

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 40, No. 1

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

May-June 2013

The same folks who brought you the spectacular Green Expo in March invite you to the 40th Annual Meeting of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association.

Thursday, June 6, 2013,

in the Boy Scout Building at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center (DFRC),
Queen Anne Bridge Road and Wayson Road.

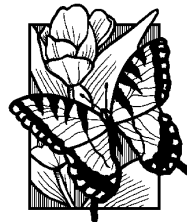
- ◆ Arrive at 7:30 to meet and chat with your elected officials and DACA's board members.
- ◆ The business meeting will begin at 8:00 pm.
- ◆ All residents of the [Davidsonville Area](#) are invited to attend to meet your community volunteers and to learn how we can work together to influence the future of the life style you have chosen in Davidsonville and South County. New members and residents are particularly invited and urged to join DACA.
- ◆ Go on line to www.daca-md.org to view the Area boundaries; they extend beyond postal zip 21035.

DACA has invited

- ◆ County Executive Laura Neuman
- ◆ State Senator Ed Reilly
- ◆ State Delegate Bob Costa and
- ◆ County Council member Jerry Walker to meet you and answer your questions.
- ◆ Featured speaker is Ann Fligsten, Coordinator of the Growth Action Network, who attends and monitors County Council meetings as an advocate for controlled growth in Anne Arundel County
- ◆ Hope Stewart, our new South County Constituent Services Specialist for the County Executive will be there to learn more about your concerns.

Don't miss this opportunity to tell them what you think, ask them for help with your civic problems, get directed to the right office that handles your issues, ask questions and get answers. Learn how state and county activities affect your world in Davidsonville; your actions and your home.

Officers and board members listed on the back page have agreed to serve another term in their present capacity. Tell them how you would like to see improvements in your community.



M A Y



DACA members and their contributions

Thanks to Chris Asher for his contribution that entitles him to Life Membership and thanks to Martha Blaxall and Joe Dickey, Charles and Denise Duignan, Joan King, Jeanne and Richard Latham, Corby and Erin Lawrence, and Janet Zaccari for their contributions in addition to renewing their dues in DACA. Thanks also to Four Legs Animal Hospital for their contribution in addition to renewing their ad. Please patronize our advertisers.

I am still in shock over the expected success in sending *Villager* to email recipients via the web site. Thank you to Melissa Stanton for showing me how, and for finishing the job when I got lost in the cloud. Proof that it works came from satisfied readers and from the few who pointed out my minor errors that I was able to correct for the print version. Satisfaction for me comes when someone from each of the separate email lists lets me know they received it. Gail

YES IT DID. THANKS Thomas/Dolores Proctor

Bravo!! Worked for me! MRM

EXCELLENT, Gail! Thanks for all you do!

Teresa Sadeghin

Thanks, Gail, for all your hard work. E.L.

gail - works perfectly...carol jones

Dear Gail,

It was so nice to see you again at the Davidsonville Ruritan dinner.... Thank you for the Lunch with the Bunny posting you did for Davidsonville Ruritan. Truly appreciate all of your help with our various events. Finally, I love the *Villager* on line! How simple it is to be able to copy and paste the address on my browser and find any issue I may be looking for – since I can rarely remember where the printed copy may be lurking. Thank you for all of your hard work.

CarolAnn

Thanks for the wonderful article about Steuart

Pittman, whom we all miss terribly. MOB

Indeed, he was a giant! Gail

You know you are THE BEST... One day you are

going to have to teach me how to do all this new internet stuff. Thanks. Jeff Bishop

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Meeting County Executive Laura Neuman

Joan Turek of the Harwood Civic Association recently hosted a tea to introduce the new County Executive Laura Neuman to about 20 community association representatives in South County.

CEPA (Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association) board member Mike Lofton outlined issues of concern in South County. He presented Mrs. Neuman with a copy of the South County Small Area Plan, prepared and adopted between 1998 and 2004. He stressed its importance as being the product of years of work by a citizen advisory committee consisting of community representatives who provided an extensive amount of public outreach using open forums, surveys, and focus groups. As enacted by the County Council, it is essential that the county adhere to its recommendations regarding zoning properties.

