

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 40, No. 5

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

January-February 2014

SAVE THE DATE!!
DACA'S Fifth Annual

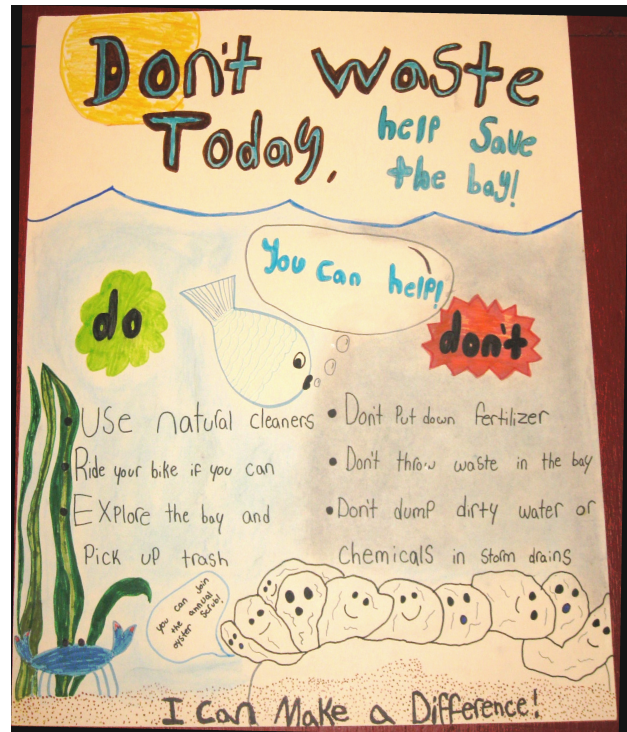


will be held on
Saturday, March 15,
2014, 10:00-2:00
at Davidsonville Elemen-
tary School

As the sponsor of the poster contest, Killarney House will offer gift certificates to the contest winners for meals served at the restaurant: \$50 for first place, \$25 and \$25 for second and third place winners. DACA will send matching amounts to the school each winner attends. Go to www.daca-md.org and click on Green Expo to find contest rules.

Calling all elementary and middle school students!

Make a poster that shows how we, you, and your parents can help clean up our environment, starting right here at home, in Davidsonville, in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland – the whole world! Bring your poster to the Green Expo at DES before noon on March 15 to enter for a prize for yourself and for your school. Last year's winning poster was created by Olivia Robertson, when she was in the fourth grade at DES. Show what you can do!



DACA members and news

Many thanks to Jean Anderson for contribution to DACA in addition to renewing her dues for two more years.

“Great job as always.”

Quote: Life’s journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a pristine, well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally used up and worn out, shouting “Holy _____ [fill in the blank]...what a ride!!” *Jeff Bishop:*

To Will Biddle,
THANK YOU SO MUCH for the wonderful article in the most recent *Villager*. Have a wonderful Holiday Season!
Bob Bradshaw

To DACA’s Green Expo:
Thank you for the opportunity [to exhibit]. Your expo was the best managed and most upbeat I attended last year.
Dave Gillum

AA Bird Club and Maryland Bluebird Society

We moved to Davidsonville in 1958 and enjoy all the stories!
JHA

In December DACA sent contributions of \$125 to each of the eight churches located in Davidsonville, for the benefit of needy residents of Anne Arundel County. DACA has received thank you notes from Fr. Alistair So of All Hallows, Pastor George Sheetenhelm of Chesapeake Christian Fellowship, Treasurer Nelson Outten of Davidsonville UMC, Father Andy Aaron of Holy Family, Pastor Dennis Grey of Riva Trace Baptist Church, and Treasurer Jason D. Smith of South River Bible Church.

DACA contributed \$100 to the West/Rhode Riverkeeper and received a thank you note from Board Chair Bob Gallagher.

Lieutenant David Feerrar, Commander of the Anne Arundel County Police Department Southern District, will attend DACA’s Executive Committee meeting on February 6. Please notify info@daca-md.org if you would like to attend this meeting to greet him and ask about law enforcement.

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Davidsonville Green Expo

Saturday, March 15 10am-2pm
 Davidsonville Elementary School, 962 West Central Avenue
 Hosted by the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Back to School!

