

TALK OF THE TOWN



A NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS, MARYLAND

Summer

2022 EDITION



A Message from the Commissioners

As St. Michaels is in full swing for the summer season, we felt it would be valuable to update our community on funded plans, in process projects, and ongoing studies. We also continue this busy time of the year with exciting Town events!

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TAD DUPONT

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KATRINA WHITTINGTON

Commissioner

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We Welcome our New Commissioners, Al Mercier and Katrina Whittington!



COMMISSIONER AL MERCIER retired to St. Michaels in 2020, prompted early on by having been an avid sailor when he lived in Edgewater and Galesville, Maryland. He spent more than 30 years in tax consulting, with varied industry experiences in restaurants, nonprofits, real estate, and more. Al believes that all town initiatives can be achieved through education, communication, and execution.



COMMISSIONER KATRINA WHITTINGTON, third generation born and raised in St. Michaels, Katrina is a graduate from St. Michaels Senior High School and holds a B.S. in Business Administration from University of Maryland Baltimore County. She has spent more than 28 years as a civil servant at the United States Department of the Treasury and is active in the community with volunteering time with the St. Michaels Community Center, Yacht Club, and the Shared Community Table. Katrina's career has prepared her to participate in long-range planning and assisting in St. Michaels budget and finance development. Above all, she looks forward to "rebuilding trust and confidence in our town, one block at a time."

A warm thanks to Michael Bibb and Aida Khalil for their contributions to the Town of St. Michaels while in office. Michael Bibb has served as a Commissioner since 2016 and most recently as the President. Aida Khalil has served as a Commissioner since 2021.

At the June 8, 2022 Commissioner's Meeting, David Breimhurst was voted as President, Joyce Harrod as Vice-President and Al Mercier as Treasurer.

Thank you to all the candidates who ran for the open positions in the May elections!

Community Events Calendar



APRIL-NOV

Farmers Market
206 S. Talbot St.
Saturdays, 8:30-11:30am



JUNE-SEPT

Summer Concerts
at Muskrat Park
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30pm



JULY 2, 2022

Fireworks in the Harbor
shortly after dusk



Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission Pursues Grant Funding

Funding Request to Focus on West Harbor Road and San Domingo Areas

The local Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission (CC/SLRC) has submitted two grant funding requests to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a first step in pursuing the recommendations of the Town's Harbor and Stormwater Infrastructure Study completed last year.

The first grant requested funding for an engineering design to mitigate current and projected flooding and sea level rise along the West Harbor Road/East Chew Avenue area of the harbor. This was the first project area recommended in the study and is important as the recent October 2021 flooding portrayed a disconcerting picture of the increased flooding that may be seen in the future with sea level rise.

The second grant requested funding to determine at-risk areas from sea level rise and flooding around a second waterfront area on the west San Domingo side of St. Michaels. With these grant requests, the Town will be able to better determine engineering options to mitigate the impacts of flooding around West Harbor Road, Backcreek Park, Grace Street, and Canton Street/Miles Avenue.

Chairman Roy Myers stated, "CC/SLR members and Town staff met with DNR representatives on May 11 and toured the proposed grant areas and had a positive discussion and review of our grant request. We are hopeful that grant funding will be forthcoming." The CC/SLRC anticipates a determination on the grant from DNR mid-summer and will continue to keep the Town's residents up-to-date on progress to combat rising sea levels in the community.

St. Michaels Transparency and Community Policing Efforts

Citizen's Review Committee Continues to Evaluate Policing Policies

During the 2021 Legislative Sessions, the Maryland Legislature passed HB 670, the Police Accountability Act, calling for sweeping reforms to the Maryland police world. The legislation calls for more transparency and better community policing measures for all law enforcement agencies throughout the state. To this end, the St. Michaels Police Department has established a Citizen's Review Committee composed of five local residents. Committee members are tasked with reviewing all current and proposed policing policies and giving feedback and recommendations to police department representatives.

