

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 49, No. 1

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

May-June 2022

DACA's Annual Meeting, June 9, 2022

7:30 pm in the Scouts BSA Building at DFRC
3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road

The Board of Directors cautiously decided to hold the annual meeting in person while maintaining social distancing, masks optional. If Covid numbers increase too much the meeting will take place by Zoom. In that case, we will send email notices with the meeting invitation and link to DACA members and guests.

Election of officers: President: Bruce Stein; Vice President: H. Edward Woods; Secretary: Gail Enright; Treasurer: Brian Stanton. The current office holders have agreed to serve another one-year term. Other candidates who wish to run for these offices are welcome to be nominated at the meeting.

Board of Directors members in terms to end this June are Chris Asher, Sean Healy, Meredith McQuoid-Greason, and Cynthia Morgan. Many thanks to Chris and Cyndi for their active and busy service to their community during their terms in office. Thanks to Sean and Meredith for agreeing to stand for reelection for the term through June 2025.

Board member term through June 2025: At large board member Margie Chase has been nominated to fill the slot left by Chris Asher. Grayson Morgan is nominated to fill Cyndi's vacancy. Cyndi introduced Ashley Keres who volunteered as a nominee. Slots are available as DACA's By-laws allow for new members at large.



Make a Meadow for Pollinators

You can plant native wildflowers that bees and butterflies love, with even a small area in your yard. And it does not cost you a cent! Wildflowerseed to plant your own pollinator meadow is available now, offered to you and paid for by an anonymous donor.

James Miller at Bowen's Farm Supply on Riva Road has the seed in stock for plants that attract bees and butterflies. The seed is in quarter pound packs to sow up to 1,000 square feet. If you have more space than that you may take more. Directions are printed on the packs.

Simply use a hoe or shovel to rough up the area where you want your meadow. You do not need to till the ground—a hoe will do the job; a rototiller or tractor with disc will enable a larger area. Don't limit yourself to a square or rectangle—get creative with curves. Take a picture or sketch with dimensions of your plot and go to Bowen's Farm Supply store on Riva Road and ask for James. He will determine how much seed will cover the area you want to plant and will give you all the seed you need at no cost to you! There is no limit at this point, but that may change depending on demand.

James and the donor are excited with the response to this offer as a good number of people have been stopping at Bowen's to get their seed. When things are growing well, take a picture and send it to info@daca-md.org for the *Villager* to show off your good work.



**Thank you to
Bowen's
Farm Supply!**

DACA Members Write

Many thanks to LIFE members Steve and Martha Hughes, David and Peggy Boggs, Jerri and Andrew Falk, Barbara O'Donnell, and Don Opedal for their generous contributions to DACA. And to Jimmy and Bridget Blake, Robert and Patricia Dalton, Gordon Duvall, Cindy Parker and Bob and Mary Urdal for their contributions in addition to renewing their dues. And to Four Legs Animal Hospital for their generous contribution in addition to renewing their ad. Many thanks to DACA friend Scott Cannon for his generous gift to DACA. Many thanks also to Jen and Robert Dorr for their contribution to the Scholarship Fund in addition to renewing their memberships.



I read the newsletter religiously every time it comes out. Thanks for all you do. S.H.

Interests: Road safety, preserving Davidsonville, community, etc. A.L.

I love the information and all things "community." Thank you so much. B.O.

My interest: Gardening S.W.

... Thanks for all you do. B.R.

Interests: Environmental concerns, global warming, inclusive community and farming opportunities for historically underrepresented groups. T.J.

Thank you for all of your hard work on our behalf! J.F.

I never want my membership to lapse . . . R.B.

From a new member: Thanks for all you do in keeping Davidsonville green, beautiful and rural! When we returned to the USA we thought we'd reside in our home in Montgomery County. So very, very glad we settled in Davidsonville. Whenever we visit friends in Bethesda, I'm ever reminded and so grateful we found our home here. L.R.

After 48 years in Davidsonville we recently moved to Harwood but Davidsonville will always be home. We have been members of DACA since the very first organization meeting and want to continue our membership. P.B.

P.B.: You are still members in Davidsonville as your new address is within the "Davidsonville Area" as described in DACA's Bylaws.

