

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 47, No. 5

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

January-February 2021

Trees! Trees! Trees!

DACA will hold its 11th tree giveaway event at Homestead Gardens on March 27, 2021

DACA volunteers will be stationed at Homestead Gardens with 400 trees to wrap in paper and distribute to people who arrive and ask for them.

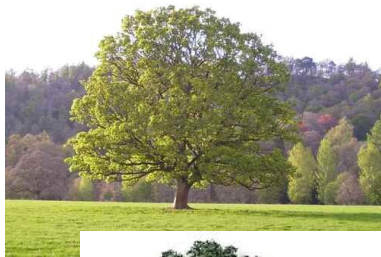
Southern Crabapple



Southern Redbud



Sycamore Tree



*White Oak
Maryland's State Tree*



Governor's Bridge/Homewood/Riva Road

Regarding construction at Riva Road, Homewood Road, and Governor's Bridge Road, Kate Fox reported that Governor's Bridge Road will not be closed for the months or years-long duration of the new road reconstruction. The Department of Public Works originally planned to close Governor's Bridge Road between Riva Road and St. George Barber Road, forcing east-bound drivers to go west to reach Annapolis and Edgewater via Route #424 and #214 or Route #50. The primary factor requiring the one-way detour was a single utility pole that is to be relocated prior to construction.

Instead, one lane at a time will be closed during working hours only, with flaggers who will signal "stop" and proceed "slow" signs. DPW is preparing the advertisement for construction bids. As of December 12, the bid opening date is February 9. This places the actual construction start for sometime in May. They anticipate construction time to be a year, with completion in spring 2022.

Overheard in the lobby

Davidsonville's new post office is scheduled to open in March in the Davidsonville Station mall at the corner of Central Avenue (#214) and Patuxent River Road. Necessary construction may be complete in time for a late February relocation. As with every new production, the post office will be bigger and better than its current building, with three times as many post office boxes available to rent in three different sizes, bigger than now. Most of the boxes will be renumbered, so if you get your mail in a post office box, be prepared to notify your correspondents of your new mailing address.

DACA people

Many thanks to Richard and Mary Evelyn Mayr for their generous contribution to DACA's Scholarship Fund, in addition to renewing their dues. Many thanks also to DACA's life member Betty Knupp, for her generous contribution to the Scholarship Fund, and for her very kind words about DACA and the Villager.



I'm glad you include contacts for government officials so we can contact them easily. You do an excellent job as editor of the Villager. I always look forward to receiving it. Betty K.

Thank you again this month for all the work you do for our community, Gail. I look forward to reading this month's Villager. Warmest Regards, F.C.

Thank you for writing. Please know that I am reading ALL of your emails although I might not be able to respond. This is a difficult time for students, parents, teachers, and staff. I hear you. I see you. If you can't find the answers to your questions online, the best way to get a hold of me right now is to call 443-534-2660. We will get through this together. Dana Schalheim, Board of Education

In Memoriam
Betty Hebb
July 22, 1932 – November 9, 2020
DACA member since 1991

In Memoriam
Barbara Carr
December 7, 2020
DACA member 1993-2010

Please support our students in post-high school education!

You are invited to contribute to DACA's Scholarship Fund, in any amount. Gifts can be made in honor of or in memory of loved ones, and donors may remain anonymous if they prefer. Send your check, with "Scholarship" on the memo line, to DACA Scholarship, PO Box 222, Davidsonville, MD 21035. (The post office box number may be changed in March.)

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Plan2040: Anne Arundel's next General Development Plan

Growth Action Network: Plan2040 is an important document that will influence land use policy and legislation for many years. The Plan is presented in two volumes, with Volume One containing the essence of the Plan and Volume Two containing background material. The Plan and supporting information may be downloaded at the Plan2040 webpage: www.aacounty.org/Plan2040

On the whole, Plan2040 is a good document, although several topics are of concern. The following areas are suggested for review and possible comment by DACA and other GAN members:

Unchecked growth in the County over the last several years has caused a general decline in the quality of life. If that growth continues unabated, no amount of planning will reverse that trend. The Plan indicates that the County's population is expected to increase by 50,000 (or 29,000 households) by 2040. While it addresses directing that growth in intelligent ways, the Plan apparently takes that rate of growth as inevitable. It does not articulate clearly any goals respecting overall growth or discuss the desirability or feasibility of measures that would limit growth. Growth targets and corresponding policy and legislative tools to successfully manage within the targets should be specified.