Especially important in communities south of Davidsonville is the concern of traffic on Route 2, a speedway passing rural driveways and a clogged artery for commuters from Calvert County, the viewpoint depending on one's usage.

The first issue in importance is water: groundwater and drinking water. Groundwater filtered through the earth is degraded by stormwater run-off. It leaches into the aquifers from which all South County wells are fed, mostly from the Acquia aquifer, which is nearing depletion

as upstream wells proliferate. The PST landfill on Harwood Road, closed in 1987, is older than the laws that require liners; it leaches chemicals and pollution into groundwater. Maryland Department of the Environment requires regular monitoring paid for by the present owner, Waste Management, Inc., CEPA received a grant through MDE to do this work. The only solution is to continue monitoring and hope. The dream would be to dig it all up and return the pit to mined out wetlands. Another worry is the invasion of salt water into the aquifers in lower county, especially in the Deale and Shady Side area (It's worse on Kent Island.).

Mike repeated the mantra *Keep South County Rural*, and CEPA President Al Tucker noted that South County residents pay twice as much in taxes as they demand in public services because it is rural. He said the only way to preserve farmland is to make farming profitable for young farmers as the older generation sells their development rights to pay for their retirement years.

Ms. Neuman listened carefully and promised to work to improve these issues as she continues learning the job. She outlined her background and her education and previous work experience. She is no stranger to Anne Arundel, as she has lived in Annapolis for the past 17 years.

Gail Enright

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March 16: What a great, Green Day!

Bea Poulin wrote "The Green Expo was great this year, and it was really fun to share it with my grandchildren. The poster contest was a huge success this year. I hope that someone took a photo of the walls with all those posters." Oh, YES!



DACA Treasurer Bob Carobrese and sous-chef Patty Brennan filled the Ruritan kitchen with the aromas of *A Little Taste of Italy*



Girl Scouts staffed a refreshment table at the Green Expo.

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March 16: What a great, Green Day!

Many thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors, and especially to all the people from Davidsonville and all around the county who made DACA's Green Expo such a resounding success.

DACA's board was gratified by the participation of the young people in our midst. Thanks to Brownie Troop 1456; Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Troop 554; and to DES's Green Club. Among DACA's objectives for this event is to educate and encourage the next generations in the ways of conserving and preserving the environment they will inherit, and we succeeded.

Gift certificates and door prizes sweetened the day for a number of the attendees at the Green Expo.

Killarney House provided the prizes for the three poster contest winners, and DACA made matching gifts to the schools whose pupils won poster contest awards:

First place, Olivia Robertson, fourth grade, DES

Second place, Lainagail Greason, sixth grade, Central Middle School.

Third place, James Rizek, first grade, Key School.

Olivia wrote a gracious thank you note to DACA president Will Biddle. Millie Beall, Principal of Central

Middle School, wrote, "Thank you for your matching funds gift and for supporting our art students. We are very proud of their accomplishments. The arts are an important part of AACPS curriculum! Thank you."

In appreciation to our sponsors, DACA purchased \$50 gift certificates as door prizes from the drawing. Mort Baron will have dinner at Killarney House; George Clemes will beautify his surroundings with his gift from Homestead Gardens; Sam Falk will get tools from Infrared Tools Energy Services; Sarah Colhoun won the certificate for Ciminelli's Landscaping; and Emily Eckert won Tilden Lawn's certificate.

Other prizes contributed by local businesses cheered lucky winners as well. Kam Davis took home the Giant Food gift certificate; his parents rewarded him for his good luck. Courtnie Williams was the happy winner of the rain barrel contributed by James Miller of Bowen's Farm Supply. Homestead Gardens contributed a bird feeder and framed art by Dick Arnold. Eileen Timm won the bird feeder; Jackie Khoui, Bob Chase, Marguerite Higgins, and Paul Hankins won the pictures. Thanks also to Homestead Gardens for the loan of plants and shrubs to decorate the Ruritan Community Center.

