

# The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 49, No. 3

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

September–October 2022

## Safety Improvements on Route #214 at Davidsonville Elementary School

Following advice from Maryland State Department of Transportation's 5<sup>th</sup> District Engineer and AA County Department of Public Works, DACA President Bruce Stein and Vice President Ed Woods contacted Michelle Corkadel, AA County 7<sup>th</sup> District representative to the Board of Education on July 27:

Dear Ms. Corkadel,

For some time, DACA has been receiving numerous comments and concerns from local families near Davidsonville Elementary School and from parents of students at DES about problems along the DES portion of Central Avenue. DACA documented these concerns in a May 22, 2022, letter to the State [DoT] and County [DPW].

Children living in residential neighborhoods close to DES are transported by school bus because there is no way to safely cross or walk along Central Avenue. Possible solutions to this include:

- A well-marked crosswalk and use of a crossing guard.
- Extending the sidewalk eastward from what is already in place at Foxhall Drive along Central Avenue to at least Cottage Farm Way but ideally further.
- The existing school zone warning lights appear to be of only limited effectiveness and should be upgraded.

The feedback we received from the State and County suggested that we should discuss the above concerns with the School Board. Thus, we would like to meet with you so the above concerns may be discussed.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Bruce Stein, President, DACA

Save the Date!  
March 25, 2023  
Homestead Gardens



Davidsonville  
Green Expo

Ms. Corkadel replied on July 2: "Thank you very much for reaching out to me concerning the pedestrian and vehicular safety conditions at Davidsonville Elementary. I am very familiar with the traffic and pedestrian safety systems and typical traffic patterns around Davidsonville Elementary.

Although the Board of Education does play a significant role in the safety of students for AACPS, all operational, traffic and similar areas are functions of the Superintendent and his team. We actually play a due process role in certain Superintendent decisions, but member involvement in operations is limited, as is prescribed in state law and school policies.

That stated, I want to ensure you are connecting with the appropriate administrators to facilitate the next steps in your inquiry process."

*(Please turn to page 3)*

Notes to DACA

Many thanks to our generous friends including Betty Knupp, Bob Bradshaw, and Teresa and Hassan Sadeghin for their third contributions, and to Tom and Kris Angelis for their fourth gift.



From our wonderful printer: Hello Gail,

We would like to continue sponsoring your organization with possibly something different. In exchange for the ad we would like to print the newsletter in full color on white paper, and charge DACA only for black and white for the next year, including the large March one as well. We will also continue to sponsor the DACA Green Expo every year and we will continue to print the programs for free.

Terry Faircloth, Minute Man Press



Dear all,

Thank you so much again for the scholarship. Today, I just learned that I will be doing my fall internship at Davidsonville Elementary School! I am so delighted! I just completed the Summer Camp program there and will be returning as an intern!

Sarah Healy

Hello DACA Board Members:

Thank you for granting me a scholarship for this school year. I appreciate that such an opportunity exists for Davidsonville students and that I was chosen to receive the funding.

Ava Stanton

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**Road Safety, (from Corkadel letter, page 1)**

I am forwarding this with a request for them to follow up with you directly in the coming days.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and school community and caring about the safety of children and families. It is greatly appreciated.

Warm Regards, Michelle

Bruce, Ed, Michelle, and Vince Moulden met via Zoom on July 29. Bruce reported:

Michelle was fully up to speed on our concerns. I got the impression that we are not the only people expressing such concerns. The BOE is looking at the situation, but the first thing required is a traffic study that must be done by the State Highway Administration. The study has been requested, and in theory is in the queue to be done, but she had no information when it might be done. She suggested that we should contact Ed Reilly’s office, as he has a staff member who has a good working relationship with the SHA and can help us get info on SHA plans/schedules. She also pointed out that we (and they) need to be sure the study be done during the school year and that it is expected that with the new start times, traffic is different at 8:00 am than at 9:00 am [note: DES will open at 7:40 am and students deemed late at 8:00 am—Bruce] and there may be more confusion near the start of the school year than perhaps later in the year.

Ed and I will start making contacts with the state to see what we can find out where the DES traffic study stands in the queue. As I said to Michelle and Vincent, I see DACA’s role as being “the squeaky wheel” in the process to try to keep things moving.

