

Volume 38, No. 2

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

July-August 2011

DACA's Annual Meeting Welcome new Executive Committee

Thanks to your new representatives to DACA's Executive Committee for their willingness and ability to serve this community. DACA members at the annual meeting on June 2 elected Chris Asher of King's Retreat and John Healey of Patuxent River Road to the term ending in June 2014; Phil Livingstone of Hardesty Estates to the term to June 2012, and Jerry Coffman of Cambria to the term to June 2013. Two of the four Executive Committee members up for election—Wayne Reid of Patuxent River Road and Chris Rizek of Harbor Hills—agreed to serve another term and were duly reelected. The officers were reelected to a one-year term to June 2012: Will Biddle—President, Ed Woods—Vice President, Gail Enright—Secretary, and Robert Carobrese—Treasurer.

Many thanks to Tricia Johnson who completed a vacated term through this June 2011 and gratefully retired, and to Rick Hughes who retired after six years of active participation.

Please contact any member of the Executive Committee with your questions and concerns about issues and events in the Davidsonville Area. Names, email addresses and phone numbers are on the back page of the Villager. You can reach us also at DACA's web site, www.daca-md.org.

The web site is freshly updated and good to review. Take a look!

Zoning Issues Emerge

Land use and zoning categories are intended to be based on the County's General Development Plan and the Small Area Plans enacted into legislation by previous County Councils. This is the law of our land.

Every ten years, Anne Arundel County government undertakes the process of updating land use classifications of properties in the county, called Comprehensive Re-zoning. The purpose is to reflect the actual use of land throughout the county as population and development affect it. It provides the opportunity for landowners to seek changes in their zoning in order to have the actual use conform to its zoning classification(such as re-zoning a restaurant in RA to C-1), to increase the permitted uses to allow a business expansion, and in some cases to increase its re-sale value. For example, residential land zoned R-5 (which permits five building lots per acre), has a higher dollar value per acre than land zoned R-1, which permits only one home on the same amount of acreage. By the same standard, commercially zoned property has a greater monetary value than residentially zoned property. Most of Davidsonville and South County is zoned RA (residential/agticultural), which allows less housing density, but permits a number of agriculturally-related businesses such as landscaping and nurseries.

During the current process, applications for changes in zoning were submitted to the Department of Planning and Zoning (P&Z) in 2009 *(Continued on page 4)*

July-August 2011

Page 2

DACA members and their contributions

 \mathbf{S} pecial thanks to Bob and Sharon Proctor and to Kent Smith, both of whom renewed their dues with a contribution that entitles them all to lifetime membership in DACA.

Welcome new members Linda Walker, and Mike and Peggy Wormwood, and thanks for their contribution to DACA in addition to their dues.

Thanks to Mildred Anderson, Joe and Bev Bray, Patricia and Robert Dalton, Mike and Genie Greenwell, Libby Hefner, John and Penny Henderson, Bobbie King, Bernie and Marylu Lammers, Gene Lambert, Mary and Bill Matton, George Rock and Jean Picot, Alton Sadler, and Barbara and Russ Smith for their contributions to DACA in addition to renewing their dues.

Keep up the great work keeping us up to date on our wonderful community. G.G.

Good job. G.R. & J.P.

Always enjoy Gail's articles, whether historical or what's going on in the village today. Great information. M.L.

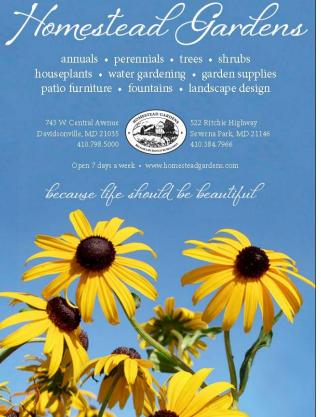
I'm 84 years old, reaching 85 years old. G.L.

You gotta buy and read the wonderful story of Mr. Squash!

D^{r.} John Beschenbossel met a cat who adopted him and moved into his life, sharing his stable with Dr. B's horses. Dr. John told so many stories about this amazing cat that his friends and patients asked him to put it into a book, resulting in *My Buddy Mr. Squash.* I read the book and shared the pictures with my granddaughters, ages six and ten, and they were enthralled. Ceci Guidry's delightful illustrations tell the story as well as Dr. B's words. Jim Putnam, a colleague of Jim Henson of Muppet fame, edited the book. *My Buddy Mr. Squash* is available at all local book stores and pet shops, as well as on Amazon.com and E-Bay. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the ASPCA and Humane Society. You can reach Dr. B at <u>drbdds@aol.com</u>.

