

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 44, No. 4

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

November-December 2017



We have a date! SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2018

It was a real pleasure to meet DES Principal Colleen Harris! Will Biddle and Gail Enright visited her on November 6 and she is most enthusiastic, gracious and welcoming toward Green Expo 2018 and she placed it on the school's calendar.

The Green Expo Planning Committee includes DACA President Chris Asher, Will Biddle, Gail Enright, Tracie Hovermale, Dianne Fisher, Lara Mulvaney, and Meredith McQuoid-Greason, plus the folks committed to working on the day of Green Expo. All will be most grateful for the help of more volunteers for the planning committee and a small army of volunteers on the day of the Expo. Please call Gail Enright at 410-533-4766 if you can commit to a very few meetings as needed in December, January, February or March—depending on what you are willing and able to do. And if a friend calls and asks you to volunteer, please say YES!

What is going on at Brandywine Sand and Gravel?

Who is the Davidsonville Four Corners Association?

By November 18, all Davidsonville postal customers had received a notice of activity at the former gravel pit, 164 acres between Patuxent River Road and the Patuxent River, now owned by Brandywine Aggregates in Annapolis. The newsletter appeared to provide good information about the history and current use of the property—that it is licensed to accept mud, concrete, asphalt and wet fill dirt. Community activists are our best resource for information and alerts to events that impact our quality of life and we are glad to hear of valid concerns. But who are they?

Davidsonville residents and DACA members have been aware of increased truck activity there in recent months. In August, near neighbor Jeff Bishop reported an increase in truck traffic from Virginia and DC hauling in dirt even on Saturdays, as well as Jones of Annapolis trucks hauling out, but he could not see what they were taking. He had thought that the landfill was approved as a stump dump location. In September Wayne Reid followed a couple of dump trucks into the site. He wrote that the young lady at the check-in office stated that only dirt is being dumped, apparently the State [DNR?] had recently inspected the site and all was legitimate. The increased traffic is due to the fact they have opened the landfill to the public. The sign posted where the trucks come in warns the drivers that they are traveling through a residential community and they are to be respectful of that fact. Both Jeff and Wayne said they would remain watchful of the site.

Now in November comes this newsletter of the Davidsonville Four Corners Association, delivered too late for recipients to act on the advice to call DNR by November 15. But who are the people behind it? Half a dozen DACA members have asked DACA's secretary if we know anything about them. We do not. The Villager is a pretty well known instrument of communication within and beyond the Davidsonville community and it is not quite credible that the folks behind Four Corners are unaware of this 44-year-old civic association. We would expect them to write, call, or email DACA. What is troubling is the anonymous character of the "newsletter" with no contact person's name, only an anonymous post office box number. DACA would be happy to work with you if you would come forth with a human face and name.

DACA people

Thanks to Kathleen and Michael Makowski for their contribution to DACA in addition to their dues renewal.

Thank you again this month for all the work you put into not only the *Villager* but also DACA. You are priceless and we are so fortunate to have you in our community. Best regards, Fran Canavan

Farewell and thanks to Winterson Hittle for his service to his community as treasurer of DACA since June 2016. Winnie resigned from the board in September, but has continued his membership in the civic association. Many thanks to Will Biddle for agreeing to serve, as briefly (!) as possible, as our interim Treasurer. He eagerly invites a member to step forward for this responsibility.

Christine Brungot wrote: I have a registered family child care, Treasures Child Care, on Lavall Drive. Two of the families I serve currently live in Annapolis and Riva. Since this closing of part of Rutland will make their commute onerous I am seeking to let parents on this side of the construction in Davidsonville know that I am here and can help with their child care needs. My number is 410-721-8069. Christine Brungot

Davidsonville has a candidate for public office

Steuart Pittman of Dodon Farm has declared his intention to run for County Executive in the 2018 election. According to the Annapolis *Capital's*, November 19 article by Chase Cook, Pittman is the first and, so far, only candidate to file for the June primary.

He gave his core platform issues as support for businesses that already are in the county, higher-paying jobs, higher development impact fees to pay for infrastructure, and working with the county auditor, he is positioning himself as a steward of the land. He wants the county to focus on redevelopment where it is needed, and land preservation elsewhere—more management and slower growth.

