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The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Volume 37, No. 1

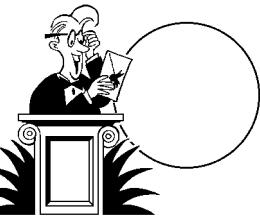
P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

May-June 2010

DACA's 37th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 3, 2010, 7:30 pm in the Boy Scout Building at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC) Queen Anne Bridge Road at Wayson Road.

Residents of the Davidsonville Area are invited to attend the meeting, join your civic association, and learn more about what is happening in our community, the county, and the surrounding areas that affect the quality of your life style in Davidsonville.

This is your opportunity to pose questions to county officials regarding your concerns with issues such as traffic control, crime prevention and protection, pollution and environmental protection. Invited guests are County Executive John Leopold, District Seven Council Member Tricia Johnson, State Senator Ed Reilly, and Delegate Bob Costa.



Members will vote for officers – president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer – for a one-year term, and four executive committee members for a three-year term. The current officers – Will Biddle, Ed Woods, Gail Enright, and Robert Carobrese – have agreed to continue in their positions. Executive Committee members whose terms end this June are Kate Fox, Don Opedal, Harlan Ray, and Jerry Walker.

We will seek volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee as well as candidates for the positions of the officers. Kate Fox, Don Opedal, and Harlan Ray have agreed to be candidates for another three-year term. Jerry Walker wrote: "Due to my run for the County Council I will not be seeking a second term with DACA.

I have enjoyed working with each of you and regardless of the political outcome I look forward to continuing to serve our community."

Nominations for officers and committee members will be accepted from the floor. The Executive Committee eagerly invites DACA members to bring their questions and concerns to your community association meeting. Call any officer or committee member, or send an email to gailenright1@verizon.net.

DACA's Expo was a huge success!

Hundreds of residents came from far beyond Davidsonville to enjoy the exhibits at Davidsonville Elementary School and learn what individual property owners can do in their own backyard to help improve the environment. Some of the exhibitors will be at the annual meeting to share their information as well.

DACA will sponsor a Green Expo next year in conjunction with Davidsonville's Green Week, the week of St. Patrick's Day in March 2011. Come to the annual meeting on June 3, to share your ideas and to get in on the ground floor of next year's Green Expo!



DACA members and their contributions

Welcome new member Don Shankle and thanks for his contribution in addition to his dues.

Many thanks to Faith and Gerald Bange, Paul and Mary Dallavalle, Martin and Phyllis Dresser, Ben and Margaret Hutchinson, Bruce Fleming and Meg Murray, John and Frances Koontz, Phil and Gail Livingstone, Art and JoAnn Lohsen, Tom and Glee McMahon, Cassandra Rice, Arthur and Rika Tayman, Judy Van Lunen, Barbara Usher, Steve and Debbie Williams, Janet Zaccari, and Paul and Lorraine Zublionis for their contributions in addition to renewing their membership in DACA.

Special thanks also for Jeffrey and Suzie Dieringer's generous gift which entitles them to a life membership in DACA.

Your March-April newsletter was the best ever. G.L.

Interests are golf, real estate sales. Good source of information: I've installed rainbarrels resulting from article in [your] publication. D.S.

Thank you and farewell, Jerry

Thanks to Jerry Walker for his service to his community over the past three years as a member of DACA's Executive Committee. Jerry and his family live just within the boundaries of the "Davidsonville Area" as established 36 years ago by the membership committee. They recognized then that the Davidsonville mind set is greater than the zip code 21035. While Jerry's postal address is Gambrills, he is equally close to Crofton and Davidsonville. It has been a benefit to DACA to have his perspective in DACA's deliberations. We wish him well in his new endeavor.

On the roads

Route #214 from South River High School east on the Mayo peninsula will be under construction for improvements to add more lanes.

