

# The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 50, No. 3

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

Winter–Spring 2024

## *It's That Time Again!*

Our 13th Annual Green Expo is hosted once again by Homestead Gardens, on Saturday, March 23, from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.

The Green Expo features exhibitors offering information, education, and demonstrations on environmentally friendly products, sustainable lifestyle, lawn and garden techniques, agricultural practices, energy use, water conservation and preservation, recycling, land use, and conservation. Green Expo will provide attendees with information needed to live a sustainable life and to protect and preserve our environment, our waterways, and our Chesapeake Bay.

**Seedling giveaway, sponsored by Lakemont Gardens/Dignity Memorials:** DACA's annual tree seedling giveaway is from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (or until the trees are all gone) in Homestead Gardens' greenhouse. This year's offerings are redbud, witch hazel, red osier dogwood, and flowering dogwood—all Maryland natives and pollinator friendly. And in keeping with the green theme, the seedlings will be provided in paper bags this year, not plastic!

**Flag ceremony and Scouts participation:** Scouts Troop 454 will present colors at 10:30 am at the flagpole in the parking lot. Afterward, bring your



worn and tattered old flags to the Scouts' exhibit table for respectful disposal.

**More!** In addition to an exciting array of exhibitors, the Expo will again offer face painting courtesy of the Southern High School Art Department. Also, come meet and learn about raptors.

**Food!** Kernel Gunther's famous popcorn, funnel cakes and more; Sweet Satisfaction with homemade ice cream, coffee, and other beverages; and Salt & Pepper Flippin BBQ Truck will all be on site.

**Become a member of DACA:** 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. Let your voice be heard!

Notes and Appreciations

A Few Words from the Editor

It was never my intent to delay production of this issue for so long after last fall's Summer-Fall/August-October issue of The Villager. Many apologies to our members and readers! With my very demanding full-time job and a full personal schedule, I've found it immensely difficult to carve out time to produce the newsletter. Much of this issue has been composed during the quiet wee hours in the dead of night. I'll endeavor to do better! Former editor Gail Enright set a vastly high bar that I have yet to remotely approach. I am grateful for her continuing contributions.

On another note, DACA's board has been incredibly involved in a red-hot local topic regarding the heavy truck traffic and sand and gravel mining operations along Patuxent River Road. This matter has been historically and legally complex, with more than a couple nail-biting twists and turns. And it's not over yet. I hope you find the article interesting and enlightening.

Public Servants and Private Citizens Together, at Work on Our Roads

Heavy rains in early February caused longstanding wet conditions on local roads, noticeably on the northwest corner at the intersection of Davidsonville Road and Governors Bridge Road. The storm drain inlet was clogged and ultimately

reached a point where the runoff from rain earlier in the month began to pool across the surface of Governors Bridge Road. Unable to reach the ditch on the south side where it could be carried away, a large puddle developed and was still there after two weeks. This large wet area in the road was a major nuisance, but earlier in the season when temperatures were below freezing, the lack of drainage was a dangerous frozen hazard, most especially for vehicles attempting to turn onto westbound Governors Bridge Road.

DACA board member Ed Woods learned that "ditching" by the road crews is usually done every two or three years in areas where storm runoff or other factors tend to create large amounts of dirt and debris that impede proper drainage. "Spot ditching" can be done in response to citizens' complaints about a specific problem. Mr. Woods notified state and county road officials and then the County Executive's Constituent Services Office about the above problem. After some minor confusion, the County roads crews were able to get the drain cleared, and proper drainage patterns were restored on February 20. Thanks Ed!

Gail Enright



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## Sand and Gravel Mining on Patuxent River Road: Residents are Deeply Opposed

Jones of Annapolis, owner of Brandywine Aggregates at 3026 Patuxent River Road near the U.S. Route #50 overpass, has applied to AA County Department of Planning & Zoning for a Special Exception to excavate sand and gravel at 2882 Patuxent River Road, just north of the Brandywine site, both of which border on the Patuxent River. Mining sand and gravel has been a major business along the river for more than 100 years, as construction materials have been in high demand. Although the area is zoned for rural/agricultural land use, sand and gravel mining has been allowed with a “special exception” to the zoning code. Many of the former pits along the river have been mined out, leaving a big empty space that once was full of valuable material. Environmental regulations have been enacted over the decades to require operators or owners to reclaim the land by filling the holes, planting trees and other vegetation, and assure no seepage into the ground water; ultimately the owners can sell the reclaimed property, as was the case for Davidsonville Park.