Gail says, "Go get it for the children and enjoy it for yourself!"





Page 3

In memoriam Don E. Riddle, Jr. March 24, 1948 ~ June 30, 2011

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Don Riddle. He joined DACA in 1974 soon after he arrived in Davidsonville with his roadside vegetable stand, which became one of the country's outstanding garden centers. In so doing, he has protected many acres of farmland from residential development keeping it in agriculture. Not only as the president of Homestead Gardens, but also on a personal level, Don was a caring good citizen of the community. He listened to and heeded his neighbors' wishes for community improvements; he made Davidsonville and Anne Arundel County a better place for having been here. Don will be sadly missed by more people than we know.

Don was a member of All Hallows' Parish, but the church is not large enough to accommodate the mourners at his funeral, held at St. Anne's Church. He was buried down the road from Homestead Gardens in Lakemont Cemetery. *Gail Enright*



In memoriam Francis "Sonny" King December 21, 1932 ~ July 21, 2011 Lifelong resident of Davidsonville

In memoriam Charles "Chick" Williamson October 20, 1944 ~July 25, 2011 20-year DACA member



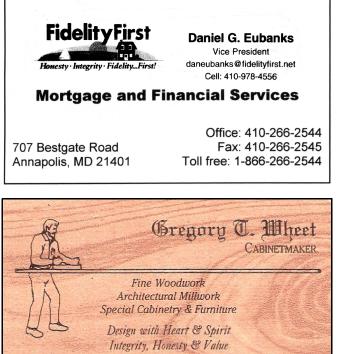
July-August 2011

The re-zoning mess

(continued from page 1) and 2010, and P&Z made recommendations as to whether the requested change was appropriate and, if not, what level of rezoning would be appropriate. These recommendations, if accepted by the Council, would be included in the law. In some cases, parties other than the landowner may submit applications to change the zoning of a parcel. This happened in a number of cases in South County. The party submitting the application for re-zoning is not required to notify the property owner, nor does P&Z notify the owner. Planning & Zoning's recommendations were reviewed by the Planning Advisory Board (PAB), a group of informed citizens familiar with land use issues. Both P&Z and the PAB forwarded their recommendations to the County Council, to approve, deny, offer a lesser classification, as they deem appropriate.

The final step in the process takes place by councilmanic districts. The Comprehensive Re-zoning Bill is introduced (Bill 44-11 for Council Districts 6 and 7) that will make the changes into law, i.e. write them into the zoning maps, and then it can be amended. If landowners are not satisfied with P&Z's recommendations, or did not know that an outside party had applied to re-zone their property, or they missed out on the initial process in 2009-2010, they can submit a request directly to the County Council. Each council member can choose whether to include these requests as amendments to the bill. Normally the council members vote to support the wishes of the councilman who represents that district. Hence, if Seventh District Councilman Jerry Walker recommends a change in zoning in South County, the rest of the Council likely will vote in favor of it.

All the re-zoning applications submitted to the Council that are of interest to the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



1080 MT. AIRY ROAD

DAVIDSONVILLE, MD 21035

are on properties located along very busy Central Avenue.

On June 15, Councilman Walker notified constituents via email of his intention to add 12 of the zoning applications received by the Council as amendments to Bill 44-11, including three that DACA had opposed.

The first protested re-zoning application was brought to DACA's attention in March 2011 when owners and developers of the southwest corner of Central Avenue (#214) and Solomons Island Road sought re-classification from RA to C-3, a general commercial district. The Department of Planning and Zoning and the Planning Advisory Board recommended against this change. DACA's board voted to uphold the existing RA zoning and President Will Biddle so wrote to Councilman Jerry Walker, citing the General Development Plan, the South County Small Area Plan, the County's promise to keep South County rural, and the Department of Planning and Zoning's agreement to allow no new commercial zones south of Route #214. Will noted also the number of vacant commercial sites in South River Colony. See his letter to Councilman Walker, next page.