DES Principal Jean Marie Hofstetter welcomed DACA's return to the school after two successful years at the Ruritan Club.

Sponsors, exhibitors, musicians, and great food will put on an exposition to delight sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell for children and parents.

Face painter Michelle Drake will adorn your visage while the Composters serenade us all. Ms. Peret, DES's Green Club leader, and art teacher Ms. Stow-Sinkler will have their students work on exhibit. Mrs. Wyatt will have the Student Government in action as well.

You can learn new techniques of greening our planet, starting with your home and community. We have contacted sponsors and exhibitors and we already have commitments from a good number, although the registration deadline is not until March 1.

Many thanks to our early bird registered sponsors and exhibitors. We hope to welcome many more before the show begins!

Go to www.daca-md.org to find registration forms for sponsors and exhibitors and poster contest rules.

Sponsors as of January 19

- Ciminelli's Landscaping/Ecoasis Garden Center
- Homestead Gardens
- Killarney House
- Merrill Lynch
- Pinnacle Promotions
- South River Source
- Tilden Lawn Nursery

Exhibitors


- Anne Arundel County Dept. Recreation and Parks
- AA County Master Gardeners Composting Project
- Baywise Master Gardeners
- AA Bird Club/Maryland Bluebird Society
- Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association
- Richard Arnold, MD Dept. Natural Resources
- Efficient Home LLC/TerraLogos
- Patuxent Riverkeeper
- South River Federation
- Tower Garden by Juice Plus
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Principal Jean Marie Hofstetter graciously welcomes DACA to hold Green Expo at DES

DACA arranged to hold the 2014 Green Expo at Davidsonville Elementary School, where Mrs. Hofstetter, the principal, has welcomed Green Expo to use their facility.

This community fair features environmentally sensitive products and organizations that promote environmental awareness. Last year DACA gave attendees 400 trees, which we purchased from the John S. Ayton Tree Nursery. More than 400 people came to the Ruritan Club for the Green Expo. More than fifty vendors and organizations displayed their goods and services. We had approximately 100 entries in the poster contest for local school students, co-sponsored by the Killarney House and DACA, with gift certificate prizes for the top three winners and matching cash prizes for their schools.


This Saturday before St. Patrick's Day is our community's biggest day of the year. It is the Killarney House's busiest week in the year. Homestead Gardens holds a huge sale that weekend and is also a sponsor of the Green Expo.



The idea for a Green celebration originated five years ago with Mike Galloway and Anthony Clarke, who own the Killarney House, and Fred Tutman, who is the Patuxent Riverkeeper. Fred came to DACA with the idea, and DACA honed the idea and made it happen. In our first year, five years ago, DACA just gave away trees.

After last year's success at the Ruritan's location on Davidsonville Road, DACA waited through the lengthy process of the Ruritan Club's sale of the property to the Maryland Farm Bureau, before contacting the new owners. By March, the Farm Bureau expects to be in the middle of renovations and the space needed for the Green Expo will not be available.

Sandra M. Woelfel, CPA
Resident of Davidsonville



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Davidsonville Ruritan continues in a different format!

The Davidsonville Ruritan Club was established and chartered in April 1955 by several local farmers and business men. The original membership was forty-six strong with a leadership of some notable names—Watkins, Covington, Carson, Price, Sullivan, Rossback, Lerch, Abend, Gardiner and Adams.

The club flourished through the fifties and sixties. Members raised funds through the sale of corn, tobacco and soybean crops. In 1973 the King family gave the club five acres of land on Davidsonville Road. In 1979 several members made considerable financial donations to build the building which became the Davidsonville Ruritan Community Center. The building was used by local organizations and at times rented out to private citizens for parties, weddings, anniversaries, and celebrations. The club provided the field to the local athletic club (DAA) for their use at no charge. In 1989 the membership decided to expand the facility and built the addition containing the small conference room and the storage area. In 1994 the Chapman family liquidated the club's mortgage by providing a sizable donation to the club.

During the late 1980s and 90s the membership ranged from seventy-five to eighty members. The club held bull and oyster roasts, twenty-twenty banquets, crab feasts, annual country auctions, dinners for seniors, dances, Las Vegas nights, and other social events. As we moved into the decade 2000 there was a significant decline in membership from the heyday of the 80s and 90s. During that time the club rented out the building as

as much as possible to meet the growing cost of maintenance. The membership was not growing and the increasing age of the majority of the members prevented them from taking on major projects or events. In November 2012 the membership at an all time low and it became obvious that it was time to make a decision regarding the building and property.

