

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 38, No. 4

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035 November-December 2011

BGE addressed storm outages

Senator Ed Reilly brought BGE officials to meet with residents and DACA members at the Ruritan Club on November 3rd. About 50 people attended to learn how BGE plans for anticipated emergency contingencies in the wake of the storms Irene and Lee.

Senator Reilly first introduced his assistant Joyce Maloney (very important person!), who helped make the arrangements. To reach the Senator, talk to Joyce.

Bonnie Johansen, Manager of Local Affairs, serves also as legislative liaison and tends to the concerns of county residents. She emphasized that this storm was extremely challenging.

Christopher Reif is the supervisor for customer/reliability investigations. He listed the steps for handling emergencies: preparation, response, and afterward. He narrated the PowerPoint presentation to show how they work these storms.

BGE sent automated messages to 1.2 million customers, warning that up to 500,000 could lose power. In fact, about 750,000 customers lost power for an average of 48 hours. Irene was one of the most damaging storms in BGE's history. The earth was so saturated by Irene and Lee's rains that trees did not merely break off; they were uprooted with their entire root system out of the ground. Limbs were down everywhere. In Anne Arundel County 172,500 residents lost power.

BGE has reciprocal arrangements with power companies in several other states; when more people are needed, they call on their friends. After Irene/Lee, 650 workers came to Maryland from as far as Oklahoma to remove downed trees, replace broken poles, and repair power lines.

(Continued on page 14)

COMMUNITY Thanksgiving SERVICE



Wednesday, November 23, 7:30 pm

Davidsonville United Methodist Church

Central Avenue, Davidsonville

Come join and meet your neighbors at the community Thanksgiving Eve service, hosted by Davidsonville United Methodist Church, Wednesday, November 23, at 7:30 pm. Sing, worship, give thanks in company with members of DUMC, Union Memorial, and Holy Family. Then enjoy dinner and football on Thursday.

Community Christmas Celebration

Ruritan Community Center

Davidsonville Road

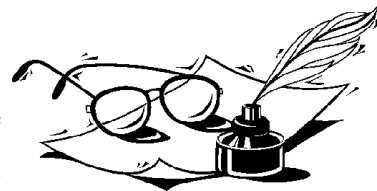
Sunday, December 11, 4:00 ~ 6:00 pm

Open the Christmas season in Davidsonville at the Ruritan Club's community center on Davidsonville Road. Meet and greet your neighbors and enjoy musical entertainment. Santa Claus will arrive on a fire truck. The Ruritan Club will provide refreshments.

DACA members and their contributions

Thanks to Bill and Ebbie Bickford, Gordon Duvall, and Andrew and Jerri Falk for their contributions to DACA in addition to renewing their dues.

Many thanks to Lara Mulvaney for her generous gift toward expenses for sponsoring Green Expo 2012.



Thank you from the Editor: Still a little apprehensive over the vagaries of the computer and the Internet, I hoped the previous issue would arrive safely at its email destinations. Fortunately, I received some encouraging responses by e-mail.

The Villager looks perfect. You've done such a great job of keeping us informed in with so many important topics. It is so appreciated. Thank you, Thank you. Janice Sheppard

I received the 16 pages just fine. Thanks. No need to send hard copy through snail mail. M.L.

Thank you, Gail. I enjoy reading about our beloved Davidsonville. This Jerry Walker clown should be thrashed. R.H.

In memoriam
Henry "Dick" Gertz, Jr.
February 8, 1931~September 15, 2011
65 years in Davidsonville
20 year member of DACA
Deepest sympathy to his wife Jan and his sister Lorraine Clow, longtime members of DACA

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In memoriam
 Betty Tucker
 December 21, 1930~November 5, 2011
 Resident of Davidsonville and
 former member of DACA
 Deepest sympathy to her numerous family
 members in Davidsonville.

In memoriam
 William (Billy) Wesley Neall, Jr.
 December 27, 1941~November 5, 2011
 Lifelong resident of Davidsonville
 Proprietor of Davidsonville Store for 20 years
 Deepest sympathy to his sister Susan, brother
 Bobby, and children and grandchildren.

Elementary School Redistricting

Davidsonville Elementary pupils are not likely to be assigned to another school. DES may seem crowded, but it is not full to capacity, especially with the new kindergarten wing due to be under roof in February and soon ready to serve the youngest children.

