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# The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Volume 37, No. 6

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

March-April 2011

*DACA will sponsor the  
great third annual*

*Green Week Expo 2011*

*Saturday, March 19*

*Riva Trace Baptist Church*

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DACA will have 400 trees – loblolly pines, chestnut oak, willow oak, and bald cypress – to give away for planting in Davidsonville yards.

Come visit the goats and see them eat noxious weeds!



You can enjoy learning about our rivers, gardening tips, exhibits, kids' activities, and food by notable Davidsonville chefs.

Poster contest for elementary school students. See page 12 for the rules. Entries will be on display in the foyer. The Killarney House will provide the prizes toward a dinner for the contest winners: First prize - \$50; second prize - \$25; third prize - \$25.

Last year's event was a smashing success way beyond our modest dream.

This year it will be bigger and better than ever as we reach for wild dreams.



*Be a part of the excitement! Green Expo seeks volunteers!*

DACA invites you to volunteer and help with Green Expo 2011, Green Expo will need the greatest number of workers on the day it occurs.

Please call Lara Mulvaney at 410-956-4451 or send her an email at [greenexpo@daca-md.org](mailto:greenexpo@daca-md.org) to learn more about how you can participate in this exciting venture. Last year's Expo was a success smiled upon by pleasant spring sunshine, and a ton of fun! We anticipate more and better this year, especially if you help!

**DACA members and their contributions**

Many thanks to Bob and Bobbie Bold, Ellen Buck, Cynthia and Hugh Giorgio, Ray King, and Brian and Melissa Stanton for their generous contributions in addition to renewing their memberships. Thanks also to Delores Proctor for the gift membership to Stephen Swann.

Welcome Rev. Dr. Lisa Bandel-Sparks to her new position at Davidsonville United Methodist Church and thanks for subscribing to the *Villager*.

Thanks also to Lee and Linda Watkins for their generous contribution in addition to their dues and kind words: "Keep up the great work!"

We just moved to the area from DC. We are looking forward to being active in the local community. AS & MKS

Love the *Villager*. The old history stories were great. Can't wait for the new book. R.K.

Thank you for the historical articles! E.B.



***In memoriam***

*Samuel C. Chase, Sr.*

*February 16, 1915 ~ February 3, 2011*

*DACA member 1975-2005 and father of longtime DACA member Robert (Bobby) Chase*

Union Memorial Methodist Church Pastor Paulette Jones, Davidsonville United Methodist Pastor Dr. Lisa Bandel-Sparks, and Riva Trace Baptist Church sent thank you notes and acknowledgment of DACA's year-end contributions for their outreach services in Anne Arundel County.

At its February meeting, DACA's Executive Board voted to become a sustaining member of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association. In March they contributed \$100 to the West/Rhode Riverkeeper.

The Southern District Police station's new commander is Captain Joseph Jordan, (not as misspelled in the previous notice). The Southern District police station is on Stepney's Lane in Edgewater.

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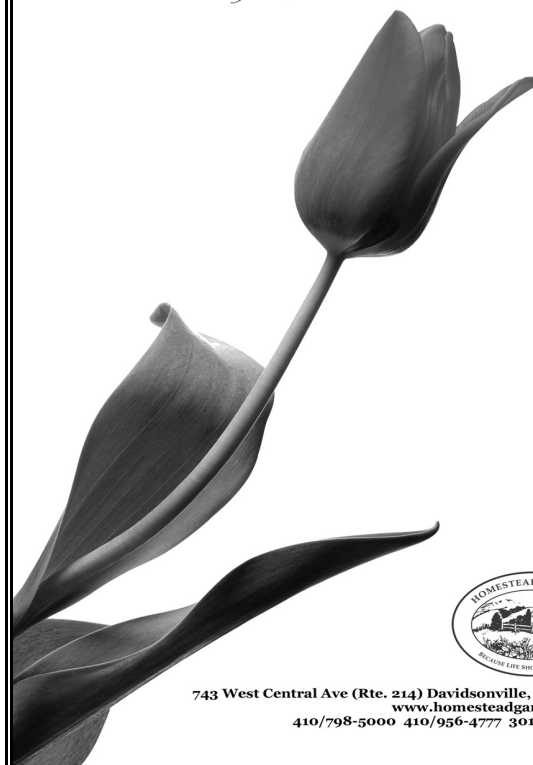
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Davidsonville's third annual Green Expo has terrific support from the community. Local environmental agencies and non-profit organizations, and local and regional businesses that offer Green products and services—25 exhibitors—will exhibit their information and wares to show how individuals can reduce the human footprint on the environment.