Patrick Maslar, resident of Governors Bridge Road, attended DACA’s December 2023 board meeting to explain the special exception process for the sand and gravel operation at 2882 Patuxent River Road. He recapped some of the history that was presented by Daniel Jones at DACA’s November 2023 board meeting. The property was purchased by Brandywine Aggregates, which is owned by the Jones family. Current aggregate properties in the area are being mined under a nonconforming use. In 2000 Brandywine Aggregates applied for a special exception on the property but then withdrew the application. Since October 2023 they were in pre-file stage for a special exception application at 2882 Patuxent River Road.

Mr. Maslar reported that residents of the local community are working to oppose the operation on the general basis that sand and gravel operations are not allowed under the special exception on Patuxent River Road. In studying the Code, he noted 19 requirements for sand and gravel mining. Relevant sections of the County Code can be found at Section (§) 17-6-504 - Scenic or Historic Roads (Patuxent River Road is a Category 1 road per Appendix A of the County’s Scenic and Historic Roads Implementation Policy); § 18-11-113 - Clay and borrow pits and sand and gravel operations; and § 18-16-304 - Special Exceptions. The applicants must also get a State mining permit for the new site. The opponents have formed an organization, hired an attorney, opened a website ([www.industrialdavidsonville.com](http://www.industrialdavidsonville.com) / email: [stopdavidsonville@gmail.com](mailto:stopdavidsonville@gmail.com)), and have sent informational postcards to about 2,000 residences in Davidsonville.

### Background

The Jones brothers—Daniel, David, and Dillon—attended DACA’s November 2023 board meeting to notify the directors of their intention to excavate sand and gravel from their recently acquired property at 2882 Patuxent River Rd., near their Brandywine mine at 3026 Patuxent River Rd.

Daniel Jones briefly summarized the company’s activity since the 1960s and spoke of their future plans. He emphasized that they are a small, local, family-owned business. Brandywine’s current sand and gravel resources are exhausted, leaving empty pits that they have been filling with construction debris. After reclamation at 3026, they want to move their mining operation to 2882 Patuxent River Road. He noted that the usual issues associated with mining uses are environmental, noise, and truck traffic, and he explained to the board how they plan to manage these.

Regarding the environment, Jones acknowledged that trees will be removed from the land at 2882, but the property had already been logged by previous owners and no specimen trees remain on the site that require protection. They will reclaim the excavated land at the end of the operation with clean fill from excavated basements, septic systems, etc. They completed the wetland delineation on the site. Maryland Department of the Environment will conduct regular inspections.

As to truck traffic, they expect to close the current Brandywine site within two to four years and are currently reclaiming it. If they get the special exception to proceed with operations at their new site, it will take about two years to get permitting in place to start mining. Thus Jones stated there would be no increase in truck traffic from overlapping operations before excavation begins at 2882. They consider that by mining in that same area, fewer trucks will be traveling from Eastern Shore sand and gravel operations.

To manage and control dust and dirt on the roadway, they will use a water truck to keep the dust down and wash the dirt off truck tires before they enter the road, as is their current practice. They plan to landscape the site to screen noise caused by machinery.

*Continued, page 4*

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**Patuxent River Road** (continued from p. 4)

The Jones brothers began working with Terrain Engineers and Surveyors on this project many months in advance. AA Planning and Zoning responded in September 2023 to their first application and included the following comments:

In Plan 2040’s Rural Planned Land Use category, zoning is primarily Rural Agriculture with Open Space on the southwest portion. The proposal is generally consistent with the goals, policies, and strategies of Plan2040. It is located in Plan2040’s Region 8, where the Regional Planning process began in January 2024 and is to be completed in spring 2026. Planning and Zoning conducted exhaustive surveys and studies regarding traffic, school transportation, and the condition of the road and surrounding topography.