In Memoriam

Stella Redmiles

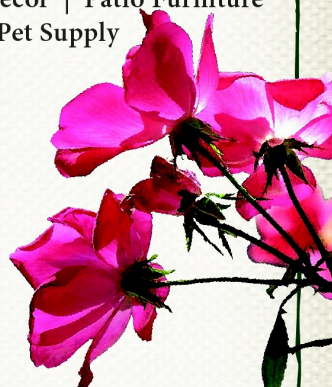
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**AA County General Development
"Plan 2040" (GDP) Continues**

**Growth Action Network and Alliance for Livable
Communities monitor the process**

The new General Development Plan is to be completed in 2019 and is intended to guide the county's growth, preserve its assets, and conserve its resources through 2040. Decisions about zoning and the extension of public water and sewer will be based on this plan. The County Office of Planning and Zoning emphasizes the need for community input. Listening sessions at eight county high schools provide opportunity for all citizens to express their hopes and vision for the future of our lifestyle. An Advisory Committee will be named to serve as a voice of the community to the planners. Keeping track of these opportunities will be easy; keeping citizens interested and engaged will be the real challenge. To see the many other opportunities for public participation go to <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/general-development-plan/index.html>

Members of GAN attended the September 25 listening session at North County High School. Planning and Zoning Officer Phil Hager discussed the planning process and presented the time line for the process. The audience was separated into groups to label their key interests and to record their key concerns and hopes for the future. When they reconvened, individuals had opportunity to address the meeting and ask questions. All comments are to be recorded on the County website throughout the planning process.

To learn more about the new plan, you can visit www.aacounty.org/Plan2040.

Next Listening Sessions: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

- Monday, December 11, 2017, Arundel High School
- January 11 at Annapolis High School**
- January 29 at Northeast High School
- February 8 at Southern High School**
- February 22 at Brooklyn Park Middle School.

To participate fully in the listening sessions you might read the Small Area Plan for your area of the county. Sixteen detailed Small Area Plans were prepared and adopted between 1998 and 2004. To see your area plan search Small Area Planning Anne Arundel County, or <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/master-plans/>.

The South County Small Area Plan was adopted by the County Council in September 2001 and became effective that December. Solar power farms were not under consideration at that time. Natural resources issues considered were the Patuxent River and Greenway, Chesapeake Bay, streams and buffers, sand and gravel mining, waste water management, ground water supply and quality, nutrient management plans, storm water management, forest conservation, historic and archeological resources. Land use included comprehensive land use recommendations, family conveyance (since abolished) and rural design guidelines for the RA zone. The vision then as now was Keep South County Rural, striving to curb growth while recognizing the need to maintain some commercial use to keep the area viable and livable, encouraging the use and reuse of existing commercially used land while discouraging new commercial zoning.



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**What’s not to like about solar energy farming?
Nothing really. But, then again, it needs careful
inspection and guarded permitting.**

Two South County residents attended DACA’s October board meeting. Marco Bulmer of Roedown and Brad Harris of West River told DACA’s board that Turning Point Energy, a company based in Colorado, proposes to develop a solar panel farm under the auspices of BGE, using 80 percent (the maximum allowable of a parcel) of 70 acres of land on Sudley Road in West River, located next to the county’s Sudley Landfill and Recycling Center. Brad and Marco are not opposed to solar energy production. In 2016 solar energy was added to the County Code as a conditional use in all Residential zones including RA (Residential-Agricultural), where most of the real farms are.

Among their concerns: The combination of the landfill and the solar farm will create a wide swath of industrial-looking land. The 80-acre parcel is close to six historically significant properties that might be adversely affected. The panels will swivel on gimbals to face the sun; this will entail massive amounts of cables on or under the ground to make each panel move, and then more cables to carry the power out to where it will be used. The location the utilities want to use is productive agricultural land that would be taken out of crop production.

The plan was filed with the County Office of Planning and Zoning on August 2, but the nearby residents were not notified until September 28. The neighbors have had no opportunity to address BGE on this and in October BGE had not yet held the community information meeting that is required by the County.