At the suggestion of Councilman Walker, John Pantelides, a commercial land developer, presented his case to DACA members at the Annual Meeting on June 2, to seek DACA's support for re-zoning two five-acre parcels on Central Avenue from RA to a commercial zone. The properties are across from the BP station and Catlett's Towing Service at the corners of Riva Road. The west corner is owned by Roberta Beall Messenger and John Rommell, requesting C-4. The east corner is owned by Robert Rawlings, requesting C-3. The Messengers live in Lothian and the Rommells live in Glen Arm. Mr. Rawlings lives in Annapolis. (next page please)



MetLife Home Loans is a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.

Est. 1974

410-798-6263

Page 4

THE VILLAGER

Zoning issues (From page 4)

The developer offered to build a turn lane to make that intersection safer. However, he and the property owners were unwilling to commit to the purpose for the requested change, other than to say the properties were not suited for their present residential use. DACA members were not impressed and unanimously voted in opposition to any change in zoning on these properties. Councilman Jerry Walker attended this annual meeting and was well aware of the residents' position on this application.

After the Annual Meeting, Will Biddle wrote to Councilman Walker, here excerpted. June 9, 2011 Dear Jerry,

Thank you for attending DACA's June 2 Annual Meeting and for addressing the gathering. I speak for the entire board when saying how much we appreciate the time you have given us. We also appreciate your asking John Pantelides to contact us in regard to his request to rezone the two corners at the intersection of Central Avenue and Riva Road.

As you could tell from the meeting, [many in the audience] strongly opposed the re-zoning. In accordance with my promise to Mr. Pantelides, the board voted on his request. We voted unanimously to oppose the re-zoning of these two parcels, especially to C4.

Most board members agree . . . that the existing businesses do not diminish the rural nature of the road. Every cross-roads community has a gas station and garage. Aside from these, a tractor dealer, a septic business and a restaurant are typical rural businesses. The Killarney House is grandfathered from shortly after World War II when the building was an automobile repair shop. The community supports the restaurant. Furthermore, DACA voted to endorse the re-zoning of the Killarney House to C1 zoning. Mike Galway, one of the owners, lives in Davidsonville and attended DACA's annual meeting. His children participate in local sports activities and attend the local schools. Mike and his partner Anthony Clarke along with Fred Tutman conceived Green Week and have been a part of the DACA's efforts to create a sense of community through DACA's sponsorship of Green Expo.

DACA is not anti-business. We did not oppose the cell phone tower at the Ruritan Center; as a result, we did not make many friends in King's Retreat. DACA's Board is interested in preserving the rural nature of our community and that of South County. This does not mean we are opposed to commercial or even residential growth, but we believe that growth, especially commercial growth, ought to be consolidated in towns. Edgewater is the closest town to Davidsonville. Davidsonville is a cross-roads. We have a general store, gas stations, and churches. During the Small Area Plan approval process, we opposed adding square footage to the commercial development at Central Avenue and Patuxent River Road because we suspected the owner would take advantage of the added footage to erect a multi-story building, instead of just adding parking. This proved to be the case. There are still vacancies in that commercial development. There are also many vacancies in Edgewater, both at the Town Center behind the Food Lion and at the new Giant Center, not to mention the old Giant grocery store. (Next page please)



Page 6

July-August 2011

More re-zoning applications (from page 5)

In short, there is no need for more commercial development of any kind in our area.

The owners of the Messinger/Rommel property appear to feel that they are somehow entitled to rezone their land because they have owned it for a long time and paid taxes on it. Such logic would grant everyone the right to rezone their property. Both of these parcels have enough land to build nice residential structures, far from the traffic noise of Central Avenue. I visited the old house on the Messinger/Rommel property many years ago. I could not hear the Central Avenue traffic from its location on the hill. Most people don't even know the house is there. Both of these properties are very handsome residential building lots. The argument that they ought to be re-zoned because they are unsuitable for residential use is simply not true! As proof of this, two large new homes were recently built at the intersection of Brick Church Road and Central Avenue. Will Biddle, President, DACA.

After receiving this letter, Mr. Walker amended the bill to change the Messenger/Rommel and Rawlings applications to SBD zoning (Small Business District) instead of C-3 and C-4 as requested. SBD lists a total of 34 permitted uses.