In Memoriam
Maxwell Covington
Died March 13, 2022
Pillar of the Community

In Memoriam
Genevieve Way
DACA member 1989 – 2019
Died April 7, 2022

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Members and Friends Help DACA (from page 2)

So happy to be coming into another spring in Davidsonville. Thank you for keeping us updated with all that goes on in this lovely city that feels much like a small town.
Natalia

On March 7, we sent the *Villager* to our excellent printer: Hi Andy and Terry--

Here it is. Please print enough for bulk mailing to all 3,000+ postal patrons in 21035, plus DACA's mail list of recipients outside 21035. Only one sheet in color, the rest in black. Time sensitive to be delivered by March 25 or sooner.
Gail

March 8, from Minute Man Press:

One sheet of color costs \$300 more than for all black and white. We would like to print the entire newsletter in full color and instead of charging you for the extra \$300, we would like to make this our sponsorship for the Green Expo. We have always sponsored the Expo and we want to help you out anyway we can! Thank you so much for your business!
Terry Faircloth, Manager, Minuteman Press

Dear Terry,

How many ways can I say thank you? Minute Man Press indeed is a sponsor! I praise you to the skies when the board worries about the money. You are DACA's most worthy cost and I hope to see you at Green Expo!
Gail

Hi Terry:

As President of DACA, of behalf of the Board and membership, I would like to thank you for your long time support and your generous contribution. As with many people and organizations, these have been trying times, which, I fear, may continue. Your support and generosity is indicative of the of the qualities that will see us all through.

Thank you, Bruce Stein, President

And, they got it delivered in time for Green Expo!

DACA needs a Recording Secretary

Last year Kate Fox took on the task of taking minutes during board meetings. She wishes to be relieved of that responsibility as she is DACA's very active link with the Growth Action Network, keeping an eye on the actions of the County Council and Administration. DACA's board is seeking someone, on or off board to attend board meetings, take minutes, and send the draft to the board members for comment and approval at the following board meeting.

Gail's position as secretary entails maintaining the membership list and communicating with our members. She will also continue as editor of the *Villager* with help from Meredith.

Local Agriculture Report

Margie Chase to DACA Board Meeting May 5

Spring planting has been delayed due to the weather; cold temperatures delayed sprouting, and lack of rain has caused the ground to be hard and dry. Berry and fruit farmers have reason to worry over the freezing temperature and the impact it will have on fruit crops. The morning of April 29 we had a frost/freeze event. Strawberries were in full bloom and a lot of those blooms were lost.

Warning: Everyone who has backyard flocks of birds should be aware and concerned about Avian Influenza. This is showing up on Maryland's Eastern Shore and in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Anne Arundel County is included in the Spotted Lanternfly quarantine zone. Maryland Department of Agriculture asks people to report any sightings via this link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/26f9dbec586743b1be-c03ddb8b5f0e>. Copy it to your browser line.

Anne Arundel County farmers continue to struggle to get appointments with butcher shops to slaughter their livestock. Rowell's butcher shop in Prince Frederick is in the process of becoming a USDA certified shop that will give farmers in our area another option.

In addition to fertilizer and chemical prices rising, diesel fuel prices are soaring too—another increase in farmers expenses this year.

The Lothian Grain Elevator owned by Perdue Agri-Business is in its last year of operation. Perdue announced a year ago that it will close this storage facility. This will have a negative impact on smaller farmers who don't have on-farm storage bins and cannot justify having to drive the many miles to the Eastern Shore or to Western Maryland.

Drivers in rural areas must be on the lookout for tractors and farm equipment on the roads traveling between separated fields and home as they start planting their crops.

(More on page 4)

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Bull on the Loose

A wandering bull took a walkabout in Davidsonville for several weeks in March and April. It was seen near Route 50 and Patuxent River Road and Governors Bridge Road. Debbie Collison said it spent a lot of time at the Wayson’s farm. The owner, in Prince George’s County, was advised of its location but declined to retrieve it. Several Davidsonville residents called Anne Arundel Animal Control and the answer was, “We do cats and dogs, not cows and bulls.” Why is there no department in the county or state that has a facility to round up large strays?

Margie Chase said the bull traveled safely between the rows of strawberries after breaking through the electric fence, coming and going, without trampling the plants at Chase’s Produce farm. Meredith McQuoid-Greaseon took this photo in her mother’s backyard after the animal crossed their properties.

Debbie contacted a cowboy who agreed to try to catch it. Three cowboys arrived with a trailer and gave

chase on horses with their lassos, Debbie following on her Gator. One succeeded in roping the bull and the three of them herded it onto the trailer and hauled it off to Frederick. Debbie posted on Facebook, “Thanks to a cowboy from Frederick... bull is off the road and safe.”

FFA at Southern High School

Margie Chase acknowledged that most children from Davidsonville don’t attend Southern High but as an FFA Alumna she had to give a shout out to these students. Southern has one of only three schools in Anne Arundel County that have an agriculture education program (programs are offered also at Phoenix Academy and CAT-North). With about 30 students enrolled, FFA (Future Farmers of America) promotes career development, and working in the greenhouse helps hone the students’ business skills.