Chuck Yocum, demographer for AA County Public Schools, projected that by 2016, Davidsonville will be at only 72 percent of capacity, while Central will be over capacity at 127 percent. Mayo also will be under capacity at 82 percent in 2016.

On October 11, the committee recommended reassigning 105 pupils living in Riva from Central Middle to Davidsonville, to relieve overcrowding at Central and to keep the neighborhoods of Berkshire, Annapolis Landing, and Waterford together. Children rising to fifth grade in those communities would remain at Central to complete their elementary schooling without the stress of changing schools in their last year of school. The Board of Education will announce its decision by April 30, 2012. The Redistricting Committee chair is Michelle Stephenson, a Central ES parent; Shannon Ballard, vice chair is a DES parent; recording secretary Kim Long is a Mayo ES parent.

Information from AA County public schools web site


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Zoning lawsuit: Chesapeake Legal Alliance

The Chesapeake Legal Alliance is taking a lead role in the lawsuit against the County Council and administration. The basis for the lawsuit is that some council members violated the law by ignoring the county's master planning document—the General Development Plan (GDP)—in the majority of District Seven's last-minute amendments to Bill 44-11 for Districts Six and Seven that are inconsistent with the General Development Plan and violate Maryland law and the Anne Arundel County Code. It is ironic that the County Executive, who vetoed 16 of the most egregious amendments (of which ten vetoes were overridden by the Council), must represent the county government.


Russ Stevenson is leading the legal team with pro-bono work for the Chesapeake Legal Alliance, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to using the law to improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. Individual plaintiffs are contesting the amendment that affect their immediate location. Contesting the re-zoning of property on both sides of Riva Road at Central Avenue are Will Biddle representing DACA, and the near neighbors, DACA members Elizabeth Chaney and Dave Gray.

You can go to www.chesapeakelegal.org to see the complete Fall 2011 Newsletter, from which the following information was excerpted. CLA is a not-for-profit

network of lawyers who contribute their time and professional skills to representing environmental organizations, citizens' associations, and individuals in efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake and its tributaries.

Volunteer lawyers provide legal assistance in all types of matters in which the health and quality of the Chesapeake Bay are at stake, with suits to enforce the federal Clean Water Act, efforts to change state regulations, and participation in local zoning cases that may affect the Bay. They are always looking for lawyers and law firms who are concerned about the Chesapeake Bay and they seek opportunities to make a difference by doing pro bono work toward preserving and improving the Chesapeake Bay. They invite lawyers to work on a wide variety of matters, including litigation in state and federal courts, representation of citizens' groups in zoning cases and other administrative proceedings, drafting and supporting changes in laws and regulations designed to improve the quality of the Chesapeake, and any other matter in which legal services may be employed in service of defending and improving the quality of the Bay and its watershed.

*Information also from
Edgewater/Davidsonville Patch, by D. Frank Smith*



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DACA’s Policy on Zoning Change Requests

After the recent Comprehensive Rezoning debacle,

DACA’s Executive Committee determined to define and polish the civic association’s formal policy on zoning classifications in Anne Arundel County. Thanks to Phil Livingstone for reviewing and editing past records and materials to develop the following statement approved by the Executive Committee at its October meeting.

The mission of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association is to maintain and improve the rural quality of life in the Davidsonville area. This policy is to inform and be used for DACA to oppose or endorse zoning change requests and is intended to support and comply with the Anne Arundel County General Development Plan, which is:

Comprehensive zoning changes must demonstrate the following criteria:

1. The change in zoning will further one or more of the established goals and policies in the adopted GDP or Small Area Plan.
2. The change in zoning will not be contrary to an established goal or policy in the adopted GDP or Small Area Plan.
3. The change in zoning will allow a land use that is compatible with the surrounding land uses, so as to

promote the health, safety and welfare of present and future residents.

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 as population and development affect it. In this process DACA’s responsibility to the residents and small businesses in Davidsonville is to maintain the rural quality of life through opposing or supporting zoning requests.

DACA believes commercial growth should be consolidated in towns and areas where it currently exists and low density residential growth should be in areas currently zoned to allow it.