The members met with potential buyers such as athletic organizations, churches, and professional organizations. In November 2013 the Maryland Farm Bureau signed the intent to purchase the property and building. Currently their offices are located in a smaller facility in Randallstown, Maryland. In December the Farm Bureau completed settlement on the property with the Davidsonville Ruritan Foundation. At the same time the Davidsonville Ruritan Foundation leased back the athletic field from the Maryland Farm Bureau for an agreed to yearly sum. The field will be provided to the Davidsonville Athletic Association free of charge as it has been in the past. The Farm Bureau plans to move their office staff into their new facility in Davidsonville as soon as alterations are completed.

We are truly saddened by the sale of our building but feel very comfortable that the Maryland Farm Bureau will be an exceptional asset to our community. Davidsonville Ruritan will still be a viable organization and we plan to continue with our yearly Scholarship Awards Program and, hopefully, can have even a greater impact on our community in the future.

*Bob Bold
President, Davidsonville Ruritan*

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**State Legislature is in Session
Delegate Bob Costa will retire**

The General Assembly opened its 2014 session on January 8. Davidsonville, previously in District 33B, has been ably represented by Bob Costa for the past twelve years, as he will have completed three terms by the end of this session. Redistricting shifted his seat from District 33B to 30B, a larger area of South County, but still represented by only one seat in the legislature. The 90-day session is scheduled to adjourn on April 7.

A resident of Deale, Mr. Costa is the only delegate from the southern end of Anne Arundel County. He is very conscientious about being accessible to his constituents and has attended some of DACA's general membership meetings to answer questions from local residents, as well as holding open town hall meetings. You can reach him in the Lowe House office Building at 410-841-3551, or by email at bob.costa@house.state.md.us. DACA thanks Mr. Costa for his willingness to listen and to help the communities he represents.

Two candidates have announced their intentions to run for the District 30B seat in the next election. Republican Seth Howard, and Democrat Michelle Stephenson, a resident of Edgewater.

**Governors Bridge still closed
DACA writes to County Executives**

Nine months after Prince George's County's Department of Roads and Transportation closed the Governors Bridge, and five months after the first promised re-opening, DACA vice president Ed Woods wrote to the county executives of Prince George's County, Rushern Baker, and Anne Arundel County, Laura Neuman. We sent it December 9.



Dear Mr. Baker and Ms. Neuman:

The Davidsonville Area Civic Association respectfully requests your attention to the condition of the Governors Bridge, which presently separates Davidsonville from Prince George's County.

Last May an inspection team from Prince George's County made the required biennial inspection of the bridge structure. They found that the metalwork on the bridge deck was corroded to the point of being unsafe and immediately had the bridge closed to traffic.

(Page 7 please)

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DACA’s letter to the Executives, from page 6

Since then, the re-opening date has been announced and postponed several times, most recently set for November 1. As yet, no repair work has begun on the bridge nor any evidence of work planned at the site.

The Governors Bridge is a vital connection between our two counties for commuters and for landowners on both sides, as well as providing access to the county parks and recreation areas along the Patuxent. Users of the bridge in both counties are increasingly frustrated by the lack of progress on restoring this link.

Speaking for Davidsonville residents and Anne Arundel County, the Davidsonville Area Civic Association respectfully urges the two counties to work together constructively to repair and reopen the bridge.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

William Biddle, President

H. Edward Woods, Vice President

One month later, having heard nothing, we sent the letter to Hope Stewart, South County Community Services Specialist, and asked if she could learn the status of the request. Hope replied promptly.

“The County Executive and our Department of Public Works did receive this letter. We have been pressing our counterparts from Prince George’s for

updates on status and schedule regarding their construction contract to restore this bridge. It appears they are having issues with fabrication and supply of material, given the age and unique character of the bridge. I have written to our Director of Public Works to see if he has received an update from them yet.”

Later the same day she had an answer: “We have received word from PG County that they anticipate completion of this project in the March/April time frame, as the winter weather may delay substantial work from taking place.”

Hurrah for Hope and many thanks!