Ann Fligsten of GAN wrote, “Most of us believe in alternative forms of energy and solar sounds good, but does these mean we need to site them on large farm fields in South County or elsewhere?”

“Where is the balance between clean energy and other values, such as rural landscapes, farms with growing crops, and the like. Solar energy installations must meet a number of conditions but the requirements seem to be designed more for individual homeowners who install them for personal use than for a large commercial enterprise. Do we think large solar “farms” should be located in residentially zoned land?”

“South County residents met on November 5, to consider the six potential solar utilities that want to locate on farmland in south county. No one is against solar, but our regulations need to be updated. Siting the utilities on farmland does not seem like the best answer. The State and County have been trying to protect farming for decades. A number of Maryland counties have asked for a six-month moratorium on new facilities so proper thought can be given to the issues involved.” *(Next page please)*

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Solar farms, solar array: *from page 4*

What do we mean by Keep South County Rural?

An Fligsten, Executive Director of Growth Action Network, prepared a letter to County Executive Schuh and the County Council. She invited other organizations to sign on to the letter, or send their own letter, requesting a moratorium that would allow time for debate and discussion.

DACA Board members reviewed the letter and voted to sign on to it.

Dear Mr. Schuh and Members of the County Council:

We, the undersigned, are writing to you to ask that you pass a six-month temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits for the approval and construction of “principal solar energy systems” in Anne Arundel County. Principal solar energy systems (not accessory systems) are ones that generate power offsite as well as onsite (Art. 18-1-112).

In recent months, there have been a number of solar projects proposed in South Anne Arundel County. At least five are being developed as part of the State’s pilot program for “Community Solar Energy Generating Systems.” Another larger project has applied to the Maryland Public Service Commission for a certificate to operate as a solar generation facility.

Much has changed since the County enacted its solar zoning conditions several years ago, as solar use is expand-

ing statewide. Several counties in Maryland have recently updated their laws regarding visual buffers, ground covers, and financial assurances for decommissioning in response to their experience with solar development. They also have revised their criteria for siting these facilities to ensure that solar energy is developed in a manner that is compatible with their other land use goals.

We believe that Anne Arundel County needs to reexamine this issue and update its laws before approving or accepting applications for ground-based solar systems. Efforts to sustain farming and protect forests and green ways in the County span decades. Without careful thought and management, agriculturally productive lands and environmentally valuable areas may be negatively impacted. We need to invest time now to ensure that we get results that are consistent with the County’s General Development Plan, protect valued land resources, and support the use of solar energy.

For these reasons, we urge you to institute a temporary moratorium on principal solar energy systems in RA districts.
Growth Action Network, et al.

The complete list of signing organizations can be found on page 9. Several sent individual letters.

Please turn to page 6 to see comments from DACA’s letter, drafted by Bruce Stein, to the Council and Executive on additional considerations on solar farms.



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DACA addresses solar farm issues to the County Executive and Council

DACA supports green energy in general and solar energy in particular. At least two issues to consider during the requested moratorium are property taxes and the impervious nature of solar panels, the possible unintentional adverse effects of current county statutes on solar projects, and the agricultural nature of South County.

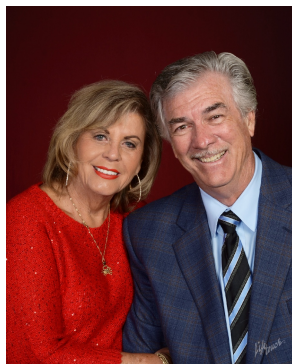
Agricultural land is taxed at a lower rate than commercial land. If a commercial solar array (“farm”) is located in an RA zone, at what level should it be taxed? Should farm land be taxed at the agricultural rate if it is not agriculturally productive? So how should its property tax be calculated when producing solar energy? DACA believes that solar installations and agricultural/environmentally friendly uses of the same land at the same time, are possible and beneficial. If a plot of land has solar panels producing and selling power at a commercial level, but also is used for crops, grazing animals or other agricultural purposes, is it to be taxed as commercial or agricultural, or something else? Dual use of the land is not provided for in the County’s zoning and property tax statutes, but such dual uses as grazing of livestock (sheep, goats, chickens, etc.), mushroom farming (under the panels), and native flowering plants for general pollinator habitat, beekeeping and honey production, and habitat for other friendly species are already in practice.

