



The **Villager**
Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 41, No. 6

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

March-April 2015

DACA's Sixth Annual



**Davidsonville
Green Expo**

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 ~ 2:00

at Davidsonville Elementary School

Free admission! Free trees!

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DACA members and news

Greatest thanks to Jeff Bishop for his very generous contributions to DACA, just from the goodness of his heart! Good for several lifetimes!

Welcome back Bill and Pat Jones, and thanks for their generous contribution that entitles them to life membership.

Many thanks also to Barbara O'Donnell for her dues renewal good for a lifetime membership, and thanks to Mike and Peggy Wormwood for their gift in addition to renewing their membership in DACA—also for volunteering to help with Green Expo. And great thanks to **Four Legs Animal Hospital** for their gift to DACA in addition to renewing their ad in the Villager, AND for being an advertising supporter of this year's Green Expo. Please patronize our advertisers.

Gail, Good looking, as usual. And thanks for the LSO plug on page 15. Buzz

Great job on the newsletter. It is wonderful, as always. B.

So glad to see the light at Gov Br Road!!!! Thx for your help on this. Meg Murray Fleming

Hi Gail, You have a nice publication and I have gotten work from the ad in the Villager. Your ad blows internet ads away. Ray.....

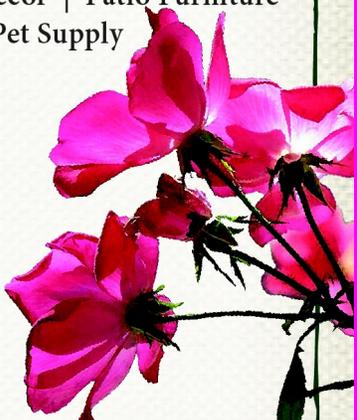
In memoriam
Daniel O'Donnell
DACA member 1997-2014
Died March 18, 2014

In memoriam
Russell W. Smith, Jr.
DACA member 2005-2015
Ruritan Club President
March 29, 1940 ~ February 15, 2014

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Not every company is in the eco-business and able to enter an exhibit in Green Expo, yet on their own they "do the right thing" – recycling, picking up roadside trash, saving and re-using water, and supporting those who are working to educate us all in this endeavor. These companies support DACA with their Villager ads and made a special extra contribution to support the Green Expo.

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(ad on page 4)

Four Legs Animal Hospital
(ad on page 5)

RCS
(ad on this page)

All our sponsors and supporters have a particular and strong interest in the Davidsonville community; they have their business here or they live here. They demonstrate their commitment to improving, preserving, and cooperating to clean up our own backyard, as well as elsewhere, practicing Green Expo's theme, "What can we do at home?"

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It's not too late to be a supporter of Green Expo. You or your business can be a **DOOR PRIZE DONOR**. Throughout the event we draw names for door prizes to give to the visitors and recognize the donor's support. We would be delighted to honor you in this way. Just bring your gift—an object relating to your business, or a gift certificate, something you like—to the Green Expo on March 14, or give it (or them) to a DACA board member. As your gift is awarded to a lucky winner, we will announce you as the donor.

Special features

Davidsonville Elementary School is a special feature of DACA's Green Expo. A thousand thanks to Principal Jean Marie Hofstetter and her staff of Al Stanton and Liz Lewnes, and the teachers!

Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts pack 454 will open the Expo at 10:00 am with a flag ceremony

Sustainafest Tiny House—210 square feet complete

A Little Taste of Italy — great food!

Composters Trio — great music

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Face painting by Shannon Sterner

Door prizes are offered by artist Dick Arnold. Will Biddle is seeking gift certificates from Safeway and Giant and from Bowen's Farm Supply.

A A County Master Gardeners Compost project will distribute free compost bins; the County Health Department will tell you about septic systems. Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center will sell rainbarrels for \$60, cash or check on site.

Girl Scout Eurojourney is a group of several troops who will sell green cotton candy while dispensing environmental education through table games for kids.

Calvert Kettle Corn will sell you-know-what.

DES Green School Club will demonstrate how to make environmentally safe cleaners and give them away. The Nature Natural Art Club will make and use puppets to teach about endangered species.

There will be native plants and renewable energy education from the nurseries and energy business exhibitors and land reclamation information from Renditions.

Jug Bay, Patuxent Riverkeeper, South River Federation, and Scenic River Land Trust will teach about clean water flowing through the county. **AND MORE!**

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Think WARM! It's not too soon to think about DACA's Annual Meeting June 4, 2015

On this snowy March 5, with schools and the federal government offices closed even before the snow began to fall, we need warm thoughts. Tonight's last regular March DACA board meeting was canceled just as we most need it to finalize our plans for Green Expo coming up next weekend. So think about June 4.

