



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

Vol. 43, No. 6

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

March-April 2017

DACA's Eighth Annual



Saturday, March 25, 10:00 ~ 2:00
at Davidsonville Elementary School

Free admission!

Free reusable grocery tote bags!

Free trees: American plum, Bald cypress,
Beauty berry, and Redbud ready to plant!

Free secure paper shredding!

DACA people

Welcome new members Karen and Larry Thomas and thanks to Bill and Patty Glasgow for this gift membership. Thanks to the Glasgows also for their generous gift to DACA in addition to renewing their family's memberships, and to Janet Zaccari for her generous contribution in addition to continuing her membership in DACA.

And they say nice things too!

Thanks for sending the Villager and for all your dedicated years of being Editor and being involved with DACA. What a lot of interesting articles and news!

I appreciate your including the article about South County Concert Association. We got nine new subscribers at our January 23 concert.

Warm regards, Betty Knupp 1/24

Thanks for the nice article on page 15 [January-February issue] about the LSO's concert this Saturday evening. It will be a good one!

Buz Stillinger 1/24

Thanks, Gail. Great newsletter. That's where I saw I could use PayPal for the dues. Love it.

Tracy 1/25

Thank YOU for all of the good work DACA does, we really appreciate it! One of these days we will be able to

give more of our time, too. Also, thank you for all of the interesting articles you write about the history of Davidsonville, we all enjoy knowing about our hometown! Thank you again!

Jerri Falk

I was happy to hear about the Davidsonville sign and [here is] a contribution. Thank you for working on this project. It will be nice to have a Davidsonville sign. DACA contributes so much to maintaining the beauty and rural atmosphere of our area. We've lived here since 1971 and we are grateful.

Betty Knupp 2/2/2017

Love all the updates and stories about Davidsonville!

P.G.

We love the sign idea!

T.A. and K.A.

In memoriam

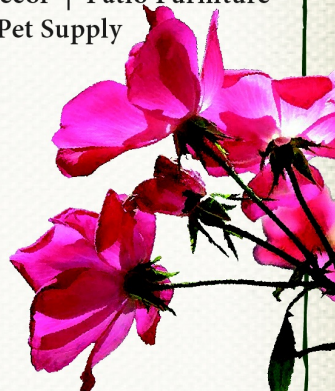
Frederick G. Zehner

Deepest sympathy to DACA board member and former president Martin Zehner, on the death of his brother Frederick G. Zehner, February 24, 2017. DACA sent a contribution to the Anne Arundel County Farmers Market in memory of Frederick Zehner.

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Exhibitors

AA County Forestry Board
 AA County Master Gardeners Composting Program
 AA County Recreation and Parks
 AA County Recycling and Waste Reduction Division
 AA County Ride Share
 AA County Watershed Protection and Restoration Program
 Anne Arundel Community College Small Business Management

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 Owens Comfort Systems
 Owensville Primary Care
 Patuxent Riverkeeper
 R3 Services (paper shredder)
 Scenic Rivers Land Trust
 Solar Energy World
 South River Federation
 Watershed Stewards Academy

Contributors

Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association
 Davidsonville Country Living magazine
 Family Veterinary Clinic

Events

Flag ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 545 with Music by the Davidsonville Elementary School Honors Band
 Food prepared by A Little Taste of Italy
 Lunch time music by the Composters Trio
 Face painting by Michelle, the Face Paint Lady
 Poster contest sponsored by Killarney House. Judging by Daniel Grogan, of the Muddy Creek Artists Guild

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Start Green Expo with gusto and glory

Everyone loves a parade with flags, music and marching, and our flags will fly on the 25th of March.

The Cubs and Scouts of Boy Scout Troop 554 will open DACA's Eighth Green Expo with pomp and ceremony.

Mrs. Tamela Fidyk's DES Honors Band will provide marching music as the Cubs and Scouts perform the Flag Ceremony, marching through the DES gymnasium and outdoors to raise the flag. Senator Ed Reilly will address the Scouts and visitors to Green Expo.



New trees for you to plant

American plum/Bald cypress/Beauty Berry/Redbud
The first recognition of Green Davidsonville began eight years ago when Mike Galloway and Anthony Clarke, owners of the Killarney House, met with Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman, and (then DACA President) Will Biddle. DACA's first modest contribution was to give tree seedlings to everyone who drove on Central Avenue and stopped at Patuxent Station where sign-waving teenagers flagged them down and some

hardy folks on that cold windy day (like today) gave them trees. The trees have been a popular draw each year since then, and this year, Will Biddle and his crew of volunteers will wrap and distribute **American plums**; **bald cypress** good in wet soil; **beauty berry** living up to its name; and ever favorite **redbuds**. Be sure to stop at the tree table to choose your favorites; carry them home in the reusable tote bag provided at the Welcome table; then take them home and PLANT them!

