



The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 50, No. 1

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

May–June 2023

Save the Date!

DACA's 48th Annual Meeting*
Thursday, June 1, 2023, 7:30 pm

Davidsonville Family Recreation Center
Scouts Building
3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road

The Board of Directors will hold DACA's annual membership meeting in person again this year, masks optional, at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC).

In this 49th year of DACA's existence (since its founding in November 1974), we will be honoring and celebrating founding member Gail Enright, who has stepped down as editor of *The Villager* newsletter after nearly 50 years. Please join us in celebration of such an amazing milestone!

Come and meet your neighbors and your elected representatives in local government and learn what is happening in your community. Invited guests include State Senator Dawn Gile, State Delegate Stuart Schmidt, County Executive Steuart Pittman, County Councilwoman Shannon Leadbetter, and Community Engagement Officer Courtney Buiniskis.

Election of Officers and Board of Directors

The current officers have agreed to serve another one-year term if reelected:

President: Bruce Stein
Vice President: H. Edward Woods
Corresponding Secretary: Gail Enright
Treasurer: Brian Stanton

Other candidates who wish to stand for these offices are welcome to be nominated at the meeting.

Board members whose terms will end this June are Jeff Bishop, Kate Fox, and Wayne Reid, all of whom indicated willingness to continue if reelected, plus one additional vacancy for this term that needs to be filled.

We also seek a new recording secretary to prepare agendas and take minutes at our monthly board meetings.

DACA's Bylaws allow for an additional at-large (non-term) director in the unlikely event that more volunteers step forward and we have a hotly contested election campaign, so feel free to offer your time and talent to your civic association. Anyone wishing to join the board for the term to June 2026 or as an at-large member is encouraged to attend the annual meeting and put their name forward for election.

DACA members whose dues are current are eligible to vote and to run for a position in the election of officers and board of directors.

** In case you're curious about the math.... DACA's first annual meeting was in July 1975, and our tenth was in May 1984. We should be having our 49th annual meeting this year, but there was no meeting in 2020—the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. (That year we held our elections by email and mail-in ballots.)*

Greetings from the New Editor

In the previous issue (March–April 2023), long-time editor Gail Enright informed *Villager* readers that it would be her last.

Luckily for us all, she hasn't completely stepped away from her computer quite yet. For the time being she is willing to continue as corresponding secretary for DACA. And most importantly for me, she is still writing copy and being a vital mentor as we struggle through the transition from producing this newsletter in WordPerfect on a PC to Word on a Mac-Book. It has not been an easy conversion!

Gail has seen technology advance from typewriters to word processors to desktop computers to laptops; and delivery from paper only to email and web postings of PDFs. As editor, she has researched and written copy for *The Villager*; edited copy from other contributors; invoiced advertisers, sometimes creating their ads; and worked with printers. (Back in the day, she prepped issues for mailing: collating, stapling, affixing hundreds of address labels for every issue.)

As secretary, Gail has monitored DACA's incoming email, forwarding important communications to the board members for discussion at meetings; monitored memberships; corresponded with members for dues renewals; and written to elected officials to invite them to our events.

A few years ago, the secretary position was split into two roles for division of labor: corresponding secretary, retained by Gail, and recording secretary, now held by Kate Fox, who creates our monthly agendas and takes minutes at board

meetings. And this year we have a new volunteer membership secretary, Margaret Herbers, whom Gail is working with to transfer management of our membership database.

Ever heard the term "mission creep"? Gail also planned our annual tree giveaway for Green Expo and ordered the trees. Before Homestead Gardens began hosting Green Expo for us, she led the organizing of it: invited exhibitors, planned layout for the exhibition venue, collected exhibitors' fees, created the programs, organized the poster contest, hired musicians, shanghaied DACA volunteers, thanked everyone in writing afterward, etc., etc.

Gail has turned all she does for DACA into a near full-time unpaid position! I think it's fair to say that her years of constant effort have kept DACA's engines going and going and going. And I think it's common sense that to attract subsequent volunteers, a significant division of labor is required.

All of which brings me, dear readers, to a bit of a reality check for all of us. I already work full time—as a production editor and publications specialist at the Smithsonian—and I won't be retiring for several years.

Because producing *The Villager* is time-consuming enough even without taking on any of Gail's secretarial duties, the DACA board has agreed to reduce the number of issues per year from at least six to at least four. For advertisers who purchased a year of ads with an expectation of six issues, their ads will be extended into the next calendar year.

Meredith McQuoid-Greason

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Members’ Notes to Gail

We appreciate all the work that goes into *The Villager*.
B. & B. M.

*Hooray for the Green Expo!
Thanks for your long-term service to our community.
Happy Spring, Betty*



I just wanted to say “thank you” for everything that you have done for these past 50 years. Although we have never formally met, we appreciate your work, and truly enjoy reading the newsletter. Enjoy a well-earned “retirement.”

*Lisa R. Hart
Assistant Vice President
Business Community Development Coordinator
Arundel Federal Savings Bank*

Good Job! F. S. & A. S.

Dear Gail:

You have done such an excellent job being the editor of *The Villager*—but you do deserve to retire! I know you continue to write articles with a historic bent for the Davidsonville [Stroll.] I really enjoy learning about the local history in that publication.

Gail, enjoy your retirement from *The Villager*. I’m sure you’ll still keep busy with many other projects.