We need you in DACA's future

DACA will hold its annual meeting in June—it will be warm! We have three vacancies on our board of directors. The Bylaws allow for up to four members in each three-year term. DACA is seeking a volunteer now to fill out the term that will run until June 2017 and two for the term that will expire this June—a short, easy opportunity to learn how it works and warm up to a full three-year term. Officers serve in one-year terms and may continue without term limits—we are so grateful for the volunteers who serve. Although DACA is most visible at Green Expo time in March, the rest of the year is rather low-key and not terribly demanding until a hot issue arises.

People who serve on the board bring their own interests to the attention of the community.

DACA was established in 1973 to work to preserve open space, the beginning of the “Keep South County Rural” mantra. DACA presidents from Fred Hegge, Graydon Ripley, Martin Zehner, and Peter Perry worked with the County Council to limit residential and commercial development in and around Davidsonville. Council member Virginia Clagett led the successful effort to limit home construction to prevent farms from becoming subdivisions. Leniency towards landowners and a multitude of exceptions made it almost unworkable until financial land preservation incentives were introduced. For many years DACA was a leading advocate in the area of land use legislation.

At long last, having reached some accommodation

with county legislators, Will Biddle's leadership continued with environmental responsibility through preservation of open space, watershed protection, clean safe water for recreation and to drink. That gave rise to DACA's Green Expo, helped with the strong environmental knowledge and leadership of Lara Mulvaney. Lara works for AA County Public Schools in outdoor education at Arlington Echo. She is a Certified Master Watershed Steward. She knows the people who are able to educate the public to the importance and the methods of cleaning up our earth.

The time it takes to do the right thing and do it fairly is always a challenge. If you want something done, ask the busiest person to take it on. DACA is indeed fortunate that Christopher Asher stepped up to become president of DACA as Will Biddle completed eight years in office last year. Will remains on the board and continues to lead and advise on many issues.

In June DACA will need three volunteers to serve in the term until June 2018 in addition to filling the existing vacancies. Board members are a loyal group and many have served for several terms. DACA invites you to join the board and help lead it in an endeavor that reflects your interest and the desire of the community. Where do you want it to go?

Bylaws change: After 30 years speaking of DACA's governing body as “the board” or the Board of Directors, the currently titled “Executive Committee” agreed to change its name formally to “Board of Directors.” In the future Executive Committee will refer to the officers and any other designated members. The purpose is to reflect the actual function and use of the term “the board” and reduce confusion with an unclear designation. It will require a Bylaws change to be brought before the general membership at the Annual Meeting for their approval.

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Repeal the Stormwater Management fee?

After months of controversy over the Stormwater Management fee, on March 2 the new County Council introduced two bills calling for repeal of the fees. Bill 17-15 is sponsored by Derek Fink, Michael Peroutka, and Jerry Walker. If passed, it would eliminate the fee as of June 15, 2015, and would cause the entire Stormwater Management program to be dismantled immediately.

County Executive Steve Schuh sent Bill 16-15 to the Council. It proposes to eliminate the fees over a three-year period: 1/3 reduction in 2017, and 1/3 reduction in 2018, leaving no fee in 2019. The hearing on both of these bills will be held Monday, April 6, in the Council Chamber at Arundel Center in Annapolis.

Supporters of the fee and opponents of the fee are urged to speak their position at the hearing.

County Bill 7-15 seeks to grandfather non-conforming uses, (NCs are illegal uses of a property). If a parcel has been used improperly—for something its zoning does not permit—and if there has been no zoning enforcement action because no one cares enough to make a serious complaint, after twenty years that parcel will become “a legal non-conforming use” for the owner who has operated with that use during those twenty years. The legal non-conforming use would terminate if (1) the owner sold the property [except to a child of the owner]; (2) the use were interrupted for twelve months; or (3) the scope of use were to be substantially reduced.

It would have effect of loosening standards of zoning, slowly over time. It seems that standards are becoming looser anyhow, even as many are trying to maintain some sort of control over commercialization and density of development.

