



The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 48, No. 3

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

September-October 2021

DACA's Annual Meeting via Zoom

DACA's Annual meeting was held remotely via Zoom on Thursday, September 9. DACA's Board decided to go remote due to the increase in the Covid-19 Delta variant and the complications of social distancing and masking. It was impossible to complete and send this issue of the Villager before the annual meeting, so in this issue you can find summaries of the reports.

As per the Bylaws, DACA members re-elected the four current officers to one-year terms through June 2022 and elected four board members to three-year terms through June 2024. President Bruce Stein, Vice President Ed Woods, Secretary Gail Enright, and Treasurer Brian Stanton will serve another term. The Board of Directors had four slots vacant in the term to June 2024. Frank Purdy was elected to serve in the term vacated by Phil Livingstone, who retired after serving more than 20 years. Jeff Bishop, Kate Fox, and Wayne Reid volunteered to continue in place on the board and were duly re-elected.

Paper ballots were mailed August 27 to non-email users and (*mirabile dictu!*) were delivered the next day to Davidsonville recipients. Thank you to our Davidsonville Post Office staff!

On August 30, 209 email ballots were sent to members who had provided email addresses, and they began to respond immediately. Many thanks to our active participating members! The invitation and a password to join the annual meeting via Zoom was sent to all dues- paid members.

Congratulations and thanks to Frank for taking on a share of this community effort and responsibility.

Many thanks to Phil Livingstone for his faithful active service to the community, always there when DACA needed him.

A representative number of members—old, new, and in between—attended the meeting, few enough to be easily manageable by the host. Thanks to Bruce Stein for presiding, to Melissa Stanton for Zoom hosting, to Kate Fox for taking notes. Special thanks to James Kitchin for representing the County Administration and guiding the board and the members seeking help on specific issues.

Treasurer Brian Stanton reported that DACA is still financially sound, despite the lack of two years of income normally resulting from Green Expo. The tree give-aways in 2020 and 2021 were highly successful, generating lots of goodwill in the community, although not creating income.

The Scholarship fund has grown, thanks to support from members and friends; DACA awarded \$500 to each of two highly qualified applicants in two consecutive years. The Scholarship Committee is continuing to refine the criteria and will announce them and invite more applicants for the 2022–2023 school year.

The *Villager*, six issues per year, is the greatest expense for printing and postage; the annual March bulk mailing of print copies to more than 3,000 readers costs more than \$4,000. The other five issues are sent to just over 200 recipients. Printing all issues in color increased the cost over previous years. DACA's website, masterfully designed and managed by volunteer Melissa Stanton, is the next greatest expenditure at less than \$1,500 per year. It includes the (*Continued on page 5*)

DACA People

Welcome new member Mike Prokopchak and thanks for his gift to DACA in addition to paying dues. Thanks also to June Fleck for her gift in addition to two years dues.



Many thanks to Natalia Bassford for her generous contribution to DACA in addition to renewing for the Four Legs Animal Hospital ad in Villager. Many thanks to Tom and Kris Angelis for their fourth gift to DACA's Scholarship Fund.

Greatly appreciate it - always a great read. Thank you, Matt Power, Chief Admin Officer Office of the County Executive

I appreciate all you do for our community. Natalia

Congratulations to DACA member Mike Malone, District 33 Delegate, appointed by Governor Hogan to serve on the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court.

Testimonial for an advertiser

Years ago when my boys were growing up I had several occasions to need a locksmith. Each time, I was impressed with Lance's integrity and always remem-

bered that if I ever had a need again, I would call Lance's Locksmith. Recently, with my key stuck in the door, instead of making me pay for a service call, Lance answered the phone and said, "Judy, try this." God was with me and my key extricated itself from the lock. I cannot tell you how much it means to a lady on a fixed income to have one good person with the right heart come to her aid and provide security. I see Lance's Locksmith as the perfect example of what makes Davidsonville great, a community working together for the greater good of all.

In Memoriam

Dr. William Jones

November 8, 1941 - August 20, 2021

DACA member since 1983

Sept. 2--Is Davidsonville protected from disaster? Is it faith, luck, good karma? We live in a safe little piece of heaven, while all around us, near and far, swirls chaos. Extreme wind, fire, and water have wrought havoc on so much of the country and even our near neighbors. We should give thanks for every day without a tragedy. How long will it continue?