You can learn how to

- save energy and money with home energy audits, geothermal, solar, and wind;
- get property tax credits for stormwater management
- green your home and garden
- use Bay-friendly lawn care practices
- improve the water quality of our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay

Native plants and rain barrels will be for sale. Great food will be for sale by A Taste of Italy, Davidsonville Country Market, and Killarney House.

**The South Riverkeeper and the Patuxent Riverkeeper** will present seminars on protecting and restoring our most scenic waters.

**About the Patuxent River:**

*Corrections to Gail's creative editing of Patuxent River history in the January-February Villager:*

Queen Anne's husband, Prince George of Denmark, remained a prince and never became King of England. George I of England, the Elector of Hanover, was a distant cousin of Queen Anne.

Prince George's County was established in 1696, Queen Anne Town was founded in 1706, and the long-gone port of Kilkenny was licensed in 1707. Queen Anne Town had only one year as the licensed port without competition, before All Hallows' residents sought and received a license for the short-lived port of Kilkenny on the Anne Arundel side of the river.

*Now read Fred Tutman's current article on sewage in the Patuxent River on pages 6 and 7.*

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**How DACA works on land use issues, like a cell tower**

*The Administrative Hearing on T-Mobile's application for a communications tower at the Ruritan Club was rescheduled for Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in Arundel Center.*

After the January-February *Villager* reported on the proposed cell tower at the Ruritan Club, DACA President Will Biddle was inundated with phone calls and emails protesting the tower. It was clear that the callers and senders believed DACA had approved the installation of a cell tower and they were angrily opposed to it. An anonymous person printed a flyer and distributed it in Royale Glenn (whose entrance off Mount Airy Road is a mile from Davidsonville Road and way beyond the view of the Ruritan property), exhorting those residents to call Will Biddle and to attend DACA's meeting on February 3. (It is DACA's policy to ignore any anonymous tract, message, letter, threat and the like; only signed or otherwise attributable communications, to which direct responses can be made, are worth the time and effort of the board to consider.)

The idea that DACA has official power to allow, consent to, or prohibit any proposed land usage is incorrect. Approval of a cell tower is in the purview of the Administrative Hearing Officer, who listens to all sides that are presented at the public hearing, currently scheduled for 10:30 am on March 24, at Arundel Center.

DACA members and guests are welcome to attend

Executive Committee meetings if they have the courtesy to notify any board member in advance that they would like to be there. The board meets in a small conference room and if too many people show up unannounced, they must stand in the corners or along the wall or outside the room.

The February board meeting was attended by about 20 residents of Rodeo Drive and King's Retreat, some of whom had announced their intention to attend and most of whom had not; only four or five were members of DACA before this meeting. King's Retreat is the community immediately south of the Ruritan's property on Davidsonville Road and has homes closest to the Ruritan clubhouse. Rodeo Drive's community (nine homes) shares the longest property line, to the west along the back of the Ruritan's playing field, which is bordered by tall trees that significantly obstruct the view between the two properties. These residents came with the intention of telling DACA's board to oppose the cell tower.

When members of the group became vociferous, argumentative, and disruptive to the meeting, President Will Biddle had to admonish and *(To page 5)*



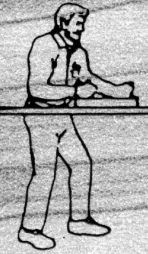
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**Cell tower action, from page 4**

instruct them that DACA is an association of individuals managed by a board of volunteers; that it is not an umbrella for neighborhood associations; and that it serves for the betterment of all Davidsonville.

He pointed out that DACA had three options:

- 1) speak in support of the tower at the public hearing;
- 2) speak against the tower at the hearing or
- 3) not speak at the hearing.

For an organization to testify in a county hearing, the County requires every member of the executive board to sign an authorization to speak, regardless of which individual testifies for the organization. For that reason, DACA's board agreed that if more than two board members dissented from the majority position, DACA would not speak at the hearing. They felt it would be too much to ask any board members to sign an authorization to speak against their own position, unless there were a very clear majority in support of the position being deliberated. The Executive Committee had reached this decision prior to the meeting through emails, and Will wanted everyone there to know that DACA would take no action if the board was split to such degree that minority votes were more than two.