Gail Enright

Sandra M. Woelfel, CPA
Resident of Davidsonville

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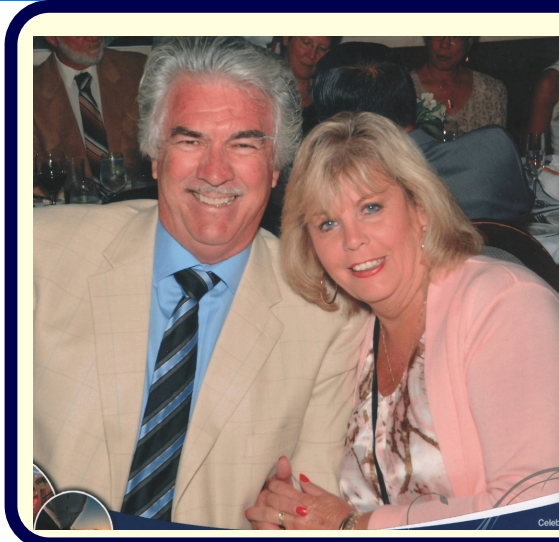
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Davidsonville Ruritan Club


The Davidsonville Ruritan Club is negotiating with a potential buyer for the possible sale of its club house and its seven acre property on Davidsonville Road. The club's shrinking, aging membership finds it over-challenging to continue the maintenance of the building, built in the late 1970s and constantly updated as needed ever since. The club hopes to be able to continue its community service programs without the responsibility and cost of property maintenance, which is very wearing on the members.

The club offers four \$1,000 college scholarships each year; each recipient receives it for four years of college. In reviewing the scholarship applications, the scholarship committee has noted that all the applicants are outstanding students who do their community proud. Applications are accepted from high school students residing in Davidsonville, Mitchellville, Edgewater, Harwood, Lothian, Riva, Crofton, Gambrills and other nearby communities. There are no restrictions on the college chosen or the study major selected. Go online to www.davidsonvilleruritan.org for details about the scholarships. Applications will be accepted until May 15. The club also holds its annual Breakfast with the Bunny shortly before Easter.

In the past, the club's most visible project was the annual auction held at Locust Farm, then owned by Ben Watkins, a founding member of the Ruritan Club. Ruritan members and local residents cleaned out their attics and barns to contribute used equipment and furniture to their largest and most successful fund raiser, with Bobby Campbell of Robert Campbell Auctions, Inc. as the stellar attraction. Club members worked for days collecting and arranging articles of every sort. Sale items were lined up in rows that covered the lawn behind the big white house on the hill. The auctioneer rode on a tractor-wagon along the rows of goods to make his pitch for each item or lot. The Ruritan women cooked to offer the best food and baked goods to keep the crowds of buyers and lookers well fed. In the days before the Park & Ride lot was built, cars and trucks lined both sides of Davidsonville Road from the crossing of Route #50 around the bend south of Rutland Road. The camaraderie among the club members led them to hold a bull roast at the club house location, which most of Davidsonville attended for another successful fundraiser. Now, the annual auction and the bull roast are history.

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**Hope Stewart, South County’s new Constituent Services Specialist
and other news from DACA’s Minutes**

Via email, our former county liaison Bea Poulin introduced DACA to Hope Stewart. Bea is now the Constituent Services Specialist for the North County. DACA invited Hope to attend the May meeting to become acquainted with our community concerns. She listened to reports and offered her help with issues.

Hope will attend DACA’s Annual Meeting on June 6 and she is working to arrange for County Executive Laura Neuman to speak to DACA members.

In his school report, Chris Asher noted that the town of Crofton has for years been asking for a high school to serve their students; Hope said 700 kids from Crofton attend South River; 800 go to Arundel HS. John Healey reported on a new program at South River HS, NEST: an hour of free time for students to participate in clubs, free time, tutoring, extra-curricular activities.