Rutland Road is likely to stay closed for several more months while the County Department of Public Works awaits approval from MDE of environmental effects of repairs where uncontrolled stormwater has undercut the roadway

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Beyond our wildest dreams! First Annual Green Expo was a grand success

DACA thanks the exhibitors, sponsors, and participants who made this such an overwhelming success. Lara Mulvaney pulled together a most amazing Green Expo, with the help of an enthusiastic crew of volunteers. DACA's first annual Green Expo drew hundreds of people who came to learn, shop, and play games about improving the environment in our own backyards.

Davidsonville Elementary School was a wonderful venue to show the exhibitors to good advantage. As the crowd swelled and streamed into the venue – pausing at the outdoor exhibits of AA County Community and Constituent Services, Recreation and Parks, Recycling, the Forestry Board, and entering the school for the indoor exhibits, DACA members directed parking, wrapped seedlings, and packed give-away bags. Bob Carobrese, owner of Sunrise Environmental Solutions, provided a Taste of Italy with delicious Italian sausages with onions and green peppers on rolls. Frannie of the Davidsonville Country Market gave out fresh-baked cookies. Enthusiasm breeds more enthusiasm and the success of the event exceeded our most ambitious dreams, bringing out a population eager to enjoy the first day of spring and the most glorious weekend weather since last fall.

DACA gave away 250 trees: bald cypress, chestnut oaks, willow oaks, and loblolly pine, each adapted to a particular climate in our area, from sandy soil to soggy swales.

Screen Designs & Promotions, located on the corner of #214 and Patuxent River Road, printed and contributed 200 reusable grocery bags which DACA gave to patrons in the first hour and a half of the Expo. Safeway Stores also contributed 15 reusable grocery bags. K & B True Value Hardware Stores displayed numerous eco-friendly products. Biobag USA provided hundreds of bio-degradable trash bags eagerly accepted by visitors and used to wrap the seedlings given out by DACA.

The Forest Service sold seedlings; the County gave away more than 100 recycling and compost bins. Stephen Barry, Coordinator of Outdoor and Environmental Education for AA County Public Schools, brought rain barrels from Arlington Echo to be sold. Bowen's Farm Supply exhibited a decorative urn-shaped rain barrel. Lara Mulvaney and six other Master Watershed Stewards represented the County's Watershed Stewardship Academy. Homestead Gardens and Davidsonville Nursery provided sample shrubs for decoration and will honor \$25-off coupons for native tree purchases. *(Please turn to page 4)*



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Thanks and congratulations for Expo, (from page 3)

Cassandra Rice, Anne Biddle, and Robin Danesi managed the children's activities. Children appeared as tigers and butterflies and other exotics, face-painted by Michelle Drake. They searched for and found items on a treasure hunt and received prizes for their completed lists. Thanks also to Lauris McQuoid-Greaseon and Payton Brown of Annapolis High School's Green Club for handling the treasure hunt and helping pack up afterward.

Bob Carobrese, Chris Rizek and Wayne Reid put up the signs a week in advance; Bob took all the signs down the day after. Thanks to Mitchelle Stephenson for writing a glowing promotional article in the *Annapolis Capital*. Her story motivated folks from as far away as Severna Park to come see it. Thanks to Jean Marie Hofstetter, Principal, and Karen de Graffenreid, Assistant Principal of DES, and their wonderful janitorial staff for making the school available to DACA. Many volunteers stayed after to help clean up. DACA, the school, and the school janitor are very grateful for this!

If you would like to be a part of Expo 2011, contact willbiddle@verizon.net or [Lara Mulvaney@yahoo.com](mailto:Lara_Mulvaney@yahoo.com). To learn more about it come to DACA's Annual Meeting, June 3, 7:30 pm, in the Boy Scout building at the DFRC.

