

The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 49, No. 5

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

January–February 2023

Join DACA and Help Keep Davidsonville Rural

DACA commonly says its goal is to “keep Davidsonville rural,” but how does DACA do this? By communicating and working with local and state government agencies.

Your civic association monitors, reports on, and participates in decision-making on:

- County and State land use planning
- County Council and legislative issues
- County zoning and subdivision planning and approval and Administrative and Board of Appeals Hearings
- Environmental issues affecting Davidsonville
- Agricultural issues affecting Davidsonville
- Local and countywide public school issues
- Traffic and safety issues on Davidsonville roads
- Sponsorship of an annual Green Expo and Tree Give-Away
- Sponsorship of a scholarship award for Davidsonville students funded by contributions
- *The Villager*, our bimonthly publication about Davidsonville
- Production and maintaining a website and a Facebook page
- Holding an annual meeting for all members to hear reports from state and local officials and provide opportunity for residents to get answers to their concerns.

Please turn to page 3



March 25, 2023

Scouts' Flag ceremony 10:30

Exhibits open 10:30-2:30

Sapling tree giveaway 11:00

at Homestead Gardens

~ Bagpiper ~ Food and beer for sale

~ Educational exhibits by AA County departments
and commercial businesses

~ Learn more environmental awareness methods

~ Make your world greener and healthier

Notes to DACA

Many thanks to Dr. Carol Sprouse for her gift to DACA in addition to renewing her dues.



I am very interested in the MACC project not going through, since it will affect our rural setting, traffic and noise [pollution?], as well as property values. CSS

January 6: A huge dead tree overhangs Rt. 214 -- the number on a nearby mailbox is 1162. It's not far going east from the intersection with Patuxent River Road. Portions of dead branches are falling onto the roadway and pose a hazard. I've called the state road people twice about this and nothing has been done. Is there an elected official I can contact about nudging the road department? MH

From Kim Tran, District Engineer, SHA District 5

Good afternoon,

Our Annapolis maintenance shop informs me that they will be going to the location early next week to remove the limb that hangs over the road. They cannot remove the entire tree as it is outside of SHA right-of-way. Bernard Parker of our maintenance shop has been in communication with the citizen. Thanks, Kim

I don't know how you do it, year after year after year. Thank you so much for *The Villager* newsletter. I especially want to thank you for pointing out the expanded Move Over Law as I was previously unaware of it. Take care and have a wonderful holiday season.

Warmest Regards, FC

It must have been a bad week for our County Department of Public Works

In the week after Christmas I called DPW to ask if the recycling crew would take away a discarded dishwasher. The voice on the phone said to put it out with regular recycling on our next regular pickup day, January 3, delayed by January 2 New Year's observance. No trash pick up that day or all week! In phone calls every day to DPW, they told me to verify that it was plastic (it was), not metal. Next day, she told me to look again to see if the recycle crew left a note explaining why not. They did not leave a note. On Thursday, January 5, the voice told me she would send an inspector(!). January 9, no recycle collection and no answer on the phone. One week after the second phone call, full recycle bins from every home on our street were still waiting beside Davidsonville Road.

At last, an email from Anita Grayson-Evans on January 10 informed me that the recycling had been collected that day. JOY to the DPW, and many thanks!

Gail

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What Does It Take to Accomplish DACA's Goals?

People! DACA has been doing this for 50 years – its long-term members have acquired significant knowledge about County and State government. All board members are volunteers; there are no paid employees. Each board member brings to DACA their own interests and concerns for the well-being of the community. They know administrative officials and whom to ask for community and citizen services. Members of our Board of Directors devote their time to attend public meetings and hearings and have acquired expertise on these issues. To continue this work, DACA requires efforts by volunteers who care about their Davidsonville community. Below are specific operations and tasks for which DACA would gratefully appreciate help.

- DACA's webmaster would appreciate help with managing the website.
- We have openings for membership secretary (managing membership renewals and dues); recording secretary (preparing agendas, taking minutes at monthly board and annual meetings); and communications secretary (handling incoming email).
- *The Villager* needs assistance with soliciting and billing advertisements.
- For DACA to continue as an advocate for Davidsonville and its residents, we need help with collecting information on land use and zoning issues that will affect Davidsonville, forwarding it to the board members, and sharing it at board meetings to enable the board to reach informed decisions.

You do not have to be a board member to carry out a specific task or to attend meetings. You will be welcomed. Bring to DACA your concerns and interests, and the ability you already have and are willing to share. What you do not know already, you can learn. Past board members have stated that this activity is a super method of learning how the county government relates to your community and serves it.



Applications Open for the 2023–2024 DACA Scholarship

The Davidsonville Area Civic Association's Gail Enright Educational Scholarship helps DACA members and their dependent children pursue educational training, be it academic, technical, agricultural, or professional.