Will Biddle repeated for Hope the background of the zoning lawsuit by the civic associations – Harwood, DACA, et alii – against the County for disregarding its own regulations in upzoning 16 properties as requested by Council members to exempt them from the current regulations. The group’s pro bono attorney, Russ Stevenson, had filed an appeal in the Court of Appeals from the adverse decision of the Circuit Court. He

wrote, “The Court established a schedule for briefing and argument. Our [plaintiffs’] brief was due on April 24, and the other side’s [defendant’s] briefs 30 days later. It may or may not be necessary to file a reply brief. Oral argument in the case won’t be until November. I don’t expect that we’ll get a decision before early 2014, and however the case is decided, it is likely to be appealed to the Court of Appeals. The wheels of justice grind slowly, I’m afraid.”

County Planning & Zoning advised Patrick and Jennifer Shanahan that they should drop their plan to convert an existing building on their property to a bed and breakfast and try for an assisted living facility, a service needed in this area.

Green Expo was a successful service to residents who attended from throughout the county. After viewing the electric cars, at least one family has bought a Chevy Volt. Our sponsors each paid \$250 or provided in-kind donations to support this event. Business exhibitors paid \$75 each for their space. As DACA did not undertake this project to make money, it not charge a fee to non-profit exhibitors. Admission was free to the public and DACA bought the 400 trees we gave away. After expenses, the board was pleased to realize a modest profit of \$102.97.



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Owensville Primary Care, your Community Health Center, in partnership with Anne Arundel County Animal Control and the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, will hold a free Spring Rabies Clinic in the parking lot at 134 Owensville Road (Rt. 255) in West River, Maryland on Sunday, May 18, from 1:00 until 4:00 pm for pet owners in South County.

Dr. Linda Murray Ruiz, of Muddy Creek Animal Hospital, and the staff at Owensville Primary Care have volunteered their time to hold this clinic. The potential for our pets to be in contact with a rabid wild animal is greater here in our rural area than farther north and we need to protect them and ourselves by vaccinating as many pets as possible. There is no charge for this vaccination but donations to offset the cost of our vaccine will be greatly appreciated. Pet owners must bring their dogs on a leash and cats in a carrier. Marilyn Baker, www.OwensvillePC.com

Barry Newgent died May 4, 2013

Barry Newgent, 73, a DACA member from 1983 until 2006, died Saturday, May 4, when his airplane crashed around 1:00 pm on Saturday in Suffolk, Va. With him was his son, Thomas Barry Newgent, 51, of Westminster, MD. They were the only occupants of the plane.

The single engine plane was an experimental model built by the pilot. It went down in a field less than a mile from the Suffolk Executive Airport, just inland from Norfolk. Fox 43 reported that an airport manager said the men flew in earlier in the day with two other planes. They then went out for a leisurely flight. On their way back, they attempted several landings before the crash. The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

Mr. Newgent is survived by his wife Kathleen, who lives in Davidsonville. He served as a DACA Board member from June 1991 to May 1994.

From *South River Source* by Michelle Stephenson

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Spring and Summer

Public and Volunteer Programs

Registration is required for all programs. To register, please call 410-741-9330 or send an e-mail to programs@jugbay.org for information, directions and updates to our schedule. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary is open to the public 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The Glendening Preserve is open to the public 9:00 am - 5:00 pm every day for hiking, but closed on holidays.

Programs are open to families and individuals. An adult must accompany children under 13. Please note age limits for each program. Reservations and entrance fees are required for all events, unless noted. Adults \$5.00; over 60 \$3.00; children under 18 \$3.00; Families \$10.00; Friends of Jug Bay family membership pays for free admission \$25.00.

Birdwalk

First Saturday of each month; 8:00 - 11:00 am June 1, July 6, August 3 etc.

Learn the skills of identifying birds by sight and sound. Experience the amazing bird diversity of the Sanctuary. Binoculars and field guides available to borrow. Not appropriate for children younger than 12.

Pre-school Nature Programs For ages 3 - 5.

Friday, May 24; 10:00 - 11:00 am, **Bluebirds**

Participants will learn about nature through an interactive craft, game, and story.