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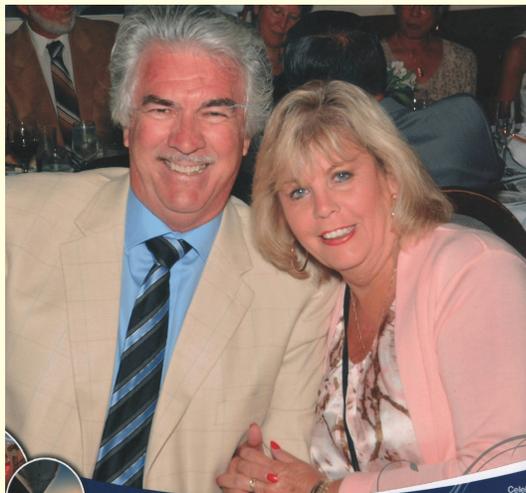


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- Grove Heating and Cooling
- Hague Quality Water of Maryland
- Homestead Gardens
- Mare Cromwell, author, Eco-books
- Renditions Golf Course
- Shaklee
- Solar City
- Fran Sweet, artist
- Traveling Cleaner
- Viridian Energy
- Vivint Solar
- Woodworkers Guild of Annapolis

Come to Green Expo and visit the exhibits of green businesses, non-profits, and government agencies.

County-sponsored agencies

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- A A Forestry Board
- A A Health Department, Sanitary Engineering
- A A Master Gardeners Bay Wise Program
- A A Master Gardeners Compost Project
- Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary
- A A Department of Recreation and Parks
- A A Watershed Protection and Restoration
- A A Watershed Stewards
- Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center

Non-profit organizations

- Richard Arnold, artist
- Boy Scout Troop 454
- Cub Scout Pack 454
- Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association
- Girl Scout Eurojourney 2016
- Girl Scout Troop 1456
- Green School Club, DES
- Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake
- Maryland Bluebird Society
- Nature Natural Art Club, DES
- New Horizon Supported Services/R3
- Patuxent Riverkeeper
- Scenic Rivers Land Trust
- South River Federation



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Farm Brewery bill

Ann Fligsten, Executive Director of the Growth Action Network of which DACA is a member, keeps us apprised of the County Council's actions on legislation pertaining to growth issues.

On March 2, the County Council unanimously passed Bill 8-15., although public testimony noted its inconsistencies with existing state law and the lack of study and analysis by the County Office of Planning and Zoning. The bill allows farm/craft/micro breweries in areas zoned RA (residential/agricultural) throughout the county, whereas all other bottling operations—soda or water—must be located in an industrial zone W3 or W4. Beer production is limited to 15,000 barrels (or allows up or five million bottles) per year.

Ann Fligsten wrote, "It looked like the enthusiasm for beer just took over and the very good public testimony was ignored. No one testified against the concept," as it has the potential to create a new source of revenue to support Anne Arundel County's declining

agricultural industry. Some speakers spoke of the need to protect the rural character of South County, to limit the number of weekend events (12 three-day weekends are allowed per license), and requested more time to consider the impacts of the bill. Under the Class 8 license Farm breweries may conduct up to 12 promotional events per year. Each event may last three days and operate from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Beer Festivals could take place every summer week-end, Friday through Sunday from June thru August. This is not an appropriate activity for the Anne Arundel County's rural communities.

The bill was heard only once and was passed the same night by unanimous vote of the Council. Ann noted, "Citizen turnout was light because of the weather. The process appeared rushed and sloppy; as though the Council would prefer to pass a bill with no protections for neighborhoods, rather than take the time to ensure safeguards."

GAN will be looking at the deficiencies in the bill, its conflict with state law and how to move forward.

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An earthly conversation among God and saints about lawn care
forwarded to the Villager by Will Biddle from the Maryland Bay-Wise Program

GOD to St. FRANCIS: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil; they withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it—sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

(Follow GOD to next page)

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GOD, *continued from page 9*

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

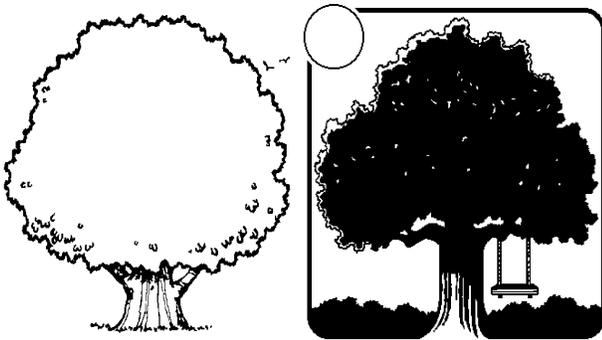
ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore.

Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: *Dumb and Dumber*, Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



Thanks to the behind-the-scenes PR saints of Expo

Melissa Stanton has spent hours improvising and adapting logos from many different formats to update and post Green Expo flyers and registration forms on the Green Expo page of DACA's web site.

