



GLEN BURNIE

Town Center

PROGRESS REPORT



ANNE ARUNDEL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PURPOSE

The Town Center Revitalization Manager position was created and approved in AAEDC's FY24 budget. The position was filled in September 2023 by Kayleigh De La Puente. In her role, she is responsible for facilitating redevelopment and revitalization, which grows the local economy, eliminates blight conditions, and uplifts the surrounding communities. This position works closely with the community and business interests in each of the County's town centers and eleven Community Revitalization Districts to garner resources and foster revitalization initiatives.

Major Activities & Responsibilities

- Identifying funding sources for revitalization activities
- Working with Town Center property owners, businesses, and stakeholders to facilitate coordination and encourage reinvestment and revitalization
- Partnering with other organizations to plan, promote, and host events in the Town Centers
- Promoting revitalization in the County's 11 revitalization districts by marketing AAEDC
- Arundel Community Reinvestment Fund (ACR) and the Community Revitalization Tax Credit Program

This annual progress report details activities and accomplishments since the program's inception with a primary focus on the Glen Burnie Town Center.



GRANT ACTIVITY

A key area of responsibility for the Town Center Revitalization Manager is to access and implement grant funding. This position enables the Corporation to manage revitalization grants which bring state and private funding to county projects and programs. In FY 24 we were able to leverage the county's \$100,000 investment and generate \$450,000 in grant funding for revitalization activities

Grants Applied For (pending award decision)

• Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

- FY 25 Maryland Façade Improvement Program- \$250,000
- FY25 Community Legacy -\$50,000 (Rt 3 Pocket Park, Glen Burnie)
- FY25 Strategic Demolition- \$300,000 (7409 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd, Glen Burnie)

Grants Won

• Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

• FY23 Community Legacy- \$250,000

• Status Update:

- 3 convenings of the Glen Burnie Town Center Revitalization Advisory Group
- Development of Glen Burnie Town Center Logo and branding package
- Printing and Installation of 32 Glen Burnie Town Center branded street pole banners
- Purchase of decorative holiday lights for installation on street poles in Glen Burnie Town Center
- Glen Burnie Town Center wayfinding and parking signage plan created

• Next Steps:

- Finalize signage design and coordinate installation
- Secure permission from property owner for a Mural at Rotary Park and release a Call for Artists for early spring 2025 mural install
- Potential engagement with Better Block Projects for Glen Burnie Town Center Plaza activation (more detail below) to assist with Resilience Authority Plaza project



GRANT ACTIVITY CONT.

FY24 Project Restore- \$300,000

- Activates vacant commercial space by matching prospective tenants with identified spaces and providing funds for build out and rental assistance. In 2024, DHCD transitioned this program from direct grants to businesses to block grants to economic development agencies. This position enabled Anne Arundel to apply for and administer this new opportunity.

• Next Steps:

- Develop a marketing plan to market three available vacant commercial properties in Glen Burnie and Odenton

FY24 Maryland Façade Improvement Program FY24- \$150,000

- Tandem grant to support the Arundel Community Reinvestment (ACR) Loan Program

• Status Update:

- Finalizing disbursement of ARPA Façade Improvement Grants.

• Next Steps:

- Once ARPA is exhausted, allocate MFIP grants funds (anticipate FY25Q2) to qualified projects from ACR Loan applicants in Glen Burnie, Odenton, Brooklyn Park, and City of Annapolis.



ENGAGING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The Town Center/Revitalization Manager serves as “boots on the ground” with the businesses in the County’s Town Centers and Revitalization Areas connecting them with resources and facilitating coordination.

Lead Facilitator for Glen Burnie Town Center Advisory Committee

The Glen Burnie Town Center Advisory Committee is a stakeholder group that helps to implement the 2022 Glen Burnie Town Center Revitalization Plan. The guiding vision for this group is for *Glen Burnie’s Town Center to re-emerge as a safe and inviting public gathering place that provides connections among existing and future businesses, open space amenities, and surrounding neighborhoods to celebrate the Glen Burnie Community.* The advisory committee ceased convening in 2022, but the Town Center/Revitalization Manager was able to reconvene this group quarterly and as needed.