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**Crumbling History:
Another victim of
earthquake and hurricane
Larkin's Hundred**

National Register of Historic Places

Listed: 4/18/1972

Mill Swamp Road, Harwood

Anne Arundel County

Photo credit: Charity V. Davidson 06/1996

Larkin's Hundred is an authentic example of a Maryland house built in a transitional style, retaining some medieval characteristics but exhibiting a definite trend toward later, more formal and symmetrical Georgian detail. Tradition maintains that Larkin's Hundred was built in 1704 by Thomas Larkin, a son of John Larkin of nearby Larkin's Hill. However, structural evidence suggest it may have been actually constructed in the second quarter of the 18th century for Captain Joseph Cowman, a mariner and wealthy Quaker. The house has size and substance on the outside, and serenity of proportion and fine paneling on the inside. Pairs of massive interior



chimneys are inset at the east and west ends of the house. A noteworthy interior feature is the graceful stairway of American walnut that divides at the landing so that all bedrooms have a direct access to the landing. A handsome painted cupboard is built into the paneling of the drawing room.

(next page, please)

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Larkin's Hundred

(from previous page)

The land grant dates from the 17th century. In 1683 it served as a temporary capital of the colony, as the Colonial Assembly was called to meet here during the capital's transition between St. Mary's City and Annapolis. In his history of Annapolis, *The Ancient City* (1649-1887), on page 56, Elihu Riley wrote, "The will of the Proprietary and feelings of the people conspired to the long-suffering people, and the Assembly was removed, with the courts and provincial offices, to a place called the "Ridge," in Anne Arundel County. One session only of the General Assembly was held here. The poor accommodations of the Ridge drove them hence, and the peripatetic capital took up its abode on Battle Creek, on the Patuxent River, from whence, after a session of three days only, it was again removed to its old site, the city of St. Mary's. The Provincial Court found it necessary to adjourn also from the Ridge, from the want of necessary accommodations." Far out in the country, and before Larkin's Hundred was built, accom-

modations were likely very limited. John Larkin, an early Quaker settler in the area, later operated an inn here as a stopping place on the first regular postal route in Maryland, which ran from St. Mary's City to Annapolis.

From 1708 until 1728, Rev. Joseph Colbatch, 1698-1734/35) third rector (1697-1735) of All Hallows Parish, owned and lived at Larkin's Hundred. As Mr. Colbatch lived there and conducted services in his home, it is considered the first Rectory of All Hallows.

When I visited the house in the mid 1990s, it was livable but in need of restoration; the owners recognized the need for repairs, but the job was overwhelming. In recent years it has been vacant. Bridget Blake learned that the August earthquake tumbled the chimneys through the roof, exposing the interior to the torrents produced by hurricanes Irene and Lee. It is a ruin that has been condemned by the State.

Gail Enright

Information from Bridget Blake and on line research by Richard Johnson

September 2011

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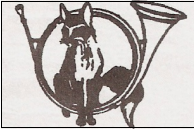
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Scible family cited for soil conservation success: Soil Conservation District

Congratulations to J. Mark Scible and his family of the Y Worry Farm in Davidsonville for being named the 2011 Cooperator of the Year by the Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District. The Scible family farms more than 500 acres in South County using Best Management Practices to preserve and protect the land. Thank you for your excellent stewardship. For more information about the District go to: www.aaconservation.org

Soil Conservation Districts were initially created across the country in the 1930s as Congress's response to farmers and ranchers whose land was devastated by the Dust Bowl years. The Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District began in 1946 and is one of twenty-four soil conservation districts in Maryland. Our local district strives to protect the integrity of the environment by managing land wisely through conservation practices.

The Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District carries out programs, both voluntary and mandated, which implement the policy of the State to provide for the conservation of soil, water, and related natural re-

sources. The efforts of the District focus on the environmental effects of two diverse but equally essential areas of the local economy.

In agriculture, the District emphasizes the importance of soil conservation and water quality, striving to have voluntary soil and water conservation plans for all working farms. These plans help farmers optimize productivity while safeguarding their surroundings against the potential impact of poor land management. Farmers are advised on issues such as preventing fertilizers and pesticides from draining into nearby tributaries through the use of innovative methods like cover crops and shoreline buffers. The plans also aid farmers with issues related to conservation crop rotation and residue management.