Lara Mulvaney prepared a press kit and sent it to the local media to publicize Green Expo. Tracie Hovermale sent it to all the Green Expo exhibitors and sponsors, and asked them to forward it to their clients. Homestead Gardens posted Green Expo on their web site Upcoming Events page (March 14 is a very busy day) and on Facebook — thank you Brian and Rachel.

At Davidsonville Elementary School, Liz Lewnes received the Green Expo poster contest flyer and made sure the science and art teachers received them; then forwarded the flyer to all the parents who receive the school's electronic weekly news.

Mike Selby of Pinnacle Promotions employed all his and his staff artist's skill to adapt 13 logos to appear clearly on the re-usable tote bags that DACA will give to the first 400 visitors to the Green Expo.

And there are more . . .

Gail

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CEPA's newsletter tells addresses related environmental concerns

You can visit the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association's exhibit at Green Expo on Saturday. DACA is delighted to welcome them to our show, and the Villager is most pleased to be able to publish reports from CEPA's newsletter. This is an excerpt from CEPA President Al Tucker's Winter newsletter.

Joan Turek, President of the Harwood Civic Association, and I had the opportunity to attend the Symposium on "Growth and the Future of the Chesapeake Bay." The conference was organized by Tom Horton. Tom's thesis is very simple: As we add more people to the Bay region, the impact of every person, including the new additions, must be reduced just to maintain the status quo. The fallacy arises because current trends show the opposite is actually occurring. As more people occupy the watershed, land is cleared, more roads cover productive soils, and runoff increases along with the need to sequester more waste products.

Instead of reducing the impact per person, the opposite is happening. Demographic surveys show the rise of more single person households and the concomitant increase in the size of their dwellings. Inevitably there is less land to provide ecological services or to produce food and, alas, the rate of this loss is increasing faster than population growth. The primary question

then is: Has the population of the Chesapeake Bay watershed exceeded its carrying capacity?

The conference focused on two dominant "growth" concepts: population growth and economic growth.

Population growth is simply the increase in the number of people. Clearly, more people consume more resources like food and energy. Economists measure a person's well-being in terms of material living conditions, which determine a person's likely consumption and their command over resources. Thus economic well-being expresses how much money one has to spend. Improvement is measured by the rate of growth of the GDP, simply stated as economic growth. Thus economic growth becomes a proxy for well-being.

There are other dimensions to a person's well-being: quality of life for one, and the future sustainability of socio-economic and natural systems for another. These qualities do not lend themselves to direct measurement, so economic well-being is a substitute for them, a poor one at that. When the population was small relative to natural resources, economic well-being was perhaps a good indicator of well-being, particularly in western cultures. Now, however, the population size is encroaching on the limits of natural resources, and is beginning

Please go to page 12

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Advertisement for Artec Pools. Text: ARTEC POOLS 410-798-5010, ERICH CHETELAT 28 YEARS DOING POOLS, ANNE ARUNDEL, PRINCE GEORGES & CALVERT COUNTIES, erichchet@yahoo.com. Includes photos of swimming pools.

Al Tucker: Growth and the Bay area, *from page 11* to tax the capability of natural systems to sustain themselves. We now recognize the limits of fossil fuels and the sustainability of the oceans to produce fish.

The symposium focused on macroeconomic issues. It caught one's attention by posing intriguing and thought provoking questions:

1. Is [economic] growth ending? (Maybe)
2. Does [economic] growth makes us better off? (Not really)
3. Is green growth the answer? (Perhaps)
4. Can we achieve steady state economics? (Unknown)
5. What are the moral and ethical implications of slowing growth? (The third rail, really hard)

Three presentations addressed their local population issues directly: Vermont's Optimum Population; Advocates for a Sustainable Albemarle Population, (ASAP) [Virginia], and Calvert County, Maryland's development plan. The Vermont and Albemarle VA presentations showed correlations with Maryland's southern counties.

Greg Bowen, a retired Calvert County planner, described how the county set limits on the number of households in the county. This was done more than two decades ago and the mechanisms for limited,

planned development were put in place. Regrettably, for most jurisdictions in Maryland, it is too late to make that decision, they face hard decisions with limited options to control population growth. An increasing population implies that pollution controls and wastewater treatment will require significantly increased investments to maintain even the status quo. The need for increased fees to maintain pollution and stormwater controls most certainly does not enhance economic growth. Most jurisdictions rely on residential development fees to build infrastructure for which the tax revenue stream is inadequate to maintain. Our local tax structures actually encourage growth to increase current revenues. Without changing this method of funding government, it will be extremely difficult to curb our local population growth. And yet, a notable conclusion is that the best way to combat county deficits and to foster prosperity is to curb growth.