Fiscal Impact of Growth: Sound land use policies and legislation should be founded on an accurate estimate of the financial consequences of growth. The Plan should include reliable methods for calculating life-cycle costs for infrastructure and services necessary to accommodate growth and proposals for achieving revenue and expense equilibrium.

A Plan with Teeth: To avoid confusion, it would be desirable to make clear that the Plan is far more than a general guide. It should be clearly stated that "Plan2040 should be followed as closely as possible while not being elevated to the status of an ordinance, and that deviations from the plan should be rare."

Natural Environment: Policies on forest retention, green infrastructure, and the critical area should provide good legislative guidance. However, some issues are not addressed:

Agricultural preservation: The plan suggests that RA zoning "protects" 10,000 acres of agricultural land in South County when, in fact, it allows construction of 500 new residences and fragmentation of large parcels into units that are too small for viable farming of many of the current crops. Only 13,961 acres of the 1993 goal of 20,000 have actually been protected with easements. The Draft GDP

characterizes the Agricultural Program as a success, but the facts say otherwise. Plan2040 must acknowledge the reality and create a well-researched strategic plan designed to achieve agricultural sustainability. It should outline a path toward finding better approaches to agricultural preservation that address the fundamental reasons for decline of the agriculture industry.

Ecosystem services: The role of forests and well-managed agricultural lands in prevention and mitigation of storm water pollution and in groundwater recharge must be acknowledged and promoted. The value of these ecosystem services should be estimated and included in assessing the true costs of development in these areas.

Built Environment section

Affordable housing: The need for low-income and workforce housing in the County is acknowledged in the plan, but the County has neither included nor created a Workforce/Affordable Housing plan to determine where these developments should be located. Redevelopment areas, town centers, and transportation centers are determined to be attractive options, but the plan should specify target development areas with locations, densities, and rates of development. The plan should also specify height restrictions that will assure compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods.

Regional growth management: The County Executive suggested that excess market demand for growth be redirected toward Baltimore, since the city needs redevelopment and new growth. If this is a viable alternative for relieving excess growth pressure in the County, it should be covered with appropriate Land Use recommendations and policies in Plan2040. *Plan2040 continues on page 4*

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GAN on Plan 2040 from page 3

Healthy Economy

Economic development resources: County development resources would be best spent attracting jobs and housing for current County residents and in promoting redevelopment and revitalization of areas in need of it. Development near Ft. Meade and BWI airport is unlikely to fall in these categories.

Regional Planning details

Since the Plan2040 document is presented as guidance rather than regulation, the planning process for the nine Small Regions will have to recommend legislation specifying local zoning, type and rate of development, environmental preservation, school capacity, and traffic. A description of the Regional Planning process, plan content, and implementation mechanisms, however, is not provided. Consequently, it remains difficult to evaluate the broader Plan2040.

Interim rezoning: The proposed Regional Planning schedule suggests that plans for the nine regions will not all be completed before 2025, and the stage seems to be set for a parade of piecemeal rezoning bills to be presented to the County Council over the next several years. Since the Land Use map will have been approved much earlier and zoning must be consistent with it, the Land Use map will effectively become the new zoning map in the interim.

Composition of the Regional Planning Committees will be all-important in determining the content of the Regional Plans. The proposed committee structure appears

to be overweighted with developers, brokers, and others representing commercial interests. The County has (more than) ten times more employees than businesses, suggesting that commercial interests should be restricted to no more than two representatives on a Regional Planning Committee.

DACA's Comments on Plan 2040

In response to the Planning Advisory Board (PAB), IDACA centered its Plan 2040 comments on the issues of mobile homes, climate change, and unconstrained growth.

DACA President Bruce Stein studied the Plan in painstaking detail and discovered that land use regulations are inconsistent with each other and inconsistent with present rural land use policy.

Mobile homes: The County Council passed Bill 57-20 with amendments in October to allow mobile homes on RA and RLD zoned land outside mobile home parks. The draft Plan2040 states where mobile homes would be permitted or anticipated on Planned Use Designations.