The FFA greenhouse is open for plant sales every Saturday in May from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Meredith McQuoid-Greaseon and Gail Enright went to the greenhouse, bought flowers, and interviewed the FFA adviser, Dr. Stacy Eckels and the students working that day, FFA president Megan Arnold and the senior greenhouse manager. Clark Sutton.

The greenhouse smelled like the garden of Eden, full of blossoming flowers and herbs raised by the students. Proceeds from sale of plants help pay for team travel to competitions and the national convention.

Southern High’s FFA team competed at the state level in Farm Business Management and took first place. They will go to the National FFA convention in October in Indianapolis to compete against other teams from across the USA.

The Horse Judging competition will be held in June. If the team does well, as they have in the past, they also will go to the national FFA convention.

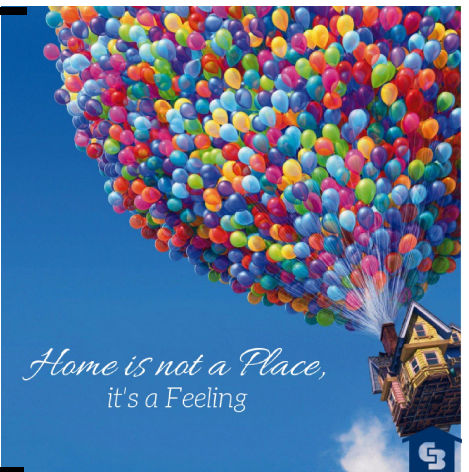
The Southern High FFA Ninth Annual Car, Truck and Tractor Show fundraiser was held on April 23 at the Greene Turtle in Edgewater. It was a huge success, with 179 vehicles registered.



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Start School Later by Lisa VanBuskirk

On May 9, I testified before the County Council in support of the Board of Education budget, specifically about the transportation portion of the budget, which includes 23 additional buses and eight vans and increased bus driver pay. While the added buses and vans are not necessary to implement school start times, they would provide greater flexibility in services and address overcrowded buses (a problem prior to the pandemic and exacerbated by bus driver shortages).

In 2015, approximately 59,000 students out of 72,000 were eligible for bus transportation. In 2021, 68,000 students out of 83,000 are eligible. AACPS’s bus fleet has not matched the growth in demand. Please email the County Executive and County Council your support for these additional transportation assets in the FY2023 budget. Even if these additional buses are fully funded, they won’t be ready for a year, due to the six-to-nine-month bus construction time.

Regarding start times, parents have the opportunity to express their concerns via the website <https://www.aacps.org/2223schoolhours>, which includes links to research and position papers and a Frequently Asked Questions area. The best part is the short video that AACPS has produced, voiced by Bob Mosier, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLcO9xL6Nhc>.

The Board also discussed increasing concerns among elementary families regarding after-care. AACPS plans to host an event to help connect childcare providers with families. Please email the Board a note of thanks and support for 2022–2023 implementation of new start times. (See next column). Addresses are on page 14 of this *Villager*.

Use of the Opt In Registration System will provide data to make bus routing more efficient, to justify the increase in the bus fleet, address the shortage of drivers, home address confirmation, flexibility to better address

custodial arrangements, and potential expansion of drop-off and pick-up at before and after-care.

School Report by Cyndi Morgan

On May 4, the Board of Education sent e-mails to all AACPS families to “Opt In” to register online using the 2022–2023 School Year Bus Registration form, an encrypted digital document. Opt-In for Transportation Registration will continue through the end of June.

Registration is required for students who need bus transportation any time during the school year. After registration is complete, an email receipt will be sent to confirm date and time that registration was received. It is important to complete the registration as soon as possible, as students not registered will be ineligible to ride the bus to school for the entire school year. Reminders will be sent to families who have not registered during the next several weeks through June.

High school students who apply for parking passes at their school should also be registered as requiring bus transportation. They can always decline bus transportation, but they cannot request bus transportation later if they do not register as requiring transportation.

For families whose children require before or after care, parents must fill out an Exceptional Transportation Request Form (link is in the registration email) to request bus transportation drop off at those centers. These requests will need approval by the student’s Principal and the Supervisor of Transportation.

The BoE discussed school start and end times at the April 6 meeting, resulting in this draft.

- Davidsonville Elementary School starts at 8 AM and ends at 2:55 PM
- Central Middle School starts at 9:15 AM and ends at 3:55 PM
- South River High School starts at 8:30 AM and ends at 3:18 PM

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DACA’s Green Expo was a great success, showing a healthy recovery after a two-year absence caused by Covid. Led by three bagpipers, Scouts BSA Troop 454 opened the show with a grand flag ceremony. DACA President Bruce Stein welcomed visitors, and Senator Ed Reilly and County Executive Steuart Pittman addressed the Scouts and spectators. Many thanks to Homestead Gardens and Special Events Coordinator Pam Cole Finlay for making the Expo possible, excellent, and rewarding! More pictures are on DACA’s website.