More re-zoning applications or amendments of interest

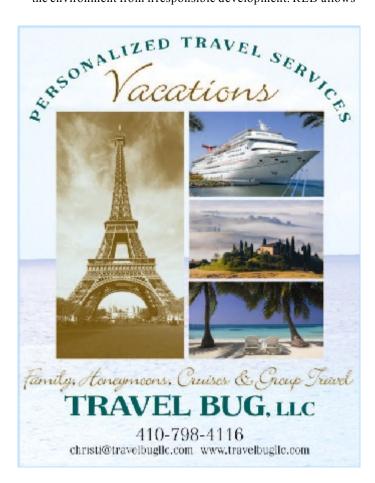
Kate Fox researched other applications of interest to the Davidsonville Area.

1. Riva Trace Baptist Church, which is currently zoned RA, applied to be re-zoned Residential Low Density(RLD) to allow additional parking lots while still protecting the property and the environment from irresponsible development. RLD allows

one house per five acres, as well as some businesses and religious facilities. In their application, the church cited the need for more parking area than the current RA zoning allows. P&Z did not recommend this re-zoning, and Riva Trace BC submitted an application to the Council. Councilman Walker included an amendment to the rezoning bill to allow a portion of the property to be rezoned RLD. DACA's board wishes to continue the dialog with Riva Trace BC about the types of parking they will build, and the management of site landscaping to minimize additional stormwater runoff.

2. The Killarney House Restaurant requested a change from its grandfathered status in RA—as the property has been a bar and restaurant for about 50 years—to a commercial C-3 classification. Planning and Zoning recommended a C-1 category that will allow it to continue its current use and to conform to present zoning requirements. DACA's board voted in support of allowing Killarney continue in conformity. See the last paragraph in Will's June 30 letter to Jerry Walker, next page. Killarney house apparently has accepted P&Z's recommendation and did not submit an application to the Council for a higher zoning classification.

3. The oldest application for zoning reclassification, going back more than 35 years, is for commercial zoning on the corner of Central Avenue and Davidsonville Road, across from the Davidsonville Market and Deli. This land is zoned RA and has passed through the hands of many different owners, none of whom have lived in Davidsonville in the past 25 years (maybe more). Unless they want to build a home or structure that accommodates the current RA zone, *(next page please)*





3659 Riva Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035

THE VILLAGER

Page 7

More re-zoning activity (from previous page)

the only reason for anyone to buy it is the hope to make a huge profit if and when it is re-zoned to commercial use. Each buyer is advised (or should be advised by the seller and/or the seller's agent) of the zoning category. P&Z did not recommend upzoning this property to a commercial category, and the owner applied to the Council for re-zoning. DACA has consistently resisted any zoning change on this property. See item #1 in Will Biddle's letter (next column). Councilman Walker did not include an amendment to re-zone this property. 4. Across Central Avenue from Killarney House, in the subdivision of Dixon Estates, Mike Baker applied for a change from RA to request a C-2 use. Again, this is land on the south side of Central Avenue, and is zoned RA in a residential subdivision. See item #2 in Will's letter, below. P&Z did not recommend this re-zoning, and although the owner applied to the Council, Councilman Walker did not include an amendment to rezone this property.

5. Farther up the road to the east, the owners of the Wharfside Grill on Central Avenue in Edgewater applied for an up-zoning from R-1 to C-3. Like Killarney House, this property has been a restaurant for many years. A little more than three acres in three parcels, it extends along the road front in the treed open space east of the Withernsea subdivision. The applicants are seeking a higher zoning category to enable them to have banquets and catering. P&Z recommended increasing the zoning to C-1, and the owners applied to the Council for C-3 zoning. DACA opposed this upzoning (see item #3 in Will's letter below) but Mr. Walker added this application for C-3 zoning as an amendment to Bill 44-11.

On June 30, Will wrote again to Mr. Walker to summarize **DACA's position on the re-zoning applications** of properties in our area.

Dear Jerry,

1) Davidsonville Area Civic Association (DACA) opposes the re-zoning of the property at 3410 Davidsonville Road, Davidsonville, Maryland (across from the Country Market), Application 48.

2) DACA opposes the re-zoning of the Baker property at **3501 Williamsburg Road**, Davidsonville, Maryland (across from Killarney House, Application 59.

3) DACA opposes the re-zoning of the properties at 158-164 W. Central Avenue, Edgewater, Maryland (Wharfside Bar and Grill) to C3, application 32, *(next page please)*

Printing · Copying · Digital Services · Graphic Design



	GRADEN	Milly B. Welsh, M.S. 410-798-4211	USEF "R" Judge
	Dogs and Horses	Boarding	Obedience Instruction

Will's letter (continued: from page 7) but DACA supports re-zoning that property to C-1. Planning and Zoning and the Planning Advisory Board have recommended C-1, which will allow them to continue to operate as a restaurant, and expand a bit, as well.