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**Pretty soon, you will know
when you've arrived in Davidsonville**

It is getting closer and closer to real!

We are seeking funds to cover the cost of the "Welcome to Davidsonville" sign, and we invite you to donate and encourage your non-member neighbors to donate and to join DACA.

In response to the appeal for funding for the sign DACA members are so generous. Thanks to Frances Canavan, Suzanne and Jeff Dieringer, David Grabau, Bert and Deb Kappel, Betty Knupp, and Tom and Kris Angelis, for their gifts toward the community welcome sign. Phil



Livingstone announced a generous grant from the Ruritan Foundation as well.

Donations and dues payments can be made online by visiting the Payments page of www.daca-md.org. Checks can be mailed to DACA, PO Box 222, Davidsonville 21035. Please indicate on your check what the funds are for. *M. Stanton*



Tilden Lawn for sale

Mark and Debbie Van Lunen would like to thank everyone for their friendship and patronage through their 38 years of business. They say, "It is time for us to retire."

If you are interested in a piece of history the whole estate is for sale. The nineteenth century house, built in 1810, is on the Inventory of Anne Arundel County's Historic Properties. Within its 4,300 square feet it includes a finished basement. The property measures 13.81 acres zoned RA for residential agricultural use. It contains the sales office, studio, a small stable with run-in shed, chicken coop, pole barn with four garage bays and loads of storage, and more. If you are interested, please call Mark at 410-507-8117 or send him an e-mail at mdvl@erols.com.



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Renovate the old Arundel Volunteer Fire Hall

Alongside the Arundel Fire Department on Davidsonville Road sits a little old white cinder block building, unused, not quite derelict, owned by the Arundel VFD. The current fire house was a great improvement when it was new in 1971, but has no space for meetings and fire safety instruction. Kitty Gross and Laura Woods came to DACA’s Board meeting in December to ask for support for a bond from the State to finance renovation of the old building.

The fire department was founded in the 1950s by local farmers after a disastrous fire destroyed a nearby farm house on the site of the present Crofton library. Three children died because the nearest fire houses were in Odenton and Riva. Otto Gerstner donated the land for the new station. Trees cleared from the site were taken to Chaney’s sawmill on Defense Highway and cut into lumber for the building. The new fire station was chartered in 1954 and the concrete block building was erected in 1955. Riva VFD gave them their first fire truck and they opened for business on January 1, 1956.

The original building served as the fire house until 1971, when the County built a new fire station, still in use, but in current times they need more space to hold

meetings and training for new EMTs. The old building cannot be used for any public events because it is not ADA compliant. The fire company debated demolishing it and the interior was gutted, but their architect told them they should not destroy it as it has a value of \$100,000 even in its present condition; demolition would cost \$35,000 plus \$10,000 to remove the rubble.

That area of Crofton, Gambrills, and near Davidsonville lacks a building suitable for community meetings; the Crofton Rotary Club approached the company several years ago and offered to help raise funds for renovation. A pro bono architect said it would cost about \$400,000 to construct meeting rooms and training space and make the building ADA compliant. The fire company began a fund raising campaign and they have reached \$200,000, sufficient to match the bond of \$200,000 they are seeking from the State. Senator Reilly introduced Senate Bill 97 and Delegates Sid Saab, Tony McConkey and Mike Malone sponsored a House bill to approve a grant to fund renovation of the old AVFD fire hall for use as a community center for the greater Davidsonville-Crofton-Gambrills area. DACA wrote to Senator Reilly and the three delegates in support of the bill. The vote on the bond bills is expected in April or May.

From DACA Minutes

**Rideshare to Work:
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Anne Arundel County invites you to Rideshare to work every day. Ridesharing means carpooling, vanpooling, or taking public transit in addition to biking and walking to work.

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- Time to relax or nap during a commute.
- Cleaner air.

Don't worry if you miss a bus or a vanpool! You can also sign up with **Guaranteed Ride Home**, a free program that will provide you with a free ride home up to four times each year.

Join the thousands of other people who Rideshare daily. Sign up on **Commuterconnections.org** to be matched with other individuals interested in Ridesharing who have the same, or a similar commute to yours. The database is free. Don't forget to join **Guaranteed Ride Home** while you're there. For more information, and other Ridesharing assistance, please call (410) 222-7762 or e-mail pzerns49@aacounty.org.



**Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market
Riva Road at Truman Parkway**

will participate in Maryland Day Weekend for Annapolis and Southern AA County
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Saturday Market will reopen March 25

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Door prizes. Drop a ticket in the container beside the door prize you want to win, or take a chance by buying more tickets to drop in the chance container. Drawings and announcements will take place at intervals throughout the day. Among the prizes offered are framed bird prints by nature artist Dick Arnold; a chain saw from Bowen's Farm Supply, and a gift from Greenstreet Growers.



March 25, 10:00 - 2:00

Owensville Primary Care will offer free blood pressure testing. Come sit a while and find out how healthy your heart is.

A Little Taste of Italy will prepare and sell very tasty sausages and hot dogs.

The Composters Trio—Pete, Jen, and Larry— will perform from 11:00 until 1:00. You can sit and enjoy while you have your face painted or eat lunch, or browse the contest posters on the wall.



Poster contest winners will be announced at noon. Judging by Daniel Grogan og the Muddy Creek Artists Guild. Gift certificates at Killarney House – First place \$75; second place \$35; third place \$25.

The Face Paint Lady, Michelle Johnson, will be set up in the DES cafeteria to decorate and beautify the faces that come to her.



Paper Shredding: R3 Services will accept up to four boxes of paper to be shredded at no cost to you.

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ANNUAL PATUXENT RIVER CLEAN UP VOLUNTEERS, ASSEMBLE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

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We practice what we preach

DACA's Green Expo will display an array of information about recycling and rain barrels.



Lara Mulvaney will bring rainbarrels for sale from the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center as she has every year for all of the Green Expos. Arlington Echo has rain barrels attached to the down spout of every building—up to 96 barrels throughout the campus. Rain barrels collect the

water that falls on the roofs and slow it going into the earth. The water from a 30 minute storm is released over two days.

Professor Shad Ewart's Small Business Management class at Anne Arundel Community College will exhibit and sell rain barrels built by the students. He wrote, "In the past five years we have sold over \$20,000 worth of rain barrels and all the profits come back to the college in the form of textbook scholarships and we have been able to pay the tuition for some students."



Professor Ewart will speak about the value of rainbarrels to the environment and to the owners. He is willing to instruct folks on how to build them if they want to make their own.



The County's Recycling and Waste Reduction Division will provide recycling toter bins for use at the Green Expo and will give away compost bins to the visiting public.

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News from Growth Action Network

Larry Tom is retiring as head of Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning, effective July 1. GAN and the citizens of the county will miss Larry and he will be hard to replace!!

DACA Board member Kate Fox is DACA’s representative to GAN. Growth Action Network meets regularly with the Director of Planning and Zoning and they had their first quarterly meeting with Mr. Tom on March 22. They discussed policies and general issues; agenda items were Targeted Growth Areas, Sewer/Septic Tier Maps, and When will the General Development Planning process start?

GAN’s Annual Meeting will be held on April 5, 2017, at 7:00 pm at the Calvary Methodist Church (second floor) on Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis. They are pleased to have speakers who are familiar with recent innovative land use changes in Charles and Calvert Counties. “Lessons Learned in Land Use” is the tentative title. Also at this annual meeting, new members of the Board of Directors of GAN will be elected for two year terms.

Why does this county need GAN?



Anne Arundel County has experienced tremendous growth in the past decades because of its convenience to Baltimore and Washington, the extensive waterfront and its quality of life. The infrastructure to support growth —roads, schools, sewers, etc.—has not kept up with the pace of growth, leaving large unfunded backlogs in need-

ed school repairs and construction; sewer and water improvements, and control of stormwater runoff.

GAN is a coalition of community and civic associations, environmental groups, green businesses, and individuals involved in planning and advocacy so that all growth and developments in Anne Arundel County are well planned and sustainable, fiscally sound, will not harm current neighborhoods and the environment, and will enhance the quality of life now and in the future.



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School news

Did you know that DES won the title of 2015 Sustainable Green School?

Jean Marie Hofstetter has been principal for ten years, and after 40 years in education, she plans to retire in June. Congratulations to Mrs. Hofstetter, and many thanks for her generous hospitality in hosting DACA's Green Expo for the past three years. It's been a wonderful ride!

Coming events

March 28-29 – End of third marking period; two-hour early dismissal for all students for teachers' workdays. No afternoon pre-kindergarten classes.