What Laura Neuman wants for AA County

The Saturday, January 18, Annapolis *Capital* reported Mrs. Neuman’s message to the Anne Arundel County delegation to the General Assembly. She is asking the state government to help fund the county’s most urgent needs. The top priorities are a new high school (the county’s 13th, for west county); public transportation and (yes!) to repair roads and bridges; and to renovate the deteriorating AA County Police Academy on Wayson Road in Davidsonville.

From the story by Rema Rahman and Alex Jackson



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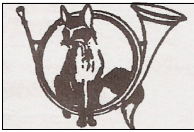
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**County Public Libraries expand hours
All branches will have the same schedule**

At last, you will not have to guess, or look on-line, or take a chance on finding the library closed in the middle of the day. All twelve branches in the county will be open from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm Mondays through Thursdays, and 9:00 am until 5:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. In addition, the Crofton branch will have Sunday hours from 1:00 until 5:00 pm.

Our libraries provide far more than just books—you can access the internet, borrow CDs, and join in programs that foster early literacy for children from birth to five, building a foundation for literacy, not just teaching children to read. Beginning in March, each of the 15 county libraries will host events for this age group and their caregivers every week throughout the year.

Laura Neuman promised more library open hours when she was appointed County Executive, and she and the County Council allocated more money for libraries in fiscal 2014. Many thanks to them. You can read more details in the January 14th www.southernsource.com. For more information, go to the county library website www.aacpl.net, or call Laurie L. Hayes at 410-222-7371.

**Anne Arundel County Executive
Laura Neuman invites students
to participate in the
Student Model Government Program**

Deadline to apply is January 29

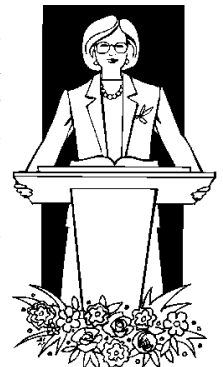
Annapolis, Maryland (January 7, 2014) – County Executive Laura Neuman invites all 10th and 11th grade students to compete for the chance to be the County Executive, a Councilmember, or Department Head for a day. More than 30 students will be selected to participate in the Model Government.

Anne Arundel County students may apply now to participate in the annual Student Model Government Program. Applications and essays are due by January 29. Students selected will also participate in a mock County Council hearing that will take place on March 17, 2014.

Applications and instructions are available from Ashley Ricker, 410-222-1241, in the Office of Community and Constituent Services.

“The Student Model Government Program offers our students a first-hand opportunity to see how their government works and the many issues and decisions that are dealt with on a daily basis,” County Executive Neuman said. “Students participating in this program will hopefully get a better appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our County’s employees and perhaps become motivated to serve their communities as a future civic leader.”

Entrants are required to submit a short essay describing what they hope to accomplish if given the chance to serve as a public service official.



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Oh – Did we have fun at the Winery!

Polly Pittman and Tom Croghan, owners of the Vineyards at Dodon, invited DACA’s Executive Committee to hold their regular meeting, January 2, in the tasting room of the winery. You can be sure we accepted with alacrity, and decided that 7:00 was a better time to start than the usual 8:00.

Lest you forget, that was the day the snow started about 6:00 and snowed like a blizzard late into the night. The early snow did not deter your intrepid community representatives from this important meeting and all showed up, some with spouses or guests, and special appetizers to enhance the wine we anticipated.

Tom and Polly welcomed us into the winery full of fermenting tanks, casks, and barrels, and led us up the circular stairs to the open tasting room. Tom gave a brief presentation of the history of Dodon Farm as Polly poured the most delicious Sauvignon Blanc, the first vintage from the vineyard, grown in 2012. Even the label was cool—with a historic map of the Maryland Chesapeake Bay. From this first crop, they made forty cases of the Sauvignon Blanc and promptly sold out of the entire production, keeping a few cases for their personal use. It was from this private stock that they shared the sampling with DACA. And it was good!

Established in 2007, the vineyards are fortuitously situated on rolling hills of the farm that has been in the Steuart and Pittman family since 1725. When they began their first experiments with 150 vines, the goal was clear: to practice sustainable agriculture and produce exceptional wines. As ninth generation custodians of this historic farmland, and as demanding winemakers, Polly and Tom are committed to using viticultural practices and wine making techniques that permit full expression of the unique deep sandy loam “Dodon Series Soils” that lend their wines distinctive aromatics and subtle minerality. Dodon gave its name to this type of soil that is found in southern Maryland on the Calvert



Formation.