DACA believes the County should allow and encourage dual use installations. The result would be a solar installation producing green energy, while keeping the land in productive agricultural use. We view this as a win-win situation for all, as it helps keep South County rural by providing another source of income for farmers to keep our agricultural heritage alive.

A second issue is an inconsistency in the treatment of the impervious nature of the solar panels. It is our understanding that part of the planning process for the solar installations is to provide for the management of the water runoff from the panels. Yet, it is also our understanding that the impervious surface area of the panels is not taxed in the same manner as, for example, a parking lot. The Zoning Code must provide also to manage the runoff. The impervious area of the parking lot is still taxed—but is the impervious area of the solar farm to be taxed? If not, why? Both, after “management” of the runoff, produce flows of water that must ultimately be managed by the County and paid for by County taxpayers, thus perhaps both should be treated the same under County tax statutes.

DACA requests a six month temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits for the approval and construction of certain solar energy systems in Anne Arundel County, during which necessary adjustments can be made to the County’s statutes and regulations.

Bruce Stein



Pat and Don Shankle

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South River High School teacher Josh Carroll was named the 2017-18 Maryland Teacher of the Year by the Maryland State Department of Education. Mr. Carroll teaches STEM classes at South River High School.



School Calendar

December 7 – two-hour early dismissal
 December 22 – last day of classes in 2017
 December 25 - January 2 Winter/Christmas break

A new high school for Crofton

After many years of asking, pleading and lobbying from parents and the school community, Crofton High School will become a reality, not just a dream. County officials officially broke ground for new construction on November 16. Intended to accommodate 1,700 students, it is slated to open in 2020. Students who live in Crofton are divided between Arundel High and South River Senior High; both schools will enjoy being less overcrowded.

School Board Citizen Advisory Committee
Kelly Purnell, SRHS primary CAC representative.

Citizen Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Board of Education to provide advice to the Board on specific issues impacting policy, activities, and programs.

School Superintendent George Arlotto addressed the CAC’s October meeting and discussed the process of re-writing or re-establishing a strategic plan to guide AACPS over the next five years, as we are reaching the end of the current five-year plan.

Focus groups and public forums developed the following five values: 1) Teachers and staff go above and beyond to help students learn. 2) Students can access quality opportunities provided through a variety of programs, clubs, and other offerings. 3) All students, families, and employees feel welcome. 4) Cultural diversity is incorporated, nurtured, and celebrated. 5) All students are prepared for college, career, and community.

At the November meeting, BOE member Terry Gilleland reported that the new Strategic Plan is now open for public comment. A draft of the plan can be found at www.aacps.org/strategicplan2017. He said that the two priorities for the Board next year are 1) funding additional teachers/reducing class size and 2) adding bilingual facilitators. In FY20 it will also be necessary to begin staff increases needed to staff Crofton High School. Budget hearings will be held January 9 and 11 at Old Mill High School, beginning at 6:00 pm.

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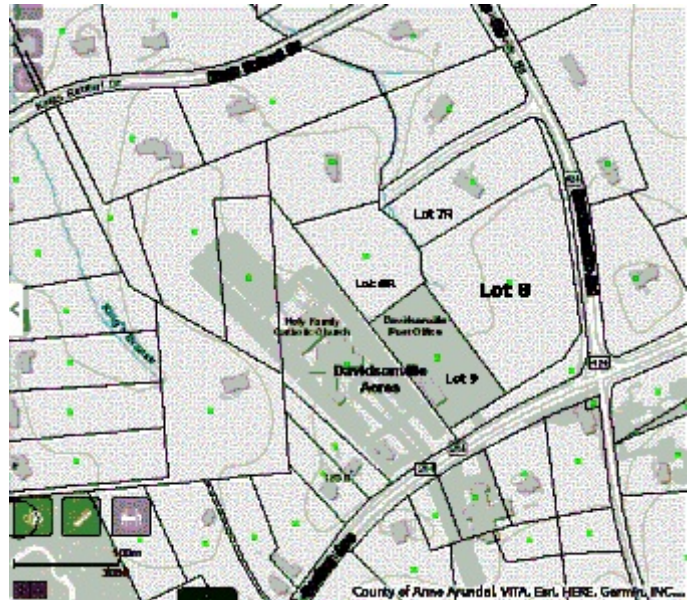
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Holy Family seeks a second roadway entrance