Breakfast and Birding on the Boardwalk

Saturday, May 18; 8:30 - 11:00 am

Join us for spring birding and hiking through meadow, forest, and marsh as we make our way to the new boardwalk at the Glendening Preserve. Enjoy a continental breakfast and a beautiful view of Old Galloway Creek and the river. Meet at the Plummer House.

Butterflies, Birds, and Blooms

Saturday, June 8, 10:00 am - noon; Saturday, July 13, 10:00 am - noon; Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am - noon.

Explore the Butterfly Garden and surrounding meadows at the Glendening Nature Preserve with a naturalist. We'll look for seasonal butterflies, learn about what flowers are blooming, and spot songbirds and soaring birds of prey. For adults and families with children at least eight years old. Meets at Plummer House.

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Stormwater remediation bill in brief

The Maryland legislature mandated, but did not fund, an order that the state's ten largest jurisdictions, including Anne Arundel County, were to create a revenue source by July 1, 2013, dedicated to a Watershed Protection and Restoration Program to control stormwater run-off, the greatest source of pollution in the Bay and its tributaries. The County Council labored to prepare legislation to obey the state mandate and passed Bill 2-13 on April 15 by a vote of four to three. The fee's base rate is \$85; residences in RA zones pay \$170; the fees are to be added to their property taxes. Businesses must pay an appropriate fee as well. Bill 2-13 would have raised \$67 million after three years of collections. Property owners may apply for exemption from the fee on grounds of financial hardship or appeal the amount due to mathematical errors.

In her first significant action as County Executive other than personnel changes, Laura Neuman vetoed the bill to allow time for more public awareness and to make it better.

On May 1, the Council overrode the veto by vote of five to two; Derek Fink and Jerry Walker opposed the override. The same day, in hope of meeting the July 1 deadline, the Council introduced a new bill, #40-13, with proposed changes. The fees will be phased in over three years, reducing the total taken in that time to \$57 million. The public hearing is set for May 20 and additional amendments may be made by then. The changes could weaken the bill and further reduce the funding for stormwater remediation.

Wait and see!

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Londontowne Symphony Orchestra To Play "Northern Lights" Concert
Sunday, June 23, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. at South River High School

Inspired by composers from northern Europe, the LSO season will close with Sibelius' lively *Symphony No. 3* paired with Grieg's *Norwegian Dances*—a dance suite that will be sure to get your toes tapping and heart racing! We will also be featuring Seth Cook in the rarely performed Vaughan Williams' *Tuba Concerto*. This is the celebrated grand finale as the orchestra concludes its 2012-2013 "Revitalize The Spirit" season with its own revitalized spirit.

Mr. Cook lives in Alexandria, VA, and performs regularly at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, working with the National Symphony Orchestra and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra.



Tuba player

Music Director and Conductor of the LSO since 2007 is Dr. Anna Binneweg. She is also the Music Director/Conductor of the Anne Arundel Community College Symphony Orchestra (Arnold, MD) where she serves as Assistant Professor of Music and teaches courses in music theory and conducting. Anna holds a doctor of music degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University.

General admission for the concert is \$15, seniors are \$10, and **all students are free**. Tickets are available at the door or before the concert by visiting www.LSOmusic.org or by calling (410) 562-8920.

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Hot Shots: Local Kids Help Preserve Local Waterways *South River Source*

Recently, students from Davidsonville Elementary's Green School spent the afternoon planting native vegetation at the Davidsonville Wildlife Sanctuary as part of the South River Federation's Watershed Restoration Project.

Alongside teachers, parents, and South River Federation staff members, the students planted 80 native trees, shrubs and grasses throughout the Sanctuary. According to Jennifer Carr, volunteer coordinator for the South River Federation, the kids had a terrific time working together and learned the importance of keeping local waterways free from dangerous bacteria.

It has been an ongoing planting with local Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other environmental volunteers showing up to plant and help out at the Sanctuary.