**Public Hearing**

Having heard serious opposition to the proposed special exception by the neighbors and other residents of Patuxent River Road, and pondering the issues for two months, DACA’s board considered both the proposal presented by Brandywine Aggregates and the arguments of the opposition. The board voted in January to express DACA’s opposition to the proposed special exception.

An Administrative Hearing to review the Special Exception application was scheduled for February 29 at 11:30 am. Public attendance would *only* be permitted via Zoom. The County required written notification of the application and the hearing to be sent to *only* those residents and owners of land within 300 feet of the property of a special exception.

Prior to the hearing, DACA’s board voted to request that the hearing be held in-person, as were all public information meetings before 2020. On January 12, DACA President Bruce Stein wrote to Hearing Officer Douglas Hollmann’s office manager, Ms. Hollie Colby, with copies sent to District 7 Council member Shannon Leadbetter, Constituent Services Director Vincent Moulden, District 7 Constituent Representative Courtney Buiniskis, and to Robert Konowal of the AA Office of Planning and Zoning. Mr. Stein argued that a virtual meeting minimizes, limits, and dilutes the impact that the objections might have to additional mining in the neighborhood; that a meeting held in person would enable the Hearing Officer to better understand and

decide this complex matter. Ms. Colby replied, “We no longer offer in person hearings.”

Mr. Hollmann also replied that DACA’s request for an in-person meeting was denied. He said that even if it were held in-person it would also be on the Internet. He wrote “citizens would not be denied their rights.” “A hybrid meeting does nothing to improve the flow of information needed to decide a particular case.” “The hearing on the application by Brandywine Aggregates will proceed as scheduled” at 11:30 am on Thursday, February 29, at Arundel Center, 44 Calvert Street. Mr. Stein believes that this issue will need to be resolved separately as it affects all zoning hearings.

Thus, on February 29, 2024, the hearing was held via Zoom. Approximately 76 people signed in via zoom and 81 “exhibits” (letters and emails) were submitted protesting the special exception. These exhibits, along with the application and County exhibits, may be accessed on this web page:

<https://www.aacounty.org/admin-hearings/hearing-calendar/brandywine-aggregates-llc-2023-0221-s-ad-1-cd-7>.

The Hearing lasted approximately five hours and 15 minutes. There were two major categories of issues discussed:

- (1) A legal issue regarding some of the Special Exception requirements being preempted by state law as claimed by the applicant and opposed by DACA and others. The Hearing Officer stated that it was in his authority to decide this issue of law.
- (2) The impact of the proposed use on the surrounding communities. Virtually all of those speaking against the proposal focused on this aspect of the Special Exception’s impact, as did the vast majority of the exhibits submitted by those opposing the application.

The County was represented by Mr. Konowal and opposed granting of the Special Exception on the basis of various County planning, policy, and land use documents. The Applicant argued against the applicability of these documents and policies based on their interpretation of state law and policies that support mining.

Mr. Stein, as the DACA representative, was allowed to speak after the two attorneys. He emphasized that there were two separate bases of opposition to the special exception—legal and community impact—and he referred the Hearing Officer to DACA’s six-page letter of opposition (exhibit 14).



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The meeting ended after the Hearing Officer polled the Zoom audience (there were still many who had not spoken) for anyone else who desired to speak, and having no replies, closed the hearing. A decision is required 30 days after the hearing. DACA expects that, regardless of the decision, it will be appealed to the County Board of Appeals.

**Decision**

Hearing Officer Hollmann’s decision was announced on March 14. Excerpts from that decision are below.

“The applicant contended at the hearing that it met all the specific requirements for a special exception pursuant to § 18-11-113. Assuming that the applicant has done so, the applicant must also satisfy the general requirements found in § 18-16-304. This process has been likened to a steeplechase in which the applicant’s mount must clear every barrier, which are the individual requirements in this case. I find that there is no reason to examine each specific element of § 18-11-113 because, even if the applicant has met all the requirements of § 18-11-113, it falls at the last barrier—§ 18-16-304 - the general requirements that all special exceptions must meet. As in a horse race, DNF<sup>[1]</sup> means the application must be denied.

“**Subsection (1)** *The use will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare.* The applicant cannot meet this requirement because its operation within the property as well as the ancillary truck traffic that will feed the facility are each detrimental to the public, health, safety, and welfare of the surrounding community.