Members

- Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce
- Glen Burnie Improvement Association
- The Rotary Club of Glen Burnie
- Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
- Councilmember Allison Pickard, District 2
- Office of the County Executive
- Commercial Property Owner, Richard May

ENGAGING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Glen Burnie Town Center Main Street Affiliate Designation

AAEDC submitted a Main Street Affiliate Application to Maryland DHCD in August 2024 and awards will be announced by December 2024. The Main Street Program is a broad-based community centered approach to economic development and revitalization of downtown business districts.

If approved, the Town Center/Revitalization Manager will manage the main street program and the associated main street grant (up to \$10,000 annually). Affiliate designation also provides access to technical assistance, training, networking and resource sharing. The Manager will also seek additional sources of funding for main street activities and convene a network of businesses and property owners in the main street corridor to implement the main street approach to economic development.



PLAZA ACTIVATION

Glen Burnie Town Center Plaza Activation

The Town Center/ Revitalization Manager partners with organizations to plan, promote, and host events that contribute to revitalization and placemaking in the Glen Burnie Town Center Plaza and support the 2022 Glen Burnie Town Center Revitalization Plan.

Better Block Projects Activation of Glen Burnie Town Center Plaza

Better Block Projects is a national urban design nonprofit organization that works with community stakeholders to activate underutilized spaces. AAEDC is exploring a 4-month engagement with Better Block to activate the Glen Burnie Town Center Plaza. During this time Better Block would work with community stakeholders to create a temporary design for the plaza (temporary furniture/shade/vendor spaces/lighting/beautification/recreation elements etc.). This temporary design could stay in the plaza during the plaza's busy season (May to September), as an amenity for the Farmers Market and the Summer Music Series.

The project potentially supports multiple goals:

- Build energy and excitement around the possibilities for future plaza design to drive community engagement; particularly with younger residents/students
- Supplement the community engagement work that will be led by the selected design consulting firm in response to the Resilience Authority RFQ
- Provides a national model for visualization planning of public spaces

Glen Burnie Farmers Market

After a two-year market hiatus, the Town Center/Revitalization Manager was able to help the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce to reactivate the market by serving as a liaison between the Chamber and county agencies for lease agreements and facilities usage in GBTC Plaza.

Through Arundel Ag, AAEDC promoted the market to potential vendors. AAEDC marketed and sponsored live music and free ice cream to drive foot traffic at the final market of the year on September 5th which resulted in a boost in foot traffic equivalent to 3x typical attendance.



EXPANDED CAPABILITIES ACROSS THE COUNTY

Secured Project Restore Funds to Activate Vacant Commercial Space in The Village at Odenton Station

- The Village at Odenton Station is a mixed-use development that has persistent commercial vacancy challenges. Through securing project restore funds to attract tenants and by serving as an Ex-Officio member of the Odenton Town Center Advisory Committee, the Town Center/Revitalization Manager supports the revitalization of the Odenton Town Center and MDOT's Redevelopment Plan for the Area.

Increased Arundel Community Reinvestment (ACR) Loan Program Activity

- The Town Center/Revitalization Manager serves as the Program Manager for the ACR Loan Program. This program offers zero interest loans, up to \$100K, for façade improvements at commercial properties located in county revitalization areas and the City of Annapolis. Since September 2023, 12 ACR Loans have closed totaling \$937,801.94 in allocated loan funds and an additional \$341,439 in ARPA grant funds for façade improvements. The Town Center/Revitalization Manager conducts pre and/or post application site visits.
- Recently, the ACR Loan program has been expanded to include select commercial corridors in South County including Mayo Rd, Deale, Galesville, and Churchton.





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