DACA objects to the inclusion of "Mobile Home Parks" as one of the "Permitted/Anticipated Uses" for the Plan2040 Land Use Designation of "Rural—density averaging or lower than one unit per five acres" as listed in Plan2040 Volume 2, Table 17, "Plan2040 Permitted Land Use Designations." Volume 1 and Volume 2 are in direct contradiction in their specification for permitted/anticipated uses of properties in rural areas.

DACA's comments continue on page 5

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DACA’s Comments on Plan2040 *(continued)*

[On Mobile homes] We request that the draft plan be modified to delete “mobile home parks” as a permitted or anticipated use in the Vol. 2, table 17, list of permitted/anticipated property uses of Rural properties. This modification is required in order to be consistent with present rural land use policy as listed in Vol. 2, table 14, and to bring the land use designation into agreement with the policy and goals for rural and agricultural land enunciated in Volume 1. The inclusion of mobile home parks in a permitted/anticipated land use is inconsistent with, at a minimum, the following:

“Rural and Agricultural Communities that are characterized by large-lot residential areas, farms, and very limited commercial and industrial areas outside of the Priority Funding Area (PFA) and are served by private septic systems. Development is limited to protect the rural and agricultural heritage and economy and limit the costly extension of public facilities and services.” Vol. 1., pg. 38.

On page 42 of Volume 1, the planned 2040 land uses for rural and low density properties are listed as follows:

- Rural: Agricultural uses and single family detached homes at a density averaging or lower than one unit per five acres
- Low Density Residential: Single-family detached homes at density between one and two units per acre
- Low-Medium Density Residential: Single-family detached, semi-detached units greater than two units per acre up to five units per acre

For many years, it has been the public policy of Anne Arundel County to prohibit mobile homes and/or mobile home parks in the County’s rural areas. This public policy again received support from the present council during the drafting and passage of the revisions to bill 57-20.

Climate Change and its effects on all the planning areas: The extensive and commendable data presented in the planning goals fail to satisfactorily recognize all the effects and problems that climate change is already causing and which will continue to increase. For example, while

effects of stormwater runoff on creeks and streams, and ultimately the bay, are well recognized, upstream problems are less well accounted for, such as control of stormwater runoff from Homeowners Associations (HOAs). When first developed, the stormwater management facilities are part of the planning process, inspected, approved, and ultimately turned over to the HOA to maintain and manage. This has created problems and potential problems, including, but not limited to, inadequate original design (or if originally adequate, may become inadequate as rainfall increases in amounts and severity, thus causing more and more damage downstream); maintenance of the stormwater facilities are compromised by a lack of knowledge, skills, and/or funding by the HOA; lack of licensed/trained professionals to design and maintain said facilities in the county.

Uncontrolled runoff damages streams and creeks already in need of protection; land subsidence and rising water levels in the bay threaten and damage our coastlines and nearby residents. Strategies and goals to ameliorate such growing problems are needed but are not evident in Plan2040. Plan2040 should contain specific goals to do so.

Unconstrained growth is at the core of our issues. The Plan2040 draft acknowledges concerns by County residents that “population growth and development has changed the physical character and reduced the quality of life of the area.” Plan2040 Vol. 1. A process to address these concerns lies in regulating the rate of population growth and development by limiting and controlling building permits. Limiting building permits, by location and type of use, is a useful strategic tool in controlling and limiting growth.

Plan2040 should include a Built Environment Goal that provides a means for each Planning Region of the County (as identified in the Plan) to limit its rate of development to levels established by a committee of its residents. Corresponding policies and strategies should direct formation of an appropriate process to identify the process for achieving this Goal. *DACA on Plan2040 continues on page 6*

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DACA on Plan2040, from page 5

Unconstrained growth: The section in Volume 1, pg. 34, "Consideration of Cap on Permits" raises various concerns, primarily legal, against an administrative process of limiting building permits as a method of growth control. However, that same section recognizes that in order to be legal, the regulations must be grounded in law and fact and not be "arbitrary and capricious." This requirement does not prohibit the limitation of building permits to control growth. Rather, it requires, much like any law, that it be reasonable and narrow to achieve a limited purpose. Indeed, Anne Arundel County already makes use of such a tool by limiting permits until there is space available in the school system: e.g., a developer whose new community has been on hold for approximately ten years while waiting for school clearance.