“There was testimony from neighbors<sup>4</sup> that they could hear the operation inside the applicant's existing mining operation down the road from the site of the proposed new mine.”

The decision’s footnote 4 reads, “27 separate witnesses and organizations, including the Patuxent Riverkeeper and the Davidsonville Civic Association representing 300 property owners in the area, in addition to many people who could not attend the hearing but submitted their objection, filed 82 separate written objections to granting the special exception. Not one person, other than the applicant’s witnesses, testified in favor of allowing the requested special exception to mine the applicant’s property. Neighbors don’t necessarily determine whether special exceptions are granted or denied but it is clear that the landowners and residents from north of Route 50 to far down Patuxent River Road are steadfast against having another sand and gravel mine on Patuxent River Road.”

“**Subsection (2)** *The location, nature, and height of each building, wall, and fence, the nature and extent of landscaping on the site, and the location, size, nature, and intensity of each phase of the use and its access roads will be compatible with the appropriate and orderly development of the district in which it is located;*

“The neighborhood is rural and surrounded by parks, rivers, and woodland. Allowing a sand and gravel mine on the applicant’s property would be incompatible with the development of the surrounding district.

*Continued, page 6*



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“**Subsection (3)** Operations related to the use will be **no more objectionable with regard to noise, fumes, vibration, or light to nearby properties than operations in other uses allowed under this article;**

“It is difficult to imagine another use in an RA district that would be more objectionable to nearby properties than the proposed sand and gravel mine.”

The decision’s footnote 5 reads, “There have been many sand and gravel mines along the Patuxent River. This is because the river has for eons been quietly laying down sand and gravel that can be used in making concrete and other products. One cannot drive to Ocean City and start loading beach sand into trucks because beach sand has been rounded off and pounded by ocean waves into smoot particles that make concrete that fails. The fact that as many as 30 sand and gravel mines may have been operating along this section of the Patuxent River is not evidence that one more should be added here. If anything, maybe the demise of sand and gravel mines (there was testimony there might be only two left) is because mines may have been tolerated when very few people lived in this part of Davidsonville but there has been a growing awareness, partly as a result of testimony and lobbying by the Patuxent Riverkeeper, that rural areas along the Patuxent River should stay rural.”

“**Subsection (4)** The use at the location proposed will not have any adverse effects above and beyond those inherently associated with the use **irrespective of its location within the zoning district;**

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“As stated above, it does not seem possible that the proposed sand and gravel mine, in this part of Davidsonville on Patuxent River Road, is not more averse to the surrounding neighborhood than it would be in any other RA zoned district.

“**Subsection (7)** *The proposed use is consistent with the County General Development Plan;*

“The application does not meet the requirements of this subsection. The sand and gravel mine would not contribute to ‘the preservation of agricultural lands and woodlands’ in South County. The subject property and surrounding area has been designated a ‘Priority Preservation Area’ by Plan 2040.”

Mr. Hollman found that the requirements of Subsections (5), (6), (8), (9), and (11) were met by the applicant’s proposal. Subsection (10) was not applicable.

“In conclusion, the applicant has not satisfied the requirements of § 18-16-304. Mr. Konowal’s report is adopted herein in full. It would be idle repetition to recite Mr. Konowal’s report in detail which more than enough supports denial of the requested special exception.”

**ORDER**

“PURSUANT to the application Brandywine Aggregates, Inc., petitioning for a special exception to allow a clay and borrow pit and sand and gravel operation in a RA - Rural Agricultural District on property with a street address of 2882 Patuxent River Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035; and

“PURSUANT to the notice, posting of the property, and public hearing and in accordance with the provisions of law, it is this 14th day of March, 2024; and

“ORDERED, by the Administrative Hearing Officer of Anne Arundel County, that the applicant is hereby **denied** a special exception to allow a clay and borrow pit and sand and gravel operation in a RA - Rural Agricultural District on property located at 2882 Patuxent River Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035.”

Douglas Clark Hollmann  
Administrative Hearing Officer

The ball is now in Brandywine Aggregates’ court. They have 30 days to appeal to the Board of Appeals.