Amid many interruptions, Bill Bittner, Site Acquisition Manager for T-Mobile, described the appearance of the cell tower, the need for it and the reason for placing

it at the Ruritan Club. Ruritan President Bob Tomlinson spoke briefly of the Ruritan's desire for it: the rental income from T-Mobile would be used for the good of community organizations such as the athletic association, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. Board member Tricia Johnson of King's Retreat asked Mr. Bittner what other sites had been researched. The tower is needed within the one-mile radius of the Ruritan site in order to fill a gap in the service coverage area for T-Mobile subscribers. Red Vaughn recalled DACA's positions on the 1974 application for a shopping center across from the corner store (opposed); the Gaug property cell tower next to route 50 (supported), and other land use issues. Bob Carobrese and Kate Fox suggested asking local farmers if they would like to have it on their property, and began making a list of nearby land owners. Land in the Anne Arundel County Agricultural Land Preservation program cannot be used.

It was apparent that all Rodeo Drive and many King's Retreat residents had already reached their decision to oppose the cell tower and that their purpose in attending was to persuade the DACA Executive Committee to support their position. Garth Beall brought a copy of the Beall Property Association's (Rodeo Drive) letter addressed to Administrative Hearing Officer Douglas Hollman, expressing opposition to a cell tower at the Ruritan Club. Rodeo *(to page 8)*

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**Patuxent River sewage discharge violators near Davidsonville**

*by Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper*

The Davidsonville area is roughly in the center of the 110 mile Patuxent corridor with some distinctive problems to the north, the south and right here next to home.

After over a year of comprehensive and painstaking research and review of State records, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council, has finally completed a compliance sweep of the Patuxent permitted discharge violators.

The bad news is that the two leading contenders are very nearby the Davidsonville community. Our aim has been to determine which enterprises or facilities are the most chronic and persistent discharge polluters in our Patuxent tributary. The runners-up include a potpourri of buggy, outmoded and troubled industrial facilities and wastewater plants that exist by virtue of state-issued permits that are regularly violated and that the state rarely enforces.

The leader of the pack is Dorsey Run Waste Water Treatment Plant (Jessup, Anne Arundel County) with 24 violations between 2005 and 2010 and the second runner up is the Harwood Landfill. The records also showed that, between July 2003 and June 2009, problems at the

Dorsey Run facility and in the sewer pipes leading to it caused sewage spills totaling about 2.2 million gallons of raw sewage. A further 11 million gallons of partially treated sewage were discharged when the plant's sand filtration system broke in late October 2007. The Patuxent Riverkeeper and NRDC are now looking at a variety of tactics to bring these facilities into compliance.

Meanwhile, slightly downstream are two wastewater treatment plants, namely Wayson's Mobile Court and Patuxent Mobile Estates, which recently had state discharge permits up for renewal. The plants use late 1960s and 1970s vintage processing technology in order to treat the sewage waste generated by the mobile home courts they serve.

As many Marylanders know, the state's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund collects a fee from residents statewide that is used to upgrade major wastewater plants. However, the funds are not prioritized to benefit these smaller facilities. As a result, the mobile home park's processing plants return treated wastewater to the Patuxent and/or nearby streams that, while low in harmful bacteria, is really high in excess nutrients and phosphorus. *(to page 7)*

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**Patuxent sewage violators, (from page 6)**

In fact, lab scientists at Chesapeake Biological Labs in Solomons, MD, after analyzing independent samples taken by Patuxent Riverkeeper referred to the tests from the two Anne Arundel County plants as “screamingly high!”

The Riverkeeper organization and several citizens petitioned the state for public hearings to review what might be done about these plants. For perspective, there are some 36 wastewater plants that drain into the Patuxent of which 30 are considered by the states as “minors” and therefore low on the list of priority targets for upgrades and subsidies for modernization efforts.

The Patuxent Riverkeeper’s concern has been that while these plants might individually be minor contributors to the water quality woes, all 30 of them combined present a regulatory loophole of potentially major proportions. Notably the Patuxent River Report Card produced annually by Patuxent Riverkeeper in cooperation with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences has repeatedly scored this river at D- for steadily declining water quality and the Patuxent waters along the Anne Arundel County boundary as impaired for nutrients.