The scholarship is available to high school seniors and graduates of any age.

You can learn about the scholarship and access the application by visiting www.daca-md.org and selecting the Scholarship page. (Or use the direct link via www.davidsonvillemaryland.org/scholarship.)

Applications are being accepted for the 2023–2024 academic year and are due no later than Thursday, June 15, 2023, 11:59 pm.

The DACA scholarship was established in 2017 through a donation by Davidsonville residents Tom and Kris Angelis. The fund's growth depends on the generosity of our community. Help us grow the scholarship fund by making a check in any amount payable to DACA and write "scholarship" in the memo space. Or donate online via the "Scholarship" button on our "Dues, Donations, Payments" page.

The Davidsonville Area Civic Association (DACA) is a tax-exempt 501(c)4 organization recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Services. Donations to DACA are *not* tax-deductible for the donor.



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It's Deer Breeding Season, *from Margie Chase*

A couple of months ago, Melissa Stanton contacted the AA County Dept of Public Works and asked them to post a deer crossing sign on Mount Airy Road. DPW was prompt to place the sign. The breeding season has grown more intense since then as the males and females seek to find each other. You can see them lying dead beside the road, struck and killed by vehicles. They wander about most actively at dusk and dawn, heavy traffic time—the morning and evening commutes.

The damage they cause to vehicles costs the insurance companies many dollars in repairs. Margie Chase sent the *Villager* this collection of facts from State Farm.

Did you know? Maryland's deer population was 130,000 in 1991; 295,000 in 2002; now 215,000. Nationwide, the population was 300,000 in the 1930s. Now it has increased a hundred fold to a whopping 30,000,000!

Housing developments provide excellent deer habitat: abundant food, no hunting, few predators.

Fees generated by deer hunting are two thirds of Maryland's Wildlife and Heritage budget.

Dense deer populations negatively impact forest regeneration, natural succession, and biological diversity.

Maryland farmers continue to be faced with loss of income due to the crop damage caused by deer.

Licensed hunting remains the most effective way to keep deer populations in check.

Anne Arundel County remains one of only four counties with only two or fewer Sunday hunting dates in Maryland.

Maryland deer hunters harvested 79,457 deer during the 2019–2020 season. The statewide harvest included 29,233 antlered and 46,777 antlerless white-tailed deer; and 1,552 antlered and 1,895 antlerless sika deer.

Maryland motorists have one chance in 110 of colliding with a deer.

Historically, November is the most dangerous month for deer accidents

There are 1,500,000 deer/car accidents yearly in the United States.

Deer are implicated in the spread of Lyme disease.

State Farm said in 2021 chances of hitting a deer or other animal increased by more than seven percent. State Farm offers tips to avoid hitting deer, although those steps are things we should be doing anyway

Always buckle up – every trip, every time.

Slow down, particularly at dusk and dawn.

Pay attention to deer crossing signs.

If you see one deer, be prepared for more deer to cross the road; they travel in groups.

Remain focused on the road. Scan for potential dangers, including animals and bicyclists.

Avoid distractions. Devices or eating while driving might cause you to miss seeing an animal.

Do not rely on products such as deer whistles. They are not proven effective.

If you are riding a motorcycle, always wear protective gear. Keep focused on the road ahead.

Maryland has regulations for different hunting methods for harvesting deer. In 2019–2020, Anne Arundel County reported total harvest for antlered and antlerless deer in the archery, firearm, and muzzleloader hunting seasons, as follows:

Archers took 558 antlered deer and 822 antlerless deer, total 1,380. Firearms took 271 antlered deer and 529 antlerless deer, total 800. Muzzleloaders took 137 antlered deer and 302 antlerless deer, total 439. Totals in that season were 966 deer with antlers and 1,653 without antlers.

Many hunters give their deer to charities to be enjoyed by food bank patrons.



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School Report, January 5, 2023

by Gray Morgan, from AACPS website

Zachary McGrath, Board of Education student member, will serve as a page in the United States Senate Youth program.

School will start Monday, August 28, 2023, and will end on Thursday, June 13, 2024, as the Board of Education adopted the 2023–2024 calendar.

The calendar maintains the holiday closings contained in the current school year calendar as well as a three-day Thanksgiving break and the week-long Easter/Spring break. It also contains closings for Yom Kippur and Eid al-Fitr and builds in three days to be used in the case of inclement weather. The calendar also contains four two-hour early dismissals to allow for staff to engage in professional development related to equity and two two-hour early dismissals at the end of each of the four marking periods.