See you at the Green Expo!
Bobbi Reichwein

*Thanks for all you do!
H. W.*



Applications Open for the 2023–2024 DACA Scholarship

The Davidsonville Area Civic Association’s Gail Enright Educational Scholarship helps DACA members and their dependent children pursue educational training, be it academic, technical, agricultural, or professional. The scholarship is available to high school seniors and graduates of any age.

Applications for the 2023–2024 academic year are due no later than Thursday, June 15, 2023, 11:59 pm.

Learn about the scholarship and access the application by visiting www.daca-md.org and selecting the Scholarship page. (Or use the direct link: www.davidsonvillemaryland.org/scholarship.)

The DACA scholarship was established in 2017 through a donation by Davidsonville residents Tom and Kris Angelis. The fund’s growth depends on the generosity of our community. Help us grow the scholarship fund by making a check in any amount payable to DACA and write “scholarship” in the memo space. Or donate online via the “Scholarship” button on our “Dues, Donations, Payments” page.

The Davidsonville Area Civic Association (DACA) is a tax-exempt 501(c)4 organization recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Services. Donations to DACA are *not* tax-deductible for the donor.



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140-Foot Cell Tower Update

Residents of King's Retreat have mounted a campaign for legal services against the proposed T-Mobile cell tower behind the Maryland Farm Bureau's building at 2258 Davidsonville Road. To publicize and protest this tower, they have placed a large banner on the stone wall at the entrance to their community next to the Maryland Farm Bureau's property.

The cell tower, to be built by Tower Networks, is planned to be 140 feet high with an additional four-foot extension. If it is installed, no further permits will be required for increasing its height. If building this tower is allowed, it will be clearly visible from a large area, including the Historic Crossroads district and a wide swath of Central Avenue and Davidsonville Road residences.

In November 2022, Anne Arundel County approved installation of the tower. Local residents, many from Kings Retreat, filed an appeal with the county to have the decision overturned. The hearing before the county's Board of Appeals took place over three days, March 21–23.

The appellants argued that the proposed tower was inconsistent with the surrounding area because Davidsonville Road at that location is designated a Scenic and Historic Road. The tower would be visible from the Davidsonville Historic District and other nearby historic properties. DACA agrees that this tower would be out of place and should not be built there.

The appellants presented photos, from various viewing locations around the vicinity, taken with a drone flying over the proposed site at a height of 140 feet, which demonstrated how clearly the tower would be seen if it is installed. They also produced cell phone coverage maps from the Federal Communications Commission showing that there is already comprehensive 4G LTE coverage in the relevant sec-

tion of Davidsonville. Cell phone companies are now offering 5G service, which allows users to stream 4K video and play graphics-intensive video games on mobile devices; 5G also allows cell phone companies to compete with fixed broadband services like Xfinity and FIOS.

The applicant, Network Towers, argued that the demand for 5G coverage would increase in the future and that the public demand for those services is great enough to balance the impact on local historic sites.

The applicant also stated that they had only considered two other sites before selecting the Maryland Farm Bureau site. They argued that the county, including the Cultural Resources section of the Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ), had offered no objection to installation of the tower.

This stands in contrast to a decision made by that same OPZ office in 2011, when a 100-foot tower at the same location was prohibited. It was deemed too intrusive for the Davidsonville Historic District. Furthermore, no county officials visited the proposed site of this new tower prior to forming their recommendations, and they only viewed photos and materials submitted by the applicant (rather than visiting the site) to evaluate the application.

The county argued that it had followed all required protocols and stood by the recommendation in favor of the tower. At the close of the hearing, the Board of Appeals asked both sides to submit their closing arguments in writing. On March 24, they visited the site in person. A final decision will be made in mid to late summer.

Donations to the legal fund for fighting the tower would be greatly appreciated. To see a simulated view of the tower at the site, and to donate, please visit <https://gofund.me/6fbe22f4>.

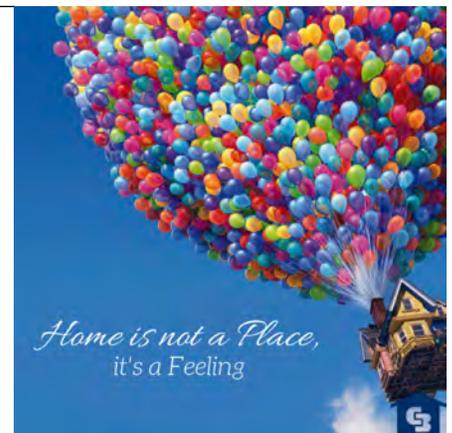
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Davidsonville Green Expo 2023 – A Grand Success!

Building on last year’s successful resumption of DACA’s Davidsonville Green Expo at Homestead Gardens (after Covid-19 cancelled our 2021 plans), this year’s event was even better, despite a bit of morning rain that likely kept some folks away. Nonetheless, a respectably steady stream of visitors passed through the exhibitors’ booths.

Following tradition, bagpipers led an opening procession with a color guard unit from Scouts Troop 454, who presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. DACA President Bruce Stein welcomed visitors and our guests, State Delegate Stuart Schmidt, State Senator Dawn Gile, and County Executive Stuart Pittman, who each gave brief remarks.



A very special surprise came from Delegate Schmidt, who presented a citation of appreciation from the House of Delegates to DACA’s Gail Enright, in honor of her nearly 50 years as editor of *The Villager*.