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Office of Planning & Zoning

Among the many zoning applications sent to OPZ are requests for a variance. What are they taking about? From the *Arundel Planner*, September 1:

A zoning variance is a tool used to allow an applicant to apply for relief from strict application of the zoning ordinance. It is used when unique physical conditions or exceptional circumstances prevent a property from being developed in conformance with the County Zoning Code. Applications are filed with the zoning section and are transmitted to the Office of Administrative Hearings for scheduling. The OPZ prepares recommendations on each application. The Office of Administrative Hearings conducts a hearing and ultimately makes the final decision on the variance. This process is important because it allows community input into the decision making. This summer, the Zoning Administration section completed over 40 recommendations for variance applications.

Zoning Enforcement – Pop Quiz Time!

What is a zoning Certificate of Use?

- a) Is awarded to the Zoning Inspector with the best handwriting.
- b) Certifies a business (or other applied entity) meets zoning requirements.
- c) Certifies a business (or other applied entity) meets permit requirements.
- d) None of the above

If you selected “B,” then you are on the way to being a Zoning superstar! OPZ receives and reviews over 400 applications for Certificates of Use annually. The review also includes an on-site inspection.

You can find Certificates of Use on the Office of Planning and Zoning website in the Zoning Enforcement Section.

Private road maintenance by County Dept of Public Works. (*Refer to Villager Jan-Feb 2021.*) This issue arose when DPW stopped maintaining a road in Lindamoor, a neighborhood in Annapolis, because the County had no deed of ownership, as it has no deed for many old roads in Davidsonville and other communities. The issue was resolved when DPW determined that, based upon its past maintenance history, it has established maintenance authority for Carriage Drive and as a result will change its status in the Road Inventory to “County Responsibility,” restoring all typical road maintenance services afforded to the community between the mid-1990s and 2015.

County Council Action on Recent Bills

Kate Fox reported at the August board meeting on zoning bills recently passed by the County Council.

Bill 49-21 – Requirements for Special Exception Uses – Assisted Living Facilities: Passed after being amended. The bill adjusts the requirements for special exception use for Assisted Living Facilities to match what is being done in other areas of the state and U.S..

Bill 61-21 – Outdoor Lighting in Nonresidential and Residential Zoning Districts: Passed. This bill added conditions to the County Code for the installation of outdoor light fixtures on residentially zoned lots.

Bill 62-21 – Critical Area Overlay for Forest Conservation Easements: Passed. It requires the county to convey a forest conservation easement back to an owner under certain conditions.

Bill 63-21 – Critical Area Overlay – County Critical Area Layer: Passed. Adopts the Critical Area Map approved by the Maryland Critical Area Commission.

Bill 66-21 – Prohibited and Temporary Signs: Amended; to be heard again on September 7. It allows flutter signs and animated signs, and it changes requirements for temporary sign use. Concerns are that it increases the number of types of signs allowed, and some feel there already are too many signs “junking up” our roads. Additional concerns are that there are no provisions for enforcement of penalties for violations in the bill.

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Growth Action Network and Office of Planning and Zoning on Green Infrastructure

Plan2040 is the name of the new general development plan adopted at the County Council meeting in May. The Long Range Planning (LRP) section of the Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ) has implemented amendments into Plan2040, notably the Stakeholder Advisory Committees (SACs), who will collaborate with staff to develop the nine region plans. The SACs for Regions 2, 4, and 7 will be selected and begin meeting this fall. Areas 1, 3, and 9 are scheduled for December 2022, with 5, 6, and 8 to start in April 2024.

The Draft 2022 Green Infrastructure Master Plan is a joint effort between the OPZ and the Department of Recreation and Parks to be a guide to protecting the County’s best natural, agricultural, and recreational lands to connect its vital ecosystems and the remaining natural lands in Anne Arundel County. The lands identified as the Green Infrastructure Network will help protect water and air quality, provide habitat for plants and wildlife, create opportunities for recreation, and support mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The Network was made public on August 12 for public review; comments will be accepted until September 26. It will not be a regulatory document but should play a strong role in future planning, such as in Regional Area Plans, and will be used to guide future legislation.

The plan is an update to the 2002 Greenways Master Plan, using newer data to strengthen the ecological, recreational, historic, and cultural assets that support the health of our environment, while contributing to our social and economic health. The Green Infrastructure Network improves water and air quality, supports plants and animals, and ensures that residents can continue to enjoy a green and healthy Anne Arundel County.

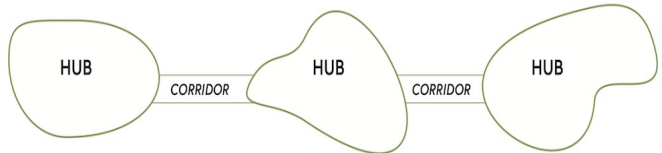
Past land use legislation has tended to view green infrastructure as a constraint to development; now it provides an opportunity to complement growth and enhance quality of life. This Plan will be well-synchronized with initiation of the Regional Planning processes. It should be one of the first items addressed by the regional plans and

given high priority in land use and zoning decisions.

The Plan’s goal is to preserve an additional 5,000 acres by 2030 so that approximately 30 percent of the land area of the County would be preserved as Green Infrastructure. It will be essential to have publicly available annual updates on progress toward this important goal.

The new Green Infrastructure Plan includes updated maps showing that the Network contains approximately 113,000 acres. Green Infrastructure will encompass large, high-quality natural areas — forests, streams, wetlands, and fields—and the linear corridors that connect them. Approximately 65 percent of the Network is already conserved by various means. Public ownership such as federal, state, and county parks protects some areas. Easements protect other areas that are privately owned.

All citizens stand to benefit from a well-constructed Green Infrastructure plan. Everyone should review and comment on the Plan and updated map by visiting the County’s Green Infrastructure web page, which can be accessed at www.aacounty.org/green-infrastructure. The map shows some of the corridors connecting “hubs,” as in this diagram.



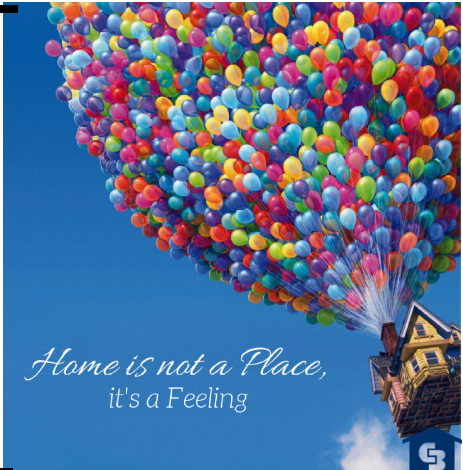
Since the Green Infrastructure Network weaves across the entire County, public participation will be essential. We invite you to explore our resources for more information on how you can stay involved. We also welcome you to send to greenplan@aacounty.org your questions and comments. The website provides opportunities to view and submit comments on the Plan and the updated map. Pay particular attention to Regional Area 8, which includes Davidsonville, Harwood, Lothian, and the western part of Edgewater, covering 99.22 square miles (63,501 acres).



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Annual meeting report *(Continued from page 1)*

hundreds of email messages exchanged with a number of separate and overlapping address lists: the general membership, the state and county employees and elected officials with whom DACA interacts; advertisers in the *Villager*, the board of directors, and a number of organizations that provide information to the board. The *Villager* editor would be completely lost without Melissa!

Bruce enumerated some of DACA’s previous accomplishments in the two years since the last annual meeting in 2019, as the 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 (this year delayed and held on Zoom due to Covid Delta). The Board continued with its regular meetings and the work went on.

DACA held a community meeting regarding the proposed dog park on Rossback Road and wrote to the Office of Planning and Zoning to express the opposition of the nearby residents.

We provided comments to the State Highway Administration describing the drawbacks of a proposed third Bay Bridge crossing routed through Davidsonville, Edgewater, and Mayo and noted our opposition.

We cheered as the Welcome to Davidsonville sign was installed in the Spring of 2020, funded by contributions from the Davidsonville Ruritan Club and DACA members and installed by Homestead Gardens..

DACA wrote to OPZ asking them not to close Governor Bridge Road during the reconstruction of the Riva Road/Homewood Road/Governor Bridge Road intersection. That work is now under way after many delays, and the road remains open and useable for commuters to Annapolis.

We signed on to Growth Action Network’s letter to the County Executive in 2018 opposing Bill 89-18 to permit solar energy generation plants in RA districts until further study was completed; then discussed and submitted comments in February 2021 to the Maryland Public Service Commission in opposition to changes in the Maryland Code to permit solar farms that could cause harm to farms and rural areas.

DACA continues to review proposed zoning changes and oppose those that are detrimental to the good of the community and wrote specifically to oppose a land use change on Central Avenue in the Land Use Map. We continue to provide comments to the OPZ, both positive and negative where appropriate, on Plan 2040 and to monitor land use and zoning bills that come before the County Council. DACA serves the community by helping residents who have questions and concerns about problems they have and advising them which office or agency to ask for help.

DACA’s Wish List

Bruce continued his report with a number of requests that have been expressed over recent months and years by DACA members, most having to do with the corner of Davidsonville Road and Central Avenue to make the Village more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly.

- Speed limit in the Historic District reduced to 30 mph with flashing signs as in Riva.
- A ban on use of “Jake” brakes in the village (pipe dream!) residential area.
- Bicycle lanes on both roads where possible.

Sidewalks on Central Avenue from the corner store as far as Queen Anne Bridge Road, with a crosswalk between Foxhall Drive and Davidsonville Elementary. DES students in Foxhall could walk to school and reduce the need for school busing.

- A traffic signal working during school hours to enable crossing Central Avenue at the school.
- And at the intersection of #424 and the Rte. 50 ramp, restore the solid red left-turn light to a blinker so cars turning left from #424 to the #50 east bound ramp can go when there is no oncoming traffic. There were no fatalities at that site when the red left turn signal was a blinker.


James Kitchin was extremely helpful in providing websites with answers to these and other questions. See page 9.



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School Report from Cyndi Morgan at DACA’s August Board Meeting

Superintendent Dr. Arlotto announced that Anne Arundel Public schools will return to in-person learning five days a week with mask mandates for all persons in school regardless of age and vaccination status. Recommended social distancing and thorough cleaning measures will continue. AACPS and the Department of Health are coordinating a Surveillance Testing program, and more information will follow once it is finalized. The first day of school was set for Wednesday, September 8.

Start School Later

Lisa VanBuskirk focuses her attention on AA County’s start times, too early for the health of school children. She presses this issue at meetings of the Board of Education. She reported the following:

Unfortunately, no decision was made on an implementation date for new start times during the Board of Education meeting on August 18.

Prismatic Services will return in October to give their final presentation of routes and start times and to determine the implementation date. I do not know if the January 2022 time frame for implementation set by the Board in January 2021 can be met if the final decision is not made until October. Prismatic suggested a January start date would be overly aggressive and potentially chaotic. Transportation

will be resolved by then, but AACPS still must coordinate a host of other internal and external entities. Implementation in the 2022–2023 school year may be more likely.

Prismatic has completed routing for two clusters (Chesapeake and Southern), with three more ready to give to AACPS for feedback. They anticipate finishing the initial routing by the end of September.

Most elementary schools will start at 8 a.m., with a few at 8:30. The earliest elementary pickup is anticipated to be 7:15 a.m. High school will start at 8:30, middle school either 9:00 or 9:15. Most important, no additional bus resources are needed to implement these start times.

Prismatic’s routing plan counts 2.5 elementary students per seat and/or two secondary students per seat, and designated walk distances. Based on that, AACPS needs up to 32 more buses to provide a bus seat for every student eligible, most at the high school level, to meet status quo start times. Not all those students will necessarily use a bus seat (reason for a discussion of potentially opting in/out of transportation services), which would allow for better management of existing buses. Students at the schools that need the additional buses do get to school, either via overcrowded buses or seeking alternative transportation options (drive, rides from family/friends). AACPS does not have any ridership data baseline from which buses potentially could be oversubscribed (i.e., they assign 100 students to a bus, but only 40 may show up, therefore leaving open seats, or perhaps 80 may *(continued on page 7)*



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Start School Later *(Continued from page 6)*
 show up, making the bus overcrowded). Thus the conservative estimates of the need for additional buses. As Prismatic continues to work through attendance zones, the number of buses needed may be reduced.

Subsequently, the Board unanimously passed a motion asking Supt. Arlotto and his staff to investigate the feasibility of opting in or out of transportation for the 2022–23 school year (similar to what they did for hybrid in Spring 2021). A report is due back to the Board in April 2022.



As always, I will keep you updated and I thank you for your continued support. We ARE making progress on start times. I really do think it will happen this time around. The Board is committed to their decision. The devil is in the details as they say, and we are indeed at the devilish part.

Lisa VanBuskirk, Chapter Leader
 Start School Later Anne Arundel County

On August 19, *Capital* reporters Rachael Pacella and Brandi Bottalico reported that anti-mask protesters, who opposed Superintendent Arlotto’s requirement for masks to be worn in school, disrupted the school board meeting on Wednesday, August 18, as two unmasked board members declared that Dr. Arlotto does not have the right to require them—as elected officials—to wear masks. Board member Corine Frank, Council District 3, moved that mask wearing be made optional. She wants to “stop masking kids” and “stop CRT (Critical Race Theory).” The issue was to be discussed further at the BoE meeting on September 1.

On September 1, the Board announced that its September 2 meeting would be held in a virtual closed session to vote whether to go into closed session and to discuss the development and implementation of emergency plans, to consult with Board counsel, and to conduct administrative responsibilities.



From their
 August 7 newsletter

We use science, restoration, and community action to make the South, West, and Rhode Rivers cleaner and healthier. Our 2021 annual meeting will be held on a virtual format on Wednesday, September 22. Registration is required. Send an email to request the Zoom link.

We’re thrilled to introduce to you our new team member, Jonathan Bland. Jonathan serves as the Assistant Rivers Program Manager. In this position, he will support our Riverkeeper and Restoration programs. Go to the staff page of ARF’s website to learn more about Jonathan's background.

We broke ground on our newest stream restoration project at Camp Woodlands in Annapolis. This project, in partnership with Anne Arundel County's Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, will restore 1,331 feet of stream and enhance forested habitat and wetlands.

In the South River, hundreds of millions of oysters have been raised and released on over a dozen oyster reefs. This year, our Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer, Chloe Obara, completed a capstone study on the oyster reefs. “I used hand tongs: two 20-foot-long wooden poles with rakes attached to the end to scoop up the oysters—think giant claw machine! I have so much respect for watermen who use this heavy equipment every day—it is certainly no easy task. With GoPro cameras, I lowered a tube of PVC pipe mounted with three GoPro cameras onto the reef surface to take live footage of the oysters. I saw barnacles filtering the water and grass shrimp swimming by. I counted any baby oysters (spat) I saw and noted any biota such as barnacles and crabs living on the shells.”

Ray Alcorn

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Senator Ed Reilly on Gerrymandering

August 11 Redistricting for Congressional Districts

Maryland has the worst gerrymandered districts in the country. Before the 2000 redistricting, Maryland was represented in congress by four Republicans and four Democrats. After the 2000 redistricting, the Congressional delegation swung to six Democrats and two Republicans. After the 2010 redistricting, Democrats gained another seat, and our Congressional delegation is now seven Democrats and one Republican. Yet, two of the last three Maryland Governors have been Republicans. In December the Governor will call a special session for redistricting.

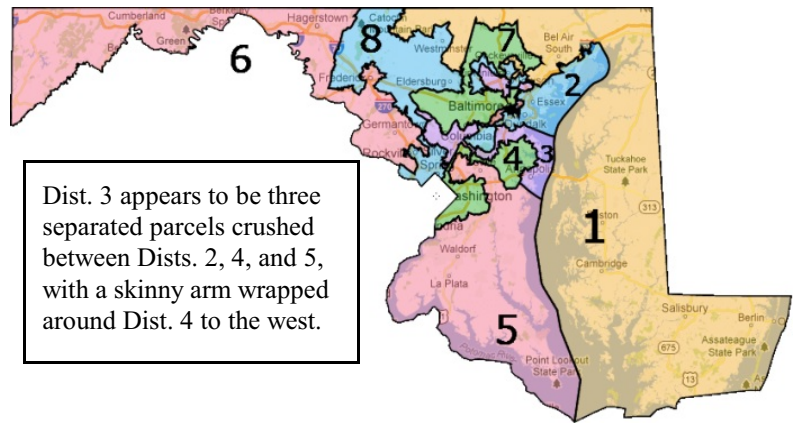
You may email me at Edward.Reilly@senate.state.md.us. This article, Excerpted from **Maryland Matters** gives an idea of what to expect: *Legislative Leaders Eye Early December Special Session to Draw Congressional Map*

by Bruce DePuyt - July 23, 2021

Members of the House and Senate Democratic caucuses have been told to block off the week of December 6 for the once-a-decade process of drawing new congressional lines. The Census is expected to provide useable numbers on September 30, and the current expectation is that legislators will have received enough population data from the U.S. Census Bureau to be able to gather in early December.

This process has enormous implications for incumbent officeholders and those thinking about running for one of Maryland's eight House seats.

Maryland's current congressional map



Two redistricting commissions are holding hearings around the state to solicit input from the public. One, with nine members — three Democrats, three Republicans and three independents, was appointed by Governor Hogan.

Drawing boundaries early could aid local elections officials, who will face a tight turnaround as they prepare for next year's primary, set for June 28. The candidate filing deadline is February 22.

Senator Mary Washington (D-Baltimore City) said the goal will be "to draw lines that are not only fairly representative of the state of Maryland but also can undergo judicial scrutiny."

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What James Kitchin Told Us at the Annual Meeting

Where to ask for help from AA County departments
 Send email to James.kitchin@aacounty.org. I tried the websites with variable success, considering that this editor is not the most adept at maneuvering through websites.

To report a problem or concern in the community:
<https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/report-a-concern>. (I tried this and got there.)

James noted that residents have the opportunity to comment on the draft Green Master Plan, which can be found on the OPZ web page <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/long-range-planning/green-infrastructure-master-plan/>. This gave me enough choices to be able to find it. Comments close on September 26.

He also mentioned the County’s survey on community policing, a resource guide for people affected by the recent tornado, and the phone number of the Office of Emergency Management, 410-222-0600.

The County survey on policing is at <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-executive/community-survey-on-policing/index.html>. This took me right to the survey). You can find help after disaster storms online. The document can be found at <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-executive/forms-and-publications/Disaster%20Resources.pdf>.

He reported on budget highlight meetings being held in each councilmanic district. He said links to each event can be found on the home page of the County website.

You can learn more about county budgets at <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/budget-office> and click on FY22 Highlights.

DACA’s Board thanks James for his time, knowledge, and expertise on county and community issues. One specific example follows:

Good day, Mr. Kitchin,

Thank you for joining the DACA meeting tonight. I sincerely appreciate your time and all of the

information that you provided to our group.

I am especially happy to hear about Maryland’s pilot program, Litter Sweep, for helping to clean up litter in Maryland.

My husband, Gray, and I have been picking up litter along our street, Double Gate Road, every once in a while, and we noticed an inordinate amount of beer bottles, cans, and litter on the sides of our roads, especially leading to and from Davidsonville Park. Some of the litter makes it into Patuxent River, polluting our environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

Let me know what specifically you need from me regarding inputs into the Litter Sweep pilot program so that we can help our communities and our state to become more environmentally aware and help do our part.

Sincerely, Cynthia “Cyndi” Morgan



This what I found when I looked further into Litter Sweep:

September 7, 2021 by Jared Adkins

The [Maryland] Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and Anne Arundel County are encouraging people to pick up their trash. They kicked off a litter pick-up campaign today to encourage others to do the same. They said if people pick up after themselves, and pick up trash they see in their areas, it could save the county a lot of money.

The “MDOT State Highway Administration spends nearly \$8 million dollars a year picking up litter/trash along our Maryland roadways,” said Tim Smith, SHA Administrator. “Over a course of five years, that’s almost \$40 million that we’re spending just on litter pickup alone. That’s dollars that we could be reinvesting in other parts of our infrastructure but instead, we’re focusing it on litter.” The current litter sweep lasted one week and will be repeated quarterly.

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Stories of Ocean Optimism

"Oyster Restoration Proves Its Worth" – Actively restoring oyster reefs—beyond simply protecting them from harvest—can create big payoffs, SERC scientists discovered when they took underwater photos and video of nearly 200 sites.

"Meet the Ocean of 2030" – Imagine a world where a spearfisher in Senegal can get a local marine life forecast on her phone. Or an indigenous Alaskan community can share their salmon knowledge on a global network. That's the vision of Marine Life 2030, one of two Smithsonian projects endorsed by the United Nations' "Ocean Decade." Take a plunge.

"What Cannibalism Taught Biologists About Fighting Invasive Crabs" – In California's Seadrift Lagoon, citizen

scientists spent years fighting invasive green crabs. But just when their efforts appeared to be paying off, something backfired. In a surprise twist, biologists realized cannibalism could help keep the crabs in check.



And at home, restoring Muddy Creek

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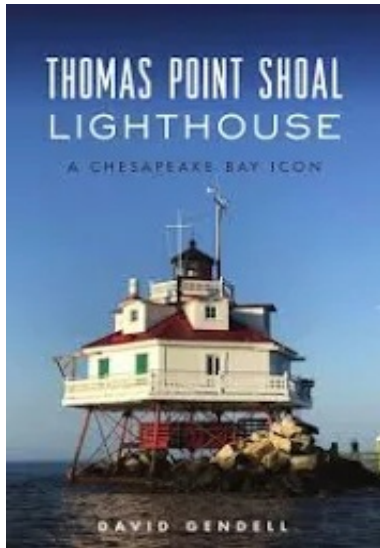
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Thomas Point Light Honored with Postage Stamp

In the USPS series of commemorative stamps, Thomas Point Light is one of five East Coast lighthouses to be recognized for their iconic status, still a working guide to ships and boaters on Chesapeake Bay. Off the tip of Arundel on the Bay where South River meets the Bay, it is a familiar sight to the

people who use and love the Bay.

Thomas Point Light is the last surviving screwpile lighthouse still on its original location, and one of only 12 lighthouses to be designated a National Historic Landmark.

You can book a tour at the website for Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse Tours. The duration of the tour is 1.5 hours and includes a 30-minute boat ride to the lighthouse, a docent-led tour of the interior, and a 30-minute return boat ride. Tours depart from Annapolis behind the Annapolis Maritime Museum at 723 Second Street, Annapolis. Three tours are offered each day: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and at 1:00 pm.

Commonsense Advice from AA County Police

Anne Arundel Residents Vaccinated as of 9/07/2021:
 First Dose, 340,898 (58.8%)
 Second Dose, 329,493 (56.8%)

Delta variant COVID-19 cases are rapidly rising across Maryland. Given the substantial COVID-19 transmission rate in Anne Arundel County, the following actions are recommended:

Wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged in all public indoor settings, regardless of your vaccination status. Now is the time to get vaccinated. Appointments and walk-in vaccinations are available everyday.

Everyone who has COVID-19 symptoms should get tested. If you have been around someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, seek testing three to five days after exposure even if you are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms.



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South County Land Use Problem Can Affect All County Parks: Composting?

Sands Road Park, containing 181.67 acres, sits along the Patuxent River in southern Anne Arundel County. Once occupied by a Super Rubble Landfill, the land has become a haven for many migratory and breeding bird species, racking up a count of 181 avian species—many of which are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as “in decline.” More than half the park lies within the Critical Area and Resource Conservation Area for the Patuxent River, and within a state-designated Targeted Ecological Area (targeted for conservation). Parts of the park are designated as “significant for conservation” within the Maryland State Biodiversity Conservation Network.

Al-Ray Rubble Landfill operated on the entire 180-acre site from 1984 until April 1994. When it ceased accepting waste in December 1994, the site was covered with dirt without installing a bottom liner or leachate collection system. An impermeable synthetic membrane cap was placed over part of the site (except where the slope is steep), 30 inches of sand/gravel and soil were placed over the membrane, and the “site was vegetated using only shallow-rooting material.” Anne Arundel County acquired the site in December 2003 from Al-Ray, apparently as a donation to be used as a park. The County promised local residents that it would be developed as a park but has installed no park amenities other than a few basketball courts.

In October 2020 the County leased five acres to Garrity Renewables for use as a composting facility and in December 2020 issued a grading permit. The five-acre area is at the Bayard Road entrance to the park, outside the 1,000 foot Critical Area of the Patuxent River.

The Patuxent Riverkeeper and local residents have long been fighting to reduce traffic on Sands Road as well as stop destructive use of the land along the Patuxent River in Southern Anne Arundel County. Despite promises made by the county to approve no new industrial use along the Sands Road corridor—as recently as April 2021—a bill creating an exception to Maryland Department of Environment laws for this operation was approved in May 2021.

The impact of such heavy use on such a sensitive site raises significant concerns on many levels: potential damage to the capped landfill, leading to increased levels of contaminants from the site; possible detrimental nutrient runoff into Ferry Branch and the Patuxent; and increased traffic on already dangerous and overused roads.

The terms of the transfer of property to the County require a semi-annual Groundwater Monitoring Report. The last environmental report published on the Maryland Department of Environment website, in 2019, stated that the area must be kept mown, free from trees, and its access limited by, at least, closing and locking the gates. Yet, despite the apparent need to keep people off the rubble fill cap, the county is allowing a private company to raise buildings, lay impervious concrete, use heavy machinery, and create stormwater management through regrading part of the site. The president of Veteran Compost, one of three companies joined in this project, stated that the site “will handle 20 to 30 tons per day of food waste and an equal amount of manure/bedding or wood chips each day.”