The Board concurred with the Calendar Committee's recommendations: (1) to eliminate the three partial days designated for parent–teacher conferences, one in the fall and two in the spring. This reduces the number of two-hour early dismissals over the course of the year from 15 to 12. And (2) to institute a non-student day for elementary and middle schools to allow for additional teacher professional development. This recommendation was made in large part due to the increased number of conditionally certified teachers in Anne Arundel County Public Schools this year and the need for additional professional development around the curriculum. The implementation of this day—scheduled for Nov. 1, 2023—does not lengthen the school year for any students as those at the elementary and middle school levels have had a 181-day school year for many years (high school students have a 180-day school year because high schools are closed on the day of their graduation).

A complete 2023–2024 calendar can be found at www.aacps.org/calendar.

AACPS hiring updates: 53 bus driver vacancies, down from 63 in November, with 59 in training

- 183 teacher vacancies, 196 in November
- 203 food service vacancies, 205 in November
- 56 custodial staff vacancies, 89 in November

Starting December 5, nearly 1,600 students across the county received school bus transportation service as the first phase of Anne Arundel County Public Schools' emergency van procurement program was implemented to mitigate bus availability. Specific schedules with bus stop pickup times can be found by clicking on the School Bus Schedules link at www.aacps.org/buses.

The program placed into service 17 vans that will transport students to nonpublic educational settings across

the region. School buses that currently transport those students will be transferred to general and magnet program routes at comprehensive schools, where they will transport students in both the morning and afternoon to 23 schools in six feeder systems across the county. The vans, which are driven by drivers who are not required to have CDL licenses, have been acquired through an emergency procurement program approved by the Board earlier this year. See press release: <https://aacpsschools.org/pressr/?p=7786>

As a means to create more opportunities for students across the school system and in support of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Anne Arundel County Public Schools will begin paying a large portion of exam, assessment, and certification costs for high school students this spring. See press release: <https://aacpsschools.org/pressr/?p=7784>

Anne Arundel County Public Schools is continuing the Virtual Homework Help and Tutoring for the 2022–2023 school year. Many courses are supported in subjects including Math, English, World Languages, Social Studies, Science, Reading, Computer Science and ESOL. All students in grades 6 to 12 are encouraged to take advantage of the program.



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A Farewell Note from Sid Saab

It's been an honor. First and foremost, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you and your families. To the good people of the 33rd District, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent you at the State Capitol in Annapolis for the past eight years. It has been an honor to be your voice for two terms in the Maryland General Assembly. Having been sworn into the House of Delegates back in 2015, I have built relationships with many of my constituents, understood specific issues in your communities, and advocated for legislation that benefits all Marylanders.

As many of you know, I will not be returning to the Maryland General Assembly, and I find it imperative that constituents, regardless of whether they vote, should know who their representatives are and make a connection with them. Please reach out to them.

Since 2014, District 33 has been a multimember district with three delegates and one senator representing the whole district. This past legislative session, new legislative maps that address boundaries for the state legislators were brought to the General Assembly and resulted in District 33 being cut into thirds: 33A, 33B, and 33C, with one Senator representing the whole district. Parts of Severna Park, Crofton, Harwood, and Millersville were swapped with most of Odenton and more of Gambrills.

Depending on where you live, you may have been redistricted out of District 33 and will want to verify your legislative district and your new State representatives who were sworn in during January.

My legislative assistant, Aysia, will transition to work for Delegate Brian Chisholm of District 31, who inherited parts of my District: half of Severna Park and Millersville. My seatmate, Delegate Rachel Muñoz, has been gerrymandered out of District 33 to District 31.

Davidsonville is now part of District 33 along with parts of Severna Park, Crofton, Harwood, and Millersville.

Agriculture Report to DACA Board by Margie Chase
Several farm shows and conferences are taking place in February, including the following:

Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention,

January 31–February 2, Hershey, PA

Taste of Maryland Agriculture,

February 2, Arundel Mills, MD

Maryland Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis, February 8

Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Meeting,

February 9, Prince Frederick, MD

Cell Tower at the Maryland Farm Bureau

Anne-Marie Novo-Gradac of King's Retreat notified DACA in March that Network Towers LLC, acting for T-Mobile, plans to erect a 140-foot cell tower at 3358 Davidsonville Road, owned by the MD Farm Bureau. Administrative Hearing Officer Douglas Holm approved the application. The community of King's Retreat and some residents are appealing this decision and are awaiting a hearing date to be assigned.

Mid-Atlantic Community Church Subdivision

Lori and Paul Thick received notice from their attorney that their appeal against the resubdivision by MACC (case number C-02-CV-22-001493) is now scheduled for hearing on February 13, 2023, in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.

The parties, through counsel, will submit a memorandum, but only the attorneys can present arguments in the hearing. No further testimony is allowed, and the issue is limited to only the legality of the subdivision, with no reference to be made to possible future development plans or the removal of large old trees.

Lori wrote, "I am disappointed as I assumed we would have the opportunity of full discovery. Makes me think if we are unsuccessful, we will sooner rather than later be dealing with further legal proceedings as I anticipate they will move quickly on their development plans which have been on hold for these many years."

Ray Alcorn

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**Newly Elected Council Members
Sworn In December 5, 2022**

The newly elected Anne Arundel County Council members were sworn in on Monday, December 5, 2022, in the Council Chambers at the Arundel Center. The Oath of Office was administered by Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Court for the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court.

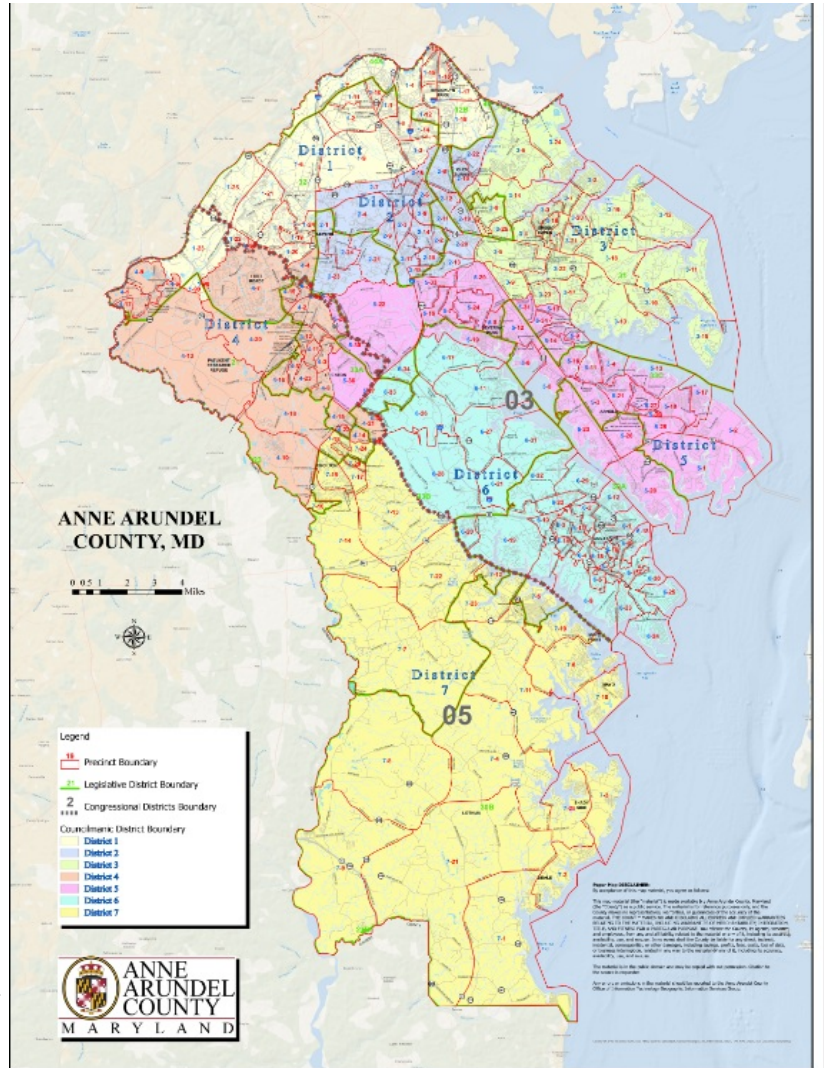
Newly elected Council members who took the Oath of Office are Peter Smith, District 1; Allison Pickard, District 2; Nathan Volke, District 3; Julie Hummer, District 4; Amanda Fiedler, District 5; Lisa Rodvien, District 6; and Shannon Leadbetter, District 7.

The County Council held its first legislative meeting the same day, December 5, beginning at 7 p.m., where they elected Pete Smith as Chair and Alison Pickard, Vice Chair, and conducted interviews with Board of Appeals candidates. Next Council meetings are scheduled for February 6 and a work session on February 14.

**County Executive Pittman Announces
New Director of Planning and Zoning**

Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman announced on January 16 that Jenny Jarkowski will be the new Director of the Office of Planning and Zoning, beginning January 19, 2023.

“Jenny Jarkowski has a proven track record of engaging community members and modernizing planning processes,” said County Executive Stuart Pittman. “She was the clear choice to lead our team as we implement the recommendations of Plan2040 and work to create a greener, smarter, and more equitable future for Anne Arundel County.”



Map from Anne Arundel County website

- District 1 Hanover, Harmons
- District 2 Glen Burnie, Severn
- District 3 Glen Burnie, Pasadena
- District 4 Fort Meade, Odenton – West County
- District 5 Broadneck Peninsula, Arnold, Severna Park
- District 6 Annapolis between Severn and South Rivers
- District 7 South County

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CEO Club

400 Trees in 4 Varieties to Choose from at DACA’s Tree Giveaway at the Davidsonville Green Expo, March 25, 2023



Black Cherry *Prunus serotina*

A large tree that may reach 100 feet. Black cherry provides valuable timber, wildlif food, and habitat. Maryland native and pollinator friendly.