DACA distributed 400 free tree seedlings—100 each of white oak, redbud, persimmon, and black cherry. And the Calvert Brewing craft beer booth run by our volunteers netted \$117 in donations to DACA’s Scholarship Fund.

We are immensely grateful to Homestead Gardens for hosting our event, and most especially to event coordinator Pam Cole Finlay for ensuring all the arrangements were flawlessly executed. *We couldn’t have done it without you!* We thank David Grabau for his lovely photos.

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Green Expo Exhibitor Spotlight

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What's the Buzz?

Local father and son beekeepers Tracy and Isaiah Mase (at right) educated the public with a great display of their hives and tools at DACA's Green Expo in March.

To learn about beekeeping themselves, they took the Anne Arundel Bee Association (AABA) Bee Keeping course in January 2021. After completing the course and researching the best hive for their purpose, they chose the Apimaye hive along with a NUC of Italian bees, both sold by AABA President and owner of Honey Smith Bees, Ryan Smith.

In May 2021, they readied their apiary at Kinder Farm Park as part of the Friends Livestock Education Program and placed their first hive. Unfortunately, Varroa mite infestations during each of the past two winters caused their hive to collapse. This year, Isaiah found a bee that can kill



the Varroa mite—it's called a "Mauler." He plans to buy from a woman-owned apiary, "Always Summer Herbs," which has worked with Purdue and Penn State Universities to develop a better bee that can bite the legs off the Varroa mites.

Tracy's youngest son, Jacob, has become interested in beekeeping also, so they purchased two more hives—another Apimaye and a Hoover sealed in beeswax. Isaiah and Jacob will start their hives during mid-summer with Italian bees and then split the hives to introduce a Mauler queen mixed with Italian worker and drone bees. Mauler bees have a Varroa mite kill rate of 50% to 80%. Let's hope this year's hive will be alive and well come next spring!

Please remember, don't use harmful chemicals, do buy local honey, and together let's save the bees!

Isaiah Mase

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Did You Know?

Male honey bees (drones) have no father, but they do have a grandfather!

A Brief History of *The Villager*

Gail Enright is the only founding member of DACA still on our board of directors, and she has held the offices of secretary, newsletter editor, or board member (sometimes all at the same time) for nearly all 49+ years of DACA's existence. Her tenure as editor was briefly interrupted in 1979 after a severe horseback riding accident left her paralyzed for nearly two months. During her extended recovery, *The Villager* was edited by DACA secretary Bill Bennett from September 1979 through November 1983. Except for Bennett's nineteen issues during that four-year interruption, Gail was editor of *The Villager* for the remaining 45 years from 1975 through March 2023, during which she produced 272 issues!

I discovered some interesting things while delving into *Villager's* archives. Although DACA was officially founded in November 1974, the very first issue of *The Villager* preceded that by two months, appearing in September 1974. Thus, the newsletter will have its 50th birthday with the September issue this fall; DACA itself will be 50 this coming November.

Initially, the organizing group called themselves the "Committee for the Preservation of Rural Davidsonville." The second issue announced the organizational meeting of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association on November 20, 1974.

Volume Numbering Vagaries

Volume 1 of the newsletter carried over into 1975 with six more issues that year, and volume 2 began in 1976. This continued with six to eight issues a year until Gail's riding accident in 1979. Only three issues were produced in 1980 and five in 1981. (As editor, Gail was always a hard act to follow! *I can attest to a steep learning curve.*)

In 1983, what should have been volume 9 (issues 1–4) inexplicably carried over as volume 8 (issues 5–8) from 1982. Volume 9 was assigned to four issues in early 1984, January through May. Volume 10 consisted of four

issues between June and December 1984. Volume 11 had seven issues throughout all of 1985.

Issue 1 of volume 12 did not appear until May 1986, and this volume continued through issue no. 7 as March–April 1987. Volume 13 began with the May–June 1987 issue, and it was at this point that volume and issue numbering officially transitioned from beginning with a new calendar year to beginning with the May–June issue that comes out just prior to the annual meeting in June.

Growth and Milestones

1974 (vol. 1)

- The first two issues were each two pages, one-sided, with copy laid out in full page width like a true "letter." It is not clear whether Gail was the editor of these initial issues, but as part of DACA's organizing committee, at the very least she certainly contributed significantly to their messaging content.
- About two hundred people attended the organizational meeting in November.

1975 (vol. 1 continues)

- Issues ranged five to seven pages and were two-sided.
- January issue announced the first elected officers of DACA: Fred Hegge, president; Floyd E. (Gene) Ford, vice president; **Gail McQuoid** [*later Gail Enright*], secretary, Dick Vitzthum, treasurer.
- The March issue debuted the masthead and two-column format still used today. Also, the first ads appeared, consisting of three lines of single-space type at a full page wide and half inch high, set at either the very top or bottom of a page.
- Eight people were listed as *Villager* staff: Fred Hegge, **Gail McQuoid**, Tom Angelis, Gene Ford, Anne Hatcher, John and Joy Quinan, and Rick Riopelle. John Quinan designed the masthead and taught Gail how to lay out articles with wax on boards, after which Gail was effectively the managing editor going forward.