Most people recognize and agree that composting facilities can perform a valuable and environmentally sound service. The Veterans Compost facility in Aberdeen appears to be working with and *(continued on page 13)*

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Composting at Sands Road Park *(from page 12)*

for environmental sustainability. Garrity Renewables laid an impervious surface at Sands Road Park prior to completion of permitting and acquired a two-year grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture in 2016 to develop “a compost demonstration project and public education/training facility for farmers throughout Maryland,” yet it has not fulfilled that grant as of 2021. The company has not said how it intends to care for the capping above a Super Rubble Landfill site.

To visit the park, take Route 2 (Solomons Island Road) south until you reach the traffic circle. At the circle, make a right onto Route 422 (Bayard Road). At the end of Bayard Road, cross over Sands Road into the park. Large trucks using the facility will travel the local roads through Davidsonville, Harwood, and Lothian.

No formal citizen opposition has arisen to the permitting of the private use of this park. However, the proposed facility will have some impact on birds, conservation, environmental issues, and local residents. Concerned citizens may request an environmental impact study on this sensitive site and/or reach out to the developers to encourage that development minimize adverse environmental impact.

As this appears to be a done deal, concerned citizens should keep an eye on activities at the site and verify that regulations are observed. They can reach out to neighbors to inform them of the importance of Sands Road Park for the neighborhood, conservation, and the health of the Patuxent River watershed. Interested birders and environmental and conservation experts could help forge the future and mitigate current issues. Please reach out to me at jovet@aol.com if you would like to help.

*Information from Joanne Howl, West River
Submitted by DACA member Michael Prokopchak*

Can the Bay Be Saved?

The Chesapeake Bay Summit 2021 took place in April, convening a discussion of the critical issues that face the Chesapeake Bay. In its latest edition of The Chesapeake Bay Summit, Maryland Public Television host Frank Sesno* drove compelling conversation by a panel of knowledgeable experts, activists, and officials on Chesapeake Bay health and cleanup. Panelists were Carin Bisland, Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment; Jennie Schmidt, MS, RD, Schmidt Farms Inc.; Matt Strickler, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources and Chief Resilience Officer; Fred Tutman, Founding Patuxent Riverkeeper; Jill Whitcomb, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office at Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Tim Wheeler, Associate Editor and Senior Writer, *The Bay Journal*.

In 2010, the federal government ordered states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York—to meet federal clean water guidelines, or else. Now, it doesn't look like they're going to make the 2025 deadline.

Though progress has been made in keeping pollutants out of tributaries that feed the Bay, a combination of factors such as a lack of regulatory enforcement by states, accelerating impacts of climate change, and the effects of COVID-19 are hindering long-standing efforts.

To meet the federally-mandated 2025 deadline that calls for reduced amounts of nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants that harm the Bay's health, efforts will have to accelerate at a pace never seen before. Yearly nitrogen reduction will have to triple. The pace with which stream-side buffers and agricultural best management practices are installed will have to pick up substantially. The stakes are high: the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries remain toxic and prone to algal blooms that *(continued on page 15)*



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 Del. Heather Bagnall 410-841-3406 heather.bagnall@house.state.md.us
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 Superintendent George Arlotto superintendent@aacps.org
boardoffice@aacps.org garlotto@aacps.org

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health is conducting the annual Raccoon Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Project, throughout September. Baits will be placed throughout Anne Arundel County to vaccinate raccoons against rabies. The project should be completed by the end of September, weather permitting.

**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.



Davidsonville Country Living magazine is dedicated to residents of our fair community and features families and individuals who make Davidsonville the place we love. It also features an occasional local history or nostalgic interest. If you are a Davidsonville resident not currently receiving the magazine and would like to, please send your email address to david.grabau@n2pub.com.

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Celebrating Annapolis Green June 11, 2022
Season finale and gala to promote a sustainable, environmentally friendly community with memorable music to match. In collaboration with Annapolis Green.

Chesapeake Bay Summit
(continued from page 13)
starve the water of oxygen. As a result, iconic species like oysters, rockfish, and shad continue to languish.

**Frank Sesno is a former CNN correspondent, anchor, and Washington bureau chief. He spent 11 years as Director of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University and is currently Director of Strategic Initiatives.*

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Go to <http://lso-music.org> to purchase tickets, sign up for newsletter, and to donate.

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The Villager

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