In the area of urban development, the AASCD reviews all sediment and erosion control plans for pending construction projects in Anne Arundel County to ensure that developers take the necessary steps to manage runoff during construction to control soil erosion. *From Soil Conservation District web site*



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Runaway ramp: Patuxent River Adventure

by Fred Tutman, for Edgewater/Davidsonville Patch, Oct 26, 2011

The Patuxent corridor was hit exceedingly hard by acts of nature during the last days of August and the beginning of September. Irene and Lee caused the roughest water the Patuxent had seen in quite some time. During Irene, the water flow gauge at Governor's Bridge between Davidsonville and Bowie measured the flow at over 20 times normal. During Lee, it was 50 times normal. The force of the water ripped the Patuxent 4-H floating boat dock off its moorings and washed it nearly a mile downstream where it rested on top of a logjam on the Anne Arundel County bank of the river.

Initial motor boat search expeditions from Jug Bay could not get far enough upriver to find the wayward launch. The Chesapeake Paddlers reported its whereabouts and a mid-September weekend kayak expedition by Patuxent Riverkeeper volunteers from Wooten's Landing in Anne Arundel County found the ramp after an hour's paddle upstream.

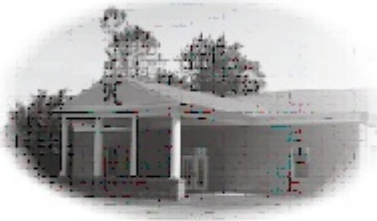
The recovery problem was daunting. How to get a 1600-pound floating boat ramp off a snag—then take it upriver to its original resting place? It had settled in an area impossible to reach by land, surrounded by vast marshes, a patchwork of public and private properties adjacent to the river, and impenetrable thickets.

The original plan for retrieval called for hauling the launch off the logjam using pry bars, come-along winches, ropes and jacks. We had hoped to pull the launch over to the Prince George's side of the river and then laboriously haul it up the bank to a private service road where a rollback truck with a winch could be brought in.

But the most innovative and practical idea was proposed by DACA member Robert Carobrese, a local businessman with Sunrise Docks, who installs similar docks for a living. Bob suggested transporting a small outboard motor down river via canoe, clamping it to the launch and motoring it upstream.

The morning of the recovery, a team of eight helpers was mustered. Nearly all of them were seasoned Rough-necks with excellent mechanical and paddling skills. Everyone listened and understood the game plan from the start, everyone played a role in the retrieval, no one got hurt. A separate team motored up from Jug Bay in a 16-foot jon boat to help provide a stable motorized platform to ferry people and tools to and from the work site.

The outboard motor standing upright in the canoe proved to be a bit top heavy, so the (Turn to page 11)



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Saturday	10:00-5:00



Food by A Little Taste of Italy

It's only four months away. The Green Expo Committee is delighted that our Saturday in 2012 will actually fall on March 17, to help us celebrate a truly green St. Patrick's Day. We invite volunteers to join us now, to get in on the planning stages. Make it your own, and make it even better!

DACA Green Expo Committee members are Lara Mulvaney, Will Biddle, Chris Asher, Gerry Coffman, John Healy, and Wayne Reid. We also will be closely connected to the Davidsonville Ruritan Club, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, and Killarney House.

Contact any of the DACA members—phone numbers and email addresses are on the back page—to offer your services. You will be just as welcome if you show up on the day of the Expo, but you'll be even more important if you help work on the planning stages.

Green Expo poster contest for grades 4 through 9

The Killarney House will sponsor the Green Theme Poster Contest again. The poster theme is *What people can do to help the environment* and may contain words as well as drawings and photographs. Although not limited to the following, possible themes are:

- Greening Up our Neighborhood
- Saving our Environment one Neighborhood at a Time
- What My Family Can Do (or Does) to Save the Environment
- Saving My World by Going Green.

Rules for the contest are on page 15.

THIS SUMMER

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:



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Retrieving the runaway ramp (from page 9)
 team rigged a spare kayak to the side of the canoe as an outrigger to make it more stable for the ride downstream. Steady rain the night before had raised the water level and already floated the ramp off the snag. Once the team boarded the newly floating platform, we learned it was intact and undamaged. We had the eerie sense of walking on the water like a floating island.