Page 8

DACA's policy: DACA opposes commercial re-zoning outside of towns. Commercial development along highways (Routes 214 and 424 in Davidsonville), which commuters use on a daily basis, causes congestion and lengthens the time it takes for people to go to and from work. Such "developments are likely to cause decades of county budgetary and infrastructure headaches, traffic jams, deficits and so forth," as Fred Tutman recently wrote in an article for the *Edgewater Davidsonville Patch*. Furthermore, commercial development outside of towns destroys the nature of rural communities. "This is consistent with at least two of the seven smart growth strategies of the *Maryland Planning Act* which calls for (among other things) concentrating growth near existing infrastructure and protecting open space," states Fred in his article.

Re-zoning random parcels of land adjacent to rural highways conveys instant profits and wealth to land speculators and political insiders. To get away from such practices, Anne Arundel County abolished the County Commission system of government in 1964 and adopted a charter form of government, which provides full disclosure of re-zoning requests and provides for public hearings.

Please vote against re-zoning these parcels of land as well as the Rawlings and the Messinger/Rommel properties. And please vote to rezone Killarney House and Wharfside Bar and Grill to C1, not C3. Sincerely, Will Biddle President, Davidsonville Area Civic Association

cc: Anne Arundel County Planning Advisory Board

Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman attended DACA's Annual Meeting. He followed it with an explanatory article on comprehensive re-zoning which appeared in the Edgewater/Davidsonville Patch. Will quoted Fred in his letter to Jerry Walker. Excerpted here is Fred's description of the process and DACA's meeting:

From *Edgewater/Davidsonville Patch*, written in June:

"The Anne Arundel County Council is nearing the end of a 'comprehensive re-zoning' process that allows landowners to submit requests for zoning changes (usually upzoning), and have the County Council vote to accept or deny them.

"Those hopefuls who missed the original deadline [in the 2009-2010 time frame] for such requests have come to the latest process in the form of late-breaking amendments. In some instances the first time citizens *(next page please)*



David M. Foxwell, Inc. (410)224-7010 Visit our showroom at 1977 WEST STREET <u>www.foxwellfloors.com</u>

> ALL TYPES OF FLOORING Carpet*Ceramic Tile*Vinyl Hardwoods: sand & finishing

Designers on staff Evening appointments available

Financing Available!

MHIC #50685

Annapolitan for over 50 years



DO YOU ... Need to meet, seat, or serve up to 300 guests? Call 410-798-4598 Need variety of catering options? Call 410-798-4598 Need professional event planning advice? Call 410-798-4598 THE DAVIDSONVILLE RURITAN COMMUNITY CENTER Please contact us at 410-798-4598 or <u>davidsonvilleruritan@verizon.net</u> We have all your hall rental needs. Weddings, anniversary parties, meetings, bridal and baby showers, etc.

THE VILLAGER

Fred Tutman on zoning (from previous page)

have learned of these amendments is at the Council meeting where they are first introduced.

"Surprisingly few of these 'upzoning' petitions have been denied by the Council, and the overwhelming majority of them have issued from politically empowered and well-connected applicants. These are generally approved under the informal doctrine of 'councilmanic courtesy,' where an elected official in any district whole-heartedly endorses zoning proposals from a colleague's district because of the desire to receive reciprocity when it is their turn to re-zone.

"The Davidsonville Area Civic Association last week [June 9] issued a letter to Councilman Jerry Walker adopting a position on several local re-zoning requests under consideration. What is interesting about DACA's position is the group reasoned that in the context of the rural character of their neighborhood that "commercial growth ought to be consolidated in towns." Ironically (or maybe intentionally), this is consistent with at least two of the seven smart growth strategies of the Maryland Planning Act which calls for (among other things) concentrating growth near existing infrastructure and protecting open space.

"The civic group, while supporting certain re-zonings consistent with the existing character and vision for the neighborhood, took opposition to a re-zoning request from a landowner at the corner Riva Road and Central Avenue, observing that there exists a sense of entitlement among certain landowners that when they pay taxes on land that they consider that they have the right and the expectation of seeing zoned however they wish.