**Kellie Boulware, SHA District 5 of Maryland Department of Transportation replied:**

“MDOT SHA crews will resurface and/or repair two locations in Anne Arundel County [now done].

“MD 424 (Davidsonville Road) between MD 214 and Rossback Road – Roadway Resurfacing (completion of driveway entrances, turn lanes and shoulder area) [now done].

Customers who have questions about this work may contact the MDOT SHA District 5 Office at 410-841-1000. MDOT SHA works hard to maintain safe traffic mobility in work zones for our crews as well as our customers. Drivers need to stay alert, focus on driving, and look for reduced speed limits and other driving pattern changes. Please drive like you work here and slow down in construction zones.”

**Response from Vincent Moulden, August 1**

I spoke to County Executive Pittman after our call on Friday. Mr. Pittman is meeting with Transportation Secretary James Ports towards the end of the month. He will discuss the community’s request for a safe way for kids to cross or walk along Central Avenue to Davidsonville Elementary. Step one is to conduct a study, and the County Executive will let the Secretary know this is a priority for the county.

**From Ms. Corkadel, August 2**

Great update, Vincent. Thanks for sharing and please extend appreciation to the County Executive for his support and prioritization of this request. *Michelle*

**And Members Have Asked For More**

*Dee Minich wrote in February:*

Can we please address the road issues on Patuxent River Road? There is obviously a lot of truck traffic at the concrete plant and the Brandywine site. The road needs to be repaired and repaved. I have reached out to both our County Council and V-DOT [sic] about this and they say it will be done in the future. That was over a year ago. Many bicycle clubs ride this road and we have seen many bike accidents from pot holes and bad road conditions. The speed limit needs to be enforced as well; it is a double-line road, but people still pass and I worry about the school buses.

*Gordon Duvall wrote on August 8:*

I so enjoy the *Villager*, you do such a great job. I’d especially like to thank you and Mr. Stein for the very informative article in the recent *Villager* discussing roadway safety issues in our (Please turn to page 4)

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**More Road Hopes** *(continued from page 3)*

area, one that I encounter almost every day.

We live in Gravely off St. George Barber Road. Pulling away from the stop light at the Park and Ride to turn south on 424, many drivers continue to travel at high speed while merging from the off-ramp traffic from Rt. 50. As I stop to turn left on Rutland Road, this high speed traffic is still in the left lane, my turn lane. One day as I slowed to turn, a car flew by on my left side. Had I not stopped my turn he would have hit me broad-side.

As they are finishing road striping at that intersection, I'm hoping they will create a designated left turn lane complete with large left-turning yellow arrows, and start the lane some distance before Rutland. Marking the intersection only as it was before is just an accident waiting to happen.

I thank you for your hard work on our behalf.

**More Safety Pipe Dreams for the Future**

- Reduce speed limit to 30 mph in the Historic District from Homestead Gardens to Queen Anne Bridge Road to include Foxhall and Davidsonville Elementary School.

- A flashing sign warning drivers through the Village of their speed, like the one in Riva.

- Crosswalks and a flashing traffic signal at the school.

- Designated bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of #424 from Homestead to Davidsonville Elementary and Queen Anne Bridge Road.

**New Fire House for Woodland Beach VFD?**

County Council Resolution 44-22 expresses the need for land on Route 214 in Edgewater that is owned by the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to be utilized for construction of the Woodland Beach Volunteer Fire Department. To be discussed at Oct 3 Council meeting with opportunity for public comment.

The new fire house has been in the works for several years. *Does this resolution indicate progress?*

**Third Bay Bridge Crossing**

*News from Senator Ed Reilly*

The Tier 2 National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Study was launched after completion of the Tier 1 NEPA Study in April and continues efforts to provide congestion relief at the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial (Bay) Bridge and its approach highways from the Severn River Bridge to the U.S. 50/U.S. 301 split.

Next steps of the Tier 2 NEPA Study will include...

- refining the Purpose and Need element of the study to focus on Corridor 7;
- evaluating a No Build alternative and a range of build alternatives, including various alignments, crossing types and modal and operational alternatives;
- evaluating traffic, engineering, and environmental impacts;
- providing public involvement and comment opportunities;
- identifying a Selected Alternative; and
- identifying mitigation measures for unavoidable environmental impacts.

The MDTA invites the public to provide comments regarding the Tier 2 NEPA Study by Friday, October 14, 2022. Comments may be submitted via various methods:

- Submit an electronic comment form at baycrossingstudy.com
- Email comments to info@baycrossingstudy.com
- Print and mail a completed comment form to Bay Crossing Study, 2310 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD 21224/
- Provide a voice mail message 24/7 by calling 667-203-5408.

Agriculture Education Day October 1 at Y Worry Farm was cancelled due to an overabundance of rain. No rain date was announced.



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### Mid-Atlantic Community Church Subdivision

In May, Lori Thick wrote to DACA to inform the Board that the Mid-Atlantic Community Church (MACC), 2499 Davidsonville Road (which is within the Davidsonville Area as defined by DACA’s by-laws), applied to the AA County Board of Appeals to subdivide the property into two lots. They plan for one parcel of 2.337 acres with a residence to be sold, and one parcel of 54.395 acres, part of which is heavily treed, with the ultimate plan (as listed on their website, which has since been removed) of adding 14 acres to the larger Church parcel.

At the first community information meeting, MACC denied having any development plans, stating that “they are not in the business of being a landlord.” Nearby neighbors have been opposing development for years to try to keep the rural agricultural area intact.

On the larger parcel, the MACC wishes to develop additional soccer fields and a lighted baseball field with stadium-style seating. The neighbors oppose the resubdivision because it would result in removal of a considerable amount of forest from that area.

The first Appeals hearing was held June 14. Neighbors were prevented from entering into evidence

MACC’s drawing of future development plans nor was testimony allowed about the video on their website of their pastor advising their parishioners about the plans. Jeff Torney, the Planner from the Office of Planning and Zoning, described the litany of county agency requirements. The forest conservation area is clustered around the streams on the site, and the Petitioner [the Church] provided all the forest conservation requirements. He added that if the property is further developed, specimen trees must be preserved.

The Appeals Board considered only whether the subdivision should be allowed, because the application did not include any development plans beyond the legal requirements of the subdivision. Therefore, the Board of Appeals ruled in favor of MACC.

Paul and Lori Thick will appeal this ruling to the Circuit Court at a hearing on October 18. Ms. Thick wrote, “It is helpful that the County recognized that specimen trees must remain. This may block their future plans for soccer field, unless they just find another area on the property on which to locate it.”

Anthony V. Lamartina, Chair of the Board of Appeals, signed the opinion.



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**Start School Later** by *Lisa VanBuskirk*

Anne Arundel County Public Schools has opened its doors to new school start times.

- Elementary school buses drop off at their schools by 7:40 am.
- High school buses drop off at their schools by 8:15 am.
- Middle school buses drop off at their schools by 9:00 am.

Thank you for the years and even decades of support. I was not always sure the Board of Education would hold firm in the face of understandable community concern over costs of staffing for buses and crossing guards.

Under new leadership of superintendent Dr. Bedell, and guided by interim superintendent Ms. Jackson, there has already been increased transparency regarding open staff positions, especially for bus drivers and crossing guards. For current information on vacancies, go to <https://www.aacps.org/weeklyupdate>. Dr. Bedell released his 100-day plan, which details initial goals and how he plans to interact with all community stakeholders. His first Board meeting was August 24.

With the new bus stop times announced in mid-August, a small number of elementary school bus routes, including those for special needs students, necessitate pickups before 7 am, then pick up other students along the way to elementary schools outside their home zone. It appears that those routes are often in the rural Southern cluster. AACPS has committed to improve these routes as more drivers are hired. Additional buses and vans were purchased to address population growth and improve routes for homeless students and will also improve transportation service. Additional buses are not needed for the new school hours. (*More on this from Gray Morgan, page 11*)

There are more improvements with transportation. In October, in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Police Department and a contractor, all school buses will be equipped with stop-arm cameras to document vehicle violations. All 750 buses will also be equipped with GPS, which should eventually be connected to a notification system to allow more personalized notification of bus issues (delays, arrival times, etc.), similar to other school systems nearby.

The bus website includes these explanatory notes: “The routes listed on this page reflect the immense amount of work done over the last year by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Transportation Department and the Board of Education’s consultant, Prismatic Services, Inc., to find efficiencies in routes and align them with the healthier start times to which the school system is shifting this fall.

“As part of those efficiencies, there are fewer stops across the county than in years past, and some students will need to walk farther to get to those stops.”

I remain concerned about potential legislation to move Maryland to permanent Daylight Savings Time, which would effectively negate the changes in school start times. Needless to say, I'm not quite done with my school start time advocacy.

With gratitude for your support, *Lisa VanBuskirk*

**Memo from AA County****Bus Initiative to Enhance Student Safety**

The entire AACPS bus fleet of approximately 750 school buses, including those owned by contractors, is being upgraded with advanced safety technology that features AI-powered stop-arm cameras to detect violations and capture the license plates of drivers that illegally pass school buses. The video evidence will be shared with local law enforcement for review and validation before a citation is issued.

Ray Alcorn

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**Cell Tower at Maryland Farm Bureau**

King’s Retreat residents learned that T-Mobile plans to erect a 140-foot tall cell phone tower behind the Maryland Farm Bureau building at 3358 Davidsonville Road. The public hearing is to be held on October 18. Anne-Marie Novo-Gradac, whose property adjoins the proposed site, notified DACA of the Farm Bureau’s plans.

DACA board member Lynn Marano reported that the residents are as resolutely opposed now as they were eleven years ago when the Ruritan Club proposed a 100-foot cell tower. DACA joined King’s Retreat in opposing the T-Mobile tower at that time, as well as the Anne Arundel Co. Historical Preservation Society. That attempt went all the way to the courthouse, and T-Mobile backed off. Now a taller, more visible version is planned. King’s Retreat Board of Directors will meet to discuss how best to oppose it. Residents of Rodeo Drive have joined in opposition, as they did before.

The Maryland Farm Bureau’s website shows their Mission “To protect and grow Maryland agriculture and preserve rural life.” This tower seems to contradict that mission. A telephone discussion with John Torres, Executive Director, elicited the following facts: The Farm Bureau knows a cell tower was opposed eleven years ago and does not care that the surrounding neighborhoods are in opposition. They entered into a contract with the cell phone company and will let the company handle any opposition. The Farm Bureau just wants the revenue. They don’t care that the tower will be 140 feet high with a flashing red light at an additional four feet and will be seen from miles away. They don’t care that the tower is in close proximity to the Davidsonville historic area. All of the Farm Bureau staff and Board members do not live in Davidsonville, so it has no impact on them.

King’s Retreat’s Board and DACA’s Board of Directors each voted to write to the Farm Bureau to express opposition to the cell tower. The arguments are the same now as they were ten years ago.

- A cell tower would be a blight among the beautiful farms and neighborhoods of Davidsonville; this impacts all those who live in Davidsonville.
- At the proposed height, it will be seen from miles away—day and night—given the flashing red light.
- It would be built within the Davidsonville historic district—four corners, historic homes, historic churches, etc.
- It will have a negative impact on area home prices.
- Other previously proposed cell towers have been denied in the Davidsonville historic areas, including one on Patuxent River Road and as well as at the Farm Bureau site eleven years ago, for all of the above reasons.
- T-Mobile shows on their coverage maps that the area already has extremely strong service.
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO) in 2011 designated cell tower emissions as a possible carcinogen with potential impact on human health.

**Anne Arundel County Agriculture Commission**

The Agriculture Commission is made up of County residents who are familiar with agricultural and farming issues, with most voting members owning, managing, or operating a farm in the County. Members advise the County Executive on the promotion, coordination, establishment, furtherance, protection, and community impacts of agriculture, farming, agritourism, and land preservation uses within the County to ensure that industries remain economically viable while preserving agricultural land.

**2022 Meeting Schedule:\***

April 21, June 16, August 18, October 13, December 8  
 \*Although Commission meetings are open to the public, RSVP is required. Questions? Contact Brittany Rawlings at [brawlings@aaedc.org](mailto:brawlings@aaedc.org) or 410-222-7412.