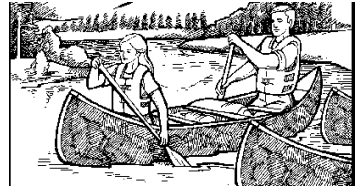
Bob and Fred served as human ballast riding the dock to keep the bulky rig level and stable. Two Roughnecks stood at the back of the platform, both to operate the outboard and raise front end to ride at a better angle for steering.

Our first attempt to get upriver failed. Bob Carobrese summed it up: "We all got a little wet (but my hair stayed dry). It was a little hair-raising when the motor got wet, almost sinking, and quit. Then, Fred and I were swept downstream until someone tied the safety rope to a tree and we came to a screeching halt—both of us almost went for a swim." We got the motor restarted and proceeded with the help of a tow vessel which kept the dock from submarine-ing.

The second attempt proved successful as the towing power of the jon boat combined with the steady push from the outboard motor in the rear began slowly drawing the contraption back upriver. Kayaks arrayed alongside helped provide additional steering and stability against the strong current.

As we drew adjacent to the two anchoring pilings at Queen Anne Boat Ramp, the team threw lines ashore, some wading into the water in order to pull the launch into the safety of the breakwater and secured it to the permanent onshore supports. It was left to parks maintenance personnel to properly reattach the ramp.

Mission accomplished! A good workout, a pleasant fall paddle, no injuries and a complicated plan flawlessly executed! Robert added, "It was a good day all around and the Lord let us have a beautiful day to do it."



For pictures of the river ramp rescue, go to <http://www.hawxhurst.com/Other/20121015roughriders/19625187> WHqFtZ#1538240424 hjCvxWC (This was the link in the email Fred Tutman sent on October 19.)

To learn how you, too, can have a great time while getting wet and muddy, or not wet and muddy, go to www.paxriverkeeper.org and click on the Contact option. You can send email to info@paxriverkeeper.org or telephone 301-249-8200.

Fred and Bob told too good a story not to share it with *Villager* readers.

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Support your local fire department!

The Arundel VFD mailed its letter of appeal for financial support in October, and it behooves us all to help make sure the fire fighters have what they need to take care of us all, whether for a fire or any other emergency. We depend on them as first responders. Please send a generous contribution to Arundel Volunteer Fire Department, P. O. Box 3310, Crofton, MD 21114. You can also go to www.Arundelfire.com.

They will begin selling Christmas trees at the fire house on Davidsonville Road near Rte 450 on November 25. Santa is coming for lunch with your children on December 10. Santa will cruise in a fire truck through your neighborhood as you schedule it between December 17th and 21st.

And if you live closer to Riva, send the Riva VFD a contribution as well.

Woohoo! A whole week off!

There will be no school for students at Davidsonville Elementary School next week. November 21 and 22 are for parent-teacher conferences. November 23, 24 and 25 are for the Thanksgiving break.

All Hallows Episcopal Christmas services



December 24, Christmas Eve
4:00 pm at the Chapel, 864
Central Avenue
Family service with children's
Christmas pageant

At the Brick Church, 3604
Solomons Island Road
9:00 pm Music and Carols,
followed by
9:30 pm Festival Eucharist
Christmas Day, 10:30 am
Holy Eucharist

Christmas with Grace


Saturday, December 18, 7:00

Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church will hold its Christmas Music Celebration, free and open to all.

The performance will feature music by children, youth, and adults.

On **Saturday, December 24**, they will hold their Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship and Communion at 7:00. Childcare will be available for children four years and under.

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Growth Action Network

Growth Action is a coalition of individuals, homeowners associations, civic and environmental organizations formed in 2007 who work together to monitor growth and development in Anne Arundel County. The coalition is a project of the Arnold Preservation Council a non-profit organization. Growth Action does not speak or act for its members, but operates by consensus. Each member takes positions on issues following its own by-laws and mission. Their mission is to involve citizens of Anne Arundel County in the planning process and in advocacy to allow growth only where infrastructure is sufficient and natural resources (including water and air quality) are protected

so that all growth will enhance the quality of life in the county, benefitting residents and businesses.