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Exhibitors at Green Expo

- Annapolis Green
- Annapolis Compost
- AA County Forestry Board
- Arundel Rivers Federation
- Bartlett Tree Experts
- Bay Community Health
- Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association
- Green Compass
- Global CBD
- Homestead Grdens
- Leaf Filter
- Melaleuca Earth Sense Solutions
- Raptors Eye
- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
- Southern High School Art Department
- FFA Southern High School
- Tower Garden Juice Plus
- Unity Gardens
- Anne Arundel Watershed Stewardship Academy



DACA Board members wrapped, packed, and gave 500 trees to visitors for planting in their yards. From left: Ed Woods (back turned), Andrew Healy, Cyndi Morgan, Sean Healy and Frank Purdy wrap with tree planters.

You Can Own a Memory of Davidsonville

Four framed prints of watercolor paintings by Mildred Anderson during the 1960s and 1970s were donated by Wendell and Sandy Myers. Thanks to the Myers for their gifts to DACA, given as a fundraiser for the civic association.

1. Davidsonville Supply Company known as “the Store,” where you could buy everything you needed—food, clothing, chicken and horse feed, harness parts, and more.
2. The original Holy Family Catholic Church.
3. Davidsonville School as it appeared in the 1950s.
4. All Hallows Community Hall (1921–1977) located next to the corner store.

Pictures will be on display at DACA’s Annual Meeting, June 9, at the DFRC, priced to sell.

Traffic and Road Improvements

DACA’s board is preparing letter to the Maryland State Highway Administration and to the AA County Department of Public Works to request needed safety measures on Central Avenue between Patuxent River Road and Riva Road.

Work on Riva Road at Homewood Road and Governors Bridge Road continues with added lanes and aligning the entrances at Homewood Road and Governors Bridge Road. Davidsonville Road is undergoing resurfacing with old asphalt scraped off and a new surface to be laid down.


The Federal Highway Administration has approved Maryland’s plans to build a third Bay Bridge next to the existing two bridges that carry Route #50 between Annapolis and Kent Island, avoiding the route proposed through Davidsonville, Edgewater, and the Mayo peninsula.



Lance Edwards
President

Davidsonville MD 21035
AA Co 410-956-9299
Fax 410-956-9039
lance@lancelock.com





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Senator Reilly to Retire in January

Senator Ed Reilly announced in April that he will retire from the Maryland Senate at the end of his term in January and will not seek reelection. He has served 20 years in public service, elected twice to the County Council and to three terms in the State Senate.

The Senator wrote, "It has been my honor to serve District 33, Ed"

Republican Delegate Sid Saab and Democrat Dawn Gile are candidates to fill the Senate seat left vacant by Senator Reilly.

Candidates seeking to represent District 33 in the House of Delegates are Republicans Tyler Bailey, Kerry Gillespie, and Stuart Schmidt Jr., and Democrats Heather Bagnall (incumbent), Andrew Pruski, and John Wakefield.

The deadline to register to vote in the 2022 primary elections is June 28. The deadline for primary voters to request a mail-in ballot is July 12.

Early voting will run from July 7 to July 14, including Saturday and Sunday. Voters can also register to vote at early voting centers or at their polling place on primary day.

The primary election will take place on July 19.

Fair Farms on Legislation

A bill for Agrivoltaics: farm-centered solar development on farmland, HB936/SB999, was sponsored by Chairman Kumar Barve, Montgomery County.

Environment & Transportation Committee Chair Del. Kumar Barve championed this bill to further solutions for the demand for increased solar siting in Maryland, which is needed to achieve our renewable energy goals.

The bill will establish a Blue Ribbon Community Solar Land Use Commission to study land use needs to meet the full generation capacity authorized under the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program; and it will require the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2022.

Some farmers want solar on their land to produce energy and create another source of income. Others are concerned that solar on farmland simply takes critical farmland out of production. Agrivoltaics are dual-use solar panels with farming activity under them. The bill failed to advance this year. It would have established a task force to study the potential for solar development within a four-mile radius of interconnection sites like a transformer or substation, including agricultural land.



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Patuxent River Commission, HB 716

House Bill 716 will alter the membership of the Patuxent River Commission by increasing the voting membership from 34 to 36 members and include the Patuxent Riverkeeper, one individual to representing an organization or unit of local government engaged in watershed management and restoration, and the President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science or a designee.

