letters and spoken with them in person asking them to move it over onto their property in order to show mine better," she said. "They have ignored these requests for a year now, and time has run out."

Feuchtenberger said she called the Anne Arundel County Police Department after county officials told her to get an abandoned vehicle form.

If only anyone seemed to know what that was, she complained to the Dog. Feuchtenberger said she spoke with two corporals who said they'd never heard of the document.

"I will stress that I am not asking them to get rid of it, just move it off my property," she said.

The Watchdog learned a vehicle isn't considered abandoned until it's parked illegally on private property for more than 48 hours without the owner's consent. It's also considered abandoned if it's been on public property for more than 48 hours, or left for more than 10 days in a commercially operated garage.

Justin Mulcahy, spokesman for the county Police Department, confirmed the police no longer use abandoned vehicle forms.

But he said police looked into Feuchtenberger's complaint and found the motor home, though across the street from her house, is indeed on her property.

Technically, it's on the motor home owner's property, too — but it hangs over the easement by three or four feet, Mulcahy said.

He said police are working with the vehicle owner to get it hauled away.

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County residents donate to tornado victims

By JAKE LINGER
jlinger@capgaznews.com

Bill Foster is one proud man.

Foster, a sales consultant at Leo's Vacation Center in Gambrills, has been helping arrange drop-off points and fundraisers for Oklahoma disaster relief efforts led by Annapolis photographer Keith "Big Country" Henderson.

Leo's was a collection site and it donated \$1,000 in gas to Henderson, who will make his second relief trip to Oklahoma in two weeks.

"I'm really proud that the whole company stepped up," said Foster, who said one employee handcrafted 40 children's blankets to send to Oklahoma with Henderson. "I'm almost sorry it's over."

He credited social media with making Henderson's fundraising efforts successful and said posts and shares related to Oklahoma relief "went viral" on Facebook. Foster and his bandmates from southern rock group Jacked Up also collected about \$600 for Henderson's trip during recent performances. The response from west county "was absolutely amazing," Foster said.

On May 20, Moore, Okla., was



Courtesy photo
Donations poured in for a Heroes for the Homeland relief trip to Oklahoma. Heroes for the Homeland is made up of area first responders, such as Arundel Volunteer Fire Department members Bob and Julie Peterson.

largely destroyed when an EF-5 tornado touched down in central Oklahoma, adding to the misery about 56,000 people and killed 23. On May 31, another 10 people were killed, including a mother and her young child, when a less severe

tornado touched down in central Oklahoma, adding to the misery the Midwesterners have endured this spring.

Henderson has already made one relief trip to Moore, where his

brother's family resides. A former marine and police officer who arrived in New Orleans three days after Hurricane Katrina made land-

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