Chestertown Initiatives:
Past, Present, and Future
Brief Personal History

- Native of Reston, VA
- UVA graduate (1991)
- Kent County resident since 1992
- Married with two sons, Joey (13) and Jake (10)
- Sultana Education Foundation V.P. (2000 – present)
- Chestertown Planning Commission (2008-13)
- Elected Mayor of Chestertown, November 2013 (4-year term)
About Chestertown’s Government: Budget, Staffing, Challenges

• Mayor, 4 Council members

• 3.5 million dollar annual budget

• Income sources: 66% real estate taxes, 22% state shared taxes, 12% from various sources

• 95% of income spent on basic services: police, road crew, utilities, Town Hall staff, fire, sanitation (40 total employees)

• 45% of Town in non-profit status
Being the Mayor: Challenges and Rewards

REWARDS:
• Getting things done
• Playing a direct role in the future of the Town
• Community service

CHALLENGES:
• $7,500/year salary
• Relentless time commitment
• Governing in a fish bowl
• Limited budgetary flexibility
Chestertown Initiatives: Improving Relations with the Business Community

C1, C2, C3 Business Forums
Changing the culture where the Town is perceived as supporting new businesses and entrepreneurs

Ribbon cutting at Foglia di Limone, pizzeria adjacent to Lemon Leaf Café, July 22, 2014
(photo by Peter Heck)
Chestertown Initiatives:
New Web Site and Use of Social Media

LEFT: Home page of new website
Councilman Sam Shoge debuts the new Chestertown web site at Town Hall
Friday, February 6, 2014
Chestertown Initiatives:
Bagging Parking Meters in the Historic District

- Meters bagged in August 2014
- Effort to create a more business-friendly environment downtown
- Six month extension granted, March 2, 2015
Chestertown Initiatives: Restoring Fountain Park

- Task Force established
- New sod
- New plantings
- Widened sidewalk/s
- New benches
Chestertown Initiatives: Restoring Fountain Park

Garden Club, Lions Club members at Fountain Park sidewalk widening, Nov 2014
Chestertown Initiatives:
Gilchrest Rail Trail, Phase III

New spur parallels west side of High Street from Dixon Valve to Gateway Park
Approximately 1 mile of new trail
Completed spring 2014
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BEFORE

AFTER
Chestertown Initiatives: Arts and Entertainment District Designation

- Tax incentives to stimulate artistic activity, renovations within District
- Designation stimulates arts tourism to the District
- Town recently hired an Economic Development Officer to oversee the District

RiverArts Studio Tour
October 24-25 and October 31-November 1, 2015
Chestertown Initiatives: New Weekend Events to Stimulate Additional Tourism to Downtown Chestertown

Harry Potter Festival

Legacy Day
Chestertown Initiatives:
Re-Design & Rehabilitation of Chestertown Marina

Overhead view of Chestertown Marina
(photo by Tyler Campbell)
Chestertown Initiatives:
Re-Design & Rehabilitation of Chestertown Marina

The docks at Chestertown Marina underwater at high tide, spring 2014
Chestertown Initiatives: Re-Design & Rehabilitation of Chestertown Marina

Engineering rendering of rehabilitated Chestertown Marina by McCrone, Inc.
Chestertown Initiatives:
Re-Design & Rehabilitation of Chestertown Marina

Artistic rendering of newly rehabilitated Chestertown Marina by Locust Grove Studios
Role of Washington College as an Economic Engine
Construction of Washington College’s new Academic Center on Washington Ave
September 16, 2015
Future Initiatives:
Washington College Waterfront Campus
And Residential Development at Stepne Manor

Overhead view of Washington College holdings along the Chestertown waterfront
Private Sector Initiatives:
Washington College Waterfront Campus

Overhead view of Washington College holdings along the Chestertown waterfront
Private Sector Initiatives:
Washington College Waterfront Campus

New, expanded boat house (HGA concept plan)
Private Sector Initiatives: Washington College Waterfront Campus

What is the fate of the Armory?

John H. Newman Armory Building
Private Sector Initiatives:
Washington College/KRM
Residential Development at Stepne Manor
Private Sector Initiatives:
Washington College/KRM Stepne Manor Development

TO BE DETERMINED:
- Number of units
- Street layout
- Pedestrian amenities
- Access to Radcliffe Creek
- Connectivity to waterfront, Armory, downtown
- Preservation of river views
- Respecting the manor home
- Open space/pocket parks

Stepne Manor
WATERFRONT PLAN INCLUDING CHESTERTOWN MARINA,
WAC INITIATIVES ON THE WATERFRONT,
AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT STEPNE MANOR
Private Sector Initiatives:
Kent Plaza – ACME Expansion

40,000-square-foot store
Re-paved parking lot, additional landscaping
Ribbon Cutting for ACME: March 13, 2015
Private Sector Initiatives:
Kent Plaza – Tractor Supply Company

New tenant filling space vacated by Rose’s
Grand Opening: September 2015
Private Sector Initiatives: Washington Square

Opening of Redner’s Markets, Inc.

40,000-square-foot store, re-paved parking lot
Ribbon cutting: June 2015
QUESTIONS?