In February, 12 DACA Board members signed the letter of support sent to Senator Elfreth, Senator Reilly, and Delegates Heather Bagnall, Rachel Muñoz, and Sid Saab. After the bill was passed overwhelmingly by the House of Delegates and unanimously by the Senate, it was sent to the Governor for his signature.

DACA wrote to the Governor to urge him to sign Bill 716. As of May 10, it is still awaiting his signature:

“Davidsonville’s western border is the Patuxent River. DACA believes it is important that the Patuxent River Commission include the Patuxent Riverkeeper as a voting member. Fred Tutman has been a tireless advocate for the health of the river for more than 20 years, and his viewpoint is ever fresh and up-to-date with the current needs of the river. Please sign this bill.”

Sincerely, Bruce Stein, President

Patuxent Riverkeeper’s website shows swans on the river. This is so pretty, we should strive to keep it clean for these residents and their babies.

Happy Spring from the Patuxent Riverkeeper!

Legislation to restore the Patuxent Riverkeeper Land and others to the State’s Patuxent Commission has passed both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly. Deepest thanks for your letters, lobbying and emails that helped make history!

With the smell of spring in the air, and fervent hopes that the pandemic is slowly withdrawing, we are slowly beginning to plan again for public contact events, kayak rentals, and other activities that bring our river community back together in Spring/Summer/Fall 2022. You can see upcoming events and activities of interest on the Patuxent at www.paxriverkeeper.org. We look forward to seeing you again (we hope) as the pandemic ebbs and flows like the tides and hopefully eventually fades away...? Fred

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From Growth Action Network

A citizen survey of 514 county residents was conducted between March 18 and April 1 by Anne Arundel Community College. It showed that sixty percent of Anne Arundel residents want slower or no population growth.

The Center for Studies of Local Issues (CSLI), headed by Prof. Dan Nataf at Anne Arundel Community College, has conducted similar surveys in the fall and spring of every year since 2009; it has established a well-earned reputation for credible polling of the attitudes of a representative cross-section of county residents. The results of the 2022 Spring Survey (180 pages) cover a wide variety of topics—crime, drugs, education, economy, growth/overpopulation, cost of housing, taxes, and transportation.

GAN focuses on questions related to development and population growth in the County. As a result of its many amenities and desirable location between Washington and Baltimore, Anne Arundel County is likely to experience growth and development pressure for the foreseeable future. However, with current zoning, more than 90 percent of permitted residential units have already been constructed. Significant future increases in population will require increasing permitted residential density—or up-zoning—in many areas. Up-zoning could have negative implications for the quality of life for current residents, and the survey results suggest that the average citizen will be unsupportive of future population growth and urbanization of the County.

Sixty percent of respondents felt that no population growth or growth rates much less than the current rate were desirable. Only 25 percent felt that current or higher growth rates would be ideal. Partisan differences were minor.

Since the County has a wide range of geography and demographics, it seems reasonable to be curious about variations in survey responses over the various Council Districts. Although there was variation among districts, in every district the majority chose the ideal growth rate as either none or less than the current rate.

It is important for both the legislative and executive branches of the County government to understand citizen perspectives on growth before embarking on new proposals or projects. In an election year we hope that the CSLI survey results on growth will help to inform all candidates about voter perspectives on this fundamental issue.

AA County Farmers Market Celebrates its 41st Year Come and be surprised!

Spring is here and the Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market opened its 41st season on April 2, 2022. Come to the market Saturdays 7:00 – 12:00 p.m. or Sundays 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. until Christmas. The Wednesday afternoon market opened on May 4 with prepared foods, produce, and other good things to eat.

From “only a handful of vendors” in 1981, this year the market boasts over 50 vendors selling the freshest products, including meats, seafood, produce, fruits, eggs, prepared foods, honey, sweets, and olive oils from local growers and producers. Artisan potters, woodworkers, crafters, and garment makers are again on hand with specialty goods made by local artists. And there are many new vendors.

The market is open rain or shine under the pavilion at the corner of Riva Road and Harry S. Truman Parkway in Annapolis with plenty of on-site parking. Dogs are not allowed in the building. For more on AA County Farmers' Market, visit www.aacofarmersmarket.com or our Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/AACoFarmersMarket.

Terry Cummings: wanamakerwoodworks@gmail.com

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Arundel Rivers Federation is pleased to announce that Matthew (Matt) Johnston has been appointed as the new Executive Director for the organization.

Mr. Johnston is a recognized expert in clean water and environmental policy. During his career, Mr. Johnston has built partnerships with communities; state, local and national leaders; watershed organizations; and environmental advocates from across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Most importantly though, Mr. Johnston has a passion for clean water.