There are many factors that play into a legal decision to limit building permits, including some or all of the items listed in Volume 1, pg. 44 of the plan, potential/actual archeological sites, sites of historical value, ecological concerns, avoidance of damage due to climate change, and others. The idea of limiting the number of building permits should be incorporated into the planning process as a recognized allowable tool to manage growth, perhaps most effectively at the regional planning level.

Bruce Stein, for DACA's Board of Directors

Alliance for Livable Communities focused on
People Here Now and People of the Future

Plan2040 has many features valued by urban planners. It aims to follow the principles of Smart Growth as interpreted to mean growth management that concentrates new development in high-density population centers that are served by efficient transportation systems, and it promotes redevelopment of urban areas that have seen better days.

For the people here now, sometimes Plan2040 serves their needs and sometimes it does not. These people have spoken out many times, in visioning sessions, surveys, through their CAC representatives, and in comments on earlier versions of the Plan. But Plan2040 still seems to emphasize accommodating some people, somewhere, who may wish to come here in the future. Many are assumed to be

coming, and we must find a place to put them.

In some places these People of the Future will be welcome and add to the quality of life for all. Areas that need redevelopment or revitalization often fall into this category. But in areas where there are already complaints of excessive development, crowding, pollution, and traffic, the influx of a large number of future residents will not be welcomed. Sections of Route 2 and Route 3, areas near Fort Meade, and the peninsulas are examples. By neglecting these complaints, Plan2040 prescribes a diminished quality of life for some of the people here now and, in its current draft, provides no means to improve it. For these people, growth brings many problems and minimal benefit.

If Plan2040 and the legislation it stimulates provided a means for local control of development, the needs of all of the County localities could be much better served. Regulation of development is currently accomplished through zoning, adequate public facilities ordinances, moratoria, and similar processes. Calvert County moderated development for several years using down-zoning and transfer of development rights. Jurisdictions in other states have used regulation of building permits to control pace and type. This easily allows different constraints to be applied at different locations.

Plan2040 will be followed by nine Regional Area Plans in which citizens will decide and recommend what they want in their areas, and these can provide attractive opportunities for local control of development if they are empowered to do so. Annual building permit caps would be one method, but other approaches also exist. To assure that it represents all of the People Here Now, Plan2040 should include a workgroup to identify goals and policies that would empower the regional area plan committees to control the rate and type of development in their area. A workgroup should have representation from the legal, administrative, and planning departments and should evaluate known best practices throughout the country. Solutions exist, and, in the end, the Workgroup should identify one.

Paul Christensen

Plan2040 tentative schedule is on page 7.



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President

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Agritourism

Bill 69-20 was passed by the AA County Council on December 7, with amendments. Its purpose is to expand the uses allowed on farms and agricultural heritage sites to enable landowners to increase their income from their land, rather than sell it to developers. The bill defines “agritourism” to include activities or events related to historical, cultural or natural resources. An “agricultural heritage site” is a property listed on the Inventory of Historic Resources that is historically significant for its contribution to the agricultural history of the County. “Special event” means a gathering of the public or invited groups limited to attendance by invitation or reservation for compensation for events including parties, celebrations, weddings or receptions. Conditions of use require minimum lot sizes; parking area requirements, a limit of 15 events per property per twelve-month period; a limit of one day for each event; and operation hours. Any outdoor assembly areas shall be shielded from surrounding residential properties against noise, hazards, and other offensive conditions and shall be screened from adjacent residential properties. The number of attendees is limited to 200 people for events on farms or historic sites of over ten acres.

For historic sites between five and ten acres, the number of attendees is limited to 50. The special event activities shall occur outdoors, unless the use of any structures or tents is in accordance with the Building Code. Lastly, the special events shall be accessory and not the principal use of the site. Special exception requirements are almost identical to conditional requirements for nine to 15 events, except that the minimum lot size is ten acres and the maximum number of attendees is 200 for all events. The minimum lot size for a farm is ten acres and five acres for an agricultural heritage site. The owner or the manager of the farm or agricultural heritage site shall reside on the property and be present during the stay. No more than five groups of no more than ten guests in each group shall be allowed, and guests may stay no more than 14 consecutive days.