"The Citizen's Review Committee has been a tremendous resource for us in helping to guide reasonable policing practices that are consistent with the values of St. Michaels," stated Police Chief Anthony Smith. "Having citizens involved in the early stages is critical in the development of fair, equitable and transparent community policing policies ultimately leading to healthier and more productive relationships between our citizens and the department."

The St. Michaels citizens chosen to serve on the Police Department's Citizen's Review Committee include: Carol Parlett, Mike Estrella, Paulette Florio, Reverend William Wallace, and Constance Hope. Once a month, the committee meets with Chief Smith and local police officers to review policies and provide critical input from a citizen's perspective. The Citizen's Review Committee began their work in October of 2021 and will continue for the foreseeable future.

For more information contact Chief Smith at asmith@stmichaelsmd.gov or call the Police Department at 410-745-9500.





Maryland State Highway Administration Downtown Improvements

New Downtown Granite Curbs with Brick Sidewalks Slated to begin this Fall

A two-year project initiated by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT-SHA) is well underway and on schedule to be completed by spring, 2023. The \$1.8 million MDOT project includes reconstruction of sidewalks to ADA standards from Lee Street to Spencer Avenue and a resurfacing of U.S. 33 (Talbot Street) once all improvements are completed.

In May of this year, Town Commissioners approved the installation of granite curbs and brick sidewalks in the commercial areas of Talbot Street as part of the extensive capital improvements undertaken by MDOT. The brick and granite work will enhance and complement the Town's historic district while addressing drainage issues, tripping hazards and an overall aging downtown streetscape.

Total costs to the Town for the infrastructure betterments are \$435,000. To minimize disruptions to downtown businesses, curb and gutter and brick sidewalk work will begin in earnest in fall, 2022 and be completed by April, 2023. MDOT representatives will be in contact with downtown businesses in late summer to determine specifically when the improvements are to occur.

Please see link to MDOT updates via the Town's website (www.stmichaelsmd.gov) under SHA Sidewalk Project on the homepage.



St. Michaels Trash and Recycling Collection

Updates Regarding Weekly Refuse/Recycling Collections



We are pleased to welcome Republic Services in joining the Town of St. Michaels Public Works Department to assist with our trash and recycling efforts. In this joint effort, we strive to maintain a litter-free and environmentally-friendly community, not only for our residents but also for all who visit our town. In doing so, we must rely on your assistance to continue to maintain the beautiful appearance our town has been known for. Below are updated changes in collection times since the addition of Republic Services taking over some of the collection services in January, 2022. "It is our goal to continue to provide our community with the same excellent service and make it one we may all be proud of," stated Rob Straebel, Town Administrator.

Highlights regarding some pertinent collection procedures are included below. Please refer to the Town of St. Michaels website for a more complete collection policy.

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE:

Collected once a week on Monday morning by Republic Services. No recycling items allowed in this trash receptacle.

MANDATORY RECYCLING:

Collected once a week on Friday morning by Republic Services. No household trash items allowed in this recycling receptacle.

BULK:

Collected once a week on Tuesday morning. To schedule a pick-up, please contact the Town Office at 410-745-9535 by the Friday prior to scheduled pick-up.

LAWN DEBRIS:

Collected once a week on Tuesday morning. Branches should be bundled and tied and not exceed 5 feet. Loose yard waste must be in containers or bags clearly marked "yard waste" or "leaves." Please place lawn debris and brush separate from bulk pick-up.

All items should be placed at the curb NO EARLIER than 4:00pm on the day before collection and no later than 6:00am the day of service, cans must be removed within 24 hours in all zones except the Central Commercial Zone, which must be removed by 10:00am the day of collection. Please remember that all trash and recyclable items need to remain within the constraints of the appropriate receptacles provided so that together we may maintain and preserve the beauty of our town and the environment. Additional containers can be provided for a \$25 monthly fee, which is billed quarterly. Republic Services requires a 30-day notice to cancel additional containers. Individuals or businesses needing an additional container(s) should contact the Town Hall at 410-745-9535. For more information, please visit <https://stmichaelsmd.gov/government/town-government/public-works>

Town Adopts Balanced Budget for 2022-23

*Financial Health of Town Continues with no
Tax Increase for the Coming Year*

Town Commissioners and Staff met numerous times in the early part of 2022 to finalize the FY 2022-23 Budget. After much debate about line-item expenditures, the budget was passed unanimously by Commissioners with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$141,000. The balanced budget for the coming year was also approved with no increase to local taxes, a high priority for elected officials. Total expenditures amount to \$3.1 million in the Town's General Fund with Water System expenses estimated at \$1.3 million.