Sunday mornings every church entrance is very busy and passing traffic can be congested. Holy Family Church has applied for a variance to allow an access road through property zoned RA as an additional entrance and exit from the social hall area behind the church. The new roadway would be about 900 feet long and 22 feet wide. It would open from Davidsonville Road headed west approximately through the middle of the vacant corner lot (Lot 8 on map) at #424 and Central Avenue, and across the rear portion of the post office property (Lot 9) behind the building. It would open into the church's east side parking area. The Church owns both lots and leases the post office site to the USPS. Traffic counts indicate that the new entrance will reduce traffic congestion on Central Avenue. Davidsonville Acres is the name of the original subdivision which contains three residences and one unoccupied lot, in addition to the church property and the post office. Kings Retreat is just north of that area.



Family conveyance twice in

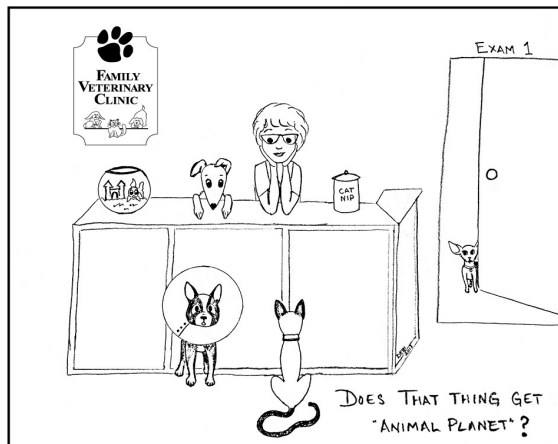
On Birdsville Road, Richard and Mary Davis applied for a variance to allow two additional residential lots on property zoned RA along 540 feet of road front on the southwest side of Birdsville Road, north of Walnut Hill Farm. DACA's board approved authorizing Kate Fox to testify in opposition to the additional subdivision at the hearing on October 3.

the same family subdivision?

Hearing Officer Douglas Hollman denied the Davises' application to allow the additional two residential lots in the subdivision of Walnut Hill Farm on the basis that they used the family conveyance allotment the first time they subdivided the property 30 years ago. The Davises are appealing the denial of their variance application and await a date for the appeal hearing.

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Unity throughout the county on Zoning Code

Seeking a six-month moratorium on solar farm permits, the following organizations signed on to the letter from Growth Action Network to the County Executive and County Council. See pages 4, 5, and 6 for details.

- Advocates for Herring Bay
- Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau
- Arnold Preservation Council, Inc.
- Bristol Civic Association
- Broadneck Council of Communities
- Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association
- Crofton First, Inc.
- Davidsonville Area Civic Association
- General’s Highway Council of Civic Associations
- Harwood Civic Association
- Magothy River Association
- Poplar Point Association, Inc.
- South Arundel Citizens for Responsible Development (SACRED)
- West/Rhode Riverkeeper


Why does DACA care about Harwood zoning?

With the almost effective dissolution of the Harwood Civic Association, residents of Harwood, West River, and other nearby South County areas have few collective voices to represent them in addressing local issues. More than a year ago Harwood Civic, on the brink of closing, asked DACA to merge with them and DACA’s board declined, but DACA still feels an obligation to speak to south county issues that impact us all, especially zoning to “Keep South County Rural.”

For example, in Harwood, the Bilzor family recently applied for a variance from the RA density requirement of one residential dwelling per 20 acres on their property at 292 Sigma Drive off South Polling House Road to acquire an additional lot.

They subdivided the land in 1988. The property in question is bisected by a stream; the Bilzors argue that the presence of the stream is unique and makes it difficult to access the undeveloped portion of the lot; they want to subdivide the property again to make a separate lot of the undeveloped portion. However it is not unique—many properties in South County are bisected by streams. Also, the lot fronts on South Polling House Road, around the corner from the developed portion of the property, so it really is not a hardship to access the undeveloped portion. If it were really a hardship, they could have, should have, included that lot in the 1988 minor subdivision. DACA’s board feels that it would be a bad precedent to allow this variance because it could open the door for similar subdivisions all over South County, including within Davidsonville.