"The citizens disagreed with the landowner's vision or premise at that site. Notably, the Davidsonville citizens engaged with a public dialogue with the applicant and with their local legislator in an intensive debate and highly democratic process, to arrive at a position they felt was fair and equitable. They took into account whether the landowners had reasonable options to enhance or enrich their property as an alternative to converting an agricultural/residential zone into a commercial one.

"Far from a show of hands where landowners are subject to the capricious whims of a community, this approach appears more like a show of statesmanship and community engagement. It remains to be seen how the County Council will treat the DACA recommendation."

Dr. Joan Turek, resident of South County and a member of the County's Planning Advisory Board, wrote to the *Capital*, regarding Jerry Walker's many amendments to Bill 44-11, many more than those only in Davidsonville. She asks that he "publicly, and on the record, identify the relationship between each proposed amendment and the General Development Plan and the South County Small Area Plan. Contrary to his statement that he is doing the best job he can, Walker, as the area's representative needs to do better. My understanding is that Maryland law requires that comprehensive re-zoning be consistent with the adopted GDP." She concludes by saying "...Walker should inform his constituents how his amendments meet those requirements."

(next page please)



Page 10

THE VILLAGER

July-August 2011

DACA opinions

Will Biddle adds this opinion to the mix of concerns: "Jerry, contrary to the wishes of the community, has made more amendments to re-zone properties than any 7th district councilman in our memory. His amendments provide huge windfall profits for land owners. By going against the recommendations of the Planning Advisory Board, he has made the councilman form of government as corrupt as the former county commissioner system it replaced in 1964. He has ignored the state's directives for smart growth, ignored the County Planning Advisory Board's recommendations, and ignored the expressed wishes of citizens who elected him. It leaves me **wondering why** he has done this?"

Sunday night, July 31, the night before the Council hearing on the final bill, Gail sent this message to Jerry and the County Council, copies to DACA board and *Villager* readers. Dear Jerry:

Thank you for the notice of the amendments you plan to offer at the Council hearing Monday, August 1. You ended your letter with this paragraph:

"I am sure we will not agree on everything that I submit for amendment, but please understand that I have spent countless hours studying these recommendations and I am trying to reach the best decision I can, given the information available."

What more information can you need than you have already received?

The General Development Plan

The South County Small Area Plan

Recommendation of the professionals at the County Department of Planning and Zoning

Recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee The outspoken wishes of YOUR CONSTITUENTS at your public meetings in Edgewater and Davidsonville Testimony from South River Colony

Communications from civic associations in Davidsonville, Harwood, and Lothian

ALL OF THESE OPPOSE ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL ZONING SOUTH OF CENTRAL AVENUE.

Existing commercial properties in South River Colony and on #214 in Davidsonville are vacant.

What part of this do you not understand?

Furthermore, at Central Avenue and Riva Road, many of the permitted uses in SBD which you recommend for Rommel/Messenger and Rawlings, exist already in RA and do not require re-zoning.

> Gail Enright, Secretary Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Join Southdown Swim Club

Southdown Swim Club, conveniently located near Giant Food in Edgewater, is a cooperatively-owned swimming pool. Membership is open to families *from any area neighborhood*, and grants the following benefits:

- Olympic-sized pool with diving board, open May to September
- Volleyball, bathhouse, picnic area
- ✔ Ability to join the Swim Team (swimteam@southdownpool.org)
- ✓ Ability to rent the pool for parties
- ✓ Social events like "Family Fun Day"
- ✓ Meet great new friends

THIS SUMMER

For further information, visit us: ONLINE: www.southdownpool.org FACEBOOK: Southdown Pool 3334 Locust Street • Edgewater, MD









when you buy and sell with Wayne.



THE VILLAGER

What's next?

All the experts' recommendations and residents' wishes fell on deaf ears, not surprisingly. There is no way to understand what is in the 7th District Councilman's mind, except he certainly does not care about South County or his constituents. Even in this over-whelmingly Republican area of Anne Arundel County, Jerry Walker should be a one-term councilman.

In the meantime it may be possible that the County Executive might veto the amendments that so obviously violate county policies. South County citizens are strategizing on this hope.

South County representation on the County Council

Every ten years, the county's Charter Revision Committee reviews the borders of all seven council districts to ensure they're as even as possible. After the 2010 U.S. Census, the county's population increased by 44,691, bringing the total to 534,347. The commission has heard from many in south county who want Crofton moved from District 7 into District 4.