After the meeting adjourned, Tom gave a short tour of the wine-making room and the steps from planting the vines through fermentation and bottling. Then we faced the elements. The snow swirled around as we brushed several inches off our windshields and prepared to drive up the steep, curved drive from the winery to reach Dodon Road. A couple of cars could not make it without the help of people pushing – thanks Will, Polly, Tom, Wayne, and others I did not see as I carefully backed around to face forward. After waiting for the cars ahead of me to clear the hill, my ancient Toyota made it all the way to the top. Dodon Road and Birdsville Road were separate adventures, under circumstances in which my thought was, “What are these people doing on the road at this time of night?” except I was one of them and it was only 8:30!

Go their website www.dodonvineyards.com and enjoy the photo album with snow, grapevines, and the family harvesting in the summer sun.

Gail



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Tilden Lawn, 30 years a supporter of DACA

Thirty years ago this month, Mark Van Lunen took an advertisement in the *Villager* and has continued his support of DACA ever since. Here is the story of his business.

Mark established Tilden Lawn Nursery in 1978 on his family's farm on Central Avenue. They are "new-comers" having been here almost 50 years. A graduate of the University of Maryland in 1976 with a degree in Horticulture, Mark started the business by growing and selling Christmas tree seedlings and then switched to growing two acres of container stock. The nursery has now grown to a retail and wholesale provider of select unique woody ornamental plants, annuals, perennials, and is the largest supplier of natural stone in Anne Arundel County. Tilden Lawn also carries high quality pavers and concrete wall stone, as well as gravel, rock, soil and wood chips

Debbie Van Lunen, Mark's wife, has helped build Tilden Lawn Nursery since 1985. With a degree in Floriculture from W.A.C.C. (now Pennsylvania College of Technology). Debbie also raises and shows English Mastiffs.

Mark, Debbie and their fantastic staff are extremely knowledgeable in all products. They attend seminars on all of their suppliers' products to keep up with current offerings. They also lead seminars to educate the consumer on how to install pavers, build concrete walls and more! They recommend only ICPI Certified Installers for all paver and wall stone installations. Debbie has been a masterful force in the business.

New selections of beautiful unique woody ornamental plants are hand picked by Mark and Debbie each spring. Their annuals, perennials and woody ornamental plants come from number one growers from the east and west coasts.



Tilden also offers ornamental hand carved granite and marble garden decorations of high quality and reasonable prices, including Rankei, Kasuga, Orbe, Shinto, Yukimi, Snow and Rolling Stone Lanterns. Need a great conversation piece? Stop by and see the five-story pagoda, along with their beautiful all natural stone benches! Visit their website at www.tildenlawn.com.

A leader in environmental preservation of land and landscaping, Tilden Lawn enthusiastically joined DACA as a sponsor of the community's Green Expo.

Happy 30th anniversary in DACA!



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What is it about the Patuxent River that anyone should use its water?

Excerpted from the Patuxent Riverkeeper website: www.paxriverkeeper.org

The November-December 2013 issue of the Villager published a brief history of the Patuxent River from the website. Following is the continuation of the Riverkeeper's article.

Once one of the most productive sources of shellfish in the world, the Patuxent has been deeply and negatively affected by negligent land use, and some 36 wastewater treatment plants (several in need of technological upgrades). The lawmaking and regulatory system has lost its way, being so consumed with broad Bay-wide problems, passing blame, analysis paralysis, and the desire to placate lawful polluters that it has been unable to halt or slow the steady decline of a waterway heading toward doom for the region and its biodiversity.

Even so, scientists have pointed to the incredible resilience of the ecosystem—its ability to heal itself if we humans can be compelled to mend our behavior toward the river and restore responsible stewardship. Today the Patuxent is a study in contrasts—with regions of pristine beauty rich in history, wildlife and unforgettable scenic vistas—and other areas with poisoned beaches, ravaged fisheries, dead zones and hopelessly blocked and snagged upper tributaries. The water quality of this river in recent years rarely achieves much above a “D-” rating score. A river that has given so much to the citizens and economy of Maryland now struggles to find enough funds and willpower to undo the damage caused by those who have grown wealthy plundering the riches that should, by right, belong to all Maryland's future generations.