**School Available Positions**

School Bus Drivers—Whether you have your CDL B license or not, Anne Arundel Workforce Development can help you on the path to a rewarding career as a bus driver. Visit [aawdc.org/busdriver](http://aawdc.org/busdriver) to sign up for free CDL training or get connected to your next job at a local school bus contractor.

Child Care Positions—Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks is hiring for a variety of part-time before and after school care positions. Call 410-222-7856 Ext. 0 to learn more.

Crossing Guards—Anne Arundel County Police Department is hiring school crossing guards to get our students to school safely. To apply, call Thelma Swigert at 410-222-6866 or 410-222-6867 or email her at [p93272@aacounty.org](mailto:p93272@aacounty.org)

**New Dentist in Town**

The Wooddell & Passaro Dental Group is excited to announce that Dr. Woody’s son, Dr. Jamie Wooddell, is joining our practice! Dr. Jamie earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, like his dad and Dr. Joe before him. He has worked in other dental offices since graduating to gain valuable experience but now the time is right for him to fulfill his legacy at Wooddell & Passaro Dental Group!

You might see Dr. Jamie around the office before his official start date of October 3 as he acclimates to his new role. Dr. Jamie will accept new patients ages 14 and older. He will support Dr. Woody and Dr. Joe by performing routine exams and general dentistry procedures while developing his expertise in complex restorative dentistry. And if you need any tips, he is an expert on gardening and crabbing!

Sincerely, The Team at Wooddell & Passaro



Arundel Rivers announced that South River native Elle Bassett is the new South, West, and Rhode Riverkeeper.

Elle has been the Miles–Wye Riverkeeper for Shore Rivers and is one of the most well-respected riverkeepers in the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. She will enter our offices on day one with a decade of riverkeeping and environmental outreach experience under her belt, and begin to set in motion efforts to create a robust, wrap-around riverkeeper program that goes far beyond our monitoring efforts alone.



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## South County Concert Association

The South County Concert Association was founded in 1975 to bring a variety of fine music to its subscribers and the community. We are celebrating our 47<sup>th</sup> season in 2022–23 and invite you to join. We are pleased to offer a variety of nationally recognized and local artists. Attractions range from vocalists and instrumentalists to large choral, instrumental, and dance groups. Over the years, we have offered famous groups such as the Norman Luboff Choir, The New Christy Minstrels, Maureen McGovern, and local groups such as the Annapolis Symphony and the Harbor City Music Chorus.

The Association is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who are dedicated to offering fine music and community cultural enrichment.

Concerts this season will be held at Southern High School located on Route 2 in Harwood and at Riva Trace Baptist Church on Central Avenue in Davidsonville. Concerts begin at 7:30 pm except for Sunday afternoon concerts that begin at 3:00 pm.

Admission to the concerts is by season subscription, which costs \$70 per adult. Students 18 and under are free. Tickets sold at the door for individual concerts are \$25. Because of a reciprocity agreement, our members are invited to attend the five concerts offered by Anne Arundel Community Concert Association at Severna Park High School. Please contact Betty Knupp for more information and a brochure: 410-956-4881.

### 2022-2023 Season

at

Southern High School, 4400 Solomons Island Rd.  
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### *The Everly Set*

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 7:30 pm

### *Hurray for Hollywood*

Thursday, November 17, 2022, 7:30 pm

### *Peacherine Ragtime Orchestra*

Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 pm

### *Divas Three*

Friday, March 10, 2023, 7:30 pm

### *Ilya Yakushev & Thomas Mesa* (piano and cello)

Monday, April 24, 2023, 7:30 pm

## Common Maryland Bees

More than 400 species of bees have been documented in Maryland. Bees are extremely beneficial insects that are responsible for pollinating many different species of flowering plants. Bees also serve as an important food resource for some species of wildlife.



*Apis mellifera* (photo by  
F. Posada, USGS Bee Lab)

The honeybee has a light to dark brown body with pale and dark hairs in bands on its abdomen. One of our most well-known species, the honeybee, is not native. They have pollen baskets on their “thighs” (see the hairs?), a barrel-shaped abdomen, and heart-shaped head. They also have hairy eyes! Honeybees live in colonies, often in man-made structures or in cavities.