Consensus of the board is that DACA should speak in opposition to the zoning variance as there are similar properties in Davidsonville where this may arise. The board authorized Kate Fox to testify at the January 11 hearing. Presenting testimony at this stage will ensure that DACA will have standing for future hearings.



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Tree cutting along our roadsides

Davidsonville residents care about the trees that line our roadsides, frequently growing up around the power lines that bring our electric service. BGE contracts with various tree services to keep the lines free from windblown and falling limbs. This exchange of messages took place via email.

On October 11, DACA President Chris Asher wrote that he received a call from a concerned citizen regarding the “mass destruction” of trees along Birdsville Road. According to her, the crew, which was hired by BGE, had cut about 50 trees. Supposedly the trees were being cut up and left in place creating an eyesore. In addition, some of the trees being cut were as far as 20 yards (!?) from the road. Bruce Stein added, “A couple of weeks back they were doing that along Riva Road. Long overdue to my mind.” and Gail Enright chimed in, “During the summer they took down a bunch of trees on Davidsonville Road. Leaving stacks of cut firewood is a good deed.”

DACA’s Traffic and Safety specialist Ed Woods stated that the tree cutting is done on the right of way for the electric lines. Although the lines normally follow the road shoulder, sometimes the road curves away from the

straight lines, hence 20 feet is not an unreasonable distance. He said “mass destruction” sounds overblown, but that is in the eye of the beholder. Regardless, tree trimming or removal is necessary to ensure uninterrupted electrical service. It would make sense to remove trees and replace them with much lower growing evergreen ground cover. Shrubs would solve the problem. “Leaving the debris” is the policy set by BGE since in many cases over the years, the property owner wants it left there for firewood or other purposes.

Kate Fox noted, “It seems that different contractors are working to different standards. On Governors Bridge Road to St. George Barber Road and all along St. George Barber Road, the trees were cut back to at least ten feet, and the wood was left in place. Along Brick Church Road much less cutting was done, although a lot of overgrown brush was cleared away from under the lines, especially at the intersection of Brick Church Road and Route 2. BGE had told All Hallows Parish, the church on the corner, that the contractor would be clearing any trees within five feet of the lines, but they did not do that at the Brick Church Road intersection.

She agreed that “leaving the wood in place is fine. There have been guys with trucks along St. George Barber and Governors Bridge Roads picking up the wood and hauling it off. I am guessing they split it and sell it as fire wood.”

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More about Composting

Maryland has several noteworthy programs underway to make composting more convenient.

In Frederick County, Key City Compost in Frederick began collecting residential food scraps this past February. A doorstep pickup once or twice a week for a nominal fee sends food waste from residential downtown Frederick and Jefferson to nearby Fair Farms partner Fox Haven Organic Farm and Learning Center, where it is composted in a worm-bin system.

Howard County has a pioneering pilot program that encourages residents in trial zones to “Feed the Green Bin” and offers free collection service and a 12, 35, or 65 gallon bin for residents to roll their meal remnants out to the curb. From there, the scraps are biodegraded at Alpha Ridge landfill and later sold as compost.

Prince George’s County and Maryland Environmental Service have teamed up to experiment with adding food scraps to existing yard waste compost systems. Although the pilot program lacks a curbside collection service, demand for one has already created a waiting list

of 30 communities and institutions (including an airport!). The yard waste facility has received and processed over 2,000 tons of food scraps since its inception in 2013, and plans to double its capacity in the coming year to accommodate a long list of new collection sites.

Fortunately, the benefits of recycling our food waste are increasingly recognized, and it is to be hoped that composting will become the norm as food waste bans in landfills become more common throughout the United States. These laws bar some generators of food waste (like commercial institutions) from sending food scraps to landfills. Landfills in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Rhode Island have already implemented food waste bans, and have demonstrated that the benefits extend beyond minimized waste. For example, the Massachusetts food waste ban generated \$175 million in economic activity with \$50.5 million in capital investments planned for 2017, and the Vermont Food Bank reported a 40 percent increase in healthy food donations in 2016. By supporting more programs to increase composting and building on the experiences of these exemplary states, Maryland can be at the forefront of cutting food waste in America.