Plan2040 schedule of actions

December–January 2021: Draft revision to be completed and presented to the Planning Advisory Board for review and public hearing
 February: First draft to be delivered to County Council
 March–May: First public hearing by Council

FY2022 Budget Season with Online Town Halls

January 7, 2021

Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman will host seven online Budget Town Halls over the next month to discuss the upcoming Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Due to the COVID pandemic, the town halls will be conducted by videoconference. Each meeting will focus on an individual County Council district and feature opening remarks from County Executive Pittman and the Council member representing the district. The County Executive will give a brief budget overview presentation and then attendees will be invited to make public comments.

Council member Jessica Haire will host the Town Hall budget discussion for District 7, Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 6:00–7:30 pm

The county’s interactive budget tool has been updated and is now live on the county website at www.aacounty.org/yourbudget/. Users are able to see how the county’s tax rates compare to other counties, examine revenue and expenses of the current year’s budget, explore approximate costs of programs, equipment, and staff positions, and adjust tax rates and add expenses to calculate the fiscal impact.

County Executive Pittman will introduce the budget on April 30, in accordance with the county charter. The County Council then has until June 15 to deliberate and pass a balanced budget.

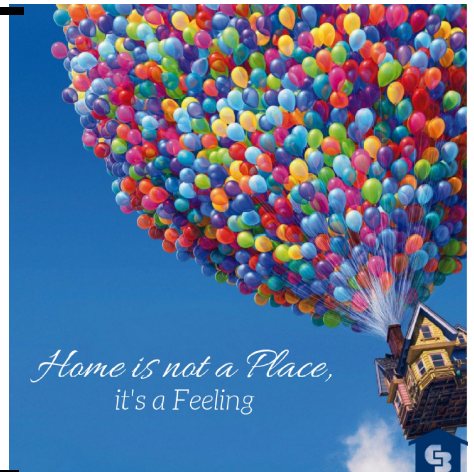
County Executive Pittman officially named Chris Trumbauer as County Budget Officer. Trumbauer has been Acting Budget Officer since October 12. In addition to his role as Budget Officer, Trumbauer will continue to serve as a senior policy advisor to the County Executive.



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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 on DACA’s website www.daca-md.org or www.davidsonvillemaryland.org.

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.

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.

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Little Free Libraries

Southern Maryland Meats (SMM), a program of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), is installing ‘Little Free Libraries’ throughout the Southern Maryland region including Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties and the southern portions of Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties.

The libraries are designed to promote the Southern Maryland Meats livestock producers in a fun and engaging way and encourage awareness of the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. Each library will provide free reading materials for the community to borrow, including a copy of *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures:: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin*. Grandin is most known for her inventions of groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe.

Southern Maryland Meats is looking for groups to maintain libraries throughout the Southern Maryland region such as scout troops, 4H Clubs, HOAs, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, and schools. Organizations and individuals interested in the possibility of becoming a Little Free Library steward or host are encouraged to contact SMM Program Manager Craig Sewell (240)528-8850 ext. 314, or email: csewell@smadc.com or contact Rachel Norris (240)528-8850 ext. 306, or email: morris@smadc.com.

New bill to allow Bird Sanctuaries

Seventh District Council member Jessica Haire introduced Bill 2-21 at the AA County Council meeting January 4. The bill is intended to allow and regulate bird sanctuaries as a conditional use in RA and RLD residential zoning districts.

It defines a bird sanctuary as a facility where birds are kept and given care and lists requirements: three acres or more; pens and enclosures at least 100 feet from residentially zoned property and no birds to be housed within the 100-foot setback. Any dwelling on the property must be occupied by at least one person involved in the operation of the bird sanctuary; must be operated by a tax-exempt 501(c)3 entity and not for commercial purposes. It must be accredited by the American Sanctuary Association or the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. The first scheduled hearing is on February 1.

Good Morning, Farmer!

University of Maryland Extension invites farmers and those who work in the agricultural sector to gather virtually each Wednesday from 8:00 to 9:00 am from December 2, 2020, until March 31, 2021, to discuss topics of interest, learn from experts, and join in fellowship.