It is fitting in acknowledgment of this tradition that a strong and growing Riverkeeper movement was established in 2004 to build a grassroots movement spanning seven counties, in order to carry the fire, keep the dream of clean water alive, and champion one of the

most vital causes on earth: the defense of our natural environment and of the people who depend on it. That is what Patuxent Riverkeeper believes in and stands for: Clean water, unflinching civic advocacy, and the holistic and benevolent treatment of one of nature's irreplaceable and greatest prizes.

Making progress: From Patuxent Riverkeeper newsletter, December 13, 2013

Acquasco, MD— This week, NRG Energy signaled that it plans to retire the Chalk Point (Patuxent) and Dickerson (Potomac) coal plants in May 2017. Chalk Point, located on the Patuxent River in Prince George's County, and Dickerson, in Montgomery County, are two of only seven remaining coal plants in the state.

Air pollution from the Chalk Point and Dickerson coal plants contributes to 42 deaths and 680 asthma attacks per year, according to a report from the Maryland Clean Air Task Force. Chalk Point was also the scene of the worst manmade ecological disaster in Maryland history when a faulty fuel line located in Swanson Creek next door to the plant spilled more than 11,000 gallons of fuel oil into the Patuxent River destroying its prime shellfish harvest areas.

In 2007 the plant was the subject of an enforcement action sponsored by Patuxent Riverkeeper and others due to its chronic history of almost daily exceeding its permitted air emissions. In 2012, the operators of the Chalk Point Plant paid over a million dollars in fines and signed a consent decree with the State of Maryland to clean up additional violations at its nearby coal waste facility located in Brandywine, MD.

The retirement of these facilities means cleaner air in Maryland, and it also means cleaner water in area waterways. The action continues in the court system.

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Davidsonville Park Field Water: A giant leap toward success, with lots of help

In March 2013 I undertook a project to provide water to irrigate the youth baseball fields used by the South Maryland Little League, and DAA starting this year, in Davidsonville Park. About 400 kids from Davidsonville are enrolled in South Maryland Baseball, playing on teams from T-ball through teen-agers. DAA and SMLL merged this year.

I really thought it would be a fairly easy task to have a well drilled, as it had two great ingredients, kids and baseball. I was both surprised and frustrated in my one-man crusade, so to speak. I had hoped to have a well drilled by September 1st. I recognized that this would be a challenge at best, as I knew nothing about the process; I had no money to work with; and I was told the county would not offer help or money.

Yet, after ten months I was able to raise more than \$29,000. In fact, the county did help and the professional staff were very nice to work with.

Many thanks to Rick Anthony, Jamie Roell, Jack Adamaze, and Mark Garrity!

I must thank also the women who were so helpful in educating me on permits and the procedures to get one.

Cynthia Latham and Marianna Eberle were very patient and so helpful! Thank you!

Finally, thanks to all the donors. I called, begged, pleaded, and drove many folks crazy asking them for money, and they really came through for our kids. Although it has been a long and trying process, by the end of next week, Jason Kwiatkowski of Atwater Drilling will be drilling our well. I really cannot thank the donors enough. They have been so generous. I promise to keep you updated on our progress as, once the well is drilled, we will need an irrigation system for the fields. Irrigation equipment means sprinklers, control valves, couplers, rain sensors etc, estimated at a cost of \$24,640 from American Turf Landscape and Irrigation

Atwater Drilling's cost of \$29,160 for the 300- foot well is covered by the generosity of the donors. Another \$5,000 is needed to conduct electricity from the existing shed at the field to the well pump. You are invited to make a contribution to South Maryland Little League and send it to SMALL, P.O. Box 182, Davidsonville, Md 21035.

So until thenTHANK YOU! *Tom O'Farrell*

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Go to the Web site www.jugbay.org for more details.

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

Coming up!