For more information, go to www.Fairfarmsnow.org.

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Saturday, December 9
10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

Each participant will receive a portrait photo of their session and a keepsake ornament. The cost is \$14 for the final photo and \$5.00 for a digital download of all the photos taken; for \$10 more your pix can be loaded to an SD card. For more information call 443-607-6496 .

All proceeds benefit Rude Ranch Animal Rescue and the Spay Spa and Neuter Nook. Based in Harwood with an office at 1251 Central Avenue in Davidsonville, Rude Ranch Animal Rescue is a volunteer organization dedicated to care and adoption of homeless animals in Maryland and Washington, DC. Spay Spa and Neuter Nook provides high quality, low cost spay and neuter services to residents of Anne Arundel and surrounding areas. To learn more visit www.spayspa.org.

Happy times at Harvest Thyme

1251 Central Avenue

harvestthymetavern@gmail.com

Some folks will remember Sweet Mama's, an open Skitchen located on a vacant lot at the corner of Central Avenue and Patuxent River Road. Sweet Mama catered to the lunch needs of day laborers and drive-by quick-pick-up sandwiches. Eventually the land was bought by a developer who built the present Davidsonville Station where, among other amenities you can find the Maryland Clock Company, a dry cleaner, and Rude Ranch's Spay Spa and Neuter Nook. The space once used by East Coast Martial Arts is now fully occupied by Harvest Thyme, modern kitchen and tavern, open for lunch and dinner.

I've been there twice for lunch. The first time I enjoyed a fine, juicy hamburger cooked medium rare to perfection. The second time with two friends we all had delicious creamy oyster stew and I enjoyed the vegetarian eggplant parmegiana. Try it. You'll like the friendly atmosphere and likely find someone there you already know. *Gail*



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Not only a restaurant, Harvest Thyme features on-premise and off-premise alcohol sales as a source for liquor, wine, and beer to take home. Rik's passion for the history of the wine industry inspired him to create a new kind of wine program. All bottles are sold at retail price without a restaurant mark-up and only a low \$10 corkage fee if you choose to enjoy your wine in-house with your meal.



1361 Wrighton Rd.
Lothian, MD 20711
Phone 410-741-9330.

Website www.jugbay.org

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, the Sanctuary Proper, and Visitor Center, is open to the public 9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (except closed Sundays December through February).

The Glendening Preserve is open to the public 9:00 am - 5:00 pm every day for hiking, but closed on holidays. It will be closed December 6, December 15, December 20, January 5, January 19, and January 24 to allow for deer management.

The Sanctuary Proper will be closed January 4, January 16 and January 29 for deer management. There will be an ongoing hunt at the Sanctuary Proper on the following dates. Sanctuary hours will continue as normal.

Friday, December 1

Monday, December 4 - Thursday, December 7

Monday, December 11 - Friday, December 15

Monday, December 18 - Friday, December 22

Who lives here?

Jug Bay volunteers conducted a survey of water birds on November 16 and counted 48 species.

Canada goose, tundra swan, mallard, American black duck, northern pintail, green-winged teal, bufflehead, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, black vulture, turkey vulture, northern harrier, Cooper's hawk, bald eagle, sora (rail birds), greater yellowlegs, Bonaparte's gull, laughing gull, ring-billed gull, herring gull, mourning dove, belted kingfisher, red-headed woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, northern flicker, blue jay, American crow, fish crow, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, golden-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush, American robin, gray catbird, yellow-rumped warbler, dark-eyed junco, white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, swamp sparrow, eastern towhee, northern cardinal, red-winged blackbird, rusty blackbird.