Registration is free but is required to attend any or all sessions: <https://extension.umd.edu/anne-arundel-county/good-morning-farmer>.

Sharon Laddie






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COVID

AA County press update January 12

Initial vaccine allocations are limited, so we must prioritize how the vaccine will be distributed, based on guidance from the CDC and the Maryland Department of Health," said County Health Officer Nilesh Kalyanaraman, M.D.

Both the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines require two doses. The county has received 2,600 Moderna doses and is scheduled to receive 4,875 doses of Pfizer and an additional 200 doses of Moderna. In the coming weeks, the Department of Health will be vaccinating over 3,000 health care workers and judiciary staff; the Anne Arundel County Fire Department will be vaccinating 2,000 first responders; and the Department of Corrections will receive close to 1,000 doses to vaccinate staff and inmates. At present, the amount of vaccine the Department of Health receives each week is variable, and it is not clear when other providers and pharmacies will be able to start vaccinating the public.

Phase 1A, which began in December 2020 includes: Health Care Workers and those in Public Health; nursing homes, first responders: Fire, EMS, Police, and Sheriff ; Judiciary; corrections staff and inmates

Phase 1B, starting January 18, includes front line essential workers in a variety of sectors and individuals at highest risk from COVID. It includes assisted living facilities, group homes, homeless shelters; government; workers in education, child care, and those age 75 and older. It will take two to three months to provide both doses of the vaccine to everyone in these groups. As

greater quantities of vaccine become available and more providers are registered to give the vaccine, the speed of this process will increase.

Phase 1C, starting January 25, includes other essential workers in a variety of sectors and individuals at the next highest risk from COVID. It includes adults age 65-74;

Phase 2, April and May, includes those aged 16-64 with high risk conditions; essential workers in transportation and logistics, water and wastewater, food service, shelter and housing (e.g., construction), finance (e.g., bank tellers), information technology and communications, energy, legal, media, public safety (e.g., engineers), others with public facing responsibilities.

Phase 3, May-June Everyone age 16 – 64. Currently, the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have not been approved for children age 15 and younger.

Vaccine distribution will roll out over a series of weeks, and current estimates are that by late Spring 2021 enough vaccine will be available for everyone who is recommended to receive it in Phase 1.

Anne Arundel County is following guidance from the CDC and Maryland Department of Health, the manufacturers' supply of vaccines, how vaccine is allocated from the federal level to local health departments, and the local health system's capacity to administer the vaccine to its populations. One phase does not need to be complete before another phase begins and phases will overlap.

More information can be found online at COVID-19 > COVID Vaccines > COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout FAQ. Constant updates result in frequent changes.

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School News

From Cyndi Morgan to DACA Board, January 7

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) sent out a family survey, asking each family to register the learning model of their choice for each student: Virtual (five days virtual) vs Virtual-Plus (two days in-person, three days virtual).

AACPS has not set a date when the Virtual Plus schedule will be implemented. They are working on models to be used for the hybrid when it is deemed safe to do so.

Virtual schedules are changing: high school started Monday, January 11 and middle and elementary schools will start on Tuesday, February 2. As a note, high school students are not happy with the new virtual schedule.

The Board of Education meeting on January 6 lasted from 6:00 pm until 2:00 am. They passed a motion to get statistics from the AACPS Superintendent asking the number of student suicides since the school closing in March 2020, to be reported by February 2; and to conduct a survey of mental health of all 85,000 students in elementary, middle and high school.

Start School Later, *from Lisa vanBuskirk*

In December, the three newly elected Board of Education members representing Districts 2, 3, and 6 took their oaths of office. (See page 14) Their first public meeting was a Virtual School Start and Dismissal Time Workshop at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 14th.

The workshop on December 14, was the much delayed follow-up to the March 10 Transportation Workshop with Prismatic Services. AACPS and community members discussed the impact of changing school start and stop times on issues such as bus routes, child care, student safety, sports and other extra curricular activities.

In the workshop, staff and community members raised concerns caused by a later school day, saying children would potentially play sports and walk or bike home in the dark. Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Strategic Initiatives Maureen McMahan also said the co-curriculars “run into darkness, they run into family life late in the day, they run into transportation problems, and they run into safety and security as nightfall comes.”