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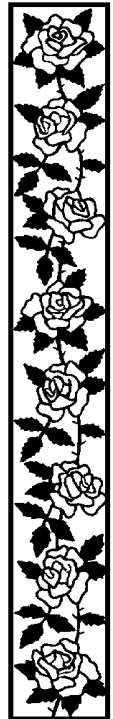
The community of Gravelly reforested a half acre of community property on Rutland Road near St. George Barber Road, using county mitigation money. As little as a quarter acre can be eligible for this program, which eliminates the need for mowing the grass.

On Saturday, May 22, an Open House was held at a home in Tara to show off their solar paneling installed by Clean Currents, one of our exhibitors.

Lara Mulvaney hosted a "Vine and Wine" event to demonstrate the effectiveness of the local herd of goats in cleaning up invasive plants.

Serve-Annapolis will conduct a major clean-up of the grounds of Davidsonville Elementary School.

Good weather and abundance of rain are making this a good season. Crops are growing; corn is up and hay is excellent, as is lawn grass. The Farmer's Market is off to a good start with plenty of early vegetables, flowers, and plants, as well as asparagus, spinach and lettuce.



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Patuxent River/Governors Bridge corner residents resist cell tower

By Joe Jackson and Delia Bauckham

Local community members continue to battle plans for a cell tower in a highly visible historic area of northwest Davidsonville, and they are appealing to all Davidsonville residents to join them in the fight.

T-Mobile Northeast, LLC, applied for a special exception to construct a communications tower on the historic Lerch Farm located at 2874 Patuxent River Road. On March 25, 2010, representatives of T-Mobile, the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, approximately 20 members of the local neighborhood, and Davidsonville Area Civic Association President Will Biddle attended and testified at the hearing before Administrative Hearing Officer Douglas Hollman.

Mr. Hollman denied the application in a written decision that detailed the testimony presented at the hearing.

T-Mobile appealed the denial of the Davidsonville site; the Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals will hear testimony on June 8th and 9th at 6:30 pm. Residents of the Patuxent River-Governors Bridge crossroads area of Davidsonville will appear at the hearing to speak again to oppose the construction of a cell tower. The Office of Planning and Zoning, in direct opposition to

the wishes of local residents, has inexplicably signed on to and continues to support the construction of the tower.

In his initial decision, Mr. Hollman cited the historic and bucolic rural quality of the Patuxent-Governor Bridge crossroads area as a primary reason for the denial, stating that "it is doubtful that a more intrusive site in this part of Davidsonville could have been chosen for this cell tower." Indeed, informal canvassing of the owners of nearby locations that would feature less intrusive (but topographically and geographically identical) sites have revealed that T-Mobile has made essentially no good faith efforts to locate a nearby site as suggested to comply with the wishes of local residents.

Based on community meetings, the Davidsonville Area Civic Association and the residents of Davidsonville are in complete agreement with Mr. Hollman's assessment. The profile of this "four corners" area of northwest Davidsonville has gone largely unchanged over the past century. Farms in the area that raised tobacco and other crops for hundreds of years are still in use, some currently growing crops of soybeans and winter wheat and others used for horse and/or cattle grazing. *(next page please)*

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Cell tower conflict *(from previous page)*

The historic barn located on Patrick and Kristen Maslar’s farm, across Governors Bridge Road just 200 feet from the proposed site, is currently a working agricultural and grazing barn and is being considered for inclusion on the federal register of historically significant buildings. The residents located closest to the proposed site, Thomas Ruoff and Delia Bauckham, run three horses on their land, just 150 feet away from the proposed cell tower site.

The impacted community members understand that progress and technological development are the hallmarks of an economically healthy society, and that a strong and functional cellular network is a positive civic development. But absent the regulation that has forced other utilities to consider historic and aesthetic factors in their planning, cellular companies have been permitted to sidestep community standards and history and disregard the wishes of community residents.

Since the denial of the first application, T-Mobile applied for two additional sites: 803 East Central

Avenue on the corner of Selby Heights Road in Edgewater and at 4401 Lansdale Road off Muddy Creek Road in Harwood, while continuing to pursue the Davidsonville location.