The private operators of these plants in principle

actually benefit economically from low state willpower to more vigorously regulate. The moral overtones of putting a cost burden on residents of modest means was a controversial feature of the public hearings held at Lothian Elementary School during October 2009, when the operator/owners of these businesses indicated that they would have to close the facilities and displace the residents if they were to be required to bear the of cost of upgrading their wastewater plants to present day technological performance standards.

In fact, the state typically has not even required these plants to monitor outflows for nutrients. The mere fact of being a “minor” has relaxed regulatory diligence to the extent we have neither monitored nor capped the nutrients these permittees are allowed to discharge into the waters we fish, swim and draw drinking water from.

The Patuxent Riverkeeper was joined by retired State Sen. Bernie Fowler, sometimes called the “preacher for the Patuxent,” who raised genuine angst about a business enterprise whose profit margin—even while serving people of modest means—still relies on out-of-date technology and acknowledges openly that it cannot make a profit unless exempted from the need to re-invest and modernize facilities designed to protect the public health and safety.

It is, of course, the very definition of pollution-based prosperity and unsustainable business. As a result of these efforts, the State has issued renewal permits for now that at least require the owner/operators to monitor for nutrients. The information at least provides empirical data about the quantum contribution made by these generators to an already sick tributary.

Incidentally, the same business venture operates two additional waste water treatment plants on the Patuxent with permit renewals scheduled in the near future.

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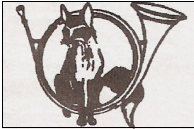
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**GRADEN****Milly B. Welsh, M.S.  
410-798-4211****USEF "R" Judge****Dogs and Horses****Boarding****Obedience Instruction****Cell tower action, (from page 5)**

Drive's primary objection was that the cell tower is unattractive and inappropriate to the appearance of this rural community.

Nowadays it is a mistake to claim that this land is "rural" since the majority of acreage surrounding the proposed site is comprised of small-plot, nonagricultural residences. The few farmers still in business are not the ones complaining about this proposed tower. The Ruritan Club and T-Mobile had previously agreed not to use night lighting on the flagpole and T-Mobile had already submitted its application and plan to Anne Arundel County's Department of Planning and Zoning. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:30 am, on Thursday, March 24, Arundel Center, Calvert Street, before Administrative Hearing Officer Douglas Hollmann.

Will had instructed the board members to hear everyone speak, try to be impartial, and then decide what we want to do. The Ruritan is legally bound to proceed and only the Administrative Hearing Officer, the Board

of Appeals, and the District Courts have authority to deny the cell phone tower.

After an hour, Will called an end to the discussion.

DACA's Executive Committee voted again in March to support T-Mobile's cell tower at the Ruritan Club (eight for, four opposed). As four members dissented, DACA will not speak at the March 24<sup>th</sup> hearing to support or oppose locating the tower at the Ruritan property.

Executive Board members are welcome to support whichever side they choose, but they may not identify themselves at the hearing as being members of DACA as that could be misconstrued by the hearing officer that DACA has taken a position on this issue.

What the Rodeo Drive people must consider is to be careful for what they wish for. As of now, it is not impossible that T-Mobile could put it on another nearby property, and it could be a bigger eyesore for them there than at the Ruritan. *Gail Enright and Will Biddle*

The balloon test report is on page 9.



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**A view of the height of the tower**

**T**-Mobile conducted a balloon test on Thursday, February 17, raising a 24-36" diameter red balloon to 100 feet. As I drove south on Davidsonville Road, I searched the skyline but saw no balloon until I reached the edge of the Ruritan field.

Then I drove back to Mount Airy Road. The balloon was not visible from any part of Mount Airy Road. I next went to Rodeo Drive. No balloon was in sight until I reached the cul-de-sac in front of the mail boxes at 3309 and 3317. From there the balloon was visible through the winter-bare tree tops.

Unconvinced, I returned to the Ruritan Club to verify the height of the balloon – “Yes, ma’am, it’s at a full one hundred feet.”

On to King’s Retreat for the next viewing, I drove to the circle at the end, turned around and headed out. The balloon came into sight when I reached the front of 871 and the entrance to King’s Retreat Court. There from the top of the hill it was a straight shot to the balloon. A simple pole might easily be ignored, but I would not want to call attention to it with a big flag and bright lights. Heading east down the hill toward Davidsonville Road, the balloon sank out of sight, nicely shielded by the tall old trees that surround the nearest homes. It did not reappear until I reached the rear edge of the Ruritan property. There it peeped between the tops of the ever-

green tree border on the fence line next to King’s Retreat Drive.