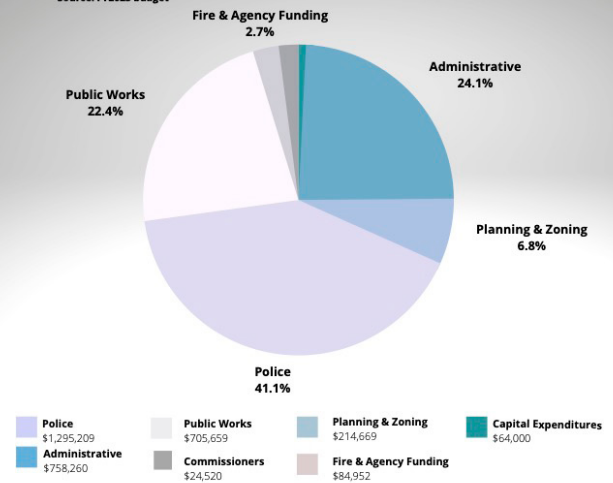
The budget includes various capital improvements such as bulkhead improvement maintenance at Back Creek, retaining walls replacement on Mill Street and a mill and 2" asphalt overlay on a short section of Plumber Drive. The new budget, starting on July 1, 2022, will also include approximately \$673,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, for installation of smart water meters on all commercial and residential buildings within the community. The project is slated to begin in early fall of 2022.

"This is a strong budget that shows a commitment to living within our means while increasing our net income for the coming year," stated Commissioner Tad duPont. "I am proud of the work the Commissioners and Staff put into this budget and encouraged that we could bring forth a balanced budget with no tax increases for residents in the coming year."

For more information on the approved budget, visit www.stmichaelsmd.gov.

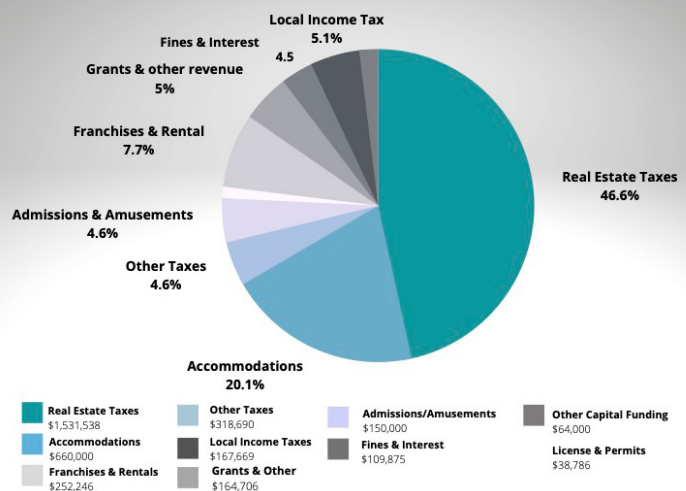
Expenditures: \$3,148,399

Source: FY2023 budget



Revenue: \$3,289,841

Source: FY2023 budget



For more information
visit www.stmichaelsmd.gov

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, July 2, 7 - 10 p.m.

Big Band Night, Tolchester Beach Bandstand

Tuesday, August 2, 6 - 8 p.m.

National Night Out Block Party, St. Michaels Community Center

Sunday, August 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CBMM Waterman's Appreciation Day & Crab Feast,
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Saturday, August 27, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CBMM Charity Boat Auction, Chesapeake Bay
Maritime Museum, rain or shine!

September 3-4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Labor Day Weekend Art Sale & Show, St. Luke's UMC

September 30 - October 2, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival