

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 47, No. 4

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

November-December 2020

Travis Pastrana in Davidsonville

Travis Pastrana lives here so it made sense to him to show up closer to home when he was performing in Annapolis. Patrick Burn of Hoonigan Industries contacted DACA to notify the local folks of his plan to perform some stunts to be filmed the day before the Ego Alley jump. Here he is, shown in a controlled sideways slide on Patuxent River Road. Great entertainment!



DACA business

DACA's Board of Directors welcomed Vince Moulden at its regular November 5 meeting. Vince is South County's liaison to the Office of Community Engagement and Constituent Services. When you have a question or concern for our community, be it in land use, or community nuisance behavior, traffic, whatever, send him a copy of your message to the County Executive or our District 7 Council Member Jessica Haire. Email addresses addresses are on page 14.

A question arose as to whether the Board of Appeals is holding hearings in person or even by remote teleconference, and we learned that no appeals are being heard. Appeals may be piling up but there is no indication of when the docket will be cleared.

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DACA people

Thanks Gail. Interesting reading [September--October issue]. Hope all is well with you.
Joan Turek



Thank you, again, Gail. Your tireless work on behalf of our community is invaluable and appreciated more than we could ever express.
Warmest Regards, Fran Canavan

I am grateful for quick replies after I send the Villager notifications, even the "out of office" messages, because they tell me the Villager was received with the cover email.

A Cleaner, Greener Future for STYROFOAM!

On October 1st, Maryland banned polystyrene foam restaurant containers. Arundel Rivers Riverkeeper Jesse Iliff testified in support of the ban on polystyrene foam restaurant containers in the General Assembly in 2018 and again in 2019, when the bill was passed.

With data on the thousands of foam containers (commonly known as styrofoam) collected from the Federation's trash trap in Crab Creek (flowing into South River), and global scientific data on the harmful effects to ecosystems and human health wrought by polystyrene foam, Arundel Rivers and other environmental allies persuaded our State legislators that we can do better.

Maryland is the first State in the nation to permanently do away with this particularly harmful rubbish. Support your local restaurants with a takeout dinner to celebrate, and this time, your food won't have chemicals from melted foam in it! GOOD NEWS!

In Memoriam
Ethel "Bobbie" Bold
September 24, 1944 – October 4, 2020
DACA member since 1993

Styrofoam CAN be recycled in the bins
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See page 6 for specific items and requirements.

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Agriculture Bills 68-20 and 69-20

Bill No. 68-20, “Farm Alcohol Production” and Bill No. 69-20, “Farm or Agricultural Heritage Site Stays and Special Events” were introduced on September 8. These bills are a result of recommendations of the AA County Agricultural Farming and Agritourism Commission. The purpose of these bills is to enable farmers to expand the uses allowed on farms and on agricultural heritage sites to increase their farm income, thereby encouraging them to remain on the land and maintain the rural atmosphere so important to our county. At first glance, the bills appear to be a step toward support of the declining agricultural economy in AA County. Both bills could directly benefit several members of the County’s Agricultural Commission. However, they create new, loosely regulated commercial opportunities in a large number of locations that are currently restricted to agriculture. You can find these bills with their legislative summary on the County’s Legislative web site. Type or copy into your browser <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council> and click on Council Legislation.

Farm Alcohol Production, Bill 68-20

Bill 68-20 allows increased alcohol production, wineries, and breweries as a farm activity, duly licensed and regulated. It establishes new conditions that must be met by farm alcohol production facilities and is viewed as a consolidation of other farm alcohol bills. It was passed without amendment by the County Council on September 28, 2020, effective October 1.

Go to page 4 for update on Bill 69-70.

Writing to the County Council



Kate Fox communicates more than most of us with the County Council. She reported that she heard that most, not all, Council members respond only to emails from the constituents in their district. If you want to reach them, send the message to your Council member [and the appropriate department heads] and copies only to the rest of the Council and to Vincent Moulden, constituent services liaison for South County.

Bill 57-20, Mobile Homes Outside Trailer Parks

DACA opposed Bill 57-20 on the grounds that, in its first version, it would allow manufactured mobile homes to be placed on RA (Residential Agricultural) zoned properties outside established trailer parks. Andrew Pruski had introduced the bill in July on behalf of one constituent, but allowing it for one would affect the entire county; there are 1,100 such RA parcels in Anne Arundel. Mr. Pruski added an amendment to 57-20 that would allow mobile homes outside a licensed trailer park only on RA parcels of 60 acres or larger. His constituent has a parcel greater than 66 acres. The Council passed the amended bill on October 5.

Update on Homewood/Riva/Governor Bridge Road Construction

Bruce Stein asked the Department of Public Works project coordinator, who replied with specific target dates about the project’s status. Verizon is the last to finish the necessary utility relocations to be completed around November 26. Public Works expects it will advertise requests for bids on or about November 23. They anticipate construction time of a year, starting in spring 2021 with completion in spring 2022. Regarding the concerns about the one-lane closure of Governor Bridge Road from Riva Road to St. George Barber Road, DPW has reviewed the issue and is working with the Board of Education, Police, and Fire Departments to address this issue. As of October 8, they were drafting a final response that will be made public upon completion.

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Bill 69-20 Lodging and Events in South County

“Farm or Agricultural Heritage Site Stays and Special Events” Bill 69-20 would increase agritourism in R1, RLD (Residential Low Density), and RA (Residential Agricultural) zones as conditional or special exception uses, and would allow as many as 200 guests to attend special events—fairs, festivals, etc.—as often as 30 times in a year; and “a hosted accommodation on a farm with guests paying for the privilege of staying overnight for no more that 14 consecutive days.”

DACA expressed opposition to Bill 69-20 in its first, unamended version by joining other GAN (Growth Action Network) members signing on to a letter from GAN sent September 30. The letter puts forth its concerns in detail.

To the County Executive and the County Council: We, the undersigned, write to share serious concerns about legislation proposed to alter land use zoning in a large area of Anne Arundel County. Bill 69-20 would add significant commercial uses to RA, RLD and R1 zones. Ostensibly intended to assist the viability of the agriculture industry, there is no analysis that quantifies expected impacts. The official data is compelling that agriculture in Anne Arundel County is in a multi-decade decline. While there are anecdotal success stories, virtually every economic indicator is negative. These legislative proposals do not appear to be based on an analysis that links them to industry trends or forecasts their effect on individual businesses, the industry as a whole, or the interests and needs of the communities

within the County. Absent such analysis, there is no reason to expect these proposals to alter the long-term industry decline.

Specifically, the continuing downward agricultural performance documented in the U.S. Agriculture Census 2002-2017 is alarming. The decline—number of farms (down from 432 to 390), farm sales (down from \$25.4 million to \$18.1), land in farms (down from 35,000 acres to 27,000 acres)—threatens the continued viability of much of the County’s treasured rural character.

Most R1 and RLD properties of qualifying size lie in the northern portion of the County. Many of these R1 and RLD properties are adjacent to medium density residential areas. Including these zoning categories in agritourism bills is unlikely to improve agricultural sustainability, but it opens the door to many unintended commercial uses in residential areas.

Agricultural land in all parts of the County is intermingled with residential properties, but the proposed bills do little to assure that the new agritourism activities will not adversely affect the ambiance and quality of life of the local neighborhood. It is a virtual certainty they will introduce significant traffic, noise, and environmental impacts.

Five GAN member organizations and residents of West River, Davidsonville, and Edgewater signed on to the letter. (Continued on page 5)

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Bill 69-20, Agritourism *from page 4*

Since it was introduced, four amendments were added that attempt to ameliorate the possible ill effects of special events on neighboring residences. They require that any outdoor assembly areas are located and designed to shield surrounding residential properties from the effect of noise, hazards, or other offensive conditions; reduced the number of guests that can stay on a farm or heritage site of fewer than 50 acres, and changed farm or heritage site stays to conditional use instead of requiring a special exception as did the original bill.

Additional issues were raised by various individuals: DACA President Bruce Stein noted that the bills seem unlikely to significantly reduce the decline of the agricultural industry. He observed that during the September 28 hearing there was a lot of testimony about how wonderful the bill is, as it will help save the farms; kids will love farms, etc. There was not much, if any, analysis or evidence of the actual increase in cash flow to south county farms. More bluntly, he said, "Grandpa said for a business, 'Cash in must exceed cash out.' Farms are a business. The Plan 2040 draft rates the numbers of folks living below the poverty line in South County anywhere from about five percent to as high as 20 percent. So, how much more money does this bill bring into South County? How much will a farmer have to invest in 'upgrades' to the farm in order to take advantage of these new opportunities? How many will have the ability to take advantage of these options? What is the market demand? Will cash in exceed cash out? Will it really help the bulk of folks in South County?"

A propos of Bruce's comments, **Fair Farms** wrote about the need for equity in our local food system: Leah Penniman, author of *Farming While Black*, said our food system isn't broken ... it was designed to work exactly as it does. By this she meant that our food system isn't accidentally exploiting farm workers and leaving folks hungry—it was intentionally designed to leave behind marginalized communities. If we are going to ensure justice for everyone

living and working in this country, we must recreate our food and agricultural systems to be more just, equitable, and resilient in the face of crises." Income is necessary to less affluent farmers of every race.

Ed Woods wrote from the point of view of safety, "A farm is a dangerous place for the average tourist with no background or education in agriculture unless proper precautions are taken well in advance, and appropriate monitoring of the event is ongoing."

Council members responded to email messages from DACA members. Jessica Haire wrote, "I appreciate your input on this issue and will take these comments to planning and zoning with some specific questions. Ideally, I'd like to see the bills strike a balance so that farmers have additional revenue streams that enable their farms to stay farms for as long as possible while also protecting the rural, quiet nature of RA and RLD (and to some extent R1) properties for those who live there. I've specifically asked OPZ for a list of all farms that would fall under these bills, and am looking at a potential for a couple of amendments to address some of these issues. Thanks again and don't hesitate to reach out with any additional thoughts."

Lisa Rodvien and Andrew Pruski also responded, thanking for email messages.

The bill was to be heard on November 2, but was delayed until November 16. If they do not act on it, it will expire December 12.



Ray Alcorn

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Agriculture and Agritourism

Since Martin Zehner, DACA’s agriculture guru died in March 2020, the *Villager* is exploring the website of the **AA Economic Development Corporation**.

From the October *ArundelAg Newsletter* of AAEDC’s agricultural department:

“Now that Fall is officially here, we hope you support our local farms that are providing agritourism activities for you and your family to enjoy. Some of our farms have made the difficult decision to close for this year’s fall season. However, you can still find pumpkin patches, corn mazes, and local foods for the entire family. We know our farms are anxious and optimistic to return to “normal” next year! For this year, all of our farms are following COVID guidelines and sanitary procedures, many going above and beyond to make sure everyone is safe. Please review Bill 69-70 and its amendments and consider testifying or sharing a letter with Council members to support this bill.”

AAEDC’s Agriculture Business Development staff helps find opportunities for success for county farmers and agribusinesses in the following ways:

- Technical assistance and advocacy
- Local and state regulations such as inspections, permits and zoning
- Operational support and financing
- Farm Equipment Rental Program
- Scrap Tire Program
- Farmers Market Programs
- Workforce training grants
- Marketing to promote farming, agritourism, and value-added processing
- Helping customers find local products

More from the website: *ArundelAg*’s mini-grant program is now accepting applications. This grant program is designed to assist Anne Arundel County Farmers with expansion costs. Awards are available up to \$1,000 and must be matched by the applicant. Applications are due by December 1. Awards will be announced in January 2020. Go to www.AAEDC.org/agriculture/overview/ and follow the prompts to find the grant application.

Agriculture, Farming, and Agritourism Commission

The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation is a member of this commission, which is made up of county government representatives and others in the county who are familiar with and committed to these issues. Its mission is promotion, coordination, development, furtherance and establishment of agriculture, farming, and agritourism in the County. The Commission meets quarterly and includes representatives from County Government. The next meeting will be held 8:30--10:30 am on November 19. Meetings are currently being held via Zoom and are open to the public. To attend, contact Lisa Barge at 410-222-7410 or by e-mail to lbarge@aaedc.org at least seven days in advance.

Recycling STYROFOAM!

EPS Industry Alliance drop-off site
1298 Cronson Boulevard, Crofton
 (Next to Crofton Post office)
 Phone 410-451-8340

They will accept packing materials such as foam blocks, peanuts, carry-out food containers (**must be clean**), cups, egg cartons, and more. Clean, dry polystyrene of any color can be recycled into surfboards, picture frames, construction material, and packaging. **Remove labels and tape.**

Look for the number **6** in the center of this recycle symbol molded, not printed, into the item. Only #6 is accepted by the recycle company.





Lance Edwards
President

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Scholarship Fund Invites Applicants for 2021--2022

DACA's Board of Directors invites individuals to apply for funds to further their post-high school education (academic, technical, or professional) in the coming year. To determine eligibility and apply for a scholarship, read the requirements and follow the instructions below.

I. Purpose and Limitations

- 1. DACA's scholarship funds must be used for educational training: academic, technical, or professional.
2. The scholarship is available to individuals for one year at a time.
3. Scholarship awards are made at the discretion of the DACA Board.
4. Awards may be for up to \$500 at the discretion of the DACA Board and may depend on the number of applications.
5. Applicants and grantees may apply annually for an award for a maximum of four consecutive years

II. Qualifications

- 1. The scholarship applicant must be a member of DACA or be a child of a member who lives in the DACA geographic area, as defined by DACA's By-laws.
2. The applicant must be involved in a community activity within the DACA geographic area and be able to document that involvement.

III. Requirements

- 1. The application is due by May 1 (or the following Monday if May 1 should fall on a weekend). Applications received after the due date will not be considered.
2. The applicant must include all of the following information and documentation in writing at the time of their application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
a. State the intended use of the grant funds
b. Provide a letter of acceptance to the school or program for which they intend to use the grant funds [or a transcript of the previous year's grades].
c. Describe in writing what they have done for their community or how they have participated in community involvement.
d. Provide a letter of recommendation from an officer of the community organization in which the applicant has been involved.

IV. Submit all the above in writing to DACA Scholarship, P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

Students can also apply to our State Senator Ed Reilly and our House delegates, Heather Bagnall, Michael Malone, and Sid Saab. Their email addresses are on page 14.

Advertisement for Arundel Federal Savings Bank. Features text: 'LOW RATES = LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS', 'See how we compare with our low home loan rates.', 'ARUNDEL FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK', 'Home Loan', 'ArundelFederal.com | 410.768.7800'. Includes FDIC logo.

Advertisement for ABC Appliance. Features images of a refrigerator, microwave, and oven, and a cartoon technician. Text includes: 'ABC APPLIANCE Your Local Discount Store', 'WE DELIVER, INSTALL, AND REPAIR!', 'It's as easy as A.B.C...', 'Always everyday low prices', 'Best personal service', 'Commitment to quality service', 'KitchenAid MAYTAG Whirlpool AMANA', '10% OFF LABOR ON REPAIRS', '6 Mayo Road · 410-956-2020 · www.abcappl.com'.

State Agriculture Bills Effective 10-1-2020

Delegate Mike Malone sent a list of newly enacted state bills taking effect October 1, most of which affect most of us very little, but all of which may be important to the individuals who come up against them. The editor chose to note these agriculture-related bills.

Nutrient Management is an issue that Martin Zehner reported on regularly to DACA's Board of Directors. House Bill 161—**Nonagricultural Fertilizer Application—Requirements and Penalties**. Requires each place of business at which a person is employed to apply fertilizer to nonagricultural property to have a certified professional fertilizer applicator on staff and be licensed annually by the Department of Agriculture; alters the application of a civil penalty to include the employer of a person who violates the law.

Many Villager readers have an interest in the horse industry. HB 171 **Crimes Against Animals—Interference with Equines** alters a prohibition against interfering with, injuring, tampering with, or destroying a horse used for a certain purpose or for any other lawful activity; changing the crime from a felony to a misdemeanor; altering the maximum penalty to include a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year or both.

Many of us have animals large or small in our households. Both House and Senate changed regulations on veterinary care.

HB 245 and SB 189 **State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners—Cease and Desist Orders and Civil Penalties** authorizes, on review and approval of the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to issue a cease and desist order against a person who practices veterinary medicine in violation of laws; specifies that a civil penalty imposed under the Act may not exceed \$5,000 for a first offense or \$10,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

HB 687 and SB 597 **Agriculture—Cost-sharing Program—Fixed Natural Filter Practices—prohibits** the use of cost-sharing funds for a conservation practice that does not meet requirements; authorizes cost-sharing funds to be made available for certain fixed natural filter practices; prohibits basing a reduction in cost-sharing rates on tons of soil saved or on an amortization formula; requires that cost-sharing for the planting of multiple species of cover crops equal or exceed the rates paid for the planting of a single species of cover crop.

Probably only in Western Maryland where the bears live, **SB 353** adds pets to the list of items for which a person may be reimbursed from the Black Bear Damage Reimbursement Fund.

Of interest to hunters, SB 242 **Natural Resources—Wild Waterfowl Policy** repeals provisions of law that authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to issue a license to feed waterfowl.



A State Law on School Bus Transportation?

From Start School Later, by Lisa VanBuskirk

At least two legislators are working on complementary updates to the Code of Maryland regulations of school bus transportation. One focuses on the first recommendation of the Prismatic Report to allow greater flexibility in transporting students in vehicles other than large school buses, while the second is to prevent standing and/or sitting in school bus aisles. The second one is a resubmittal of legislation that had made it through the House of Delegates in the 2020 session, but was halted when the General Assembly shut down in late March.



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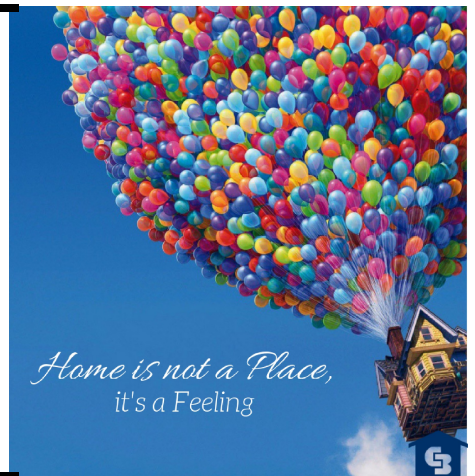
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General Development Plan Is Available for Comment *By Mike Lofton*

The following is excerpted from the Alliance for Livable Communities' Fall 2020 newsletter found at <https://www.annearundel-livable.org>

The preliminary draft of Plan2040, the General Development Plan for Anne Arundel County, is now available for public review. Please copy <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning-long-range-planning/general-development-/index.html> to your browser line to download the draft plan document and to submit your comments.

Next Steps for Plan2040

- 45-day public review period for draft of the full Plan2040 document: September 30–November 15.
- Planning Advisory Board briefing and public hearing to occur in December and January (dates to be determined).
- County Council introduction of Plan 2040 is anticipated in February 2021, with public hearings to begin in March 2021 (dates to be determined).

The four sections contain over 400 goals, policies, and implementation strategies. In addition, comments were solicited on proposed development policy areas and approximately 250 land use changes that have been requested by landowners or proposed by the Office of Planning (OPZ) staff. Simply presenting this mass of data



Mike Lofton doing what he likes best

in a coherent manner and processing citizen responses is a challenge. OPZ staff have responded with skill and innovation. Video tutorials and County town hall meetings have been employed to assist citizens with navigation of the portal, and there is good reason to expect that a wealth of feedback data amenable to statistical analysis will have been gathered. *(Continued on page 10)*

Sharon Laddie



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Plan2040 for AA County GDP *from page 9*

The full set of 400 Goals, Policies, and Strategies can be downloaded as a 42-page document from the Community Engagement web portal. As currently written, Plan 2040 provides guidance, but not enough specificity to serve as an implementable plan of action. However, Plan2040 can still play a strong role in shaping our future.

The 2009 GDP was broadly characterized by an earlier County Council and Administration as “just guidance” that could be ignored, almost at will. Legislative and administrative actions were supposed to be consistent with the plan, but that concept was honored more in the breach than in fact. In many ways, the 2009 GDP was similar to Plan2040 in that descriptions of actions were often not specific, with no office given responsibility, no time line indicated, and no priority assigned. Although it outlined many good aspirations, it was considered guidance and not afforded the respect it deserved. Had the guidance been respected and later legislative and administrative activities been consistent with it, the 2009 GDP could have had a much greater positive influence on the progress of the County. An effective long-term planning effort can be composed of broad statements of guidance implemented by a combination of consistent legislative code and smaller actionable plans. The smaller plans should outline specific tasks with (1) Assigned priorities, (2) Designated responsible parties, (3) Schedules, and (4) Reporting requirements.

Plan2040 can function as the guidance in this combination, provided that the Regional Plans and any relevant legislation are consistent, detailed, and implementable. The requirement of consistency should be formally stated in Plan2040 and approved by the Council. Although Plan2040

could be renamed Guidance 2040, it should be firm, thorough, and respected guidance. The value of Plan2040 will be determined by consistency of ensuing legislation and its enablement of effective regional planning. The current draft of four important sections of Plan2040 is a good start.

Growth Action Network on Plan2040 *(from October 13)*

Planned growth rates and lack of growth controls seem contrary to citizen desires. The first draft of Plan2040, the new General Development Plan, will be available for public review and comment until November 15. It contains many good policies for environmental protection and redevelopment of decaying neighborhoods. However, it is built around the assumption that the rate of population growth and residential development will continue at approximately its current level for the next 20 years. Although most new development would be directed to town centers and transit-oriented locations, no mechanisms are proposed for local control over rates and types of growth.

Plan2040 also proposes aggressive recruiting of commercial enterprises in the designated redevelopment and targeted new growth areas. Particular emphasis is given to areas near Fort Meade. GAN members may want to question this emphasis, since this type of commercial growth brings few benefits to current residents of the County.

Review of the Plan2040 draft will require some time and effort. However, Plan2040 will influence a great deal of ensuing legislation. Please take time to read through the draft and provide feedback and comments to the County.

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School News

On November 4, due to the county's high rate of COVID-19 seven-day average case incidence, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education (BOE) voted to delay the full implementation of hybrid learning until the second semester, starting February 2021. AACPS will cease small group, in-person instruction by Friday, November 6. Beginning November 9, students currently engaged in in-person learning will return to an entirely virtual environment.

Outdoor athletics practices and extracurricular activities will be allowed to continue, but indoor practices and activities will also cease after sessions on Friday, November 6. The school system is also continuing to prepare for the start of competitive athletics in December, but will continue to monitor health and safety metrics and consult with the county health officer as that process continues.

The information above was taken from the press release by AACPS: To see it, copy this into your browser line: <http://aacpschools.org/pressr/?=6179>.

From Cyndi Morgan to DACA Board

Start School Later

November 7, from Lisa van Buskirk

While we await presidential election results, the results of local races are fairly stable and will be certified by the end of next week. Unless there is a dramatic change, Robert Silkworth (District 2), Corine Frank (District 3), and Joanna

Bache Tobin (District 6) will be sworn in as the newest Board of Education members on December 7. Their first public meeting of the all-elected school board will be a School Start Times Workshop on Monday, December 14.


This Workshop is a much-delayed follow-up to the Transportation Workshop held last March 10 with Prismatic Services about their January report. It will be an opportunity for Board members to engage with AACPS staff and each other to identify parameters that would define safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours for all AACPS students. This is fantastic news.

The Workshop will be followed by a Start Times Public Hearing held online on Monday, December 21. The Board successfully held its hearing for the Hybrid schooling plan on October 28 online, in great demand with 100 people each allotted two minutes to speak. I hope that a similar opportunity will be allowed for speaking time in support of healthy school hours! Details of when and how to register will be released when they are available.

At its meeting on school start times, there was a passionate discussion about elementary school start times and the need to address the late schools, but motions to change the start time for a few specific schools failed to garner sufficient votes. The discussion paved the way for the December 14 workshop and the December 21 public hearing. So, we continue the effort to win the war for safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours.

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Gravelly Stream Restoration

In the photo above, DACA member Lara Mulvaney and Arundel Rivers Federation Executive Director Denise Swol admire the stream restoration project on King’s Branch in Gravelly. Lara worked as a volunteer Master Watershed Steward to bring the potential project to the attention of Arundel Rivers, and also worked to coordinate the action in Gravelly. The Arundel Rivers Federation secured a grant of \$2.5 million to design and construct the project from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Maryland Department of Natural

Resources, and National Fish and Wildlife Federation. Scenic Rivers Land Trust coordinated with Maryland Environmental Trust and AA County Dept. of Recreation and Parks for permission, the forestry stewardship plan, and permitting because the project extends into the parcel adjacent to Gravelly, which is county-owned and under a conservation easement held by Scenic Rivers and the Maryland Environmental Trust, all of which shows how complicated it is to clean up a stream!

King’s Branch feeds into Flat Creek, which flows into the South River. A year ago it was fast-moving stormwater in a stream bed as much as 20 feet below the surrounding land, incised into the earth by runoff from roads and residences in the area. The restoration covers two-thirds of a mile, using a series of step pools, some deep, which keeps the water cooler, along with clay, rock and sand to slow the water flow and push it out into the flood plain and stream bank. The project is meant to prevent sediment and other pollutants from reaching the South River. Nutrients and phosphorus can help the many native plants along King’s Branch grow, rather than feeding algae blooms downstream. After the stream restoration project behind her home was constructed, Lara said, “Right away, because we were backing the water up into the landscape, we had ponds; we heard frogs, within two weeks. It was a huge difference.”

From Capital Sept. 23, 2020

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FRED TUTMAN

Waterkeepers Chesapeake honored Fred Tutman with its Waterkeeper Outstanding Win award in September for his dedication in bringing clean water and environmental justice to the communities along the Patuxent.



Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman was born and raised along the Patuxent River as were seven generations of his ancestors before him. In 2004, he founded Patuxent Riverkeeper, an environmental advocacy organization, to be a grassroots community advocate for clean water in Maryland's longest and deepest intrastate waterway, with the mission—to protect and preserve all 110 miles of the Patuxent—a mission that takes him to the courtroom and to the riverbank. He is among the longest serving waterkeepers in the Chesapeake region and the only African-American waterkeeper in the nation, which he sees as an indicator of an environmental movement that is incomplete and that he strives to broaden.

He lives on an active farm near the Patuxent that has been his family's ancestral home for nearly a century. Before becoming the Patuxent Riverkeeper in 2004, Fred operated a business that provided professional media and mass communication services internationally. Fred is now an adjunct instructor at historic St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he teaches an upper level course in Environmental Law and Policy. He is an avid kayaker, backpacker, and adventurer. In his spare time he explores the Patuxent River by kayak, blacksmiths, writes, and works on his farm.

From Bay Journal and Chesapeake Waterkeepers

Fred Tutman was a proponent of DACA's Green Expo and has been a regular exhibitor of Patuxent Riverkeeper every year since 2010.

Smithsonian's *Sidedoor* Podcast Honors Pax Riverkeeper

More than 155 million treasures are held in the Smithsonian's vaults, but where the public view ends, *Sidedoor* begins. Featuring biologists, artists, historians, archaeologists, zookeepers, and astrophysicists, this podcast sneaks listeners through Smithsonian's "side door" for stories that can't be found elsewhere. *Sidedoor*'s season five episode 13, "The Riverkeeper," features Fred Tutman, the voice for Maryland's Patuxent River.