*More on page 10*



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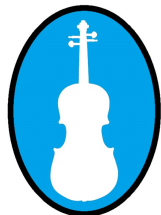
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## LONDONTOWNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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*Anna Binneweg conducting*

The orchestra is conducted by Dr. Anna Binneweg. As Music Director and Conductor of the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra, the Anne Arundel Community College Symphony Orchestra, and a frequent guest conductor on the national and international scene, Dr. Binneweg repeatedly captivates audiences with her enthusiasm and passion for music. Putting her musicians in the spotlight, she brings out the best in them. Dr. Binneweg's programs and performances are alluring and engaging, and they attract audiences of all ages, particularly making classical repertoire appealing to all audiences.

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### Leaf-Cutting Bee (*Megachile* spp.)



*Photo by Sam Droege, USGS Bee Lab*

At least 20 species of leaf-cutting bees have been documented in Maryland. These bee species are black and furry. Leaf-cutting bees use their large mouthparts to cut distinct circles out of leaves to use for their nests. Unlike honeybees, leaf-cutting bees carry pollen beneath their abdomen. Some species have pointy abdomens. Leaf-cutting bees are solitary, but they will nest in aggregations.

*From the website*  
[dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/habitat/wabees.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/habitat/wabees.aspx)

*See Report on Sam Droege's Bee Webinar, sponsored by Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, page 13.*

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**School report to DACA Board, September 8**

*by Gray Morgan*

Anne Arundel County Public Schools needs approximately 585 contracted bus drivers to service routes in the 2022–2023 school year. As Deputy Superintendent Monique Jackson told the Board of Education at its July 13, 2022, meeting, AACPS anticipates opening the 2022–2023 school year with approximately the same number of vacant routes (45–50) as existed at the end of the 2021–2022 school year. Currently, there are 75 vacancies.

More than 5,500 teachers left their positions in 2022, according to the Maryland State Department of Education (“Maryland’s Teacher Workforce: Supply, Demand, and Diversity,” July 26, 2022). As of August 10, 2022, AACPS has 351 classroom teacher vacancies that impact all clusters and all school levels. Management practices will include:

- Adjusting class size target ratios upward slightly at all levels in non-Title I schools and at kindergarten in Title I schools. This could result in somewhat larger class rosters (2–4 students in most cases) at the elementary level but will allow schools to shift staff where prudent and practical to reconcile vacancies within their own buildings.

Schools will not lose vacant teacher allocations, so future hires and shifts could be easily accomplished.

- In accordance with the new target ratios, collapse and combine classes where prudent and practical. The Office of School Performance continues to work with school leaders to maximize staffing.

- At the elementary level, this may result in collapsing of classes in grade levels that are under-enrolled in situations that would maintain recommended class size ratios in Title I schools and meet the adjusted class size ratios in non-Title I schools.

- At the secondary level, this could include combining under-enrolled classes in the same subject, collapsing under-enrolled classes and shifting staff to critical shortage areas.

AACPS has also:

- Contacted conditionally certificated teachers who were not previously eligible for continued employment but became eligible under the extended certification period waiver adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education on July 26, 2022.

- Reached out to business partners and other community stakeholders to gauge part-time adjunct teacher interest.

- Reached out to retired AACPS teachers who continue to hold certifications to gauge their interest in teaching either full-time or part-time schedules.

The Anne Arundel Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (AA-SECAC) hosted an in-person meeting on September 8. AA-SECAC is a partnership between parents, families, community leaders, advocates, educators, and administrators. The committee works to enhance services available to students with disabilities and to advocate for positive changes in special education in Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

At the September 7 Board of Education meeting, they reviewed information on school system plans to examine redistricting in light of the opening of two new schools in the 2024–2025 school year and on a plan to allow conversion of some inclement weather days to virtual days of instruction.

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**Agriculture report 9/8/22 to DACA Board**

*Margie Chase*

Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau and many local farmers participated in the Blessing of the Harvesters event on August 28 at the Route 2 roundabout in Lothian.

The Anne Arundel County Fair ran from September 14 through September 18. Anne Arundel County Farm Bureau was in the tent with the AA County Soil Conservation District located by the 4H livestock barn. The 4H and FFA livestock auction took place on Saturday night, September 17.