- Winter Hike, Saturday, January 25, 10:00 am
- Managed deer hunt, Thursday morning, January 30, sanctuary closed until noon
- Birdwalk, Saturday, February 1, 8:00 am
- Skunk Cabbage Swamp Stomp, Sunday, February 2, 1:00 pm
- Pre-school nature craft, bald eagles Friday, February 7, 10:00 am
- Preparing for bluebirds, Saturday, February 8, 10:00 am



Jug Bay's winter water bird survey

Among Jug Bay's many activities is a periodic bird count. In the previous issue of the *Villager* they reported sighting 41 species on November 9. On January 16 included they counted 41 species, many of the same as in November, and also saw these water birds:

- one Cackling Goose
- 68 American Black Duck
- 20 Northern Pintails
- seven Common Mergansers
- one Double-crested Cormorant
- 14 Bald Eagles
- 172 Herring Gulls
- one Fish Crow
- 768 Canada Geese
- 55 Mallards
- 44 Green-winged Teal
- one Ruddy Duck
- 9 Great Blue Herons
- 157 Ring-billed Gulls
- one Great Black-backed Gull
- six Swamp Sparrows.

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West/Rhode Riverkeeper report

The West/Rhode Riverkeeper organization works to protect families and communities by stopping pollution. We strive for healthy and safe rivers and streams. We work together with communities to enforce environmental law, promote restoration, and advocate for better environmental policy.

It took almost no time at all for Jeff Holland to jump on the Riverkeeper position as the dream job after Chris Trumbauer moved on in November. Jeff was introduced to the membership at their November 22 potluck dinner and general meeting.

Jeff has lived in the area for decades. He is a boater, a journalist, a musician and an environmentalist. He has a strong track record of developing and leading non-profits. He transformed the Annapolis Maritime Museum from a storm damaged shell to a major institution and has helped the Captain Avery Museum expand its reach and programs. Jeff assumed the roles of Riverkeeper and Executive Director on January 1st.

West/Rhode Riverkeeper is a licensed member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, an international movement of on-the-water advocates who patrol and protect over 100,000 miles of rivers, streams and coastlines in North and South America, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa. Made up of nearly 200 local Waterkeeper organizations—employing more than 400 full-time and



Looks like the perfect job!

200 part-time environmental activists, educators, scientists and attorneys—the Waterkeeper Alliance keeps Waterkeepers connected, provides them with legal, scientific and communications support, and unites their voices as they take on major global water issues together.

West/Rhode Riverkeeper has been awarded two grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for projects around the watershed. One grant is to fund the design of two retrofit projects to treat polluted runoff and slow its flow through the neighborhood of Avalon Shores in Shady Side into Smith Creek on the West River.

The other grant will go toward completion of phase two of the YMCA Camp Letts horse pasture project. Phase one was the wetland treatment installed at the camp last winter to treat the runoff from the pasture area. Now we will stabilize the horse pasture by installing Horse Heavy Use Areas (HUA) and reforesting over 3 acres of currently eroding pasture.

From the web site www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org.

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Bay Restoration Fund Expands to pay for Sewer Connections

This expansion of the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) — supported by the Bay Restoration fee added to your property taxes, aka the “Rain Tax”— will not apply to most DACA members, as almost none of the Davidsonville “Area” is intended to have public sewer hook-ups available. But if it applies to you, pay attention!

The BRF will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to homeowners toward the cost of connecting their existing dwellings to the public sewage system where public sewer is available and immediately abuts their property. The property owner is responsible for costs of plumbing, permit and Capital Facility and User connection fees in excess of the grant and abandonment of their existing septic system. To qualify for the grants, the projects must be completed by June 30, 2014. Awards to applicants with adjusted gross incomes in excess of \$300,000 will be limited to \$5,000 per household. Priority will be given to properties located in the Critical Area and Priority Funding Areas within Existing Sewer Service Areas of the County. Prospective applicants should determine whether public sewer is available to their property by contacting Department of Public Works at 410-222-7511.

If you are required to make this connection, you must complete a Bay Restoration Fund application and submit it to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health. For application instructions go to <http://aahealth.org/pdf/BRFStepbyStepSewerConnections.pdf> or call the Sanitary Engineering Program at 410-222-7324.

The BRF Program continues to provide funding for the purchase, installation and five-year maintenance costs of a State approved nitrogen-reducing unit. For details about funding criteria and the grant application, visit www.aahealth.org/brf or call 410-222-7324.

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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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Your comments, your interests?