The commission will meet throughout August before

making a final recommendation in their report to the County Council on September 6. For more information, and a complete schedule of the commission, visit the County Council's Web site at http://www.aacounty.org/CountyCouncil.

Charlotte Smutko said, "We don't get the kind of representation we need because people in Crofton don't understand areas like south county. We fight very hard to keep our county rural/agricultural and it is very frustrating to have to keep going up against people that want to turn it into commercial."

An alternative wish would be to create an eighth councilmanic district, so that South County, with its smaller, less dense population, can have fair representation on the County Council. Ed Reilly is a resident of Crofton; Jerry Walker with a Gambrills address, is much closer to Crofton than to any South County area. Tricia Johnson of Davidsonville served only briefly to complete Ed Reilly's vacated term. It appears that Jerry Walker may be the catalyst that proves the need.

Gail Enright



July-August 2011

Tighter county regulations on farmers harm equestrian industry

The County Department of Permits and Inspections has worked with the County Soil Conservation Board in recent weeks to define new standards for when a farmer needs a building permit and a grading permit. Grading permits are far more difficult to obtain than the standard grading plans that farm operators are accustomed to. They generally require \$4,000 to \$6,000 of engineering and survey work, and can take four to six months to be approved by various county departments.

At the request of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the new District Manager of the AA County Soil Conservation District drafted a bill which the County Council passed without public notice last fall. Much more stringent than previous regulations, farm operators now must file grading plans before removing any stumps on their farms, every time they "disturb" more than 5,000 square feet in a year unless it is with a plow, and for most of the structures that they build. In addition farmers must get building permits for any building over 64 square feet (8 ft. x 8 ft.), as well as expensive grading permits for most of the buildings they construct, and for routine clearing of hedgerows and encroachment of woods on pastures, trail clearing and stream crossing maintenance, and many other activities that are commonplace on farms. *(next page)*



Page 12

May-June 2011

THE VILLAGER

(from previous page)

Horse farm preservation?

Many of the Permits and Inspections staff are residential planners whose knowledge of agricultural practices is minimal to nonexistent. Grading permit requirements were designed for urban and suburban commercial construction projects in a county that seeks to limit development.

Having seen the new regulations put into practice, the MDA and AA County farm operators are outraged and distressed. Active farmers are not developers. They are the folks who maintain open space in this county. At a time when grain farmers are leaving the county for more welcoming areas (6,000 farm acres were lost between 2002 and 2007, according to the USDA Agricultural Census), horse people are continuing to work with the Soil Conservation District Board to install best management practices, improve their pastures, reduce erosion and nutrient runoff, and keep up with the marketplace by building barns and riding arenas to serve their clients. The county has 950 places where 4,500 horses reside on 10,200 acres (2010 Maryland Equine Census).

The Horse Council, Soil Conservation District, and Inspections and Permits will continue to work to establish agricultural exceptions to these onerous requirements. For more information, contact Steuart Pittman, Chairman, at <u>dodonfarm@verizon.net</u>.





Cat and Don Shankle Coldwell Banker Desidential Brokerage 410-224-2200 office 410-562-1034 cell

We've been serving Davidsonville since 1981; meeting residents and helping buyers discover the delights of living in a fashionable rural community. We all enjoy the convenience of living close to three major cities. The first priority in marketing a home in Davidsonville is to exalt the virtues of location, beauty, privacy and prestige that only residents in Davidsonville can take pleasure in. This is the "state of mind" that we want to portray in our listings. If you must leave this gorgeous countryside, please try our time-tested approach to get your home sold. We aim for the stars . . . and often reach them! Discover the difference; please give us a call.

Page 13

Page 14

Galway Bay/Killarney House Golf Tournament at Old South Country Club September 12, 2011

Join friends and the annual players to help raise money while playing the game you love! This is your chance to play on the renowned Old South Country Club normally available to members only.

Galway Bay's Annual Golf Tournament, now in its 12th year, is a great fun-filled day of golf with a serious purpose. Galway Bay, in partnership with the Rotary Club of South Anne Arundel County, holds an annual outing and fund raiser for the work being done in Nhekamenya, Malawi, Africa, and the Holy Cross Parish community. We have helped provide clean water and a maize mill for the parish and other projects are in the works. To learn more about this work, go to www.malawifriends.org.