(Continued, next page)

Ray Alcorn

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(Continued from p. 8)

- DACA's first annual meeting in was held May.
- July issue included the first Davidsonville history article researched and written by Gail, "Battle of the Airport: Davidsonville vs. U.S. Navy."
- Business card-sized ads appeared in September. Advertisers included William Neall's Davidsonville Supply (aka, Corner Store), Central Inn (now Killarney House), J. F. Johnson Lumber Company, Homestead Gardens, and others.
- The November issue announced a special meeting of the membership to be held at Davidsonville Hall on November 18. (*The hall was the former All Hallows Parish Hall, also sometimes referred to as the Davidsonville Community Hall, located beside the corner store until it burned down.*)

1976 (vol. 2)

- Second Annual Meeting held May 20.
- Gail rotates out of her role as secretary and is elected to executive committee (as the DACA board of directors was then called).
- Most issues were seven to eight pages; September–October was ten pages.

1977 (vol. 3) – Seven issues published.

1978 (vol. 4) – Eight issues published.

- An index was created for all issues published from 1974 to end of 1978. (*Gail told me she later started another index but now can't find that document, so that's a project to be restarted at some point. Any volunteers?*)

1979 (vol. 5)

- Gail Enright produced three issues (through May) before a serious riding accident in July put her out of commission.
- *The Villager* went on hiatus for a few months until DACA secretary Bill Bennett learned the ropes of laying out copy with hot wax on boards. He put together three more issues (September, October, and December), though Gail's name remained as editor.

- After the September issue was created entirely by Bill, a few issues sometimes incorporated content contributed by Gail—some prepared for the issue she was working on before her accident along with some new content as she was able to type again.
- Each writer's content was distinctive because the typewriters each composed on had different font balls installed. Bill's copy looks like Contempo Optima. Gail typed on an IBM Selectric using a combination of fonts—an Orator style font for some headlines and Letter Gothic for main text.

1980 (vol. 6)

- Four issues produced by Bill Bennett as editor, with some content contributed by Gail.
- Gail was still identified as the editor for the first two issues (though she was not), and no editor was listed for the latter two.
- Brightly colored ink (some red, some blue) introduced by Bill.

1981 (vol. 7)

- Five issues plus a one-page postal patron mailing with Bill Bennett finally and formally identified as the editor.
- January–February issue debuts facing pages with a magazine-style fold instead stapled.
- March–April and September issues expanded to twelve pages.

1982–1983 (vol. 8)

- Four issues each year, all eight numbered as Volume 8; issues 1–6 edited by Bill Bennett, who then resigned due to poor health.
- Gail Enright resumes editorship with the November and December 1983 issues.
- A one-page postal patron mailing in July 1982 advertised a Candidates Forum to be held at DFRC.

1984 (vols. 9, 10)

- Eight issues, all at eight pages each.
- Volume 10 begins with June–July issue.
- October–November 1984 celebrated **DACA's tenth anniversary!**

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Brief History of *The Villager* (continued from p. 9)**1985 (vol. 11)**

- Seven issues. (Volume 11 continues with two more issues, through March–April 1986.)
- May–June 1985 issue announces eleventh annual meeting.

1986 (vols. 11, 12)

- Seven issues: two in volume 11 and five in volume 12. (Volume 12 continues into 1987 with two more issues, through March–April.)
- June–July issue expands to sixteen pages.

1987 (vols. 12, 13)

- Volume 12 continues through March–April issue; volume 13 starts with May–June (and continues through March–April 1988).
- Six issues per year becomes standard as well as volume issue numbering from May through April.
- July–August issue announces tenth annual Davidsonville Bluegrass Festival to be held September 20 at DFRC. The show was headlined by Davidsonville's own Bill Harrell and the Virginians. Also performing were the Bass Mountain Boys, Excalibur, and Arnold Hobbins and Partners.
- September–October was first issue produced with a desktop computer.

1988–2023 (vols. 13–49)

- Exceptions to standard of six issues per year were seven issues in volume 20, four issues in volume 23, and two issues in volume 24.

Headlines from History

When space allows, some of Gail's published articles from the archives will reappear in future issues of *The Villager*. In the meantime, here are a few headlines and short items from the *Villager's* past that bring back memories or tickle the funny bone.

RURITAN AUCTION (March 1975)

"Spring housecleaning is upon us, but don't throw out all those unused gadgets, heirlooms and white elephants. The Davidsonville Ruritan Club will soon be collecting all kinds of castoffs and valuables for their July auction." *I have fond memories of this annual summer event held on Ben Watkins' farm just off Rte. 50. In addition to the huge auction, there were pony rides as well as tables of country food for sale, including whole homemade cakes.*

ANNUAL MEETING (July 1975)

"DACA had a splendid turnout on May 29 for its first annual meeting. More than 100 people attended to participate in their association's decision-making process. We now have over 200 members in the association, including two in Georgia and one in Alaska. These three did not make it to the meeting." [And Gail was reelected as secretary.]

DAVIDSONVILLE CELEBRATED! (July 1976)

"June 12, 1976, will remain a glorious day in memory of the community for years to come."

This was the Davidsonville Bicentennial Celebration, organized by DACA. The parade went along route 214 from the Methodist Church to the elementary school, where a carnival and other entertainments took place, including the school band and chorus, Sweet Adelines, square dancing, and Horse-A-Course 4H club's mounted drill team.