We urge residents of Davidsonville to join those who are fighting this effort to degrade the historical nature of the area in such a highly-visible and intrusive manner. You can get involved with the fight by


- Sending a check, payable to “No Tower Zone,” PO Box 213, Davidsonville, MD 21035.
- requesting information by emailing to notowerzone@aol.com,
- expressing your opinion by directly contacting the following officials:

Anne Arundel County Council Member Tricia L. Johnson at 410-222-1401 or tricia.johnson@aacounty.org

Mr. Erik Robey, Director of Community Services, Office of the County Executive, at 410-222-1795

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The County's budget looms large in May. County Executive John Leopold presented his fiscal 2011 budget to the County Council on May 3rd for approval this month. Bea Poulin, Community and Constituent Specialist, told DACA's Executive Committee that it is austere – seeking to avoid tax increases – with furloughs for county employees and five percent pay cuts for the Executive and his cabinet. She said the Council would like move more money into the education budget, but allocated only the minimum required because of concern that Board of Education is awarding bonuses and salary increases even in these austere times.



Bea will represent the County Executive's office at DACA's annual meeting on June 3, and she will be prepared to discuss the budget and answer your questions.

The budget is available on line at the County's web site. Bea said it is well organized and easy to use. Go to www.aacounty.org and follow the links to the department you want to see. She tells us that it is interesting, even good reading.

Malcolm Wolff, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, has also been invited to speak at the annual meeting. A representative of BGE's Peak Rewards program will tell you how to reduce energy consumption and lower your utility costs.



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Call Nancy Covington at 410-798-4060 to get directions or more information, or just show up ready to play. You will be heartily welcomed.

Thank you, Parks and Recreation!

Spring and summer fun in the parks

Anne Biddle's group, DIGG, has been tending to Davidsonville Park on Patuxent River Road for a few years. They planted flowers and shrubs in the islands at the gate and keep them weeded. They have installed bluebird houses in undisclosed locations. They keep the houses in repair and note what birds are poking around them. DIGG contributes to make our local park attractive and pleasant for people and wildlife. Thank you, Anne, for keeping the *Villager* on your members' email list. We won't disclose your secrets.

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West/Rhode Riverkeeper Report
adapted from a letter by Chris Trumbauer

Thanks to a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the West/Rhode Riverkeeper compiled and analyzed water quality data on the health of the West and Rhode rivers. The rivers received poor grades, not surprising to those who spend time on the river. To improve the scores we must improve our use of the land, implement stronger environmental policies, and better control of sources of pollution.

Our elected officials must be held accountable for the health of the rivers and the Bay. In this year, developers fought the new stormwater regulations; new ideas on oyster management were met with fierce opposition; enforcement of environmental regulations continued to be weak.

Citizens can take action by electing leaders who will treat the environment as high priority; tell your representatives that water quality matters to you; do your part by not wasting water; upgrade your septic system; practice sustainable lawn care.

The report card can be found at the web site, www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org.

New Stormwater Management rules in effect

DACA President Will Biddle wrote to Senator Ed Reilly and Delegate Bob Costa asking them to vote in favor of implementing the Maryland Stormwater Act. The new rules were enacted in 2007, but not to take effect until this May.

It took MDE three years to devise and put in place the administrative regulations for the new rules. They require projects to use environmental site design, to incorporate various methods to allow rainwater to seep slowly into the ground instead of gushing through streets and stormwater drains into streams and rivers. In the interim, many developers and local government officials sought to have the implementation further postponed in an attempt to avoid the costs of the new water management controls.

A compromise among the Senate and House joint committees approved changes to the rules that will subject new projects to stricter controls, but

will allow 1,000 to 1,500 projects already in the pipeline to operate under the old looser rules, not exactly what DACA intended when we wrote the letter, but better than being left unchanged.

Apparently, enough citizens did what Chris Trumbauer said to get this passed.

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Traffic relief, please!