Redbud *Cercis canadensis*

A small tree, 25 to 20 feet tall. Noted for its pink blossoms. The tree is valued for its wildlife food and cover. Maryland native and pollinator friendly.

White Oak

Quercus alba

Slow growth, up to 50–80 feet. The acorns are one of the best sources of food for wildlife, and are gathered, hoarded, and eaten by birds, hoofed browsers, and rodents. Leaf buds also are eaten by several bird species. Maryland native and pollinator friendly.



American Persimmon

Normally they can reach 20 feet tall with a spread of ten feet, although they can get up to 60 feet tall. Foliage color enhances any garden or open space, and it transforms through the seasons from light, bright green through dark to fall colors. In the spring it has plentiful yellow-white, waxy open bell-shaped flowers. Maryland native and pollinator friendly.



Lance Edwards
President

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South, West, and Rhode Riverkeeper

During my first few weeks in this new job, I've had the opportunity to attend the annual Waterkeepers Chesapeake summit with my fellow waterkeepers from across the watershed, speak to and meet many of you at my first Arundel Rivers Federation annual meeting, and meet with many community partners, including colleagues from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, Anne Arundel County Community College, Scenic Rivers Land Trust, Watershed Stewards Academy, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Chesapeake Bay Trust, and many more. Recently, I've been doing a deep dive into our water quality monitoring program and preparing the 2022 data for our upcoming State of the Rivers Report.

We have a choice right now between saving a 52-acre block of prime land known as the Glebe Forest on the Mayo Peninsula or allowing the clearing of land within this forest for construction of dozens of homes. The developer proposes more than 40 lots in a priority forest, and the proposal fails to protect the site's specimen trees, stream habitat, downstream oyster habitat, and forest interior dwelling species habitat.

Arundel Rivers Federation is working with Scenic Rivers Land Trust and Anne Arundel County to conserve this threatened forest, and we need broad community support. Currently there is a huge, but time-limited, opportunity to acquire the Glebe Forest and place it under a Scenic Rivers Land Trust perpetual conservation easement. Please visit our website to contribute to the Glebe Forest.

The combination of public and private funding with a Scenic Rivers Land Trust perpetual easement can create the best of both worlds—permanently conserved forest, and space accessible for the joys of nature trails.

Please join us to save the forest's tree canopy from the damages of development and allow for minimal uses of the land that would conserve it as a jewel in Anne Arundel County's Green Infrastructure. The property is ranked as one of Scenic Rivers Land Trust's Top 100 most important properties to conserve in the county.

Glebe Forest is part of a larger network of intact forests that provide critical habitat for forest interior dwelling bird species. It is located directly upstream of Arundel Rivers Federation's Glebe Bay oyster restoration site—the reef where your oysters from the Marylanders Grow Oysters program are planted in an effort to boost local oyster numbers, provide habitat, and improve our local water quality.

Elle Bassett

South West Rhode Riverkeeper

Special Events Hosted by the Edgewater Library, Stepney's Lane

After Hours Lock-In:

Life-Sized Games, Friday, January 27 at 6 pm

Take over the library in this after-hours event and play epic life-sized games like Giant Angry Birds, Human Foosball and more!

Registration and signed permission slip required.

Paws to Read, Saturday, January 28 at 10 am

Children in elementary school improve their reading skills while enjoying the rapt attention of canine tutors. Call the Edgewater Library at 410-222-1538 for available times and to register. Registration is required.

Red Cross Blood Drive, Friday, January 27 at 10 am

You are eligible to donate blood if age 17 or older (16 with written parental consent), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, and are in good health. You may walk in or schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767.

Making Cards for our Troops,

Saturday, January 28 at 10:30 am

Did you know that U.S. military exchanges in some foreign countries don't sell greeting cards? Join the team from Making Cards for Our Troops for this very special and worthwhile card-making event. All are welcome, from experienced paper crafters to the uninitiated. All supplies will be provided. Registration required.



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Davidsonville Family Recreation Center

The DFRC is located at 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road at the corner with Wayson Road on property under the direction and control of the AA County Department of Recreation and Parks. Membership is composed of a group of dues-paying organizations, currently 11 members. It is managed by a board of directors who are representatives of the member organizations. For more information, contact Barbara Freeman, Secretary, at tombarb.freeman@verizon.net.

Legislative Scholarships for District 33 Residents

Part-time and full-time high school seniors and current undergraduate students in a four-year college, community college, graduate school, or a private career school are eligible to apply for the Legislative Scholarship. This scholarship applies to the 2023–2024 school year.

Please reach out via email to your new representatives during the last week of January when state scholarships typically become available. Email addresses for D-33 State Senator Dawn Gile and D-33B State Delegate Stuart Schmidt are on page 14. Be sure to include your full name, phone number, and home address in your inquiry.