Trawling Adventures

We love working with the next generation of environmental superstars. Thank you to board member and founder, John Flood, and former board member, Bob O'Dell, for taking STEM students on the South River to trawl for micro plastics!



Half Shell Rescheduled to June 2

The Half Shell event at Camp Letts has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 2, 2022. We look forward to celebrating our rivers with you in warmer weather. You won't want to miss out on the first in-person Half Shell event in three years! Stay tuned for panoramic river sights, an amazing auction, and so much more.



County Bill 8-22 was introduced by Ms. Rodvien, Chair, at the request of the County Executive, on January 18 for the purpose of repealing the 19-year-old Greenways Master Plan of 2002 and adopting the 2022 Green Infrastructure Master Plan (the "Plan") as a guide for the future conservation of natural lands in the county. After several amendments, it was passed unanimously by the Council and signed by the Executive on April 12.

The following Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

The Plan is an official policy document that is intended to guide conservation of an interconnected network of the most significant remaining natural lands in the county; protect water and air quality; provide habitats for plants and wildlife; create opportunities for recreation; support mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change; and support the land use policies of "Plan2040," by prioritizing areas for natural resource conservation, providing open space, and maintaining rural character in the county. It is important to note that the Plan is not law or regulation, but a guidance document.

County Seeks Volunteers for the Citizens Environmental Commission

The Citizens Environmental Commission is seeking residents who share County Executive Stuart Pittman's passion for creating a greener Anne Arundel County for all, to serve a two-year term as a commissioner. The Commission recommends actions to protect the county's environmental resources, promote renewable energy solutions, and defend communities from climate change. Applicants who reside in the Patuxent, Patapsco, or South River watersheds are encouraged to apply. If you are interested, please forward your contact information and a resume to BCMembership@aacounty.org.

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The Patuxent River by Al Tucker, President, CEPA, Spring Newsletter

As a former member of the Patuxent River Commission, I don't recall the Commission ever discussing why the Patuxent River is important to Maryland. Discussions revolved around water quality, tourism, sewerage overflows, and the management of the stormwater caused by development. The latter caused friction and dissension between the political members and the citizen commissioners. Priority was placed on economic development in the watershed over its negative impacts on the river's ecosystems. The river spans seven counties, each having a different set of economic priorities. In general, development's impact on the river is an afterthought. One county's use of the river's resources is often in conflict with others'. The metro Washington counties use the Upper Patuxent for drinking water, while sewer outfalls dominate the Middle Patuxent.

The Lower Patuxent suffers degradation from the lack of natural replenishment. This description is, of course, an oversimplification, since the root cause is more development, i.e., ever more population growth, and it "drains" even more of the river's dwindling resources. In short, the river's role in our environment has not been examined holistically. So why is the Patuxent River important to us? As I delved into this rhetorical question, I found I didn't really have a good answer. So I tried to start by answering the question, what is the function of a river?

A riverine system encompasses many different but interdependent biogeochemical cycles. Surprisingly, the first and maybe the most fundamental is the creation and transport of soil. As water falls on land it erodes rocks that form the soils. In the river, the soil particles—composed of gravel, sand, silt, and clay—become sediment. Yes,

sediment! The fine particles—silt and clay—tend to remain suspended in water for days or longer. Forests and meadows are the first line of defense for capturing the fine particles, while the more granular particles are transported downstream to form the riverbeds. The granular sediments help maintain water clarity and support aquatic life while filtering water that recharges aquifers. Finally, the transported sediments reach the mouth and usually form a series of wetlands often referred to as the "delta". There it mitigates the extreme storm events of the sea and/or river surges and is further nourished by nutrients and biota it carries along. Like all physical systems, the river attempts to find a lower energy state. It does this by meandering across its flood plain. Meander lengthens the river and, as a result, slows the flows, creating wetlands at oxbows and turns. The river prepares itself for storm surges, where the wetlands absorb the energy and capture the suspended sediments. These cyclic processes have continued for eons, but in recent geologic time, humans have exploited some of a river's natural resources, mostly for food or energy.

In the industrial era, humans have dammed rivers to extract energy, to divert water for irrigation, to create canals for transportation, and more. These activities not only interrupt the river's natural cycles but also its basic ecological functions.