I drove west on #214 as far as the cemetery and could not see it from anywhere on that road.

Apparently the big red balloon was visible only to motorists driving out of Kings Retreat and for a short piece on Davidsonville Road. I did not go tromping across people’s backyards to see what they can see while enjoying their pools or barbecues. *Gail Enright*

**THIS SUMMER**

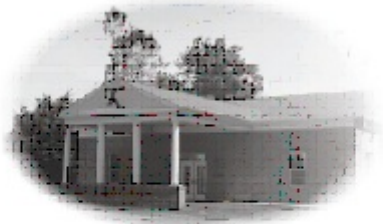
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DACA's Green Expo: March 19, 2011, at Riva Trace Baptist Church

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- A A County Recreation & Parks
- A A Watershed Stewards Academy
- Aksent Interiors
- Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center
- BGE Peak Rewards
- Baywise Master Gardeners
- Chesapeake Legal Alliance
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- Clean Currents
- Davidsonville Nursery
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- Fairhaven School
- Good Earth Gardeners/Severn Grove Ecological Design
- Global Baskets
- Infrared Energy Services
- Patuxent Riverkeeper
- Practically Organic Community-Supported Agriculture
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- Rising Sun Woodworks
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**South County PreKindergarten  
Registration for  
Three- and Four-Year-Olds**

The South County Preschool Cooperative, in the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center on Queen Anne's Bridge Road, has openings in the three- and four-year-old classes. Students meet mornings or afternoons, offering a wonderful first school experience.

The school is now accepting registration for the 2011-2012 school year. Founded over 30 years ago, this is a cooperatively-owned preschool, where parents or care givers work approximately once each month alongside two professional teachers.

"A child's work is his play."

For more information, call 410-798-5650.

**LUNCH WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!!!**

Before he has to make his rounds the busy rabbit has time to have lunch and hunt for eggs with you!

**Saturday, April 16, 2011**

11:00 a.m. to 12:00

Lunch (Hot dog, chips, drink, cookies and treat bag) and crafts, followed by the

**Egg Hunt**

for children up to 12 years old.

Your photo with the Bunny set

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**COST:** \$5.00 per person of ANY age for lunch and photo

Davidsonville Ruritan Community Center  
3358 Davidsonville Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035

For more information call 410-798-4598

or log on to [www.davidsonvilleruritan.com](http://www.davidsonvilleruritan.com)

Raindate: April 23, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

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**All Hallows' Parish Organ Concert Series 2011**

In the last *Villager* it was written that All Hallows was the oldest parish in Maryland, with the newest organ. It should have been written, the oldest in the Diocese of Maryland, which does not include the Eastern Shore.

The Rev. David Robert Green told *Villager* that Christ Church, Kent Island, is the oldest parish in Maryland, established in 1631 by William Claiborne and others from the Jamestown colony. All Hallows, indeed, holds the distinction of being one of the oldest parishes in Maryland, but not the oldest. Carville Earle's 1975 research paper on *The Evolution of a Tidewater Parish* traces All Hallows Parish as a political and geographical entity from 1650, still newer than Kent Island's Christ Church.

In 2011, All Hallows has two more recitals scheduled, to be performed by internationally renowned organ masters. The Brick Church is at 3604 Solomons Island Road at Brick Church Road. All recitals are on Sunday afternoons at three o'clock. Free will offerings will be accepted with gratitude.

**April 3, 2011**

Mark Brombaugh of Tacoma, Washington, will be our guest artist. He is an accomplished organist and harpsichordist and has taught at Westminster Choir College and the University of Oregon.