**Go Fund Me**

Prior to preparing testimony at the hearing, DACA’s board of directors met with parties on both sides of the debate and deliberated and researched the issue for several months. In addition to research, letter writing, and testimony by DACA board members, Patrick Maslar of Davidsonville organized a grassroots effort among residents of Patuxent River Road, publicizing the issue with postcard mailings and a website, and engaged an attorney to advise on the process and an expert witness to testify, among other things to aid in the cause, which has cost him many thousands of dollars. DACA asks its members and other interested folks to donate to the Go Fund Me fundraiser to help defray these costs.

Here is the link: <https://gofund.me/7178bf0a>

*DACA board members Gail Enright, Bruce Stein, Grayson Morgan, Jeff Bishop, and Meredith McQ.-Greason collaborated on this article*

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### Applications for the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 academic year due no later than June 15, 2024, 11:59 pm**

Learn about the scholarship and access the application by visiting [www.davidsonvillemaryland.org/scholarship](http://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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**DACA’s Scholarship Fund Invites Your Support**

“*If you have the money and deserving applicants, do not hold back.*” That is what our founding donors, Tom and Kris Angelis, advised when they established DACA’s scholarship program. Their intention was to provide seed money that would motivate Davidsonville residents to contribute regularly and make the fund grow. The scholarship fund is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from generous donors who made all its grants possible. Now is the time for past, present, and future donors to stand forward and show their continuing support for this worthy endeavor.

Last year was DACA’s most successful for awards to students, with three well-qualified recipients who were granted scholarships of \$1,000 each, which used nearly all the funds in the account. Since it was initiated in August 2017, the fund has received \$8,385 in gifts from members and nonmember donors, and DACA has distributed awards ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, totaling \$7,520. At present our scholarship account has just over \$1,400. It needs an infusion of contributions if DACA is to continue awarding scholarships for the 2024–2025 school year.

Please be a scholarship Angel, one of this group of generous supporters of DACA’s privately funded scholarship program. It will help others and it will make you feel good.

Past student grantees have expressed their gratitude with thank you notes and by performing well at their schools with high grades. Under DACA’s scholarship requirements and qualifications, they are eligible to reapply for a second year, but without more gifts coming in, we will not be able to help many new applicants who qualify.

Please help us grow the scholarship fund by mailing 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.



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A small tree, 25–20 feet tall. Noted for its pink blossoms. This tree is valued for its wildlife food and cover. Maryland native and pollinator friendly.



**Red Osier Dogwood** *Cornus stolonifera*

About 12–24 inches high at 1 year and 10–20 feet tall at maturity, this shrubby tree has bright red stems and twigs when young. Commonly found on moister soils, it is planted for watershed protection and wildlife cover.



**Flowering Dogwood** *Cornus florida*

A small tree growing up to 30–40 feet tall with white blooms in spring. It provides food and cover for birds and other wildlife.

**Witch-Hazel**

*Hamamelis virginiana*

About 8–16 inches high at 1 year, this shrubby tree grows up to 30 feet tall and flowers in fall. (Some varieties bloom in spring.) It provides food and cover for birds and other and wildlife.



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## March Schools Report

*Reported by Grayson Morgan*

Teacher of the Year semifinalists will be among 69 Anne Arundel County teachers to be honored at the 38th Annual Excellence in Education Awards Event on Friday, May 3, 2024, at The Hall @ Live! Arundel Mills. The AACPS Teacher of the Year will go on to represent the school system in the Maryland Teacher of the Year competition.

The following Teacher of the Year nominees supporting Davidsonville students will also be honored at the event:

Shannon Riley, South River High School

Tara Stapler, Central Middle School

More info at <https://aacpsschools.org/pressr/?p=8783>

Current Vacancies Status (as of March 13)

- 0 bus driver vacancies (0 last month) with 43 in training
- 108 teacher vacancies (113 last month)
- 43 crossing guards
- 87 food service vacancies (92 last month)
- 20 custodial staff vacancies (28 last month)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Bedell announced a series of community conversations during which attendees will receive updated information on the performance of Anne Arundel County Public Schools and have the opportunity to speak with key school system leaders. The event at South River High School is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, at 6 p.m. The one-hour event will begin with remarks from Dr. Bedell and culminate with time for attendees to speak with members of Dr. Bedell's Cabinet about topics of interest to them. Attendees who do not have a chance to have their questions answered at events will be provided with an avenue to record them and receive an email response.