Anne Arundel Economic Development’s Ag Day is Saturday, October 1, at Y Worry Farm 10:00 am–6:00 pm (weather delay TBD). The Farm Bureau plans a scarecrow-making station and scavenger hunt for kids. We are looking for donations of children’s clothes.

Farmers are very appreciative of the rain that we got Monday night into Tuesday; it was much needed. In the Davidsonville area we hadn’t had any measurable rainfall since July.

Perdue held a meeting Wednesday September 14 in Hughesville to discuss the fate of the Lothian Grain Elevator. The company pledged to keep it open for two years while seeking a buyer. They want local farmers to commit that they will plant 10,000 acres of Plenish Soybeans, a high oil-yielding soybean.

University of MD Extension is hosting Family Fall Harvest Festival on Friday October 14, 1–6 pm at the Dairy Farm, 97 Dairy Farm Lane, Gambrills. Free pumpkins, Indian corn and popcorn to harvest from the new AA Extension Urban Farming Research Clinic.

**South County Curbside Collection**

Pick-up is provided to most homes in South County. Place your properly bagged and contained trash on the roadside in front of your house or driveway on the assigned day of each week. The County DPW provides large yellow, wheeled bins for recycling. The service collects household trash (up to four containers), recyclables in bins, and yard waste in paper yard bags. Residents pay a \$341 annual Solid Waste Service Charge established in the AA County Code. This charge, not general tax revenue, is the primary funding for solid waste collection. Planning Region 8—Davidsonville, Harwood, Owensville, Waysons Corner, Lothian, Friendship, Owings, and parts of Edgewater—are serviced by two different contractors. Since August, the Goode Companies, Inc., works in the northern portion, and Bates Trucking and Trash Removal covers the southern area. Collection Day changes are made when route maps are updated to be more efficient and garner competitive bid prices. Since Spring 2022, sometimes collection has been delayed by a shortage of workers and CDL drivers, requiring employees from other areas to fill in, resulting in some missed streets.



Customers can report a concern online at [www.aacounty.org](http://www.aacounty.org) and enter Curbside Collection in the search line, or call 410-222-6100.

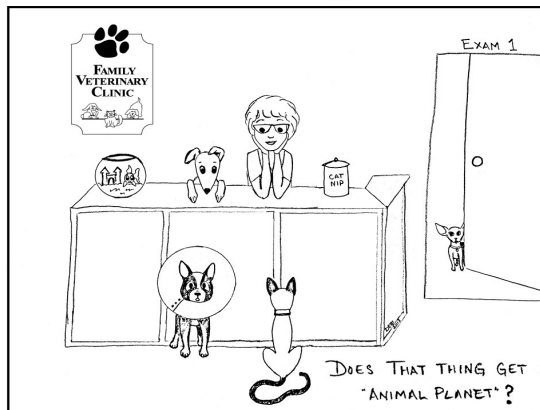
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**More About Bees and Honeybees**

On August 16, SERC held the webinar “Maryland’s Native Bees: Where To Find Them, Why We Need Them,” conducted by Dr. Sam Droege, a biologist at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. I took notes to the best of my ability—too bad I could not get all he said. What an iconoclast!

Honeybees are *not* our *only* best friends. They are fine for private hives aiming to make honey, but most pollination, even on crops, is done by native bees, and most native species are much smaller than honeybees. (I suspect what is good for one type of pollinator bee is good for most of the others.) Honeybees are not native to America—they were imported in the 1600s—but are best known of all the bee species. Yet nonnative honeybees compete with native bees for precious resources. There are roughly 450 bee species in Maryland. Their numbers and ranges are driven by deep and often very specialized relationships with flowering plants. Droege described some patterns of those relationships, spoke of recent discoveries about critical pollinators, and offered suggestions on how to support them in your backyard.

Bees comprise numerous species within the wasp family. The most common, found everywhere, is *Augochlorella aurata*. Its cousin, *Augochloropsis metallica metallica* (pictured), looks metallic, is bright green, and very visible. About 100 species can be found any place in Maryland; many are very small and you do not notice them unless you are in their field. There can be 26,000 bees to an acre. Native bees are not bad stingers because they can’t penetrate skin on adults’ hands; their venom is weak and most people are not allergic to them.