DACA Executive Committee member Don Opedal is also President of the Cambria Homeowners Association. He wrote to Tricia Johnson seeking support for funding for improvements to the Riva Road/Governors Bridge Road Intersection to provide safe entry and exit from Cambria at Homewood Road. Visibility of Riva Road is limited in both directions from Homewood Road. Previous improvements have enabled traffic on Riva Road to pass the curve at a higher speed than in the past.

For years, Cambria has asked for and been promised improvements for the safety of this intersection. The project has been given a contract number and the design is nearly complete, although construction, which may even be in the 2011 budget, has been delayed for another year, subject to funding.


They keep on hoping.

Altering the landscape

Mulberry Hill, formerly owned by the Ingle family, was destroyed by fire. It adjoins Howard Grove, the old St. George Barber farm, which is now mostly occupied by Eagles Passages. It was accessible from St. George Barber Road before Eagles Passages was developed.

The *Capital* reported that Roedown Farm is to be sold and that may be the end of the Marlborough Hunt Races at Roedown after 36 years.

Roedown was owned by the Brogden family, bought in 1745 by William Brogden, an early rector of All Hallows Parish, and held until John Begg bought it 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Begg invited the Marlborough Hunt Club to hold the races there. Owner Hal Clagett continued the races until his death. There is always hope that a new owner will want to continue the tradition of steeplechase racing on the historic farm.



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Were we subsidizing the developers?

It seems in years past that our legislators have been willing to enact strong regulations, then allowed them to be delayed until some future time that they maybe hoped would never come. It lets them look like they care about the environment, but they never have to be the bad guys when it affects a specific group. Just as the stormwater management bill took years to go into effect at the state level, so was the imposition of (maybe) realistic impact fees in Anne Arundel County. This fee, paid by developers, represents the increase in the cost of public services required by the new homes they build. As the due date approached this spring, the construction

industry lobbied Council members to ask them to delay collection of the impact fees.

DACA President Will Biddle testified at the County Council hearing on March 18 in opposition to postponing again implementation of impact fees to be paid by developers; he called it "subsidizing the builders' profits."

The Seventh District has a new Council member; Tricia Johnson was appointed to take the seat of Ed Reilly, appointed to the State Senate. Mrs. Johnson was one of the original supporters of the measure, but had withdrawn her support at the (next page please)




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Impact fees, from previous page

urging of some constituents and was leaning toward postponing the fees again. However, when the vote of came up, she listened to the residents of her district and voted to allow the impact fees to take effect.

This time, Will wrote her a thank you letter:

Dear Tricia:

The Executive Committee of DACA wants to thank you for your vote in favor of the Impact Fee starting in May as scheduled, rather than allowing it to be delayed.

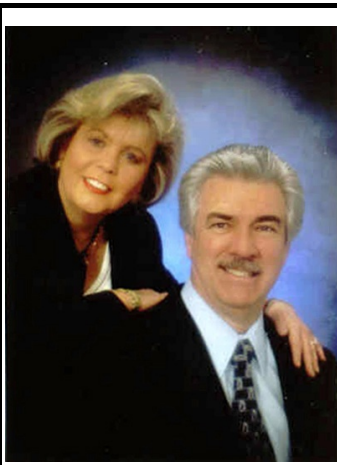
We appreciate your response to your constituents' communications and your vote against lowering the impact fees as well as your concern for the effect of development on the County's sensitive areas in the environment.

I really think that the president of the Greater Crofton Civic Association said it all when he pointed out that building is a risky business. During good times, builders are richly rewarded, and if they have lived through a building cycle they know to put some of their profits aside for the bad times. New homes require additional infrastructure, and it should not be the responsibility of the current residents to pay for new infrastructure.

Sincerely,
Will Biddle



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**Southern District Police Community Alert
Beware of summer scams**

The Anne Arundel County Police Department would like to make its citizens aware of possible warm weather theft schemes and provide applicable safety tips to avoid becoming a victim.