Four students earned honors for Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) from the Maryland State Gifted and Talented Advisory Council. Individual honorees were chosen for their outstanding achievement and significant contributions to the school or larger community within the area of Gifted and Talented education. Local student Charlotte Benson, Grade 6, Central Middle School, was honored by the Council.

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### Local Farm and Agriculture Issues

*Reported by Margie Chase*

The deadline passed for submitting bids to operate the Lothian Grain elevator with no bids received. I understand that the County has extended the deadline, and they are still looking for interested parties.

Local farmers say we're still getting way too much rain.

The Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau Young Farmers are planning for their farm equipment auction on March 23 at 8:00 am—see infographic at right.

For info on Maryland agricultural issues and 2024 legislation important to farmers, see their weekly Hotline newsletter at <https://mdfarmbureau.com/communications/> and newsroom at <https://mdfarmbureau.com/newsroom/>.

*Editor's note: And the good news... one day closer to strawberries!*

### All Hallows Parish Outreach

The small but mighty Episcopal congregation, with their Chapel in the center of Davidsonville and their Brick Church and Parish House on Route 2 at Brick Church Road, manages a monthly food pantry distribution with repurposable item offerings and hosts a weekly quilting and knitting ministry. At their February food pantry distribution, they served 38 families totaling 156 people, 62 of whom were under 18 years old. Redeemer Quilters and Yarn Ministry meets Friday mornings, 9:30 to noon, at the Parish House at 3600 Solomons Island Road. Throughout the year they create adult, youth, baby, and newborn hats, scarves, and mittens, and baby and lap quilts and blankets full of warmth and love for distribution next winter; and they also have walker pockets for anyone who uses a walker. Contact Jane Thigpen ([alfred.thigpen@gmail.com](mailto:alfred.thigpen@gmail.com)) for information on registering or volunteering for the food pantry and/or Linda Johnson ([lindaj5575@gmail.com](mailto:lindaj5575@gmail.com)) for information on Redeemer Quilters. They always welcome your help, prayers, and suggestions.

**Anne Arundel County Young Farmers**  
**Public Auction**  
**Saturday**  
**March 23, 2024**  
**8 am**

**Auction Location:**  
**241 Farmhouse Lane**  
**Lothian, MD**  
 (Rt. 408 & Farmhouse Lane)

**Expected Consignments**  
 May Include:  
**Farm Tractors**  
**Equipment**  
**Attachments**  
**Tools**  
**Lawn/Garden Items**  
**Garage/Shop Items**

**Consignments accepted on site:**  
 SAT March 16<sup>th</sup> - 10 am to 4 pm  
 WED & THURS March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>th</sup> - 3 pm to 7 pm  
 FRI March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9 am to 2 pm

Consignments NOT accepted may include: Used furniture, appliances, propane tanks, hazardous materials, tires, etc. NO JUNK. Farm-related vehicles & trailers must have a good MD Title (title must be in the name of consignor with NO liens). Auction staff reserves right to refuse any item.

**For more information: Call 240-486-6592**

TERMS: Cash, Good Checks (with appropriate ID) & Credit Cards Accepted. (Additional 3.5% fee for credit card payments). Ten percent buyer's premium on all items up to a maximum of \$300 per item. MD Sales Tax where applicable.

NOTE: All purchased items are to be removed from the auction site day of auction (unless prior arrangements are made with one of the Arundel County Young Farmers Auction Committee members).

**A Southern Maryland Community Auction Event!**

**Farrell**  
 AUCTION SERVICE

Proceeds support the Anne Arundel County Young Farmers Agricultural Scholarships and Educational opportunities.

**Our Farms, Our Future**



Newborn baby hats made by All Hallows Yarn Ministry participants for donation to Anne Arundel Medical Center.