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The Chesapeake Legal Alliance, Inc.

is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to using the law to improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. CLA coordinates a network of lawyers who volunteer their time and professional skills to representing environmental organizations, citizens' groups, and individuals in their efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake and its watershed. Too often, the health of the Bay and the humans and animals that inhabit its watershed are subjugated to the agendas of interest groups represented by well-paid attorneys. CLA seeks

to level the playing field by finding lawyers who will assist citizens and organizations, *pro bono*, in participating in government decision-making processes and enforcing under utilized laws and regulations designed to protect the Bay. CLA's goal is to effect systemic change in compliance and enforcement, as well as to improve upon and create more effective laws, regulations, and policies. The result we strive toward is a Bay with clean water, abundant native plants and animals, and opportunities for people to enjoy the Bay safely.



Connect with your Local Government Representatives

Senator Edward R. Reilly, District 33, 410-841-3568, 301-858-3568, edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Michael E. Malone, 301-261-0005, michael.malone@house.state.md.us
Delegate Tony McConkey, 410-544-6424, tony.mcconkey@house.state.md.us
Delegate Sid Saab, 410-841-3551, sid.saab@house.state.md.us
Councilman Jerry Walker, 410-222-1401, jerry.walker@aacounty.org

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**County Council meeting November 17
Report from Growth Action Network**

Council Bill #80-17 was passed unanimously on November 17, to make a change in the rules of the **Board of Appeals**. Under the previous rule if a member of the board misses the first meeting they cannot participate further. With the change, members who attend either of the first two meetings in a case can participate fully in the remaining hearings.

Last minute re-zoning applications: Resolution #48-17 was sponsored by Chris Trumbauer at the request of Jerry Walker. It will affect last minute re-zoning applications for increased density or commercial upzoning (spot zoning). This is a transparency issue requiring notice to protect the private property of citizens. Under current law the zoning code can be amended to include new applications to be heard for requests that the Office of Planning and Zoning denied or has not reviewed for recommendations. Real problems arose late in the re-zoning process when requests for amendment had not been reviewed by Planning and Zoning for their recommendations. A late zoning amendment could pass without due notice to the property owners nearby. When a new request for rezoning is allowed by amendment, the property owner and nearby neighbors—those most impacted by the change—are not informed of the application.

If the Council passes the resolution it will go on the ballot in 2018 so voters can decide if last minute rezoning requests should require posting on the property that is subject of the amendment. The Council will vote on the Resolution on December 4, 2017.

The **Master Sewer and Water Bill** came up for a final vote on November 17. The bill could not be amended with anything new, as it was about to die. Pat Lynch, Vice Chair of GAN, and two nearby residents questioned one late amendment that would change the sewer plan for a commercial property on Route 50 from “future service” to “planned” service. The commercial property was one acre of a larger parcel. The potential action of approving the amendment could lead to a subsequent amendment to extend sewer in the future and pose a threat to wetlands and a stream. The property owner already had two stop work orders for clearing and grading in the RCA without a permit.

The testimony from Pat and two residents along with the Council debate convinced a majority of the members to delete the measure from the bill. At the final vote after the troubling amendment was removed, only Mr. Walker and Mr. Peroutka voted against the removal. Peroutka had been willing to vote the amendment down hours before, but changed his mind. The change in the sewer plan was amended out by a vote of five to two. Quite a win for the citizens, but we can expect the property owner to continue to pursue this!

It was very refreshing to see this important change as a result of three citizens and their persuasive testimony!! You CAN make a difference!

The next County Council meetings will be December 4 and December 20 at 7:00 pm.

Ann Fligsten

Growth Action Network of Anne Arundel County, Inc.

www.growthaction.net



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- Treasurer interim Will Biddle 410-798-6719
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- Melissa Stanton brimeli@yahoo.com 443-858-7470
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Term to June 2019

- Martin Zehner use the phone 410-798-5083
- three vacancies

Term to June 2020

- Will Biddle willbiddle@verizon.net 410-798-6719
- Kate Fox fox4smith@verizon.net 410-956-4852
- Wayne Reid wayne.reid@c21nm.com 410-798-9490
- one vacancy

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



P .
O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

DACA web site: www.daca-md.org

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

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

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MEMBERSHIP: I wish to be a member of DACA and receive the *VILLAGER*. At \$10.00 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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Please let Gail or Chris know if you are willing to help with planning and tasks associated with next year's Green Expo: YES I will! _____ Other comments, your interests? _____