In public testimony on December 21, Recreation and Parks Director Rick Anthony cited the domino effect of change, noting that it could hurt Rec and Parks’ ability to staff child care sites, which mostly employ high school students.

Davidsonville resident Melissa Stanton responded that children are already walking to school and playing sports in the dark, and that the current school hours are unhealthy for kids. “Everyone knows the science. As parents, we know kids need more sleep but because of the school schedule, they can’t get more sleep.”

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Economic value of the environment

We seldom pause to think about all of the things that our forests, wetlands, parks and open fields provide to us as gifts, free of charge, yet so important to our quality of life. They purify our water, prevent flooding and runoff, moderate the climate, provide habitat for wildlife, and offer spiritual fulfillment. Often described as ecosystem services, the economic value of these benefits that support our health and well-being has received extensive study over the past several years. These studies are helpful in bringing perspective to the impact of human actions on the environment and should help inform our decisions on land use and the environment.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has extensively analyzed the value of ecosystem services throughout the state with emphasis on forests and wetlands. Several GIS maps and reports are available that describe these services throughout the state. Ecosystem contributions such as air pollution removal, carbon sequestration, ground water recharge, flood prevention, storm water mitigation, nitrogen removal, wildlife habitat, and recreation are recognized and addressed. The DNR data suggests that the total value of these services in Anne Arundel County is more than \$500 million/year, about one-third of the County's annual budget. Yet nowhere on our tax bill do we find a line item for ecosystem services. Nature gives us this as a gift. She only asks that we appreciate it and care for it.

(Growth Action Network)

Legislature in session

The 2021 Maryland General Assembly opened its 442nd session on January 13, sadly missing retired Senator Mike Miller who died on January 15. The longest-serving State Senator in the U.S., he was a staunch supporter of public safety and our fire and rescue service.

DACA Vice President Ed Woods appreciates the view from his window on State Circle, his office as Chair of the Maryland State Firefighters Association.

This new session will look very different with tight security and pandemic restrictions in place, as our delegates and senators are preparing for a rigorous legislative agenda. We hope the plan and logistics within our nation and state are successfully bringing great relief to many. All Senate and House Sessions will be held in the State House with only the elected members, their staff, security, cleaning, and maintenance workers. Gone are the lobbyists, TV crews, press, constituents, tourists, and school field trips. Annapolis, for now in this part of town, looks deserted.

Thanks to Delegate Mike Malone and Ed Woods



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Coming up in 2021

West/Rhode Riverkeeper Jesse Iliff will advocate for a state study on “Forever chemicals” appearing in crabs and oysters. ARF will begin their living shoreline project at Franklin Point State Park to enhance habitat and increase climate resiliency. They will finish planting 1,400 trees at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds.

Stories of 2020 from ARF

The Floating Coffin: We’re grateful the “coffin” that was reported floating in the South River last summer turned out to be a floating dock! Thank you to Maryland Department of Natural Resources for removing it. We were happy this could be laid to rest! ;-)

Gravely stream restoration restored frogs-a-leaping: Despite the pandemic, our largest scale restoration project is complete! Frogs found the site a leaping success and were found within weeks of its completion.

Tornado Strikes Boat: After the tornado sunk our pump-out boat, we were able to refloat and repair it so it will return for the 2021 season! Fortunately, the sewage was 100% contained. While its season was shorter than usual, the pump-out boat collected 9,905 gallons of sewage from local boats.



Frigid Plunge: Since Arundel Rivers now serves the South, West, and Rhode Rivers as well as Herring Bay, we had staff plunge at each waterway. We are not sure which is more impressive, our willingness to plunge or our supporters’ willingness to pay to see us plunge!

A Cleaner, Greener Future for STYROFOAM!

On October t, Maryland banned polystyrene foam restaurant containers. 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 finally passed.

Using data on the thousands of foam containers (commonly known as styrofoam) collected from the Federation’s trash trap in Crab Creek along with scientific findings from across the world of the harmful effects on 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!

Until styrofoam is gone, it can be recycled in the bins at the styrofoam recycling dropoff site of EPS Industry Alliance, 1298 Cronson Boulevard in Crofton. Phone: 410-451-8340.