From Sid Saab

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Watershed Restoration

Grant Application Deadline: March 16, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program is a partnership between the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Anne Arundel County Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration, and the City of Annapolis. This award program aims to improve water quality in the County's local streams and waterways, as called for in the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit and County and City of Annapolis' Stormwater Management Inventory and Watershed Improvement Plan, which require reductions in storm flow volume and pollutants entering the County's waterways.

What this funds:

The Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program will fund projects to reduce pollutants through the implementation of watershed restoration practices. Projects must accomplish on-the-ground restoration that treats rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces at a cost-effective price or demonstrates the accomplishment of another metric that will help the County and City meet local water quality and runoff reduction improvement goals. Applications under this award program that demonstrate sound design and cost efficiency in meeting this goal will be most competitive. To demonstrate this, applicants will be required to provide sound technical designs and project budgets as outlined in this application package.

Nonprofit organizations, community associations, and faith-based organizations can apply for grants in amounts from \$15,000 to \$300,000. Procuring a matching grant is encouraged but is not required. Preference will be given to projects with a cash match and/or in-kind services.

Three categories of projects are in this program:

- Category 1 projects are watershed planning projects in the City of Annapolis.
- Category 2 projects are small-scale restoration projects in AA County.
- Category 3 projects are large-scale restoration projects in AA County.

The Trust is committed to the advancement of diversity and inclusion in its award-granting and environmental work. As a result, the Trust strongly encourages applications directly from underrepresented groups, and for projects that increase awareness and participation of communities that are traditionally underrepresented, such as communities of color. For a full description of the Trust's efforts to engage underengaged groups, see our strategic plan at www.cbtrust.org/strategic-plan and <https://cbtrust.org/diversity-inclusion/>.

All applicants must contact the Trust to arrange a site visit between the Trust and the funding partner staff before applying for this opportunity. Site visits must be completed by February 28, 2023.

What is GAN and What Does It Do?

The Growth Action Network (GAN) is a coalition of citizens, community associations, organizations, businesses, and Riverkeepers that was formed in 2013 as a 501(c)(3) to address County growth and environmental impacts.

The mission of GAN is to promote leadership and advocacy among AA County citizens to preserve the environment, secure natural resources, protect our county watersheds, and ensure managed growth within a fully funded infrastructure to sustain a high quality of life for all.

GAN envisions environmentally sustainable, well planned and well managed Anne Arundel communities and government owned properties where citizens are engaged, neighborhoods are thriving, development is limited, and redevelopment is a land use priority.

In 2022, GAN's advocacy included the following:

- Support for improvements in the Ag tourism bill
- Support for improvements in OPZ's survey processes
- Opposition to increased development density around Fort Meade
- Opposition to increased development in the Watershed project in the forest north of the Patuxent Research Refuge
- Continuing advocacy for all county meetings to be in hybrid format
- Monitoring the progress of the Stakeholder Advisory Committees in Regions 2, 4, and 7.

In 2022, GAN provided several member education opportunities:

- Dan Nataf's review of AACo Spring Survey
- Nataf's analysis of 2022 election results
- Annual meeting presentation by Rec and Parks
- Video statements on growth by candidates for County Executive and County Council
- Videos on SAC Region 2 – Jessup and West issues
- Video on forest destruction by Watershed
- Video on the impact of uncontrolled growth
- Newsletters and e-updates

In 2022, GAN held regular meetings with County Executive Pittman and key staff in the County Executive's Office

- The Planning Officer and key staff in OPZ

GAN held ad hoc meetings with council members, Haire, Fiedler, Lacey, Pickard, and Rodvien. We are organizing an outreach campaign to expand communication with all members of the 2023 council.

We welcomed three new members to the GAN board of directors: Pat Huecker, Gary Mauler, and Sarah

Knebel. We recognized Mel Bender as Board Member Emeritus. We acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of Kate Fox as interim board chair for the past two years, and elected Matt Minahan as board chair for 2023–2024.

Last year, the GAN Board decided to change our dues structure. We have three categories of members: Friends, Individual Members, and Organization Members. All members will receive our informative newsletters, which track legislative and countywide policy issues related to our mission and address issues affecting county environment and quality of life.

In addition to our newsletters, dues-paying Individual and Organization Members can receive assistance from other members on local land use and development issues as well as participate in the following:

- Bimonthly telecons/meetings with OPZ staff, pending agreement with the new OPZ director
- Periodic membership telecons/meetings with a program
- Smart Growth Maryland and Maryland Nonprofits resources
- Member to member mentorship, primarily on local land use issues.

We hope you will join us as members this year and fully participate in GAN activities.