The exploitation of the Patuxent River began inadvertently as the colonists cleared the forests for agriculture. Clearing forests for agriculture removed the first line of defense, that of holding back highly erodible soils. The run-off from exposed soils filled many of its watershed tributaries with silt. Now the threat has shifted from agriculture to development. As *(Continued on page 13)*

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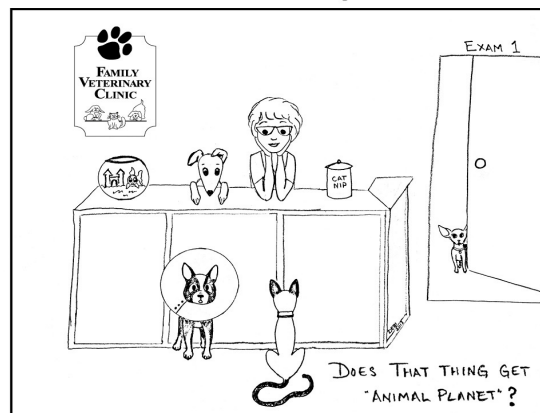
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The Patuxent River *(Continued from page 12)*
 development introduces impervious surface, water runoff gains energy that scours tributaries and deposits silt and clay into the main stem of the river. The occluding effect of silt defeats the purpose of the “good sediment” that supports aquatic life.

For the Patuxent, more development causes another concomitant impact. The dams at its headwaters divert hundreds of millions of gallons of water to supply drinking water to the metro Washington area. This diversion robs the Middle Patuxent of much of its natural function of building wetlands, which we now know are the bulwark against storm surges. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) mixes this supply with water from the Potomac. Hence the water that reaches the Patuxent sewer plants may or may not have originated in the Patuxent. This unnaturally “clean water” is now devoid of its natural constituents.

As a consequence, the Lower Patuxent, which is an estuary, does not have adequate ecological feedback systems to counteract the impacts of upstream degradation. An interesting study* assessed the outcomes of various best management practices (BMP) within the whole watershed in dealing with growth and climate change. Several scenarios were assessed as to whether these BMPs could meet the current target for the pollution levels of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). For example, one scenario assumed an average precipitation increase of 1.8 percent, a low population growth, and development restricted to infill. Best management practices would require an additional 1,985 acres of wetlands and wet ponds. If the increased precipitation were 3.7 percent, the population growth would follow its current trend, and if the development were still restricted to infill, an additional 80,892 acres of urban filtering would be required.

The results of this study are disheartening. It is hard to see the political will to implement these minimal

restrictions on growth even in the light of small changes of precipitation. Even more discouraging, where would we find the land to implement these practices. We have ruined the river’s natural feedback loops that would naturally create more wetlands. We have diverted its water that would maintain the aquatic systems that naturally purify its water.

Many river systems have been restored by removing dams. These rivers in general had dams for mills or were used for downstream flood control. Their removal was successful because their primary watersheds were mostly undisturbed. However, the Patuxent’s watershed has been inexorably changed. There is no hope of returning it to its natural function. We may clear the sediment, we may reduce the nutrient flows, but we will not be able to restore the Patuxent River’s ability to provide us with a safety net against climate change and the impacts of future development.

A natural river would be important to us since it can respond to natural changes. But we have undercut the Patuxent River’s natural ability to heal itself, so we are resigned to limiting the damage we are causing.

*J. Fischbach et. al., “Managing Water Quality in the Face of Uncertainty”, <http://www.rand.org/t/RR720> (2015)

CEPA provides education on Bay issues and encourages public activism and involvement in both legislation and enforcement. Our goal is sustainable growth in the region—a future where our precious natural resources are in balance with their use.

Areas of Concern

The limits of the Chesapeake Bay’s natural resources have already been breached by the impact of human activities that affect our watersheds. Unrestricted commercial and residential growth, fueled by permissive zoning, leads to more infrastructure for our potable water supply, sewage treatment, landfills, roads, county maintenance facilities, schools, and more. Citizen activists, like CEPA members, have an urgent role to play in restoring the Bay to health.



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Sen. Edward R. Reilly 410-841-3568 edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us
 Del. Heather Bagnall 410-841-3406 heather.bagnall@house.state.md.us
 Del. Rachel Muñoz 410-841-3510 rachel.munoz@house.state.md.us
 Del. Sid Saab 410-841-3551 sid.saab@house.state.md.us

Anne Arundel County

County Executive Stuart Pittman 410-222-1821 expitt99@aacounty.org
 Council District 7 Jessica Haire 410-222-1401 jessica.haire@aacounty.org
 District 7 Assistant Matt Pipkin 410-222-2417 ccpipk33@aacounty.org
 Community Constituent representative for the Seventh Council District
 Vincent Moulden 410-222-1401 exmoul00@aacounty.org
 Clerk of the Circuit Court aaclerkadmin@mdcourts.gov
 Scott Poyer 410-222-1187

Email addresses of AA County Board of Education members

Gloria Dent, Council District 1 gdent@aacps.org
 Robert Silkworth, Council District 2 rsilkworth@aacps.org
 Corine Frank, Council District 3 clfrank@aacps.org
 Melissa Ellis, Council District 4 mkellis@aacps.org
 Dana Schallheim, Council District 5 dschallheim@aacps.org
 Joanna Bache Tobin, Council District 6 jtobin@aacps.org
 Michelle Corkadel, Council District 7 mcorkadel@aacps.org
 Bunmi Omisore, student member until June 30, 2022 bomisore@aacps.org
 Superintendent George Arlotto superintendent@aacps.org
boardoffice@aacps.org garlotto@aacps.org

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.