It is necessary to dispel the myth that continued growth leads to prosperity. We at CEPA feel that we need to join with other groups to bring these issues before our citizens, policy makers and elected officials. Over the next year, we hope to develop a series of position papers, to explore the use of a charrette (basically an intensive planning session) of experts, and to develop a program of public education. The current pro-growth myth can only be dispelled by the action of the public demanding change.



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Thank you to Jug Bay for posting DACA's Green Expo with a very nice description on your web site!

Go to the web site www.jugbay.org for more details about Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, 1361 Wrighton Road, Lothian, MD 20711. Phone 410-741-9330.

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.

**The Lodontowne Symphony Orchestra Gala
Tuesday, March 24 from 6 to 9 PM
The Byzantium, 2747 Riva Road, Annapolis**

Join the Lodontowne Symphony Orchestra for an evening of music and good company during our gala. Orchestra members will perform some of the best-loved pieces in the classical canon while our guests enjoy an open bar serving beer and wine, hot hors d'oeuvres, a raffle and a silent auction at the Byzantium banquet center on Riva Road. It will certainly be a night to remember – don't miss it!

Saturday, March 14, Georges Bizet's *Carmen*, in a dance collaboration with the Ballet Theater of Maryland Saturday, March 14, 7:00 pm, at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

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How DACA made a difference to me

Green Expo is a community fair of exhibits by businesses and non-profit groups that promote environmental awareness. DACA seeks to educate people of all ages about what we can do to improve our community.

Although I grew up in Davidsonville and moved back to raise my family here, I learned most about DACA when I first attended the Green Expo in 2010. It was and is a family-friendly event where I became acquainted with many neighbors, and I departed with some native trees to plant on my property. I learned a lot about geothermal energy and eventually installed a system in my home. Several Davidsonville residents learned about our watershed issues and have since installed rain gardens and rain barrels. A good number have installed solar panels, which have become

increasingly popular here. DACA aims to make the Expo a community event that increases awareness about environmental issues. The Expo is free and all are welcome!

The 2015 Green Expo will highlight the Sustainafest Tiny House, a 210 square-foot home built by local middle and high school students with some outside help. The Tiny House demonstrates the latest in sustainable building materials and green technology, including solar electricity, rainwater filtration and innovative interior design to maximize space and efficiency. A poster contest for students, free face painting and native trees, as well as a free recycling service for your old electronics are some of the highlights of the upcoming event.

Note: DACA President Chris Asher wrote this article for the February issue of *Davidsonville Country Living* magazine and it appeared also in the January-February *Villager*. Taking the advice of a professional, that we need all the publicity we can get, we are repeating it in the March-April *Villager* because it will be mailed to all 3,000+ postal patrons in Davidsonville, expanding over our usual 400 to 500 readership. DACA welcomes newcomers to Davidsonville and invites them to join the civic association. To join, please see page 15, or go to www.daca-md.org for more information.

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**Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market
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For more information check out the web site at
www.aacofarmersmarket.com, or contact Belinda
Gertz by email at bgertz88@gmail.com.

The Westfield Mall Farmers Market has merged
with the AAC Farmers Market. In April it will add 15
to 20 vendors at the Riva Road site on Saturdays as
well as selling goods there on Sundays.



DACA OFFICERS

Term to June 2015

- President Christopher Asher 410-798-4704
christopher_asher@ml.com
- Vice President H. Edward Woods 410-798-0764
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- Secretary Gail Enright 410-533-4766
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- Treasurer Robert A. Carobrese 410-798-4747
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Term to June 2015

- Two vacancies
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- Ron Oakes oakesmarine@yahoo.com 410-798-0614

Term to June 2016

- Gerry Coffman glcoffman67@gmail.com 410-956-0905
- Don Opedal dopedal@hotmail.com 410-956-9155
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Term to June 2017

- Will Biddle willbiddle@verizon.net 410-798-6719
- Wayne Reid waynereid@verizon.net 410-798-9490
- Christopher Rizek csr@capdale.com 410-956-4811
- Vacancy

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

DACA web site home page: www.daca-md.org

- Christopher Asher President 410-798-4704
- Gail Enright Editor 410-533-4766
info@daca-md.org

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

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?



Davidsonville Green Expo

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