Sincerely, Lynne Rockenbauch, Membership Chair

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The Best Place for All by *Steuart Pittman*

County Executive Pittman served as the master of ceremonies for the Inauguration of Governor Wes Moore and Lt. Governor-elect Aruna Miller. County Executive Pittman’s remarks follow:

“Welcome. Welcome to the inauguration of the 10th Lieutenant Governor and the 63rd Governor of the Great State of Maryland. My name is Steuart Pittman. I am the tenth and current County Executive of The Best Place For All, the crossroads of Maryland, and the seat of state Government, Anne Arundel County. I have been asked to facilitate this historic occasion, to introduce our speakers, encourage them to be brief, and model that behavior myself.

“A Master of Ceremonies has a task to complete and must hide his or her emotions. I apologize in advance for my failure to do that. This is a joyous day. I have a handkerchief, and I plan to use it. You see, I have roots in this county and this state, and today has been a long time coming.

“I am a direct descendant of a man named Dr. George Hume Steuart who arrived here from Scotland in 1721, purchased land, and made his fortune in the tobacco industry on the backs of enslaved men, women, and children from Africa. Dr. Steuart was also a politician, serving as Mayor of Annapolis and as a delegate to the colony’s General Assembly. He lived in a house on land that later became the site of Government House, the Governor’s residence. He lived right there [pointing].

“Three hundred years later, on September 8, 2021, when I stood a few steps from that house behind a

podium alongside a magnificent new friend named Wes Moore, in the presence of his wife Dawn, his mother Joy, his grandmother Mama Win, his sisters Shani and Nikki, and my daughter Jesse, the magic of what this day could mean, the healing that this election could offer, was presented as if by a higher power, like a portal to a brighter future.

“But I did not join Team Moore on that day simply to send a message to my ancestors, as sweet as that message may be. I joined for the same reason most Marylanders joined. I, like you, was yearning for a leader who would listen. And a human being to remind us what it means to be human. It’s just that simple. We found one. And that is why we’re here.

“Watching Wes build the team that catapulted him from the single-digit support he had when I endorsed him to the most votes of any Governor in the history of our state was a window into what will begin tomorrow morning, when the crowds disperse and the work begins. Maryland will learn that we really can get both heart and mind in one body. That we can grow our economy and leave no one behind. That work, wages, and wealth are still the path to progress. And that government is not the source of our problems, it’s the tool that works when we sharpen it, sharpen it with the world-class talent that will serve in this administration. We are such a lucky state today.

“But we aren’t here just to inaugurate Wes Moore. We have a dynamic duo coming to town. We are welcoming back to Annapolis—and back to state government service—former Delegate and very soon-to-be Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, a woman who brought an infectious energy, joy, and confidence to the campaign, and whose experience and wisdom will carry this administration through whatever challenges our times present.

“Finally, I think it is fitting, after so many months of Wes and Aruna listening to us, that we show them that we have also heard their words, particularly the four words that appeared on the thousands of yard signs all across our state. You know the ones I’m talking about.

“I will count to three, and then we will shout those words together three times. We want them to be heard at the very top of the Capitol dome so that they hover there forever and remind all who enter of the commitment we have made to the people of Maryland. You ready?

“One, two, three: Leave No One Behind. Leave No One Behind. Leave No One Behind.”

Capital Gazette, January 19

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Congratulations to Vincent Moulden

We congratulate Vince Moulden for his promotion to James Kitchin’s former position as Director of Community Engagement and Constituent Services for AA County, as liaison between county government and community organizations, and recipient of the Dream Keeper’s Award for his volunteer positions serving as a mentor to county youth. This is one of 13 awards presented at the 35th Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program, founded by Carl Snowden. Vince has represented CECS liaison with the Seventh District and has attended DACA’s Board meetings.

Courtney Buiniskis was appointed to Vince’s previous position as the Community Engagement Officer for the County Council 7th District, Davidsonville and South County. Welcome, Courtney. We look forward to meeting you!

AA Economic Development Council

Arundel Ag News, Lisa Barge (lbarge@aaedc.org)

- February 2, Maryland Beginning Farmer Success Course
- February 7, Virtual Cottage Food Workshop
- February 8, Precision Agriculture Hardware and Equipment
- February 9, Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Meeting
- February 16, Women in Ag Conference 2023
- February 23, 5:30–8:00 pm *Arundel Ag Connect*
- Southern High School, 4400 Solomons Island Road

Thinking about starting a farm or agriculture-based business? Interested in diversifying and growing your current farm operation? Please join AAEDC for an informal yet informative evening that will allow you to connect with service providers, hear first-hand success stories from local farmers, and learn about the diverse resources that are available to you.