Apply for the Citizens Environmental Commission

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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.

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Davidsonville Family Recreation Center

from Gerry Coffman

A major part of the DFRC's board meeting in March
was devoted to the Radio Club's proposal to erect
a pavilion on the grounds to honor a past member who
had recently passed away. At the end of the discussion,
a poll of the members found that a majority preferred
that the Radio Club consider demolishing and rebuilding
the current pavilion behind the Scout Building instead of
building a new one. The Radio Club representative who
presented the proposal will relay the polling results to
his organization and report back to the DFRC at the next
meeting.

DFRC Members

Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks

<http://web.aacpl.net/rp/>

Chris Carroll

410-222-7300, ext. 7317

email: rpcarr99@aacounty.org

Anne Arundel Radio Club

Boy Scouts of America

Canine Training Association

Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Davidsonville Dance Club

Free State Fly Fishers

Girl Scouts of America

National Capitol Radio & Television

South County Pre-Kindergarten Co-op, Inc.

DACA's Scholarship Criteria Updated

After several months of discussion and editing, the
DACA Board agreed on an updated set of criteria.
The details are posted on DACA's website. The most
visible change is the amount of scholarship award,
increased to \$1,000 for recipient applicants. The dead-
line for applications is June 15.

Go to www.davidsonvillemaryland.org and click on
the three horizontal bars in the upper right corner of
your screen to find the Scholarship page and see all the
qualifications and requirements.

Scholarship Angels

Tom and Kris Angelis

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Scott Cannon

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Gail Enright

Patrick Maslar Family Veterinary Clinic

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Cyndi and Grayson Morgan

George Picot and Jean Rock

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Dr. Carol Samango-Sprouse

Brian and Melissa Stanton

Bruce Stein

Steve and Debbie Williams

Marilyn Williamson

Many thanks to this illustrious and
generous group of DACA Scholarship
supporters since it began with Tom
and Kris Angelis in 2017 and has
grown in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and
is ready to grow more now! You can
donate to the Scholarship Fund on the
website. \$\$\$\$\$\$ Thank you!





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| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| President | Bruce Stein | 443-254-2259 |
| | bsteinesq@yahoo.com | |
| Vice President | H. Edward Woods | 410-798-0764 |
| | pgchief181@gmail.com | |
| Secretary | Gail Enright | 410-533-4766 |
| | info@daca-md.org | |
| Treasurer | Brian Stanton | 410-608-3462 |
| | Brian_stanton63@yahoo.com | |

DIRECTORS

Term to June 2022

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| Christopher Asher | christopher.asher@ampf.com | 410-798-4704 |
| Sean Healy | roundrockinn@aol.com | 301-848-6573 |
| Meredith McQ-Greaseon | mrmcquoid@gmail.com | 410-533-9923 |
| Cynthia Morgan | glfriday@yahoo.com | 240-393-1311 |

Term to June 2023

| | | |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| Ray Alcorn | acornreno@gmail.com | 410-956-0852 |
| Jeff Bishop | jbgansett1@aol.com | 410-808-5597 |
| Kate Fox | fox4smith@verizon.net | 410-956-4852 |
| Wayne Reid | wayne.reid@c21nm.com | 410-798-9490 |

Term to June 2024

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------|
| Andrew Healy | andrewjchealy@gmail.com | 703-307-5320 |
| Lynn Marano | billandlynnmarano@verizon.net | 410-798-6670 |
| Frank Purdy | franklisapurdy@comcast.net | 240-305-2478 |
| Melissa Stanton | brimeli@yahoo.com | 443-858-7470 |

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



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| Bruce Stein | President | 410-956-3759 |
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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.

J O I N D A C A

MEMBERSHIP: I wish to be a member of DACA and receive the *VILLAGER*. At \$20.00 per year for each person, my check for \$_____ is enclosed, payable to DACA for membership for _____ person(s) for _____ year(s). Also enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to DACA to help with the expenses incurred in the effort to maintain the quality of life that brought us to the Davidsonville area and to help guide the growth and development of our community OR _____ for the Scholarship Fund.

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Your comments, your interests?