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## Arundel Rivers Federation

**ARUNDEL RIVERS ON THE HALF SHELL**

Saturday, May 11, 2024  
6:00pm-9:00pm  
YMCA Camp Letts, Edgewater, MD

Presenting Sponsor:

**Annapolis CARS**

**A**rundel Rivers on the Half Shell returns on May 11. Tickets are on sale *NOW!* Just like last year, this year's event is expected to sell out, so don't wait to secure your tickets for a fun night full of food, drinks, auctions, and (of course) oysters! To get your tickets, visit <https://arundelrivers.org/>

### River Report Cards

**T**his spring, Arundel Rivers will host two River Report Card events. These events are your chance to hear from the South, West, and Rhode Riverkeeper and learn more about the health of our rivers. Each year between April and October, the Arundel Rivers monitoring team collects tidal samples on a variety of different water quality data points. The data are then analyzed, allowing the Riverkeeper to assign a health grade and report card to each river. These events are **FREE** to the public with no preregistration required!

**South River Report Card:** April 18, 5:30 pm, Quiet Waters Park, Blue Heron Center, 600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis.

**West and Rhode River Report Card:** April 25, 5:30 pm, Galesville Memorial Hall, 952 Main Street, Galesville.

Doors open at 5:30 pm for a reception with beer, wine, and light refreshments followed by a presentation from the South, West, and Rhode Riverkeeper Elle Bassett. Space for the events is limited—arrival at 5:30 is recommended.

**A**rundel Rivers Federation and the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) are excited to announce Bay Loving Landscapes, a collaborative program to help communities and homeowners in the South, West, and Rhode watersheds make their lawns more river-friendly.

Through the Bay Loving Landscapes program, Watershed Stewards from WSA will use their expertise to offer suggested site plans to homeowners and communities seeking to plant natives, support pollinators and birds, or convert their lawn to native meadow. Arundel Rivers Federation will then make it happen, guiding homeowners in implementing the suggestions from the Stewards. Thanks to generous funding from the Schumann Foundation, Arundel Rivers will be able to purchase up to \$500 worth of plant material for program participants.

Lawns are ingrained in our culture; for many of us, a weekly mow is not just a chore but a habit. We know that this is a major drain on our personal time and resources. Between 1-inch grass, mower gas, and excessive fertilizer, lawns contribute far more to our environmental challenges than they do to our environment.

If you're ready to rethink your lawn or your community green space and choose habitat over habit, contact [mairin@arundelrivers.org](mailto:mairin@arundelrivers.org) to arrange a site visit. Arundel Rivers and Watershed Stewards Academy will help you strike the right balance of a Bay-loving, pollinator-friendly yard that still fits your lifestyle.



**T**he Federation announced in February the launch of underwater grass restoration in the South, West, and Rhode River watersheds! Through grant funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Arundel Rivers will construct and operate a submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) turbulator—a jacuzzi-sized machine that separates seeds from underwater grasses to then be planted and support restoration efforts in local watersheds and beyond. More info is here, <https://arundelrivers.org/arundel-rivers-launches-underwater-grass-restoration-program/>.

## Remember the Snakehead Fish in Crofton?

Snakeheads are likely to get a new name courtesy of the Maryland legislature: the Chesapeake Channa. Senate Bill 207, as originally introduced on January 10, proposed the name “Patuxent Fish,” which did not sit well with Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman. He circulated an online petition suggesting the name Channa instead.

Tutman wrote, “The Northern Snakehead, which is native to easternmost Asia was first found in a Crofton, MD, pond more than 20 years ago and somehow made its way into the nearby Little Patuxent River after a flood. Since then it has spread causing ecological damage and found its way into other rivers in the region.”

“But WHY is there need to name the invasive Northern Snakehead as the “Patuxent Fish”???”

“So it’s more appealing to consumers.

“But we’re sure there are other names that will achieve putting money in these people’s pockets: So please... Take 2 minutes to this ONLINE petition to find a new name for this fish that doesn’t tie it to our beloved river.”

His petition read as follows:

“Dear Legislator,

“As a Maryland citizen, resident or recreational user of the Patuxent watershed, I am deeply concerned about an initiative to rename the invasive Northern Snakehead as the “Patuxent Fish.” The Northern Snakehead, which is native to easternmost Asia, including Russia, North and South Korea, and China, is an invasive nuisance species that threatens the ecological health and balance of several Maryland rivers.