To enter the golf tournament and to get details on prizes and opportunities, please go to our web site at <u>htp://irishrestaurantcompany.com/charity-</u> community.html#gt

Thank you for your generous support!!! Anthony Clarke, Irish Restaurant Company, Galway Bay, Killarney House, Brian Boru, Kinsale Inn www.irishrestaurantcompany.com. 443 822 1606

JUG BAY WETLANDS SANCTUARY

1361 Wrighton Road, Lothian, MD 20711 Office: 410-741-9330

is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Visit <u>www.jugbay.org</u> for fees, directions and updates to the schedule.

Canoeing and kayak tours, mucking around in the mud for children, teens, and adults; birdwalks and nature walks through and over the marsh.







Page 15

Boy Scout fund raiser

Boy Scout Troop 731 of Crofton, in cooperation with the Arundel Fire Department on Davidsonville Road, is making **Reflective Address** Markers to sell for \$20 each.

If the fire department cannot find your house, they cannot help you.

Metal signs measure 6"x18"

Highly visible by day or by night, with reflective material on both sides; fade resistant, and will last for years. To order a marker, please provide the following necessary information: Name

Address

City, State, Zip_____

Phone

Address number (up to 5 digits).

If your house number is fewer than five digits (most are), X in the blanks:

Make your check payable to BSA Troop 731 and mail it with this order form c/o Lara Mulvaney, 1033 Ashe Street, Davidsonville, MD 21035. Your sign will be made immediately upon order and delivered.



DIGGing in the Park

Not just digging, but watering the plants they put there. DIGG invites anyone who is willing to get dirty while making beauty to join them. They take turns filling the gators and work together to keep their production healthy. Anne Biddle, Peggy and Mike Wormwood, Anne Bradshaw, Nancy Covington, and Sean Stallings are among the volunteers who are beautifying Davidsonville Park, off Patuxent River Road. Nancy Covington gave them some ferns that they planted along the edge of the woods at our site. So far, they have spent \$128 of the \$750 Unity Gardens grant money. The big push will come when they do the big planting on September 18th, a good time to join them. Call Anne Biddle at 410-798-6719 to share in the fun work that makes beauty.



July-August 2011

Page 16



Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market Riva Road at Truman Parkway Open Saturday and Tuesday 7:00 am until noon

We take great pride in bringing the freshest produce that Anne Arundel County has to offer and we expect you'll find plenty that you like.

Watch us on local television! Your Farmers Market Monday and Wednesday 11:30 am Friday and Saturday 5:30 pm Comcast channel 99 and Verizon channel 39 For more information check out the web site at

ror more information check out the web site at <u>www.aacofarmersmarket.com</u>, or contact Brenda Conti at 410-349-0317 or write to her by email at <u>Theherbaltouchusa@earthlink.net.</u>



JOIN DACA!

MEMBERSHIP: I would like to be a member of DACA and receive the *VILLAGER*.

DACA OFFICERS

Term to June 2011					
President	Will Biddle	410-798-6719			
	willbiddle@verizon.net				
Vice President	H. Edward Woods	410-798-0764			
	pgchief181@firehousemail	.com			
Secretary	Gail Enright	410-533-4766			
	gailenright1@verizon.net				
Treasurer	Robert A. Carobrese	410-798-4747			
sunriseenvironmental@verizon.net					
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE					
Term to June 2014					
Chris Asher	christopher_asher@ml.com	410-798-4704			
John Healey	roundrockinn@aol.com	301-848-6577			
Wayne Reid	waynereid@remax.net	410-798-9490			
Christopher Rize	k csr@capdale.com	410-956-4811			
Term to June 2012					
Joyce Cramer	jwgone@msn.com	410-956-3435			
Phil Livingstone livingstonep@comcast.net 301-261-49					
Lara Mulvaney lara mulvaney@yahoo.com 410-956-445					
Martin Zehner		410-798-5083			
Term to June 2013					
Gerry Coffman	glcoffman67@gmail.com	410-956-0905			
Kate Fox	fox4smith@verizon.net	410-956-4852			
Don Opedal	dopedal@hotmail.com	410-956-9155			
Harlan Ray woodsonghr@verizon.net		410-798-6292			



P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035 DACA web site home page:

	www.daca-md.org	
Will Biddle	President	410-798-6719
Gail Enright	Editor	410-533-4766
	info@daca-md.org	

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

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.

Mail to: DACA, P.O. BOX 222, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

Name	email
Address	
Telephones	_Today's date

Your comments, your interests?