This 25-minute episode, which debuted August 19, 2020, is a fascinating discussion and soundscape revealing how Fred became the riverkeeper and what he does for the Patuxent. Copy this link <https://www.si.edu/sidedoor/> into your browser line to listen to the "The Riverkeeper:"

Smithsonian has reopened parts of its Environmental Research Center (SERC) to the public. Find it at 647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater, MD 21037 and take a hike on its trails through woods and along the shoreline. Jeff Holland described his walk in the *Capital* on Sunday, November 8. Don't take your dog; it is also a wildlife preserve.

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Drive-through COVID-19 Testing

Drive-through COVID-19 testing is available for Anne Arundel residents Monday through Friday, 9 am–noon and Saturday 10–11:30 am.

Testing is available at no cost, with or without symptoms. A doctor's note is not needed. If insured, please bring your insurance card. For more information, please call 410-222-7256. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, it is best to be tested within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. For more information, go to the website of the Anne Arundel County Health Department at www.aahealth.org.

Anne Arundel**Medical Center**

The Auxiliary of Anne Arundel Medical Center, 2001 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, needs volunteers ages 18 and older, daytime and evening hours, weekdays and weekends. Positions include opportunities in patient interaction, customer service, and retail assistance. The auxiliary has been serving the hospital since 1944. Volunteers are an integral part of AAMC's mission of providing patient-centered, high-quality health care services. Please call the auxiliary office 443-481-5050 to volunteer or to request more information.

No Trash or Recycling Collection Landfills and collection centers will be closed on

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 Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Friday
 Friday, Dec. 25 Christmas
 Friday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day

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Your Londontowne Symphony Orchestra, like all other orchestras, has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 virus. We had to cancel the June concert last season and at least the first two concerts in this current season. However, the LSO musicians continue to hone their skills, and the Board of Directors continues to meet to pursue our goals.

The Board elected a new slate of officers at our Annual Meeting in June: Jack Evans, President; Ronnie Koch, Vice President; Jane Kraemer, Secretary; and Jeff Schaub, Treasurer. Mel Kessler and Sally Schaefer are continuing as directors to complete the current board. We also ask you to join us in thanking Stas Tarchalski for his service as president for the past four years, and in thanking outgoing directors Jennifer Newberger, Susan Ridenhour, and Jeff Gillis for their work on behalf of the LSO.

We thank you for your continued interest in the LSO, and we REALLY look forward to joining with you to enjoy the masterful music produced by Anna and our talented musicians again. We welcome your comments and suggestions; please send them to this address: lsomd.boardmail@gmail.com

Visit <http://lso-music.org> to purchase tickets, sign up for the newsletter, and to donate. Our mailing address is:

Londontowne Symphony Orchestra
PO Box 926, Edgewater, MD 21037

Arundel Volunteer Fire Department's New Ambulance



The Arundel Volunteer Fire Department purchased a new ambulance this year to better serve the community. Last spring the company ordered a 2020 Ford F550 cab and chassis assembly with a Horton ambulance body, and it was delivered in August. Ambulance 79 was placed in service on September 1 after radios and other equipment specific to local requirements were installed. Just an hour after formally placing the unit in service, the Arundel Volunteers were out the door, responding to their first call.

The total cost of the ambulance was \$375,000.00. It is expected to respond to 150–175 calls per month. Serving our community depends on support from the community. You can help by making a tax-deductible donation toward the purchase cost of the new ambulance. You are invited also to join the Arundel VFD and offer your time by becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and operating the ambulance, or by filling a supporting role to help with nonemergency tasks such as fund-raising, administrative work, or numerous other activities necessary to maintain a first-class emergency response service.

Last, a word of caution

Be aware that we do not ever, under any circumstances, solicit donations by telephone. Thank you!

Harve "Ed" Woods, President,
Glenn Dale Fire Association
Chair, MSFA Legislative Committee
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The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association
P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035



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

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