“The species we have in the Bay is *Channa argus*—but formally linking the name and reputation of Snakehead to a particular river—potentially stigmatizes that waterway and presents a confusing scenario where the public could assume there is something onerous or unsavory about the river overall, as well as the other marine life that live in it. If the aim is to widen public awareness of the invasive species as a gamefish or edible delicacy, then there are any number of other enticing names that might be applied for marketing and public education purposes. Perhaps Channa Fish?

“At any rate, please take to heart my concern that sources from my love and appreciation of Maryland’s Patuxent River for its various contributions to Natural and American history, tourism, science, its fisheries, as well as its deep significance to Maryland life and culture. Please abandon the idea of naming this invasive fish the “Patuxent fish”.

“%%Your Signature%%”

Delegate Todd Morgan (R–Calvert & St. Mary’s) is chief sponsor of HB19, which also seeks to change the name to something more enticing to diners. After deliberating, the proposal was changed to Chesapeake Channa. “Chesapeake to reflect the Bay, and channa to reflect its native name—recognizing that this is an exotic fish, and we want to make it so that people will go to a restaurant and pay good money to eat an exotic fish,” Morgan told the House Environment and

Transportation Committee on January 31. On Thursday, February 15, both versions of the bill passed overwhelmingly in their chambers. Each must now be approved by the other chamber before going to the Governor to be signed into law.

The following information is from the U.S. Geologic Service’s website list of Nonindigenous Aquatic Species (<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?speciesid=2265> [cited sources and scientific names of other species have been omitted for brevity; to see sources, go to the website].)

“**Ecology:** *Channa argus* is an obligate air-breather, capable of survival in poorly oxygenated waters. Although this species prefers to live in stagnant shallow (<2 m) ponds or swamps with mud substrate or aquatic vegetation and slow muddy streams, it also occurs in canals, reservoirs, lakes, and rivers... It can adapt to a wide range of aquatic environments, as evidenced by the spread of reproducing, introduced populations throughout Asia and Japan... Reduced metabolism and oxygen demand at low temperatures allows this species to survive extended periods of ice cover.

“In its native range, reproductive maturity is typically reached when fish are 2–3 years old but may occur only after one year of growth in some introduced populations... Adult females build circular floating nests from clipped aquatic plants and release their pelagic, nonadhesive, buoyant eggs on top. Each spawn can consist of 1300–1500 bright orange–yellow eggs (about 1.8 mm diameter), with up to five spawns occurring within a year... Both parents guard the nest of eggs from predation and continue to guard the hatched fry for several additional weeks.

“As an adult, the northern snakehead is a voracious feeder, and its diet may include fish up to 33 percent of its body length. Adult prey items include loach, bream, carp, perch, zander, grass carp, various catfishes, crayfish, dragonfly larvae, beetles, and frogs.

“Although the northern snakehead can survive up to four days out of the water, overland migration is only possible for juveniles. The rounded body of the adult northern snakehead is not as conducive to overland migration as observed in more horizontally flattened snakehead species.

“Specific impacts are unknown surrounding the Potomac population. These predatory fishes may compete with native species for food and habitat. Juveniles eat zooplankton, insect larvae, small crustaceans, and the fry of other fish. Adult snakeheads feed almost exclusively on other fishes (>97% of diet), with the remainder of their diet composed of crustaceans, frogs, small reptiles, and sometimes small birds and mammals. Adult snakeheads show significant diet overlap with largemouth bass.

“**Remarks:** There is no evidence that juveniles or adult snakeheads escaped from the Crofton ponds. The northern snakehead has a wider latitudinal range and temperature tolerance than other snakehead species. It also seems to be adaptable to a wide range of aquatic environments, as evidenced by the spread of reproducing, introduced populations in Asia and Japan.”

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**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.

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*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](mailto:david.grabau@n2pub.com), who will email you a free PDF.

~ ~ ~

**DACA's current membership is 264 ~**

**We are small but mighty!**

~ ~ ~

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 Saturdays (currently closed; opens April 6, 7 am–noon)  
 Sundays 9:00 am–12:00 pm year round  
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*The Villager*

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

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*The Villager* will be published at least four times per year. We invite your written and signed contributions of letters, articles, and community notices.

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