TRACTORCADE MEETS IN DAVIDSONVILLE (March 1978)

"Robert and Anton Gaug were hosts to the tractorcade at their farm on Old Davidsonville Road adjoining route 50. In December 240 tractors were parked there, and 50 met there in January, coming from all over Maryland, Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. On January 18 they left Davidsonville about 9 a.m., rolling down route 50 at about 15 mph. Unable to maintain that speed,

(Continued, next page)



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(Continued from p. 10)

they slowed to about 8 mph before they reached [Washington]. It was more than three hours before they headed down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.”

**JUDGE SIRICA RIDES THE WHITE HORSE:
DACA vs. EPA (July–August 1978)**

David versus Goliath! DACA and several Southern Maryland co-plaintiffs sued EPA and Maryland DNR for failing to prepare an environmental impact statement for a major sewage treatment plant expansion in Howard County that would negatively affect the Patuxent River.

“Over the defendants’ opposition, Judge Sirica ordered that the facts were indeed so evident that a trial was not necessary; he granted the plaintiffs’ motion to require EPA to publish a list of pollutants and standards suitable for maximum daily load measurement correlated with achieving water quality objectives.”

ALL ARE INVITED TO DACA’S 10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1984 (October–November 1984)

ALL HALLOWS’ PARISH HOSTS SOVIET MUSICIANS (September–October 1990)

“The Georgian Woodwind Quintet from Tbilisi, Georgian SSR, performed in a delightful concert at All Hallows’ Church on August 24, as part of their first American tour.”

WHAT IS REALLY UP AT SWEET MAMA’S (September–October 1991)

You win some, you lose some. Sweet Mama’s was a popular pit-stop for fast food at the intersection of Route 214 and Patuxent River Road. DACA and Riverwood Citizens Association opposed the zoning change that allowed development of Davidsonville Station, current home to the new post office location, Harvest Thyme restaurant, and other businesses. In the long view, we are happy to have these business there now.

NOT ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT (January–February 2008)

“State officials seemed supportive of the Patuxent Riverkeeper report, but not eager to follow its recommendations.”

GREEN WEEK, MARCH 15–21, SPONSORED BY PATUXENT RIVERKEEPER, SOUTH RIVER FEDERATION, DACA, AND LOCAL BUSINESSES. GET A FREE TREE FROM DACA AND PLANT IT! (March–April 2009)

This was the precursor to the Davidsonville Green Expo, which made its debut the following year at Davidsonville Elementary.

Meredith McQuoid-Greason



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April–May Agriculture Report

Spring is here! This is a busy time of year. Many farmers are prepping fields and gardens to grow food and make products that you will be able to purchase and enjoy at one of our farmers' markets, roadside stands, or farm stores. We ask everyone driving to be patient with all the farm equipment on the road this time of year.

Maryland Department of Agriculture has now expanded its spotted lanternfly quarantine to include the following counties: Allegany, **Anne Arundel**, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Washington, and Wicomico, as well as Baltimore City. This quarantine restricts the movement of regulated articles that might contain the spotted lanternfly in any of its life stages, including egg masses, nymphs, and adults.

Anne Arundel County Farmer's Markets hours Saturdays 7am–12pm, Sundays 9am–12pm, Wednesdays 4–7pm.

First Sunday Market at Honey's Harvest, first Sunday of the month 11am–3pm. Honeysharvest.com

Margie Chase

Circuit Court Approves MAC Church Subdivision

The Mid-Atlantic Community Church (MAC) applied to AA Office of Planning and Zoning for a resubdivision of their property on Davidsonville Road north of Route 50 to permit them to create a two-acre parcel to sell as a residential lot and a 14-acre parcel for the purpose of creating playing fields. OPZ granted the permit. Adjoining neighbors Paul and Lori Thick appealed against the decision because the playing fields would require removal of a stand of old-growth trees. The Court of Appeals upheld the permit, as the application did not mention tree removal and granted MACC's request for Final Plan approval.

Mr. and Mrs. Thick pursued their appeal in the Circuit Court, which affirmed the decision of the Board of Appeals. The court noted that MACC's attorney "correctly pointed out that to institute any type of recreational fields on the property would require further applications and approval." Mr. and Mrs. Thick will wait to see the results of any such recreational field development and tree removal.

Gail Enright

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School Year is Winding Down

Three inclement weather days built into the school calendar were not used, so the **last day of school for most students in prekindergarten through grade 11 will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023.**

- The last day of school for graduating seniors is Thursday, May 25;
 - last day of afternoon session classes at the Centers of Applied Technology will be Friday, June 9;
 - last day of morning session classes at the Centers of Applied Technology will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023; and
 - last day for ECI students will be Friday, June 9, 2023.
- More info: <https://aacpschools.org/pressr/?p=8079>

As called for by the Blueprint for Maryland’s future, parents who wish to apply for their child to attend Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ prekindergarten program in the 2023–2024 school year may do so online through a centralized enrollment process that is managed by the Early Childhood Office. Applications are processed based on priority groups: income eligibility, students with disabilities, students from homes in which English is not the primary spoken language, and students who are homeless. Enrollment began at noon on Tuesday, May 2, 2022. AACPS offers prekindergarten programs for 4-year-olds in 58 schools and programs for 3-year-olds in eight schools.

- Children enrolling in 3-year-old prekindergarten must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2023.
- Children enrolling in 4-year-old prekindergarten must be 4 years old on or by September 1, 2023.