Last year several incidents involved individuals who failed to perform contracted work. Contracts were written and a down payment was requested for materials. The remaining portion of the fee was to be paid upon completion of the work, but the individuals took the down payment, failed to deliver the materials and never completed any of the labor.

In another incident, a ruse was orchestrated by individuals claiming to work for the water department. The suspect used the ruse to enter a victim's residence to inspect the water pressure. He used a hand-held radio to communicate with a second subject to advise that the victim was in the basement area of the residence and it was safe for the partner in crime to enter the residence. Once inside the home, the second subject went through the house looking for cash, jewelry and other items.

The public is encouraged to follow the following guidelines and safety tips:

For contract work:

Get estimates from at least three different contractors. Check and verify all references supplied by the contractor. Shop around!

Check to see if the contractor is licensed in the State of Maryland and/or locally.

Know the difference between proposals (estimated costs) and contracts (specified costs) and ask for a written warranty or guarantee with your contract

Be sure the contract describes the service(s) to be performed, lists the materials to be used and includes a starting and expected completion date.

Be cautious of companies that require advanced payments.

Contact the Better Business Bureau to file a complaint for the non-delivery of services or check with them ahead of time to see if there were prior complaints. File a consumer complaint with the Maryland Attorney General Consumer Protection Division for the non-delivery of services.

It is safer to have work done by a contractor you call, than by someone who shows up at your door with a "convenient" offer. *(Continued on next page)*

Christopher J. Grizzell
Senior Loan Officer



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Scams you can avoid: Posing as a utility worker

(continued from page 14)

Deception burglars often work in pairs and target the elderly. Check on your neighbors if you observe workers at their residence.

Be suspicious of utility workers who arrive unannounced, have unmarked vehicles and insist on performing work inside your home.

Request identification first and call to confirm that the company has workers in the area and that the specified type of work would actually need to be conducted inside of the home.

When someone insists on entering your home or acts in a suspicious manner, immediately call the police department to investigate.

If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Springtime Safety:

Secure all lawn and household power equipment, bikes and ATVs in locked sheds or garages. Also, consider running a chain through items as this is a deterrent to thieves attempting to act quickly.

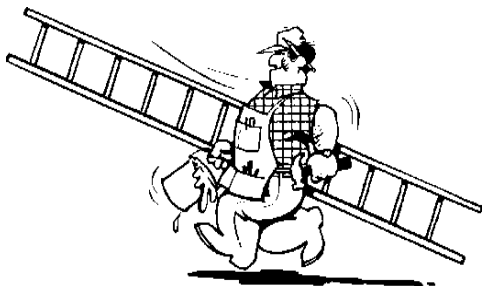
Engrave your valuables and record the model and serial numbers from your property.

While working in your yard, keep your home, shed and/or garage locked and have your keys handy as opportunistic thieves will take advantage of distracted homeowners.

Keep windows and patio doors locked.

Consider installing motion sensor lighting.

*Sergeant Timothy Davis
Phone: (410) 222-1960*



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P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

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www.daca-md.org

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The *Villager* is published at least six times each year. We invite your written and signed contributions of letters, articles, and community notices.

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Come to DACA's 37th Annual Meeting,

Thursday, June 3, 7:30 pm

at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center.

From Central Avenue, go south on Queen Anne Bridge Road, keep right at the fork with Wayson Road and turn in to the gate on the left side of Queen Anne Bridge Road. The Boy Scout Building is on the right.

Bea Poulin, South County Specialist for Community and Constituent Services, will answer your questions about the County's 2010-2011 budget.

MEMBERSHIP: I would like to be a member of DACA and receive the *VILLAGER*. At \$5.00 for each person, enclosed is my check for \$_____, payable to DACA for membership for ___ person/people for ___ year(s). Also enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to DACA to help with the expenses incurred in the effort to maintain the quality of life that brought us to the Davidsonville area and to help guide the growth and development of our community. Mail to: DACA, P.O. BOX 222, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

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Your comments, your interests?