Shame on the U.S. Post Office

The Villager apologizes, although the apology is due from the US Post Office, for its failure to deliver the November–December Villager to print recipients and readers. The editor sent the completed issue on November 22 to our excellent conscientious printer and to DACA’s webmaster to post on DACA’s web page. Melissa posted it the next day for users of computers and Facebook. The print version usually took a week from Minute Man Press of Crofton until delivery to the recipients’ mail boxes. The last three issues took a full month, totally unacceptable for postal delivery. The November–December issue was delivered January 23, for a two-months delivery time, or maybe two months sitting in the back of post office. We are told that new machinery will accelerate delivery. We shall see, and in the meantime, we can only hope.

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Contact information for Government Officials**State District 33**

Sen. Dawn Gile 410-841-3606 dawn.gile@senate.state.md.us

State District 33B

Del. Stuart Schmidt 410-841-3235 stuart.schmidt@house.state.md.us

Anne Arundel County

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Council District 7 Shannon Leadbetter 410-222-2417 sleadbetter@aacounty.org

Community Engagement and Constituent Services Director

Vincent Moulden 410-222-1260 exmoul00@aacounty.org

Comty Engagement Officer Dist 7 Courtney Buiniskis exbuin22@aacounty.org

Clerk of the Circuit Court aaclerkadmin@mdcourts.gov

Scott Poyer 410-222-1187

Email addresses AA County Board of Education members

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Michelle Corkadel, Council District 7 mcorkadel@aacps.org

Zachary McGrath, student member until June 30, 2023 zmcgrath@aacps.org

Superintendent Dr. Mark Bedell superintendent@aacps.org

boardoffice@aacps.org mbedell@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.

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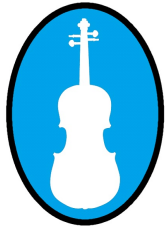
In November, police officers responded to a robbery of a citizen in the parking lot of the Starbucks on Brandermill Boulevard in Gambrills. Two people had arranged via Facebook Marketplace to sell a coat to an individual and agreed to meet at the shopping center. When the sellers arrived, a man approached them and asked for the coat. When they produced the coat, the suspect pulled up his shirt and displayed a handgun in his waist band. The victims turned over the coat, and the suspect fled.

So, if you are going to buy or sell online, consider meeting your buyer/seller at one of the police district stations. Meeting a seller or buyer in person following an e-commerce transaction has become increasingly common, but it can also be dangerous. All police stations are monitored 24/7 by video surveillance and may help to avoid a scam or dangerous encounter.

**STROLL DAVIDSONVILLE**

Stroll Davidsonville 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 piece of local history or nostalgic interest.

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. David Grabau will email you a free PDF version that you can open and read.



LONDONTOWNE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Londontowne Symphony Orchestra brings Central Maryland residents the excitement and passion that only live music can create. The orchestra presents high quality, family-friendly, affordable classical and light classical concerts for the enrichment and enjoyment of Central Maryland residents of all ages and backgrounds, and provides opportunities for professional, student, and community musicians to learn and grow under professional and experienced leadership.

Saturday, January 21, 2022 at Maryland Hall
A Salute to Our Veterans! featured the Archbishop Spalding High School Chorus in a variety of patriotic music from locally and nationally recognized composers.

Saturday, February 11, Chesapeake Arts Center, Harmons, MD; *Maryland Concert Series* features the LSO

Sunday, April 23 at Maryland Hall, *Rising Stars*
We are excited to share the stage with Arundel Vocal Arts Society (AVAS) and All Children's Chorus of Annapolis (ACCA) for our annual "Rising Stars" concert.

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

Tickets are just \$25 (free for students of all ages) and are also available from the Maryland Hall ticket office.

Our mailing address:

Londontowne Symphony Orchestra
PO Box 926
Edgewater, MD 21037



Anna Binneweg conducting

South County Concert Association

The South County Concert Association is a non-profit organization of volunteers who are dedicated to offering fine music and community cultural enrichment.

Concerts this season are held at Southern High School, 4400 Solomons Island Road, Harwood, and at Riva Trace Baptist Church on Central Avenue in Davidsonville. Evening concerts begin at 7:30 pm; Sunday concerts begin at 3:00 pm.

Admission is by season subscriptions, which cost \$50 per adult; students 18 and under are free. Tickets sold at the door for individual concerts are \$25. Because of a reciprocity agreement, our SCCA members are invited to attend the five concerts offered by the Anne Arundel Community Concert Association at Severna Park High School. Please contact Betty Knupp at 410-956-4881 for more information and a printed brochure.

2023 Season at Southern High School

Peacherine Ragtime Orchestra January 24, 7:30 pm

Divas Three Friday, March 20, 7:30 pm

Ilya Yakushev and Thomas Mesa, Piano and Cello

Monday, April 24, 2023, 7:30 pm

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Vice President H. Edward Woods 410-798-0764
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Treasurer Brian Stanton 410-608-3462

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The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association



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Gail Enright Editor 410-533-4766
info@daca-md.org and on Facebook

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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Your comments, your interests?