March 30 – beginning of fourth marking period

April 7 – report card distribution for all students

April 10-17 – Easter/Spring break for students and teachers. All schools and offices closed April 13, 14, and 17

April 19 – It is next year already! Time to start registration for next year's kindergarten pupils

DACA looking ahead

DACA's 44th Annual Meeting will be held June 1, with only two months between now and then. County Executive Steve Schuh will attend the meeting to address the membership and answer questions from the floor.

The members will hear and engage in discussion of the possibility of expanding the Davidsonville "Area" boundaries to include all of Harwood 20776 and West River 20778. This is not a done deal and the DACA board is still struggling with it. Leaders of the shrinking Harwood Civic Association approached the DACA board last April to introduce the idea of merging the two civic associations.

DACA officers are elected to one-year terms and must accept and be elected to serve in the coming year. Four board member three-year terms will be completed in June 2017 and they must agree to serve again or be replaced for the term to June 2020. In addition, there is a vacancy in the term to June 2019. We are seeking volunteers to serve the community in this capacity.



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Stream and Wetland Restoration at Gravelly

The South River Federation was awarded the Chesapeake Bay Trust’s Watershed Assistance Grant to support the design of a stream and wetland restoration project and upland Best Management Practices to absorb stormwater runoff in the community of Gravelly.

Flat Creek’s “Gravelly Grand Canyon” is one of the fastest eroding tributary systems in the South River, with over 11,000 linear feet of ephemeral and intermittent channels as much as 20 feet deep across numerous properties. Gravelly HOA owns the uppermost limits of this watershed, with sufficient property to abate at least four head-cutting gullies at once and set the stage for future habitat restoration projects downstream. The stream runs through Gravelly’s common areas and private properties. It continues through the woodlands between St. George Barber and Governors Bridge Roads, and ultimately flows into the South River. It was assessed in 2008, and has deteriorated since then, becoming a major source of sediment pollution to the South River. The stream channel continues to deteriorate, especially since large storm events in 2016, and has

become a risk to Gravelly community and private properties. Many very large trees have fallen in this area, and more will fall as the stream banks erode over time. The restoration project here will help arrest the transport of sediment downstream to the South River.

The Gravelly community sought assistance from the South River Federation to investigate possibilities of stream restoration, and design solutions using best management practices. This grant covers the cost of project design and permitting. Additional funds will be pursued for construction of this project.

Information provided by Lara Mulvaney and South River Federation web site.

Join DACA: Dues are \$10 per person per year

You can join DACA electronically at the daca-md.org web site and send your dues by PayPal.

Come to Green Expo and become a member of your civic association. You can register and pay dues at the welcome table in the central hall of the elementary school. Dues are \$10 per person per year and you can pay for more than one year at a time. You will have access to all issues of the *Villager* at the web site, or you can receive it six times every year by USPS mail. Members who get the *Villager* by USPS can see their membership expiration date with their postal address.

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Watching the ground. Where does your water come from?

Long before the PST Landfill in Harwood was closed to further dumping, the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association watched and worried about leachate seeping from the unlined landfill into the groundwater that is the source of drinking water from private wells. The landfill changed ownership and now is owned by Waste Management, Inc. (WMI). Since the closure, CEPA was awarded funding and the responsibility of monitoring the water, using test wells and comparing them to the water in homeowners' wells.

From CEPA's Newsletter Winter 2016-17
by Al Tucker

Since it was closed, CEPA has actively monitored the groundwater contamination issues for more than seven years. This is the largest unlined landfill on the East Coast. As we have reported to you in the past, several toxic chemicals have been found in the on-site groundwater monitoring wells. The potential to contaminate the nearby aquifers is high. The Aquia aquifer, the main source of drinking water for southern Anne Arundel County, lies only a few feet below, separated

from the bottom of the landfill by only a layer of clay. Propagation of contaminants in groundwater can take decades, but once an aquifer is contaminated, it becomes almost impossible to remediate. We have worked with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to enforce existing regulations. At a CEPA Board of Trustees meeting, Ed Dexter from MDE stated that WMI would be held responsible for mitigating the toxic exceedances in the landfill. Subsequently, MDE issued an order for WMI to submit a plan for remediation. WMI tried to argue that the exceedances were from natural causes, but MDE held that even if they were, the landfill disturbance was the cause and therefore WMI would be held responsible for mitigation.

So on it goes. This will never end; the landfill must be monitored forever, unless the money were to be found to dig it all up and install a liner. The residents of Harwood and points farther south will never be free from the thought that their wells may become contaminated. Then what? Who will pay?

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The Villager

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

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