Shiny, bright, and showy  
*Augochloropsis metallica metallica*

Thirty-five percent of pollen feeders are highly specialized, interested in only a few families and flower groups. Invasive bees are only one percent of bee population. As for home building, most nest in the ground; 20 percent are nest parasites usurping an already occupied nest; five percent are cavity nesters. Agriculture depends on native bees. Native bees provide the most crop pollination. Even crops that don’t need pollination, like soy beans, cotton, and peppers, give a better yield when bees are present. Some pollens repel bees—they are unattractive, or toxic to baby bees. There has been no colony collapse in native bees, but some species are crashing due to loss of forested land and increased weeds in under-worked fields. Too many deer, too many people, too much neatness, groomed lawns, and use of chemicals, especially insecticides, contribute to shrinking numbers. Consider the bees when you are grooming your lawn and gardens.

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**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. Gail spent a lot of time there lately, and they really do need more volunteers to guide visitors and patients.

**Safe Composting:  
NO RATS!**

If you compost at home or at work (or want to do so), a free new guide from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance provides information about how to dispose of food waste without attracting nibbling neighbors. Although “Oh, Rats!” was created to help community composters plan, manage, and rodent-proof their composting sites, the information in the cleverly illustrated booklet is useful for backyard composters as well. Download the guide at [www.ilsr.org/composting-ohrats](http://www.ilsr.org/composting-ohrats).



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If you are a Davidsonville resident not currently receiving the magazine and would like to see it, please send your email address to [david.grabau@n2pub.com](mailto:david.grabau@n2pub.com). David Grabau will email you a free PDF version that you can open and read.

**AAEDC Arundel Ag Fall Events**

- October 14, Countryside Autumn Wellness Weekend, Honey’s Harvest Farm
- October 15, Harvest Hoedown, Maryland Therapeutic Riding
- October 16, Autumn Farm to Table Superfood Dinner, Honey’s Harvest Farm
- October 22, Fall Harvest Day, Wildberry Farm + Market
- October 29, Halloween Table Centerpiece, Willow Oak Flower & Herb Farm
- October 30, Halloween Family Movie Night, Wildberry Farm + Market
- November 13, 4th Annual Sweet Potato Fest, Honey’s Harvest Farm
- November 19, Thanksgiving Table Centerpiece, Willow Oak Flower & Herb Farm

**Fall Festivals**

**Pumpkin Patch, Y Worry Farm**, 1501 Rossback Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035, Phone: (410) 451-2855  
 Y Worry Farm is a family run, working farm located in Davidsonville, Maryland. We are Davidsonville’s longest-running fall family venue; featuring a pick-your-own pumpkin patch and a corn maze; it’s fun for the whole family and a must-do fall tradition.



**Doepkens Farm**, 2657 Davidsonville Road, Gambrills, MD 20154, Phone: (410) 721-2739  
 Multifaceted, diversified farm selling a broad range of products including cut flowers, mums, pumpkins and fall decor, Christmas greenery and decor, horse quality hay, beef and eggs.

**Greenstreet Gardens Fall Festival**, 391 West Bay Front Rd., Lothian, MD 20711, Phone: (410) 867-9500  
 Great Family Fun For All Ages! Visit our Facebook page for more information!

**Knightongale Farm**, 3924 Solomons Island Road, Harwood, MD 20776, Phone: (410) 320-1363  
 Knightongale Farm, a 90-acre working farm owned and operated by Joel Greenwell, Sr. and kids, is a seasonally open Grain Farm, Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Tree Farm & Sunflower Patch

**Fall Decor**

- Dove Family Produce, 864 West Bay Front Road, Lothian, MD 20711, Phone: (410) 279-5783
- Hansel Hill Farm, 1017 Hansel Drive, Millersville, MD 21108, Phone: (808) 469-2292
- Himmel’s Landscape & Garden Center, 4374 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122
- Homestead Gardens, 743 W Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035, Phone: (410) 798-5000
- Honeysuckle Nursery + Design, 1103 Honeysuckle Lane, Annapolis, MD 21401, Phone: (410) 849-5119
- The Pumpkin Wagon – Delivery + Design, Harwood, MD 20776, Phone: (410) 980-0896







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**Term until June 2023**

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*The Villager*

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