The network subscribes to the following principles:

- Strengthen county infrastructure
- Clean up watersheds and waterways
- Reuse existing structures
- Support expanded transit for the Count
- Plan for workforce housing near jobs that is integrated with market housing
- Protect remaining farms, forests and open space

Go to <http://growthaction.net> for issues and more information. DACA joined the Growth Action Network as a result of the comprehensive re-zoning issues that need to be resolved.

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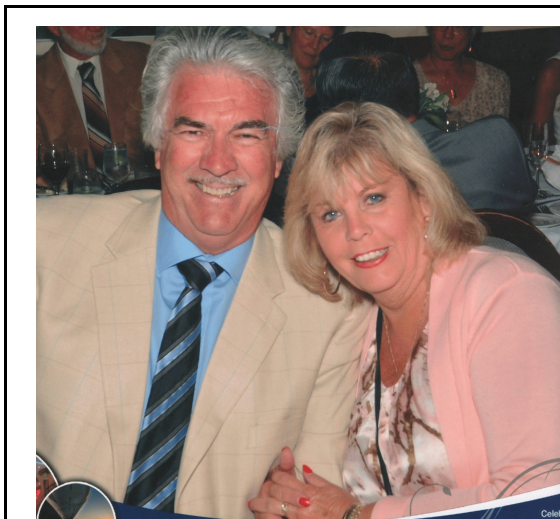
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Holiday Wreath Stewardship Event

Sunday, Nov 20; 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Have some fun while helping to keep invasive plants from taking over our habitats. Participants will remove pine trees and invasive vines, and then have a chance to turn them into festive decorations for the holidays. Bring your favorite decorating materials, work gloves and hand pruners. Dress for the weather. All ages welcome. Free entrance. We'll meet at the Glendening Preserve's Plummer House.

BGE meets customers in Davidsonville, *from page 1*

Repairs are made first to emergency services, hospitals, fire departments, and police. Then they concentrate on areas where a large number of customers are served by a particular line, in order to restore the greatest number with the most rapid repair. Spread-out communities are next in line, and widely separated properties have the longest wait. The company responds to phone reports of outages, so each customer should call, even though the automated menu can be time consuming and frustrating, it is the surest way to record the outage. If they tell you the repair will be complete by a specific time, and it is not, then you should call again. This is an instance in which the squeaky wheel gets the necessary attention.

It is important for them to know where the outages affect the greatest number of customers so they can assign crews adequate to make those repairs. BGE received 1.1 million calls in the first 48 hours, and a total of 1.5 million calls by the time the storms were over.

Jeff Dempsey explained that power lines are installed underground in new subdivisions; however, out of sight makes it more difficult to locate breaks that must be repaired. It will be extremely expensive to bury all the existing power lines in older communities, a price that must be borne by all customers.

Thanks to the BGE staff who addressed the meeting, and thanks to Senator Reilly and Joyce Maloney for making it happen.

Christopher J. Asher, CFP®, CRPC®

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Wealth Management Advisor

Portfolio Manager, PIA Program

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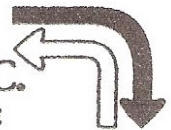


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1. Children in grades 4 through 9 may enter.
2. Children who live in Davidsonville or attend Davidsonville Elementary, Central Middle School, or South River High School are eligible.
3. Each entrant or child should do his or her own work without the help of friends, parents, or other family members.
4. Each child is allowed one entry.
5. Each entry should be on 20 inch by 30 inch poster board.
6. An entrant can use any medium: markers, water colors, acrylics, photographs, collage, etc. or combination thereof.
7. Your name, grade, school, age, address and phone number must be printed clearly on the back of your entry.
8. All entries must be submitted between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on March 17th at the Ruritan Club Center at 3358 Davidsonville Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035.
9. Judging will be done by Bea Poulin and Jean Smith. Their decisions are final. Judges will consider the age of

the applicants in awarding the prizes.
 10. First prize is a \$50 gift certificate for food served at the Killarney House Restaurant. Second and third prizes are \$25 gift certificates for food served at the Killarney House.

The Killarney House is located at 584 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville 21035.



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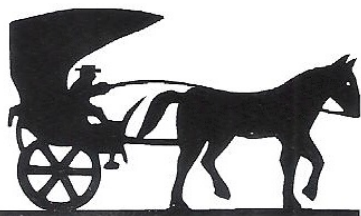
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