Registration must be done by a parent or legal guardian, and proof of identification must be uploaded along with the completed online application. Details: <https://aacpschools.org/pressr/?p=8163>

Parents or guardians of children receiving special education and related services have been mailed the Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey from the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services. Parents are asked to complete the survey and return it in the postage-paid envelope by May 19, 2023. The survey may also be completed online. Visit <https://www.mdparentsurvey.com> for more details.

The AACPS Office of School and Family Partnerships is excited to introduce Family Academy, a learning platform for parents and guardians to help them support their students. Family Academy is an extension of the AACPS learning management system, Brightspace. Teachers and students use Brightspace for class activities and instruction. As a complement to how Brightspace is used for school, Family Academy is a learning and information tool for families and is designed to strengthen the home-school connection. To access the Family Academy, visit www.aacps.org/brightspaceparent and click on the red Parent & Guardian button. Information to download the app is also available on the page. You can use the same login credentials that are associated with your PowerSchool Parent Portal account.

The AACPS weekly updates on staff vacancies are at www.aacps.org/weeklyupdate.

The status as of April 26, 2023:

- 39 bus driver vacancies (down from 41 last month), with 48 in training;
- teacher vacancies no longer reported (195 in March);
- 179 food service vacancies (down from 184 last month);
- 41 custodial staff vacancies (up from 31 last month).

Grayson Morgan

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Missive, Musings on Horse Racing from Our County Executive

Dear Neighbor,

Hooray for the horsemen, the men and women who own, train, and care for the magnificent animals that are the stars of the sport. They refused to race their horses because they believed that the racing surface at Laurel Park was unsafe. They chose horse welfare over purse money, even as 1/ST Racing, the Canadian company that owns Laurel and Pimlico, insisted that the surface was safe.

I've never raced a horse, but I've transitioned a lot of racehorses to second careers and rehomed them. I also created a national organization to promote that retraining and rehoming called Retired Racehorse Project. Doing that work taught me two things. One is that Thoroughbred racehorses love to run and love to connect with competent handlers and riders. The other is that the people in horse racing will do anything and everything to nurture and protect the magnificent animals in their care.

This isn't the first time that track owners and horsemen have disagreed with one another, but it's happening at a high stakes moment for the industry.

When Maryland voters approved slots in 2008, they also approved an arrangement to distribute its revenues. Most goes to an education trust fund, but some is a pay-back to an industry that lost gambling dollars to slots - horse racing. There is purse money and there is a Race-track Facilities Renewal Account (RFRA) to maintain the tracks.

Laurel and Pimlico are both crumbling. The Maryland General Assembly authorized the industry to sell bonds to finance a rebuild of both tracks to be paid back with funds from RFRA. Both the financing and the construction would be overseen by the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA).

MSA worked hard to get both projects shovel-ready, but progress with 1/ST Racing was slow. Interest rates

and costs rose during that time and reduced drastically what could be built with the dedicated funds. Governor Moore, House Speaker Jones, and Senate President Ferguson wisely said no to 1/ST Racing's plea for additional resources but understood that the company was no longer a dependable partner to operate Maryland's tracks. In the final days of the session, they moved through a bill to create the Maryland Thoroughbred Operating Authority, a new locally controlled entity that could step up and manage racing after a 1/ST Racing departure.

It's fair to say that Maryland racing is about to undergo some changes, and some big questions need to be answered.

If there's only enough money for one track, where should it be? Laurel? For the short term, yes. But there are environmental challenges that make it very expensive to rebuild there. The turf track is wonderful, but the dirt surface has foundational challenges that nobody has fixed. The land is at an underutilized MARC train station and has potential for other uses, such as recreation, entertainment, and housing.

Pimlico? The upside is that it allows the Preakness to stay in Baltimore, and potentially benefits the residents of the surrounding Park Heights neighborhood. But like Laurel, it's possible that a track isn't the best economic driver compared to alternative uses for the land. That's for Mayor Scott and his economic development team to determine. The clear downside to Pimlico as the sole track in Maryland is that it lacks the land to stable 1,100-plus racehorses.

Should there be a training center elsewhere for horses that race at Pimlico? Or should there be a single track at a new location that can accommodate racing and training, and maybe even some other horse sports?

And here's a big question a lot of people are afraid to ask. Is Maryland racing worth saving?

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(Continued, next page)



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(Continued from p. 14)

Cup, Pegasus — are growing, making them economic drivers where they happen. That will happen again around the Preakness, Maryland Million, and a revitalized Washington International with strong local management and marketing.

The farms where Thoroughbred racehorses are bred and raised are an environmental and open space asset. A well-managed pasture is second only to a forest in filtering nutrients that too often end up in our waterways.

The 21,000 jobs and \$1.3 billion economic impact of the industry is significant, but when you consider how difficult the job skills are to transfer, the value grows. Nobody is getting rich caring for horses, but the jobs are fulfilling. Horses don't care about their handler's race, national origin, or wealth, and that's why the industry produces business owners and success stories from all walks of life. An effective trainer or jockey will succeed.

Finally, there is something that horses do for people that makes us better. We are inspired by their honesty, their heart, their generosity, and their athleticism. When we connect with them, we connect with something we can't fully control. We are humbled.

The horse racing industry, and the non-racing parts of the horse industry are co-dependent. The trainers, the veterinarians, the exercise riders, the feed and equipment suppliers often have a foot in both worlds. Maryland has a network of stables where anyone can get started with horses, and the racetracks offer tours of the backside so that fans can see how the horses live and train.