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 Del. Michael E. Malone 410-841-3510 michael.malone@house.state.md.us
 Del. Heather Bagnall 410-841-3406 heather.bagnall@house.state.md.us
 Del. Sid Saab 410-841-3551 sid.saab@house.state.md.us

Anne Arundel County

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 Council District 7 Jessica Haire 410-222-1401 jessica.haire@aacounty.org
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 Vincent Moulden, Community Constituent representative for the
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 Drake Smith (to June 30, 2021; student member) dmsmith8@aacps.org
 Superintendent George Arlotto superintendent@aacps.org
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We are reactivating our Watershed Advisory Committees. There will be one committee for the West and Rhode Rivers and one for the South River. The first meeting will be a joint meeting. Our Riverkeeper, Jesse Iloff, will share his concerns and priorities for the rivers, but we want to hear your thoughts too! If you are interested in testing water quality, are concerned about increasing development, or care about environmental enforcement, then this committee is for you. We need more eyes and ears and local neighborhood knowledge. The meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1:00, via Zoom. Please register in advance with Chloe@arundelrivers.org. She will email you with the log in information.

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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.

Arundel Rivers Federation

On Jan. 28, at 7:00 pm our West/Rhode and South Riverkeeper, Jesse Iloff, will speak via Zoom about "How the Eastern Oyster Shaped the Chesapeake" for one of our partners, Annapolis Maritime Museum. Find registration at <https://amaritime.org/oysters-and-ecosystems>.

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Who owns and maintains your road? Is it the county or your HOA?

Beards Point Road
Williamsburg Road
Hardesty Road
Queen Anne Bridge Road
Strawberry Run
Wayson Road

Brick Church Road
Double Gate Road
Old Davidsonville Road
Saint George Barber Road
Aspen Court
Elmer F. Hagner Road

and six roads in Harbor Hills may lose their road maintenance by the County Department of Public Works. DPW-Highways provides a range of services from snow removal to pavement maintenance on public roads.

When DPW reclassified a road in Lindamoore on Severn, a very old, 1947 subdivision, from “County Owned” to “Private,” property owners learned of it only when the street sign was changed from green (county-owned) to blue (private). The Lindmoore Home Owners Association requested an explanation from DPW. They replied:

DPW-Highways has traditionally maintained over 6,000 roads in the County. Countless roads called “private roads” are owned by persons or entities (ie., home owners associations) other than the County. DPW claims that it must reclassify any road for which it does not hold a deed to “privately owned.” About 25 percent, 1,651 of the county roads on Anne Arundel County’s road inventory are not confirmed as having been deeded to the county. Research shows that deeds for conveying most of the unconfirmed roads to the county do not exist.

For at least a decade, DPW has been establishing legal ownership of road segments and reconciling any data discrepancies. Some private roads have continued to receive pavement and roadside services from the County until ownership is verified. DPW argues that “we cannot continue to expend public funds for privately owned roads.”

When asked to resume responsibility for the road in Lindamoore, the Bureau of Highways demanded that all road-front property owners deed a 40-foot right of way (from their front yards) to the county and improve the road to meet current county standards and specifications. The specifications are detailed and extensive; many county owned roads do not meet these standards. The law providing for these standards was primarily aimed at new developments but the County Council in 2017 neglected to address the issue of legacy roads laid down decades and, in some cases, centuries before the law was passed. Based on the county’s explanation, a peremptory reclassification is a risk faced by any road on the list of at-risk roads.

Copy this address into your browser line to read the saga with DPW: <http://farseno.org/roads>.



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The LSO will be back!
Friday, March 26, 7:30pm.
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The concert will stream live over Facebook and YouTube. Watch for login instructions that will follow on <http://lso-music.org> to purchase tickets, sign up for the newsletter, and to donate. Here’s the program, beginning with Dvořák’s Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major performed by William Bloomquist, piano, with

Paul Bagley, violin .

Kristin Bakkegard, violin .

Dorothy Couper, viola .

Diana Curtis, cello

and concluding with Tchaikovsky’s Serenade in C major for String Orchestra led by Anna Binneweg, Music Director.

We welcome your comments and suggestions; please send them to this address: lsomd.boardmail@gmail.com. Our mailing address is Londontowne Symphony Orchestra, PO Box 926, Edgewater, MD 21037.

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The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association
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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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