The South River Federation received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to help restructure the layout of the Sanctuary after high levels of bacteria were discovered in Beard's Creek at the point where the tributary from the Sanctuary's property flows into the waterway.

Terraced ponds and hundreds of native trees, shrubs, and grasses now help slow down the run-off water, soak up nutrients, and allow sediments to sink to the bottom of the ponds instead of ending up in Beard's Creek and the South River.



This is not the first time students from Davidsonville Elementary's Green School have helped with restoration projects. The South River Federation also enlisted their help with the Homestead Garden's Wetlands Project earlier this year.

Ray Alcorn

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DAA in partnership with Head First

The Davidsonville Athletic Association announced that Dr. Bob Graw and his company Head First have become major sponsors of our sports program. Dr. Graw and his staff gave a very informative seminar about the importance of concussion awareness and Maryland concussion law for DAA coaches in March. In this era of increased awareness of head injuries among young players, DAA made this a mandatory event for all head and assistant coaches. Go Gators!

Trash on Davidsonville roads. Who tosses it?

Jeff Bishop wrote to DACA about his experience.

I pick up roadside trash once a week (or I pay one of my employees to do it) on Patuxent River Road between the nudist camp and Governors Bridge Road. We usually fill one or two bags. I have written to the addresses on Gators website, asking to them to pick up the trash, like a road sponsor, as a means of teaching their members some civic responsibility as well as sportsmanship, since they are technically guests in the community. I never have gotten any responses.

One day as I was picking up trash, a van passed me, speeding as usual, on the way to Davidsonville Park for a game. Trash flew out the window from the vehicle. I picked it up and took it to the field, where I found the same vehicle with people still getting out. I returned the

trash to the driver and spoke sternly about throwing trash on Davidsonville's roads.

I have also followed the trash trucks to see what they leave behind. I have talked to them a couple times and they have gotten better; all the trash on the road is not from them. It would be nice if more residents used the lid type trash cans, which I see most do.

Jeffrey J. Bishop

Gail Enright added, "I spend a good amount of time picking up trash just along my road front on Davidsonville Road, crawling under bushes and among trees to dig out beer cans, plastic vodka bottles, and fast food boxes."

DACA Board member Chris Asher wrote to Ida Heck, the current president of DAA, "Is there a way to politely request that all DAA parents/kids using the Park or Ruritan be mindful of their trash? I was just made aware of this issue. Thanks."

She replied, "Certainly there is. I just sent one last week to soccer!!! Good timing. I will ask the other sports to do the same."

In all fairness, not all the trash is left there by DAA teams. They have plenty of company. But as one of a few organized groups who use the same routes regularly to get to Davidsonville Park, it would behoove them well to use their organizational skills to clean up the road around the park, and place a sign, "This roadway cleaned by Davidsonville Athletic Association Gators."



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Temporary bridge closure on Gov. Bridge Road

The Governor's Bridge over the Patuxent River is closed. Prince George's County Public Works Department inspectors discovered that the underside of the deck had corroded more than expected, and that several welds from previous work had failed. Work is under way and they expect to reopen the bridge in six or seven weeks. They are also talking with Anne Arundel County about sharing the cost, since the bridge is jointly owned by the two counties.

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Using the Patuxent

Wednesday, April 17, between 4:30 and 5:00 pm, heading west on Governors Bridge Road: at the Governor's Bridge, I looked down at the water as I always do, and was treated to the sight of a yellow kayak paddled idly by a middle-aged man, floating freely down the river. No obstacles in sight on this short stretch of water. A nice moment of pleasure on the river. *Gail*

**Shred it! County Free Shed-A-Rama, Saturday, May 18
South River High School from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm**

The Anne Arundel County Police Community Relations Council will hold a Shred-A-Rama to which county residents may bring up to four boxes or bags of personal documents to the South River High School parking lot. You can watch them being safely shredded in a commercial shredding truck. The purpose is to protect your personal information from identity theft. There is no fee but donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call Dave Daughters at 410-672-5703.



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The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



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

J O I N D A C A

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 \$ _____ is 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.

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