State and local governments promote sports and recreational activities that are good for health and that are economic drivers. Racing is both.

As for the horses, I can't speak for them. But I can say that it's the racing industry that has led all horse sports on the welfare front. It's the one that bans slaughter, it's the one that funds the best veterinary research, and it's the one that sets the standard for care.

When I was president of the Maryland Horse Council, someone asked me if I were reincarnated as a horse and could choose a sport, which one would it be. I immediately said racing. It's running with the herd and spending long hours eating the best food and sleeping on a clean bed of straw in front of a fan.

So my long answer to the big question is yes. I am willing to follow the lead of the Maryland horsemen and women who bravely stood up for their horses this week, taking the sport local, and creating a future for Maryland racing, where horses come first.



Plan 2040 is Progressing

The Draft Zoning Maps for Regions 2, 4, and 7, from Laurel and Fort Meade, Pasadena, Severna Park, and Broadneck, will be available for public review from May 1 to June 1, 2023. During this time, property owners or their representatives can file a zoning change application.

Davidsonville, Harwood, Owensville, Lothian, Wayson's Corner, Friendship, and a small western portion of Edgewater, all inland from the Bay, are in Region 8. The bay side of South County is Region 7. Regions 1, 3, and 6 range from Brooklyn Park south to Crownsville.

You can learn more at the Region Planning Areas website:

<https://gis.aacounty.org/portal/apps/View/index.html?apid=bd222799b30549afb785c2406ee11088>

~ ~ ~

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

During an emergency or following a major disaster, first responders may not be able to meet the increased demand for their services. The CERT program educates community members about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using this training, CERT-trained individuals can assist others in their family, their neighborhood, and their community until first responders arrive.

Anne Arundel–Annapolis Community Emergency Response Team (AAACERT) is pleased to provide this CERT Basic Training. Our 21-hour course teaches these skills using updated FEMA-supplied materials, incorporating practical exercises, and culminating with a disaster scenario in a realistic environment.

The target audience for this course would be individuals who desire the skills and knowledge required to prepare for and respond to a disaster. The minimum age is 16 and there is no maximum age. Everyone participates to the extent that they can, given individual constraints.

The fall class takes place on the following dates:

- Friday, September 29, 2023, 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday, September 30, 2023, 8:00am to 5:00pm
- Sunday, October 1, 2023, 8:00am to 4:00pm
- Sunday, October 8, 2023, 12:30pm to 4:30pm

To register for the class, visit the CERT website: <https://www.aacert.org/cert-basic-training/>

Stuart Pittman

Ann Arundel County Executive

April 27, 2023

End-of-Session News from State Senator Dawn Gile

Dear Davidsonville Area Civic Association,

As your newly elected state senator representing District 33, I am excited to work with you on the issues that are most important to our district. My end-of-session letter highlights the legislation that I sponsored, the significant capital budget funding that I secured for our communities, and the progress we have made addressing many important issues in Maryland.

At the outset, I want to highlight the seven bills I sponsored, which passed with bipartisan support:

1. **Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023 (SB534):** This bill extends the flexibilities for telehealth that were put into state law during the pandemic, allowing healthcare providers to continue delivering safe, reliable care via telehealth at the right place, right time, and the right modality for patients.
2. **Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing – Exemptions (SB280/HB292):** This bill eases unnecessary licensing burdens for military spouses who provide in-home childcare and expands childcare options for military families.
3. **Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (SB354/HB316):** This bill offers Maryland taxpayers the option to contribute to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) on their annual state tax returns, providing the MVTF with additional funding to expand the important work it is already providing in the state.
4. **Public Health – Parkinson’s Disease – Advisory Committee and Website (SB584/ HB703):** This bill requires the Maryland Parkinson’s Disease Registry Advisory Committee to establish a website that includes information on Parkinson’s disease incidences in the state and provides recommendations on creating a registry that researchers can use to learn more about the disease.
5. **Maryland Audiology, Hearing Aid Dispensing, Speech–Language Pathology, and Music Therapy Act – Definitions and Application (SB449/SB401):** This bill updates the ability for certain providers to prescribe hearing aids, so Marylanders get to reap the intended benefits of the expanded access to devices.
6. **Alcoholic Beverages – Manufacturer’s Licenses and Off-Site Permits (SB448/SB595):** This bill extends flexibilities to Maryland distilleries, wineries, and breweries that allowed them to deliver and directly ship the products they produce to Marylanders as well as sell their products to Marylanders off the manufacturers’ premise without a restrictive volume cap.
7. **Real Property – Limitations on Summoning Law Enforcement or Emergency Services – Prohibition (SB450/HB215):** This bill would bar local nuisance

laws that threaten the ability of a resident to get help during an emergency for fear of losing their home.

The 2023 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly saw significant progress made in addressing several pressing challenges that are confronting the state, specifically:

- Expanding opportunity for working families
- Improving delivery of behavioral health services
- Safeguarding reproductive freedom
- Enhancing public safety through gun safety
- Protecting the environment
- Establishing a framework for legalized recreational cannabis
- Demanding justice for victims of child sex abuse
- Reforming the 529 college saving plans
- Standing with those who served

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my assistance and support. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to listen and support you. You can contact my office directly at dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us or (410) 841-3568.