**May 1, 2011**

Bryan Mock, organist at Christ Church, Glendale, Ohio, will complete our first season. He is Associate Director of the Cincinnati Boychoir and President of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

**South County  
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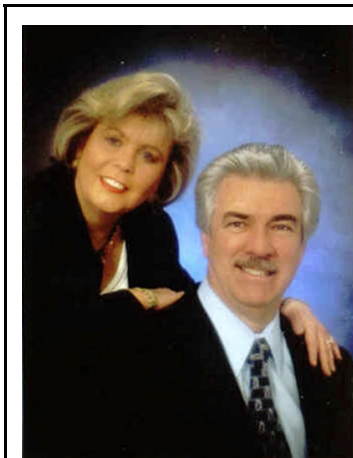
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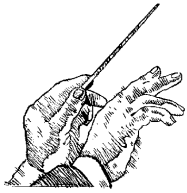
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**Londontowne Symphony Orchestra**



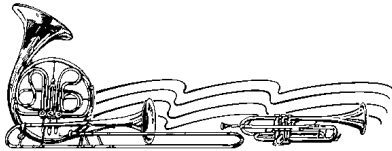
**Tuesday, March 15, 6:00-9:30 pm**  
*Spring Gala at Homestead Gardens*

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South River High School Jazz Trio  
Londontowne Symphony Ensemble  
\$35 per person or \$60 per couple.

**Sunday, April 10, 3:00 pm**  
*A German Requiem*

at Annapolis High School  
Get tickets at the door or call 410-562-8920, or on line.  
For more information please go to their website at  
[www.londontownesyphonyorchestra.org](http://www.londontownesyphonyorchestra.org) or write to  
[LondontowneSymphonyOrchestra@gmail.com](mailto:LondontowneSymphonyOrchestra@gmail.com)



**Annapolis Symphony Orchestra**  
**Maryland Hall, 801 Chase Street,**  
**Annapolis**

**March 25 and 26, 8:00 pm**

*To Good Health, Jeremy Denk, Piano*  
Bela Bartok *Two Portraits*  
W. A. Mozart *Concerto for Piano No. 21 in C Major*  
F. Schubert *Symphony No. 8 in C Major "The Great"*

**May 6 and 7, 8:00 pm**

*Recycling Redefined, Vadim Gluzman, Violin*  
Brahms *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*  
Tchaikowsky *Violin Concerto in D Major*  
Rachmaninov *Symphonic Dances*



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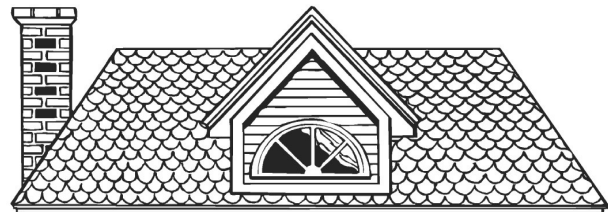
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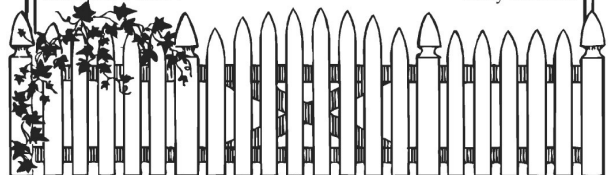
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**State Public Works approves Rural Legacy Grant for 185 acres in West River**

Annapolis MD (February 24, 2011)

County Executive John Leopold thanked the Maryland Board of Public Works for approving \$1.9 million in Rural Legacy Grant Funds for Anne Arundel County to fund the acquisition of perpetual easements for the preservation of land in the County Rural Legacy Area.

The Rural Legacy Grant program, administered through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, provides funding necessary to protect large, contiguous tracts of land and other strategic areas from sprawl development and to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection through cooperative efforts among state and local governments and land trusts. Since its inception in 1998, the program has provided \$7,240,000 in Rural Legacy grant funding to Anne Arundel County.

The grant will fund the protection of a 185-acre property in West River, part of a 2,160-acre block of contiguous land including County and State agricultural districts and easements and other County-owned land. Tentative plans are to use the property for organic farming and education tours, as well as the continuation of grain farming. The County expects to close on the property within the month.

"I am pleased that the Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer have approved these funds to help further our progress in safeguarding the County's valuable farmland and forests," County Executive Leopold said.

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For more information check out the web site at [www.aacofarmersmarket.com](http://www.aacofarmersmarket.com), or contact Brenda Conti at 410-349-0317 or write to her by email at [Theherbaltouchusa@earthlink.net](mailto:Theherbaltouchusa@earthlink.net).



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| Martin Zehner |  | 410-798-5083 |
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**MEMBERSHIP:** I would like to be a member of DACA and receive the *VILLAGER*. At \$5.00 per year for each person, my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed, 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.

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Your comments, your interests?