I am eager to get to know you and collaborate with you to make our community an even better place to live. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

Dawn D. Gile, Maryland Senate, District 33
April 24, 2023

Good Luck Class of 2023!

DACA sends congratulations and best wishes to all students graduating from high school and college this May and June.

~ ~ ~

Join DACA!

New to Davidsonville? Or still need to renew your membership for 2023? Pay dues of \$20 per person and your voice will be amplified by this respected civic association in meetings and discussions with representatives of our county and state government. DACA exists to assist by speaking with you and for you. Members and guests are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings. *Let your voice be heard!*



Contact Information for Our Government Officials

State District 33

Sen. Dawn Gile 410-841-3606 dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us
Del. Stuart Schmidt 33B 410-841-3551 stuart.schmidt@house.state.md.us
Del. Heather Bagnall 33C 410-841-3406 heather.bagnall@house.state.md.us
Del. Andrew Pruski 33A 410-841-3510 andrew.pruski@house.state.md.us

Anne Arundel County

County Executive Steuart Pittman 410-222-1821 expitt99@aacounty.org
Council District 7 Shannon Leadbetter 410-222-2417 sleadbetter@aacounty.org
Community Engagement and Constituent Services Director Vincent Moulden 410-222-1260 exmoul00@aacounty.org
County Engagement Officer Dist 7 Courtney Buiniskis exbuin22@aacounty.org
Clerk of the Circuit Court Scott Poyer 410-222-1187 aaclerkadmin@mdcourts.gov

AA County Board of Education members

Gloria Dent, Council District 1 gdent@aacps.org
Robert Silkworth, Council District 2 rsilkworth@aacps.org
Corine Frank, Council District 3 clfrank@aacps.org
Melissa Ellis, Council District 4 mkellis@aacps.org
Dana Schallheim, Council District 5 dschallheim@aacps.org
Joanna Bache Tobin, Council District 6 jtobin@aacps.org
Michelle Corkadel, Council District 7 mcorkadel@aacps.org
Zachary McGrath, student member until June 30, 2023 zmcgrath@aacps.org
Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell superintendent@aacps.org
boardoffice@aacps.org mbedell@aacps.org

The Auxiliary of Anne Arundel Medical Center, 2001 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, needs volunteers ages 18 and older, daytime and evening hours, weekdays and weekends. Positions include opportunities in patient interaction, customer service, and retail assistance. The auxiliary has been serving the hospital since 1944. Volunteers are an integral part of AAMC’s mission of providing patient-centered, high-quality health care services. Please call the auxiliary office 443-481-5050 to volunteer or to request more information.

STROLL DAVIDSONVILLE

Stroll Davidsonville is dedicated to residents of our fair community and features families and individuals who make Davidsonville the place we love. It also features an occasional piece of local history or nostalgic interest.

If you are a Davidsonville resident not currently receiving the magazine and would like to see it, contact Stroll’s publisher, David Grabau, david.grabau@n2pub.com, who will email you a free PDF.

~ ~ ~

DACA Thanks

Our Scholarship Angels

- Tom and Kris Angelis
Robert and Ann Bradshaw*
Scott Cannon
Kevin and Sharon Carlton
Jennifer and Robert Dorr
Gail Enright
Nick Kemp and Kay Osburnsen
Judy Kienast
Betty and John Knupp*
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*Special thanks to Betty and John Knupp and to Bob Bradshaw for their generous gifts to the Scholarship Fund, their fourth contributions!

~ ~ ~

Many thanks to Jean Duckett and Dawn Duckett Connell, for their contribution to DACA in addition to their dues and to Kate Fox who paid dues four years ahead plus a contribution!

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DACA OFFICERS

Term until June 2023

President	Bruce Stein	443.254.2259
	bsteinesq@yahoo.com	
Vice President	H. Edward Woods	410.798.0764
	pgchief181@gmail.com	
Communications Secretary	Gail Enright	
	info@daca-md.org	410.533.4766
Treasurer	Brian Stanton	410.608.3462
	brian_stanton63@yahoo.com	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeff Bishop	jbgansett1@aol.com	410.808.5597
Kate Fox	fox4smith@verizon.net	410.956.4852
Wayne Reid	wayne.reid@c2nm.com	410.798.9490

Term to June 2024

Andrew Healy	andrewjchealy@gmail.com	703.307.5320
Lynn Marano	billandlynnmarano@verizon.net	410.798.6670
Frank Purdy	franklisapurdy@comcast.net	240.305.2478
Melissa Stanton	brimeli@yahoo.com	443.858.7470

Term to June 2025

Margie Chase	chasemr@yahoo.com	443-883-6425
Sean Healy	roundrockinn@aol.com	301.848.6573
Meredith Greason	mrmcquoid@gmail.com	410.533.9923
Grayson Morgan	gbmorgan@hotmail.com	240.393.7470

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

www.daca-md.org

Bruce Stein, President	410.956.3759
Meredith McQuoid-Greaseon, Editor	410.533.2293
Gail Enright, Editor emerita	410.533.4766

info@daca-md.org and on Facebook

The Villager is will be published at least four times per year.
We invite your written and signed contributions of letters, articles,
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JOIN DACA

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ALSO enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ for the Scholarship Fund.

Mail form and check to DACA, P.O. BOX 222, Davidsonville, MD 21035 **-OR-** pay via PayPal on DACA's website.

Name(s) _____ Email _____

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Your comments, your interest?